

Volunteers remove trail bollards as biking season winds down

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH
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About 10 volunteers gathered in the city of Eagle River last Thursday morning to remove the bollards that mark the bike and pedestrian trail through two parking lots near downtown — signaling an end to the summer and fall bicycling season.

The bollards are installed each spring and taken down in the fall to allow for easier snow plowing and maintaining the snowmobile trail during the winter months, according to Gary Meister, secretary of Great Headwaters Trails (GHT).

“Great Headwaters Trails and the Three Eagle Trail Foundation originally installed the bollards in 2014, from just north of the Dairy Queen to the Railroad Depot parking lot, as a safe trail for bikers and pedestrians to get from the Three Eagle Trail to the downtown area,” said Meister. “The Tara Lila staff has taken over the lead on setting them up and taking them down, with the two organizations providing the volunteers.”

Meister said the 56 yellow poles and plastic chain provide a safe pathway for both bikers and pedestrians to the downtown business district through the two busy parking lots. There also are public restrooms at the depot.

“We’ve only had a few maintenance issues with the bollards, as once in a while they get knocked off and have to be replaced,” said Meister. “We also have



About 10 volunteers with Great Headwaters Trails (GHT) gathered near downtown Eagle River last Thursday for the seasonal removal of the bike trail bollards through two city parking lots.

—Photo By Gary Ridderbusch

had to fix a few bases and the screws that hold them in place, but so far it has been fairly minor. We also have to repaint the area marking the path.”

The Three Eagle Trail for bikers, walkers and runners travels 12.7 miles from just south of the Dairy Queen to Three Lakes. A north and south section of the crushed, compacted limestone trail

is connected by about 1.5 miles of asphalt surfaced roads, Sundstein Road and Section 9 Road.

Meister said the short city trail marked by the bollards is part of a larger plan to connect the Three Eagle Trail to the proposed River Trail from Eagle River to St. Germain. The River Trail would then connect with communities that are part of the Heart of

Vilas County 52-mile paved trail system, including St. Germain, Sayner, Boulder Junction, Manitowish Waters and Mercer.

“The plan includes a safe trail and pedestrian crossing to Riverview Park and then a marked trail to Park Street and the fairgrounds, where the proposed River Trail would travel west to St. Germain,” said Meister.