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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Green River Trail and River Study Begins

The City of Green River is overseeing a new study to establish a trail system that will connect residents and tourists to natural, historic, and modern landmarks, highlight recreational areas, promote health awareness, and seek to establish the first water trail in Utah.

The mayor of Green River and the City Council members acknowledge the growing need to highlight non-motorized recreation opportunities. "Green River generates much of its income from tourists, and ideas of adding a trails system have often been discussed and promoted by local business owners," said Mayor Brady. City Councilwoman Penney Riches agreed, stating: "I am excited to have so many people working together to create a way for everyone to enjoy our river and the surrounding beauty."

The City applied to the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, which provides planning assistance to cities and counties throughout Utah, and was awarded in-kind support to develop a project partnership and assist with planning to work on a land and water trail concept plan. The City intends to create a trail committee and schedule public open houses, so community residents can comment on the project proposal. "We are excited to work with Green River to help the City promote recreation and economic development," said Marcy DeMillion, National Park Service, RTCA community planner.

The City-owned John Wesley Powell River History Museum will serve as a launching point highlighting the future trail networks. Many tourists in Green River want to experience the river itself, but cannot find an accessible outlet to interact with the City's namesake. The trails will serve as an amenity for both residents to encourage active lifestyles along with an attraction for tourists to better access the town and river. Ethan Migliori, Commissioner for Emery County, added his support: "Green River is the keystone for tourism in the county. The county is grateful to the various entities that are willing to contribute resources to establish a trails system in Green River. We are extremely excited for the opportunities that this will afford."

The future trail system will expand and promote access to the Green River and connect rural assets surrounding the town. This will be done by establishing trails running along the riverbank and throughout town, promoting access to the river and trail through new signage, and develop the first water trail in Utah.

Jack Forinash, project partner representing the Epicenter who provided early concept drawings for the project, added: “The support of the National Park Service RTCA program will be invaluable for negotiating the complicated, multi-agency collaboration that will be required to make a true, experiential amenity for both tourists and residents. Epicenter is proud to be a partner committed to the success of this community-initiated project.”

Partners on this project include the Boy Scouts of America, Boys & Girls Club of Green River, Bureau of Land Management, Castleland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Emery County Board of Commissioners, Emery County Travel Board, Epicenter, Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Green River Conservation District, Green River Medical Center, Green River State Park, National Park Service, Potluck Green River Business Group, Southeast Utah Department of Health, State of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, University of Utah College of Architecture + Planning, and Utah State University.

Ongoing project updates, renderings, and maps are available by visiting the Epicenter website at: <http://ruralandproud.org/tag/green-river-trail-system/>.

About Green River

Located in southeastern Utah, the City of Green River has been historically and remains both a small, rural area along with a crossroads for endless outdoor recreation opportunities. The City is located 52 miles from Moab, 62 miles to Canyonlands National Park, and 48 miles to Arches National Park with 1,000 residents and 600 hotel rooms. More information is available at <http://www.greenriverutah.com/> and <http://destinationgreenriver.com/>.

About Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program

RTCA is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The RTCA office in Salt Lake City works statewide with rural, suburban, and urban communities. The program helps communities with a variety of natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects. It helps communities build partnerships, develop organizations, design project concepts, and find funding resources. More information is available at www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/.

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