



Summer 2015

## From the desk of the Executive Director

By Megan McClellan

Syracuse is hoppin' (and walking, running and biking) this summer. The cooler weather has allowed people to exercise comfortably throughout the summer, while the weather is still warm enough to take full advantage of the lakes. The trail goes past public swimming beaches, and Syracuse's public boat dock, as well as the Farmer's Market, Sweet Corn Charlie's and the Dairy Queen. What a community asset!



We know the community is using this asset because, for the first time ever, we counted trail users. This first count was in the Spring. We will also be doing counts this Summer and Fall. They will be repeated yearly so that we can compare trail use over time. The Spring counts showed that on an average week day 200 people use the trail and on an average weekend day, 868 people use the trails.

In addition to these counts, which are done by volunteers, we have recently purchased two Derro Zap counters which will be installed at Syracuse Elementary School and Wawasee High School to count the number of students who walk and bike to school. These were paid for by a grant from the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) initiative. In Indiana the SRTS programs are sponsored by the State Department of Health because of the health benefits for children who are more active. For more information, see the trails website.

The trail along Harkless Drive from Palm Drive to SR13 is now complete. This trail section sets us up for the next section of trail, the Conklin Bay boardwalk and trail. Together with Earth Source Inc, we are currently designing this section of trail. This will be followed by applying for permits. Assuming everything goes smoothly, we hope to bid this project over the winter and perhaps start construction as early as Spring 2016. One roadblock is fundraising. Though we have received a generous grant from the Kosciusko County Convention, Recreation and Visitor's Bureau, we are still in need of funds. In order to keep this project rolling, please consider making a tax-deductible donation today.

If any of these projects inspires you, or you have an inspiring idea that we have not yet discussed, we need you. Two very active committee members recently moved, so we are looking for more volunteers. There is one meeting a month and then you can choose to join sub-committees in your area of interest. You could help plan where new trail will go, help to organize events or focus on the schools. Please contact me with any questions, call my cell phone at (513)835-5631 or send me an e-mail ([ed@syracusewawaseetrails.com](mailto:ed@syracusewawaseetrails.com)).

I would also love to see you at one of our meetings. 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. 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.

See you on the trails!



## Commitee 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 Buhrt, Jerry Wright



## Kids' Safety

By Tom Edington  
 Chair  
 Syracuse-Wawasee Trail Committee

The safety of our children and grandchildren is so important to us personally and to our community generally. As the school superintendent for Wawasee, safety and security is always at the top of our list.

Serving on the trail committee, I've become very aware of the safety afforded by wide and clean trails and crossings for the children in our area. Whether walking, running, riding bikes or long boards, or jogging with strollers, children are safer on clearly marked and maintained trails.

We are fortunate to have trails presently connecting two of our schools, Wawasee High School and Syracuse Elementary School, to the trail system. Our students use trails to walk and ride to school and area athletic and recreational venues.

The toughest section of the Wawasee trail system is waiting for funding. That stretch crosses Conklin Bay from the edge of Syracuse at Harkless Drive through the WACF property, along-side State Road 13. It will be great for the youth of our area to enjoy sage travel away from the highway. Thanks for your support as we make a safer world for children now and in the future.



## Volunteerism

By Bob Trame

Webster defines it as the use of involvement of volunteer labor, especially in community services. Every community service can use extra help and the Syracuse-Wawasee Trails are no exception. As the trail grows and expands, so does the need for help. We are always looking for helpers to work activities, trail cleaning and even board meetings. We currently need a few energetic and community minded people to serve on the board, or just at work activities. Help is always needed and welcome. It doesn't take a lot of time but it does take commitment.

Give Megan McClellan a phone call on her cell at 513-835-5631 or e-mail her at [ed@syracusewawaseetrails.com](mailto:ed@syracusewawaseetrails.com). It makes you feel good as well as helping make our trails bigger and better.



# 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

July 20 – **Trails Committee meeting** at the Syracuse Community Center at 6:00pm. Public Welcome

July 23 – **Chautauqua on the Lawn** at Oakwood Resort. A Multicultural Musical Experience

July 25 – **Then and Now**, A Historical Picture Presentation at the Syracuse Historical Museum

July 30-Aug 1 – **Syracuse Community Yard Sale**

August 8 – **Wawasee Triathlon**

August 17 – **Trails committee meeting** at the Syracuse Community Center at 6:00pm. Public Welcome

September 12 – **Fine Arts Festival** at Oakwood Resort

Every Saturday – **Artisan and Farmer's Market** at Crosson Mill Park from 9am-2pm

Every Wednesday – **Produce Market** at Crosson Mill Park from 3-6pm

Every Wednesday – **Wednesday Walks** 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: [syracuse-wawaseetrails.com](http://syracuse-wawaseetrails.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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