

Greenway Report – May 2005

by Kathy Boling

I have come to the conclusion that when Dave Ridderheim, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, is at a Consortium meeting there is going to be an award given. This time the award was presented to Jack Stark for his dedication to the River Greenway Project. He has dedicated many hours to research, improvement and seeing that the Greenway is a safe asset to the city of Fort Wayne.

Last year, a new section was added to the Greenway along Jefferson Blvd. to connect Swinney and Rockhill Park. The city received an award for this entitled "The Indiana Partnership for Highway Quality Achievement Award" Dawn Ritchie accepted this for the partnership with Bonar and Brooks Construction.

The Consortium was in need of 3 or 4 more board members. The type of person who would be beneficial would have qualities of being an influential person, enthusiastic advocate, or financial contributor. They ask Bob Mann and Kathy Boling to fill two of those spots.

The new Greenway Ranger Program has shown a great deal of interest from the public. There are more volunteers than there is trail. The Rangers will have a half mile section and report graffiti, destruction, deterioration and debris. You will recognize them by their green polo shirts and ID cards. The Police Dept. will step up efforts to provide security on the Rivergreenway with its bike patrol.

This Spring and Summer there will be 162 signs put up on the Greenway, these informative signs will mark route direction, give warnings and name the sections of the pathway.

May 21st is Great America Clean Up Day. The entire greenway will be cleaned by many volunteers. Anyone and everyone is ask to help. If you can't do May Madness please volunteer.

Do you know where Traders Point or Stevies Island is or are you aware Fort Wayne had a city beach? On June 4th is National Trails Day and the Parks Department is having a bike ride along the Greenway. You will be given a history lesson you won't want to miss. The ride starts at 9 AM at the Trailhead parking lot of the city's filtration plant.

Aboite New Trails, Inc. continues to make huge strides in raising funds and awareness for the development of a recreational trail system in the Southwest part of town. Trail construction gets underway this Spring with sections being added in both the Homestead / Aboite Rd area and at Covington Rd and West Hamilton. The first annual Bike About Aboite will be held on Saturday, June 4th. The ride will feature both a 10 mile family focused circuit through the side streets of Aboite and a 50 mile ride through both Allen County and Whitley County. The start and finish is scheduled for Van Hoosen Park. Registration forms are available at www.dsgfw.com/ant

The New Haven section of trail is being worked on daily which includes new pavement on the section by Lakeside Golf Course. Northwest Trails group is moving forward in their efforts to connect their section to Fort Wayne.

Want to help make a difference in your community! Join these groups. I will be happy get you connected. Contact me - Kathy Boling Publicity@3rvs.com 260-432-5526