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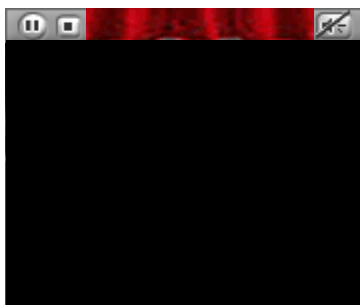
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Brown County

Volunteer Safety Patrol on Fox River Trail

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By *Elizabeth Ries*

As soon as the trees turn from snow-covered to bud-filled, the runners, walkers, cyclists, and bladers all race to the Fox River Trail.

But it's not just those out for fun on the trail. Volunteers like Karen Trester are also winding through the trees.

"We ride the trail on bicycles, keeping eyes and ears on the trail and on the people who use the trail," Trester says.

Trester is part of the trail patrol, a group of volunteers on the looking for anything from maintenance issues to bicycle accidents to suspicious behavior.

"We have no legal authority to do anything, but we can report it to the municipalities that are

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all on the trail. We also report it to Brown County," Trester explains.

"I want to make sure that people on the trail feel safe that there are people out there watching the trail. There are sections of the trail that are rather remote," she adds.


The trail patrol isn't a new concept -- it's been around since the Fox River Trail was created back in 2001 -- but volunteers stepped up their efforts after attacks on two different trails two summers ago.


The assistant parks director for Brown County, Doug Hartman, acknowledges the patrol "hasn't been real active over those years, and yes, the recent attacks kind of brought it to the forefront."

Hartman says now the group is gearing up for summer by training new volunteers to add to the current crew of ten. "We hope to get as many people as we can. The more the merrier!" he says.

Those who use the trail agree. "We need more of them," Suzanne Butterfield says.

For more information about volunteering with the trail patrol, contact Friends of the Fox River Trail by email, friendsofFRT@yahoo.com

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