

Greenway Update

by Kathy Boling

The Rivergreenway has had many changes since Dawn Ritchie was appointed Greenway Manager. She has worked hard to show the Greenway is alive and a major part of our city. There are a lot of activities on the Greenway and a lot more are to come.

Here is an update of what has happened in 2005 and what is being worked on.

A big group of volunteers have helped Dawn keep the greenway safe and looking nice. The Greenway Ranger Program was started in the spring and has proven to be a smart move. There are over 40 rangers that care for half mile sections by doing a weekly pass of the trail. They 'spot' clean and if something is to involved the Ranger gives Dawn a call and the Parks Dept. gets it taken care of. I have reported a few problems, on my commute and within a day or two the problem has been remedied.

Downtown Greenway. The St Mary's pathway has not been repaved but as soon as the DNR approves, Dawn will have the paving get underway. With the amount of summer trail users and the heat, maybe it was a blessing. Now that fall is upon us, the trail can be paved and not so many have to alter their routes.

Foster Park has flooded many years and to protect the properties around the park, clay dikes we placed along the Hartman Rd. extending south on the Greenway. After removal of the clay the road and pathway was in need of a face lift. With the city, parks dept. and the board of works, the area around the ball diamonds, which includes Hartman Rd and the Greenway, have been repaved.

The New Haven Trail has seen a lot of action this year. I have seen the North River Rd. parking lot full many times. Folks are riding or walking to Landin Rd. and back. And now with the trail open along the Lakeside golf course you can get a 14 mile work out with out crossing a road.

Projects that are still in the works but there is light at the end of the tunnel...

A new Rivergreenway map. Dawn has ask input from varies groups as well as ask designers to draw up a map. She has a lot of information to put on such a little map. The map should be available this fall.

Appleseed to Shoaff Park. We did not receive the TE (Transportation Enhancement) money to continue the path across Coliseum. Funding is being sought out in other ways.

Reed Rd. Trail has a bit of a road block because one of the land owners is digging his heels in about the path by his home. It is on the easement the city owns but he is not being cooperative. Members of the Greenway Consortium and Dawn Ritchie have spoken with him and he seems to be coming around.

Towpath Trail is from Rockhill Park to the connection of the Abiote New Trails. A few major landowners skirt the path and have been ask by the Consortium to allow the path to be put into place. There are a few that are slowing the process

down but Tom Kelly can see the need for pathways and is all for the towpath to go around his fathers property, the Fort Wayne Country Club is soon to follow.

I noticed quite a few people riding the Greenway on my way to and from work, I suppose they were commuting also, and with gas prices rising you will see more and more folks riding their bikes. Maybe even you.