

## Trails Talk

Mary Jensen

Construction is complete on a new recreational trail segment from Kenue Park on 170<sup>th</sup> Street to Lakeshore Drive in Okoboji. The new segment is named the Peterson Trail for the benefactors, Mark and Polly and Ginny Peterson. The community thanks the Petersons for their generosity in making a valued addition to our trails system. Please plan a visit to the new section when you get out doors to enjoy the beautiful days this fall.

Earlier this month the Iowa Department of Transportation approved funding of a joint grant application by the City of Arnolds Park and the Dickinson Trails Board to add a dedicated trail from the intersection of Highway 71 and Bascom Street to Henderson Woods. Construction of this trail segment is slated for next summer. State funds will cover 70% of the costs. Local funds required to match the state funds will come from the City of Arnolds Park and the generous contributions of local residents and our Lakes visitors.

Other exciting trail projects are also set for construction next summer. Recreational trail segments will be added along Highway 86 on the west side of West Lake Okoboji to fill in “gaps” in the trail. A trail segment will be constructed beginning at Lighthouse Drive near Emerson Woods and proceeding north to 190<sup>th</sup> Street. This will connect the Garlock Slough trail completed last year with the trail at 190<sup>th</sup> Street and going north. The new trail will be along the east side of Highway 86. At Edgewood Drive the trail will move away from Highway 86 and go through a wetland area immediately north of Edgewood Drive. The height of the berm in the wetland will be increased to improve West Lake Okoboji water quality. A trail will be constructed on top of the berm.

Another segment of the project along Highway 86 scheduled for construction next summer is a trail on the east side of the highway from 170<sup>th</sup> Street to 175<sup>th</sup> Street. The trails projects along Highway 86 are being funded with donations from private donors, a grant from the Okoboji Foundation, and funds from the Okoboji Protection Association and the Dickinson County Trails Board. The community appreciates the generosity that continues expansion of the trails system and adds value to the amenities available for residents of and visitors to the Lakes area.

Happy Trails to you and yours!

