

History of the Trail

The old Chicago and Northwestern Railroad bed was purchased by the State of Wisconsin on March 3, 1966 for \$12,000. The Elroy-Sparta Trail is considered to be one of the first "rail trails" in the nation. This led the way for the creation of many more of these bicycle and multi use trails with very little slope, making for ease of use by people of all ages and capabilities.

The Elroy-Sparta National Trail Inc. was formed in December of 1974. This is a non-profit organization with the responsibility of operating the old depot which has been turned into a trail shop. The board consists of two board members from each community along the trail. They are focused on continuing to provide a friendly, clean, family oriented activity that is safe, scenic and exciting.

Unique to the Elroy Sparta Trail are the three tunnels. The longest of the three is Tunnel No. 3 which is 3 miles from Norwalk and 8 miles from Sparta. It is 3,810 feet long and was completed in 1873 after three years of digging. It cost \$247,272 to build or \$65 per foot which was much more expensive than the other two tunnels. This tunnel was so long that workers dug two long, deep shafts from above to help remove rock, in addition to digging from both ends. These shafts were later sealed with bricks.

Elroy-Sparta State Trail

PO Box 297

Kendall WI 54638

www.elroy-sparta-trail.com

**The Friends
of the
Elroy-Sparta
State Trail
“The Three
Tunnel Trail”
invite YOU
to become
a member.**





**The
Elroy-Sparta
State Trail
is a
Wisconsin
Heritage
Site.**

**Friends of the
Elroy-Sparta State Trail**

The mission of the Elroy Sparta Trail Friends Group is to assist in the promotion of the trail. This can be achieved through the development of educational programs, financial support, and volunteer work programs.

Now you and your family can become members of the Elroy-Sparta State Trail Friends group. As a member you will help the Elroy-Sparta Trail and its headquarters remain a vital part of our communities. It will enable us to continue to promote our beautiful and famous 3-tunnel trail, and in turn help our small communities by inviting thousands of visitors to bike and enjoy the area each year.

Printing of this brochure
was donated by



If you would like to be a "Friend of the Elroy-Sparta Trail" take a look at the suggested membership donation levels. We will graciously accept any donation.

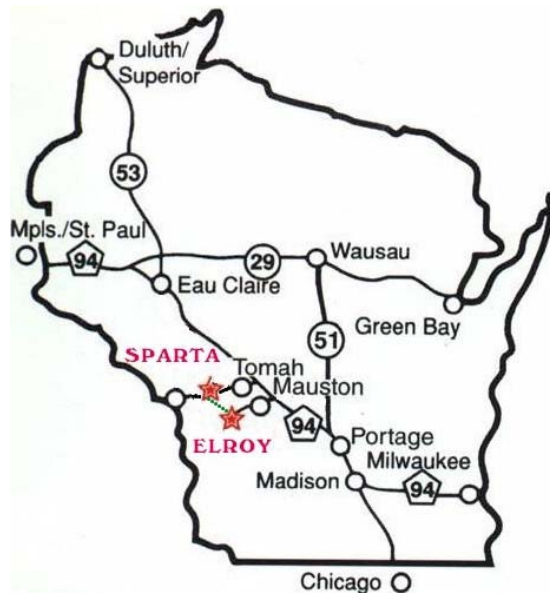
Because this is a 501(c)(3) organization your contribution is tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to:

**Elroy-Sparta State Trail
PO Box 297
Kendall WI 54638**

For more information please call
608-463-7109
or email kdepot@centurytel.net

website: www.elroy-sparta-trail.com



**YES, I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE
FRIENDS OF THE
ELROY-SPARTA STATE TRAIL.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Annual Membership Level:
January 1 to December 31.
Please check one.

Brakeman: \$15.00 _____
Includes a free Elroy-Sparta Trail Patch

Conductor: \$25.00 _____
Includes an Annual Newsletter and a
free Elroy-Sparta Trail Patch.

Engineer: \$50.00 _____
Includes an Annual Newsletter,
a free Elroy-Sparta Trail Patch
and a free Elroy-Sparta Trail T-shirt or
Annual Trail pass.

Corporate: \$100.00 _____
Includes a plaque and an Annual News-
letter.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____