

# LCTA Trail Prioritization Surveys – Final Report (September 2012)

## Background:

LCTA has supported has supported trail development in Eastern Iowa, Linn County, and the Metro area for more than 20 years. How does an organization with many diverse views on trail development decide what are the most important trail projects? Some projects involve painting lines on the street while other projects may require extensive grading and other preparation for a separated trail. Frequently, there are issues related to land acquisition, which require a long lead time to complete. In all cases there is a necessary design phase and approval process if State or Federal funding is involved. All of which means we must get our priorities right the first time.

## LCTA Mission:

LCTA mission is to be a catalyst for the development and growth of a system of connected, multi-use trails throughout Linn County and Eastern Iowa (trails that go somewhere).

## Trail Priority Considerations:

Priority is normally based on importance of a trail or trail segment to the overall Metro/Linn County trail system. It does not necessarily establish the order in which trails are developed. Schedule depends on land availability, funding availability, and schedule of supporting projects that can piggyback the trail project to reduce cost. A trail may have a high priority to protect right-of-way from development that will block the trail, fill in gaps in the existing trail system, develop feeder routes, or identify new primary routes. Therefore, the LCTA priority list will focus on connections and major loops. Connections have identified destinations. Destinations include cities, parks, or other primary trails. Many of these connections already partially exist with gaps that need to be filled. **Tables 1, 2, and 3 provide more detail on what services or destinations are being connected under the various Trail Connection Names.**

## Survey Process & Participants:

LCTA has conducted two surveys: (1) a survey of the LCTA Board of Directors, and (2) a survey of the general public. The Board of Directors is a group of people knowledgeable about the status of the Metro Area trail system and the general public are primarily composed of LCTA supporters that have signed up for the LCTA email distribution list for news about trails. The general public responders are generally very active trail users and have strong interest developing trails useful to them.

## Conclusions:

The close priority ranking, particularly with the public survey, indicates a desire to implement most or all of the options that were offered. **Two themes stand out; our members want trails to connect major destinations and communities, and they want to fully utilize our scenic long distance trails.** Highly rated scenic long distance trails include Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Johnson County, and Squaw Creek Connections. CEMAR and North Connections link Hiawatha, Marion and Cedar Rapids. While some areas did not score as highly in the surveys due to lack of participation from residents in those areas, we recognize that all areas of the metro/county area benefit from a connected and coordinated trail network.

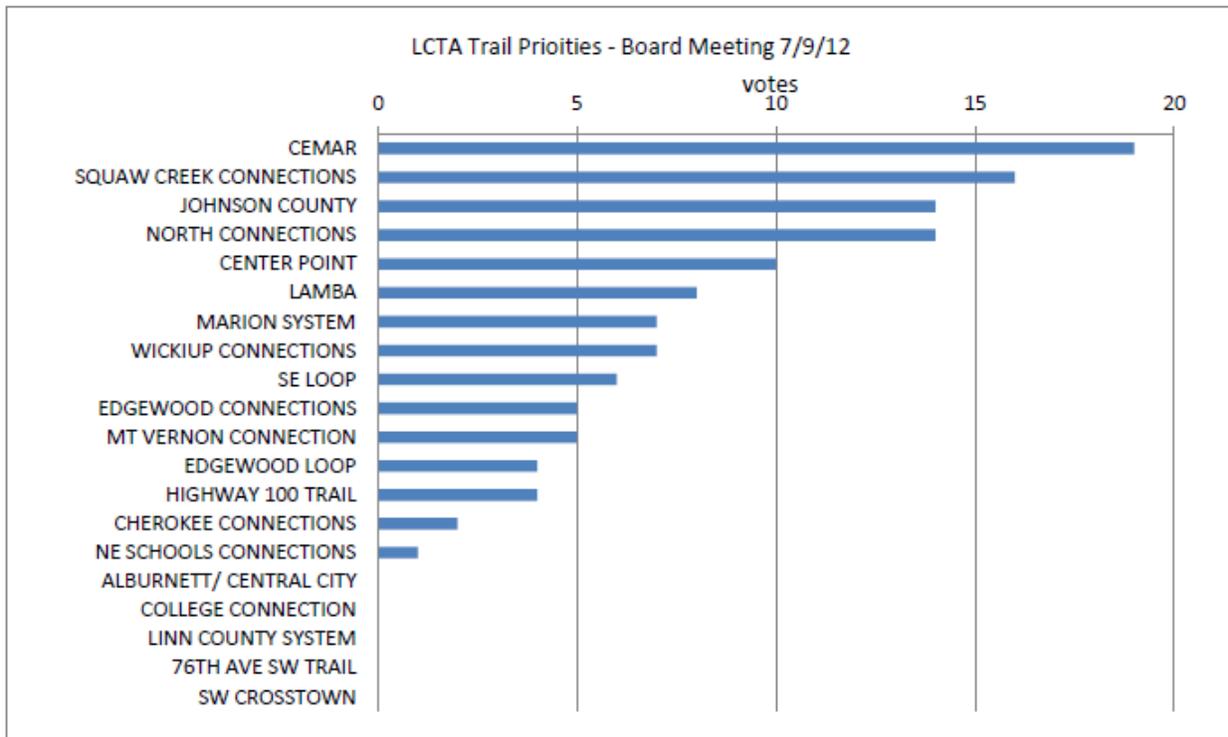
Comments from survey participants strongly indicate that they and the general public are looking for connected trails with important destinations as in, **"Let's finish the trails network"**. As stated earlier, these surveys do not attempt to define which trail project should be completed next, but to identify the most important connections that should be completed in the near future. Work must proceed towards connecting destinations, connecting trails, and creating "loops" to maximize the usefulness of the Metro Area trail system for recreation, health, and commuting.

## July 9, 2012 Board Meeting Survey

During LCTA July 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting members and visitors attending were asked to rate their trail development priorities.

- a. Each attendee was given five stickers and they could put all the stickers on one trail or up to five separate trail development options
- b. To facilitate trail development priority selection, multiple trail segments were combined under one trail name (see Table 1. Trail Development Priorities for more information)
- c. Potential of 130 votes (26 attendees), 122 were used
- d. Attendees were also offered opportunity to suggest additional trail options
- e. Figure 1. Board Survey Results shows total number of votes recorded for each trail development option – for reference purposes CEMAR trail received 19 votes as the most preferred trail option.

Figure 1. Board Survey Results



## Online Survey results

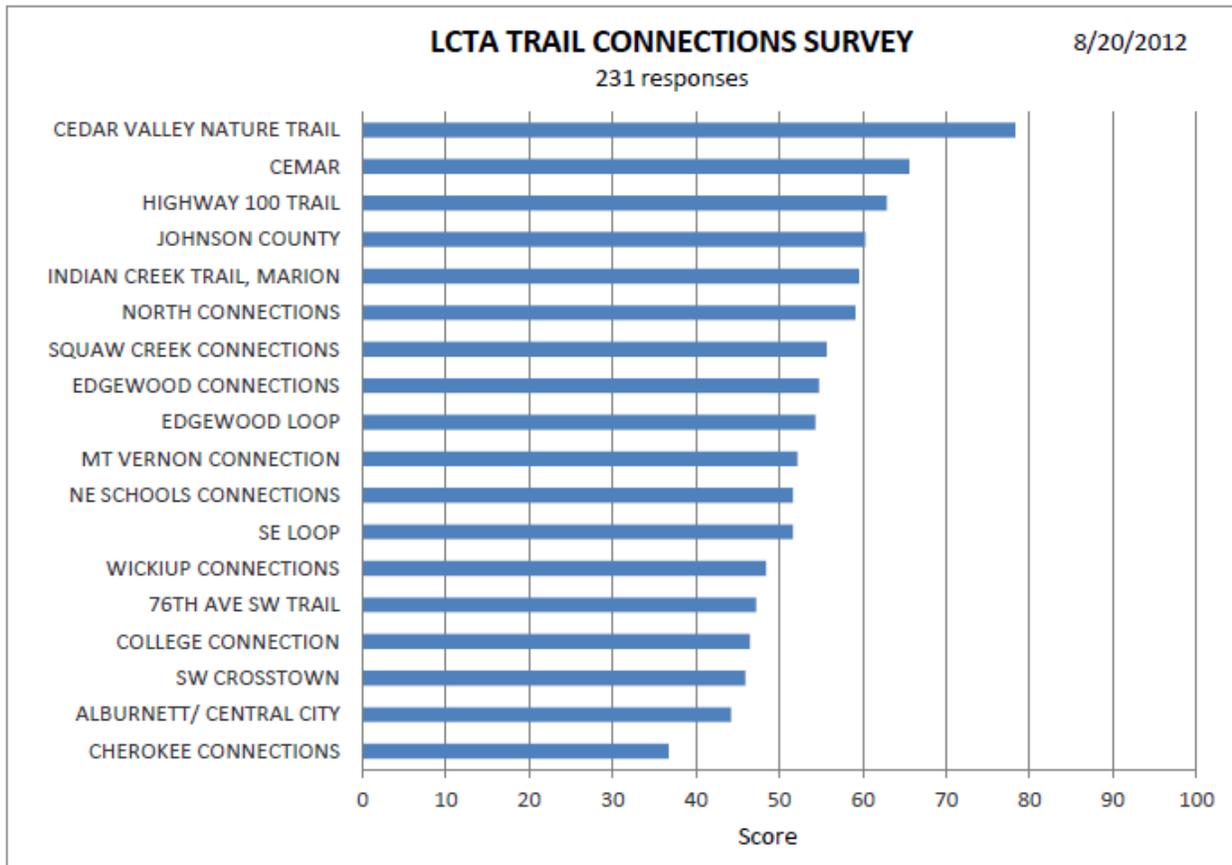
LCTA conducted an online survey from July 20 to August 20, 2012 to identify the most important trail connections that should be completed. The survey had 231 responses.

A description of connections included in the survey is listed in Table 2 below.

Respondents rated the importance of each connection as very high, high, medium, low, or not rated. Each selection was given a value of 100, 75, 50, 25, or 0 respectively. The average score for each connection is given in the chart of Figure 2.

The survey offered the respondents an opportunity to specify another important connection not listed in the survey. There were 34 responses which are shown in Table 3 below.

Figure 2. Online Survey Results



**Table 1. LCTA TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES (Based on LCTA 7/9/12 Meeting Results)**

<b>Votes</b>	<b>TRAIL NAME(S)</b>	<b>COMMENTS - TRAIL PURPOSE, POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS</b>
19	CEMAR	CEMAR TRAIL 6 SCHOOLS+7 PARKS+4 ATHLETIC FIELDS
16	SQUAW CREEK CONNECTIONS	MARION RR TRAIL TO SQUAW CREEK PARK/SAC&FOX
14	JOHNSON COUNTY	ELY TO SOLON, NORTH LIBERTY, IOWA CITY/HOOVER TRAIL
14	NORTH CONNECTIONS	HIAWATHA VIA BOYSON/DRY CREEK/LINDALE/MARION RR/GWT TRAILS TO JONES CO.
10	CENTER POINT	COMPLETE PAVING ON CVNT/Bridge Repair
8	LAMBA	Single Track Trail Options
7	MARION SYSTEM	IN-TOWN/COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS/GWT/LINN COUNTY
7	WICKIUP CONNECTIONS	CRT/TOWER TERRACE/FEATHERRIDGE/MORRIS HILLS
6	SE LOOP	SAC FOX/PRAIRIE FISHERIES/OTIS/CRT/CEMAR/SAC FOX
5	EDGEWOOD CONNECTIONS	CRT/42 <sup>ND</sup> ST TRAIL/EDGEWOOD/ROGERS RD/MORGAN CREEK PARK
5	MT VERNON CONNECTION	PAVED SHOULDERS ON MT VERNON RD; SAC FOX TO MT VERNON RD
4	EDGEWOOD LOOP	DOWNTOWN VIA ELLIS/EDGEWOOD/42 <sup>ND</sup> STREET TRAILS TO CRT
4	HIGHWAY 100 TRAIL	CRT TO HWY 30, 80TH ST SW TO FAIRFAX
2	CHEROKEE CONNECTIONS	DOWNTOWN TO MORGAN CREEK PARK: UNDER SERVED AREA+7 SCHOOLS+4 PARKS
1	NE SCHOOLS CONNECTIONS	XAVIER/KENNEDY/PIERCE/WRIGHT/HARDING, (42ND ST NE, NOELRIDGE PARK)
	ALBURNETT/ CENTRAL CITY	SHARE-THE-ROAD OR PAVED SHOULDERS
	COLLEGE CONNECTION	CRT/KIRKWOOD/BOWLING ST/CRT/CEMAR, (KIRKWOOD, COE, MT MERCY)
	LINN COUNTY SYSTEM	COMMUNITIES/PARKS
	76TH AVE SW TRAIL	76TH AVE SW FROM HOOVER TRAIL TO FAIRFAX
	SW CROSSTOWN	33 <sup>RD</sup> AVE. SW – CRT/BOWLING ST/33 <sup>RD</sup> AVE SW/WESTDALE/FAIRFAX
<b>Other connections added by the Board</b>		
Cedar River Crossing from Prairie Park to Cedar River Trail (@ Prairie Creek)		
Cedar Valley Nature Trail (paving beyond Center Point)		
Cedar Rapids to Iowa City Connection		
Tower Terrace Connections		
Indian Creek - from Boyson Trail North		
Trails along Collins Rd from Lindale to Collins Rd, Collins Rd Underpass at Marriott into Noelridge Park - provide connection to Cedar River Trail at 51st St NE		

**Table 2. LCTA TRAIL CONNECTION MATRIX**

TRAIL NAME	PATH	DESTINATIONS	NOTES
CEMAR	H AVE NE, F AVE NE, ACROSS 1st AVE, KRUMHOLZ TRAIL	CEDAR LAKE LOOP TRAIL TO THOMAS PARK MARION, 6 SCHOOLS, 7 PARKS, 4 ATHLETIC FIELDS	Only 2 segments now exist. Land acquisition is needed.
NORTH CONNECTIONS	BOYSON RD HIAWATHA, DRY CREEK TRAIL, C AVE, LINDALE TRAIL, MARION RR TRAIL, GRANT WOOD TRAIL	HIAWATHA, CRT, NE CEDAR RAPIDS, ROCKWELL COLLINS, MARION, GRANT WOOD TRAIL, JONES COUNTY	Only Lindale Trail (partial) and Grant Wood Trail exist. Fill in gaps in Grant Wood Trail and add rock surface. Build Dry Creek Trail from Boyson Rd to C Ave and down C Ave. Build Hiawatha Boyson Rd Trail. Complete Lindale Trail.
EDGEWOOD LOOP	CRT @ SOKOL PK, ELLIS TRAIL, EDGEWOOD TRAIL, 42nd ST TRAIL, CRT	LOOP: DOWNTOWN CR, ELLIS PK, 42nd ST SCHOOLS, CRT	Complete Ellis Trail, build Edgewood Trail from Ellis Blvd to 42nd St NE, build 42nd St NE Trail.
EDGEWOOD CONNECTIONS	CRT, 42nd ST TRAIL, EDGEWOOD RD ROGERS RD, STONEY PT RD	CRT, MORGAN CREEK PK, 42nd ST SCHOOLS	Build 42nd St Trail and Edgewood Trail from 42nd St NE to Rodgers Rd NW, build Rodgers Rd and Stoney Pt Rd Trails (O Ave and Stoney Pt Rd Segments) to Morgan Creek Park. Future: Extend Edgewood Trail to Tower Terrace with Edgewood Rd extension.
CHEROKEE CONNECTIONS	CHEROKEE TRAIL	ELLIS TRAIL, CHEROKEE PK, JACOLYN PK, CHERRY HILL PK, MORGAN CREEK PK	Only trail segments in parks exist. Underserved NW Quadrant trail.
SW CROSSTOWN	CRT, BOWLING ST SW, 33RD AVE SW, EDGEWOOD RD, BEVERLY RD, 80th ST SW	DOWNTON CR, WESTDALE, FAIRFAX	Bowling St Trail must be replaced and extended to CRT. 33rd Ave SW Trail is incomplete. Build Edgewood Rd Trail across Hwy 30, build Beverly Rd and/or Nursery/E Cemetery Rd trails.
SQUAW CREEK CONNECTIONS	SQUAW CREEK TRAIL	MARION RR TRAIL, SQUAW CREEK PK, SAC & FOX TRAIL	Build Squaw Creek Trail from Marion RR Trail to Sac & Fox Trail. Land acquisition is needed.
SE LOOP	PRAIRIE FISHERIES TRAIL, OTIS RD, 12th AVE SE, CRT, CEMAR, BEAVER TRAIL, INDIAN CREEK TRAIL, SAC & FOX TRAIL	LOOP: DOWNTOWN CR, PRAIRIE FISHERIES, BEAVER PK, WASHINGTON HS	Build connection between Paririe Fisheries and Sac & Fox Trails. Build route from Prairie Fisheries Trail to CRT along Otis Rd, etc.
COLLEGE CONNECTION	BOWLING ST TRAIL, CRT, CEMAR	KIRKWOOD, MT MERCY, COE	Replace and extend Bowling St Trail to 76th Ave SW, build CEMAR to Mt Mercy.
NE SCHOOLS CONNECTIONS	42nd ST TRAIL	42nd ST SCHOOLS (XAVIER, KENNEDY, PIERCE, WRIGHT, HARDING), NOELRIDGE PK	Build wide sidewalks on 42nd ST NE and extend through Noelridge Park.
HIGHWAY 100 TRAIL	COLLINS RD TRAIL, HWY 100 FROM FROM CRT TO HWY 30, 80th ST SW	NE CR TO FAIRFAX, MORGAN CREEK PK, TWIN PINES GOLF, NOELRIDGE PK, LINDALE MALL	Build separated trail along Hwy 100 and continue on 80th St SW to Fairfax. Pedestrian bridge over Cedar River is not in Hwy 100 budget. Separated trail is in danger of being left out.
MT VERNON CONNECTION	MT VERNON RD ALTERNATE: INTERURBAN TRAIL (also known as Lincoln Trail)	MT VERNON, SAC & FOX TRAIL, SQUAW CREEK TRAIL	Paved shoulders are only on part of Mt Vernon Rd. Alternate: Land acquisition failed long ago and is doubtful.
ALBURNETT/ CENTRAL CITY	ALBURNET RD, CENTRAL CITY RD (ALTERNATE ROUTE: HWY 13, BURNETT STATION RD)	CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION, ALBURNETT, CENTRAL CITY	Outlying towns need connections.
CEDAR VALLEY NATURE TRAIL	COMPLETE CVNT PAVING TO CENTER POINT	CENTER POINT, ROBINS, HIAWATHA, CR	Heavily used trail needs all weather surface all the way to Brandon.
JOHNSON COUNTY	HOOVER TRAIL EXTENSION	ELY, SOLOON, NORTH LIBERTY, IOWA CITY	Waiting for Johnson County.
WICKIUP CONNECTIONS	CRT, TOWER TERRACE RD, FEATHER RIDGE RD, MORRIS HILLS RD	WIKIUP HILL LEARNING CENTER, HIAWATHA, CEDAR RAPIDS	Trail from CRT does not exist. May become heavily developed after Tower Terrace is extended to Marion. Trail must follow all of Tower Tarrace extension.
76TH AVE SW TRAIL	76th AVE SW	FAIRFAX, COLLEGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CAMPUS, EDGEWOOD TRAIL, HOOVER TRAIL, ELY	Conection from Fairfax to Hoover Trail. School route to all Prairie Schools.
INDIAN CREEK TRAIL, MARION	INDIAN CREEK TRAIL SOUTH AND NORTH	BOYSON TRAIL, DONNELLY PK, INDIAN CREEK GOLF, LINN-MAR AND INDIAN CREEK SCHOOLS, HUNTERS RIDGE GOLF	North-south trail through Marion.

**Table 3. LCTA TRAIL CONNECTIONS SURVEY - Other Connections**

If you have an important trail connection not listed above, please describe the connection below. (optional)

Connection Name	Path Description	List of Destinations	Other Notes
		Fairfax Amana Walford	from Cedar Rapids
All other on-street trails	Need to get paint on streets	see metro trail plan	easy way to promote bicycle use in metro area
Old Milwaukee route from Blairs Ferry SW			
ride to your ride (mtb)	natural surface singletrack	parks with off road trail facilities	
			Thanks for the opportunity to vote!
Sac & Fox to Prairie loop (only)	Short Connector Only		This doesn't seem like it would take much
Cedar River Trail to Rockwell Collin	follow roads between Collin & Blairs Ferry to RC	Connects trails & Rockwell Collins facilities	
Entire Edgewood Road	seperated trail from Edgewood Road at Hwy 30 to Blairs Ferry Rd NE. A complete North to South rail on the west side of Cedar Rapids	Merchants (Westdale Mall and aurrounding area), churches (St Jude), parks (Ellis), library, residential	
sac and fox to cstsw to marion	from cst sw cross by the train bridge we need a bridge and continue through sac and fox to squaw creek to boyson to cedar vally nature complete the cicle		sac and fox to marion needs to open and get paved
Cedar valley nature trail?		Extend it from Ely into Solon	
			anything that lins the city east to west
Seminole valley trail			
Ely to Iowa City	from Ely to Solon to North Liberty to Iowa City	from Ely to Solon to North Liberty to Iowa City	NO bike lanes actual SAFE trail
Cedar River Trail	7th Ave SE to 16th Ave SE		The current path has been hacked up - the RR crossing was re-routed for the rich who don't like train horns - so, re-route this path somehow down "4th St" to 16th Ave SW - skip the river as we've killed that option for the rich...not the biker.
	Boysen Road from Marion to Hiawatha	Marion to Hiawatha	Would allow bike commuting and trail riders access to CVNT without having to drive to it.
Lindale Trail	From C Ave (CR) east along old RR right of way	Rockwell Collins / Downtown Marion	Need bridges strengthened or replaced
Seminole Valley Trail	Connects Seminole Valley to downtown	Riverbend, Seminole Valley, Shaver Park, Downtown	
Herbert Hoover			

Table 3. continued

Connection Name	Path Description	List of Destinations	Other Notes
North Trail from CVLoop trail to first avenue-- west/east connection		Indale, rockwell collins, shopping areas	there are ways to get to rockwell C ave/ but getting from C ave over to East post rd or malls and continuing to southeast CR/Marion are few.
3rd Ave 10th to 19th.	3rd Ave 10th to 19th.	West to east travel	Strong route west to east for those in that area. We have lost the 2nd ave route east to west.
Cedar Valley Nature Trail	Finish paving trail to Center Point or even to Urbana		
Iowa City	Extend Ely to North Liberty		
Hwy 965	Widen 965 fro bike lane from Wright Bros Blvd to Johnson County Line	North Liberty	This should be done when Hwy 965 is repaved. Johnson County has already added bike lanes from Linn County Line to the Iowa River.
Rockwell Building Connections	From Rockwell C ave complex to Rockwell Main Plant	Rockwell buildings on C ave to Rockwell Main Plant on 35th st	
Ely to MacBride	Trail following Ely road south to Lake MacBride/Solon	Solon / Lake Macbride	
Boyson Trail connect to Sax & Fox Trail	connect E Post Road to Boyson Trail at Highway 100		focus on interconnecting trails avoid isolated spurs
Robins S. Troy Park to Indian Creek Nature Trails	wooded	Robins city Park on S. Troy to Indian Creek Nature Trail	
Bicycle lane on Wilson Ave.	Edgewood to Bowling St	Kirkwood College to Westdale Plaza	
Rockwell Trail		all Rockwell main buildings around C	connecting as many Rockwell sites as possible. Also
			The CEMAR Trail is key to these connections.
CVNT		Urbana	It would be nice to keep paving the trail further north
			Great to see the progress on trails, the CVNT from hiawatha down to Ely seems to be a main trail, would be nice to see more trails leading to that one. I ride it as much as possible, trails leading to it would help use.
Bowman Woods trail			
Hwy 965	North Liberty to Cedar Rapids along Hwy 965 right of way	North Liberty, Cedar Rapids	Continue trail from Johnson County line into Cedar Rapids