

July
2017

NEWSLETTER



Looking Forward - Agra Pavilion 2017



Construction Committee

You will notice work has begun on the Agra pavilion enhancement. A concrete pad has been laid, exterior wings, new windows and doors will be added and fundraising for the interior has started.

A site plan design has been completed for the Park St. overlook by ReVi Design.

The Park St. to Cooper St. portion of the trail should be completed this fall.

Construction Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 pm at the Agra Pavilion, South Park Street on the trail.

Looking Forward - Park Street Overlook 2017



Real Estate Committee

The future trail extension from Cooper St. to Bluebird Lane was walked with the DNR and Army Corp. representatives during the high water levels.

Trail easements are being pursued for the Kinzel St. portion of the trail going west of the Thrivent loop.

The marketing and sale of the D & L property site is hopeful

Real Estate meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm at the New Pine Ridge.

Friends and Marketing

At the April Children's Festival at the MARC we gave away and fitted 89 bike helmets that were donated by Walmart and Aspirus Safe Kids program.

Our April 6th Annual Friends meeting was a success. Carol Krause was the winner of a new Sierra2 7 speed comfort bike donated by Schwinn. Those who attended watched a Power Point Presentation that documented the progress of the trail.

A photo contest for a calendar to be sold as a fundraiser for the pavilion bathrooms was initiated. Calendars will be for sale at Johnson Gifts and the Merrill Chamber in the near future.

The Friends/Marketing Committee meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Lower Level of Johnson's.

The River District Development Foundation Board meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Chamber.



Gavin Dinges at the bike station he completed on the trail. Check our website for more photos and information on Gavin and his Eagle Scout project.

Capital Campaign Committee

We are working on an approximate budget for the next two years. Contacts are being made to High School Scholarship winners asking to give back to the community as donors to the trail. Grants are being applied for, funds for trail construction and trailhead costs are being evaluated.

Capital Campaign meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Chamber.

Notes

August 8th 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Community Night Out at the Merrill Festival Grounds. We will have a booth there.

September 30th – Fall Festival

10:00 am – 3:00 pm on the trail

Visit our website
Riverbendtrail.org to find
out more about the trail.



Friends of the River Bend Trail
Facebook page

The River District Development Foundation of Merrill provides resources, initially through the creation and upkeep of the River Bend Trail, that encourage residents and visitors to enjoy the natural beauty and precious spaces of the city's river corridors.

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100 HOURS PROJECT: EFFORT WILL BENEFIT MERRILL FOR YEARS TO COME

(from the Marshfield Clinic Internal Newsletter)

A sign prominently notes: "Go where there's a path and leave a trail" and that's exactly what's happening in Merrill.

Wisconsin River corridors in the city are being developed with a paved trail for area residents and visitors to enjoy, while opening the door to economic development and highlighting the city's natural resources.

And a team, organized through Marshfield Clinic Merrill Center, saw an opportunity to help, not only with their volunteer time but also financially through Marshfield Clinic Health System's 100 Hours project.

Helping with the trail was an easy choice for "Team MRL Cares." Members include Paula McIntyre, R.D., C.D., C.D.E., team captain; Julie Belfiori, R.N.; Deb Boilesen; Family Medicine Specialist Donald Evans, M.D.; Robin Lane, R.N.; Kelley Natzke, R.N, B.S.N.; Margaret Osness and Lynda Swan, all from the Merrill Center; and Leann Fuhrmann, Security Health Plan. To earn the 100 hours, they picked up trash on roadsides; helped with Council Grounds State Park cleanup, worked at Dinner at Five, a weekly meal for community members, and with the Merrill Community Gardens; supported the Lincoln County Mental Health Coalition; and helped with River Bend Trail clean up.

"This volunteer work allowed us to affect our community in different ways, from beautifying, respecting and appreciating our environment to having direct contact with people," said McIntyre. "We saw the fruits of our labor at Council Grounds, where we raked and cleaned together and enjoyed each other's company. We volunteered at the school forest with other community members. They appreciated what we did and we had satisfaction by giving time to others who benefited from it."

Reasons abounded for the team to select the River Bend Trail as its 100 Hours donation recipient.

"As a primary care clinic," McIntyre said, "we encourage our community members and patients to practice healthy behaviors to prevent or manage disease and chronic conditions. This trail offers a wellness opportunity to improve physical, spiritual and emotional health by enjoying the beauty of nature. People of all ages can enjoy it on any day at any time."

And, the trail is supported by others at the Merrill Center. For example, Merrill Center General Surgeon Steve Dahm, M.D., and retired physician Dr. Mark Crapster-Pregont serve on the Trail's board.

The trail is a partnership between the city, businesses, civic organizations and trail enthusiasts. It encourages stewardship of national, historical and cultural resources; physical activity and wellness; individuals and families visiting and staying in Merrill; and promoting redevelopment of former industrial areas and expanding business development. Sarah Williams, Trail Friends/Marketing Committee co-chair, said, "The community loves the trail for all these reasons. Riverbend is a fantastic addition to the city and people are really using it. We are grateful for the team's volunteering to help and I can't tell you how much we appreciate this donation."



Pictured are (front row) Paula McIntyre, Sarah Williams; (back row) Leann Fuhrmann with Security Health Plan, Julie Belfiori, Dr. Donald Evans, Kelley Natzke and Debra Boilesen.

Plan a
walk.

Meet your
friends on
the trail!

This Marshfield Clinic donation will be the first designated to go to our **#1 Project – WE NEED BATHROOMS** Our goal is to raise \$20,000 by September 1st to add bathrooms in the trailhead building. They will be accessible from the trail.

If you would like to see
bathrooms on the trail and you
can help send your donation to:



Friends of RBT
POB 561
Merrill, WI 54452
Attn: Bathrooms

This is the first of many fundraising projects we will be holding to rehab the interior of the trailhead pavilion. We will be needing lights, heat, a concession area and other amenities for the building.

For more information about the trail, to make a donation or to become a Friend of the trail contact the Merrill Chamber Office at 715-536-9474 or e-mail Sarah Williams, sarahj724@gmail.com or Gene Bebel, kbg607@charter.net.