Along the Greenways

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| Volume 2, Number 2 | Summer 2021 |

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e want you to know how much we appreciate your membership in The Greenways. We don’t your support for granted—in fact, we are proud of the fact that we are fully supported by local citizens. We can act quickly and take opportunities that governmental agencies often cannot. Even though much of our support comes from private interest, we are pleased to count the City of Hope and other regional agencies in our network at this time. We are growing!

# Funding to Span Budget Shortfall

*We have recently been advised that due to a reduction in sales tax revenues, the city will be forced to significantly reduce the amount of support for the upcoming year.*

We want our members to be fully aware of our current budget status. The city is currently assisting with up to a third of our operating expenses, which is a valued statement of confidence. That support has enabled us to apply for and administer several large grants to fulfill our long-range plans. Even so, the monetary support is not guaranteed from one fiscal cycle to another, so we are seeking other avenues of funding. Our grant writers are busy, but competition in the area is stiff. We have recently been advised that due to a reduction in sales tax revenues, the city will be forced to significantly reduce the amount of support for the upcoming year. We need YOU to help sustain this great organization. Because we know you believe in what we are doing, we hope you will be able to pitch in just a bit more to help make up for the perceived shortfall.

**There are several ways you can help, aside from monetary support.**

* Participate in fundraising events
* Volunteer your time on improvement projects
* Recruit friends and family to become members

The Greenways’ largest land holding is the 45-mile long, 500-acre Southern Rail Trail corridor. Our partnership with the City of Hope and Baxter County Park Board have made the Baxter County portion of the trail a joy to visit, whether on foot or on bike. However, the portion that resides in Jasper County, which represents 10 miles of trail, is a challenge to maintain.

# Trail Update

A picture containing road, outdoor, person, riding

Description automatically generatedStrong spring storms hit several sections of the trail, damaging the surface. Repairs are scheduled for those areas this season. Tree debris has been removed and volunteers are working to remove encroaching vegetation on trail edges. We have an aggressive plan to remove problem trees this fall. Ongoing improvements continue on mile markers, board replacements, bridge identification signs, and road crossing safety. To learn how you can help with these efforts call (555) 123-4444.

# Bike Advocates in Action

Our new committee on alternative transportation and bicycle advocacy is off and running with several initiatives. The latest is the completion of a bike commuter how-to booklet which encourages the “Drive Less, Live More” campaign. The brochure is available at local bike shops and at our office.

Bike, Bus, Walk Week: September 11-15