

Greenway Report – April 2005

by Kathy Boling

The monthly Greenway Consortium meeting started with a presentation by Donn Werling of the Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor. He is a historian and his passion flows from him as he speaks. He told of the historic areas along the Maumee River east of New Haven which included three camps Johnny Appleseed had in the area between New Haven to Woodburn just off Dohrman, Bull Rapids and Ward Rd. Very exciting stuff for those that ride in that area. He told of these areas as a push to have more trails connecting towns to Fort Wayne following the Maumee River. "There is so much history along the rivers; a path would allow more people to experience it."

And if New Haven is the place you have wanted to travel but thought there was no path to take, the New Haven Trails group has changed that. They are very hard at work along North River Rd. to Mosier Park. The path has been laid out, paving has been started and an extension to the bridge on Landin has been added. They are not without obstacles though, a major sewage and drainage system is going to be installed over the next few years, but as of June folks can ride from downtown Fort Wayne on the trail aside the Maumee River and into the country.

If you were wondering about the section of trail behind Lakeside golf course; the Army Corps of Engineers has approved the repairs made by the city.

As mentioned in last months newsletter, the city's Greenway will be repaved within the next three years. The first section of the project is from the Main Street Bridge to the Harrison Street Bridge and will begin in May.

The city of Fort Wayne will be presented with an award for the new section west of Swinney Park along Jefferson Blvd. to Rockhill Park. Eventually this section will connect to a Towpath along Engle Rd. and then connect to the Aboite New Trails.

There are events being planned for activities on the Greenway. The first of many will be a walk on April 16th in the Foster Park area. Bike rides are soon to follow.

Dawn Ritchey has designed four teams to improve the Greenway. The teams are Funding, Beautification, Security, and Maintenance. She will be looking for volunteers to help with these projects. Look in the newspapers or on the Parks Department website for more information.

Aboite New Trails and Northwest Trails are hard at work connecting their portion of pathways to the Fort Wayne trail system. With grants and fundraising projects being worked on, they have their plates full. Aboite New Trails will have a bike ride at the end of May.

All these groups are dedicated to making Fort Wayne a healthier city, but they can't do it alone. They have done the hardest part of the leg work, now it is up to us. Join or volunteer with these groups and make a difference in your community!

Not sure who to contact to help? I will be happy to get you in touch with the right person. Kathy Boling Publicity@3rvs.com 260-432-5526