



Trail Updates from Partners in Linn County

06/12/2023

All information approved by each person named below.

A. Linn County Conservation Department (Randy Burke updated 6/9/23):

1. Cedar Valley Nature Trail:

- North of Center Point to Urbana paving is complete. Tunnel underpass (under the Interstate) has been improved with lights. New warning flasher sensors have been installed to register faster moving cyclists. Some minor adjustments may still be needed.
- 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 culvert has begun. The 6 miles in Benton County is 6 months behind this schedule. In the Linn County section, the Bear Creek Bridge construction contract has been awarded, with work anticipated to begin in mid to late summer. The 52nd St. underpass has been bid and working on signing the contract. Work is tentatively scheduled for late fall/early winter with completion next spring. Paving is scheduled for a late summer/fall bid with construction anticipated in early spring of 2024.
- Black Hawk County is still planning to pave late this summer.

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 November 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. Paving is scheduled to begin next week on the base layer, beginning at Morgan Creek Park at Worcester Rd. and continuing to just south of Ellis Road. Grading and drainage work is continuing on the northern portion from Ellis Rd. to Covington Rd. The bridge will not be available until Aug./Sept.
- 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 has started with work focusing on the new bridge. The “GAP section” is expected to be completed by fall of 2023.
- LCCD has submitted the preliminary plans to IDOT for the improvements from Creekside Drive to Paralta Road. This portion of the project will be bid by IDOT in June or July. Work is anticipated to be late fall/early winter and possibly into spring of 2024. 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 6.8.23):

3. 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.

5. Lucore Road and Bridge Sidepaths:

- Marion Engineering Department released RFP for design work in April. Staff is recommending the Council approve a contract with Shoemaker Haaland for engineering services.

C. Linn Area Mountain Bike Association (Robert McKillip): 6/7/23

- All trails are in good condition. Mowing and trimming completed for May, but trimming is already starting for June.
- Sac and Fox Singletrack: Trail build is continuing on Birch. Creek Hugger loop ready for riders on the Mt Vernon Rd end.

- Wanatee Park: Major trail restoration activity is well underway and is the focus for Backyard Trails. Dry conditions are now slowing the build.
- Working Strategic Plan for next trail project(s)

D. City of Cedar Rapids (Ron Griffith updated 6/12/23):

- O Avenue NW Bikeway - The project is complete with new bike lanes from Edgewood Rd NW to Ellis Blvd NW.
- 12th Ave SE Bikeway - The project is complete with bike lanes added between 7th St SE and 19th St SE as part of a multi-phase roadway improvement project.
- 15th Ave SW Bikeway - A one-way (westbound) shared use lane was part of the reconstruction from C St SW to 4th Ave SW. The project was completed in 2022.
- 8th Ave SW Bikeway - Project includes bike lanes on some portions of the project from 15th St SW to 10th St SW. Expected to be completed in 2023.
- Cottage Grove Pkwy SE - Urban shoulders which can be used for biking, walking and running were part of the Paving for Progress improvement project from Forest Dr SE to 34th St SE. The project was completed in 2022.
- 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 entire project from E Ave NE to J Ave NE will be completed in 2023.
- 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.
- Grant Wood Trail (formerly Lindale Trail)
 - Phase I - A new 10' wide trail was constructed from Council St NE to the existing trail near the C Ave NE and Blairs Ferry Rd NE intersection. The trail includes an underpass of Blairs Ferry Road between C Ave NE and Oakwood Ave NE. The crossings of Rockwell Dr. NE includes a rapid rectangular flashing beacon (RRFB). The trail is open, though there may be some minor work required to fix construction issues during 2023. Interim traffic signal detection improvements and push button installation were completed at the intersection of Center Pt Rd NE and 51st St NE. The improvements allow cyclists to change the signal to serve 51st St NE and Sylvia Ln NE, in order to cross Center Pt Rd.
 - 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.

- 6th St. NW/SW Trail & Bikeway
 - Buffered bike lanes as part of the roadway improvement project from 33rd Ave SW to Wilson Ave SW is now complete and open. These connect to existing buffered bike lanes between Wilson Ave SW and 14th Ave SW.
 - Bike lanes will be built with the 6th St NW extension project from 1st Ave W to F Ave NW. The extension project is a continuation of Ellis Blvd NW, which has existing bike lanes from F Ave NW to Penn Ave NW. The project will be completed in 2023.
 - Approximately 0.3 miles of 10' wide trail was constructed on the east side of 6th St SW as part of a roundabout and $\frac{3}{4}$ access improvement project just south of 76th Ave SW. This is complete and open.
 - 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.
- 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. The 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 is scheduled for this year. Trail paving has been completed thru Jacolyn Park and Cherokee Park. Crossing improvements at Jacolyn Dr NW and Wiley Blvd NW and neighborhood connections and were completed last month.
 - Design work for Phase III from Edgewood Rd NW to 13th St NW has started with construction expected in 2024 and 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 about halfway between 20th St SW and Wilson Ave SW with a pedestrian hybrid 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.
 - 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.

- 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 will take at least two years to complete. Paving will occur as a separate project once the grading has been completed.
 - A new interchange with I-380 is under construction, led by the Iowa DOT. A trail will be continued through the interchange with connections to Miller Rd NE and Center Pt Rd NE along Tower Terrace Rd NE. The trail will be on one side only for this stretch.

- Cedar Valley Nature Trail south of Sokol Park (16th Ave SW)
 - Gravel section damaged by Derecho restoration work is complete and the trail is open.

- 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 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 will be extended through Riverside Park and tie into C St SW at approximately 13th Ave SW.
 - 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 start in Fall 2022 and be completed by the end of 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 2023.

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