



June 11, 2020: Access to safe outdoor recreation is more important than ever, and that presents a new opportunity to promote concrete trails, bike paths, rail trails, and golf cart paths, among other concrete pavements. In this edition of RMCREF Spotlight, we feature both of the Foundation's highly popular concrete pavement guides, the *Guide to Concrete Trails* and the *Guide to Concrete Overlays of Asphalt Parking Lots*.

Since its release last August, over 1,000 copies of the *Guide to Concrete Trails* have been distributed. According to Dodge, there are currently more than 2,000 projects with the word "trail" in their description in the design or pre-design stage at a value of \$17 billion. Given that development of hard-surface recreational trails is a fast emerging market, there is an abundance of opportunities for the ready mixed concrete industry to gain ground in this area. Recreational trails have also become a lifeline for people to get outside and exercise in this era of social distancing. By getting the trails guide into the hands of those who will understand the value that concrete brings to recreational trails, the industry can seize these opportunities. Said Scott Olin, President and General Manager of Dickinson Ready Mix in Dickinson, ND, "The *Guide to Concrete Trails* is a publication that should be in every concrete promoter's toolbox. This publication is not only beneficial for concrete trail promotion. I have provided copies of the Guide to decisionmakers and contractors alike, because it has proven to be a valuable resource for anyone involved in the trail development process from planning and design to constructing and maintaining concrete trails." Eric Weller of Winn Construction, Inc., added, "Recently, Winn Construction, Inc., was contracted to perform cart path reconstructions at the Bully Pulpit golf course in Medora, ND. When we brought this project to our supplier, Dickinson Ready Mix, they suggested utilizing the *Guide to Concrete Trails* to assist in the project design. Working with DRM, using personal knowledge and experience and recommendations from the Guide, we were able to engineer value into the project by overlaying sections of old weathered asphalt paths as well as pouring new paths. The Guide was a valuable tool in project design and adding value for our customer which, in turn, strengthened our relationship."

The *Guide to Concrete Trails* follows in the success of the *Guide to Concrete Overlays of Asphalt Parking Lots*. Since its release in 2012, use of this Guide has resulted in more than 112,000 cubic yards converted, at a value of \$28.6M to the construction industry overall and

\$12.4M to the concrete industry specifically **that we know about**. These figures do not include projects not reported to us. Interest in concrete overlays continues to grow as the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association's Pave Ahead team continues their work in educating contractors, developers, owners, designers and others about the benefits of concrete overlays, whether through Parking Lot Bootcamps, Lunch and Learns, and other presentations requested by our state and regional association partners.

The Guides are available for download from the Foundation's [Concrete Applications](#) page, while professionally printed hardcopies are available for purchase through [NRMCA's bookstore](#) for a nominal fee. Both Guides were developed by the National Concrete Pavement Technology Center ([CP Tech Center](#)) with Foundation funding and included input from a Technical Advisory Committee of leading industry pavement experts. NRMCA's Pave Ahead team recently featured webinars on both Guides, including hundreds of participants for each of the four webinars held. Recordings of the webinars may be viewed from the PaveAhead.com [education](#) page. As partners with the Foundation and stakeholders in the success of the industry, we encourage you to help distribute these important Guides to everyone who may use them and who can help educate others about the value of concrete trails and overlays.

For more information on the work of the RMC Research & Education Foundation, please our [website](#) or contact [Julie Garbini](#).