



TRAIL MAP — Shown is the map of the Syracuse-Wawasee Trail as it winds around both Syracuse Lake and Lake Wawasee. Later this summer, a bridge will be installed over the McConnell/Skinner Ditch completing the Pickwick segment. (Graphic provided)

Vision of a trail system around Syracuse, Wawasee Lakes slowly taking shape

The Syracuse-Wawasee Trail Committee has been hard at work the past several months in finalizing the details for installing a bridge over McConnell/Skinner Ditch, located by the recycling center.

Beer and Slabaugh, which constructed and installed the bridge on the Pickwick segment of trail, down by Mudd Lake, is constructing and will install the new bridge. The Town of Syracuse has also donated \$3,900 worth of sidewalk, which will run from the bridge past the former Arthur's to SR 13. A rest area will also be installed in the area as well.

Already the trail, what is complete, has proven to be popular with bikers and walkers. The Wawasee Kiwanis and local Scout troops have been helpful with spring clean up. They've been out clearing away gravel, brush and debris that gets tossed onto the trail during the winter.

Recently the Wawasee Kiwanis has been

busy clearing brush and old tree stumps from along the Pickwick portion of the trail from the Dairy Queen to Cornileus Road. Two local families have also come forward, expressing interest in adopting sections of the trail to maintain.

Once the bridge is installed, the committee will look at which segment of the trail to address next. The committee would like to complete the trail around Syracuse Lake before moving onto Lake Wawasee. Meanwhile, residents around Lake Wawasee have expressed interest in having segments of trail installed in their area, as has the Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation.

The Syracuse-Wawasee Trail Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Syracuse Community Center. These meetings are open to the public.

For more information about the trail system, visit www.syracusewawaseetrails.com