



## Grassy Fork Trail

The City of Seymour Parks and Recreation Department proudly announces the opening of the Grassy Fork Trail, located in the Freeman Field Athletic Complex. Through combined efforts from Seymour resident Darin Johnson, community volunteers, and the Parks and Recreation maintenance staff, the new 3 mile soft trail is open to the public for walking or jogging. The trail is an effort to promote a healthy lifestyle for our residents. The Grassy Fork Trail connects to an existing 1.5 mile side path that runs parallel to Indiana 11, thus giving runners or walkers 4.5 miles of connected trail.

In the Spring of 2014, Seymour resident Darin Johnson approached Mayor Craig Luedeman and Director of Parks and Recreation, Brent Jameson. Darin shared his vision for a soft trail that could be used for cross-country races and exercise for local walkers and runners. Darin's daughter, Zoey, was just about to graduate from Seymour High School where she was a standout cross-country runner. Following her across the region to watch her run had allowed Darin an opportunity to see the best cross-country courses in Southern Indiana. Darin truly believed that a course could be created at Freeman Field Athletic Complex that rivaled the top courses. The Mayor and Brent welcomed the idea, thus beginning the partnership.

Now it was time to get to work. Darin and volunteers from the Seymour High School cross-country team removed multiple loads of debris from the trail's wooded area. They also partnered with Goecker's Construction to remove the tree stumps throughout the trail. The Parks and Recreation maintenance staff began mowing a trail with an 8 inch grass border so that the trail was identifiable.

The trail was officially opened to the public in the Fall of 2014. It was coined "Grassy Fork Trail" because it runs parallel to the Grassy Fork Ditch. Seymour High School and middle school teams immediately began using the trail for practices and meets. The trail has also become a popular destination for walkers, runners, and dog walkers.

This is a great example of the benefits of the community and city departments working together to better Seymour. On August 25, 2014 Darin Johnson was awarded the "Seymour Shine" award for his vision and efforts on the Grassy Fork trails.