

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Tons of Debris Removed from Trail Creek

Michigan City, IN – The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a targeted cleanup of a degraded area of Trail Creek this past Saturday, August 4, 2007. The location targeted for cleanup was the area immediately beneath Peanut Bridge near the intersection of 8th and Dickson Streets.

“With the opening of the Winding Creek Cove and the Trail Creek Greenway bike trails last fall, an increasing number of visitors are now enjoying the trail system that crosses Trail Creek over the Peanut Bridge,” Michigan City Mayor Chuck Oberlie said. “Unfortunately, many decades of debris has built up along the bottom of Trail Creek under the old railroad bridge and visitors walking across Peanut Bridge were greeted by an unsightly mess of steel debris that was clearly visible under the shallow water. We applaud the efforts of the Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce to partner with the Port Authority and the Sanitary District to begin significant debris removal in a sensitive area of Trail Creek.”

As part of the Chamber’s MCNEAT (Michigan City North End Advocacy Team) planning process, several volunteers stepped forward to help with the cleanup. “Under the leadership of MCNEAT Zone 2 Chairman John Pavy and NIPSCO’s Director of Economic Development Don Babcock, we were successful in mobilizing over a dozen hardworking, committed volunteers on Saturday, and we removed more than two tons of steel by hand from the stream bed of Trail Creek,” Chamber President Tim Bietry said. “Utilizing the Port Authority’s small barge

and the Sanitary District's row boat, we ferried 15 loads of junk from underneath Peanut Bridge to the southern bank of Trail Creek."

While dismayed by the amount of trash found underwater, the volunteers remain hopeful and are planning future clean-up efforts. "The total volume of trash we found underneath the water at Peanut Bridge was unbelievable," Don Babcock said. "I am so proud to be part of a great team of people who literally spent hours, in up to waist deep water, getting sore backs, cuts, and scrapes, cleaning up our creek. My bet is every one of them will come back for round two. I can't say enough about their dedication."



Fred Miller guides Assistant Harbormaster Bob Kavanaugh to shore with a barge full of creek debris ready for unloading.



Al Walus, John Pavy and Eric Edmondson guide debris towards the south creek bank as Mayor Oberlie and Don Babcock continue to remove debris from Trail Creek.



Some of the tons of debris removed from Trail Creek by volunteers on Saturday.

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