

**Trail Talk by  
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The name in the by-line is probably new to you. Steve Litts, the intrepid recreational trails director for the past five years (and the first trails director) retired at the end of March. I took over the reins in April. Two things: 1) Steve left HUGE shoes to fill; 2) I'm thrilled to be part of such a fantastic endeavor with an amazing level of support by the DCTB, the users, and the community. If you have questions or concerns about the trails, please contact me by phone at 712-330-9217 or email at [mary.jensen@mchsi.com](mailto:mary.jensen@mchsi.com)

After a cool and rainy spring, we are finally experiencing warmer and sunnier days for recreational trails users. Exciting trails projects are on the slate for this year and beyond. We are also fixing a few problems. I'm happy to share our excitement about these projects.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Again DCTB is expanding and improving your recreational trail system. Diamond Concrete, a local firm, won the bid to construct the Peterson Family Trail this summer. DCTB is grateful to Mark, Polly and Ginny Peterson for their generous donation to make this trail extension possible. The trail will run from Kenue Park near the Nature Center westerly to Lake Shore Drive. Although the trail will parallel 170<sup>th</sup> Street, it will be "off road" to create a safe connection between Lake Shore Drive, the Kenue Park Trail, past the Pearson Lakes Area Art Center and on to the Spine Trail at Stakeout Road.

The second project, which will complete the Hwy 86 trail corridor, is not as far along but is still being planned for construction later this year. It will start at the Emerson Bay Trailhead, where the Garlock Slough trail ended last year. The off-highway trail will run from 200th Street north to Edgewood Dr. From there the trail will wind over a dike and through the DNR park area, joining the existing Wahpeton Trail at the Everist Family Trailhead. Also, this project will provide an off-highway trail from 170<sup>th</sup> St. to 175<sup>th</sup> St., providing a by-pass around the private

roads serving Village West. This project includes a wetland improvement component just north of Edgewood Drive that will improve the natural filtering of water entering Emerson Bay. **WATER QUALITY AND RECREATIONAL TRAILS - A GREAT COMBO!** In addition, getting trails users, especially children, off the shoulder of the road onto a safer hard-surface trail is a great safety improvement.

Bay Harbor trail users have had to negotiate water sitting on the trail on the west side of the south tunnel. This spring your Trails Board worked with the landowner and tenant to significantly improve drainage in this area by installing an inlet hooked in the field drainage tile. We are waiting for the area to dry before deciding whether this is the permanent solution, so that area may look a little rough during the early part of this summer.

### **SUMMER MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

Longitudinal cracking of the asphalt on the spine trail in the north part of Milford, south of Emerald Hills, is being repaired this summer so expect to find that section closed for a few days. Another problem area is on the Spine Trail between the YMCA and McDonalds where a hole developed in the trail over an old culvert. The hole has a temporary patch and the area is marked with orange paint. While we don't yet know what the permanent repair will entail, be assured it will be repaired.

### **UPCOMING TRAILS EVENTS**

For information on the University of Okoboji Campus Ride on June 25, go to [www.thethreesons.com](http://www.thethreesons.com)

Next month I'll bring you updates on repair work, progress on new trail construction and review projects for future years.

Happy Trails to you and yours!