

Trail Connections

Spring 2014

The Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Linn County Trails Association



President's Message

WELCOME 2014

This was a rough winter and I know that all of you are anxious to get out and start enjoying on our Linn County/Corridor Trail System! We have some good early season trail options with the paved section from County Home Road (mile 3.2) to Schultz Rd (mile 10.3), Lindale Trail, and Prairie Lake Fishery.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

I am pleased to announce Linn County Conservation has initiated plans to pave the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from Schultz Rd into Center Point (another 3+ miles) in the next year or so. Linn County Trails Association has agreed to participate and contribute to this effort. You will be hearing more about this Capital Campaign in the next several months!

LOCAL TRAIL NEWS

1. At the April meeting we heard about trail/pedestrian options planned for Lindale Mall area, which definitely fits one of our goals – trail networks connecting to destinations. There is more work needed so that connections to more neighborhoods and the Cedar River Trail are finalized from the Lindale Mall area, but safe trail/pedestrian underpasses are a great step forward.

2. If you haven't had a chance yet, I hope you soon get to meet Brandon Whyte, the (almost) new Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO) Multi-modal Coordinator. He has been hard at work learning about our local trail systems, CMPO participating community needs, and collecting data. You may see him out in your neighborhood collecting information on bike commuters, trail users, and other data. All of this information will help the CMPO and groups like LCTA make informed decisions on trails development.

3. There will be some significant maintenance planned for the trail system in the Cedar Lake area to repair damage created during installation of new electric line distribution towers. We will attempt to keep you informed with up-to-date e-mail alerts or website updates about this maintenance work and other potential trail access interruptions as they are announced by the agencies involved.

4. We're coming up on the summer season with many options to help volunteer for LCTA. You can share information about Linn County Trails or help corral bikes at a Farmers Market, pick garlic mustard at Beverly Park during the Day(s) of Caring (5/8 & 9), and provide directions at the new "Ride Walk Play CR" event on Saturday, May 24th. I hope you will be able to help at one of these events or others over the next several months!

SUMMARY

I want to thank everyone who is a member of LCTA or supporter of this organization – expanding, maintaining, and continuing development of our Linn County and regional trail systems is what we are all about.

If you have not already renewed your LCTA membership for 2014, I hope you will take the time to renew it now! Your membership and support helps make TRAILS development happen in Linn County and the region!

LCTA Board meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month starting at 7:00 PM.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 12th and it will be held at a new location - the Shores Event Center, 700 16th Street NE. Some of you may remember this location as the site we held our Annual Trails Celebration this past December. This is likely to be our future meeting site for some time to come and we think you will enjoy the new location. Still close to the Cedar River trail off H Ave, and right on the future Cemar trail route

Hope to see you there

Steve Hershner
LCTA President

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Adam Lindenlaub (Corridor MPO)
Ed Holstrom (Trail Map Distribution)
Brandon Whyte (Multimodal
Transportation Planner)



Upcoming Events

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, April 14, 7:00pm

Location: United Way of East Central Iowa
317 7th Avenue SE,
Cedar Rapids

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, May 12, 7:00pm

Location: Shores Event Center
700 16th St NE L100

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, June 9, 7:00pm

Location: Shores Event Center
700 16th St NE L100

All meetings are open to the public.

Sign up to receive recent updates on trail news and events,
visit the Linn County Trails Association's website at

www.linncountytrails.org



Find LCTA on facebook @
www.facebook.com/lctrails



Follow LCTA on Twitter @
www.twitter.com/lctrails

*Trail Connections is the quarterly publication of the
Linn County Trails Association.*

It is published January, April, July and October

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

Spring 2014



Separated Trails	Miles	Surface	Remarks
Bowling Street Trail	1.8	Asphalt	From 50th Street SW to Wilson Avenue
Boyson Trail	2.4	Crushed Limestone	Follows Indian Creek, Marion
Cedar River Trail	13	Asphalt	Cedar Rapids and Hiawatha (ADT)
Cedar Valley Nature Trail	20.5	Asphalt/Crushed Limestone	Paved from Boyson Rd. to Schultz Rd.
CEMAR Trail	0.6	Asphalt	From 20th to 29th St. NE
CRT Lake Loop	1.6	Asphalt	Around Cedar Lake
Ellis Trail	3.6	Asphalt/Concrete	From Edgewood Rd. NW to Downtown CR
Grant Wood Trail	8.5	Natural	Through Easter Linn County in 3 segments
Hoover Nature Trail	2.7	Asphalt	76th Ave. SW to Ely Park (ADT)
Kirkwood Connector Trail	1.2	Concrete	From Ely Rd. to Kirkwood Campus
Krumholtz Trail	.75	Crushed Limestone	Marion: Thomas Park to Highway 100
Lindale Trail	1	Asphalt	From Lindale Dr. West to C Ave.
Robins Trail	0.7	Asphalt	Along Main St, Robins. Connects to CVNT
Sac and Fox Trail	7.1	Crushed Limestone	*Closed from Rosedale Rd. to Wilder Dr.*
Park Trails	Miles	Surface	Remarks
Beverly Park Trail System	5	Natural	SW CR: Singletrack Mountain Bike trails
Cedar Greenbelt Trail	4.7	Natural	Near Indian Creek Nature Center/Sac and Fox Trail
Cherokee Park Trail	1	Crushed Limestone	West Side: Edgewood to Wiley Blvd.
Cherry Hill Park Trail	0.8	Crushed Limestone	NW Cedar Rapids: Cherry Hill Park
David Spicer Memorial Trail	0.4	Crushed Limestone	NW Cedar Rapids: Jackson Elementary School
Fay Clark Memorial Trail	0.7	Asphalt	Hiawatha: Fay Clark Memorial Park
Fross Park	1.2	Crushed Limestone	NW Center Point
Huston Park Trail	0.11	Asphalt	SE Cedar Rapids
Lowe Park Trail	0.5	Asphalt	Marion: N. 10th St to 35th Ave
Matsell Bridge Natural Area Trail System	8.4	Natural	NE Linn County, near Viola
Morgan Creek Trail System	3.8	Natural	NW Cedar Rapids
Nixon Trail	0.75	Crushed Limestone	NE Cedar Rapids: Around Nixon School
Noelridge Park Trail	0.8	Crushed Limestone	NE Cedar Rapids: Noelridge Park
Pinicon Ridge Park Trail System	12	Asphalt/Natural	Five park trails connecting to Central City
Prairie Park Fishery Trail	2	Asphalt	SE Cedar Rapids: Prairie Park Fishery
Reed Park Trail	0.25	Crushed Limestone	SW Cedar Rapids near Taylor Elementary School
Squaw Creek Park Trail System	4	Natural	Located within Squaw Creek Park plus 1 mile singletrack mountain bike trail
Thomas Park Singletrack	2	Natural	Singletrack mountain bike trail
Van Buren Park Trail	0.5	Crushed Limestone	SW Cedar Rapids near Van Buren Elementary School
Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center Trail System	5	Natural	5 mile network near Toddville

LCTA Mile Marker Project

-John Wauer

Glenn Heims, Captain E5 CRFD, originally asked LCTA for a location system that could be used by the emergency responders to locate someone on the Linn County trail system after a 911 call. The location system being installed by LCTA under the sponsorship of the City of Cedar Rapids consists of painting trail name and mileage on the paved trail.

Mileage is referenced from the southern-most or western-most location on the trail. Previous trail mileage signs frequently displayed mileage from both ends of the trail; however this gives an ambiguous location system; therefore location mileage can only be displayed in one direction. This is similar to the milepost system used by the state and federal highway systems.

The emergency responders prefer a USNG (US National Grid) coordinate system that can specify a location within 10 meters using an 8 digit number. This is also known as the Military Grid Reference System (MGRS). A single USNG grid is limited to a 100 km square or a 62 mile square. Cedar Rapids and Iowa City are comfortably inside one of the grids with Center Point on the western edge and Highway 20 just north of the northern edge of the grid. The mile-marker/trail-name GPS coordinates must be converted into USNG coordinates for use by the emergency responders. GPS smart phone apps are available to do this. The emergency responders can also be supplied with trail maps showing the mile marker locations.

Ron Griffith, Cedar Rapids traffic engineering and BikeCR chairman, has coordinated with the other local jurisdictions and developed a set of stencils to be used to paint mileage information directly on the paved trail surface and Cedar Rapids has provided the paint. Teams of LCTA volunteers have painted the signs. Mileage is painted every 0.1 mile with the trail name painted every 0.5 miles.



Rotary Club has indicated an interest in installing physical milepost signs every mile along the trail. This is particularly important on crushed limestone trails where painting is not possible.

Last fall, mile markers were painted on most of the Cedar River Trail except for two segments that were impacted by trail or road construction. Mileage is measured from the Johnson County Line where the Hoover Trail is projected to cross into Johnson County (mile zero). (The Hoover Trail is supposed to be completed across the Johnson County Line in 2016.) The mile marker at the beginning of the Cedar River Trail at 76th St SW is 4.2. The mile marker at mile zero of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail at Boyson Rd will be 28. This spring, mile markers will be painted on the Hoover trail to Ely, on Cedar River Trail from Emmons St to Cedar Valley Nature Trailhead, and though the new CRANDIC railroad bridge underpass. The project may also be extended to other separated trails next summer.

LCTA volunteers Larry Scott, Rex McCright, Dick Mundy, Jeff Keiser, and John Wauer painted the mile markers last fall. There will be more volunteer opportunities this year to continue the project.

All Photos: John Wauer

New Multi-Modal Transportation Planner



At the end of 2013, Brandon Whyte was hired as the CMPO Multi-Modal Transportation Planner. The three functions of the CMPO Multi-Modal Planner are planning, funding and education and outreach. Before coming to Cedar Rapids, Brandon was the Assistant Transportation Planner at Active Transportation Alliance. With the Active Transportation Alliance, he prepared bicycle and pedestrian plans for clients across Illinois. Based in Chicago, Illinois, the Active Transportation Alliance is a non-profit advocacy organization that works to improve conditions for bicycling, walking and transit and engage people in healthy and active ways to get around.

Brandon specific interests and goals are to improve the transportation networks upon which we depend on to live our lives. In addition, Brandon has expressed some future objectives:

1. Complete Streets Design Standards for area projects.
2. Updating the Metro-Wide Comprehensive Plan.
3. Secure as much funding as possible for trails and cycling projects.
 4. A complete metro-wide way-finding system.
 5. Increase media presence through all mediums.
 6. Increase community support for cycling.
 7. Increase overall ridership within the community.

Meet Me at the Market 2014

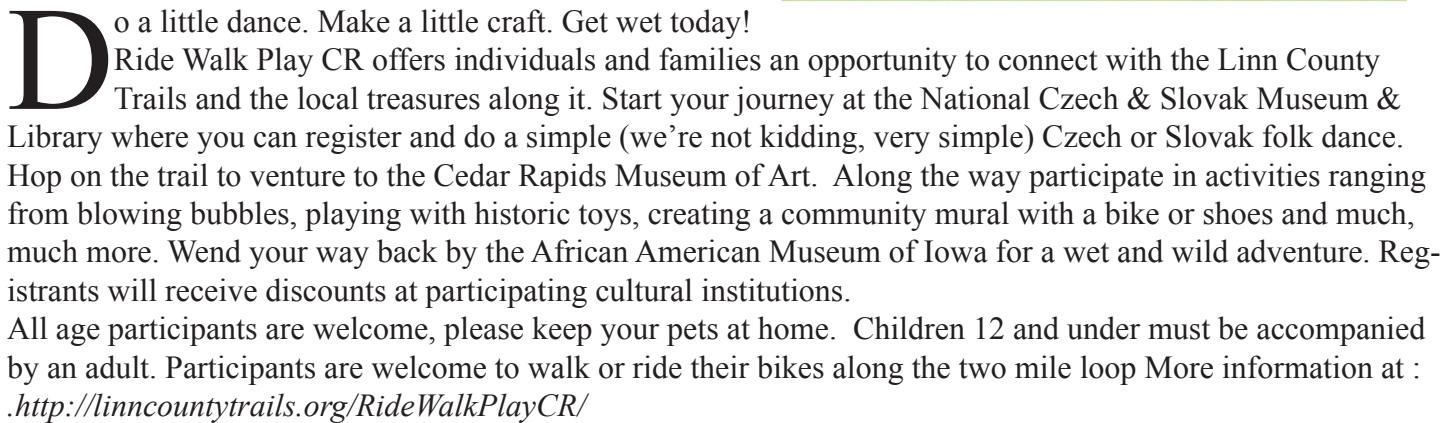
-John Wauer

CTA has been a partner in promoting and managing the Meet Me at the Market event headquartered at the NewBo City Market during the 2013 season and is again participating in the 2014 season. Meet Me at the Market originated as an event to promote a healthy lifestyle by encouraging walking, running, and biking and yoga. Of course this also encourages trail usage. We had strong participation last year with 1488 registrations. Check-In is from 5-6:30 pm every Thursday from May through September at the NewBo City Market, 1100 3rd St SE, Cedar Rapids.

You can participate on your own or participate in a group walk, run or bike activity. Yoga is always done as a group activity. Suggested routes are available. We plan to enhance our group activities this year. The events are free. You must register once for the 2014 season, even if you participated last year. On-line registration is available at <http://newbocitymarket.com/meetme/> or you can paper register at the check-in table.



Memorial Day Weekend Fun!



Fees:

Adult	\$5
Child 12 and under	\$2
Family	\$15

Starting Location

Sponsors of this event include the following area non-profit organizations:

**African American Museum of Iowa
Carl & Mary Koehler History Center
Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
Cedar Rapids Public Library
Cedar Rapids Science Center
Iowa Children's Museum
Linn County Trails Association
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
Wickiup Hill Nature Center**



National Trails Day®: June 7th, 2014

**National
Trails Day**



Since the creation of the American Hiking Society's National Trails Day® in 1993, the program has inspired and engaged thousands of individuals, trail clubs, businesses and government agencies worldwide. National Trails Day® encourages the public and trail enthusiasts nationwide to learn about and celebrate trails. It also provides an opportunity to thank volunteers, public agencies and outdoor-minded businesses for their support in developing and maintaining trails. On Saturday, June 7th, the Linn County Trails Association, Cedar Rapids Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Linn Area Mountain Biking Association will reward Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers Market Bike Corral users with free donated food and beverages. Over 100 cyclists used the corral on the first day of the farmer's market as part of the 2013 American Hiking Society's National Trail Day celebration.

In addition, the first Saturday in June was the beginning of the Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers' Market. This year, the Linn County Trail Association is assisting in providing free and secure bicycle parking at the Downtown Farmers' Markets. The corral is located in Greene Square Park along the Cedar River Trail. The corral service allows for area residents to choose cycling as an alternate means of transportation to the market. In addition, the corral provides information on current trail and bicycle activities in the area. The corral service is available from 7:30am to noon each market.

So join other area cycling advocates, ride down the Market and park it at the corral. It is a great opportunity to show the community's support for cycling facilities as many of the residents choose cycling as means of transportation and not just recreation. For more information about the 2014 Downtown Farmers' Market visit: cedarrapids.org.

Cedar River Trail: CRANDIC Railroad Underpass:

In Summer 2013, construction began on the Cedar River Trail underpass of the CRANDIC Railroad Bridge. To increase safety, an underpass of the bridge was agreed upon by the City of Cedar Rapids and CRANDIC Railroad. The CRANDIC Railroad contributed \$82,400 to the project and FEMA has approved \$431,566 for the construction as an Alternate Project. The current trail routing through the Park and Ride Lot will be eliminated. Of the two connections to the Park and Ride Lot, the north connection, located 70 feet north of the CRANDIC Bridge, will not be retained due to the high cost of retaining the connection with America with Disabilities Act grades and retaining walls. The existing south connection to the Park and Ride Lot, located 500 feet south of the north connection is retained with the project improvements. Project should complete in the Spring 2014. Remember to obey barricades and signage as the project is finished.



2013 LCTA Contributors

Thank you to all those who contributed in 2013. 2013 contributions totaled \$20,678.31 for trail development in Linn County .

Contributors between \$500-\$1,000

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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. All donations are
tax deductible.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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

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P.O. Box 2681
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Look for these new mile markers on the Cedar River Trail in the upcoming year.