



## Trail Updates from Partners in Linn County

10/14/2024

All information approved by each person named below.

### A. Linn County Conservation Department (Randy Burke updated 10/09/24):

#### 1. Cedar Valley Nature Trail:

- On October 4th, Linn and Blackhawk County Conservation Boards celebrated the completion of the paving of the “original” 52 miles of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail with a ribbon cutting in Urbana. Thank you to everyone that attended and have helped with this project over the 40+ years. A special thank you to Destination Iowa for grant assistance to finish the final miles.

#### 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 east side of the river. The project is scheduled to rebid on November 19th. Work to begin in calendar year 2025.
- Phase III of the Morgan Creek Trail west of the Cedar River from Covington Road to Worcester Road. All work is now complete.
- 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. Funding is still being sought for the development of the complete plans and specifications for the bridge construction.
- Design work and working on additional funding is currently happening on Phase 4 of the Morgan Creek Trail from the Covington Rd. underpass to the west side of the Cedar River. Engineering and design continues on this section. The County is also looking for funding to begin the design phase of the Cedar River Bridge.

#### 3. Grant Wood Trail:

- The section from Oxley Road to Creekside Drive is complete.
- Planned improvements from Creekside Drive to Paralta Road, is now complete. Planning work is ongoing for the next section from Paralta Rd. to Springville Rd. in Paralta. Plans are to bid this section of trail in the Spring of 2025. 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 for work on this next section of the trail has tentatively been secured.

- 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.

#### 4. Dows-Maniti Trail:

- Work on the underpass of the Lakeside Drive, for the future Wanatee Trail is now underway, **and nearing completion.**

### **B. City of Marion (Michael Barkalow update 10.11.2024):**

#### 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. All appraisals complete, some of the official packets sent out. Might require an agreement amendment with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for a trail/bridge in Faulkes Woods Park. **All acquisitions but one are complete.**
- Revised cost estimate submitted to the CMPO for additional funding request. Project will include 14' wide bridge decks and a pedestrian counter. Awaiting process to complete through CMPO. Additional funding was approved from the CMPO. **With environmental review this will be pushed slightly. We had a meeting with Destination Iowa and are going to work through giving us an extension.**
- Plan is to bid Phase V project by the end of the year as it has both CMPO funds and Destination Iowa Funds. With a completion prior to 2026.
- **Gateway feature is being installed the week of 10.14.24. Then the electric will be connected and a ribbon cutting soon after.**

#### 2. Lucore Road and Bridge Sidepaths:

- Discussion with impacted property owners to continue. Archeological complete. Next is environmental evaluation now that spring is here and plants can be identified easier. **Continue to work through design.**

#### 3. Grant Wood Trail

- Draper Park along Grant Wood Trail (just east of 31st Street, south of Legion) with relocated caboose will begin taking shape. Rathje was the low bid and will be starting on the project and has an October 4, 2024 deadline. Caboose has been placed. *Work continues with the park.*

**C. Linn Area Mountain Bike Association (Rob McKillip): 10/3/2024**

- *Good intro meeting with Rusty, the new Parks Director: LAMBA, MTB trails, chainsaws, Seminole Valley, Pinicon Ridge, Porta Potties*
- *The trails are all in dry, but great condition.*
- *Work is also progressing quickly at Pinicon Ridge. There are sections of trail that are now rideable.*
- *Events:*
  - *Scott Saville video promoting LAMBA and Aspen along the Sac and Fox shown on KCRG*
  - *10/5 IMBA Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day - Wanatee*
  - *10/12 Wanatee MTB Madness race*
  - *12/1 Global Fat Bike Day*
- Maps and safety signage is starting to go up on the Sac and Fox and in new areas in other parks.

- The skills park at Wanatee is now open! Be sure to check it out



**D. City of Cedar Rapids (Ron Griffith updated 08/29/24):**

- A construction contract to remove trees damaged by the August 2020 derecho storm affected the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from J Ave NE to 42nd St NE between April and July of this year. The trail was closed from J Ave NE to 29th St NE on May 6. A signed detour was provided.
- 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 entire project from E Ave NE to J Ave NE was completed in August 2024 and is open to traffic.
- 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 2025 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. The City is working with the Canadian National Railroad and adjacent property owners to finalize the alignment. Construction is expected to be completed in 2025.
- 6<sup>th</sup> St. NW/SW Trail & Bikeway
  - The 6th St NW extension between 1st Ave W to F Ave NW opened last year. 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) were 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. The Innovation Dr SW/St Martins Blvd SW roundabout was open in November 2023.
- Bowling St Trail
  - The project from 33rd Ave SW to C St SW is under construction and will be completed by the end of 2024. The trail will be 10' wide and driveways will be modified to allow the trail to pass through at full width. A roundabout is planned for the intersection with Wilson Ave SW. 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.
- 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 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 in September 2023. Work on the roundabouts at Gordon Ave NW/West Post Rd NW and Gordon Ave NW/Harbet Ave NW is complete. Final pavement markings and punch list items have been completed.

- Design work for Phase III from Edgewood Rd NW to 13th St NW has started with construction expected in 2025. The alignment will continue along Johnson Ave NW to 32nd St NW then head down 32nd St NW and across the Vinton Ditch to E Ave NW where it will use 27th St NW to reach F Ave NW. The section on F Ave NW will be located on the south side of the roadway from 29th St NW to 13th St NW.
- 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 was completed in 2023. The trail ties 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 was installed with the project.
  - Bridge modifications to the Edgewood Rd Bridge over the Cedar River to widen the sidewalk from 4' wide to 8' wide are nearly complete. New railings will be installed on both sides of the sidewalk as part of the project. The project was bid and awarded in October 2023. Construction began in March 2024 and will be completed in 2024.
  - The City worked with LCTA and a local developer to finish a gap in the trail projects between the bridge and Glass Rd. The section is approximately 450-ft long and would complete the trail between the bridge and Glass Rd. The contractor has completed the paving, grading and seeding required. This section will open as soon as the bridge modifications are completed.
  - 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 2025.
- Tower Terrace Rd NE
  - Grading work has finished on the section between C Ave NE and Alburnett Rd (Marion). The proposed roadway includes a 10' wide trail on both sides of Tower Terrace Rd NE. Paving is underway working from Alburnett Rd towards C Ave NE.
- 4th Street Trail segment of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail
  - The 4th Street Trail project will extend the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from where it stops at 7th Avenue SE 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.
  - Shaver Rd NE to 10th St NE - Work has begun to rebuild the CVNT along this stretch including a new trail bridge over McCloud 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 portion through Riverside Park which ties into C St SW at approximately 13th Ave SW was completed in September 2023.
  - 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 was rebuilt as part of Flood Control work. The bike lane between 2nd Ave SW and 1st Ave W was eliminated with the project. The trail was opened in November 2023.
  - 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 2025.
- ConnectCR
  - Alliant Energy LightLine Bridge - demolition of the existing railroad bridge started late last year. Design work is underway for the new pedestrian and bicycle bridge which will become the new route for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Construction on the bridge will start in late 2024 or early 2025.
  - 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. Construction is expected to begin later this year, pending permit approvals thru the DNR.
  - Cedar Lake - Design work has begun for reconstruction of the trail around the north end of Cedar Lake that is currently being used as a haul road for construction of the flood levee. Also included is the reconstruction of trail segments on the south end of Cedar Lake. A construction date has not been determined at this time.
- Inter-Urban Trail
  - Design work on both Phases is expected to begin early next year pending completion of trail design work on currently active projects.

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Check the FACEBOOK page @lctrails for the latest updates when we receive them from these organizations!