

July
2018

NEWSLETTER



Construction Committee

The committee is working with area contractors to finish the exterior and interior of the pavilion. The #1 goal is to have the building ready for community use. About \$47,000 will be needed to meet this goal.

Donations and fundraising will also help to finish the Park St. overlook area. A sign for the first bridge has been paid for by the **O'Tannenbaum Tour**.

River access, shoreline restoration and viewing areas are planned for the new section of the trail.

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



Dennis Grege representing the Merrill Businesses presents a check for \$500 from the annual Chili-fest to Gene Bebel at the Friends meeting

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

Real Estate Committee

A bike trail connector between the trail and the Pine Ridge area continues to be planned. The committee is looking forward to the progress of the trail to the east and west.

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

Friends and Marketing

The annual Friends Meeting in April was a success with an overflow group meeting at the Eagles Club. Money was raised for the interior of the pavilion. A new Schwinn bike was won by Chris Vorpapel.

Volunteer projects and fundraising events are being planned to help complete the pavilion. Check our facebook page and website for dates and times. We have received a **Walmart grant** for \$1,000.

You may meet Friends on the trail who are taking counts and getting input from those using the trail.

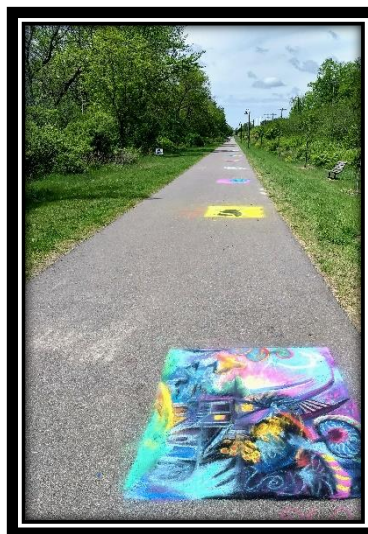
The Friends/Marketing Committee meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Lower Level of Johnson's.

Capital Campaign Committee

A grant is in progress to AARP for the accessible fishing pier. The committee is in need of specific trail section plans for future grants.

The Capital Campaign Committee is looking for new members who are familiar with grant writing. If you are interested contact Tom or Brenda Mueller
bjmueller2@yahoo.com

Capital Campaign meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Merrill Chamber.



Many beautiful chalk drawings by students of Christy Rasmussen decorate the trail.

Notes

August 25th – Celebrate the River Bend Trail Event
September 22nd – Fall Festival on the trail

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



Friends of the River Bend Trail
Facebook page
Invite your friends

The River District Development Foundation of Merrill works to provide the community with a healthy living environment and economic growth potential through the creation of the River Bend Trail and other future endeavors connecting location, nature and people.

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The RDDF continues to raise money for the completion of the Agra Pavilion. Insulation, walls, ceiling, flooring, heating and electrical will all be needed to finish the building and make it ready for the community to use. If you can help send a donation to:

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



Volunteers helped to trim brush and remove invasive plants from a section of the trail. More volunteer events will be scheduled this summer.

It's Summer!!
Ask a friend to walk
with you on the trail
today!



2018 – 2019 RDDF Plan of Work

Held on March 28th

Led by Art Lersch

Area UW Extension Director

The group met to discuss accomplishments of the past year and set goals for the coming year. There is an ongoing effort to recruit new board and advisory committee members.

Much was accomplished in 2017 including the trail section from Park St. to Cooper St.

Most committees are focusing on the completion of the Agra Pavilion in 2018. Finishing the Park Street overlook area, the accessible fishing pier, and adding amenities to the newest section of the trail are also hoped for in 2018.

Continuing the trail to the east and west will then be the main goal for the future.



On May 19th more than 70 walkers took part in a 2 ½ mile family fun walk held on the trail in memory of Tyler Holbach and to bring awareness to mental health. Money from the event was donated to add a light on the trail. Tammy Duwe, Tyler's mother, says this will be an annual event.



Visit our GoFundMePage to help raise money for the Agra Pavilion Interior

<https://www.gofundme.com/merrill-river-bend-trail-pavilion>

Please share with all your friends.



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.