

Friends of the Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail

August 2010



Do you know other community members who would like to become involved?

We need your input! Help us make the MBF Rail Trail even more safe and enjoyable for all users!

Spread the word to neighbors, community members and business owners. If you know someone who would like to become involved in the Rail Trail Advisory Committee, please contact [Jessica](#) at Partners for Active Living!

Save the Date!

Dear Friend of the Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail-

Thank you for your continued support of one of our community's most valuable active living assets – the Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail.

Partners for Active Living (PAL) was recently awarded a grant from the Mary Black Foundation to evaluate, program and promote the MBF Rail Trail. To support PAL's efforts on the trail, an Advisory Committee is being formed to help guide programming (events), marketing, safety and infrastructure improvements.

Regularly scheduled events will promote active lifestyles and awareness of the trail – and will hopefully increase use of the trail by members of the community. PAL needs business owners, neighborhood association representatives and community volunteers to help spread the word about the Mary Black Foundation Rail Trail.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns concerning the MBF Rail Trail, please contact [Partners for Active Living](#) at 864-598-9638.

July Advisory Committee Meeting

On July 17th, the first Advisory Committee meeting of the Friends of the Rail Trail group was held at Billy D's Grill. It was a wonderful opportunity for community volunteers, business owners from the Rail Trail corridor and representatives from the City and County to get together to discuss the trail, while enjoying delicious Billy D's food!

Dr. Steve Hooker, USC Prevention & Research, gave a summary of the findings reported from the evaluations that took place on the trail from 2005-2009. Findings include:

- On average, 60 persons use the trail each day; mostly persons age 20-59 years of age
- Users travel an average of 3 miles to access the trail, and do so by driving
- Users perceive the trail as safe, well-maintained and aesthetically pleasing
- Users typically walk on the trail for recreation or exercise and do so for 45 minutes to 2 hours
- Users view the trail as a very positive community asset and like its design

Despite these findings, additional results reveal:

The next Rail Trail Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 31st, 5:00 p.m. at Occasional Events (next to II Samuels).

Thank you to Sammy Ridgeway for offering this space for the meeting!

[Let us know](#) if you plan to attend!

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- Limited use by children, teens and older adults
- Limited use by employees of businesses located adjacent to the trail
- Limited use by residents living near the trail
- Seasonal and time of day variations in use of the trail
- Lack of awareness of the trail by many community members
- Concerns by businesses that vandalism has increased since the trail opened
- The need for capital improvements to enhance use and safety of the trail

If you would like to receive notes from the July Rail Trail Advisory Committee meeting, please contact [Partners for Active Living](#).

Save the Date for Spartanburg Sunday Streets

When: Sunday, Sept. 12th and Sunday, Sept. 26, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Where: East Henry Street (from Pine Street to Union Street intersection)

What: An active-living street festival which will close East Henry Street to motorized traffic so pedestrians, cyclists, skaters, families and pets can enjoy fun, healthy activities along the streets -- in addition to the MBF Rail Trail and Hot Spot Skate Park!

This is a FREE community event and is open to people of all ages. Come and enjoy activities like ZUMBA, yoga, live music, hula hooping, scheduled walks and rides along the MBF Rail Trail, skate demonstrations, free bicycle repairs and much more!



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