

## September Trail NEWS YOU CAN USE

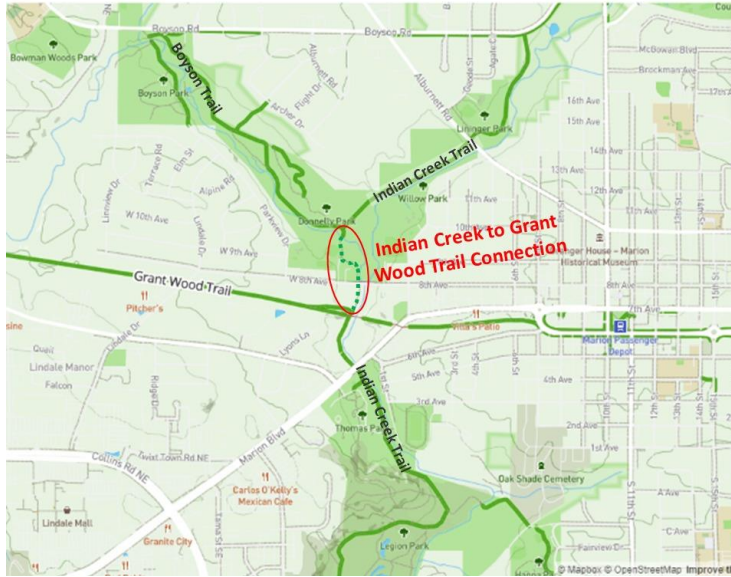
Lake Murphy NEW Trail fun!  
Meet Mr. Wonderful  
Indian Creek and Grant Wood Trail Connection Update  
Trail updates- Cherokee Trail, CeMar, Morgan Creek to Covington Rd  
Meet one of our NEW Business Sponsors  
Calendar of Events



A relatively new walking trail is a loop around Lake Murphy in far southeast Cedar Rapids. A trailhead is located at each end of the 17 acre lot. One is down a small access road just east of the Cedar Rapids Water Treatment Plant along Bertram Road. The other is off Hess Lane, which adjoins Highway 13. The path offers a pleasant half hour walk on a level mowed grass surface. It skirts a gorgeous large prairie (see below) that was planted as a cooperative effort between the City of Cedar Rapids and Monarch Research Project. Thanks Rich Patterson for sharing this little gem and we encourage everyone to enjoy an afternoon stroll in nature.



**When it comes to fundraising for TRAILS, Greg Januska AKA Mr. Wonderful is your guy!** Greg has single handedly brought in 12 new trail business sponsors (and he is still going...his goal is 100!) How does he do it? Well Greg is convinced that trails are valuable for the community and if you are a business who wants to see the Metro Area prosper, you'll support trails! Greg, a retired postal worker, bikes most days and is on top of the trails situation all over the metro area, especially advocating for the NW side trails. When not biking and or asking for trail \$ 😊, Greg works at the Cedar Rapids Kernels and from time to time at Hall Bicycle! Thanks Greg for your hard work and yes we think you are pretty wonderful!

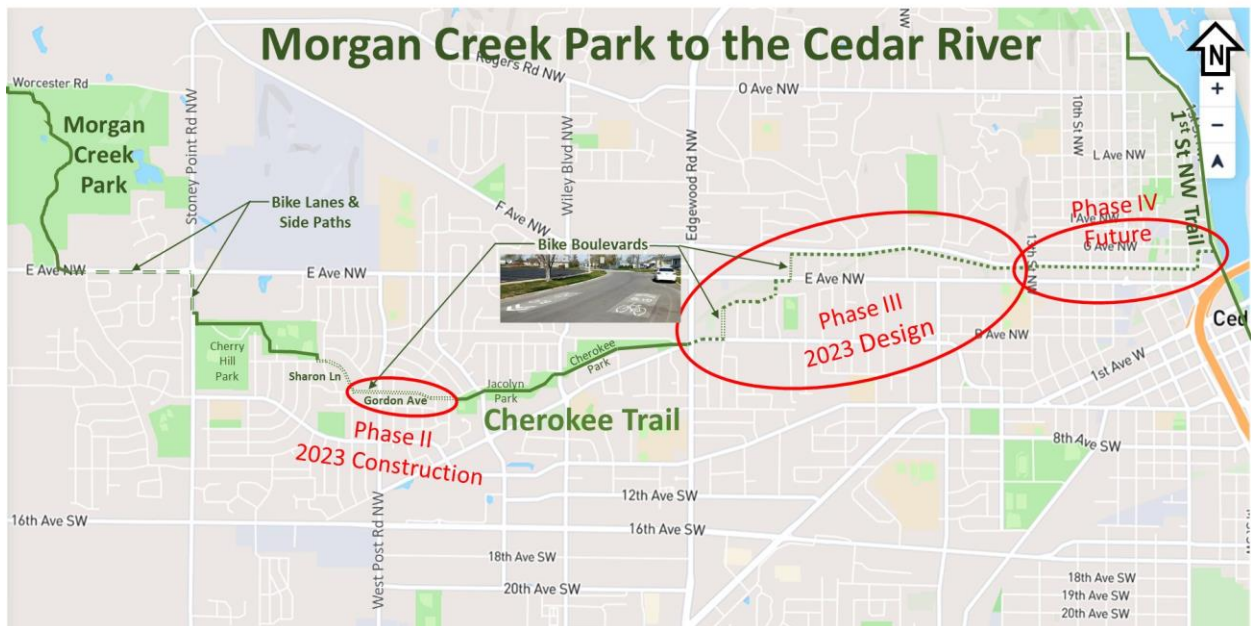


## Indian Creek to Grant Wood Trail update

Fundraising for the Indian Creek project is still in progress. We are at \$4285 and still have a ways to go to meet our \$35,000 goal. Upgrading this to a paved connection will make the trail available year round. To help, please go to <https://linncountytrails.org/d...>

## Trail Updates

Lots of moving parts with trail construction in the Metro Area- let's take a look!

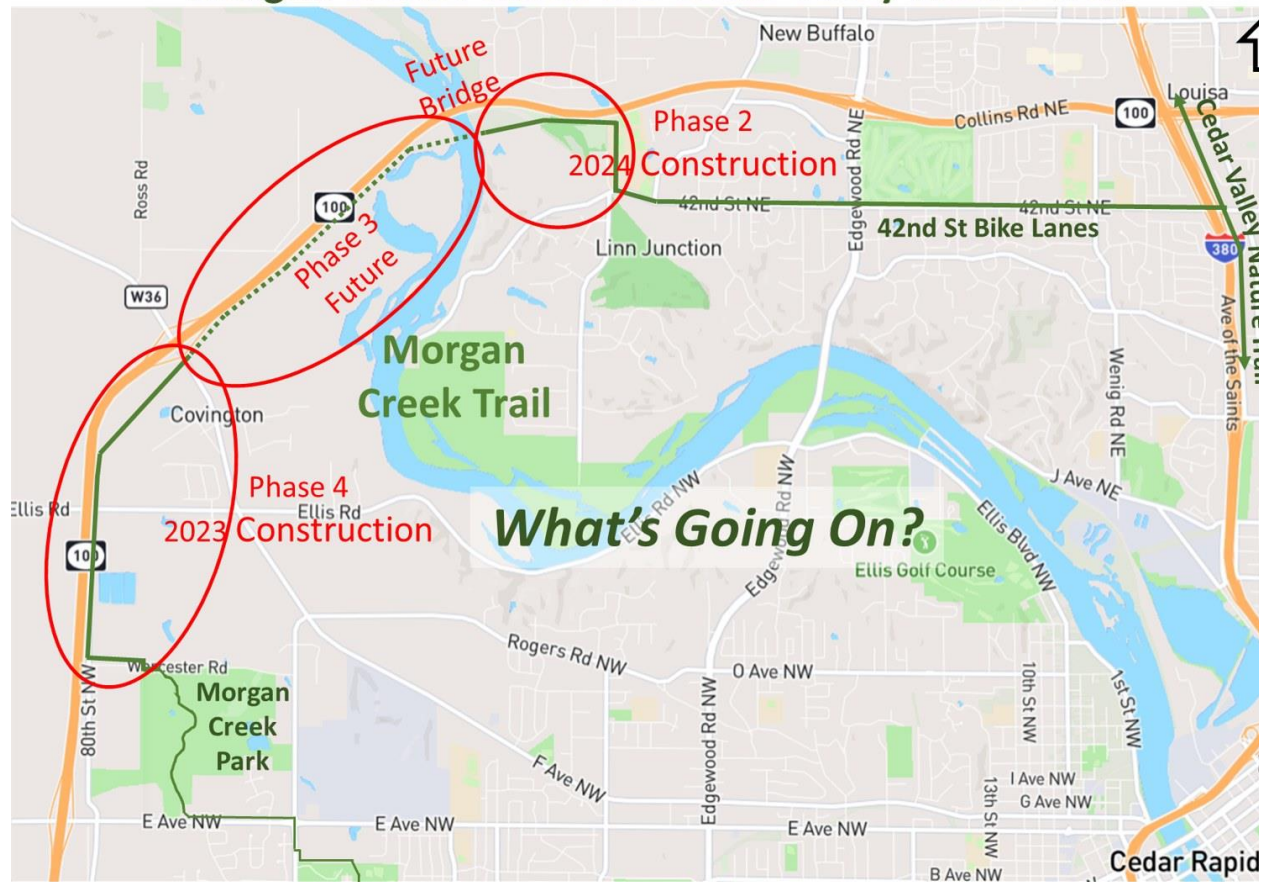


Work continues on the Cherokee Trail - an east-west trail connection between Morgan Creek Park on the west to 1st Street NW at the River. The need for more east-west trail connections has been a recurring theme from LCTA Trail User Surveys.

Phase One is complete. Phase Two is progressing. It includes on street bike boulevard sections, off street trail sections, local neighborhood connections, and enhanced street crossings. The improvements on Sharon Lane NW and Gordon Ave NW out to West Post Rd NW should be completed this year. The remaining section from the intersection of Gordon Ave SW and West Post Rd NW to the intersection of Midway Dr NW and Johnson Ave NW will be completed next year.

Phase Three is currently at the Preliminary design phase. Phase Four has not been started but is being coordinated with Flood Control design work between 3rd St NW and 1st St NW and a Paving for Progress construction project underway at F Ave NW and Ellis Blvd NW. (Caution - the alignments shown in the map below are conceptual and subject to change during the design phase.)

### Morgan Creek Park to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail



While traveling east on HWY 100 the Morgan Creek Trail is quite visible on the right. This stretch from Morgan Creek Park to Covington Rd (Phase 4) should be complete by fall 2023! Phase 3 including the Biechler Bridge over the Cedar River has been studied and should follow close to HWY 100, but funding has not yet been obtained so no schedule has been established. Good news on the future Biechler Bridge as the old railroad piers are usable! Phase 2 from Xavier High School to the Cedar River will bid this fall and should be complete in 2024.

### **What's the latest on CeMar?**

This very popular very needed trail connection between Cedar Rapids and Marion...well there is good news on that front! The sanitary sewer project started in March of 2023 and sets the stage for the CeMar Phase 5, the final link in the Marion - Cedar Rapids connection. The sewer project should take 2 years "clearing" the way for the trail. It's amazing how trails follow utilities!



Indian Creek Trunk Sewer Project



Gearing up!



**Thank you Morning Story-Marion!!!**



**Located right off the Grant Wood Trail just west of 31st Street, with bike parking and a patio.**

**Originating in Colorado in 2018, Morning Story opened in Marion in November 2021. Owner Jim Gregory read about Marion and the growth and wonderful things they were doing, and thought Morning Story would be a perfect fit! We couldn't agree more!**

## **LCTA's latest Trail Partner Sponsor**

### **LCTA Members are invited to our Board Meetings which are in person or on ZOOM**

In person: City of Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building, 1111 Shaver Road NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403; drive through the gate and enter at the back of the building. The conference room is on the ground floor.

Zoom: You can receive the ZOOM link by emailing [president@linncountytrails.org](mailto:president@linncountytrails.org) 3 days prior to the meeting.

- **September 11** – Board Meeting 6 pm. – 7:30 p.m.
- **October 9** – Board meeting at 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- **November 13** – Board Meeting 6 pm. – 7:30 p.m.
- **No meeting in December**

## **Upcoming Events**

## **LCTA will be there! Check out updates in person**

- **September 16– Farmers Market Cedar Rapids 7:30 am -12 pm**

**LCTA enjoys giving presentations about the trail system in Linn County to service organizations such as Rotary, Optimists, Bike Groups and businesses. Reach out if you'd like to schedule a presentation or have LCTA at your event.**