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Volunteers clear litter from trail

More than 50 volunteers from several area organizations recently participated in Muskogee's first communitywide cleanup of the Centennial Trail. The group tackled the two-mile section of trail between the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame and the Hatbox Sports Complex, filling more than 40 trash bags with litter and other debris.

The cleanup was co-sponsored by Action In Muskogee and the Muskogee County Food and Fitness Initiative, and was carried out by volunteers with those collaboratives.



Members of the Centennial Trail cleanup crew pause for a photograph.

Youths and adults with Boy Scout Troop and Venture Crew 627 from Fort Gibson pitched in. Muskogee County Council of Youth Services and residents of Faith Based Therapeutic Community Corp. also provided significant assistance.

"The spring cleaning is a step towards implementing one of many strategies within the AIM Plan which grew out of the community visioning sessions and the community infrastructure focus area—to encourage more utilization of existing trails for Muskogee," Dr. Tim Faltyn, the co-chairman of the AIM steering committee, said in a media release.

Faltyn, the president of Connors State College, added: "We're just glad and appreciative to see these volunteers stepping up to help make the trails a cleaner and more attractive place to spend time in our community. A lot of people don't realize what a great resource we have in Muskogee, with over 10 miles of trails throughout the city, providing wonderful opportunities for recreation, fitness and transportation."

On the heels of the trail cleanup came Muskogee's first Walk, Run or Ride the Trails Week, which started Monday and goes through Sunday. Organized by the Muskogee County Turning Point and the Muskogee City Wellness Initiative, this celebration of the city's trails provides opportunities to join a scheduled group walk, run or bicycle ride to see what the trails are really like.

A complete listing of group activities for Walk, Run or Ride the Trails Week is available online at www.MuskogeeWellness.org.



Youths haul trash bags along the trail to hold the litter they pick up. The group filled more than 40 bags.