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Contact: Katie Magers
202-974-5115
Katie@railtrails.org

Community Bicycle Program Comes to Washington
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and Dasani Team Up to Promote Active Living

Seattle, Wash., August 15, 2005 Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) and Dasani will officially kick off the Washington Dasani Blue Bikes Program on Wednesday, August 17, 2005, at the “Blue Bikes” event in Redmond, Wash. The community bicycle program provides area residents with 20 new bicycles to use on the 11-mile Sammamish River Trail which runs north from the farms and parkland of the Sammamish Valley to the more suburban landscape of Bothell Park.

“Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, with Dasani, selected the Sammamish River Trail as the fifth of seven rail-trails to participate in this exciting program,” said Keith Laughlin, RTC President. “This 11-mile corridor connects neighborhoods, preserves precious green space and provides a safe, healthy place for family recreation a great representation of the benefits that trails provide for America’s communities.”

For nearly 20 years Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has been the major force behind the public attitudes and political environment that have helped breathe new life into more than 13,000 miles of unused rail lines by converting them to multiple-use public trails. Another 14,000 are under development, soon to provide even more users with flat terrain and beautiful surroundings for bicycling, walking, running, inline skating, skiing and riding horses.

Seattle is one of eight communities selected to take part in the Dasani Blue Bikes Program, which will provide more than 150 bikes for free public use on approximately 200 miles of neighborhood trails across the country. Other cities participating in the program include, Baltimore, Md; Dallas, Texas; Orange County, Fla.; Villa Park, Ill.; Rockmart, Ga.; Pittsburgh, Pa; and Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Dasani Blue Bikes are housed in specially designed storage lockers located next to Group Health Velodrome in Marymoor Park and can be accessed by registering for a Dasani Blue Bikes card. After obtaining the card from the King County Parks and Recreation office, cyclists can swipe the card through the reader at one of the Blue Bikes lockers and remove the bike.

The Blue Bikes Program was created by Dasani and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to encourage area residents to live healthy lifestyles by providing them with an opportunity to get outside and be active.

For more information about the Dasani Blue Bikes Program, to learn about rail-trail technical assistance and other RTC services, or to locate a rail-trail near you, please visit RTC’s Web site at www.railtrails.org.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, a nonprofit organization with more than 100,000 members and supporters, advocates for healthier lifestyles by creating a nationwide network of public trails, many from former rail lines and connecting corridors. Founded in 1986, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy’s national office is located in Washington, D.C.