



### At ORA Trails we've been pretty busy the past year!

- Worked with a passionate group in Trempealeau to create a new pump track!
- Planned and laid the groundwork (literally) for a new fully accessible tree fort at Chad Erickson park.
- Begun planning on a new bike park in West Salem, ready to break ground in 2023!
- Hired former Board Vice President, Chris Stindt, as Events and Programming Coordinator
- This has enabled us to increase our programming, from full moon and snowshoe hikes, to supporting new events like the Hixon 4est RUD Run!
- Keep an eye on [oratrails.org/events](https://oratrails.org/events) and [facebook.com/oratrails](https://facebook.com/oratrails) for new events!
- Start the ball rolling on the biggest project we've ever undertaken, a large land purchase to create many opportunities for you to get outside!
- Hired our first ever maintenance crew, who have been able to complete over 10 projects in Hixon Forest, to improve your trail experience!

## GET INVOLVED

Have some sweat equity you're looking to give? ORA Trails has many weekly, monthly, and annual volunteer efforts to choose from that will get you outdoors with other community members for some fun in the dirt! Check out our Volunteer Page at

[WWW.ORA-TRAILS.ORG/VOLUNTEER/](https://www.oratrails.org/volunteer/)

for volunteer and education opportunities or to sign the Volunteer Waiver. Email [contact@ORATrails.org](mailto:contact@ORATrails.org) for more ways to participate. You can also follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/oratrails](https://facebook.com/oratrails) for events and opportunities too!



T R A I L S

BUILDING HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES BY  
PROVIDING ACCESS TO EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE  
OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCES



#GETOUTSIDE

## ORA IS ALL ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

As we fully embrace the passing of summer into winter through another wonderful fall in the Driftless, I have been taking time to reflect on transitions. ORA Trails has been growing and changing lately. From an organization that utilizes tools to dig in the dirt, manipulating soil to bring joy to users to becoming a community tool to cultivate positive growth. ORA Trails provides an innovative framework to make connections and fill gaps, helping communities improve quality of life and meet wellness, ecological, economic, and recreational goals through meaningful outdoor projects and programs. This year we have used our Trail Friends Fund to initiate, advance, and complete projects and programs across our region and we are getting ready to take our biggest swing yet.

ORA Trails has cultivated an opportunity to purchase and protect a large swath of land within the La Crosse area Blufflands. With hundreds of acres of forests, fields, and streams and close proximity to neighborhoods, businesses, schools, public transit, and other public lands, it will truly connect our community to itself and the outdoors. The unique location represents a key opportunity to protect and celebrate multiple facets of local history and culture. Focusing on conservation, recreation, and education, this is a once in a generation opportunity to develop a robust network of shared-use trails and amenities needed to lower the barriers to getting more people outside. Through strong partnerships and willing donors, we can bring projects like this to reality.

**“We in the United States are leading such busy strenuous lives that recreation has become an absolute necessity. We are in a hurry all the time. There can be no doubt of it that the worry and bustle of our modern living leads to a great many premature deaths. Many useful lives are blotted out because they did not take time for recreation. If we are going to keep pace with our civilization, we must give the public an outlet in the great outdoors.”**

- LOUIS H. PAMMEL, CIRC. 1924

In many religions and cultures around the world, it is the fall and winter season, after the bounty of the summer has been harvested, that celebrations of sharing take place. When those who can, help those who can not, when those with more, share with those with less, when the presence of those dear to us carries us in the absence of the sun's warmth. As a community based non-profit, we are asking you to share your bounty with us to allow for growth and progress. We would like you to consider the many ways to give: volunteering time, spreading our message, enjoying time in nature... and making a financial donation to our cause. If you value our mission to build happy, healthy, and resilient communities by providing equitable and sustainable access to outdoor recreation, please consider how you might be able to support us financially. As a reference, perhaps consider the value of outdoor recreation and access to nature in your life. Is it worth the cost of a gym membership? Is it worth the cost of a new piece of sports equipment? Is it worth the cost of a vacation? Is it worth the cost of an organized activity? We know you are constantly making choices of how to conserve or spend your resources, and in this season, we ask that you consider us.

## WE NEED YOUR DONATION!

What can you give today? Our efforts are fully supported by your giving and each of the amounts below makes an impact on our ability to continue to do great things to get you outside!

### MAIL

Mail the bottom portion in to make sure your gift counts for Giving Tuesday 2022!

### ONLINE

You can also donate online today via an electronic payment with a card online at [www.ORATrails.org/donate/](http://www.ORATrails.org/donate/)

### GIVING TUESDAY

November 28th, Giving Tuesday. Contributions are tax-deductible  
[www.ORATrails.org/donateGT/](http://www.ORATrails.org/donateGT/)

### TEXT

You can even text us! Send the code "TRAILFRIEND" to 44-321 to make a donation.

Please detach the bottom portion and send it with your mailed donation

☐ Check here if you'd like to be added to the ORA Trails Newsletter Mailing List.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to make a one-time contribution in the amount of:

☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I'd like to set up a reoccurring donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ORA Trails is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. online donations can be made at [www.ORATrails.org/donate/](http://www.ORATrails.org/donate/) or this form can be mailed to ORA TRAILS, 125 7th St. N, La Crosse WI 54601