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Fox Cities Greenways – Summer 2008

[www.foxcitiesgreenways.org](http://www.foxcitiesgreenways.org)

# GREENWAYS ink

*“I cannot endure to waste anything as precious as autumn sunshine by staying in the house. So I spend almost all the daylight hours in the open air.”*

*~ Nathaniel Hawthorne*

## Great Fall Hiking

The long, warm days of summer are fading fast. Soon the air will turn crisp and the woods will put on its annual fashion show of color. What a great time to get away from the desk and the sofa to do some hiking. We are fortunate to live in an area that abounds with great walking and hiking opportunities. Whether you enjoy a solitary lunch hour stroll on a nearby trail or an all-day family outing to one of Wisconsin’s great parks or nature centers, the Fox Cities area offers countless places to walk and hike. Here are some suggestions. The list includes well known parks and trails along with some lesser known places you may want to discover.

### Parks

**High Cliff State Park.** 15 miles of trails. N7630 State Park Rd., Sherwood. 920-989-1106  
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/highcliff>

**Hartmann Creek State Park.** 10 miles of trails plus access to a segment of the Ice Age Trail. N2480 Hartman Creek Rd., Waupaca. 715-258-2372  
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/hartman>

**Calumet County Park.** 4 miles of trails. Located northwest of the Village of Stockbridge on County Highway EE on the east shore of Lake Winnebago. 920-439-1008  
[http://www.co.calumet.wi.us/departments2.ims?dept\\_id=5](http://www.co.calumet.wi.us/departments2.ims?dept_id=5)

**Plamann Park.** 3 miles of trails. Hwy 41 north from Appleton, exit Ballard St., go north 2.2 miles, left on Broadway . 4 miles. 920-832-4790  
<http://www.co.outagamie.wi.us/Parks/countyparks/Plamann-home.htm>

*Continued on Page 3*

# GREENWAYS UPDATES

## President's Letter

Greetings Greenway advocates! The spring and quickly passing summer have afforded us some great opportunities to be out on the trails with families, friends, and pets. I hope you will continue to have wonderful adventures as the colorful changes of autumn take place. This is also a good time to evaluate the needs and opportunities of our regional trail system. Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. will be continuing the strategic planning process we began in November, 2007. Observations and suggestions from all of you, the ones who travel the trails throughout our communities, are highly encouraged. As always, a primary goal of our organization is to facilitate connection between existing trail segments. Is there a particular area where you feel safe access could be improved? A natural area that could be protected or incorporated into our trail system? A link that needs to be established to a particular destination? Please let us know. Again, many thanks to all who have assisted with trail advocacy and who have volunteered their time and financial donations. Volunteers are needed once again to help with Seafood Fest sponsored by the Neenah and Menasha Rotary Clubs. (The Rotary Clubs have helped establish area trails including Neenah Riverwalk and the Trestle Trail.) Our trail and greenway system continues to grow and improve because of your involvement. Thank you.

Happy Trails, *Vickie*

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## 2008 Greenways Board Members

<b>President</b>	Vickie Milde, Menasha	<b>At large:</b>	Tiffany Biedermann, Neenah Alex Camacho, Appleton Marilyn Gardner, Appleton Sarah Higgins, Appleton Jan Heifner, Appleton Dave Johnson, Greenville Mike Kading, Neenah Patsy Kiesow, Neenah Tom Walsh, Appleton Val Wylie, Appleton Jeff Theisen, Appleton
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Roger Orlady, Appleton		
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Pat Spiegelberg, Pickett		
<b>Webmaster</b>	William and Barbara Kelly, Appleton		
<b>Member Chair</b>	Dick Kendall, Appleton		

Our Board meetings are held about 6 times a year and are open to the public. Contact any member for date and location of upcoming meetings. Board members can be reached at: [www.foxcitiesgreenways.org](http://www.foxcitiesgreenways.org)

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Tree Planting on the Friendship Trail** Volunteers are needed to help plant trees along the Friendship Trail in the Town of Menasha on Saturday September 13 beginning at 8:30 a.m. If you are interested in helping out, please call Lori Walburn at 920-720-7108 to volunteer.

**Board of Directors Treasurer** Fox Cities Greenways is seeking a volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors as treasurer. Someone is needed who has the appropriate skills and a basic financial or accounting background. If you or someone you know is interested, please call Roger Orlady at 920-727-4937.

# Great Fall Hiking, Cont. from Pg. 1

## Nature Centers

**Mosquito Hill Nature Center.** 3 miles of trails. Trails are open during daylight hours, except during gun deer season. Located just off US Highway 45 and State Highway 54 just east of New London, N3880 Rogers Road, New London. 920-779-6433 [http://www.co.outagamie.wi.us/Parks/MH\\_home.htm](http://www.co.outagamie.wi.us/Parks/MH_home.htm)

**Thousands Islands Environmental Center.** 7.2 miles of trails. Located in Kaukauna at 1000 Beaulieu Court. 920-766-4733 <http://home.new.rr.com/thousandisland>

**Gordon Buboltz Nature Preserve.** 8.5 miles of trails open sunrise to sunset. 4815 North Lynndale Drive, Appleton. 920-731-6041 <http://www.bubolzpreserve.org>

**Heckrodt Wetland Reserve.** 3 miles of trails. Located at 1305 Plank Road (Highway 114), Menasha. 920-720-9349 <http://www.heckrodtwetland.com>

**Ledgeview Nature Center.** 2.5 miles of trails open daily dawn to dusk. W2348 Short Road, Chilton. 920-849-7094 [http://www.co.calumet.wi.us/departments2.iml?dept\\_id=70](http://www.co.calumet.wi.us/departments2.iml?dept_id=70)



## Trails

**Ice Age Trail** Segments near Fox Cities. <http://iceagetrail.com/index.htm>

**Iola Ski Hill Segment.** 5 miles. Trailhead is on Waupaca County Hwy MM. Take HWY 10 west to Waupaca, then north on HWY 49, 17 miles to MM. Turn left. Iola Ski Center is on the right.

**Belmont, Emmons, Hartman Creek Segment.** 7.6 miles. Take Hwy 10 west to Hwy 54. Go west for 5 miles on Hwy 54. Trailhead is on the north side of Hwy 54.

**Wiouwish, Fox River, Friendship, Trestle,** other county and city trails in the Fox Cities area. For Information on these trails, see <http://www.foxcitiesgeenways.org>, <http://www.appleton.org/departments/recreation/trails> or call 920-832-5905 to obtain a printed trail map.

## Off the Beaten Path

**View Ridge Natural Area.** 34 acres with a hill used for rustic hiking, bird watching, no facilities. Located east of New London off Hwy S on Allcan Rd. Call Outagamie Parks for more info 920-832-4790 [http://www.co.outagamie.wi.us/Parks/countyparks/View\\_Ridge.htm](http://www.co.outagamie.wi.us/Parks/countyparks/View_Ridge.htm)

**Outagamie County Forest.** Undeveloped wooded nature area for bird watching and hiking. Some trail on south edge that connects to a network of trails in the Town of Grand Chute. Located south of Highway 15 and east of Casaloma Drive in Grand Chute. Call Outagamie Parks for more info. 920-832-4790 [http://www.co.outagamie.wi.us/Parks/countyparks/county\\_forest.htm](http://www.co.outagamie.wi.us/Parks/countyparks/county_forest.htm)

**Combined Locks.** For a quiet walk in the woods head to the Village of Combined Locks where you will find a well-developed trail system through the woods and ravines of the village. These wood chip trails can be accessed from any park in the village. For more information call the Village of Combined Locks 920-788-7740.

**New Ice Age Trail Maps Available** The 2008 updated version of the Ice Age Trail Atlas and Ice Age Trail Companion Guide is now available. The atlas contains trail maps and connecting routes for the entire thousand-mile Ice Age Trail on separate pages in a looseleaf binder, allowing the hiker to easily remove and replace pages as needed. The separate Companion Guide gives detailed information including directions to trail heads, availability of nearby facilities, etc. for each of the 105 segments. Both publications are available for purchase at the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation <http://www.iceagetrail.org> 1-800-227-0046.

# Newton Blackmour Trail

## Northeast Wisconsin Trail System Continues to Expand with the Newton Blackmour Wildlife Trail and the Duck Creek Trail

Get ready to explore new rail-trail segments in Northeast Wisconsin! Construction of the Newton Blackmour Wildlife Trail from Seymour to New London is planned to begin either this fall or in the spring of 2009. Currently, Outagamie County Parks Dept. awaits announcement of the Transportation Enhancement grant funding. A successful application for this grant (\$455,000) would allow construction of the entire 23.2 mile trail using the \$185,000 state grant previously received as the required matching fund. In the event the TE grant is not awarded for the project, the segment from Seymour to Black Creek would be constructed with the funds already received and the remainder of the



*A Friends of the Trail group will decide how to make the Newton Blackmour trail corridor, seen here, functional as a recreational trail.*

trail completed when funding becomes available. The trail will connect to the Duck Creek Trail which has been undergoing construction over the past few months, is surfaced with limestone screenings, and is open for use from the western border of the Oneida Nation to approximately .5 mile east of Oneida. A small portion of the Newton Blackmour Trail and a portion of the Duck Creek Trail are awaiting removal of rails prior to trail construction.

Fox Cities Greenways, Inc. is facilitating an organizational meeting for the Friends of the Newton Blackmour Wildlife Trail. The meeting will be held at the Black Creek Community Center at 7 PM on August 27 and will provide an opportunity to share ideas, plans, and vision for the future of the trail. The Friends Group will include representatives from each of the communities along the trail.

Interested persons are encouraged to contact Fox Cities Greenways for more information.

The Seymour Greenway Committee has been meeting throughout the summer to develop a plan for tree planting and coordination of trail amenities in the downtown Seymour area. The plan will be ready for implementation next spring and will be a wonderful addition to the points of interest (park, museum, Veteran's Memorial, historic buildings) and the dining establishments which enhance the trail corridor.

The development of this trail corridor has the potential to link the existing state trails in northeast Wisconsin into a cohesive loop system. The goal is to connect the Newton Blackmour

Wildlife Trail to the Mountain Bay Trail (Green Bay to Wausau) and the Fox River Trail (Green Bay to Hilbert) on the east, and to the WIOUWASH Trail on the west. The Fox River Trail and WIOUWASH Trails in turn connect to the Friendship Trail, which currently includes trail segments through Menasha, the Trestle Trail, and segments along Highway 10, with eventual connection from Manitowoc to Stevens Point.

Many thanks to all the trail advocates who assisted in the campaign to designate the Newton Blackmour Wildlife Trail a non-motorized trail (with snowmobile access allowed in winter). This commitment to a healthy environment and opportunity for healthful activity will be a wonderful asset for northeast Wisconsin and a legacy for future generations.

### **DOWNTOWN APPLETON MAPS AVAILABLE**

Appleton Downtown, Inc. has produced a 1, 2 and 3 mile walking map of Downtown Appleton. This map allows you to see the sights of Downtown while enjoying the benefits of a healthier lifestyle. If you would be interested in receiving a copy of the map please contact Appleton Downtown, Inc. at 920-954-9112 or you can download a copy from our website <http://www.appletondowntown.org> "Getting Around" on the top tool bar.

# Why Trails Matter – One Woman’s Story

**By Pat Spiegelberg and Dee Walter**

We should not underestimate the important role a walking/biking trail can play in a person’s life. As I have walked, run, biked, and roller-skied on the Wiouwish Trail over the past 25 years I have met many trail users, mostly the regulars, the ones who are there every day, year round, at the same time I am. One of those people is Dee Walter, an art teacher at Webster Stanley School in Oshkosh. Her story of a life-long connection to the Wiouwish Trail and how important it has been in her life reminds us that the value reaped from the development and maintenance of trails is, well, as the commercial says...priceless!

## **Dee’s Story**

My first experience with the Wiouwash Trail began in the 70’s when just after high school I rode the trail on my bike before it had a name. My bike was a balloon-tire one-speed I had found abandoned in a field. I got to Larsen and encountered an unfinished trail with big railroad rocks. I rode it anyway and made it to the end in Hortonville just to see what it would be like. Well, I found out — it was a real hard bumpy ride.

As life went on I moved around to other areas and eventually came back to my home town, Oshkosh, to care for my mother who became wheelchair bound after a doctor’s mistake. I moved back with my daughter into the home I had grown up in. Having my mother in a nursing home was more than I could bear. I was home taking care of my mom when I was hired to teach art at Webster Stanley. In addition to a full-time teaching job, I ran this little nursing home in my house with seven rotating aides to take care of my mom when I was working. I was then diagnosed with a muscular problem and wasn’t supposed to do heavy lifting anymore and was supposed to stay off of my feet, so I had to get more aides to help me lift my mother into bed at night, etc. But non-weight bearing exercise like biking was a must, the doctor said. Basically there were always helpers in my house. I couldn’t go out, so all my friends came over, the aides gathered here, and it was grand central station all of the time. Lots of times the helpers wouldn’t show up – they’d call me at school. I had too many classes to teach, one aide would be mad at another for scheduling issues, my mother had some very critical health concerns, my daughter was adjusting to a new school, new friends, mom as teacher, and it all fell on my shoulders. Needless to say stress was at



*Dee Walter on the Wiouwish Trail.*

a maximum. That was when I really took to the trail. Without it, I don’t think I could have survived. I am a quiet person by nature; I love the outdoors and the quiet. I found solace in the trail every day, sometimes twice a day, for 14 years while going through a very difficult time in my life. My mother was everyone’s friend and just loved all the “wild life” at our house. I loved the wildlife on the trail. When things got to be too much, I would just sneak out the back door and head for the trail.

My mother passed away a couple of years ago, so I no longer have time limits on my bike rides. I am currently having fun teaching art at Webster and biking the trail every day after school. I have actually made friends with fellow bikers on the trail, now that I’m not going there just to get away from people. They are really a great bunch. It’s nice to be around people who enjoy the same thing as I do, the outdoors and exercise. The trail feels like home to me. I recently met another woman who enjoys riding the trail just as dark is falling to see the fireflies dance. That’s a picture I cannot capture with my camera. I’d choose that over international travel any day.

# Out and About with Board Members

## Walking and Biking the Fox River Trail By Marilyn Gardner, Fox Cities Greenways

It was the 4th of July and I had set a goal to bike the Fox River Trail from Forest Junction to Hilbert. It was great biking weather, a light breeze and mid 70's temps. I headed east on Hwy 10 to Forest Junction and opted to embark from a familiar access area in what is downtown. Trail traffic was light. The trail is relatively new, and heavy rains and winds have left it with some ruts and a lot of downed branches. The surrounding area was open farm country intermingled with heavily wooded areas. A new bridge crossed a swamp and made a great stopping and photo spot. The sound of small airplane engines could be heard, but trees blocked the view from the direction of the sound. About three miles from where I started the trail came to an abrupt halt at Ott Road. I took bearings and road names so I could figure how far from Hilbert this trail ended. I headed back for Forest Junction, a total of six miles round trip, which is not much of a ride. As of this writing I do not know when the remainder of the trail is slated for completion.

I put my bike back on the car and decided to restart from the trail parking area on the north side of Hwy 10. There is no signage to direct trail users to the trail access. After a short search with no access area to be found, I decided to go to DePere and restart my ride from Heritage Road.

This is the point where the paved trail into Green Bay begins. There is only street parking at the site but the street is amply wide so parking is not a problem. The blacktop surface on this segment of the Fox River Trail now extends one mile south from this point. This paved surface is being financed by private donations (pave-a-mile). The Brown County segment of the trail also requires a trail pass. A year-ly pass is available.

Trail use was heavy on this beautiful July 4th. This is a good thing. The more recreational trails are used by pedestrians, inline skaters, and cyclist the better is the case for extension and upgrading of recreational trails. With the amount of traffic on the trail, there was a notable lack of trail etiquette. Instead of announcing their approach from behind, cyclists veered off onto the grass to pass rather than using the "cyclist on the left or right" as appropriate on trails. Courtesy on the trails is essential for the safety of the trail users.

The ride into Green Bay from this point is a panorama of river, dams, boat launching ramps, art, and restaurants. Restroom facilities are abundant along the trail. The FRT offers a vibrant setting for a bike ride or walk. The Fox River Trail ends at the Mason Street Bridge, but the path continues into Green Bay to the intersection of the East River with the Fox River. Park benches are conveniently spaced for resting and enjoying the river.

Starting at Greenleaf and riding the Fox River Trail into Green Bay gives a rider a 32 mile round trip. Greenleaf has trail access with restroom facilities and a rest area. The trail from Greenleaf to the paved surface in DePere is crushed limestone and in good condition. This trail is a comfortable biking experience for a day trip.

### NOTES

Update on the Fox River Trail Forest Junction section near the Highways 10/57 intersection: The trail to Hilbert has not been completed because the rail bed has not been abandoned by the railroad. They have government permission to store boxcars on the section of rail. The trail is slated to be completed when the railroad relinquishes its rights.

Signage for the trail head areas is scheduled this fall. Several signs will direct bikers and walkers to the trailhead. Trailheads have parking and restroom facilities.

## Water Trail Report

### Park 2 Park Paddle

The Northeast Wisconsin Paddlers (NEWP) with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance (FWWA) sponsored the 7th Annual Park-to-Park Paddle from Neenah to Appleton. With the assistance of official escorts, fellow paddlers and favorable weather, all enjoyed another safe and fun paddle event. According to the registration information, 209 participants - 87 female (45.3%) and 105 male (54.7%) with an average age of approximately 43 years took part in this year's outing. A new record for the number of boats in a single "lockage" was set this year, 169 boats were counted. It is not the goal to set records, but we do we like to recognize them.

Friends of the Fox sponsored the "lockage" fee and Outdoor Outlet supplied the participants with great dry bags. Local law enforcement and emergency service teams supplied both on-water escorts and on shore logistics assistance. Many thanks to all sponsors, law enforcement organization and volunteers who made this year's event a success.

The day of the P2P was a perfect paddling day. Light winds came up as the paddlers entered Little Lake Butte de Mortes. The paddlers adjusted to winds by moving to the leeward side of the lake and paddling the west shore. The paddle was completed without incident. The paddlers finished the day with food supplied by the Appleton Yacht Club.

Next year's Park-to-Park Paddle is scheduled for July 25, 2009.

# Water Trail Report, Cont.

## Upcoming Water Activities

There are a few more opportunities to enjoy safe time on the water with both P2P host organizations. The FWWA Special Places Program has two more scheduled events in 2008. The dates are: September 6 and October 4. Check the 2008 Special Places Program (Paddles) information at <http://www.FWWA.org> for more details, or send an e-mail to [fwpaddle@fwwa.org](mailto:fwpaddle@fwwa.org).

The NEWP organization also conducts on-water workshops and classes at area YMCA's. Check with your local YMCA or go to <http://www.WisconsinPaddlers.org> for more information.

## Update on the Fox River Portages

The initial stages of a historic river trail are taking place under the guidance of the Friends of the Fox. A sizeable gift from Neenah Paper Company furnished enough money for portages around Lock 2 and 3 on the Fox River in Appleton. Funding for the portage around Lock 1 is in progress and Lock 4 portage will be part of Phase 1 of the RiverHeath Project. This portage will be located on the land beneath the College Avenue Bridge. The goal is to complete the four portages in the same year. The current timetable is to have the plans approved by the Fox River Navigational System Authority (FRNSA) at their September meeting. The next order of business will be to secure contractor bids or contractor partnerships to build the portages. These preliminaries should be completed by late fall. Work on the portages is projected to begin in the spring of 2009.

The portages on the Fox River are part of the Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway. It is part of a water route that will commemorate the very early exploration and historic significance of the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. For more information regarding the Friends of the Fox and the Fox River Portage project go to their website: <http://www.friendsofthefox.org>

## Upcoming Events

### Walking/Hiking/Running

**September 13 (Saturday)** Fall Family Fest Run Walk 5k. 8:30 a.m. Pfeiffer Park. \$10 w/T-shirt. New London. Ginger Miller 920-982-8521 [ginger@newlondon-wi.org](mailto:ginger@newlondon-wi.org)

**September 20-21 (Saturday - Sunday)** Community First Fox Cities Marathon Festival of Races. Appleton. Fees vary with event. Jesse Drake 877-230-7223. [info@foxcities-marathon.org](mailto:info@foxcities-marathon.org) <http://www.foxcitiesmarathon.org>

**October 4 (Saturday)** Annual Ice Age Trail Hike-A-Thon on the Hartman/Emmons/Murray Creek Segment at Hartman Creek State Park. 1-15 miles. Registration 8:30 -11:00 a.m. Hartman Creek State Park shelter off of Windfeldt Lane, Waupaca \$5 individual, \$15 family w/refreshments, prizes. For more info contact Dale Schaber in Appleton at 920-739-6041 or [dschaber@athenet.net](mailto:dschaber@athenet.net)

**October 11 (Saturday)** Fall Family Stomp 5k 3 p.m. \$40 family (4). Add \$10 after 10-6 w/T-shirt, refreshments. Fox West YMCA W6931 School Rd. Greenville. [cphillips@ymcafoxcities.org](mailto:cphillips@ymcafoxcities.org)

**October 11 (Saturday)** Walk or bike one of the Volkssport routes in Neenah. Starting point is the Express Convenience Center, 521 South Commercial across from Walgreens. Both the walks (11K or 5K) and bike routes (27K) go past points of interest in Neenah such as the historical clock tower, the new riverfront park, the Kimberly Point lighthouse or (bike only) the trestle trail. Let's have a BIG turnout! The Hearty Soles Walkers, the American Volkspout Association club in Fond du Lac that sanctions the Neenah routes so they can be publicized nationally, will host. Time to be announced in late August. Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller 920 830-6625.

**October 18 (Saturday)** Romp in the Swamp 1.5 mile family walk. 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. treats along trails, games, displays \$9 adults, \$7 kids, \$30 family, hats for prereg. Bubolz Nature Preserve, 4815 N. Lynndale Dr., Appleton. Luann Landers 920-731-6041 [info@bubolzpreserve.org](mailto:info@bubolzpreserve.org) <http://www.bubolzpreserve.org>

**October 25 (Saturday)** Freaky 5k run-walk 8 a.m. Pierce Park, Appleton. Also kids race, costume contest, refreshments, prizes; YMCA of the Fox Cities, 218 E. Lawrence St., Appleton. Loel Kreger 920-954-7658 [lkreger@ymcafoxcities.org](mailto:lkreger@ymcafoxcities.org)

### Bicycling

**September 6 (Saturday)** Great Kiwanis Bike Hike, Winneconne. 5/15/32/42/55 miles. Road single-day ride. 920-582-4509 e-mail [sjwalter@charter.net](mailto:sjwalter@charter.net), or go to <http://www.winneconne.org>

**October 4 (Saturday)** Ride for the Timbers 14, 25, 63 miles. 6:30 a.m. Fallen Timbers Environmental Area. Black Creek. \$25/\$30 after 9-27 youth \$10/\$15 w/door prizes, lunch, music. Fallen Timbers 10 Circle Drive, Seymour, WI 54165. Libby Dorn 920-984-3700 e-mail [allentimbers@gbonline.com](mailto:allentimbers@gbonline.com) or go to <http://www.fallentimbers.net>

### Miscellaneous

**September 5 and 6 (Friday - Saturday)** Seafood Fest. Two evenings of music, food and fun. Lobster, crab leg, and salmon dinners, plus a full array of other seafood and grilled items. Live music by Vic Ferrari both nights. Jefferson Park, 3rd St., Menash 4-10:30 p.m. both days. <http://www.neenahrotary.org/sff08>

# Fox Cities Greenways, Inc.



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Summer 2008

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I would like to receive occasional special alerts about Greenways issues via e-mail:  Yes  No

Membership Levels for one year:

Guardian . . . . . \$35

Sentinel . . . . . \$50

Advocate . . . . . \$100

Conservator . . . . . \$250

Trailblazer . . . . . \$500

Pathfinder . . . . . \$1,000

I wish to volunteer for:

Trail landscaping, maintenance

Photography

Newsletter, mailings

Greenways committees

Other talents I could share

Enclosed is my annual membership fee. . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special contribution . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Greenways, P.O. Box 5, Menasha, WI 54952-0005