



For Immediate Release

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Tour des Atakapas Returns as the Official Festivals Acadiens et Créoles Run in Partnership With TRAIL

Lafayette, LA, August 10, 2016 – Festivals Acadiens et Créoles & TRAIL (Transportation Recreation Alternatives In Louisiana) are once again teaming up to host Tour des Atakapas. This annual 3, 5 and 7-mile run is held on the Saturday of Festivals Acadiens, Oct. 15, 2016.

The run will start and finish at Geaux Run in the Oil Center next to Girard Park and travel to Beaver Park and Vermilionville along part of the Atakapa-Ishak Trail. A fundraiser for TRAIL and FAetC, the run will raise money to invest in Acadiana's park systems.

“Improving the opportunity for recreation is the mission of TRAIL and is one of the five key tenets of Festivals Acadiens et Créoles,” says TRAIL Executive Director Scott Schilling. “This run is a perfect partnership that will allow us to further those efforts.”

Tour des Atakapas serves as an inauguration of the new sections of the Atakapa-Ishak Trail that include those along the Vermilion River and Bayou Tortue. TRAIL's long-term plans involve making it possible to easily travel from Girard Park to the Horse Farm to Acadian Park to Parc des Pont Breaux to South City Park and many other points around Acadiana.

FAetC organizer Pat Mould says it made perfect sense for Festivals to have its own race and fulfill part of its philanthropic mission by partnering with TRAIL. “Now we can give locals and tourists the opportunity to put in a great run before spending the weekend eating, drinking and dancing,” he adds.

Tour des Atakapas is also the first run of the season for the Courir Des Cadiens challenge. Runners who complete the Tour des Atakapas, Cajun Country Half marathon, 10K and 5K (December 10) and Zydeco Marathon & Half Marathon (March 12, 2017) will receive a special commemorative medal.

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Registration for Tour des Atakapas is open now by going to tour-des-atakapas.eventbrite.com. Cost is \$50 for those signing up by Sept. 15 and \$60 after that. The race starts at 7 a.m., and a post-run party will be held at the pavilion in Girard Park.

Get more details on Tour des Atakapas on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trailevents/ or visit the websites latrail.org and festivalsacadiens.com.

Festivals Acadiens et Créoles presented by Capital One can trace its roots back to the first Tribute to Cajun Music Festival organized by CODOFIL in 1974. Festivals was officially established in 1977 with components of music, food and crafts. Since then, it has grown into a multi-day event taking place during the second full weekend of October each year in Lafayette, La. Festivals operates as a nonprofit corporation and is run by a community board and volunteers.

TRAIL's primary mission is to build recreational facilities, from bike lanes to bike paths to paddle trails to trailheads to maps to resting benches. TRAIL primarily works alongside government agencies, individuals and other organizations to help build and/or maintain recreational facilities and is managed by an all-volunteer board and a team of advisors.