

Insider
Cedar Falls Edition
For April 9, 2008
By Kim Burger

Earth Day is just around the corner and the 500+ members of the Cedar Trails Partnership will observe the occasion as they do every year by organizing a huge Trail Clean Up. CTP board member Roger DeGroot has coordinated the effort with assistance from Bill Fee, other members of the board, and the Cedar Falls and Waterloo Parks Departments. Members of the Cedar Valley Cyclists, scouting and church groups and many other organizations have historically joined in the effort, making this an effective community-wide project to spruce up the trails in preparation for a summertime of enjoyment by everyone.

As we ALL know, it's been a difficult winter so we anticipate our beloved trails will need some extra attention this year. We're all itching to get out and revisit these lineal parks after the long winter break, whether on foot, bicycle or roller blade. We encourage everyone who enjoys this outstanding community asset to come out and spend a couple of hours with us to give them a little polish for the coming season.

Crew leaders will be posted at 9am with bags at the following locations:
Gateway Park in downtown Cedar Falls
Pfeiffer Park at Grand and Birch Streets in Cedar Falls
Prairie Lakes Parking Lot in Cedar Falls Industrial Park
Valley View Park at Greenhill Road and Maynard Street in Waterloo
Downtown Waterloo Trail Head at West 4th and Washington Streets

Individuals, families and groups are invited to strap on a pair of gloves and join in. If you're a part of a larger group and would like to target a different section of trail, contact Peter Komendowski, volunteer coordinator for the event, at 269-8493, and he'll help line up bag distribution and pick up for the group.

Additional information about this and other projects and events coordinated by the Cedar Trails Partnership can be found at www.cedartrailspartnership.org. Not a member? I encourage you to consider joining us. The Partnership is a non-profit, all volunteer organization devoted to promoting the continued expansion and safe enjoyment of the recreational trails in the Cedar Valley. Members of the organization serve on the volunteer Cedar Trail Patrol, attend Metropolitan Planning Committee meetings and plan the annual Cedar Trails Festival and Ride Your Bike to Work Day Event.

Funds raised by the festival provide special enhancements like trail sweeping equipment, attractive overlooks, signage, the sealing of cracks and other projects. The organization's most recent contribution was a gift of \$5,000 to the Black Hawk County Conservation Board to assist with repairs to the restrooms in the Gilbertville Depot on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Memberships range from \$15 for individuals to \$100 for businesses and

organizations. Click on the Join Us tab on the organizations website and become a member. You'll have an even better feeling about our trails knowing you're a part of it!