



Early Summer Trails

2016

Update

From the desk of the Executive Director

By: Megan McClellan

As you may notice, this issue of the trail's newsletter is all about the Conklin Bay boardwalk and trail project. There are many reasons why this is such an important stretch of trail. First, it will be a safe route to connect Syracuse to the Levinson-LaBrosse Lakes and Wetlands Education Center and to many residences further south on Lake Wawasee. Additionally, it will help to increase our community's knowledge and appreciation of wetlands by providing a rare opportunity to be right in the middle of the wetlands, no boots needed. Lastly, this stretch of boardwalk and trail will encourage people passing on busy SR 13 to stop for a while and enjoy all this area has to offer.

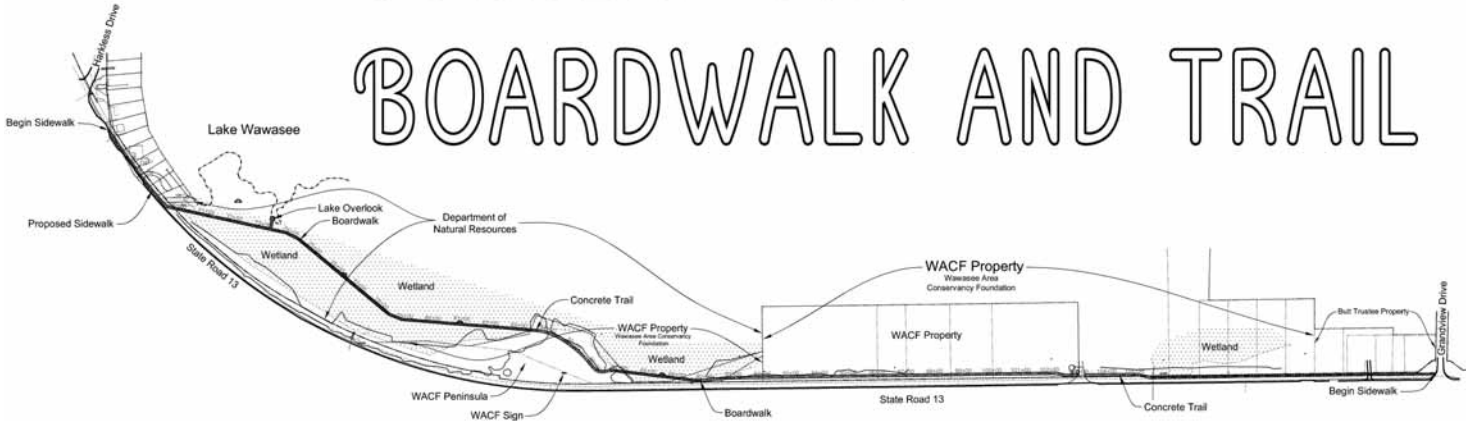
Though we have several projects underway this spring we decided to highlight this section because we need your help. We recently received an estimate for the cost of construction. When we added the cost of oversight and a maintenance fund to this, we estimate the cost to be \$1.7 million. Though we will raise some of that money from grants, what we really need is strong support from every member of the community. This boardwalk and trail will be a tremendous asset but we cannot make it happen without your contributions.

I look forward to seeing you on the trail this spring. As the weather warms we will be having more events. We are widening and raising a section of trail on Eli Lilly Road and improving the safety of the Pickwick and SR13 crossing. Keep up to date on all of our projects by visiting the website (where you can also make a secure donation) and liking us on facebook. 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 on my cell phone at (513)835-5631 or send me an e-mail ed@syracuse-wawaseetrails.com.

See you on the trails!



CONKLIN BAY BOARDWALK AND TRAIL



Conklin Bay Boardwalk & Trail

By: Megan McClellan

This newsletter is full of all the wonderful things that will be possible once the boardwalk and trail are in place. There will be a safe connection for walkers and bikers between town, WACF, and points south on Lake Wawasee. There will be opportunities to learn more about the wetland ecosystem. This boardwalk will even encourage tourism by engaging people who might otherwise just fly through town on SR13. But how do we get from now to a completed trail with all of these benefits?

The Syracuse-Wawasee Trails Committee has already been at work on this project for over a year. They hired Earth Source Inc. out of Fort Wayne to help with the planning, design and permitting. So far, this has resulted in several preliminary trail layouts. An 8 ft long copy of the most recent version is in the trail's office. Stop by and check it out. Using this layout Earth Source was able to compile an estimate for the cost of construction.

The committee took the construction estimate, added the cost of oversight, and a maintenance fund resulting in a total cost estimate of \$1.7 million. This may seem like a lot but back in 2007 the trails committee received an estimate for construction of a trail alongside SR13 (no boardwalk) of \$2 million. Now we are able to make a much more pleasant and safe trail and save \$300,000!

The Syracuse-Wawasee community is very generous to many organizations including the trails and WACF. This project connects these two organizations. Also, the trails has been successful at receiving grants for projects in the past. The K21 Health Foundation, the Kosciusko County Convention Recreation and Visitor's Commission, the Harkless Foundation and many other philanthropic organizations have supported the trails work. Several of these organizations have already expressed an interest in helping with the cost of construction.

Once the majority of the needed funds are raised, the committee will get bids for construction. Construction on this amazing asset could start as early as spring 2017, but it all depends on you. You can make a donation using the donation slip in this newsletter or on the trail's secure website. If you would like to challenge your neighbors by offering the next matching grant, please contact Megan McClellan, the Executive Director.

Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation



By Heather Harwood, Executive Director

The Wawasee Area Conservancy (WACF) is excited to be a part of the trail expansion at Conklin Bay and SR 13. This important segment will help provide a link to the south side of Wawasee for walkers and bikers with WACF's Levinson-LaBrosse Education Center fronting the new section of trail. The new trail segment will provide access to our Education Center at 11586 N. SR 13, where you see our digital sign and flagpole.

Please join us for activities this summer including our Lake, Talk & Eats breakfast presentations on the first Saturday of June, July and August:

- Saturday, June 4th — Native plants and healthy shorelines 9-11 am
- Saturday, July 2nd — Annual Bug Catch — bring the kids! 9-11 am
- Saturday, August 6th - Lilly Pad Luncheon Cruise — Historical and lake ecology trip — 11 AM. Cost \$10 with reservations. Email us at info@wacf.com

WACF will also offer:

- Wetland Adventures for kids, Thursday mornings in July 9-11 AM.
- WACF's Annual Farm Tour, Thursday, August 4th 9 AM — Get out on the field with us and see how farmers work with soil, crops, and the business of farming

and its impact on our watershed.

Led by Russell Anderson.

WACF's mission is to keep our waters clean by controlling sediment, invasive plant removal, and protecting land through acquisition and preservation, shoreline enhancement, educational tours and community access opportunities. The Wawasee Area Watershed ecosystem includes Wawasee (Indiana's largest natural lake at over 3,000 acres), Syracuse, Bonar and Papakeechee Lakes, as well as the ten lakes in the Upper Turkey Creek sub-watershed. Now, in our 25th year, our efforts have resulted in the acquisition and protection of over 10 miles of shoreline and 47 wetland areas totaling over 828 acres.

For more information: www.wacf.com or email info@wacf.com.

Committee Members

Dr. Erick Leffler, *Chairman*

Kay Young, *Vice-Chairman*

Dr. Tom Edington, *Treasurer*

Sam Leman, LuAnn Leatherman,
Chad Jonsson, Jodi Buhrt,
Jerry Wright, Kristi Martin,
Ken Pearish, Heather Pressler



Future Newsletters

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

1. Go to the trails website: syracusewawasee-trails.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 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.

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 encourage healthy, outdoor, family-oriented activities.
- And attracts businesses and professionals considering relocation.

If you have not yet made your tax-deductible donation, you can send a check with the donation slip below or go to the trails website: www.syracusewawasee-trails.com.



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 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

Boardwalk Lifestyle

Pisgah Marsh Area & Boardwalk

An Indiana birdwatcher's hidden treasure, Pisgah Marsh includes grassland, marsh, lake and upland habitat. Nestled on the Kosciusko, Noble and Whitley County lines in northeast Indiana, Pisgah Marsh is an ecologically sensitive, geologically significant and biologically diverse area accessible through a boardwalk. Two state-endangered species are found there, the Massasauga rattlesnake and Blanding's turtle. The wetland and upland areas also provide habitat for migratory waterfowl, sandhill cranes, beavers, rails, squirrels, raccoons and deer.

The Pisgah Marsh Boardwalk and Golden Eagle viewing deck was constructed to allow visitors the opportunity to experience and understand the natural habitat and diversity of the marsh while protecting the habitat.

A three-tenths of a mile-long boardwalk was constructed to provide access to sensitive habitat in the 99-acre marsh. The boardwalk is ADA-accessible, as are nearby parking and restrooms. Interpretive signage provides visitors with important insight into the habitat and wildlife that thrive in the area.



Pisgah Marsh

Area & Boardwalk

CR 350 N • Pierceton, IN 46562
574.834.4461 | wildlife.IN.gov



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

Calendar of Events

- June 6** — National Trails Day Presentation at the Syracuse Public Library at 6:30 pm
- June 9** — Bicentennial Sunset Stroll leaving from Lakeside Park at 6 pm, includes dinner. Pre-register at: syracuse-wawaseecampfire.eventbrite.com
- June 20** — Trails committee meeting at the Syracuse Community Center at 6:00 pm. Public welcome.
- June 25** — 2nd Annual 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 9** — 7th Annual Tour de Lakes. More information at tourdeslakes.com.
- July 24** — Inaugural Car Show at Oakwood Resort. All proceeds go to the trail.
- Every Wednesday** — Wednesday Walks leaving from the Trail's Office at 5:30 pm.

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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Millford, IN
Permit No. 2

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

