There would simply not be a Fishing Line Trail in Noble County without Dr. Terry Gaff. Noble Trails began as a grassroots effort about ten years ago, then Dr. Gaff was asked to come on board as President, and this non-profit group of volunteers literally transformed the landscape.

Through the years, Dr. Gaff has donated his time, talent, and probably way too much of his own money to make sure that there is a safe, paved pathway between Kendallville and Rome City. He has been the driving force behind the group’s success, negotiating for property, working with surveyors, and securing countless donations and grants.

Dr. Gaff walks properties for sale, builds relationships with utility companies, and has secured the commitment of many community organizations and businesses. He’s out there in the dirt, digging an area for a bench platform, pulling wire fencing and auto parts out of ravines, or working alongside volunteer groups to pick up trash. Without him, the Fishing Line Trail, which the community has come to treasure, would not be here today.

When he retired from practicing medicine, his family set up an endowment fund at the Community Foundation of Noble County to honor him. While Noble Trails raises the funds through donations and grants to build miles of trail, the Dr. Terry Gaff Legacy Fund for Noble Trails will ensure that there is money to keep the trail in great shape for many years to come.

Dr. Gaff’s passion for this linear park is inspiring to so many others. He has built a dedicated board and a devoted group of volunteers who are happy to work alongside him in his mission. The success of Noble Trails is a team effort, but it would likely not exist without its tireless leader, Dr. Terry Gaff. For his great efforts and passion, the Greenways Foundation is proud to award Dr. Terry Gaff as our Outstanding Trail Advocate for 2022.