

Woodcrest Villa Residents Forge New Trail

Several Woodcrest Villa (WCV) residents combined their love of the outdoors with their skills to create a new trail on campus. The charming “Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail” is half-mile long with two access points. Lew Kauffman, Dave Fatora and Jim McCoy are three of the key forces behind this enjoyable addition. The route is surrounded by nature’s beauty and it is completely cleared and protected with wood chips. It is currently completely walkable, but its creators still say it is a work in progress.

Since moving to WCV in 2013, Lew has been working on the trail. He loves to spend time hiking on it and, when the weather cooperates, does things to keep improving it! He grew up on a farm and loves being out in the woods. He explains that at a young age it was always his job to collect chestnut tree branches for the morning fire. He has marked the “Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail” with white blazes and plans to install signs at the trailheads.

Soon after moving to WCV, Dave got involved helping with the trail. He is a frequent hiker who also enjoys wildlife photography. He has years of outdoor field experience in the construction industry as well as taking weather measurements.

Jim’s passion for backpacking and hiking led him to volunteer his time to the project as well. He has done trail maintenance and building for about 20 years with the York Hiking Club on the Appalachian Trail and the Mason-Dixon Trail in York County.

“We want to install signs, provide hiking sticks for people to use and are also considering adding additional markings along the trail,” Lew shares, indicating future goals for the trail.

This summer, WCV will install a footbridge over a gully, partway through the trail so that hikers will not have to walk onto the maintenance road. These three gentlemen are encouraged by the number of staff and residents who currently use the trail and they are dedicated to improving the path!

Top photo: Lew Kauffman, Dave Fatora and Jim McCoy (left to right) take a stroll on the trail using walking sticks Lew made. Bottom photo: Dave Fatora, Lew Kauffman and Jim McCoy (left to right) put hours of work into building a lovely walking trail.

