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BIGFORK DEVELOPMENT COMPANY IS GIVEN FAS CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Flathead Audubon Society's Conservation Achievement Award is given three times each year. It recognizes the efforts of individuals and organizations that enrich our lives by improving, preserving, or protecting the natural assets of the Flathead Community.

The first 2003 recipient of The Flathead Audubon Society's Conservation Award is the Bigfork Development Company for their leadership and support of the Swan River Corridor and of their maintenance of the Sean River Nature Trail in particular.

The BDC is a non profit, volunteer organization that has installed gates at each end of the trail, has provided benches, and stabilized erosion. They remove deadfall and battle knapweed. They have also worked in conjunction with the Trust for Public Lands, The Montana Land Reliance, The Nature Conservancy, American White Water, Flathead Lakes, The Bigfork Chamber of Commerce, and the public at large to establish a permanent conservation easement along what is commonly called the 'Swan River Corridor'.

The Swan River Nature Trail is part of the corridor, utilizing two miles of abandoned roadbed perched above the Swan River. The trail starts at the end of Grand Avenue and continues to the Kearney Rapids Bridge. It is wide, level, and free of litter. It is a non-motorized trail perfect for a stroll, jog, or bike ride. Flathead Audubon uses it for weekly fieldtrips each Tuesday in May and June and finds it ideal for beginning birders and experts alike.

BY NEAL BROWN

Thank you Bigfork Development Company. Your efforts do not go unnoticed!