

Spring Has Sprung! *By Jerry Green*

Spring is in the air and thoughts are turning toward getting out on the trails to run, walk and bike. I'm looking forward to biking on the trails; however, I also look back on this past winter with some nostalgia. I know that I'm in the minority, but it was a great winter for enjoying our trails. Whether it was snowshoeing or cross-country skiing, the abundance of snow in December and January made for ideal conditions for both sports most of the winter.

There is an elegance second to none to the swaying motion of cross-country skiing whether using the traditional striding or newer skating method. Couple that with the quiet winter sounds and clear views unencumbered by foliage and it is a different world. If we keep having winters like the last two I imagine that we will have many more skiers, and snowshoers in the future. A special thanks to Gary Dusenberry at George Wyth State Park for keeping the ski trails well groomed with each new snow fall. A thank you also to the Waterloo Parks Division for making classical tracks at Brynes Park and Gates Park.

Now the sights and sounds of spring are signaling that is time to get out the roller blades, the running shoes, and the bicycles. There are many great activities coming up that are centered around the local trails. You can count on a multitude of rides, walks and running races. Planning is already in progress for the Trails Festival, which will be August 6-9. Each year the list of activities gets better. Also, don't forget the trails clean up on April 25th. Grab several of your friends, and come lend a hand for a couple of hours. It's a good time and a rewarding feeling to give back to the trails.

For anyone interested in getting more involved with the Cedar Trails Partnership we are always looking for new board members and committee members. Our committees include Advocacy, Communications, Finance, Grants, Membership, Safety and Education, Trails Festival, Projects and Water Trails. There is something for anyone that is interested in getting involved. Want to check us out? Attend one of our monthly meetings, they are held every 2nd Thursday at the Cedar Falls Visitors Center at 6:30 p.m.



Cedar Trails Partnership

Be Safe On The Trails

Remember **you are not alone out there**; there are other individuals using the trails for different reasons.

Ride, Walk, or Skate To Your Right: leave room for others to pass on your left

Courtesy Takes Precedence: Ride, walk, or skate in single file on the right

Stop Off The Trail: Signal your stop by saying "stopping" or something similar, so others behind you know your intentions. **Remember not to block the trails when stopping.**

Call Out: Whether bicycling, skating or running call out a warning to others when you are passing them from behind or when you meet them. A simple "on your left" will do.

Keep Dogs On A Leash At All Times: keep dogs from wandering out in front of other trail users

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14th Annual Cedar Trails Festival *by Susan Lewis*

The planning for the Cedar Trails Festival for 2009 has begun. The Festival committee has been meeting to ensure another great array of events for family enjoyment. The Trails Festival begins Thursday evening, August 6, and runs through Sunday, August 9, 2009. Save the dates! No worries...all the favorite events from last year will return.

On August 6 we will start with the **Opening Ceremonies** for the Festival. On Friday, August 7 we will begin the day with the **Senior Cruise**, a great opportunity for our senior citizens to re-discover our trails starting at Gateway Park. Then, the **Bridge to Bridge Ride** will take place during Friday'loo on Friday evening, with the start at the Waterloo Center for the Arts. Also, Friday night, bring your dog or come prepared to walk one. **The Cedar Bend Humane Society Dog Walk** will take place at the Cedar Falls Paw Park.

On Saturday three of the favorite rides, the **Tour de Valley Ride** and the **Light up the Night Ride**, will return. Both rides will begin at Gateway Park Downtown Cedar Falls. Also, the **Bike Rodeo** at the Black Hawk Park will test your cycling safety skills. We are planning on offering a great **Family 5K Run** for Saturday morning, Starting at 7:00am. Stay tune for the details. Why? Because this new event will become a new favorite for those who like to run or walk in our trails.

On Sunday the **Hartman Eco-Triathlon** will get underway at 7:00am, grab your kayak, mountain bike and your running shoes to enjoy this great non traditional triathlon.

We will end our 2009 festival with another favorite event: **The Poker Ride**, giving away several hundred dollars in door prizes, and a grand prize to the best poker hand.

The trails committee is looking for more members to volunteer some time either on a committee or for an event. We certainly could use your help! The Festival is very important for all because it is our only fundraiser. The money we bring in from the Festival allows us to award grants for projects that improve your trails. If you would like to help please feel free to contact us. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm at the Cedar Falls Welcome Center on Hudson Road. Bring us your fresh ideas.

Visit www.cedartrailspartnership.org for new updates as they come along.

Thursday, August 6
5:30pm - Opening Ceremonies

Friday, August 7
11:30 am - Senior Cruise
4:00 pm - Dog Walk
5:00 pm - Bridge to Bridge

Schedule of Events

Saturday, August 8
7:00 am - Family 5K Run
9:00 am - Bike Rodeo
10:00 am - Tour de Valley Ride
7:00 pm - Light up the Night

Sunday, August 9
11:00 am - Poker Ride
1:30 pm - Closing Ceremonies

The Hartman Eco-Triathlon will start at 7am at George Wyth Park

CTP Annual Earth Day Trail Clean Up

The Cedar Trails Partnership's Annual Earth Day Trail Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2009. Our Board of Director, Roger DeGroot, has been recruiting several crew leaders to help organize volunteers to do this important task. In previous years, under the guidance of Roger DeGroot, volunteers collected all sorts of trash items that were on the trails with disposal provided by the cities of Cedar Falls and Waterloo.

This important project ensures that every year our community trails are in full splendor when many start using the trails. If you want to help your community, and enhance the look of the trails, please come, and participate in the **Cedar Trails Partnership Earth Day Trail Clean Up** on Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 9am until 11am. Bags will be furnished. Please wear proper clothing, and bring gloves to protect your hands.

This year's clean up is planned to hit several trail locations in our extensive trail network. If you would like to be part of the clean up please contact Please call Roger DeGroot at 319-266-6716

The following are some of the locations that crews will gather to begin clean up.

**Gateway Park. Pfeiffer Park.Prairie Lakes Parking Lot. Valley View Park
Downtown Waterloo Trail Head (4th Street and Washington)**

City Trail Updates

Waterloo *By Noel Anderson*

The Riverfront Renaissance is taking shape!!!! This large River Walk Loop will allow pedestrians, and bicyclists the ability to traverse along a riverfront view from 1st to 18th Street along both sides of the Cedar River through Downtown Waterloo, which is also taking shape with several new businesses and renovations.

The overall goal of the Riverfront redevelopment is to increase the quality of life amenities for citizens and visitors to the Waterloo area, as well as increase the overall connectivity of the trail system. Many trails meet up in this area, especially with newly constructed connections, allowing trail users to expand their trail excursions throughout the community.

The River Walk Loop is complete on the north side of the Cedar River from 6th Street to 18th Street, with several bump-outs and bench areas for leisurely bicycling, walking, and enjoyment of the riverfront, and some information on the former Rath Packing Company on a monument. The 18th Street Bridge allows a trail connection back down to the Highway 218 Trail, or connection into Evansdale on the American Discovery Trail.

The River Walk Loop will continue new construction from 6th Street back westerly towards 1st Street – tying into continued construction of the Cedar River dam system. The dam improvements will add approximately 4' of added depth to the river, allowing for expanded recreational opportunities. This will also include some portages along the north side of the Cedar River to allow water trail users, canoeists, etc. the ability to traverse through the Downtown Waterloo area by exiting the Cedar River upstream of the two dams, and re-enter right along the water front in those same areas, downstream of the dams. This works with the overall Black Hawk County water trail system that is being developed by several groups and entities.

Also, included is a sluice gate design for the dam improvements project, which would allow for a future kayak course through the area when funding becomes available. The sluice gate should also allow for better river flow and potential scouring that will work to keep the Cedar River available for recreational uses.

This section will then connect into the recently completed trail through Cedar Bend and Exchange Parks, where riders can see the expanding Exchange Park recreational areas or stop and see a Waterloo Bucks baseball game at the refurbished stadium. Continuing west, you can join the main trail system, which goes behind the Cattle Congress, and connects into the Sherwood Park area. From Sherwood Park, the connection into the Greenhill trails is also accessible.

The south half of the dam is completed, which will bring forth construction of the Upper and Lower Plaza areas on the south side of the Cedar River, and sections of that trail area along the south side by US Bank.

The River Walk Loop from 6th to 18th Street (south shore of Cedar River) will be moving to construction as well with economic stimulus funding becoming available. The City of Waterloo also recently received State Trail grant funding for a trail along the southerly side of the river east from 18th Street, going down into the Riverview Recreational Area near Hawthorne. The Riverview Area has been a long-term project for redevelopment for more recreational amenities including boating docks, an ATV course, and some lake features. This trail will help to add another scenic trail through a wooded area along the riverfront, while also opening up another trailhead for area users to bring their cars.

The River Walk Loop will create a vital route for allowing trail users and downtown visitors a scenic and accessible view of the Cedar River. It also works to allow alternative routes for bicyclists, who may still use the designated trail along Highway 218 for faster riding through the downtown area, while having the pedestrian traffic along the River Walk Loop itself.

The City has also created a new trailhead with a shelter at Idaho Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. This site would allow users of the MLK trail a good starting point for a leisurely ride in this area.

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