



SPRING/SUMMER 2017

# FRIENDS OF THE FALLING WATERS TRAIL

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

## B-CYCLE BIKE STATION AT WEATHERWAX TRAILHEAD

Coming soon! Jackson County Parks Department will be installing a B-Cycle bike rental station at the Weatherwax trailhead. Six bicycles will be available for rent at the station, which is similar to ones available in Battle Creek and Ann Arbor. The B-Cycle station and bikes were purchased with a grant from the Hurst Foundation and On Two Wheels will donate labor for maintaining the bikes.



### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Ott, President  
Todd Zeller, Vice-President  
Amanda Newberry, Treasurer  
Mistique Ott, Secretary  
Brenda Konieczki, Trustee  
Penny Rumsey, Trustee  
Taylor Woodruff, Trustee

### CALENDAR

- Paws & Claws  
4/8/17 10AM-2PM
- Earth Day Celebration  
4/22/17
- Annual Meeting  
5/2/17 6:00 PM
- Community Bike Rally  
5/20/17 12-3PM
- FWT RUN/WALK  
10/1/17

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the Falling Waters Trail will be holding our **annual meeting** on **Tuesday, May 2nd** at the **Jackson Parks Department, 1992 Warren Avenue, Jackson MI**. We encourage everyone to attend. Unlike previous years, this meeting will not include a meal and there is not a charge for attending. The meeting will start at 6pm and will conclude when business is complete. There will be a presentation by the County Parks department talking about last year's happenings on the trail as well as exciting current and future projects involving the trail. Additionally, election of board positions up for renewal will take place. Come find out how you can help with the Friends of the Falling Waters Trail.



Twitter: [@fallingwatersmi](https://twitter.com/fallingwatersmi)

[facebook.com/FallingWatersTrail](https://facebook.com/FallingWatersTrail)

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

email us at [fallingwatersmi@gmail.com](mailto:fallingwatersmi@gmail.com)



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Although the Falling Waters trail is a county park, projects such as solar lights for the parking lots can only be done with funds we raise from you, the Friends of the Falling Waters Trail. Please graciously consider becoming a member.

## Membership Form

Select	Membership Type	Amount	Name		
	Individual (Annual)	\$20	Address		
	Family (Annual)	\$30	City		
	Corporate	\$500	State	Zip	
	Memorial Tree	\$1000	Phone (Day)		
	Memorial Bench	\$2000	(Evening)		
	Maintenance and Development Donation	\$	E-Mail		
[Newsletter by email only, unless specified that you do not have email]					

**Make your tax-deductible check payable to:** Friends of the Falling Waters Trail and mail to: Friends of the Falling Waters Trail, c/o Jackson County Parks, 1992 Warren, Jackson, MI 49203

Donate using PayPal at [www.fallingwaterstrail.org](http://www.fallingwaterstrail.org)



### FALLING WATERS TRAIL RUN/WALK 2017

The 9th Falling Waters Trail Run/Walk is coming this October, starting again at Concord High School and heading out to the trail. The weather could be rainy and a little chilly, or warm and beautiful. No matter what, it will be fun! Athletes can complete at any of the three distances, 5K, 10K and the half-marathon. This is the major fundraiser for the FFWT. The money raised is all going towards the Falling Waters trail, including another permanent bathroom soon to be installed at the Weatherwax parking lot and other future projects along the trail. Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Oct 1, 2017** for this year's race! More information, including young athlete discounts including registration can be found at [www.fwtrw.org](http://www.fwtrw.org).

#### New for 2017

Young Athlete Discount: Race entry for ages under 18 are \$10 for all races 5k or longer.



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

**Come see what we are doing!**

We formally invite any member or potential member to join us at any of our board meetings. They are held at the Jackson County Parks & Recreation Office, (Cascades Golf Course) 1992 Warren Ave, Jackson. Meetings start at 6pm.

**Upcoming 2017 Meeting Dates**

- April 4
- May 2 (Annual Meeting)
- June 6

*The Kibby Road connector trail, which connects the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Equity Trail to Sparks Park, is nearing completion and should be open for use in June 2017. Check out the Parks Department website for updates.*

[www.co.jackson.mi.us/567/Parks-Recreation](http://www.co.jackson.mi.us/567/Parks-Recreation)

*We are always looking for volunteers to help with fundraising, advertising, or any other talent you are willing to contribute! Drop us a line at [fallingwatersmi@gmail.com](mailto:fallingwatersmi@gmail.com)*

**SPRINGTIME ON THE TRAIL**

As spring approaches, it is customary to do those tasks that we have put off all winter; better known as “Spring cleaning.” And so it is on the Falling Water Trail....To find out exactly what goes on behind the scenes, we went to the expert - **Jack McCloughan**, the Jackson County Parks Maintenance Supervisor.

The Parks Department is responsible for the grounds care and maintenance of buildings for 12 county parks (including the FWT), two full service campgrounds, Sparks Park and The Cascades. They also provide lawn care for 7 other county owned properties.

Jack said that winter time involves snow plowing the FWT trailhead lots, as well as the trail itself. This usually takes one person 4-7 hours depending on the amount of snow received. Like any homeowner, springtime work on the FWT consists of cleaning up winter debris to prep for mowing, as well as tree work. He said that tree removal and limb trimming is a constant, year round battle.

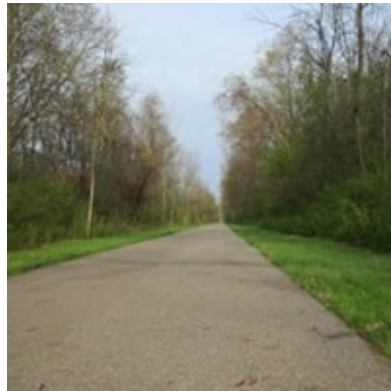
To understand the amount of LOVE that goes into maintaining the trail for our enjoyment, it is important to understand a typical spring/summer schedule:

- 2-3 times a week one person does a general drive through the entire length of the trail. This is to identify any hazards, tree issues, vandalism; as well as do trash pickup.
- 3-4 times a week, one person will check trash at the trailheads and clean the bathroom at Teft Road.
- Once a week the trailheads get mowed and trimmed by two people
- Every other week, the entire trail gets mowed. This takes two people 6-7 hours.
- Staff tries to weed and trim the length of the trail every three weeks or so; requiring a full day's work by two people.
- Periodically, blacktop patching or repairs are required.

The County Parks staff is also responsible for special projects from time to time. This has included the preparation for the Teft Road bathrooms, the B-cycle rental station, the berm at Teft Road being removed and replanted this spring, etc. Despite all the obvious work, Jack said that most of his staff request to be assigned to work on the trail (“almost fight over it”)!

Please report any observed issues on the FWT to the County Parks Office phone number - 517-788-4320. Jack said he would also encourage people to not hesitate to call 911 for any emergency or suspicious behavior.

**Jack McCloughan** has been with the Parks Department just under 5 years. Prior to joining the Parks Department, he had a contracting business for 15 years. He has been in the Jackson area since the mid '80s, when he graduated from Spring Arbor University. He has been married for 25 years to Kelly, who is an elementary principal for Michigan Center Schools. They have two children, one a junior in college and the other a senior in high school. He shared that he “loves the trail for walking, particularly the Lime Lake area. The FWT is an exceptional biking trail because of the smooth, flat surface, as well as the views.” Jack also reminded us that in Jackson County “we are fortunate to have so many free, public parks that are located on lakes. This is unheard of in the majority of the state!” We do know how fortunate we are and we thank Jack and his team for all their hard work in maintaining our beautiful trail and parks!



## THE AMERICAN ROBIN

American Robin, Michigan's State Bird, is one of the first migratory birds seen on Falling Water Trail in Spring. The robin's diet consists of grub worms, caterpillars, earthworms, fruits, and berries. Unlike some other birds, the Robin migrates for food not to warmer temperatures. Some Robins actually migrate to Canada while others go as far south as Central Mexico. They are the first bird heard in the morning, and they are the last song heard at night. Robins prefer staying alone during the daylight hours but group into flocks at night. Female Robins lay 3-5 light blue eggs that hatch after two weeks, then the chicks leave the nest in only two weeks later, which allows 2-3 broods April -July. Nests are made by young females in bushes and evergreens but more mature mothers make their nest higher in the trees, but rarely in bird houses. Not being a protected species, Robins were at one time hunted for their meat. It has been said Robins see three snowfalls then the snow is done and the spring season will begin. Be on the look-out for our red breasted friends near the Falling Waters Trail.



## SPRING BIKE TUNE-UP TIPS FROM ADAM AT ON TWO WHEELS

The first thing you should do before you take your bicycle out of your home this spring is to check over a few things.

1. Pump up the tires. Your bicycle might have flat tires after sitting all winter but they are probably not flat. We recommend pumping up your tires once a week to the recommended pressure (located on the sidewall of the tire).
2. Pick up the front and rear wheel and give them a spin. Do they clear the brakes? Do they look out of 'true'? if not, stop by and see us at On Two Wheels.
3. Take a look at the tires. Are they worn? Do they have cracks in the sidewalls? If so, please replace them.
4. Don't plan your first ride to be the 'big one'. Ride your bike down the driveway or around the neighborhood to determine if it needs more service.
5. If the bicycle does need more service, please feel free to bring it to On Two Wheels for a Tune-Up.

