



EDITORIAL; Good news for rail trail

By Staff reports
Mansfield News

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Mansfield — There was no need to wander the **World War II Veteran's Memorial Rails to Trails** in Mansfield this past weekend with trash bags in hand.

The Mansfield Park & Recreation Department decided to cancel Saturday's planned cleanup of the popular trail this week. And no, it wasn't in fear of poor weather.

It was because it is too clean.

Earlier this month, as Park & Recreation Director Lorilee Fish helped hand out soup and chowder at the MMAS Southern Arts Festival on the South Common, she was approached by resident Bill Flannery who said there was no need for the trail cleanup this week.

Flannery, a Cobb Street resident, walks the trail every couple of days. He reported to Fish that it looked just fine.

Flannery isn't the only one helping care for the trail. Over the years, volunteers like Barbara Rose and Shirley MacPhee kept the paths clean and free of graffiti, on their regular walks. There are also several other residents who take it upon themselves to keep the trail clean.

In addition, the new Clean Up Mansfield Day organized by the town and contributed to keeping the trail in shape, Fish said.

The World War II Veteran's Memorial Rails to Trails opened in 1991 as a resource for residents. It's frequented by everyone from young children to elderly walkers.

Construction of the trail on the town's old railway bed took 15 years and \$500,000. It was also a determined band of residents and town employees who kept the project alive. Bill McGoldrick, a retired officer who worked at Camp Miles Standish in Taunton outfitting the 11th Airborne Division in World War II. He remembered the soldiers who rode the original rail line that the trail now occupies.

The 1.9-mile route is open to walkers, runners, non-motorized bikes, in-line skaters, and roller skaters.

It runs from Mansfield center to Fruit Street near the Mansfield Municipal Airport.

It's wonderful to know that as residents are enjoying the trail they are also being responsible for keeping it clean for others.

Residents who haven't had the chance to visit the World War II Veteran's Memorial Rails to Trails should take advantage of the fine fall weather to check it out.

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