Survey shows SBHT user activity and satisfaction run high

Enthusiastic family members and groups of friends led the list of some 3,000 weekly users of the new Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail during the summer of 2012.

Survey results compiled by the volunteers show immense satisfaction with the trail experience, and an overwhelming desire to “keep going and make it longer…”

“The trail has become a real draw for multi-generational families and relatives returning to their roots for family reunions. They’re using the trail to recreate and connect with the land. There’s something very satisfying in working on a project like this, a way of giving back…”

BRAD ANDERSON
Owner, Anderson's Market, Glen Arbor
Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail Campaign Cabinet
TALES FROM THE TRAIL...

THE MYTHOLOGY OF SLEEPING BEAR HAS DELIGHTED GENERATIONS.

But the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail (SBHT) is already inspiring some of its own stories.

Early last summer, several hundred students from the Grand Rapids area camped at the D.H. Day Group Campground at the foot of the Dune Climb.

With her classmates was a special needs student who for years had been unable to enjoy the experience of being outside in a natural setting.

“When we got here and saw the paved trail, her world changed,” one of the group’s chaperones told Kerry Kelly, Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes volunteer coordinator. So much so in fact, that following her trail introduction, that afternoon she took her first canoe trip on the nearby Platte River.

“No doubt she would never have made the canoe trek had it not been for her great experience on the trail,” reflected the chaperone.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

To donate and learn more about the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail please contact TART Trails at info@traversetrails.org, 231.941.4300.
“When our Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes’ volunteers did the trail survey they encountered two frequent comments: ‘We love the trail’ and ‘When are you going to make it longer?’”

KERRY KELLY
National Park Service Volunteer (9 years)
Coordinator Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail Ambassador Program

“I ride a 3-wheel trike because of weak legs and poor balance, and truly love the new trail. My trike is unsafe to ride on the road due to its width and lack of visibility, and the trail gives me a safe, relaxing, and beautiful ride. Riding from home, I have a pleasant 8-mile ride, and I look forward to the extension of the trail to Empire.”

JERRY POWLEY—Cabinet Member
Little Glen Lake, Leelanau County

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To learn more, please see sleepingbeartrail.org