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Town of Damascus Announces Additional Match In Support of Virginia Creeper Trail Stewardship Fund

DAMASCUS, VA – The Town of Damascus has contributed an additional $10,000 match in support of the new Virginia Creeper Trail Stewardship Fund. This fund was launched in late August by the Virginia Creeper Trail Conservancy in partnership with Kiewit Companies Foundation, which matched the first $20,000 in contributions. Together, the Conservancy and Kiewit have already raised $42,950.

The Virginia Creeper Trail Conservancy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the maintenance and preservation of the Creeper Trail corridor, and it partners with other trail stakeholders to support a safe and enjoyable experience for all trail users. The Virginia Creeper Trail is jointly owned by the Town of Damascus, Town of Abingdon, and USDA Forest Service along its 34.3 miles.

The new Stewardship Fund will be used toward the long-term sustainability of the Virginia Creeper Trail. It will fund projects that protect and enhance the trail experience, including trail maintenance, infrastructure repairs, surface improvements, signage, safety enhancements, accessibility, and environmental stewardship activities.

Mayor Katie Lamb is excited for the Town of Damascus to contribute a match to Kiewit's donation. Mayor Lamb shared, “Kiewit has been such an amazing partner through all of our recovery. We are forever grateful to them. It makes perfect sense to donate Damascus Strong funds designated for the Virginia Creeper Trail. Much love and heartfelt appreciation to those individuals and groups providing the Town the ability to make this happen.”

This new initiative builds upon the historic investment of the $240 million project on the Forest Service segment of the trail, from Whitetop Station to Damascus. Kiewit, the awarded contractor, is restoring 18 miles of trail and 33 trestles, which sustained significant storm damage from Hurricane Helene in September 2024. The upper half of the trail from Whitetop Station to Damascus is expected to reopen on March 31, 2027.

“This fund is an investment in the future of the Virginia Creeper Trail and in the economic future of our region,” said Irene Jasper, President. “The trail contributes approximately $61 million annually to Southwest Virginia's economy, supporting local businesses, jobs, and communities. With the Town’s new matching gift, donors have another opportunity to double their impact and help sustain one of our region’s most important outdoor and economic assets.”

The Damascus Town Council voted 5-1 to approve the $10,000 match at the October 2026 meeting. This match is contributed from Damascus Strong donations designated for the Virginia Creeper Trail.

Donations to the Virginia Creeper Trail Conservancy’s Stewardship Fund will be matched dollar-for-dollar until the matching commitment has been fully met. Supporters can learn more and contribute at vacreepertrail.org.