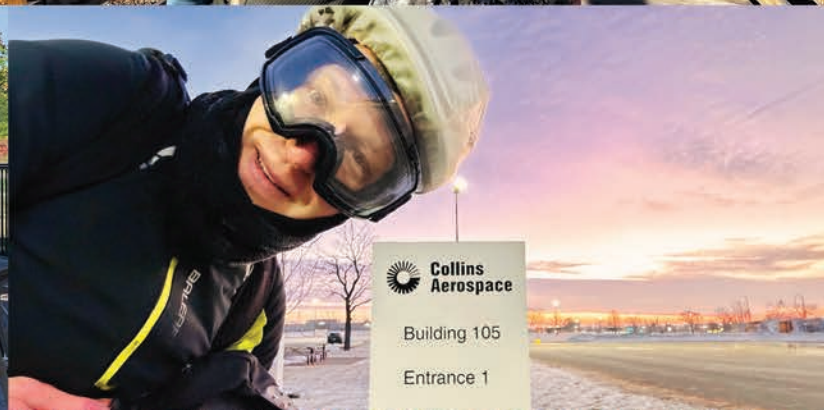




Trail Connections

FALL NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2024



**Celebrating Connections, Friends,
Family, and Destinations**



A Message from Our President

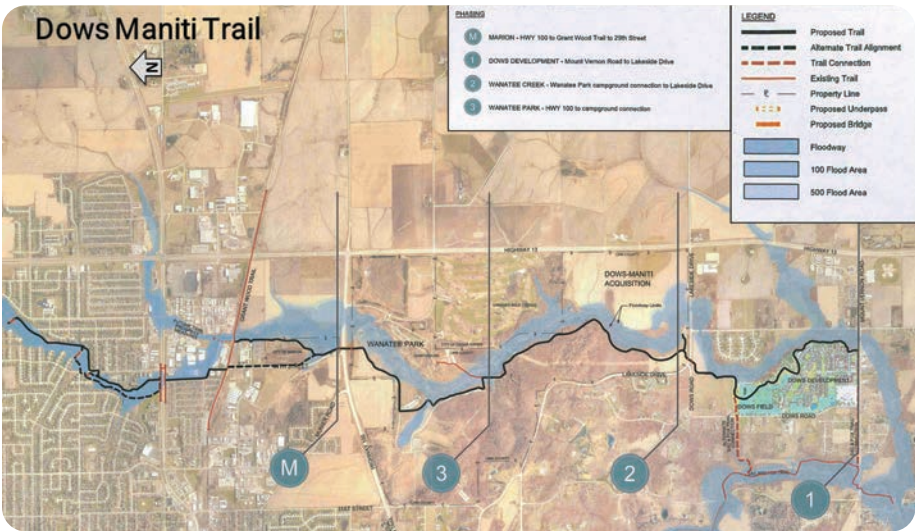
CONNECTIONS

The trails system in Linn County is all about connections. Significantly, there is an expanding **“geographic connection”** as the system continues to grow. This allows safe travel for people of all means and all physical abilities between neighborhoods within a community, and safe travel between different cities and towns. The more trail miles that are developed, the more people and communities will be connected. You may use the trails as a **“commuting connection”**, to provide a low cost and convenient way to get to and from work. The connection may be an **“entertainment connection”** between your home and a restaurant, or a bar, or a cultural venue, or perhaps a favorite park or playground. Time on a trail, whether walking or biking, allows for a special **“emotional connection”** with loved ones and friends. There are few distractions on a trail, so it just seems easier to focus on each other and spend quality time together. Lastly, trails allow for a **“healthy connection”** with nature and the outdoors. Whether walking, running, riding a bike, riding in a wheelchair, roller blading, or pushing a stroller, spending time outside on a trail is good for your mental health and physical health. The Linn County Trails Association is proud to work with the City of Cedar Rapids, the Linn County Conservation Department, the City of Marion and all our other partners to help make these types of connections possible.

2024 TRAIL CONSTRUCTION					
Trail or Bikeway Name	Begin	End	Description	Miles	Partner
Center Pt Rd NE Bike Lane	H Ave NE	J Ave NE	6’ ACC (one-way SB)	0.3	Cedar Rapids
Edgewood Trail	Cedar River Bridge	S. of Glass Rd NE	10’ PCC	0.3	Cedar Rapids
Tower Terrace Rd NE Side Paths	Alburnett Rd	Meadowknolls Rd	10’ PCC (both sides)	2.6	Marion
Tower Terrace Rd NE Side Paths	Meadowknolls Rd	C Ave NE	10’ PCC (both sides)	0.8	Cedar Rapids
Prairie View Ln SW Trail	S of Gables Way Ln SW	N of Gables Way Ln SW	10’ PCC	0.1	Cedar Rapids
6th St SW Trail	S of BAE Entrance	Innovation Dr SW	10’ PCC	0.1	Cedar Rapids
Bowling St SW Trail	33rd Ave SW	Wilson Ave SW	10’ PCC Rebuild	0.8	Cedar Rapids
Bowling St SW Trail	Wilson Ave SW	20th Ave SW	10’ PCC	0.2	Cedar Rapids
Bowling St SW Bike Lane	21st Ave SW	C St SW	6’ ACC (one-way SB)	0.3	Cedar Rapids
Bowling St Trail Side Path	33rd Ave SW	Wilson Ave SW	10’ ACC	0.8	Cedar Rapids
Dows Maniti Trail	Lakeside Dr	Lakeside Dr	Trail Underpass	0.1	Linn County
Cedar Valley Nature Trail	Urbana	Bear Creek	10’ PCC	6.0	Linn County
Grant Wood Trail	Creekside Rd	Paralta Rd	18’ Gravel & Grass	1.2	Linn County

As we near the end of the trail and bikeway construction season for 2024, it is important to note the progress that we all have made in expanding the trail connections in Linn County. It must be noted that some years produce more new trail miles than others. Most trails aren’t built on a “blank slate”, so it takes a lot of planning, design work, property acquisition, negotiating and fundraising to arrive at actual construction. I think we all can agree, however, that it is important to keep the process moving and trail funding available so that the connections can continue to expand.

The gem of 2024 was undoubtedly Linn County Conservation’s completion of the 6 miles of hard surfacing of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail (CVNT) from Urbana to the Bear Creek Bridge. The hard surfacing of that section, coupled with Black Hawk County’s hard surfacing of an additional 10 miles, completes the hard surfacing of the CVNT from

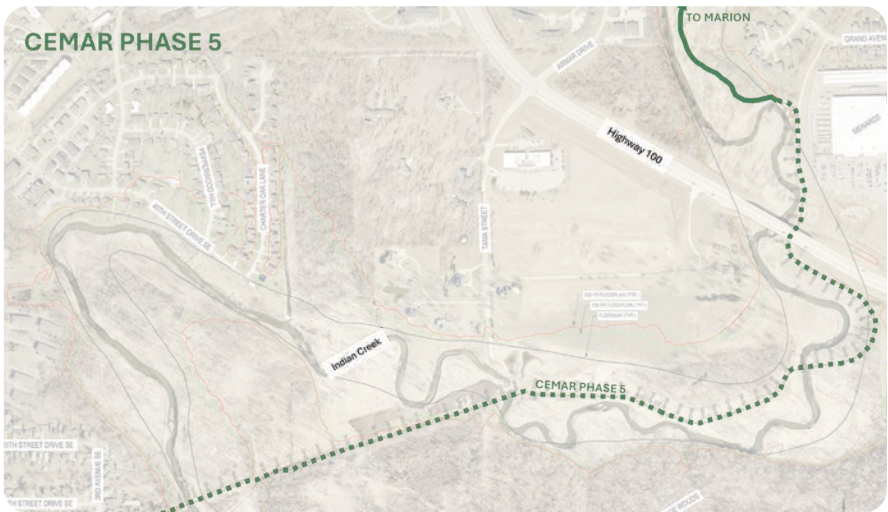


the future Maniti Trail. A concept alignment, which will be refined with further alignment study, is shown above.

In 2024, Cedar Rapids trail construction focused on the Edgewood Road Bridge sidewalk expansion from 4 feet to 8 feet, and providing trails along Tower Terrace Road NE and Bowling Street SW.

In 2024, Marion has been focused on completing the sanitary sewer system that needs to be completed before the final section of the CEMAR Trail can be constructed. A map of the future CEMAR Trail alignment from Highway 100 to Mt Calvary Cemetery is shown at right.

Tom Pepper, Board President



2025 TRAIL CONSTRUCTION					
Trail or Bikeway Name	Begin	End	Description	Miles	Partner
Gateway Trail (O Ave NW)	Ellis Rd NW	Cedar River Levee	12’ PCC	0.1	Cedar Rapids
1st St SW Bike Lanes	8th Ave SW	10th Ave SW	6’ Protected	0.1	Cedar Rapids
Cedar River Levee Trail Spur (W)	16th Ave SW	A St SW	10’ PCC	0.2	Cedar Rapids
Edgewood Trail	Glass Rd NE	N. River Blvd NE	10’ PCC	0.7	Cedar Rapids
Edgewood Trail	Cross Pointe Dr NE	Towne Center Way NE	10’ PCC	0.1	Cedar Rapids
Cedar Valley Nature Trail	LightLine Bridge	7th Ave SE	10’ - 12’ PCC	0.9	Cedar Rapids
Cherokee Trail	Midway Dr NW	13th St NW	10’ PCC	1.7	Cedar Rapids
Wright Brothers Blvd SW Trails	6th St SW	Earhart Ln SW	10’ PCC	0.5	Cedar Rapids
Cedar Lake Loop Trail	Cedar Valley Nature Trail	CEMAR Trail	12’ PCC	0.2	Cedar Rapids
CEMAR Phase 5 Trail	Mt Calvary Cemetery	Highway 100	10’ Paved	1.3	Marion
Morgan Creek Ph 1 Trail	Xavier High School	Cedar River	10’ Paved	1.0	Linn County
Morgan Creek Ph 4 Trail	Covington Rd	Cedar River	10’ Paved	1.7	Linn County
Grant Wood Trail	Paralta Rd	Springville Rd	18’ Gravel & Grass	0.8	Linn County
Dows Maniti Trail	Lakeside Dr	Wanatee Park	Mowed Path	1.3	Linn County

Cedar Falls, through LaPorte City, Brandon, Urbana, Center Point, Robins, Hiawatha, Cedar Rapids and Ely to Solon, a distance of over 80 miles. This wonderful trail, which will continue to be used by thousands of people each year, unbelievably took some 40 years to complete, overcoming many obstacles when the benefits of trails were less well known and accepted, and trail funding was sparse.

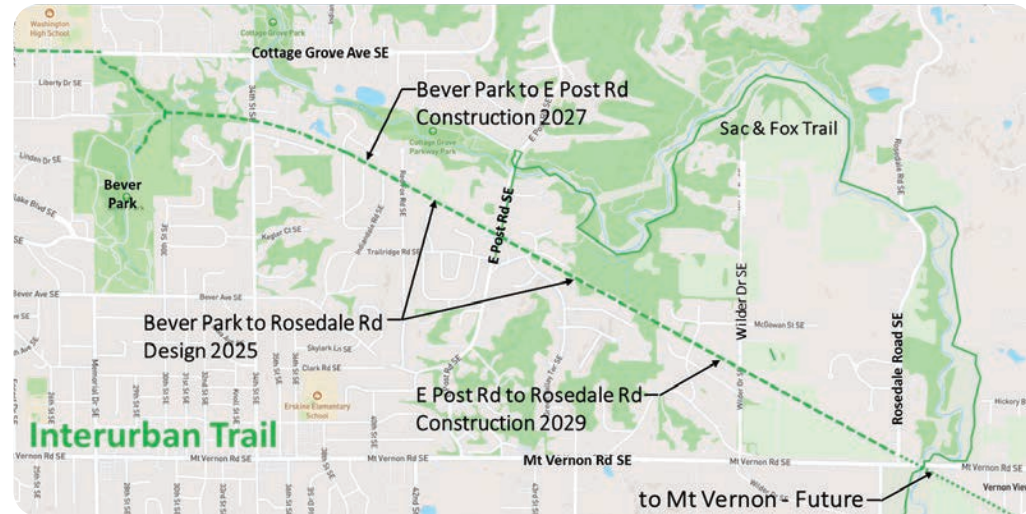
Also this year, Linn County Conservation completed an underpass at Lakeside Drive, as part of

Capital Campaign Fundraising Projects

The Linn County Trails Association is fundraising for THREE new trail projects—the Interurban Trail, the Grant Wood Trail and the Morgan Creek Trail.

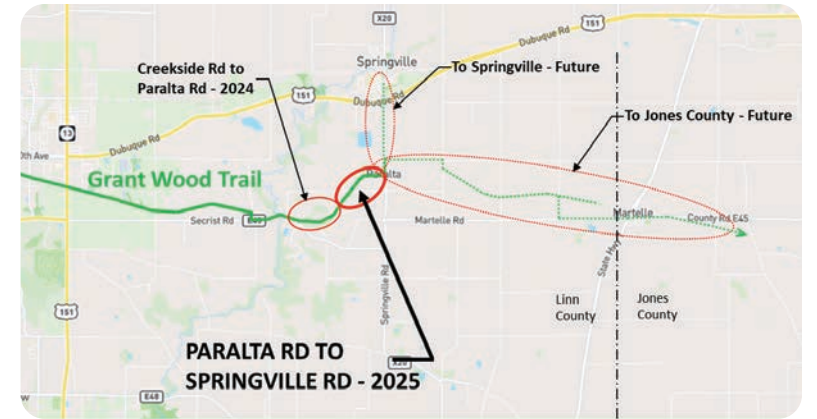
INTERURBAN TRAIL

A century after its use as a commercial trolley corridor, LCTA would like to speed conversion of the Interurban corridor to a safe, beautiful, hard surface trail, connecting Cedar Rapids and Mt Vernon. We are raising \$100,000 for trail design. See dates for expected construction below. Construction from Rosedale Road to Mt. Vernon will be coordinated by Linn County Conservation Department and will occur as funds become available. LCTA will be ready to help with local match as this is a high priority recreation and transportation corridor!



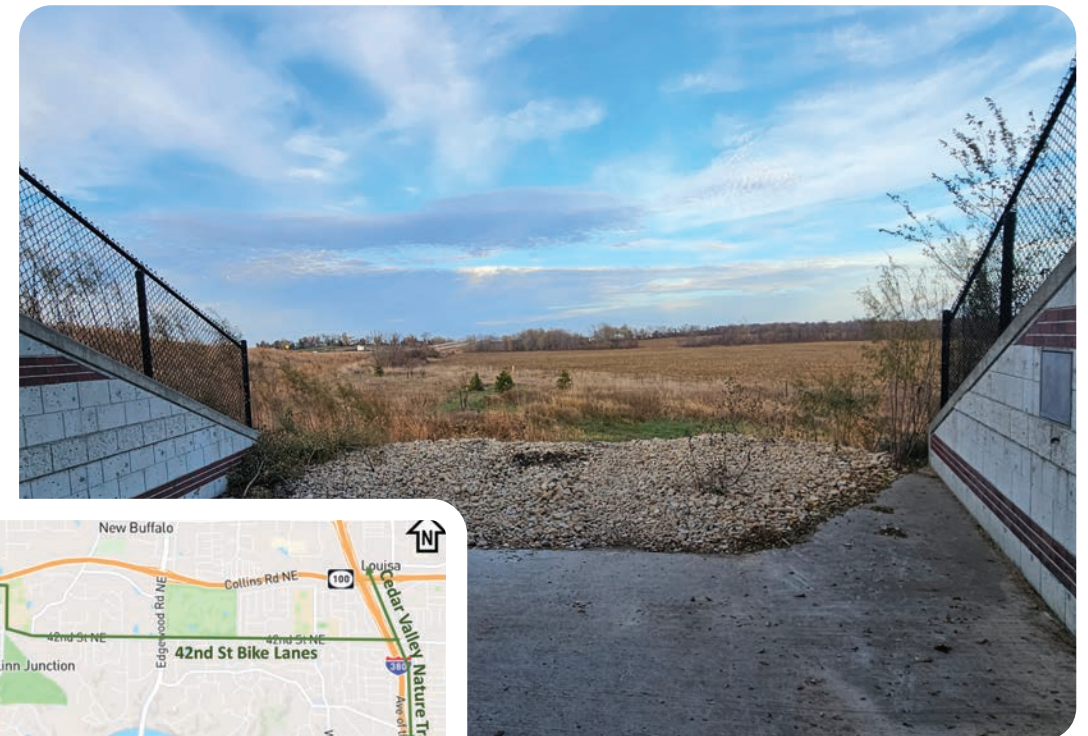
GRANT WOOD TRAIL

The second target for LCTA's Capital Campaign is \$75,000 for the Grant Wood Trail 0.8-mile Paralta Road to Springville Road segment. The historic Milwaukee Railroad corridor is a double track. This allows for both compacted limestone and grass surfacing, resulting in simultaneous multiple trail uses. The compacted limestone trail surface can also serve as a sub-base for a future asphalt overlay. There are many areas where trees line the corridor, as well as areas that have open vistas with prairie grasses, creeks, and woodlands. LCTA is delighted to help preserve this scenic corridor for trail users!



MORGAN CREEK TRAIL

Phase 4 of Morgan Creek Trail will stretch from Covington Road to the Cedar River. The actual alignment of the trail has not been set. LCTA is raising \$75,000 to assist with a 20% local community match needed to secure a State Recreation Trail Grant application by Linn County Conservation.



Once complete, this will set the stage for the Biechler Trail Bridge across the Cedar River using the piers of the abandoned Chicago, Milwaukee and St Paul Railroad Bridge!

Linn County Trails Association Works for You

IN 2024, HERE ARE SOME OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!



Promoted bike safety

at safe bike practice events,
bike fair, and bike parade



Posted trail information and updates multiple times per week

to 4,500 Facebook friends



Created detailed annual report and fall newsletter



Advocated for trails

at multiple Corridor Metropolitan
Planning Organization meetings,
city meetings, and service
club organizations



Participated in community events

including EcoFest, Bike
to Work Week, CMPO
Bike Ride, CVNT paving
completion ribbon cutting



Amplified fundraising efforts

through grant writing,
asking business sponsors
and trail friends



Maintained website with
**83,000 views and
11,000 users**



Provided trail information and monitored bike parking

at eight downtown farmers markets



Sponsored three trail cleanups



Built and installed
15 new map boxes



Monitored 14 trail counters

to gather data to make more trails



Emailed 12 newsletters

to 2,400 trail friends

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you for being an advocate for our Linn County trails! There are many volunteer opportunities, including helping out at events, filling map boxes, and checking trail counters. If you are interested in contributing your time, please contact us at contributor@linncountyrails.org.

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors November 2023 - November 2024

TRAIL CHAMPION (\$5,000+)

Diamond V
Great America Financial Services
Lavern T Busse & Audrey Busse
Foundation
UFG Insurance

TRAIL BUILDER (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Altorfer, Inc.
Benchmark, Inc.
Goldfinch Cyclery
Hall Bicycle
HDR Engineering
Jams Coffee Bar
Lil' Drug Store Products
Northtowne Cycling and Fitness, Ltd.
Sag Wagon
Wednesday Night Bike Club

TRAIL BLAZER (\$500 - \$999)

Banklowa
Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust
GreenState Credit Union
Hawkeye Bicycle Association
Junge Automotive Group
LAMBA
Shive-Hattery
Shoemaker-Haaland Engineering
Snyder & Associates, Inc.

TRAIL PARTNER (\$250 - \$499)

Brady Preston Gronlund PC
Briar Ridge Bikes
Cancun Mexican Restaurant
Cedar Rapids Tourism Office
Christianson Chiropractic
Cost Cutters CRIC LTD

Home Town Restyling, LLC
House Divided Brewery
Insight Vision
Metro Studios
O-Zone
The Pedaler's Fork
The Shack Tavern

TRAIL SCOUT (\$50 - \$249)

Adobe Acrobat
Nicolet Law
Ohana Poké Shop
ZenBusiness

DONOR APPRECIATION SPOTLIGHT



LCTA is so grateful for our monthly trail donors like Jeremy Elges, who support our trails.

Jeremy grew up in the Quad Cities riding the trails with his dad and creating wonderful family memories. When he moved to the Cedar Rapids

area in 1999, he used the trails and saw major growth, but was not a consistent donor. "I would give at the farmers market but wanted to do something more substantial, so trails are available for all people."

Now, Jeremy considers a portion of the new monthly amount to be "back dues." He uses trails to commute to work, run errands, and ride for fun. Jeremy is an attorney for a non-profit law firm, the Linn County Advocates.

EXPENDITURES

(3 year running average)



Administration & Fundraising

Trail Advocacy

Trail Development



Linn County Trails Association
P.O. Box 2681
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2681

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Please join us in person at **City of Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building** (1111 Shaver Road NE, Cedar Rapids) or virtually via Zoom. For the link, please email president@linncountytrails.org three days prior to the meeting.



Follow us at facebook.com/lctrails

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR TRAILS

*The last date you
donated is on the
address label.*

DONOR INFORMATION

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

GIFT INFORMATION

Method of Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Bill Me ☐ My gift is eligible for a charitable match from my employer. **Please include your form!**

I would like to make a **one-time gift** of: \$_____ I would like to make a **recurring gift** of: \$_____ to start on _____

DATE

Your email address will only be used for supporter administration and LCTA information. It will not be sold or shared. All donations to LCTA are tax deductible.

DONATE ONLINE AT [LINNCOUNTYTRAILS.ORG/DONATE](https://linncountytrails.org/donate)



TRAIL SUPPORTER LEVELS

Trail Champion	\$5,000+	Trail Partner	\$250 - \$499
Trail Builder	\$1,000 - \$4,999	Trail Scout	\$50 - \$249
Trail Blazer	\$500 - \$999	Trail Friend	\$20 - \$49

Scan QR code to donate online at or
mail this form with your contribution to:

Linn County Trails Association
P.O. Box 2681
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2681

