



Newsletter - Summer 2020



Trim the Trail – The Peace Trail needs trimming in several locations. Vegetation is growing towards the center of the trails. The worst cases are in the sections of trail that get the least attention – the gravel trail from Tripp Road to Afton and the “back” trail, grass trail between the Peace Trail and the River from Hwy 11 north.

Friday, July 10 Trim the Trail project will be 8 to 10 am (to beat the heat) on the gravel trail. Meet at the Tripp Road trail head.

Friday, July 17 Trim the Trail project will be 8 to 10 am on the grass trail north of Hwy11. Meet at the Tripp Road trail head.

Long sleeves, long pants are recommended due to bugs and potential wild parsnip exposure. Bring loppers if you have them. Masks and social distancing are required while gathering or working near others.

Peace Trail Run and Ride

Our 5k run and 25k bike time trial are scheduled for Saturday, September 12 in conjunction with Afton’s Harvest Fest. The pandemic is causing us to consider our alternatives. Perhaps the 5k could become a virtual run and participants would receive our colorful event shirt without gathering in a group and running the same course on September 12?

The time trial possesses less risk of crowding and exposure as riders will be sent out on the course individually rather than as a group. We will do the 25k time trial in Afton on September 12. We will need volunteers at corners directing riders and at the start/finish line.



Peace Trail 5k Run and 25k Time Trial

Please respond to this email if you are available to help with the 25k Time Trial on September 12.

Beloit Progress From RTC President Jeff Johnson

The 800-foot Powerhouse Riverwalk Trail construction is on schedule and should be completed by November 1st.

The Henry Avenue Resurfacing project, which includes a side path east from Riverside Park and addition of bike lanes has been delayed until 2021.

In March, Beloit received a coveted Wisconsin DOT multimodal local



supplement grant to extend bike lanes on Park Avenue. They are in the process of finalizing the state/municipal agreement.

Washout: A portion of the paved Peace Trail in Big Hill Park sustained erosion damage after several heavy rainfalls this



spring. The city will be working on a fix using a combination of city personnel and contractors. The anticipated work includes clean-up, regrading, new culverts, and repaving. It is anticipated that the work will take 8-10 weeks to coordinate and complete. That portion of the trail remains closed in the meantime. The Rock Trail Coalition has granted the City of Beloit \$4,000 and volunteer hours for work on the last unpaved section of Peace Trail just south of Goose Creek in Big Hill Park. The Parks and Recreation department is working with a contractor to schedule this work in the near future.

Peace Trail Arch Project - Tom Presny

The Peace Trail on the west side of the Rock River is an 11 mile long trail and begins at Monterey Park in Janesville and extends to Big Hill Park in Beloit. The Rock Trail Coalition has plans to have scenic arches built over the trail at these two trail heads and at other locations that may be determined along the trail.

RTC has set aside \$4,000 to facilitate arch construction and we are looking for donors and contractors to help provide materials, equipment, and labor to build and install these trail arches. [A list of possible materials and services needed include:](#) Steel beams, Plate Steel, Concrete, Brick, Stone,



Welding, Laser cutting, and masons. We would love to hear from you if you can help us make these trail arches possible.

The final arch design and appearance will be left to those obtained materials and constructing the arches. The arches need to be 15' tall x 15' wide to accommodate all trail service equipment and vehicles to pass under them.

Peace Trail Logo: An effort was undertaken by the RTC board to create a logo for the Peace Trail. A local designer was used to facilitate this effort.



From Our Trail Friends in Rock County

**Rock County Multi-Use Trail Group –
Krickett Jewett**

The Rock County Multi Use Trail Group is an advocate of multi-use trails around our area. We focus primarily on Gibbs Lake, Magnolia Bluff, Happy Hollow, and the Milton Janesville trail. Since it's formation we have partnered with the Rock County Parks Department to make many improvements. We are currently working on raising funds to install a well at the

equestrian parking lot of Gibbs Lake. So far, we have not had any big projects yet in 2020, but hope to get out soon, and do some maintenance on the trails!

Krickett Jewett (krocketj@gmail.com)

Janesville Velo Club – Paul Murphy
pbmurphy@sbcglobal.net

As for news with the \$11,000.00 combined financial support from RTC , Janesville Convention and Visitors Bureau and Janesville Velo Club, the City of Janesville will proceed with installation of Way Finding signage on the Janesville paved bike trail.

The joint effort will provide financing to purchase signage, hardware, and posts for 157 signs along the trail. The City of Janesville crews will do all the placing and installations with projected completion date spring of 2021.



Wayfinding signage examples.

Friends of Turtle Creek and Nature at the Confluence – Therese Oldenburg

The Friends of Turtle Creek Facebook group has exploded in growth! From 558 members last year to 1122. Unfortunately, with popularity comes a price. The creek is being heavily used and eventually that will negatively impact the creek. In answer to that, I've created questions that people must answer before they can join the group and created group rules that emphasize stewardship and safety. The parking areas are often full on weekends.

Nature At The Confluence has almost completed a new trail along the Rock River bottoms - the Rock River Birding and Hiking Trail. It offers wonderful views of the Rock River and takes you to the point where you can view the Boney Island eagle nest. They just received \$4000 in grants to continue working on cleaning up Kelly Creek and extend a trail along the creek. Kelly Creek is natural spring combined with storm water that flows through the property to the Rock River. It is impacted by trash that comes off the street storm water drains.

The Rock River Trail held the Rock River Basin Cleanup Challenge using a phone app June 15-28. We partnered with Rock River Coalition and River Network with a goal of 2500 items picked up and registered. We are also excited that Beloit bicyclists Kurt and Kristy Handrich will be the first tandem team to complete the 320-mile Rock River Biking Route. Kristy will also be the first woman to bike the whole 320 miles.

Therese Oldenburg
therese@firepointmedia.com Executive Director

Ice Age Trail – Rock County – Dennis James

The Rock County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance has been deeply affected by the COVID19 restrictions and continuing concerns. A fundraiser, all of our hikes for 2020, and six volunteer maintenance events were canceled. The volunteer maintenance events represented approximately 500 volunteer hours lost.

Since the 'reopening', we are making progress on our maintenance needs. Jayne and Dean Paynter have painted and/or repaired all of our kiosks along the Ice Age Trail. Work continues on the Croak Brewery and trail repair is occurring at the Janesville School Outdoor Lab (JSOL trails, not the IAT), and Boy Scout projects have begun again, or are being completed. Mowing and other general maintenance is continuing and current.

Dennis James djames84@outlook.com for more information.