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Mileposts are in the works for area trails

Markers would aid in locating people in distress

BY TONY WALTER • TWALTER@GREENBAYPRESSGAZETTE.COM • JUNE 16, 2008

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The idea came to Steve Bostedt two years ago when he heard the sirens.

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First responders in Allouez were looking for a man who had collapsed on the East River Trail and had called for help. But he wasn't able to give the 911 dispatcher a specific location.

"We have mile markers on highways and I thought we needed something on the trails for the people who use them," said Bostedt, recently retired as a volunteer fireman in Allouez.

The result is a cooperative effort by park officials in Brown County, Bellevue, Allouez, Green Bay and De Pere to develop a system to help trail users in need identify their location.

"We're moving forward on it," said Doug Hartmann, assistant park director for Brown

County. "We're still in the planning stage to determine what the markers will be made of, how far apart they'll be, and what cost is involved."

Bostedt said the Allouez Firefighters Association has notified park officials that it will take a major role in raising money for the markers. He said the markers will be vertical posts.

"They'll either be plastic or flexible fiberglass," Bostedt said. "Each municipality will be responsible for the maintenance."

Bostedt said the markers will begin at Flatley Park and be placed along the trail through De Pere. Markers also will be installed on the East River Trail, he said.

While Bostedt said he hopes to see the markers in place this summer, Hartmann said it will depend on the funding.

"Everyone's on board with the idea," Hartmann said. "But if it has to be part of next year's budget, it will have to wait."

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