



Trail Updates from Partners in Linn County

10/09/2023

All information approved by each person named below.

A. Linn County Conservation Department (Randy Burke updated 10/05/23):

1. Cedar Valley Nature Trail:

- Linn County and Black Hawk County have been awarded a Destination Iowa Grant and State Recreational Trails Grant to fund paving the remaining trail in Linn and Black Hawk counties. Work in Black Hawk County on their bridge and culverts are complete. They just opened bids this past week for the paving of their 10 mile section. No schedule has been set as of yet. In the Linn County section, the Bear Creek Bridge construction is complete, **and open**. The 52nd St. underpass has been bid and a pre-construction meeting held with the contractor. Work is tentatively scheduled to begin this fall with completion by April. Paving is scheduled to bid **in mid-November**, with construction anticipated in the early spring of 2024.
- Black Hawk County **may begin minor drainage work this fall, with the paving expected to be completed next spring.**

2. Morgan Creek Trail formerly known as the Highway 100 Trail:

- Phase I of the Morgan Creek Trail located on the east side of the Cedar River from 42nd Street past Xavier High School to the river was bid on February 21st. Bids for this section were rejected as the bid price was significantly higher than the Engineer's estimated cost. The project is currently being redesigned and will be **rebid, scheduled for rebid on November 21st of this year**. Work is anticipated to be completed in 2024.
- Phase III of the Morgan Creek Trail west of the Cedar River from Covington Road to Worcester Road was also let on February 21st. The project was awarded to PCI contractors. Work has begun on this project. Nearly all of the paving is completed from Morgan Creek Shop to Covington Rd., except for the section from Ellis Rd. to under HWY 100 bridges. Nearly all of the trail back-filling is also nearly complete. The small bridge over the creek and under HWY 100 bridges is still not anticipated until some time in October. When installation is completed the rest of the trail will be built (weather permitting).
- A study has recently been completed regarding the Cedar River crossing and alignment for the Morgan Creek Trail. New information from the study has revealed that the old piers may be usable with some repairs. Further study and other considerations are still required. Funding has yet to be obtained for this portion. No new information at this time.

3. Grant Wood Trail:

- The section from Oxley Road to Creekside Drive is nearing completion with the primary remaining work being the seeding, which is anticipated within the next two weeks.
- LCCD has received bids and signed a contract with PCI for the improvements from Creekside Drive to Paralta Road. Work is scheduled to begin sometime this fall. Planning work is ongoing for the next section from Paralta Rd. to Springville Rd. in Paralta. Staff is working with Springville and the Iowa DOT on trail improvements from Paralta Road with an overpass on Highway 151 into Springville. Completion of the last segment into Springville is likely at least 5 years or more from now. A public open house was held on October 18th with discussion on future trail improvements. Additional funding is being sought for work on the additional sections of the trail.
- Eventually the trail will extend further east to the Jones County line where it will meet up with a trail that Jones County will build west from Martelle. This portion is more than 5 years from now.
- Linn County is currently working with Central City to complete the loop trail that connects Pinicon Ridge Park to both sides of the river in Central City. Preliminary plans are complete, and funding is being sought.

B. City of Marion (Kesha Billings update 10.9.23): (no big changes)

1. CEMAR Trail:

- Phase 5 of the CEMAR trail from just east of 1st Avenue in Cedar Rapids through the Faulkes Woods area to Highway 100 will start after completion of a sanitary sewer project. The sewer project started in March with a two-year construction schedule. Remaining property acquisitions are a priority. Working through final easement exhibits to include with easement documents presented to the property owner.

2. Lucore Road and Bridge Sidepaths:

- In August, Shoemaker and City staff discussed the pros and cons of having an upstream (east) or downstream(west) pedestrian bridge. The cost estimates were similar. Ultimately the recommendation was the upstream side for the pedestrian bridge. Discussion with impacted property owners to come.

3. Grant Wood Trail

- Marion Pocket Park along Grant Wood Trail (just east of 31st Street, south of Legion) with relocated caboose will begin taking shape. Steering Committee to review design in August. Anticipate letting in October with construction beginning this year. ([article from January with original concept](#))

C. Linn Area Mountain Bike Association (Robert McKillip): 10/9/23

- All trails are in good condition. Tour de Dirt was very successful and got a lot of riders at all four of our parks
- Wanatee Park: Major trail restoration activity is essentially complete. The MTB trails are shut down from Oct 1 to Jan 10 for deer hunting. Very successful Wanatee trail jam held. It incorporated our Take your Kid Mountain Biking event and was very well attended. This was another great example of cooperation between LAMBA and LCC
- Sac and Fox Singletrack: Backyard trails are shifting focus to completing Birch with volunteer support. They will also be beginning concept design on the MTB trailhead at East Post road.
- Attended Iowa Trail conference. The soft trails portion was hands-on related to designing sustainable trails (Park, gravel and MTB).
- Attended WNBC Hall of Fame as LCTA fundraiser

D. City of Cedar Rapids (Ron Griffith updated 10/05/23):

- A construction contract to remove trees damaged by the August 2020 derecho storm, is scheduled to bid this month. This work will affect the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from 29th St NE to 42nd St NE and is expected to be completed in spring 2024.
- Oakland Rd NE/Old Marion Rd NE Bikeway - Bike lanes were added from Center St NE to Regent St NE. The final segment from Golf St NE to Regent St NE was recently completed in 2023.
- Center Pt Rd NE Bikeway - The project involves the conversion of Center Pt Rd to two-way traffic with a southbound bike lane. The section from E Ave NE to Lincoln Ave NE recently opened. The next segment from Lincoln Ave NE to H Ave NE will be done by the end of 2023. The entire project from E Ave NE to J Ave NE will be complete in 2024.
- 1st St SW Bikeway - Protected bike lanes are part of a rail/roadway improvement project along 1st St SW from 10th Ave SW to 8th Ave SW. Eventually these lanes will extend south to connect to the 12th Ave SW and the trail connection to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail that extends through Riverside Park. They will also connect north to the existing bike lanes on 1st St SW between 8th Ave SW and 2nd Ave SW. This work has been pushed back to 2024 construction.
- Grant Wood Trail (formerly Lindale Trail)
 - Phase II - The segment from the Cedar Valley Nature Trail (CVNT) to Council St NE is in the design phase. The trail will connect across the north side of the intersection of 51st St NE and Center Point Rd NE. Upgrades will be made to the signal to allow bikes to cross the intersection to/from the CVNT. From the intersection, the alignment will

head north, parallel to Center Point Rd towards the railroad right-of-way. Near the railroad right-of-way, the trail will turn east and stay adjacent to the commercial property south of the railroad corridor. The alignment will shift onto the rail corridor where the active line is discontinued until it reaches Council St NE. The City is working with the Canadian National Railroad and adjacent property owners to finalize the alignment. Construction is expected to get underway in 2024.

- 6th St. NW/SW Trail & Bikeway
 - The 6th St NW extension between 1st Ave W to F Ave NW opened last month. Bike lanes were part of the project and connected 6th St SW to Ellis Blvd NW, which has existing bike lanes from F Ave NW to Penn Ave NW.
 - Additional trail segments (approximately 0.6 miles total) will be completed in 2023 as part of two intersection improvements projects, including a roundabout installation at Commerce Dr SW and another roundabout at Innovation Dr SW/St Martins Blvd SW. The Commerce Dr SW roundabout was opened to traffic in July 2023.
- Bowling St Trail
 - Design work will be completed in 2023 to rebuild the Bowling St Trail from 33rd Ave to Wilson Ave. The trail will be 10' wide and driveways will be modified to allow the trail to pass through at full width. New sidewalks, an uphill northbound bike lane and downhill southbound shared use lane are also part of the project from Wilson Ave SW to C St SW. This will complete the connection of the Bowling St Trail to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. The project is expected to be bid in late 2023 and completed in 2024.
- Cherokee Trail
 - The new trailhead parking on Sharon Lane NW adjacent to Cherry Hill Park has been completed. Paving of the Bicycle Boulevard on Sharon Lane NW is complete in addition to the complete reconstruction of Gordon Ave NW from Sharon Lane NW to West Post Rd NW. Additional pavement work on Gordon Ave NW **has been completed up to Harbet Ave NW**. Trail paving has been completed thru Jacolyn Park and Cherokee Park. Crossing improvements at Jacolyn Dr NW and Wiley Blvd NW and neighborhood connections were completed last month. Work has started on the roundabouts at Gordon Ave NW/West Post Rd NW and Gordon Ave NW/Harbet Ave NW. The entire project is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.
 - Design work for Phase III from Edgewood Rd NW to 13th St NW has started with construction expected in 2025.
- Edgewood Trail
 - A project to build a 10' wide trail from Williams Blvd SW to 16th Ave SW along the west side of Wiley Blvd SW is under construction and expected to be completed in 2023. The trail will tie into existing bike lanes on Wiley

Blvd that run from 16th Ave SW to Johnson Ave SW. A mid-block crossing (including a median refuge island) about halfway between 20th St SW and Wilson Ave SW with a rectangular rapid flashing beacon is part of the project.

- Bridge modifications will be made to the Edgewood Rd Bridge over the Cedar River to widen the sidewalk from 4' wide to 8' wide. New railings will be installed on both sides of the sidewalk as part of the project. The project has been delayed until 2024 as no contractors bid on the work. Current Iowa DOT bid date is October 2023.
- Design work has started to complete the remaining portions of the Edgewood Trail from the Cedar River Bridge to Blairs Ferry Rd. The trail will cross from the east side of Edgewood Rd NE at Glass Rd NE and continue on the west side to Blairs Ferry Rd NE. Construction is expected to start in **2024 pending environmental clearance**.

- Tower Terrace Rd NE

- Grading work has started on the section between C Ave NE and Alburnett Rd (Marion). The finished roadway includes a 10' wide trail on both sides of Tower Terrace Rd NE. The grading project is broken into two segments and **is nearly** complete. Paving will occur **in 2024** as **two** separate projects once the grading has been completed.

- 4th Street Trail

- The 4th Street Trail will extend the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from where it stops at 7th Avenue in downtown Cedar Rapids to the future Alliant Energy LightLine™ bridge over the Cedar River. The Project is early in the design phase.

- Downtown Flood Control (East)

- Work along the Cedar Valley Nature Trail (CVNT) was completed between 16th Ave SE and the Crandic Railroad. The trail is open, though there may be half closures over the next two months due to 12th Ave bridge work over the trail.
- Shaver Rd NE to 10th St NE - Upon completion of the Shaver Rd bridge, work is expected to begin to rebuild the CVNT along this stretch including a new trail bridge over McLoud Run.
- Cedar Lake - Levee construction along the west side of the lake includes a 15' wide paved trail and a non-paved aggregate walking trail along the west side of the lake. Existing portions of the Cedar Lake Loop Trail that are being used by construction traffic will be rebuilt as part of the project.

- Downtown Flood Control (West)

- 16th Ave SW to Riverside Park - Currently under construction, a trail will be built on the river side of the new flood wall between 16th Ave SW and the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. The trail will be

extended through Riverside Park and tie into C St SW at approximately 13th Ave SW. The portion of the trail thru Riverside Park was completed last month.

- 1st St SW from 2nd Ave SW to E Ave NW & F Ave NW bridge - the Cedar River Trail between 1st St W and the river will be closed and rebuilt due to Flood Control work. The bike lane between 2nd Ave SW and 1st Ave W will be eliminated with the project. Construction will be completed by the **spring of 2024**.
- Between 16th Ave SW and A St SW the existing trail along the top of the levee will be extended to connect to the existing trail along A St SW. Work is expected to be completed in 2023.

- **ConnectCR**

- Alliant Energy LightLine Bridge - demolition of the existing railroad bridge will begin this year. Design work is underway for the new pedestrian and bicycle bridge which will become the new route for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.
- Cedar Lake - Design work for extending the Cedar Lake Loop Trail on the east side of Cedar Lake is nearly complete. This segment will eliminate the need to use Shaver Rd NE to complete the loop.

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