



Trail Connections

The Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Linn County Trails Association

Fall 2014



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Transportation Planner)



Upcoming Events

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, October 13, 7:00pm

Location: Shores Event Center

700 16th St NE L100

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, November 10, 7:00pm

Location: Shores Event Center

700 16th St NE L100

LCTA Annual Supporter Appreciation Event

Monday, December 8, 5:30pm

Location: Shores Event Center

700 16th St NE L100

All meetings are open to the public.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

If you plan to do any holiday shopping on Amazon.com this season, please support LCTA with Amazon Smile. It is a new program in which the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to LCTA. To start, enter in the URL <http://smile.amazon.com> into your browser, and search for "Linn County Trails Association". By participating in this program, you can easily support LCTA while getting your holiday shopping done. Thanks for your continued support!

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

Fall 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	*Open 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 President's Message

This past construction season has seen a focus on trail-related amenities, such as new trail-adjacent parks, testing of various bike lane or sharrows options that will help to expand our trail network connections, and more bike corrals in more places. In addition, there were many trail or bike focused activities this past summer (THANK YOU LCTA Volunteers!) like another successful Linn County Mayors' Bike Ride, weekly Meet Me at the (NewBo) Market rides, Walk/Run/Play, lots of bike parking and trail discussions at downtown Farmers Markets (including our first one in Marion), the inaugural Corridor MPO Bike Tour, and one that I really enjoyed – two opportunities to ride to the top of Mt. Trashmore!

In 2015, we expect to see continued progress on projects that will lay the ground for significant expansion of our trail network in future years throughout Linn County. Cedar Rapids is initiating design work for the Cemar and several other trail sections; Marion is working on their Cemar trail connection options, Linn County is working with the DOT to put in a trail underpass on HWY 13 for the Grant Wood trail and after funding has been finalized completing paving from Schultz Rd to Center Point on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

TRAIL NEWS

1. Brandon Whyte, is the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMPO) Multi-modal Coordinator and he will making a presentation at our Board meeting in November on what he has learned about our trail systems over the past (almost) year, enhanced trail user/count data, and looking forward in trail development.

2. Trail maintenance continues to be a challenge for our trail systems. Linn County has recently repaired or replaced several bridges on the CVNT and Cedar Rapids has completed some basic maintenance on several Cedar River Trail sections and is attempting in cooperation with the DOT to finally complete an update to the CRT/42nd St NE intersection. June flash flooding caused significant damage to popular trails like Boyson Park, Sac & Fox, and the CVNT. These repairs are costly and a real challenge for our local government partners. We will attempt to keep you informed with up-to-date email alerts or website updates about this maintenance work and other potential trail access interruptions as they are announced by the agencies involved.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

We are continuing to develop grant applications and other materials for our capital campaign in support of Linn County Conservation's plan to pave the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from Schultz Rd into Center Point (another 3+ miles). LCC is working on grant options for this project and we hope to hear some good news about the status of those applications yet this year – we'll keep you informed!!

LCTA Board meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month starting at 7:00 PM at the Shores Event Center, 700 16th St NE (downstairs, there is an elevator, thank you Mindy!).

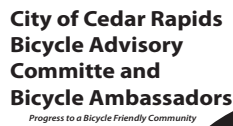
Just a reminder that our Annual Trails Celebration will held at this same location on Monday, December 8th from 5:30~7:30 PM. Please plan to attend!

Hope to see you soon at one of our Board meetings or on a local trail!

Hope to see you there

Steve Hershner
LCTA President

2014 National Trails Day Breakfast Sponsors



The American Hiking Society's National Trails Day was Saturday, June 7th. The event was well attended and volunteers parked over 100 bicycles. Since the creation of National Trails Day® in 1993, the program has inspired and engaged thousands of individuals, trail clubs, businesses and government agencies worldwide. National Trails Day® inspires the public and trail enthusiasts nationwide to discover, learn about and celebrate trails.

National Trails Day

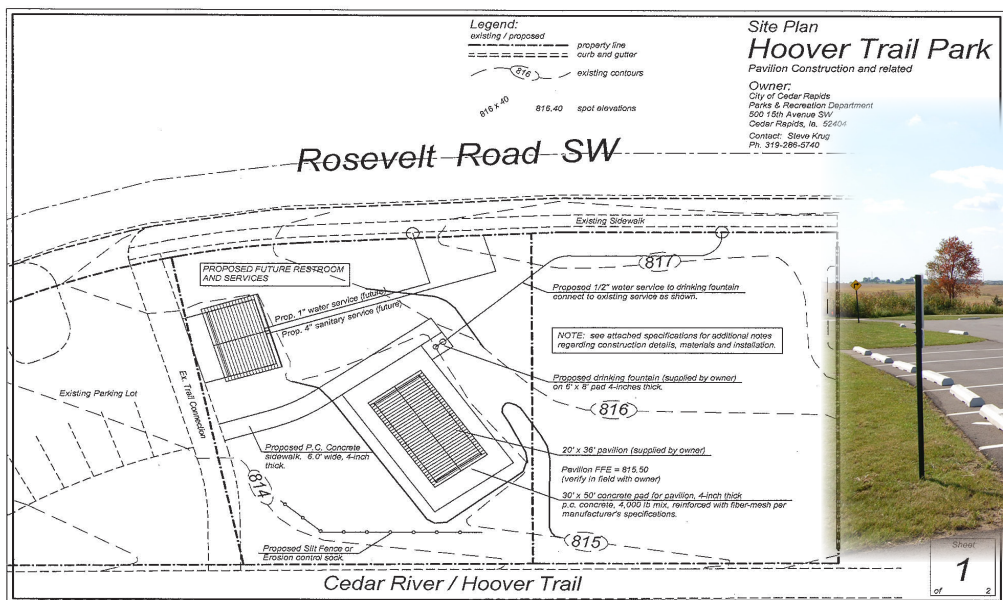


2014 NTD Volunteers:

*Vicky Evans
Paul Fiegen
Larry Scott
Kirschen Seah
John Wauer
Steve Hershner
Dean and Jan Barnum
Ron McGraw
Leland Freie
Mike Wilson*

Trail Amenties: Hoover Trail Park Improvements.

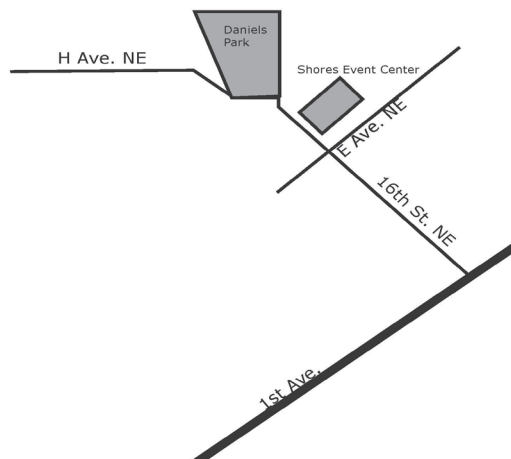
A new amenity will soon be located along the southern section of the Cedar River Park. The city purchased some lots of the Hoover Trail Addition Housing Development. In the summer of 2014, the city constructed a trailhead parking lot. The city contracted for the construction of a gabled pavilion and playground. Installation of the pavilion and playground should occur this fall. Future plans include a restroom and drinking fountain at the site.



Linn County Trails Association: Annual Supporter Appreciation Event

The Linn County Trails Association would like to invite our supporters to our Annual Supporter Appreciation Event.

The annual event allows trail supporters to meet with some of the LCTA Board of Directors and learn about trail activities that occurred over the past year. The event is Monday, December 8th in place of our regular board meeting. The venue for this year's event is the Shores Event Center located at 700 16th Street NE. It is a beautifully restored space in the heart of Cedar Rapids' Irish District and not far off of the CEMAR Trail. Food and drink will be provided. Alcoholic beverages will be made available for purchase for those 21 and over. The event will begin at 5:30pm and end at 7:30pm. Donations are welcomed.



Trail Amenties: *City of Ely* *Improvements.*

By 2015, Ely City Park will feature a new restroom and concession stand building. In addition, the park has new playground. In addition, the city of Ely received a Iowa Public Health Community Transformation Grant. With the \$1,700 grant, the city purchased 18 new bike racks for installation around the community. Trail users will appreciate these new amenities on the southern end of the county trail system.

The city of Ely will choose the route connecting Ely City Park to Ely City Hall. The first phase will connect the trail to the Ely Community Center. Trail users will get a brief tour through the city Ely. The trail will follow the former railroad right of way from Ely City Park south along to Dows Street, then to Main Street, then down the east side of Main Street to Rowley Street, then down the south side of Rowley Street. Trails will get a brief tour through Ely. With a portion already funded, construction of the Ely section will occur in 2015.



Seeing Green: Amenities in Downtown Cedar Rapids

In September 2014, Iowa's first permanent green bicycle lanes were installed in Cedar Rapids. On June 4th, the city was the first to test green bike lanes painting a 50 square foot green section on Third Avenue Southeast. Funding for the installation of green bike lanes was made possible through a \$10,000 Iowa Public Health Community Transformation Grant. The Community Transformation Grant (CTG) is a program of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The grant's purpose is to reduce risk factors responsible for the leading causes of death and disability by creating healthier communities. Cedar Rapids secured funding through Linn County Public Health, ensuring the community can enjoy new bike safety features without sacrificing funds from roads or sidewalks.

On Thursday September 25th, crews installed Iowa's first permanent green bike lanes in Cedar Rapids. According to regulations, green bike lanes are installed 50 feet in front of and after intersections to help highlight potential conflict areas, and encourage drivers making turns in the bike lane to be alert for people on bikes. The city's initial green bike lanes were installed 50 feet leading into and out of the intersection on 3rd Street SE.

(continued on page 9)



In July, the City of Cedar Rapids installed Iowa's second on-street bike corral. The first on-street bike corral was installed in Decatur. The Cedar Rapids corral was installed in an effort to address the issue of cars and motor cycles parking between the newly installed parklets on 3rd St and 2nd Ave. These 4 angled bike racks will provide parking for 8 cyclists in the space occupied by single motor vehicle. During the fall, the city of Cedar Rapids will install 12 new thermoplastic coated by racks. The plastic coated reduce the risk of damage to bicycles as well add to the longevity of the rack itself. Look for new green racks in the Downtown District and red racks in the Czech Village Area.

These new bike lanes serve an educational purpose as well. They provide an opportunity for the community to learn safety features of green bike lanes. Clearly-marked bike lanes increase safety for both drivers and cyclists. Green bike lanes are designated travel lanes for cyclists, and help call attention to intersections where a car and bike may conflict.

The bright green paint clearly calls attention to areas where cyclists may be riding, and encourages drivers to use extra caution when making a right-hand turn. According to the FHWA, two-thirds of all bike/car conflicts occur at intersections. Additionally, green lanes also help organize traffic on the road and encourage bicyclists to position themselves more accurately as they travel across intersections.

Frequently Asked Questions about Bike Lanes:

***Brandon Whyte
Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization
Multi-Modal Coordinator***

Q: Can cars travel on the bike lanes?

A: Cars cannot use the green bike lane as a travel lane; the green lanes designate safe areas for cyclists. Cars may move into the green bike lane when making a right-hand turn 50 feet from the intersection, when they are pulling into driveways, or when they are crossing the bike lane to park (after yielding to bikes). Buses can also temporarily move into the green bike lane when dropping off and picking up passengers.

Q: Will the paint be able to handle Midwest weather?

A: Yes. The green paint is a Durable Liquid Pavement Marking that includes epoxy and Methyl Methacrylate (MMA). Epoxies are adhesive, water-borne acrylics that are typically applied as a paint or spray. This skid-resistant, textured paint is the approved color by the Federal Highway Administration, and will not require maintenance for 4 – 5 years.



2014 LINN COUNTY MAYORS' RIDE

On Monday September 1st. morning, 359 registered riders enjoyed an 8.5 mile ride through Cedar Rapids using streets and trails. Pre-ride refreshments and informational displays were provided for everyone by this year's sponsors. This year's ride was sponsored by the Linn County Trails Association, Bike CR, and Scheldrup Blades Law Practice of Cedar Rapids. As with every year, several local elected officials participated in this year's event.



SCHELDRUP BLADES



2014 Mayors' Ride Local Elected Officials

Cedar Rapids, Mayor: Ron J. Corbett

Springville, Mayor: Roger A. Shebetka

Fairfax, Mayor: Jason M. Rabe

Iowa Senate: District 33, Senator, Robert Hogg

Iowa House: District 66, Representative, Art Staed

Iowa House: District 68, Representative, Daniel Lundby

Iowa House: District 69, Representative, Kirsten Running-Marquardt

Cedar Rapids: Council Member: At Large, Susie Weinacht

Cedar Rapids: Council Member: District 4, Scott E. Olson

Robins: Council Member, Donald B. Norton II

The annual Linn County Mayors' Bike Ride is a free, educational bicycle ride organized as an opportunity to showcase the continued need and development for multi-modal transportation networks in Linn County. The event is unique as it allows elected officials to directly interact with constituents interested in trail development. And, for many citizens, the opportunity to speak to elected officials is an irregular opportunity. Providing both elected officials and citizens the opportunity to engage about trail development, the Mayors' Bike Ride is a mission driven event that results in more collaboration between the public and government. The Linn County Trail Association would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help make this year's ride a success. Additional gratitude goes to those who rode in this year's ride to show support for trails and bicycling in Linn County.



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. All donations are
tax deductible.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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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Cedar Rapids Mayor, Ron Corbett joins other trail supports on the 2014 Linn County Mayors' Ride