



TRAIL TALK

By Erin Reed, Executive Director
Dickinson County Trails Board

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT DCTB

I am very excited to introduce myself as the new Dickinson County Trails Board Executive Director following Jean Martin's retirement. I can be reached at dctrails@co.dickinson.ia.us or (712) 330-7776 and through our website www.dickinsoncountytrails.com.

I have been a member of the Trails Board for over ten years, serving as president for many of them. My passion for trails began the first day I stepped foot on the Iowa Great Lakes Spine Trail. My work experience includes 12 years at the Jackson County Highway Department in Minnesota where I was an engineering technician. While there I wrote several successful trail grants and designed seven trail segments located in the City of Jackson and Loon Lake campgrounds. One of my favorites being the Loon Lake trail that connects with Dickinson County Trails at Mini-Wakan State Park on the north shore of Big Spirit Lake.

I extend much gratitude from our whole board to Jean Martin for her service as Executive Director. During her 4-year tenure with DCTB we secured over \$1 million in recreational trail grants and built seven new trail segments while completing a number of maintenance projects including an overlay of the Spine Trail. There was also over \$1 million given through our Friends of Trails' generous donors.

Jean has agreed to take my place as the Dickinson County representative on the trail board. She has been a tremendous help through the transition and I know she will continue to do great things on the trail board. Thank you Jean for all you have done and continue to do!

WHAT THE DCTB IS WORKING ON

Rail Trail - We will be finalizing the purchase of 37+ miles of railroad right-of-way soon and letting the project to rehabilitate the bridges and culverts so they are trail ready. The rail trail will traverse from just west of Superior to Sibley in Osceola County.

Jones Pasture Trail – This trail will continue on the northeast side of Big Spirit and provide a connection to the future Angler's Bay Trail. We have secured \$100,000 in grants through REAP and Okoboji Foundation for construction of the Jones Pasture Trail. We continue to apply for State and Federal grant dollars to fund the rest of the project but so far have not received an award. Competition for these grants has increased considerably while funding continues to decrease but we will keep looking at all funding options.

East Lake Trail – As part of our goal to get trails around the east side of East Lake Okoboji we will be partnering with Arnolds Park to pave 8-foot shoulders on 190th Street from Bridges Bay to 242nd Avenue. This is the first phase of a long term project that will address the safety of the ever increasing amount of pedestrians and bicyclists that are using 190th Street to commute into the heart of the Iowa Great Lakes. Construction is scheduled for summer of 2017.

Annual Planning Session – DCTB had its planning session in January where we prioritized future projects and maintenance needs. There are a lot of great ideas about where we want to expand and improve the trails system with a priority to keep the rail trail moving forward. We have a great board with a variety of talents to contribute!

SAVE THE DATE

The DCTB Friends Committee is busy planning our annual fundraiser. This year's event will be held on Saturday, June 24 at the Arnolds Park Pavilion and will coincide with the University of Okoboji Campus Ride. We are looking for sponsors to help us reach our goal of a great party that brings in funds to provide local match dollars for our projects. Please contact me at dctrails@co.dickinson.ia.us if you would like to contribute to our endeavor. This event is always a great time so be sure to plan on being a part of it.



Recognition Park in Wahpeton – Tim Fairchild and Vugteveen Lawn Service provided their artistic skills to create the focal point of DCTB's new recognition area in the City of Wahpeton's park just off of Hwy. 86.

Until next time, as always, Happy Trails to you and yours.