



# Spring TRAILS UPDATES

Spring 2015

## From the desk of the Executive Director

By: Megan McClellan

It does not take long after the weather starts to warm for Syracuse to start hopping. Some intrepid souls used the trails year round but the nice weather has brought the rest of us out of our shells.

In addition to enjoying the trails, the Trails Committee has been hard at work building, cleaning, and maintaining them. The newest section of trail, from Oakwood to SR 13 along Harkless Drive is on track to be completed by Memorial Day. This beautiful stretch of trail will link many homeowners, as well as the Frog, Louie's and Lakeside Fitness to the rest of the trail system.



We have also held several events this Spring. We had a well attended, though cold, Earth Day trail clean-up. Our first annual Tails and Trails event was postponed due to weather but the rain date was fantastic. See the article on Page 2 for all the details. Most recently, we participated in Kids Safety Day, where together with Kiwanis we ran a bike rodeo and distributed more than 30 bike helmets to area kids.

As summer approaches we are not slowing down. Though we do not intend on any construction during the busy season here at the Lakes, we are planning to install more signage. Be on the look-out for more directional signage for trail users, as well as "Share the Road" signs for motorists. The Boy Scouts are also hard at work designing kiosks for the trail heads.

There are many events coming up over the next couple of months. A list of the highlights is included in this newsletter. For more events and details, go to our newly revamped website and check out the community events calendar. You may be amazed at the number of things to which you can walk or bike.

We have many more projects in the works and I am always interested in hearing new ideas. We could not accomplish any of this without our fantastic volunteers. If you have ideas to share or would like to become more involved with the trails, please let me know. The trails committee meetings are open to the public and occur on the third Monday of every month at 6:00pm at the Syracuse Community Center. You can also give me a call (513)835-5631 or send me an e-mail ([ed@syracusewawaseetrails.com](mailto:ed@syracusewawaseetrails.com)).

See you on the trails!



## Committee Members

Dr. Tom Edington, *Chairman*

Erick Leffler, *Vice-Chairman*

Donn Baird, *Treasurer*

Mike Buhrt, Sandee, Buhrt, Sam Leman,  
LuAnn Leatherman, Kay Young, Bob Trame,  
Chad Jonsson, Jodi Burhrt, Jerry Wright



## Tails and Trails

By: Jodi Buhrt

In the month of April, the trail committee hosted its first annual Tails and Trails event. The initial date was set for Saturday April 25th, but due to rain it was held Sunday, April 26th. We lucked out Sunday by having a sunny, 60 degree day; perfect for taking the dog for a walk around the lake. This was a community walk, free to the public and their pooches. We had several people bring their dogs to meet and sniff at the Syracuse Community Center before they set out on the trails. Attendants were able to socialize, enter to win raffle items, and grab freebies at the sign in table. The group set out on Northshore Drive heading to the halfway point, just over the railroad tracks after Eastshore Drive. Mutual Bank set up a tent with snacks, water, and other goodies for participants at the checkpoint. Dogs and their owners continued onto Pickwick Drive and through town to end back at the community center. The 5 mile loop was a great exercise for humans and canines alike. The event was made possible by several volunteers and area businesses who donated to the walk. The trails have been made even more dog friendly by adding doggie bag dispensers in certain areas to help keep the trails clean. These were graciously donated by the Syracuse Animal Hospital and the Lakeland Animal Clinic. Other area businesses that donated items include: Oakwood Resort, The Dog House, Heavenly Yorkies Pet Boutique, Wawasee Pet Grooming, Shopko, Lances New Market, Mutual Bank, and Kay Young at Todd Realty. We hope to make this an annual event. Please help keep the trails clean by using our new doggie doo doo bags and dispose of them properly. A special thank you to all of our participants; we hope to see all of you again next year!

## Trail Maintenance

By: Bob Trame

The Syracuse Wawasee Trail Committee is very proud of the progress that has been made over the last ten years. The Syracuse Trail is very nearly complete with only a few sections left. Additional trail is being completed along Harkless Drive that will take the trail out to SR 13. This is a major cog in getting the trail going around Lake Wawasee.



With the success that has been accomplished, however, new

issues arise. One of those is maintenance of the trail: both existing and in the future. The Trail Committee needs everyone's help in keeping our wonderful trail clean and safe. We are asking that property owners with trail on their property take the initiative to keep their section clean. If you have a lawn care company taking care of your lawn and landscaping, please ask them to clean off the trail area and also do as little parking on the trail as possible, since cracks are appearing.

We have organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis that are taking the lead in keeping sections of the trail clean and safe. They have adopted sections that do not have homes on it. These groups take the time, with their members, to keep these sections clean.

The committee also asks that, as you use and enjoy the trail, take the time to pick up trash along the trail to help keep it beautiful and functional. We are always happy and willing to have help from anyone interested in volunteering their time and efforts.

A big "Thank You" also to the town of Syracuse for their support in extending trail within the town. It helps contribute to the safety, while walking and biking our lakes.



# Donation Request

The trail is free for anyone to use but it does take time and money to build and maintain these trails. That is why we are so thankful for our volunteers and donors. If you have recently made a donation; thank you and know that it is being put to good use:

- Connecting parks, lakes, schools, neighborhoods and businesses.
- Through safe and attractive non-motorized transportation routes.
- Which encourages healthy, outdoor, family-oriented activities.
- And attracts businesses and professionals considering relocation.

If you have not yet made your tax-deductible donation, there is no better time...



## In order to make a donation

Please send checks with the donation slip provided below.

If you would prefer to use your credit card, you can go to the trail's website: [syracusewawaseetrails.com](http://syracusewawaseetrails.com) and click on the "Donations" button.

## Trail Contribution Form

*Please show your support with your tax-deductible contribution.*

***We need your help to continue to develop and maintain the Syracuse-Wawasee Trail. Contributions are appreciated.***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  *check here to have future newsletters e-mailed to you*

Make checks payable to "Syracuse-Wawasee Park Foundation, Trail Committee". Your gifts are tax deductible and we will furnish a receipt.

Send checks with this form to: Director, Syracuse Park and Recreation Dept.,  
Syracuse Community Center  
1013 N. Long Drive  
Syracuse, IN 46567

## Upcoming Events

May 15 – **National Bike to Work Day**

May 18 – **Trails Committee** meeting at the Syracuse Community Center at 6:00pm. Public Welcome

May 30 – **Jr. Achiever's 5K**

June 6 – **National Trails Day**

June 15 – **Trails committee meeting** at the Syracuse Community Center at 6:00pm. Public Welcome

June 27 – **Mudtastic Classic** on trails near the WACF Levinson-LaBrosse Lakes & Wetlands Education Center (located one mile south of Syracuse on SR 13). Pre-registration is required.

July 11 – **Tour de Lakes**

Every Wednesday – **Wednesday Walks** currently leaving from the Community Center at 1:00pm; from Memorial Day to Labor Day leaving from the Community Center at 5:30pm.

For more details on these and many other events happening along the trail see our community events calendar at <http://www.syracusewawaseetrails.com/events/>.

For the most up to date information on events and much more, "like" us on FaceBook.



## Future Newsletters

If you do not receive this newsletter at your home and would like to receive future copies, please do one of the following:

1. Go to the trail's website: [syracusewawaseetrails.com](http://syracusewawaseetrails.com) and click on the "Newsletter Sign up" button in the red banner. This will bring you to a secure page where you can enter your contact information.
2. Return the donation slip provided with this newsletter (with or without a donation). Be sure to include the address to which you would like the newsletter sent.

If you only want the newsletter e-mailed to you, please mark that option on either the webpage or the donation slip. If you choose this option, you will not receive a paper copy of the newsletter.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Syracuse-Wawasee Trail  
Syracuse Parks and Recreation  
Syracuse Community Center  
1013 N. Long Drive  
Syracuse, IN 46567



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