

O'Fallon Rotary, cyclists group are hot on the trail



Submitted photo -- Gateway Off-Road Cyclists members and volunteers joined forces Dec. 5 at Lost Valley Trail in Weldon Spring Conservation Area. The team added a new 1.5-mile extension through the woods and eliminated a muddy section of the eight-mile trail with help from the O'Fallon Rotary Club.

Saturday, December 19, 2009 1:16 AM CST

The O'Fallon Rotary Club recently co-sponsored three days of work for Gateway Off-Road Cyclists to help build and clean up trails in St. Charles County.

The cyclists group is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advocacy, design, construction and maintenance of multi-use trails. The organization and its members assist in designing and constructing bicycle/hiking trails in the St. Louis region.

Doug Smith is a member of both GORC and the O'Fallon Rotary Club. Smith approached the Rotary Club for help after he learned the cost of the required insurance to cover volunteers working on the trails had increased.

"I believe our park trails benefit both the physical and mental health of people using them. It seemed like a good fit to connect the community outreach focus of Rotary with GORC," Smith said.

The O'Fallon Rotary Club has been in existence since 1973 and is one of more than 33,000 Rotary Clubs in more than 200 countries. It is part of a global network of volunteers dedicated to community service in areas including health and hunger, literacy and water.

"I asked the O'Fallon Rotary Club for help and they stepped up to the plate to make it happen. They donated the \$300 GORC needed to pay for three days of insurance to complete the scheduled trail work in St. Charles County for the remainder of the year," Smith said. "The improved trail system benefits all of those people who use and appreciate the great outdoors of Missouri."

On the Web

www.gorctrails.com

www.ofallonrotaryclub.org