

JMH Wellness Committee Helps Extend WAG Trail

Five years ago, in the ultimate example of re-purposing, part of the former Wellsville, Addison, and Galeton Railroad line was opened to the public as the WAG Trail. Following the upper Genesee River, this recreational trail has been used for walking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, biking and other outdoor activities.

Extending the trail to the Pennsylvania border was in the original plan, but the number of bridges in that section needing repair has slowed the expansion. Thanks to a donation from the JMH Wellness Committee, the bridges will be repaired and the trail will be open from Wellsville to the Pennsylvania border. The work will be completed by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

JMH is donating \$10,000 in lumber - the proceeds from the 2014 RidgeWalk & Run and this year's GLOW 5K Run & Walk - to re-deck two bridges between Graves Road and Shongo. "For several years, Jones Memorial has been focused - through activities and education - on improving the health of our community," said Eva Benedict, CEO at Jones. "When we took on the RidgeWalk & Run last year, we made the decision that the proceeds would be used for a community wellness project.



Checking out the lumber donated to re-deck the bridges are, left, Carrie Walker, chair of the JMH GLOW 5K Run & Walk; Brenda Szabo, chair of the JMH Wellness Committee; Jim Helms, chair of RidgeWalk & Run; Ron Abraham, DEC Senior Forester and manager of the trail project; and Nate Tucker, DEC Senior Forester, providing administrative oversight.



Before and after: Two additional bridges on the WAG Trail —which don't look much different than the one on the left—will get new decking, like and look much like the one over Fords Brook, right.



Helping to extend the WAG Trail, giving our community more opportunities to get outside and keep moving, fits perfectly with that goal."

The WAG Trail is a 9-mile multi-use recreation trail and historic transportation corridor in Allegany County, extending between the Village of

Wellsville and the Pennsylvania state line. At this time, eight miles of the WAG Trail are open to the public: the northern six miles between Weidrick Road and Graves Road, and the southern two miles between NY Route 19 in the hamlet of Shongo and the state line.