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For Immediate Release

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Tammany Trace in the Running for Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Prestigious National Hall of Fame

Fans of the Tammany Trace urged to support the rail-trail during a public voting period July 12-16; winner to be announced July 19.

Our own Tammany Trace is one of three national rail-trail locations nominated for induction into the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's (RTC) National Hall of Fame.

The Tammany Trace will compete against Colorado's Rio Grande Trail and Nevada's Historic Railroad Trail to be the next [Rail-Trail Hall of Fame inductee](#), a prestigious recognition that highlights the stellar value and excellence of the trail locally and nationwide. The winner will be announced July 19 after a public voting period from July 12-16. The Trace was selected by RTC as a Hall of Fame nominee based on merits such as scenic value, high use, trail and trailside amenities, historical significance, excellence in management and maintenance, and community connections.

"The Tammany Trace is a significant asset to our wealth of natural and scenic resources here in our Parish," said Pat Brister, St. Tammany parish President. "The honor of this nomination is wonderful, but I am asking all residents of St. Tammany, as well as anyone who uses and enjoys the Tammany Trace— no matter where you live— to take a minute to go and vote for the Trace and help us win this spot in the Rails-to-Trails Hall of Fame."

"All three of the trails were nominated because they are the cream of the crop when it comes to trail options across the country," said Keith Laughlin, RTC president. "It's up to the users to show their support and pride for the trails and to help make their favorite the 31st rail-trail in the Hall of Fame."

In addition to an unveiling event, Hall of Fame inductees receive national publicity, trail signage and coverage in *Rails to Trails* magazine. As the largest trails organization in America, representing a community of more than 160,000 members and supporters and more than 850,000 trail users, RTC started recognizing Hall of Fame winners in 2007. If selected, the Tammany Trace would join the 30 previous winners, including last year's Hudson Valley Trail Network. More information about the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame and the opportunity to vote can be found on [RTC's website](#).

Originally a corridor for the Illinois Central Railroad, the Tammany Trace is a hike and bike trail that meanders through several communities in St. Tammany Parish— Covington, Abita Springs, Mandeville , Lacombe and culminates in Slidell. A separate equestrian path parallels the Trace in several places. The Trace hosts more

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than 300,000 visitors per year from all over the United States and the world. St. Tammany Parish Government purchased the abandoned Illinois Central Railroad corridor on December 20, 1992. With the help of grants and federal dollars, St. Tammany Parish Government has asphalted 27.10 miles, remodeled railroad trestles into pedestrian bridges, and maintained the Trace.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, a nonprofit organization with more than 160,000 members and supporters, is the nation's largest trails organization dedicated to connecting people and communities by creating a nationwide network of public trails, many from former rail lines. RTC has field offices in Florida, Ohio, California and Pennsylvania. Connect with RTC at railstotrails.org and @railstotrails on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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