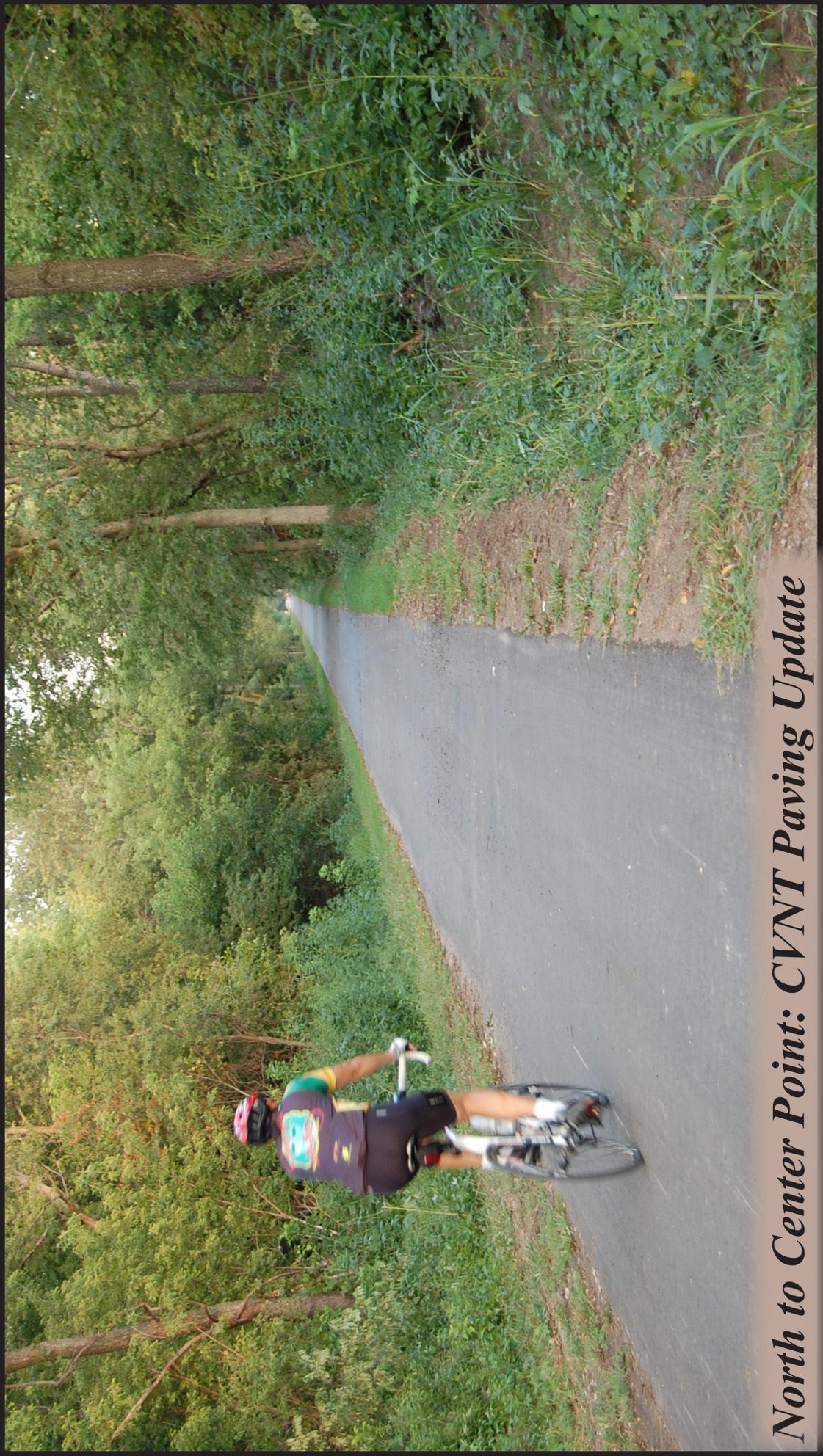




Trail Connections

The Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Linn County Trails Association

Summer 2015



North to Center Point: CVNT Paving Update

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Upcoming Events

LCTA Board Meeting
Monday, September 14, 7:00pm
Location: Shores Event Center
700 16th St NE L100

LCTA Board Meeting
Monday, October 12, 7:00pm
Location: Shores Event Center
700 16th St NE L100

LCTA Board Meeting
Monday, November 9, 7:00pm
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 shopping on Amazon.com this year 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 online 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: Summer 2015



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
Central City-Wapsi Nature Trail	1.3	Concrete	Central City connecting to Pinicon Ridge Park
CRT Lake Loop	1.6	Asphalt	Around Cedar Lake
Ellis Trail	3.6	Asphalt/Concrete	From Edgewood Rd. NW to Downtown CR
Fairfax Trail	.3	Concrete	Fairfax with bridge over Prairie Creek
Grant Wood Trail	8.5	Natural	Through Eastern 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 President's Message

As we use trails it may be possible to remember a time or two when we have had a less than pleasant experience. Trail courtesy isn't just about being friendly, it can help avoid serious safety incidents as well. As members of LCTA, we should set a good example for all trail users. I have compiled a short list of the best practices while using the trail system.

1. Keep to the right, and pass on the left. When passing someone, let them know you are approaching and will be passing on the left. The best way to call it out is to announce "on your left". A loud ring of the bike bell will also help to let others know you're approaching. Please take extra care with small children and pets. They can be unpredictable, and going fast just isn't worth a potential collision.
2. Keep pets leashed at all times and pick up after them on the trail. This will help to avoid unnecessary dodging of pets and their waste.
3. Leave nothing on the trail but good memories. Litter is not appealing to any user. We have all worked hard to create and advocate for trails. Let's show our pride by keeping them in tip-top condition.
4. Stay on the designated trails. If you're looking for an off-road experience with a mountain bike, Beverly and Squaw Creek have great singletrack trail facilities.
5. If you need to stop for a rest or to enjoy the view, step off the trail to clear the path for other users.
6. Remember that pedestrians and cyclists going uphill are working hard and should be given the right of way over those coming down hill.
7. When traveling with a group, stay in single file to avoid accidents when encountering other trail users. If you must ride side by side, please be sure to revert to single file when there is an oncoming rider from the other direction.
8. Although it is not common to encounter horses, if you are on a trail and happen to approach a horse and rider, quietly make your presence known, and yield while the horse passes you, or wait for the rider to acknowledge your presence and pass with caution.

Please remember these the next time you're on the trail. It could mean the difference between a safe and fun journey, or a trip to the emergency room.

Paul Fiegen
LCTA President

2015 LINN COUNTY MAYORS' RIDE

Come and celebrate the City of Cedar Rapids Bronze level designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the American League of Bicyclists. The ride is Labor Day, Monday September 7th. Tentative plans include the same route as last year with a 9:00 am start at Ellis Park. In addition, volunteers for the ride are needed for various duties that day.

In 2010, Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett proclaimed September as "Bicycle Safety & Driver Alertness Month" in Cedar Rapids. All residents are encouraged to identify and learn the various aspects of bicycle and motor vehicle safety as it relates to sharing our public roads in an effort to make Cedar Rapids' streets some of the safest in the state. The Mayors' Ride is a great opportunity to practice safe riding and trail use. Your participation is important in illustrating the support for trails and bicycle amenities throughout Linn County.



Cedar Valley Nature Trail: Phase 4

The Linn County Conservation Board (LCCB) plans to reconstruct and hard surface approximately 3.5 miles of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail (CVNT) from Schultz Road to Central City Road (E16) in Center Point and on to Apple Creek Bridge. Linn County Trails Association (LCTA) has been asked to provide a public match of \$100,000 to the total project cost of \$1,209,000. This is Phase 4 of a goal to pave the entire CVNT. LCCB has committed to paving through Center Point in 2016, and engineering work is nearing completion, making this project “shovel-ready”. Your support now will allow this project to continue on schedule.



American Discovery Trail

The CVNT is a 51 mile trail from Hiawatha to Evansdale (Cedar Falls/Waterloo). It is mostly along a wooded corridor connecting small towns. It is owned and maintained jointly by Linn County and Black Hawk Counties, including those portions of the trail in Benton and Buchanan Counties.

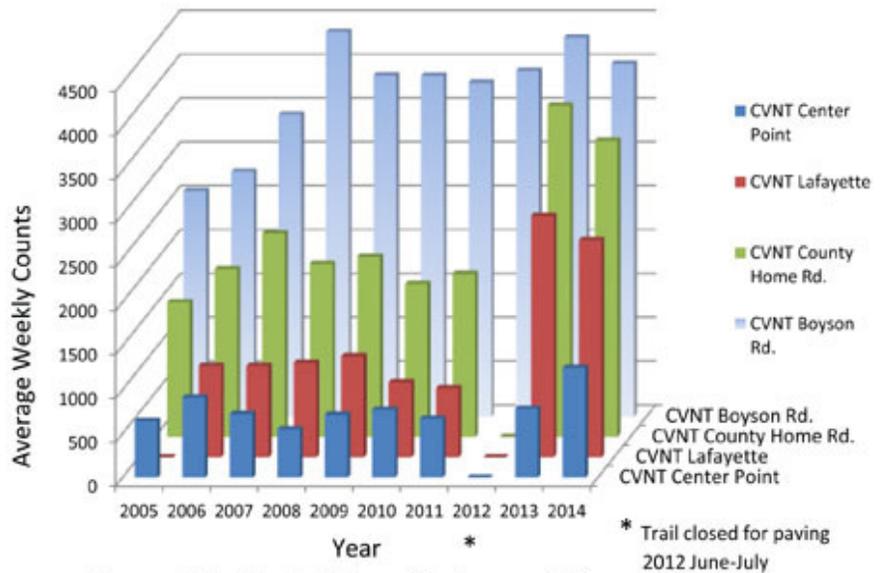
The trail extension through Cedar Rapids is known as the Cedar River Trail, then as the Hoover Trail on to Ely. Johnson County is working to extend the trail on through Solon, North Liberty and Iowa City. The Grant Wood Trail provides a connection to Jones County. The trail corridor is part of the American Discovery Trail, which is a national coast-to-coast recreational trail.



Until 2004 the Cedar Valley Nature Trail surface in Linn County was entirely crushed limestone. In 2004 the trail was paved from the trail head at Boyson Rd. to County Home Rd, including a trail underpass at County Home Rd. (Phase 1). In 2012, the trail from County Home Rd. to Lafayette was shut down during June and July to extend the pavement through Lafayette and on to Schultz Rd. (Phases 2 and 3). Schultz Rd. is 3 miles from Center Point. Linn County Conservation Board now plans to extend the pavement through Center Point in 2016 (Phase 4).

Since 2004, LCTA has been installing and maintaining trail counters at 12 locations in the Cedar Rapids Metro Area. Four of the counters are on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail (Boyson Rd, County Home Rd, Lafayette, and Center Point). The trail counter at County Home Rd. was located beyond the 2004 pavement in order to count the number of users that continued past the pavement onto crushed limestone surface. Both County Home Rd and Lafayette counters are on the 2012 pavement. We observed a significant increase in usage over the newly paved trail segments, proving that paving the trail is a worthwhile investment:

- The traffic past County Home Rd. doubled.
- The traffic through Lafayette increased by 150%.



**Average Weekly Trail Usage for June and July
CEDAR VALLEY NATURE TRAIL**



Why Stop Here?
Help Us Complete the Trail to Center Point.

Cedar Valley Nature Trail: Phase 4

The most significant limitation to increased usage is all-weather availability and accessibility for all due to lack of a smooth paved surface. The current crushed limestone surface discourages:

- Many bicycle users with narrow tires
- Mothers with strollers
- Users with wheelchairs
- Other wheeled devices such as inline skates

The spring thaw and following rains create a soft, easily rutted surface that may last well into June. Other issues are the rough surface and dusty conditions of the dry crushed limestone, and increased maintenance cost for a limestone surface vs. paved surface.

LCTA is requesting your support to assist us in achieving our \$100,000 goal to continue enhancing a valuable asset. 100% of funds collected for Pave-the-Trail will be applied to this capital campaign. LCTA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and your contributions to LCTA are entirely tax deductible. Thank you for your continued support of trails.

For more information about the paving project see

<http://linncountytrails.org/pave-the-trail/>

A donation form and a PayPal link are available to donate by check or credit card. Please consider asking your employer to match your gift.



**YES, I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO PAVING PHASE 4,
CEDAR VALLEY NATURE TRAIL**

PLEASE ACCEPT MY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____

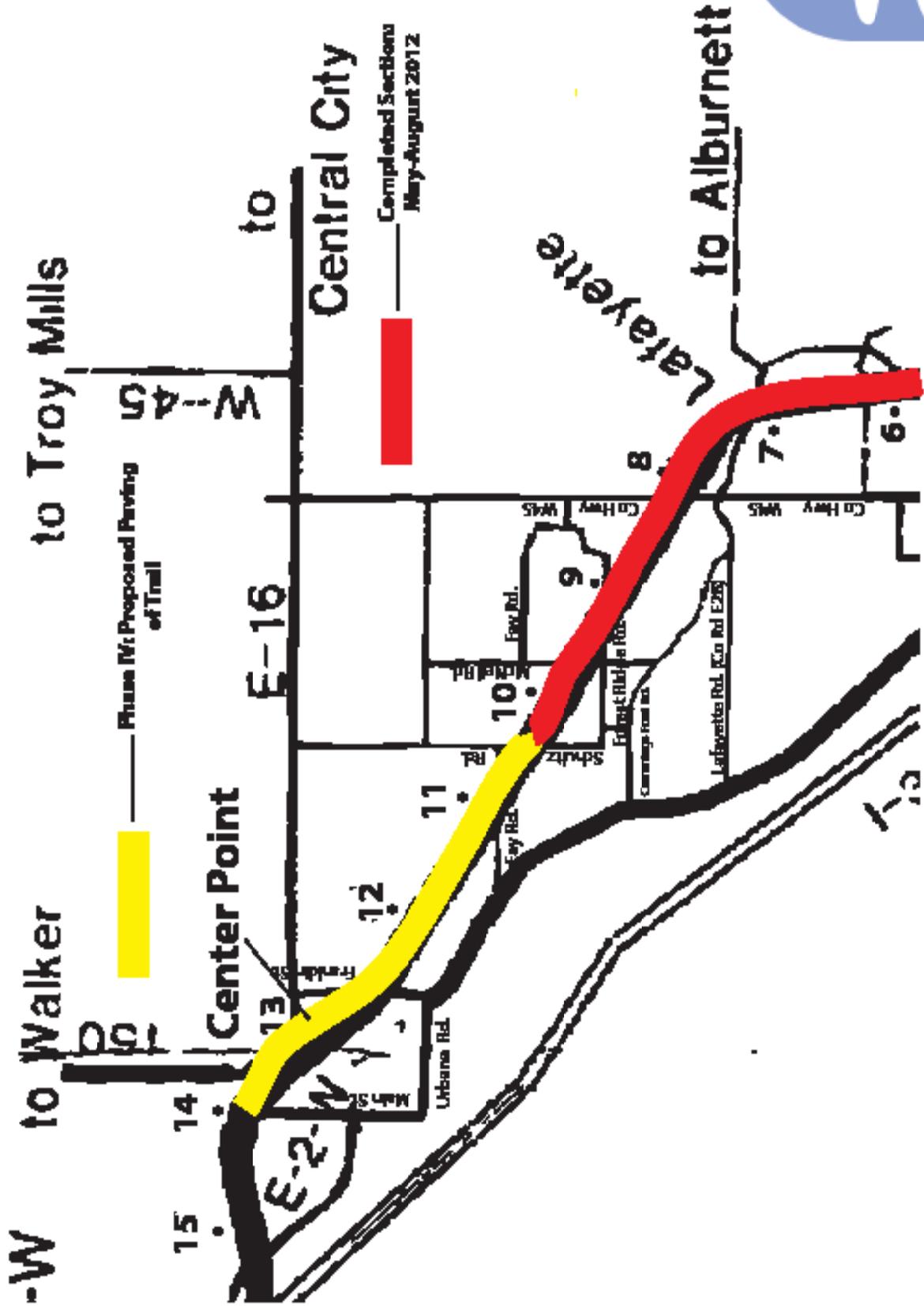
NAME (PLEASE PRINT)_____

ADDRESS_____CITY_____STATE____ZIP_____

TELEPHONE_____EMAIL_____

PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO: LCTA, P.O. BOX 2681, CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52406-2681

Cedar Valley Nature Trail Phase IV Paving (2016)



Linn County Trails
ASSOCIATION

Hoover Nature Trail: Ely

In July 2015, Ely will extend the Hoover Nature Trail southward from Ely City Park to the Ely Community Center. Ely received a \$199,700 grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation to help pay the cost of extending the trail through the community. Trail users will exit the park and follow a route on Dows and Rowley streets. In addition, the city of Ely is planning to surface the park parking lot and construct a paved walking trail within Ely City Park.

On April 13, 2015, the Ely City Council approved the Hoover Trail alignment along Ely Road to the Linn/Johnson County Line at Seven Sisters Road. The County received funding from the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization in May 2015.

In late August, the County will begin a road project for Ely Road. The county will resurface segments of Ely Road with a concrete overlay. As part of the project, there will be some grading and widening of the roadway's fore slopes, the ground that goes from the shoulder to the bottom of the ditch.

In conjunction with the project, the county will complete preliminary work for the construction of the Hoover Nature Trail on the east side of Ely Rd. The road project will occur in 2016. Hoover Trail construction may begin in late 2016.



Bike down to Ely Fall Fest

The 8th Annual Ely Fall Fest is
Friday

October 2nd and Saturday, October 3rd. On Friday night, there is the Fall Fest 5k. Runners and walkers will use a section of trail north of the park. Please be careful and take caution if plan to use the trail that night. If you would like to volunteer for Ely Fall Fest, contact 319-848-4103 or elyparks@gmail.com.

LCTA SUPPORT FORM- WHY JOIN US?

1. Your support will count you among the hundreds of enthusiastic trail supporters and advocates who make up LCTA.
2. By joining LCTA, you will play an important role in building a network of connected trails within Linn County.
3. We are an all-volunteer organization, so most of the money we raise is used to advocate, build, or improve trails.
4. With your contribution, you'll stay even more connected by receiving our quarterly newsletter, including: upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, issues related to trail development and trail vacations.



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

Information required (Please print the information CLEARLY):

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

* Your email address will not be shared, and will be used only for supporter administration. To receive updates on trail related activities and events, join the LCTA email distribution list on the LCTA website. All donations to the LCTA are tax deductible.

TRAILBLAZER \$100

TRAIL PARTNERS (FAMILY) \$35

TRAIL SCOUT \$20

Contribute online at www.linncounttrails.org

or

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

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

***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
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In the future, trail users will go under Highway 13 into Marion. (Photo Credit: Mark Barkalow)