

Patuxent Branch Trail Cleanup

UUCC is maintaining part of the Patuxent Branch Trail as a social service project. The entire trail goes from Lake Elkhorn to Savage Park and is used daily mainly by Howard County residents. This program was approved by the UUCC A-Team and the UUCC Social Action Council in January of 2003.

UUCC is responsible for a 1 mile section of the trail from Lake Elkhorn to Route 32. Monica Fortner is the current liaison between UUCC and the Department of Recreation and Parks. The liaison schedules regular litter cleanups and monitors the condition of the trail for the Department of Recreation and Parks. Monitoring involves reporting hazardous conditions (such as hanging limbs, downed trees, or loose boards on bridges) as well as vandalism. Twice a year, there are major work days on the trail. One of these days is the Saturday 2 weeks before Thanksgiving which corresponds with National Family Volunteer Day. The other major work day is the first Saturday in April. Usually about 15 UUCC volunteers participate with each cleanup. Participants sign a Volunteer Waiver for the Department of Recreation and Parks before each cleanup begins. The liaison sends a report to the Department of Recreation and Parks following each cleanup.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has erected several signs which acknowledge the trail sponsors. So, the public using this trail will see UUCC listed as one of several sponsors of this trail.

Groups within UUCC who want to perform a social service project, are encouraged to consider a trail cleanup. To schedule cleanups, contact Monica Fortner.