

Good News from the Trail



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Volume 1

The mission of TRED is to enhance the community's quality of life and economic development through an accessible, multi-use trail system that promotes alternative, eco-friendly recreation and transportation opportunities.

tredromefloyd.org

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TRED
608 Broad Street
Rome, GA 30161



TRED Receives \$55K in Donations!



December 2013 was a banner month for TRED Rome/Floyd Inc. with donations totaling over \$55,000 from General Electric (GE) and The Heart of the Community Foundation (HOCF).

TRED and the Rome GE plant began a partnership when GE began remediation along Little Dry Creek. GE and TRED worked together in aligning their access point to the remediation site with a portion of the Redmond Trail Project. That in itself will save thousands of dollars on the actual trail construction cost as this alignment in effect gives the perfect grade and foundation to simply lay the asphalt for a "finished" product. But GE wasn't finished. They also donated an addi-

tional \$25,000 to TRED for related Redmond Trail Projects. Cody Platt, GE Plant Manager states, "This year we had an opportunity to work with TRED and Floyd County in an area of future trail construction and gained a better appreciation of how an accessible trail network enhances a community." Construction for the Redmond Trail is slated to begin in 2015. The Redmond Trail Project is also the centerpiece of the trail portion of the recently passed SPLOST as it will provide access to another trail extending to the Armuchee Connector on the north side of the Oostanula and another extension from Summerville Park to Technology Parkway. GE has set an example of corporate commitment to community enhancements.

The Heart of the Community

Foundation is a Rome based non-profit devoted to heart healthy initiatives. Mark Webb, HOCF president says of the grant, "We are pleased to honor our Heart of the Community Award winners, all of whom are lifelong contributors to the betterment of Rome and Floyd County, with a financial donation to TRED which will ensure construction of the Redmond Trail for heart healthy recreation."

The MillionMile Greenway also awarded a grant worth \$7100 for in-kind marketing services to TRED. MMG is a non-profit devoted to helping communities find and conserve green space as connections.



Public Input Needed for Bike-Ped Master Plan

In conjunction with the 2008 updating of the Rome-Floyd Facilities plan the Rome-Floyd Planning Department is in the process of organizing a series of public meetings to secure ideas and comments from the public about making improvements and building

capacity in our trail system. According to Planning Director, Sue Hiller, "We keep calling it trails but what it really comes down to is bike-ped. It's providing facilities for people who walk and ride their bikes rather than driving a car." The last time the trail

plan was updated was 2008 and several additions to the trail network have occurred since then that need to be noted.

TRED encourages all trail stakeholders to participate in these meetings. Your input is valued!

Adventure Cyclist Willie Weir in Rome May 1



NPR commentator and adventure cyclist Willie Weir will be the guest speaker on May 1 at the TRED celebration dinner held at the Rome ECO Center. Willie's passion for the outdoors and trails is a natural fit to partner with TRED. Willie has been a guest of Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia, the bike-ped task force of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Rome for the last 4 years and has spoken to thousands of children and adults

during his visits. His message of using the bike as a "magic carpet" for seeing the world is inspiring and one that resonates with every age group. Willie lives in Seattle but has cycled over 60,000 miles all over the world. His passport boasts countries such as Laos, India, South Africa, New Zealand, Spain and Portugal, Denmark, Southeast Asia, and many, many other locations. For more information on Willie, visit: www.willieweir.com

If you are interested in attending this free event, please contact julie@cycletherapy.us or 706 235 4866 for more information.



Your support of TRED helps to sustain the trail system and ensure visitors and residents a high quality of life in the Rome community.

SUPPORT TRED IN 2014

Your financial contributions have a tremendous impact of Rome and Floyd County's quality of life, transportation network, economy, and recreation opportunities.

Choose a way to contribute:

- www.tredromefloyd.org

and click on the Donate/ PayPal button

- Send a tax deductible donation to TRED, 608 Broad Street, Rome, GA 30161
- Attend the May 1 Willie Weir event at the ECO Center, FREE but donations accepted.

- Adopt a mile of trail!
Buy a foot of trail, bench, or sign
Call Julie Smith for details.

Your tax-deductable donations really make a difference to enhance the 11 miles of trails that already run through the community.



Beautiful tunnel between Rockmart and Dallas

Silver Comet Trail Brings in Millions

In 2013 the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission embarked on regional study of the economics behind the Silver Comet Trail (SCT). The results were staggering, so much so that some in the Cave Spring community have begun working on steps to connect Cave Spring to the Silver Comet to tap into this economic engine only a few miles away. An effort to connect Rome to Cave Spring was

scuttled by local politicians in 2008 even AFTER they allowed a multi-million dollar tunnel to be constructed under the Rome by-pass just adjacent to Cave Spring Hwy. Ask your county commissioners about how they allowed that!! Some highlights from the recent SCT study:

- The SCT has an estimated 1.9 million users each year.
- The majority of trail users

are bicyclists.

- People visiting the trail traveled from 23 countries and 8 states, including Washington State, to use the trail.
- Revenues of \$24 million in recreational spending and \$5 million more in tourism spending per year.

For more data from the study, visit: www.bwnwga.org