

Trail Connections

Summer 2009

The Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Linn County Trails Association

President's Message

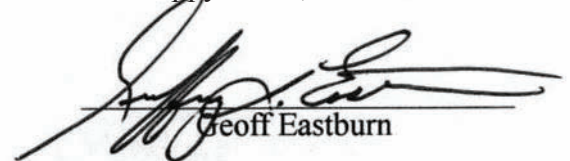
Events of last summer are still vivid in the minds of those who suffered through the worst natural disaster in our community's history. One year later we continue to recover and rebuild. It will be a long effort, but our community's resiliency is impressive. Progress is being made on the lengthy planning process to build an infrastructure able to survive future events. Part of the process has been the solicitation of direct input from fellow citizens through neighborhood planning meetings. Repeatedly, trails are mentioned as an important component of rebuilding a healthy community. Additionally, all of the concepts presented by the City's planning consultants include trails as an element of the new infrastructure. As trail supporters it is satisfying to know that the value of transportation and recreation trails is being recognized as an integral part of a city of the future.

So, as the Linn County Trails Association continues to work toward the further development of a trail system we are presented with an opportunity to become stronger supporters of a process poised to take off. The momentum is building. As an association we are working hard to keep abreast of the various opportunities to speak as a common voice in support of trail development. We can use your help, too. Speak up when given the chance; attend planning meetings and express your support for trails.

One interesting and related development that is also gaining momentum is the effort underway by the City of Cedar Rapids to achieve the status of a Bicycle Friendly Community. The goal is lofty, but progress is being made on many fronts. The effort is related because trails are a proven, key component of any successful application. No city has been able to achieve the goal without the presence of a significant trail system. An effort will begin later this summer by the City to develop a comprehensive trail plan for the metro area. LCTA has been a key contributor in developing the foundation for that plan. Look for the plan in December.

In closing, thank you for your support of the LCTA mission. The volunteers and supporters that give of their time and energy for our cause are amazing. While progress seems slow at times, we are, in fact, making great strides. Look for more news later this year and I hope to see you at the Mayors' Bike Ride.

Happy Trails,



Geoff Eastburn



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Geoff Eastburn

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(Corridor MPO)
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(Iowa Trails Council)
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(Cedar Rapids City Council)

Upcoming Events

LCTA Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 14th, 7:00pm
People's Church
700 3rd. Ave. NE.

LCTA Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 11th, 7:00pm
People's Church
700 3rd. Ave. NE.

3rd Mayors' Bike

Monday, September 7th, 10:00am
Registration: 9:00am
Ellis Park

LCTA Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 8th, 7:00pm
People's Church
700 3rd. Ave. NE.

LCTA Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 13th, 7:00pm
People's Church
700 3rd. Ave. NE.

All meetings are open to the public.

Trail Connections is the quarterly publication of the Linn County Trails Association. It is published March, June, September, and December.

Articles may be submitted as an MS Word or text file. Typed, printed or clearly handwritten articles are also accepted. Photos can be prints or can be submitted digitally and saved with a resolution of ideally 300 dpi and a size of 6x8 inches. The deadline for each issue is the first day of the month prior to publication. Please send pictures, stories, and ideas to Brad Mullin: mullinb1427@yahoo.com

Current Metro Area Trails

Open for use June 2009

Trail	Miles	Surface	Remarks
Cedar River Trail (ADT)	11	Asphalt	Cedar Rapids+Hiawatha+County
CRT Lake Loop	1.3	Asphalt	Around Cedar Lake
Bowling Street Trail	1	Concrete	From 50th Street SW to Wilson Avenue
Cherokee Park Trail	1	Crushed Limestone	West Side: Edgewood to Wiley Blvd.
Ellis Park Trail	3	Asphalt/Concrete	From Ellis Park to Downtown
Boyson Trail	3	Crushed Limestone	Follows Indian Creek
Grant Wood Trail	5	Grass/Gravel	Through Eastern Linn County
Lowe Park Trail	0.5	Asphalt	Marion: N. 10th St to 35th Ave
Cherry Hill Trail	0.8	Crushed Limestone	NW Cedar Rapids: Cherry Hill Park
Noelridge Park Trail	0.8	Crushed Limestone	NE Cedar Rapids: Noelridge Park
Nixon Trail	0.75	Crushed Limestone	NE Cedar Rapids: Around Nixon School
Fay Clark Memorial Trail	0.7	Asphalt	Hiawatha: Fay Clark Memorial Park
Squaw Creek Trail	4	Natural-Groomed	Located within Squaw Creek Park
Matsell Bridge Natural Area	8.4	Natural-Groomed	NE Linn County, near Viola
Pinicon Ridge Park	3	Natural-Groomed	Near Central City
Beverly Park	5	Natural-Groomed	SW CR: Singletrack Mountain Bike trails
Wickiup Hill	5	Natural-Groomed	5 mile network near Toddville
Hoover Nature Trail	1.3	Crushed Limestone	76th Ave. SW to Wright Bros. Blvd.

Visit our website at www.linncountytrails.org

Contribute to the LCTA blog and Wikipage.

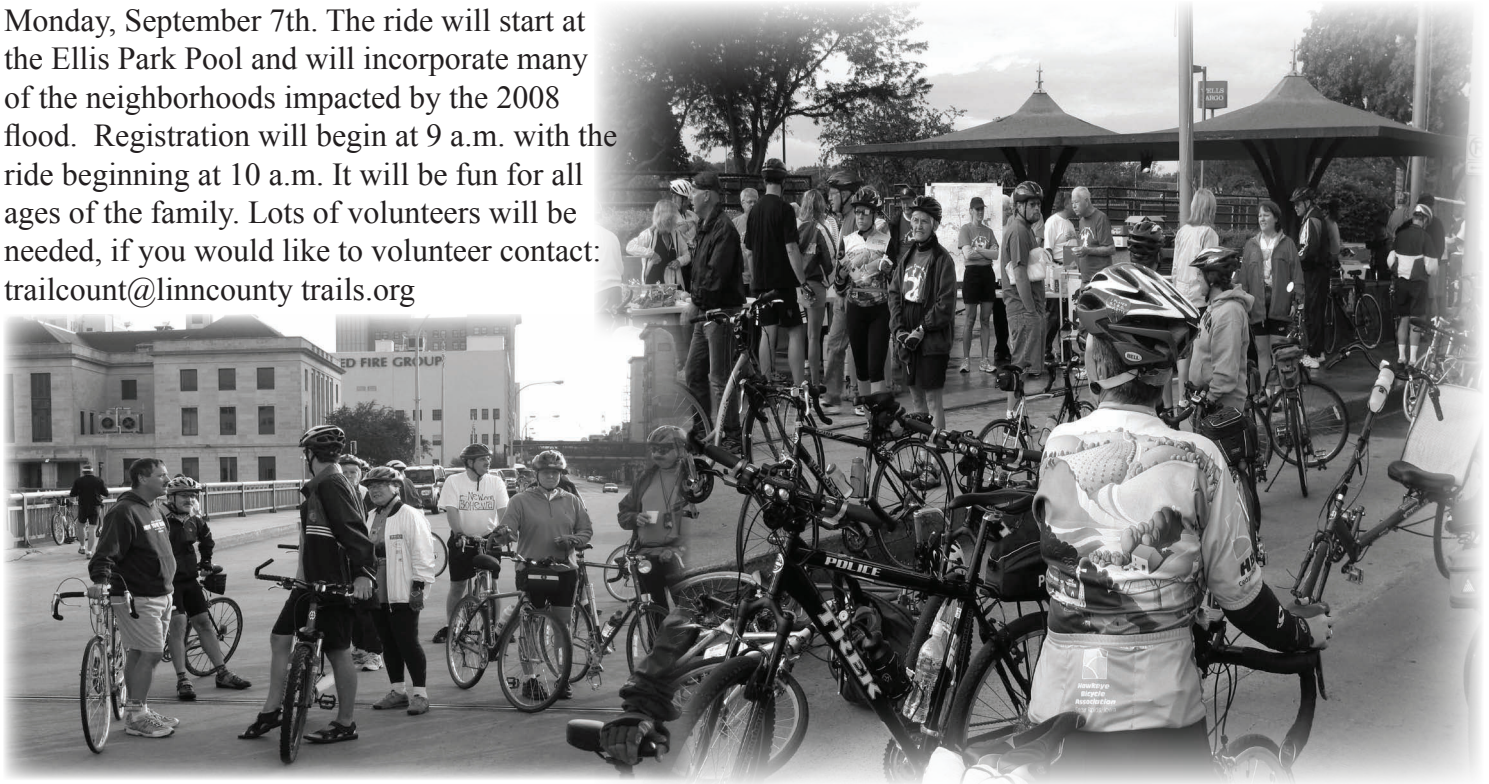
*Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation Department will hold
Open Houses for the Development of a Master Plan.*

August 18th and October 6th.

*Make Sure to Attend and Provide Input on the Importance
of Trails and Other Amentities for the New Riverfront and
Greenway.*

2009 Mayors' Bike Ride

The 3rd Mayors' Bike Ride will occur on Monday, September 7th. The ride will start at the Ellis Park Pool and will incorporate many of the neighborhoods impacted by the 2008 flood. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. with the ride beginning at 10 a.m. It will be fun for all ages of the family. Lots of volunteers will be needed, if you would like to volunteer contact: trailcount@linncountytrails.org



Rockwell Green Communities Grant

The Rockwell Green Communities Grant Program aids in funding of local projects and programs that positively impact the environment in communities across the world. In 2009, Gail Williams, with sponsorship from the LCTA, obtained a grant for \$2500 dollars for the beautification of the Cole Street trailhead on the Sac and Fox Trail. The funds will be used for 4 acres of native prairie plantings on the east side of the trail. In 2007, Gail received funding for plantings on the west side of trail. Thanks to Gail for all her hard work in the beautification projects along the trail system over the years.

West Side



East Side

Bicycle Advisory Committee

The Bicycle Advisory Committee was established to assist the City of Cedar Rapids in the preparation of an “Action Plan” with the goal of making Cedar Rapids a more bicycle friendly community. On May 27, the “Action Plan” was adopted by the City Council. The City of Cedar Rapids will apply for Bicycle Friendly Status, from the American League of Bicyclists, in August 2009. With the hopes of achieving bicycle friendly designation, the following resolutions were adopted:

“

1. The City Council recognizes the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Bicycle Coordinator as essential to the development, implementation and success of the Bicycle Friendly Community designation.
2. Adopt a target level of bicycle use (e.g. percent of trips) and safety to be achieved within a specific time-frame, and improve data collection necessary to monitor progress.
3. Provide safe and convenient bicycle access to all parts of the community through a signed network of on- and off-street facilities, low-speed streets, and secure parking. Local cyclists should be involved in identifying maintenance needs and ongoing improvements.
4. Establish information programs to promote bicycling for all purposes, and to communicate the many benefits of bicycling to residents and businesses (e.g. with bicycle maps, public relations campaigns, neighborhood rides, a ride with the Mayor).
5. Make the City a model employer by encouraging bicycle use among its employees (e.g. by providing parking, showers and lockers, and establishing a city bicycle fleet).
6. Ensure all city policies, plans, codes, and programs are updated and implemented to take advantage of every opportunity to create a more bicycle-friendly community. Staff in all departments should be offered training to better enable them to complete this task.
7. Educate all road users to share the road and interact safely. Road design and education programs should combine to increase the confidence of bicyclists.
8. Enforce traffic laws to improve the safety and comfort of all road users, with a particular focus on behaviors and attitudes that cause motor vehicle/bicycle crashes.
9. Develop special programs to encourage bicycle use in neighborhoods where significant segments of the population do not drive (e.g. through Safe Routes to Schools programs) and where short trips are most common.
10. Promote intermodal travel between public transport and bicycles, e.g. by putting bike racks on buses, improving parking at transit, and improving access to rail and public transport vehicles.
11. Establish a citywide, multi-disciplinary committee for non-motorized mobility to submit to the Mayor and Council a regular evaluation and action plan for completing the items in this Charter.”

In addition, the city of Cedar Rapids, with assistance of the LCTA, is developing a Master Trail Plan and Management Program. The city recognizes trails as recreational venues and as transportation assets that connect the neighborhoods and streets to parks, schools, and jobs. Also, trails are important assets in achieving Bicycle Friendly status. The city of Cedar Falls received a Bronze Status designation with its extensive network of multi-use trails. Please support the the effort.

State of the Trails: Current Trail Status

Cedar River Trail

The section of the Cedar River Trail from Sokol Park to Tait Cummins Park remains closed due flood damage.

Several portions of the trail are in disrepair, downed fence and trash remains, and the section at the Sinclair Bridge has been leveled out with an uneven surface. Repairs are scheduled to complete in the Fall of 2009.

Trails users should use caution and be safe if they choose to use this section of trail. The rest of the trail is in great condition.



Cedar River Trail:Segment G

The construction of the final portion of the Cedar River Trail will occur in 2009. In November 2008, a bid was awarded by the Cedar Rapids City Council.

Work on the trail is scheduled for the summer of 2009 and will be completed in less than a month.

LCTA contributed \$35,000 to the construction of this segment of the Cedar River Trail



State of the Trails: Current Trail Status

Cedar Valley Urban Fishery/Cedar Bend Lake

Before the June 2008 flood, the construction of the one mile trail around the 70 acre lake of the Cedar Valley Urban Fishery/Marietta Quarry was underway. Once flood debris is removed and several areas repaired construction will begin again



Sac and Fox Trail

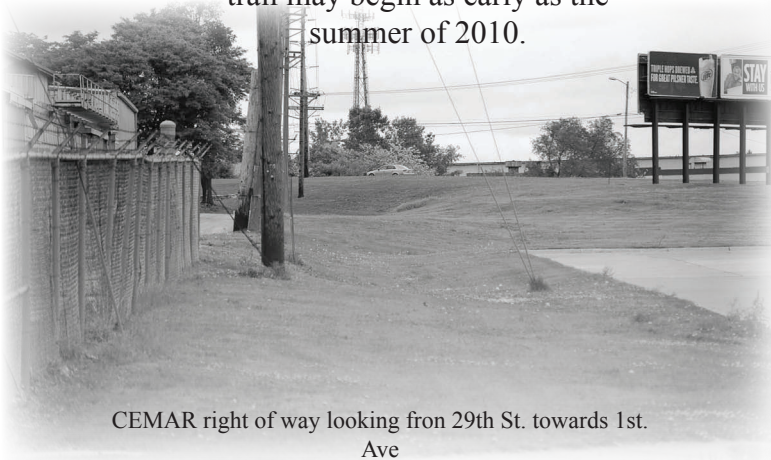


A section of the Sac and Fox Trail from Bertram Road trailhead to the Cole Street trailhead remains closed as a result of the June flood. With no regular maintenance, the trail is hazardous in some spots. The bridge over Indian Creek at Mt. Vernon Road has not been repaired. Trail users should use good judgment and be alert if they choose to explore these areas. The rest of the Sac and Fox Trail is accessible and in good condition.

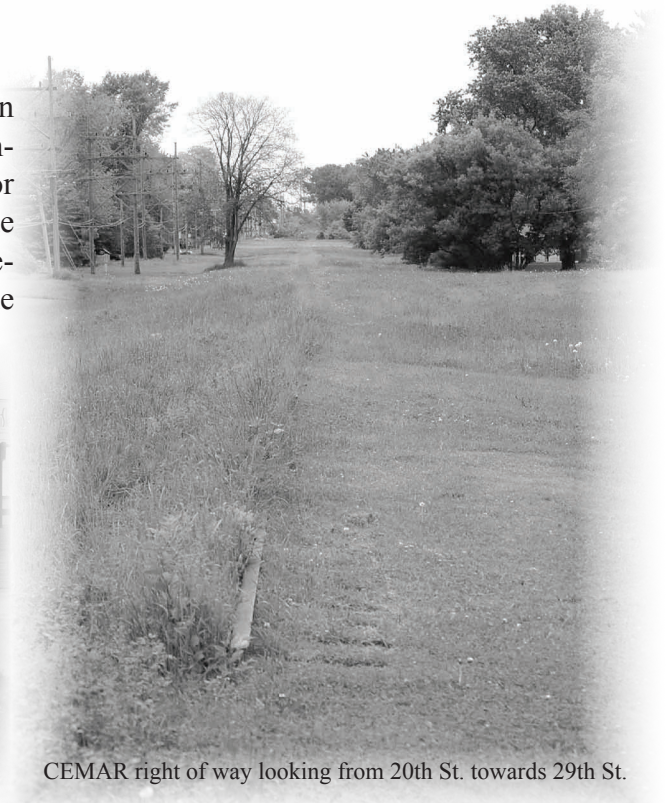
State of the Trails: Current Trail Status

CEMAR Trail

In 2008, a CEMAR Citizen Advisory Board approved an alignment of Phase I and Phase II of the trail. Anderson-Bogert Engineers are working on setting alignment for Phase I: the Cedar Lake Loop to 29th St. N.E. Once the alignment has been finalized, it will begin the Iowa Department of Transportation process. Construction of the trail may begin as early as the summer of 2010.



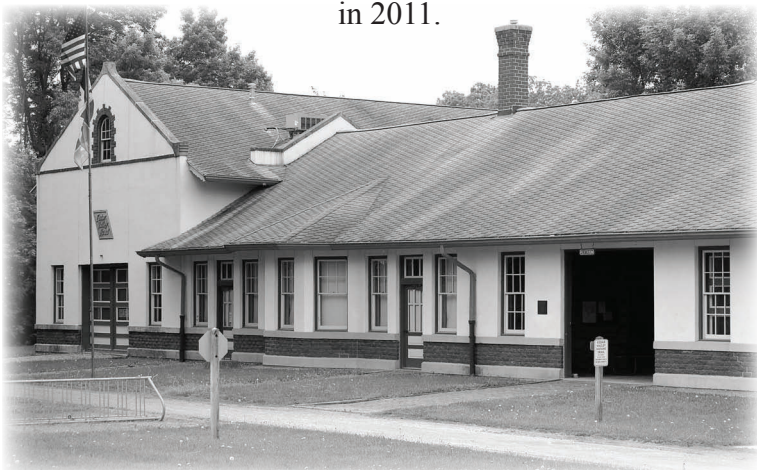
CEMAR right of way looking from 29th St. towards 1st. Ave



CEMAR right of way looking from 20th St. towards 29th St.

Cedar Valley Nature Trail

Grants have been awarded to the Linn County Conservation Department for two projects on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. The first project will renovate and restore the historic depot building in Center Point (below). Also, the Linn County Conservation Department has received a \$449,400 grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation for hard surfacing a 3.5 mile stretch of the trail from County Home Road to Lafayette. Bridge replacements, underpass improvements, and the re-surfacing may begin in 2011.



State of the Trails: Current Trail Status

Indian Creek Nature Center

In the spring of 2009, the Indian Creek Nature Center dedicated three new walking trails. These trails are extensions of the Cedar Greenbelt National Recreation Trail. The Founders Trail is named in honor of Indian Creek Nature Center founders Barron "BB" Stamats and Jean O'Donnell. A new partially elevated trail (right), Wood Duck Way, connects the center to Lynch Wetland. The Wonder Trail will serve as an outdoor classroom for visitors to the nature center. All the trails provide opportunities for users to explore the natural habitat of the area.



National Trails Day

On Saturday, June 6, the Linn County Trails Association held its annual progressive breakfast to celebrate National Trails Day. This year's theme was "Take it to the Outdoors." Despite some wet weather, trail users braved the conditions to enjoy donated food and beverages. Several LCTA members staffed stations at McLoud Park, Greene Square Park, and Sokol Park.

The Linn County Conservation Department held a hike at Morgan Creek Park. Thank you to all those who volunteered and our 2009 sponsors: Croissant du Jour, Brewed Awakenings, Hy-Vee, Fareway, Wal-Mart, Target, and Coffee Emporium.

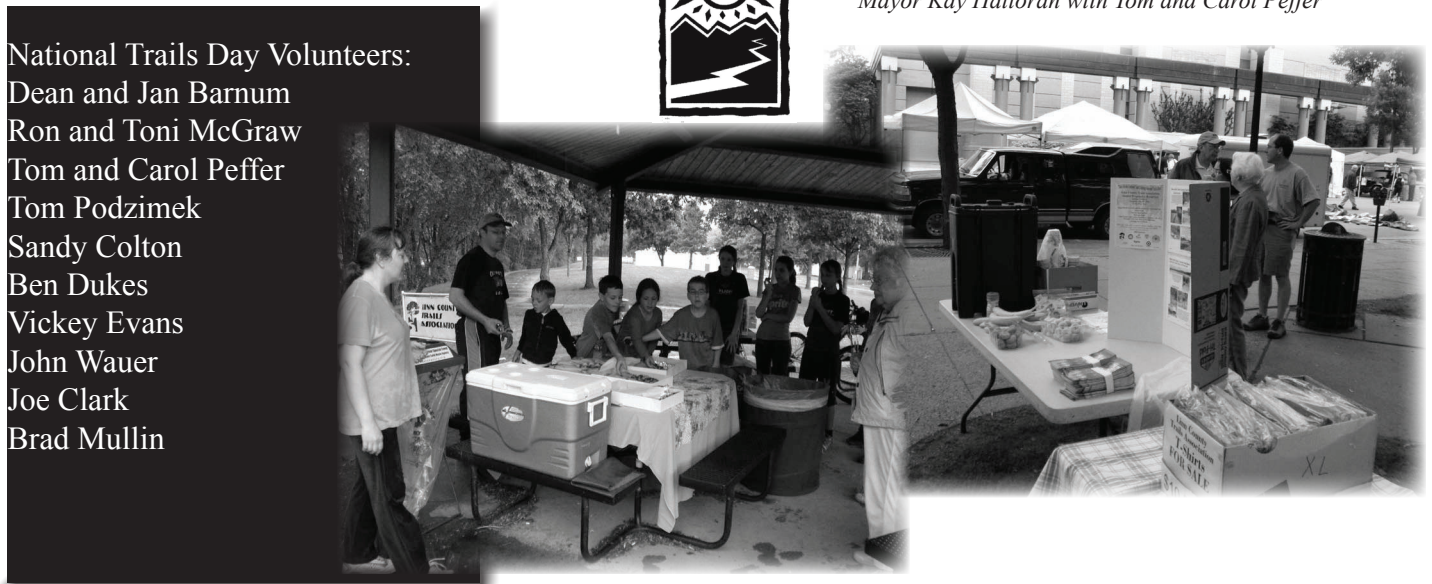


Mayor Kay Halloran with Tom and Carol Peffer



National Trails Day Volunteers:

Dean and Jan Barnum
Ron and Toni McGraw
Tom and Carol Peffer
Tom Podzimek
Sandy Colton
Ben Dukes
Vickey Evans
John Wauer
Joe Clark
Brad Mullin



Linn County Trails Association Contributors: December 2008-May 2009

\$1-\$99

*Dan Mineck
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Richard & Donna Butikofer
Tim Gilbertson
June Mengler
Joey Richey
Joseph Antisavage
Herb & Irene Eckert
Mark Ramsey
John Bader
Gordon and Jann Baustian
Robert & Cherie Butler
Vicky and Randy Evans
Roseann Goettsch
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Contributions in Memory of Kent Johnson:

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Carolyn Davis
David Evans
Mohamed and Sally Igram
Robert & Karleen Ferguson
Sally O'Neil*

\$100-\$199

*Robert & Elizabeth Allsop
John & Darlene Hess
Karen Christensen*

\$1000+

***THANK YOU TO ALL
THOSE WHO HAVE
CONTRIBUTED!***

Linn County Trails Association (LCTA) Supporter Form

Why would I want to support LCTA?

1. Your support will count you among the hundreds of enthusiastic trail advocates who make up the Linn County Trails Association.
2. By becoming a supporter you will have already begun to play an important role in building a network of connected trails in Linn County and the surrounding area.
3. 95% of all money raised through donations and grants goes directly to build more trails or to improve existing trails. LCTA has been able to multiply this financial support by providing matching funds to secure significant grants.
4. As a supporter, you will receive our quarterly newsletter. Here you can read about trail vacations, upcoming trail events, opportunities to volunteer, and issues that are important to trail development.
5. Supporters are not expected to attend meetings and no one will call you. Of course, if you want to get involved, we will welcome your help.

Learn more about LCTA by visiting our website at www.linncountytrails.org

Information required: (fill out if not on label on other side)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please print the information CLEARLY

Donations to LCTA are Tax Deductible

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| TRAIL BLAZER | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100* |
| TRAIL PARTNERS (Family) | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$ 35 |
| TRAIL SCOUT | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$ 20 |

*At the Trail Blazer level, supporters also receive the "Advocate," the newsletter of the Iowa Trails Council.

Please consider an additional donation for NEW TRAIL DEVELOPMENT \$ _____

If you provide your email address, we will send future reminders via email and will add you to the LCTA email distribution list, which is used to provide information on trail-related events to supporters.

Mail donations to:
Linn County Trails Association
PO Box 2681 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

**Please check your mailing label for your
Support Renewal Date.**

**If you renew without our sending you a
reminder, it saves us time & money.**

So PLEASE - Renew in a timely manner.

THANKS!

If you are not already a supporter, please consider helping us.

Linn County Trails Association
P.O. Box 2681
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2681

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