

Your ^{Ski} Horse Bike Roller Blade **Greenway** Jog Family Walk Nature Connections **Newsletter**

Volume 5, Issue 2
 April—June 2006

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Thank you to Sue Weiland for all her help with the newsletter!



Thank you to our Greenway volunteers for preparing this newsletter for mailing!

Growing and Growing and Growing....

The #1 question asked must be, “when will the Losantville project be done?” Beaty Construction has been able to complete the bridge over Stoney Creek and other concrete details this winter. Paving for this project is expected to resume mid-April. Cardinal Greenway anticipates possession of the Losantville segment late summer 2006.

The engineering of phases three and four of the White River Greenway (Muncie) are underway. These projects include several trail sections: from the Riverview Overlook along Bunch Boulevard south to the Craddock Wetland, from Westside Park to the west end overlook, a loop at the Heron overlook, and improvements to the existing trail at Minnetrista



Some asphalt work near Losantville was done in 2005 before the weather turned cold.

from Wheeling Ave to Walnut Street. These phases along with the Wheeling Avenue cantilever project (City of Muncie project) will result in continuous trail along the river within the city limits. The construction dates of phases three and four have not been scheduled at this time. The Wheeling Ave cantilever construction should begin this spring.

Share the road signage will soon be installed around Prairie Creek Reservoir, between Gaston and the Grant County line and along River Road to the Madison County line.

The Red-tail Conservancy will be constructing a new trailhead and trail that will connect the Cardinal Greenway to the Red-tail Nature Preserve at the corner of Delaware County roads 461 and 650 South.

Submitted by Phil Tevis, Greenways Project Director

I Support Trails

Personal stories are powerful tools to use with advocate volunteers, campaigning, presentations and the public.



On the trails there are thousands of stories to be told.

If your lifestyle has changed because of trails or you enjoy family time on the trails we invite you to share your story. We would like to hear yours! Contact us at 765-287-0399.

Today, thanks to the Cardinal Greenway, Dave Faunce is able to return regularly, by bike, to one the favorite places of his boyhood wonder years in Marion-Grant County.

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Your Greenway Newsletter is the newsletter of Cardinal Greenway, Inc. a privately owned, not-for-profit organization. *Editor: Shonda McKissack-Kane*

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Letter from the Director

Users of the Cardinal Greenway and White River Greenway are grateful for the wonderful media coverage we've recently enjoyed. Community members were impressed as they read in the newspaper that millions of federal Transportation Enhancement funds had been secured to help build our trail system and connect the people from our region. Unfortunately, many other community members assumed that because of these federal dollars, Cardinal Greenway and White River Greenway would no longer need local support. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth.

For every million dollars in federal dollars we receive, the Greenways must raise \$200,000, or 20% matching funds. Additionally, monies are needed to pay for staff and volunteers to maintain the trails and to showcase the Wysor Street Depot. We continue to purchase vehicles, chainsaws, weed killer, loppers, lawn mowers, etc. Each year, Mother Nature challenges us to fight ice storms, pick up downed trees, clear away items blown onto the trail with heavy winds, tackle erosion issues caused by heavy rain and snow and to stay ahead of the cracks and seal them before a bike tire gets caught in them. As the trails become more popular, wear and tear becomes more critical. We are constantly challenged by vandalism and graffiti and try to address those issues as soon as we find them. We are also approached by community groups who want to get off the streets and use the Greenway for bike-a-thons, environmental shows, fun runs and races.

We are pleased that we have been trusted with so many federal dollars. We hope you will help to support our 70-mile linear park by helping us with local match and on-going maintenance support. We hope that you will help to keep our trails maintained for your generation and the many other generations that will walk the same path. Let's work together to connect additional neighborhoods to our beautiful trail system.

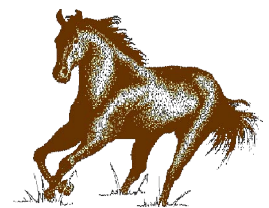
Lenette Freeman, Executive Director

Sponsors Welcome

The **Greenway Giddy-up is Indiana's largest horse trail fundraising event!** This 3 day event hosted by Cardinal Greenways, based at Prairie Creek Reservoir, is a signature event that raises funds for trail maintenance and operations. Your company can be part of this great event!

For more information call 765-287-0399 or

www.cardinalgreenways.org/Giddy-up



Irvin Spins the Wheels for Trails

Remember that New Year's resolution to get more exercise? Maybe the state can help out by providing bike trails.

Former City-County Councilman Ray Irvin has built an impressive bike trail system for Marion County over the past 15 years. Now he'll try to do something similar for the whole state, as director of Greenways and Bikeways in the state Department of Transportation. Simply

naming him to the position shows a commendable commitment to trail development on the part of Gov. Mitch Daniels' administration. Indiana has fallen behind neighboring Midwestern states in developing trails. Apart from the obvious health and recreation benefits, trails can boost tourism. Michigan, Ohio and Illinois have hundreds of miles of trails and have tried to link the trails with other historical and cultural attractions. In Ohio, for example, the Little Miami trail runs almost from Cincinnati to east of Dayton and has been linked with tourist attractions. If anyone can help Indiana catch up, it's Irvin. In the early 1990s he was a lonely voice



Ray Irvin, Director of Greenways & Bikeways in the state Department of Transportation

calling for converting abandoned rail tracks to walking, biking and hiking trails, working as a Parks Department employee under then Mayor Stephen Goldsmith.

Back then some neighbors along the proposed Monon Trail predicted a wave of criminals using the trail to burglarize Northside homes. Instead, the trail has become a marketing tool for selling homes and apartments along the corridor and is especially crowded on warm

weekends, with walkers, runners and bikers joining skateboarders and rollerbladers. The Monon has become so crowded in Carmel that City Council officials there are debating whether to impose a 15-mph speed limit on the five-mile Carmel portion. Irvin has taken the Marion County trail system to the next step, beginning to link the trails with each other and offering bike commuters more routes to get to work safely. But trails across the state face even bigger challenges, mostly related to legal disputes over whether the state can use abandoned rail corridors. Farmers and their organizations have been reluctant to allow these trails, and Irvin's enthusiasm will be

tested in a new way as he encounters resistance in rural parts of the state. Those who know him well think he can handle the challenge. "Ray has done a great job with enhancing the quality of life of Indianapolis residents through the Indy Greenways," says Connie Schmucker, executive director of the Indiana Bicycle Coalition. "I have no doubt that he will be able to do the same at the state level." He also has skillfully navigated political considerations, at one point considering a run against Goldsmith before he went to work for him. When Mayor Bart Peterson became the first Democrat to win the office since the 1960s, Irvin stayed on the job for more than one term. Also working in Irvin's favor is the fact that some top officials in the Department of Transportation, including Commissioner Tom Sharp, actually ride their bikes to work from time to time and live to talk about it. Then there is the perennial story about how Hoosiers are overweight and need to start jogging, walking and working out. Irvin's selection for this new bike czar post suggests that the Daniels administration is serious about helping Hoosiers get into physical shape.

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Let's Share the Road

Along with the arrival of spring this year, county residents should begin to see new signs being erected to make motorists aware of bicyclists sharing the road. This Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Planning Commission project has been in the works for a few months and looks as though it will now become reality. The project involves 3 routes: 1) From West Side Park to Madison county via River Road and River Valley Road. This will connect with one of many Madison county bike routes and provide an Anderson to Muncie bike

connector; 2) A Prairie Creek Reservoir loop that includes the weekly Delaware Cycling Club route and the Great Greenway Tour route; 3) North out of Gaston on 600 West to connect to the south end of the Marion segment of Cardinal Greenway and also to Upland and Ivanhoe's Restaurant. This route will have signs only to the Delaware/Grant county line at present. There have been conversations with people in Grant County and they will be pursuing the completion of these routes in their county.

Most of us have been waiting

years for our county and Indiana to progress in recreational attitudes. Recently, we keep hearing hints that the State of Indiana is also trying to change those attitudes, and this project should excite all of us on a local level. That is why I wish that everyone would make it a point to thank those involved. They are: Marta Moody and the Planning Commission staff, Michael Denton, county engineer, Tim Kelty from Yorktown, Mark Turner, city of Muncie, Gaston's town board, Jim Cartwright from the Delaware Cycling Club and especially

Activity on the Greenway

"I found it! I found it!" I shouted as I held up a small dirty Rubbermaid container. You might ask what all the excitement could be about finding an old container on the Cardinal Greenway. Well, this was not just *any* old container. This was a letterbox! But what is a letterbox? A *letterbox* is a hidden waterproof container containing a logbook and a carved rubber stamp, usually found by following clues posted on the Internet by other participants. *Letterboxing* is a hobby that can trace its roots to 1854 in Dartmoor, England, and is related to treasure hunting and orienteering. Participants (*letterboxers*) combine art, literature, riddles, journaling, and compass and map reading with exploring interesting, natural, historical, and/or scenic places. A letterboxer is rewarded with a rubber stamp from which to make an imprint in a personal letterboxing journal. The letterboxer also records his or her personal stamp in the letterbox's logbook to record the find.

There are dozens of letterboxing databases on the Internet and 21,498 letterboxes listed on Letterboxing North

America (www.letterboxing.org), the largest letterboxing website. Although there is no formal organization for participation in letterboxing, there are more than 13,333 letterboxers who are members of Letterboxing North America's website alone. Many of them live in Central Indiana and have planted letterboxes throughout the state.

There are nine letterboxes in Muncie, and two that are currently available for the finding on the Cardinal Greenway. Anyone interested can get started by hunting for the *Cardinal Greenway Letterbox* and the *Fence Post Letterbox*. Clues for these letterboxes and more information may be found at www.letterboxing.org or www.atlasquest.com.

About the author: Marisa Fink is a member of the faculty at Ball State University and a longtime Cardinal Greenway volunteer and supporter. She is completing her doctoral research on the culture of letterboxing and those who participate. Look for her on the greenway riding her Bike Friday or Wind Cheetah trike.



Tools of the Letterboxer

Wednesday Night DCC Rides

For the last three years the Delaware Cycling Club (DCC) has met at the Wysor St. Depot to enjoy a friendly ride to either end of the trail. This May the DCC Wednesday Night Greenway Ride will continue to be offered to any willing participant. The ride is designed for new riders, families or anyone wishing to take pleasure in the natural splendor along the Greenway. The ride has slowly grown as more casual riders attend each year. It's a great way to meet new people, spend some time with a friend or with family.

Michael Smith has led the weekly event for the last two years. Michael is a seasoned cyclist with a ton of cycling knowledge and a willingness to share it. His mentoring attitude and love for the sport makes him a perfect facilitator for folks wanting to learn more about cycling or bicycles. Michael is the Director of the Academy of Model Aeronautics' (AMA) National Model Aviation Museum. His wife Susan, the Archivist at Minnetrista, also enjoys the Wednesday rides.

If you've been looking for someone to ride the trail with or you just want to learn more about cycling, this is the event for you. New friendships are formed as more and more people show up. Families use this time to exercise together and enjoy each other's company, and entry-level cyclists get a start that can lead to a life-long hobby. Go to "delawarecyclingclub.org" for more information. As always,

the DCC and Mike look forward to seeing you and a friend at the next Wednesday Night Greenway Ride.

Submitted by Mark Lohmar, DCC President



**Delaware
Cycling Club**

**IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL CYCLING
AND THE CARDINAL GREENWAY**

- Saturday Morning Rides (all welcome)
- Wednesday Greenway Ride (family and entry level)
- Century Sundays (Monthly - distance riders)
- Tuesday/Thursday Training Rides (athletes)
- GREAT GREENWAY TOUR (everyone)

www.DelawareCyclingClub.org

The Wysor Street Depot is currently available under the segment adopter volunteer program. For more information contact Jerall Ross, Maintenance Coordinator at 765-287-0399.

Spring Clean-ups

Gaston/Muncie: Paved trails clean up scheduled for April 15 at 9:00a.m. Volunteers meet at the Wysor Street Depot, 700 E. Wysor, Muncie. Clean-up consists of trash pick-up. RSVP to 765-287-0399 or info@cardinalgreenways.org.

Muncie: Horse trails clean up scheduled for May 7 at 8:00 a.m. Volunteers meet at Prairie Creek Reservoir Indian Hill on CR 475 E. Clean-up consists of trash pick-up and limb trimming. Bring loppers and/or chain saws.

Marion-Grant County: Paved trails clean up scheduled for April 8 at 8:00 a.m. Volunteers meet at Miller Avenue and Jonesboro trailheads (parking lots) as well as Hogin Park. Information: Jack Whitlow 765-948-4700



Attention Volunteers

Volunteer hours for 2005 are now available on the Greenways' web site at www.cardinalgreenways.org and click on Volunteer.

Rangers please check your first aid kits for spring. If you need any supplies please contact the Greenways' office at 765-287-0399.

Maintenance Team members please call in if you need replacement or additional maintenance shirts. Call the Greenways' office at 765-287-0399. There is no cost to you for T-shirts.



Volunteers help with annual campaign mailing

As always, please be certain to turn in your volunteer time including travel time. This is essential for numerous grant applications that help fund the Greenways.

Volunteer hours may be called in at 765-287-0399 or e-mail at info@cardinalgreenways.org.

Do you know someone who wants to get involved with Greenway volunteering? Printable application forms are available on the web at www.cardinalgreenways.org and click on Volunteer.

Volunteer Orientation

Volunteer Orientation set for April 11 at 5:30p.m. in the Wysor Street Depot

The lifeblood of the Cardinal and White River Greenways are the volunteers.

The Greenways offers a variety of volunteer opportunities. Rangers assist trail users and report trail needs, maintenance team members perform regular maintenance on trails, segment adopters provide care for a specific section of trail, and program volunteers assist with a program or event hosted by the Greenways.

All Greenway volunteers must submit a volunteer application and agree to a background check, attend an orientation, and commit to reporting their hours.

There is an annual volunteer celebration for all volunteers who serve a specified minimum number of hours. Confirmation of volunteer hours is available.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer may contact the office for more information or an application at 765-287-0399 or e-mail info@cardinalgreenways.org. Volunteer applications are available online at www.cardinalgreenways.org and click on Volunteer.

Share the Road *contd.*

to Bobbi Adams and the crew at the county garage who will be installing the lion's share of the signs. These projects can only be implemented when everyone cooperates and that needs to be congratulated.

Don't forget that these signs state "Share the road." The implica-

tion is for increased courtesy. We bikers always expect motorists to extend it but what is our responsibility? We should always strive to be good ambassadors for our cause. The way I ride my bike and treat others along the way, be they motorists or pedestrians, reflects not only on how they treat me back but on how they treat everyone else, including you.

Every time we have a project it will be easier to gain cooperation if we have done our part to leave a good impression. After all, we're all in this together. Thanks, Jerall

Submitted by Jerall Ross, Greenways Maintenance Coordinator

In With The New...

An initiative to build at least 30 new homes in central Marion now has a name - **Greenway Crossing** - and a partnership that allows for the construction of model homes.

Last month, the city of Marion sold several vacant lots or lots with abandoned houses to the Affordable Housing Corp., its partner in the housing program fueled by a \$650,000 zero-interest loan from the state. The two groups can use the loan money to build new homes on the sites once they find buyers.

It's difficult to find buyers without examples of the homes to show them, Affordable Housing Executive Director Jacquelyn Dodyk said, so organizers are partnering with Regions Bank for financing to build model homes.

"They're essentially providing us with a line of credit based on some terms and conditions that we've accepted so we can go ahead and build at least two homes," Dodyk said. "With any luck, we'll sell one or both of them and continue without any delays."

The properties, once owned by defunct Community Rehab Initiative and sold to Affordable Housing, are located at 1520 S. Boots., 1522 S. Boots St., 1601 S. Adams St., 124 W. 14th St., 1524 S. Gallatin St. and 1405 S. Boots St.

Under the terms of the loan from the state, all of the new houses must be built in the area between 14th and 24th streets from Adams to Nebraska streets. Buyers would be able to choose the location of their home.

"We're tickled to be involved,"

said Ed Merchant community Bank president with Regions, which in the past provided similar interest-free financing for Community Rehab. "I think central Marion needs a shot in the arm, and housing is the best way to do that—and home ownership as opposed to slum lords."

Greenway Crossing organizers also have their eyes on several properties that have gone through two tax sales, but they don't expect to get possession of those until next fall. If all goes according to plan, Dodyk is hoping to build about 50 new homes.

"We're always interested in more," she said. "We're very interested in talking to any property owners that are wanting to know more about what we're doing and how and if there's any way we could work together with them. It's like, 'Let's make a deal.'"

In addition to partnering with Regions, Dodyk said Affordable Housing also has a new employee helping them put together a competitive bid proposal for contractors wanting to build the homes. The plan is to begin requesting proposals from contractors by the end of March and to award a contract and start construction in May.

"We're trying to think through a lot of the details so somebody can do a really good job proposing not just price, but perhaps they have alternative ideas for us to make the project even better," said Dodyk, adding that the program already has some sample floor plans for contractors and prospective homeowners to look over.

Affordable Housing is also con-

tinuing to hold homebuyer education classes, which are necessary to qualify for any of the organization's assistance programs, including Greenway Crossing. In addition to classes that are open to the public, presentations for city employees and firefighters also are scheduled for the spring, Dodyk said.

"There are some special down payment assistance programs for public employees, things that if they're really interested in we can make sure we connect those to what we're doing," she said. "That's part of it, figuring out for interested buyers, what else we can do to connect them to additional assistance."

The name Greenway Crossing references the Cardinal Greenway, which passes through central Marion. The title is another way of marketing the initiative to potential home buyers, said Dawn Brown, who is coordinating the project for the city.

"It says a lot about this area, and I think the Greenway is one of the greatest assets that we have in Grant County," Brown said. "So to take what goes through the center of Marion and to leverage the great asset we have in naming this is really a win-win for everybody."

For more information on Greenway Crossing contact Affordable Housing Corp. at 765-662-1574.

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Cruisers Ready for Spring



The Community Cruiser bike program is ready for spring!

Bikes in a variety of sizes are available at the Wysor Street Depot, 700 East Wysor Street in Muncie. The bikes are offered at no cost but donations are appreciated to help fund the program.

These single gear, coaster brake, retro style bikes are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

User's may ride the greenways or visit the great restaurants and entertainment in downtown Muncie.

The Community Cruiser program provides use of bikes at no cost. (Though not required, donations are appreciated) Adult and youth bikes are currently available. Bikes may be reserved or used for special events or a memorable meeting.

Hooray Horse Trail Volunteers

The Cardinal horse trail currently runs alongside the paved Cardinal Greenway from the Medford Trailhead (Delaware County Road 500 South) to just north of Delaware County Road 650 South. It then crosses the Cardinal Greenway going East toward Prairie Creek Reservoir.

Prairie Creek Reservoir has a horse trail that connects and travels the west bank of the reservoir to Indian Hill on Delaware County Road 475 East.

The use of these trails has greatly increased over the past years with promotion through the Greenway Giddy-up. This increased awareness has also brought great support from volunteers and local businesses.

On February 25 and March 3 volunteers came out to cut an additional two miles of horse trail. This section continues southward from where the Cardinal horse trail crosses the paved Cardinal Greenway.

This section will be a vital connection to the proposed Cardinal

horse trail from Delaware County Road 532 East to the town of Losantville.

This would give the horse trail network a total of 9 additional miles if the Losantville section goes through.

The Prairie Creek Reservoir horse trail parking lot at Indian Hill on Delaware County Road 475 East has received much needed signage.

In the past, local horse trail riders have known by word of mouth where to park at the reservoir. But, with increased awareness of the trails, visitors from out of the area have had trouble locating where to park. The signage will be of great benefit to them.

Horse trail users may also park at the Cardinal Greenway Medford Trailhead on Delaware County Road 500 South. This parking area provides hitching rails and restrooms. Reservoir parking currently has only hitching rails.

Cardinal Greenways sends a sincere thank to everyone who came out to help, brought equipment, pursued material donations and fixed meals.



Greg Hersberger, Indiana Trail Riders Association Director, gives safety instructions before work begins.



Volunteers remove a minimum amount of trees for horses and maintenance equipment passage.

National Recreation Trails Photo Contest

American Trails is sponsoring the 2006 contest for photographs of National Recreation Trails across the country. This annual contest provides awards in several categories. The goal of the contest is to highlight the diversity of the NRTs and to make more Americans familiar with these great trails.

The contest is looking for good photos of trail users as well as special facilities, art on the trails, management issues, construction, and volunteers. They also want to see entries that cover the many types and uses of National Recreation Trails throughout

America.

Awards will be given in the following trail categories: trail use, trail management, and trail features.

Deadline for entries is August 31, 2006

For complete contest details and rules visit american-trails.org/nationalrecreationaltrails. Printed copies are available at the Wyszor Street Depot, 700 E. Wyszor, Muncie, IN 47305. You may also request the information be mailed to you by calling the Greenways office at 765-287-0399.

CONCERT

Redkey Faith Ministries will be hosting

"The Disciples"

"The Eternals"

"The Spirituals" and "2:8"

in concert on May 13th at the

Jay County High School Auditorium

Tickets will be sold at door for \$10.00

All proceeds will go toward the church building fund

Call 369-2920 for additional information

Cardinal Greenway is a designated National Recreation Trail

Wellness Wednesdays by the Delaware County Health Department continue. They are held at the Depot from 9-11 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. Health screening for glucose (free), cholesterol (\$5), blood pressure (free). Fast 8 hours prior. For information 765-747-7814.



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If you wish to continue to receive this quarterly newsletter you **MUST** contact us. Only those responding in favor of receiving the newsletter, donors and Greenway volunteers will continue to receive their mailing following this issue.

Greenway office 765-287-0399 or info@cardinalgreenways.org

Email subject line: yes newsletter

Email text: your name and mailing address

Greenway Calendar 2006

Apr. 8—Marion CG Spring Clean-up
Apr. 8—Science Day on the Greenway
Apr. 11—Volunteer Orientation
Apr. 15—Muncie CG Spring Clean-up
Apr. 19—Wellness Wednesday
Apr. 23 - 29—National Volunteer Week
Apr. 29—March of Dimes Walk America
May—National Bike Month
May 6—Horse Trail Work Day
May 17—Wellness Wednesday

June 3—National Trails Day
June 21—Wellness Wednesday
July 19—Wellness Wednesday
July 29—Great Greenway Tour
Aug. 16—Wellness Wednesday
Sept. 23—Horse Trail Work Day
Oct. 6—VIP Pony Cart Rides
Oct. 13, 14 & 15—Greenway Giddy-up
Nov. 23—Turkey Trot
Stay current on Greenway happenings at
www.cardinalgreenways.org click calendar.