

# ORA News

6.07.2017

## La Crosse Community Forest

The La Crosse Community Forest project is a collaborative effort between the Outdoor Recreation Alliance, the City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, and School District of La Crosse to develop a plan to improve access, usability, and knowledge of outdoor opportunities and wellness strategies near State Road School and Chad Erickson Memorial Park.

Our leadership team sees many opportunities to strengthen the community through features and programs. Access to the forest means more people in the forest!! Our schools' kids, the neighborhood, and the entire La Crosse community will have a great addition to our offering of outdoor recreation. We are currently assembling focus teams to sharpen the goals and vision of four key areas of the project: accessibility, recreation, education, and conservation. If you are interested in serving on a focus team, please contact our project manager, Jed Olson. Jed is also an ORA board member and an extremely active volunteer (Jed is the one that basically built the Pump Track). Contact [forrest@oradriftless.org](mailto:forrest@oradriftless.org)

La Crosse Community Forest  
Location, Boundary, and Possible Trail Alignments



**ORA's NEW Website [oradriftless.org](http://oradriftless.org)**

It's just a start, the bare bones right now. We'll continue to make improvements and add more relevant content.

All suggestions are welcome!

# bornlearning TRAIL GRAND OPENING

CHAD ERICKSON MEMORIAL PARK • 3601 PARK LN. DR., LA CROSSE

## What is a Born Learning Trail?

Everyday life is a learning experience for children, and that learning starts at birth. Born Learning is a public engagement campaign that helps parents, grandparents, caregivers, and communities explore ways to turn everyday moments into fun learning opportunities. The trail's fun, physical activities are designed to guide adults through constructive play with young children in outdoor settings.



# WED., JUNE 14 5:00-6:00 P.M.

Join us for a special ribbon cutting and snacks at 5:05 p.m. Then return as often as you'd like! It's a new experience every time with a little imagination.

## What makes this trail extra special?

In honor of Chad Erickson, this Born Learning Trail was customized by Therapeutic Recreation students and Special Education experts to include special "Chad's Challenge" signs. These signs adapt the trail's activities to make them easier for children and caregivers of all abilities to enjoy. We hope you love this addition to the park as much as Chad would have.



## THIS TRAIL BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Corporate Sponsor



With Cooperation from  
Dave & Barb Erickson  
Martha Tynesen  
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse  
City of La Crosse Parks & Recreation  
Rotary East

Born Learning Trails are a product of United Way Worldwide and are installed locally by Great Rivers United Way.



# Monday Night Trail Work

First 3 Mondays in May, June, July and August 5:30 – 7:30PM

# NEXT UP COMING EVENT

## catgutpaddle

On July 22, 2017, the 1st annual Catgut Paddle, hosted by City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation & Forestry will feature a 14-mile Canoe Kayak Race and a 4-mile Fun Paddle Sponsored by J.F. Brennan with other events throughout the day including SUP yoga, paddleboard jousting, guided historical and birding paddles, and kayak beginner courses. Spectators will enjoy the Outdoor Enthusiast Expo, yard games, Food Truck Court, live music, and KidZone, all held at Veterans Freedom Park, Clinton Street, La Crosse, Wis. Proceeds from Catgut Paddle will benefit Youth Enrichment Association (YEA).



## Hixon Trail Maintenance

As you know, the trails are a great place to go. However, they need work from time to time. The Outdoor Recreation Alliance needs your help. We are organizing the first 3 Mondays of each month now through August, 5:45 PM – 7:30 PM. to repair and improve the trails in Hixon. Hixon trail maintenance is all done by volunteers, with equipment provided by ORA. This is a good activity for groups of trail users to engage in. Trail Maintenance nights are a great way to meet new people, improve our community and have fun.

First 3 Mondays in May, June, July and August 5:30 – 7:30PM trail work,  
Meet in Upper Hixon parking lot next to Pump track.

## ORA Membership Drive

It's been several years since ORA signed up members, time to get that going again! Membership sign-up is on our new website

[oradriftless.org](http://oradriftless.org)

# Articles of Interest

This is a must read, must have article. Great information for all advocates of outdoor recreation.

## [The Benefits of Parks - The Trust for Public Land](#)

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

The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space By Paul M. Sherer  
Published by: 116 New Montgomery Street Fourth Floor San Francisco, CA 94105

## Measuring Trails Benefits: Property Value

<http://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/trails-library-property-value-overview.pdf>

# Videos of Interest

**Durango Colorado** is home to hundreds of miles of world class —and world famous— multiple use trails. The system, comprised of trails on Federal, State, local, and private lands and cared for by active and skilled non-profit organizations and engaged land managers, is an exemplary model of successful stakeholder collaboration that results in low-conflict, high reward recreational opportunities for all types of outdoor users.

<https://vimeo.com/207244816>

Website: [oradriftless.org](http://oradriftless.org)

Contact: [jeff@oradriftless.org](mailto:jeff@oradriftless.org)

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