



Trail Connections

The Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Linn County Trails Association

Winter 2015/2016



Hoover Nature Trail Update

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Upcoming Events

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, March 14th, 7:00pm

Location: Shores Event Center

700 16th St NE L100

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, April 11th 7:00pm

Location: Shores Event Center

700 16th St NE L100

LCTA Board Meeting

Monday, May 9th, 7:00pm

Location: Shores Event Center

700 16th St NE L100

All meetings are open to the public.



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: Winter 2016



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	All sections open.
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

ADT=American Discovery Trail, NRT= National Recreational Trail

LCTA President's Message

It is warming up again, and with it our desire to enjoy the Linn County trail resources. I'd like to thank all of our members for their generous support of the capital campaign that LCTA conducted in 2015. The strong community support that you showed unlocked a grant that was awarded for the project to continue the paving from Shultz Road to Center Point.

This construction will limit our use of the trail at times this season, but I'm confident the trail improvements will be worth the temporary inconvenience.

Thank you again for your support of trails in our community, and please set a good example for all trail users with safe and courteous trail behavior.

Paul Fiegen
LCTA President

2015 LINN COUNTY MAYORS' RIDE

The 2015 Linn County Mayors' ride was Labor Day, Monday September 7th. 305 riders rode in this year's ride. 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 was important in illustrating the support for trails and bicycle amenities throughout Linn County. Thank you to all those who participated.



2015 Elected Officials Participants

Cedar Rapids	Mayor	Ron J. Corbett
Cedar Rapids	Council Member at Large	Ann Poe
Cedar Rapids	Council Member District 1	Kris Gulick
Cedar Rapids	Council Member District 3	Pat Shey)
Cedar Rapids	Council Member District 4	Scott E. Olson
Fairfix	Mayor	Jason M. Rabe
Fairfax	Council Member	Marc Majers
Marion	Mayor	Allen Snooks Bouska
Marion	Council Member Ward 1	Kim Etzel
Palo	Council Member	Ryan Scheckel
Robins	Council Member	Donald B. Norton II
Representative	State Representative District 65	Liz Bennett
Representative	State Representative District 66	Art Staed
Representative	State Representative District 68	Ken Rizer
Representative	State Representative District 69	Kirsten Running-Marquardt

Cedar River Trail: 42nd St. Crossing



Over the summer of 2015, a cooperative project between the Canadian National Railroad and the City of Cedar Rapids made the Cedar River Trail intersection safer at 42nd Street. The CRT was realigned in conjunction with improvements made to the northbound off-ramp from Interstate 380/27. The new alignment allows for greater visibility for motorists and trail users at the road crossing. At the same time, the Canadian National Railroad installed gates at the rail crossing to reduce accidents. At the completion of the project new bicycle lanes were painted on 42nd St. from Center Point Rd. to Interstate 380.

In the summer of 2016, the City of Cedar Rapids will replace pavement, water mains and storm sewer on 42nd St. from Interstate 380 to Wenig Rd. NE. After the completion of the road improvement project, the city plans to add bicycle lanes continuing from Interstate 380 overpass to Wenig Rd.



Cedar River Trail: Tait Cummins Park

In December 2015, the Cedar River Trail south of Tait Cummins Park was closed due to construction associated with the Prairie Creek Sanitary Sewer Reconstruction project. As part of flood alleviation, the sewer is being replaced from J St. to the Cedar River. A section of Cedar River Trail north of the Union Pacific Railroad Overpass was temporarily removed. As a result of the sewer reconstruction, Tait Cummins Park will feature a new parking lot and new wetland flood mitigation area. The trail should reopen in the spring.



Sac and Fox Trail: Realignment

The goal of the Indian Creek Sanitary Trunk Sewer project is to replace the current aging sanitary sewer infrastructure and reduce potential sewage backups near Indian Creek. The sewer reconstruction is a joint project between Cedar Rapids, Marion and Hiawatha. It will allow for future growth of Cedar Rapids and surrounding communities. The entire project has three phases.

In 2013, the initial phase from the Bertram Rd. trailhead to Rosedale Rd. was completed.. One of the goals of the project is to re-align the trail out of the current flood plain. This current section of trail does not dry very well and every 3 or 4 years Indian Creek experiences major flooding that damages the trail. An extension of the easement would be necessary to move the trail out of the flood plain. The city is working with adjacent landowners in acquiring a larger easement to realign the trail. In 2015, the Linn Area Mountain Bike Association completed Phase 1 of the Sac & Fox Singletrack project. The construction of an intermediate singletrack parallel to the existing trail allows for a new experience for bicyclists.



The second phase, completed in 2015, was from Rosedale Rd. to Wilder Drive. In the second phase, the trail was not used for access. With a wider valley, a new access road was constructed out of the flood plain for construction equipment. As the result, the Sac and Fox was realigned.

Phase 3 of the second segment will replace the sewer from Wilder Dr. to an intersection manhole near East Post Rd. This section will begin in 2016. The trail will be closed periodically during the construction. The trail alignment situation is similar to the second phase, additional funding would be necessary to fund new trail construction out of the flood plain.

The Indian Creek Sanitary Trunk Sewer project takes in the consideration the potential environmental impacts of the construction. The project seeks to improve wildlife habitat, protect scenery and reduce the impact of tree removal. As part of the project, new trees will be planted at strategic locations and other areas replenished with native prairie seed mixes to restore some original the habitat.



Cedar Valley Nature Trail: Wolf Creek Bridge

In September 2015, Synder and Associates determined that the Cedar Valley Nature Trail bridge over Wolf Creek, outside LaPorte City, was unsafe for use. The bridge is closed for use with no designated detour around. With the bridge nearly 100 years old, the wooden infrastructure of the bridge has decomposed. Long-term repair solutions involve the replacement of the timber approaches with steel beams and steel pile bents, retaining the existing steel beams and installation a new concrete deck with black vinyl coated chain link fence. The new features would improve the flow capacity of Wolf Creek under the bridge and add 30 to 50 years of additional life to the bridge. The estimate cost of the project is \$1.49 million dollars.



Another option is the total replacement of the bridge. An entire new 349 foot bridge would cost an estimated \$2.39 million dollars. The Black Hawk County preferred option might be the establishment of an alternate alignment for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. A new alternate route would require cooperation between the Black Hawk Conservation Board, Iowa Department of Transportation and the City of LaPorte City. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board will be holding a special board meeting at the La Porte City Community Center, 301 First Street, at 6pm on Wednesday, October 28 to review and discuss options available related to the closing of the Wolf Creek Bridge. Closure of this bridge leaves a gap in the Cedar Valley Nature Trail since there is not a good option for a detour.

In late 2015, the first bridge north of the Gilbertville Depot, known as the E4 Bridge, on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail was replaced with a pre-fabricated steel bridge. The project will not be completely finished until the asphalt approach can be poured later this spring. For a current Black Hawk County Cedar Valley Nature Trail status, see www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com under News



*Wolf Creek Bridge:
Photos courtesy of Black Hawk Conservation Department*

Hoover Nature Trail: Johnson County

In the early 1990s, the dissolution of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad led to the abandonment of its railroad line. At the time, the acquisition of right of way for conversion to a recreational trail, the Hoover Nature Trail, was the goal of many. In the end, a 24 mile recreational trail from Cedar Rapids to the Mississippi River would exist. The Hoover Nature Trail would be part of the American Discovery Trail.

Over two decades, the construction of segments of the Hoover Nature Trail have been few and far between. Most recently, Linn County Conservation hard-surfaced a 2.7 mile stretch from Cedar Rapids to Ely in 2011. The city of Ely completed a segment of trail through its community in 2015. In 2016, Linn County Conservation will extend the trail from the city of Ely to the Linn/Johnson County line at Seven Sisters Rd. The section of trail from the Linn/Johnson County line to Solon has been named “The Missing Link.”

American Discovery Trail



In November 2015, the Iowa Department of Transportation’s (DOT) State Recreational Trails Program awarded \$679,699 to Johnson County for the first phase of the Hoover Nature Trail in Johnson County. The funding will be used to construct nearly two miles of trail, at an estimated construction cost of nearly \$1.1 million, from Solon north to Polk Ave. The trail will traverse through the northern side of Lake MacBride State Park. Currently, a five-mile scenic multi-use trail exists along the lake from Solon to near the entrance to the park. Johnson County plans to create a “dual surface” trail with the existing chipped limestone trail adjacent to the new ten foot concrete trail. This dual design will exist for approximately .6 miles before the Hoover Nature Trail diverges to the north to continue toward Polk Ave. The construction will include a new bridge across Mill Creek. This will require the removal of the existing abutments of the old railroad bridge and will provide a picturesque view of Mill Creek as it flows into Lake MacBride.

As part of the project, a trailhead at the Solon Nature Recreation Area will be constructed to provide visitors information about the locations of amenities available in Solon. In addition, a small rest area will be planned at Gaddis Pond. This area will contain seating and bike racks. Construction of the first phase will occur in 2016. The section from the Linn/Johnson County line to Solon is 5.8 mile with an estimated total project cost of \$4.3 million.



In October 2015, Johnson County received \$450,000 in funds from the Federal Recreational Trails Program for its second phase of the Hoover Nature Trail. The 2.6 mile section from Seven Sisters Road to the Ely Road Underpass received 23% of its total project cost of \$1.95 million dollars. The County will continue to pursue additional funding of the section phase this year.

*Hoover/ Lake MacBride Trail Intersection
Artist Rendition from McClure Engineering.*

Hoover Nature Trail: Johnson County



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) _____

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* 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

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or

Mail donations to:
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PO Box 2681
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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

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\$6 each

ALL money from the sale of these bottles supports the 2016 paving of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail to Center Point.

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