

NEWS RELEASE – New Endowment Supports the Hardin County Recreational Trails

Bikers, walkers, hikers and nature lovers of all kinds have just gained another benefactor. Thanks to the generosity of Steve Brekunitch of Iowa Falls, a new Hardin County Recreational Trails Endowment Fund has been established with the Hardin County Community Endowment Foundation (HCCEF).

An avid biker himself, Steve was catching up on the local news in the Times Citizen when something caught his eye: HCCEF's article on "Giving and receiving – HCCEF helps with end-of-year giving." He took special note of the list of 36 endowed funds with HCCEF and thought, "I'd like to do something like that." Steve's love of Iowa Falls and his passion for biking spurred him to act.

A phone call to HCCEF Chair Carol Gilbert started the conversation. Five hours later, the paperwork to create a new \$10,000 permanent endowment was in place. "HCCEF was the perfect way for me to give back to my community," said Brekunitch.

"Steve is an inspired giver," says Gilbert. "By partnering with HCCEF, donors like Steve are building endowments to fund causes that are closest to their hearts -- today, tomorrow and forever."

This new endowment provides the City of Iowa Falls and the Hardin County Recreational Trails Committee with a permanent source of revenue to support trails development and on-going maintenance.

"Given limited city budgets, there is a growing need and interest in public/private partnerships to support community amenities. The new Hardin County Recreational Trails Endowment gives donors another

opportunity for private investment in Iowa Falls, which adds to the economic development efforts that are already in place and transforming our community,” noted Gilbert.

“Iowa has over 1,400 miles of extensive, interconnected multi-use trails,” said Cindy Goodner, Hardin County Recreational Trails Committee Chair. “We lead the nation in Rail to Trail conversions. The local terrain, with rolling hills, scenic waterways, prairies, and forests, provides an excellent environment for recreational cycling, running, skating, and walking.

“The Hardin County Recreational Trails Committee is so appreciative of the significant commitment made by the City of Iowa Falls to get behind the trails project and to support recreational amenities in our community,” added Goodner. As new recreational trails are developed throughout Iowa and Hardin County, many more people will benefit from additional outdoor recreation opportunities. The Committee’s long-term goals are to see a trail system that connects the communities that dot the Greenbelt.

“Citizens can get involved with the development of recreational trails in Iowa Falls and Hardin County in many ways,” notes Goodner. The Hardin County Recreational Trails Endowment is now another excellent way to support the trails system and to participate.

Gifts, of any size, to the new Hardin County Recreational Trails Endowment Fund are eligible to receive a 25% Endow Iowa Tax Credit, in addition to the normal federal charitable tax deduction.

For further information on how you can support the trails project, contact Cindy Goodner at 641-648-2483 or email hardincountytrails@gmail.com.