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Improvements on Pre's Trail have held up well under our record November rainfall. The same can be said for the new Adidas Amazon Park "Oregon" trail. Exceptions where water damage was evident were few on both trails.

Pre's Trail, located between Eugene and Springfield in Alton Baker Park, received more than \$100,000 worth of drainage and a new sawdust surface last summer, and has packed down nicely as a result of the heavy rains. Before the rain, the trail was very soft and spongy underfoot. Now the trail bed is firm and responds well to runners and/or joggers, as well as walkers. The only noticeable rain damage to the trail occurred on the lower loop on a small hill just to one side of the new outdoor amphitheater. A torrent of water, rushing down a gully from the area of the buried waste-water sewage line has damaged part of the trail. Some type of heavy drainage culvert is needed to avoid further trail damage at that point.

The installed drainage tiles and gravel base have worked very well on both the two small loops of Pre's Trail, the stretches and the large, near two-mile loop. Previously, during winter months many parts of the


trail were covered by water and/or mud.

The Adidas Trail, along Amazon Creek off 24th and the Amazon Parkway, has fared well under the rain, with a few exceptions. This is minor, however, compared to rain and water damage in past years. The most spectacular result is relatively little damage, considering that the trail is built over one of Eugene's most swampy areas.

The Adidas trail has turned out to be the most popular running spot in the city. Many who use this trail could easily find greater space and comfort on Pre's Trail, which in addition to the new dry and drained trail, offers an almost wilderness experience. When combined with the opportunities of the bike path, Pre's Trail has an almost unlimited profile for runners, joggers, bikers and walkers.

Speaking of bicyclists (many of whom run or jog also), they are for the most part courteous and polite when they meet with runners on the bike paths connecting with Pre's Trail. However, a shout from the biker, "on your left," "thank you," etc. when passing a runner from behind is helpful to both in avoiding collisions.

Henry Reese of 364 E. Broadway, #11, Eugene, OR 97401 has



demonstrated this feeling of good will with a new bumper sticker reading "Eugene, life in the Bike Lane." Reese will send the item to any person who sends him \$1.25 for the sticker (and mailing).

Speaking of mailing, I am starting a mail-out newsletter, titled *Pre's Trail & Beyond*, as an extension of this column. The cost will be \$48 per year, with a starter one-year subscription for \$24 as an early enrollment inducement. Publication will be twice per month. If you want a prospectus (including the first newsletter), send \$2 to Pre's Trail, P.O. Box 1211. The first issue is available Christmas week—so for yourself, or runner friend, give us a line. We'll put you on the mailing list.

The newsletter will be centered on Eugene-Springfield as the running capitol of the U.S., and events centered here with particular emphasis on health and fitness.

—Jack Craig

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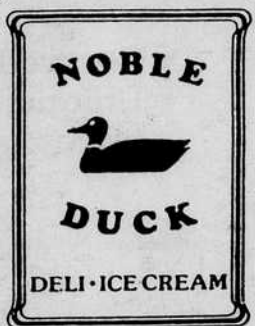
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