



*The Bark River Friends
Group of volunteers
work to protect the
Bark River and its
shoreline*

FRIENDS OF BARK RIVER

The Friends of Bark River was organized in May 2015 by former Park and Recreation Commission Chairperson Chris Smith and current Park and Recreation Commission Chairperson Jim Reiher as a group of volunteers to clean up the north and south shorelines of the Bark River. This included debris in the River, between St. John’s Bay on the east side and Mill Road on the west side of the City of Delafield. Since that time, there have been 36 work days and over 580 work hours performed by volunteers in furtherance of this activity.

The clean up has included the removal of invasive species, diseased and dead trees, and other debris from the Bark River and its shorelines, which interfered with the natural growth of plants, flowers, healthy trees and shrubs, grasses, and other shoreline benefits.

As a result of the above, the Bark River has become accessible, navigable, and available for use by canoers, kayakers, rafters, paddle boarders, fishermen, swimmers, dogs, and wildlife. The Bark River Trail and Ice Age Trail have been cleared for hikers, bikers, walkers, runners, naturalists, wildlife watchers, and the like.

There has been an expansion of light, space, and natural landscaping consistent with the flow and reflections of the Bark River. Step by step, the vision of the Friends Group to bring healthy life to the Bark River and its shoreline in the City of Delafield out of a canopy of darkness is being realized. As its stewards, the Friends Group shall continue to work together to protect this valuable resource and advance the cause for the betterment of its natural setting, its relationship with the City’s residents, and its special presentation for visitors to enjoy.

Enjoy the Bark River. It is a legacy worth pursuing and preserving in the City of Delafield.

For more information, you may contact Jim Reiher at jcr@dewittllp.com

