

## "Spreading The Word - Community Groups Help Spruce Up New Boone City Trail"

by Scott A. Smith – Director of the Boone County Landfill

In April of this year various service clubs came together in a combined service project to assist Boone City Parks. Boone Rotary, Day Breakers Kiwanis, Noon Kiwanis and the Boone Lions banded together to undertake a cleanup of the City's new walking/bike trail on Saturday, April 13, 2002. Keep Boone County Beautiful helped out by coordinating the beautification project with Boone City Parks.

The purpose of this combined project was to remove brush, litter and junk along a mile of the trail between First Street and Park Avenue. This effort greatly assisted Boone City Parks in getting the trail "spruced up" for summer. "We are very excited about the number of members from the four groups that committed to working on the project," stated Greg Thede, Director of Boone City Parks. "Over 36 people came out during two shifts to help," he added.

The idea for the cleanup came from Everett Johnson, a Rotary Club member. He saw both a need and an opportunity. While each of the four clubs in Boone are very community-minded and take on their own numerous projects, they had not participated in a joint project in recent memory. The trail cleanup provided members of the four clubs to meet and work with each other over a period of several hours.

The volunteers divided the work between those cutting brush, those dragging the brush to trail-side and those who fed the brush into the City Parks chipper. The chipped brush was blown back onto the trail-side to help with erosion control and trail aesthetics. This plan of attack worked well until the afternoon shift wore the poor old chipper out and it overheated!

In the end the project was successful in that the community groups were able to completely dress up the entire stretch of trail that they had "adopted." The groups are talking about possibly making the trail cleanup an annual event. A social event may also be added to foster the inter-group nature of the project. "This project was very positive," stated Scott Smith, who served as project chair. "Even though we all felt pain from sore muscles the next morning it was gratifying to know we made an immediate difference for those who utilize the trail," he added.

Keep Boone County Beautiful is a volunteer-based program sponsored by the Boone County Landfill and is an affiliate of Keep Iowa Beautiful. The Keep Boone County Beautiful program strives to raise public awareness about litter, beautification and waste management issues. It serves as a "conduit for action" to assist and recognize volunteers and community groups that undertake efforts to maintain and improve the environment of Boone County. What a great way to help "Spread the Word". Every community has a potential project like this - SPREAD THE WORD!

To obtain additional information on the organization please contact:

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*Helping to Keep Iowa Beautiful*

Gerald F. Schnepf, Executive Director