



Trail Connections

A newsletter published by the Linn County Trail Association • November 2023

Celebrating Trail Volunteers



President's Message - Celebrate and Recommit!

CELEBRATE!

Anyone who uses the trails and bikeways in Linn County knows that celebrations are in order for the tremendous strides that Linn County Conservation, the City of Cedar Rapids, and the City of Marion have made in the last 10 years in growing the trails and bikeways system.

Cedar Rapids' city officials recently celebrated a "100 Mile" event.

Cedar Rapids now has over 100 combined miles of hard surface trails (39.4), bike lanes/sharrows/shoulders (53.2), and soft surface trails (7.5).

Linn County and Marion are also closing in on 100 combined miles of trails and bikeways.



Above, LCTA board members and city/county/state officials cut the ribbon to celebrate, at Morgan Creek Trail at Cherry Hill Park

The following table shows the current trail and bikeway summaries for Cedar Rapids, Linn County Conservation, and Marion.

Current System - Miles by Jurisdiction & Type

Jurisdiction	Hard Surface	Limestone	Grass	Bike Blvd	Sharrow	Bike Lane	Shoulder	TOTAL
Cedar Rapids	39.4	7.5	-	-	10.1	29.9	13.2	100.1
Linn County	29	9.4	54	-	-	-	-	92.4
Marion	35.63	1.89	-	8.14	4.24	20.16	0.48	70.54
Total	104.03	18.79	54	8.14	14.34	50.06	13.68	263.04



RECOMMIT!

Although tremendous progress has been made, much remains to be done if Linn County is to truly have a Trail and Bikeways "System." The goal needs to include not only major north/south and east/west trails but connected walking/biking trails and bikeways which allow people of all ages to safely travel around Linn County. Recall the Cedar Rapids' Community Action Plan, which envisions that by 2030 all core neighborhoods will meet residents' needs within a 15-minute walk or bike ride. The plan adopted in 2021 is to reduce carbon emissions by 45 percent by 2030 and be net-zero by 2050. We feel that the concept to connect neighborhoods and destinations to the overall system, is the next big challenge to the "trails community".

Happy Trails!

Tom Peffer,

LCTA President



Tom Peffer, LCTA President

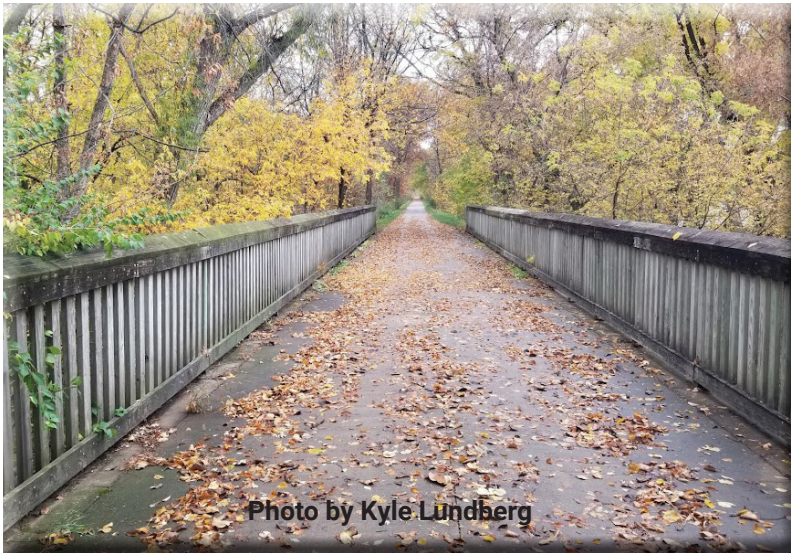
At right is a table prepared from information recently gathered by the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization, showing what is left to do to complete the system. Linn County and Cedar Rapids are in the process of completing an updated Trails and Bikeway Plan, so the number of "total" miles are likely to change when the Plan is finalized in December.

Paved Multi-Use Trails

Community	Open Miles	Total Miles	% Complete
City of Cedar Rapids	39.40	86.78	45%
Linn County	23.71	79.41	30%
City of Marion	20.10	27.00	74%
City of Hiawatha	0.81	1.26	64%
Palo	0.00	3.38	0%
City of Fairfax	1.40	3.12	45%
City of Robins	0.61	0.61	100%
City of Ely	1.49	1.49	100%
Grand Total	87.52	203.04	43%

These gains do not occur without the hard work and dedication of staff, elected officials, and the support of the public. Increases in the miles of trails and bikeways are cause for celebrations throughout Linn County.

Along the Trails



In 2023, the following trails and improvements have been completed:

Linn County Conservation

(CVNT- Cedar Valley Nature Trail, GWT- Grant Wood Trail, MCT- Morgan Creek Trail)

- CVNT construction of the Bear Creek bridge north of Urbana
- GWT hard surface extension from Oxley Road to Creekside Road
- GWT clearing of right-of-way from west of Alderman Road to Taylor Road
- MCT hard surface extension from Morgan Creek Park to Covington Road

Cedar Rapids

- MCT from Jacolyn Park to Midway Dr NW and bike boulevard from Cherry Hill Park to Jacolyn Park
- CVNT reconstruction from the CRANDIC RR underpass to 16th Ave
- CVNT repairs to the derecho damage south of Mt Trashmore
- Edgewood Road Trail from Williams Blvd SW to 16th Ave SW on the west side of Wiley Blvd
- Riverside Park Trail from 16th Ave SW through Riverside Park to C St SW
- Bike lanes on Oakland Rd NE/Old Marion Rd NE from Center St NE to Regent St NE
- Center Point Road bikeway from Coe Road NE to H Ave NE
- 8th Ave SE bikeway from 15th St SW to west of 13th St SW
- 6th St NW/Ellis Blvd NW bikeway from 1st Ave W to F Ave NW
- 6th St SW Trail on both St. Martin Blvd SW and Commerce Park Dr SW
- NewBo Connector from 17th Ave SE to 16th Ave SE

Marion

- Grading for the future Tower Terrace Rd, to include side paths between Alburnett Rd and C Ave

In 2024 the following trail and bikeway projects are to be completed:

Linn County Conservation

- CVNT completion of the 52nd St underpass and six miles of hard surfacing north of Urbana
- MCT segment from 42nd St NE past Xavier High School, around the Rock Island Preserve to the east side of the Cedar River
- GWT improvements from Creekside Road to Paralta Road

Cedar Rapids

- GWT extension from Council St NW to Center Point Rd to connect to the CVNT
- Edgewood Road Trail Cedar River bridge modifications and extensions north of the bridge to Blairs Ferry
- CVNT 4th Street segment from 9th Ave to the Cedar River
- CVNT demolition of the RR bridge to allow for the future Alliant Energy LightLine Bridge
- Center Point Road to two-way traffic with a southbound bike lane from H Ave NE to J Ave NE
- Bowling Street Trail rebuild from 33rd Ave to Wilson Ave, and uphill northbound bike lane and downhill southbound shared use lane from Wilson Ave SW to C Street SW

Marion

- GWT Pocket Park (just east of 31st Street) - a new home for Marion's caboose
- Lucore Road Pedestrian Bridge and side paths
- Tower Terrace Road side paths between Alburnett Road and C Ave
- GWT Gateway feature for rail bridge over Marion Blvd
- Indian Creek Trail paving segment to GWT

EXCITING NEW PROJECTS! CHECK IT OUT!!

The Linn County Trails Association is fundraising for TWO new projects! We are raising \$100,000 for design of the Interurban Trail from East Post Rd to Rosedale Rd and \$75,000 for local match to limestone surface the Grant Wood Trail from Paralta Rd to Springville Rd. We are so excited to move forward on these trails!

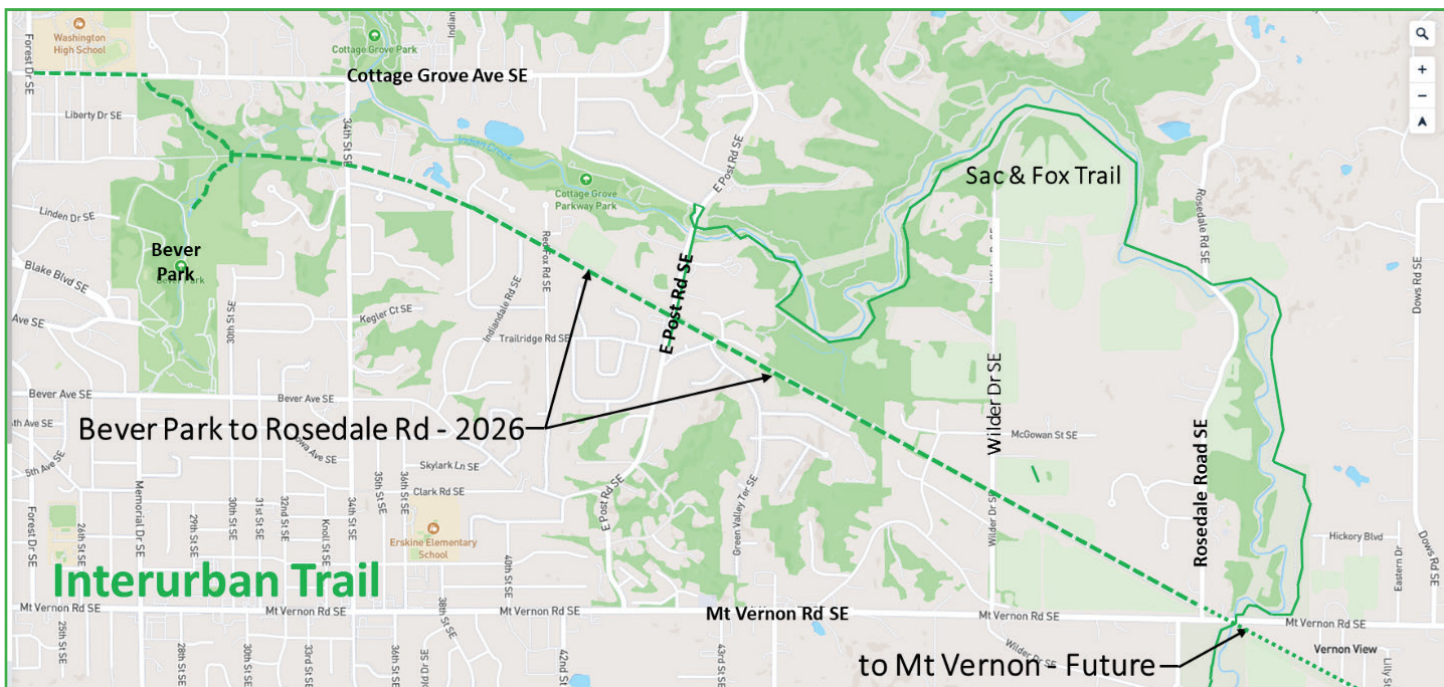
Interurban Trail

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. Current plans are to design and construct sequentially from Bever Park to East Post Road and then from East Post Road to Rosedale Road with completion in 2027 or beyond. With the injection of \$100,000 of additional funds – the focus of our new campaign – the City of Cedar Rapids will target design of the entire 2.6 miles in 2025 and start construction in 2026!

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!



Photos were taken along the interurban Corridor.

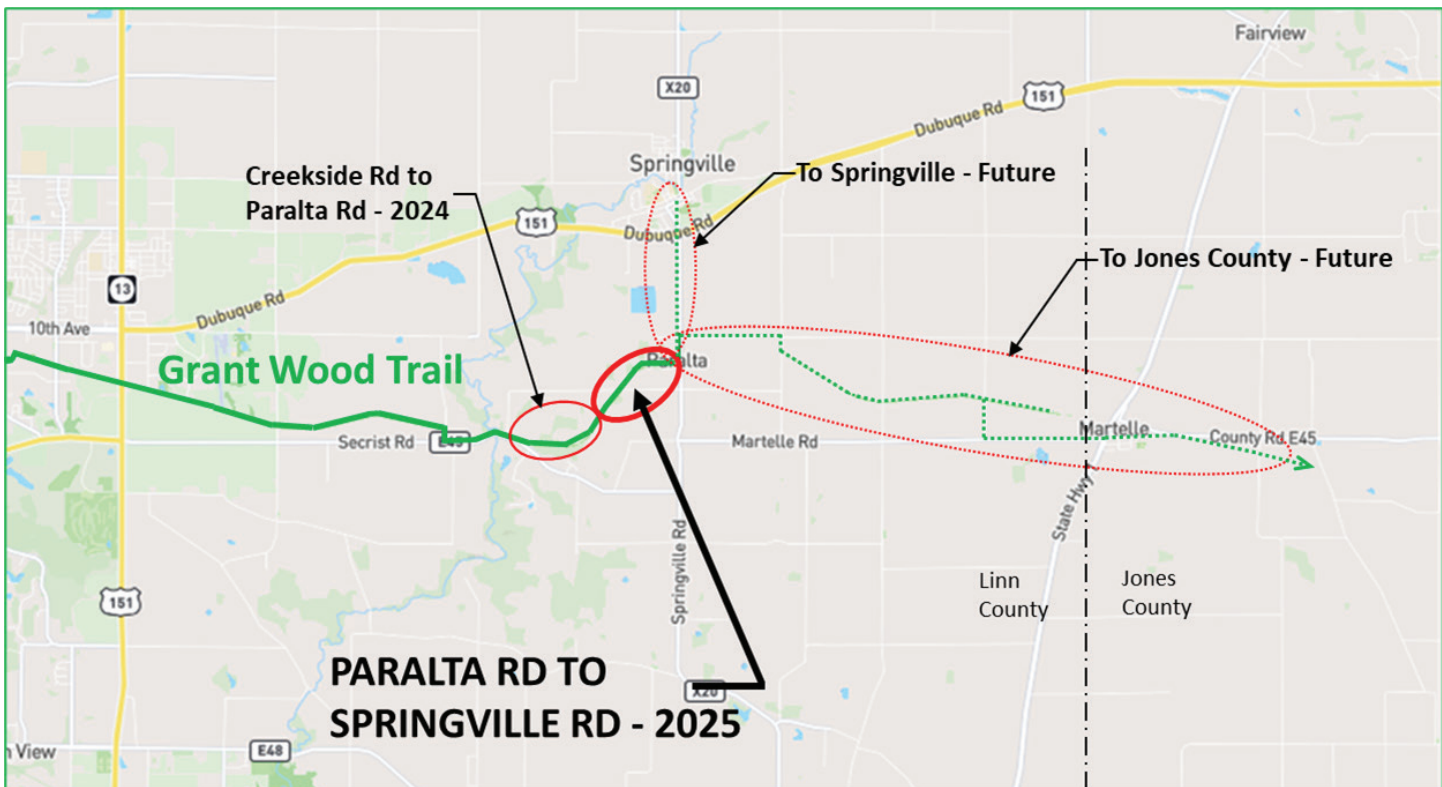


Grant Wood Trail

The second target for LCTA's Capital Campaign is the 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, along with separation between bicyclists, runners and walkers, and horseback riders.

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!

These photos were taken along this section of the Grant Wood Trail.



2023 LCTA Volunteer Accomplishments



We do appreciate our volunteers! If you have time in 2024 to help at an event and advocate for trails, let us know by emailing contributor@linncountytrails.org. There are many volunteer opportunities, from events, to filling map boxes, and checking trail counters.

Huge thanks to our business Sponsors - November 1, 2022 to November 1, 2023

Trail Champions \$5,000+

- UFG Insurance
- Diamond V
- Hawkeye Bicycle Association

Trail Builders \$1,000-\$4,999

- Jams Coffee Bar
- Benchmark
- First Federal Credit Union Foundation
- McGrath Auto Group
- Hall Bicycle Company
- Hills Bank and Trust
- HDR Engineering
- Lil Drug Store Products
- Northtowne Cycling & Fitness, Inc.

Trail Blazers \$500-\$999

- Allegra Marketing
- Banklowa
- Cedar Rapids Area Association of Realtors
- GreenState Credit Union
- Snyder & Associates
- SOKO Outfitters
- Impact 7G
- Anderson-Bogert
- Shoemaker & Haaland Engineering
- Stamats Communication
- Goldfinch Cyclery
- Junge Automotive

Trail Partner \$250-\$499

- Jaime Hymer – Pinnacle Realty
- Target – Cedar Rapids North

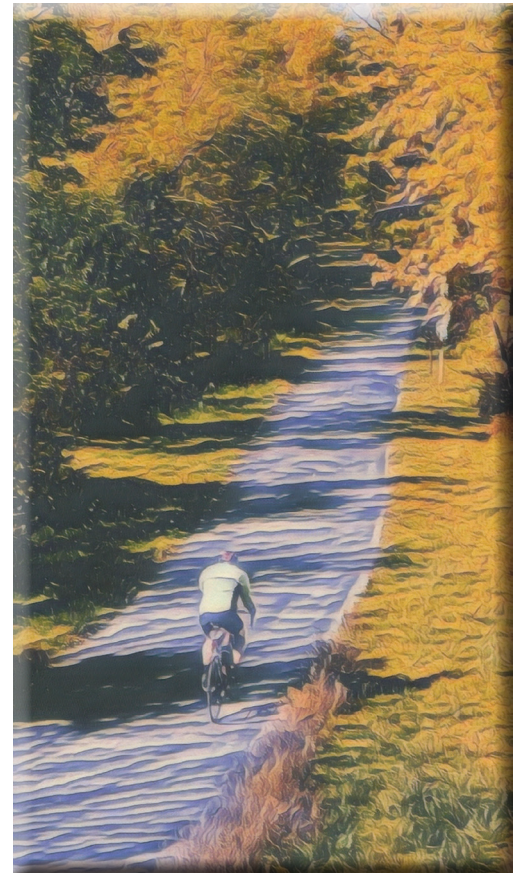
- Walmart-Marion
- Metro Studios
- Cancun Mexican Grill & Bar
- Christianson Chiropractic
- The Loose Chain
- Cost Cutters
- Briar Ridge Bikes
- Morning Story Marion
- Cedar Rapids Tourism
- Iowa Running Company
- Roscoe's Pizza
- The Ozone
- Pedaler's Fork

Trail Scouts \$100-\$249

- House Divided Brewery
- Kickstand
- Cassill Motors



Pictured above are Steve Hershner, Jeff Lake and Kyle Lungberg, winter biking. A big shout out to Steve and Kyle for their leadership on the very busy LCTA Event Committee!



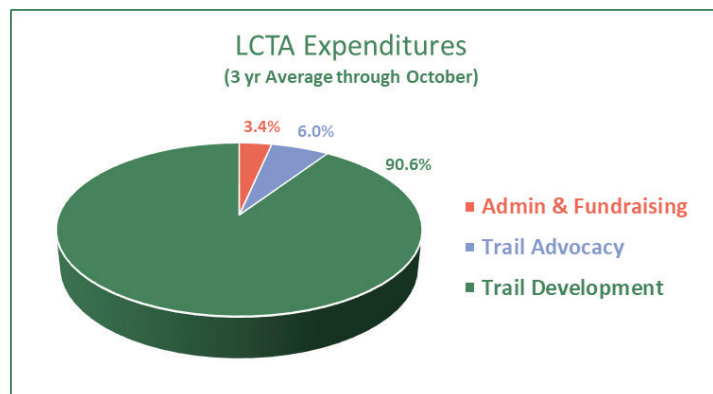
Thank You!

Thanks to all who have given to LCTA in 2023! Gifts have ranged from \$10 to \$10,000! A significant number have come with matching gifts from employers like Raytheon/Collins, Pepsi-co/Quaker, Alliant Energy, TransAmerica, BAE, BMO Financial, and others.

Over 90 percent of those donations go directly to support actual trail development by our partners Linn County Conservation, City of Cedar Rapids, and City of Marion. About 6% is used for LCTA's trail advocacy efforts (trail maps, website, Facebook, kiosk info, newsletters) and 3% for admin and fundraising.

If you have not donated to LCTA in 2023, your support, no matter the amount, can help push us over the top for 2023!

<https://www.facebook.com/lctrails>





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 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-2681

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Board meetings are the second Monday of the month. **Please join us.**

In person: City of Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building, 1111 Shaver Road NE, CR

Zoom: For the link, please email president@linncountytrails.org three days prior to the meeting.

Photo by Nichole Clefisch Plagge

I prefer to save paper, and to receive a DIGITAL copy of the Annual Report.

LCTA DONATION FORM

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Your email address will be used only for supporter administration and LCTA information. It will not be sold or shared.

All donations to LCTA are tax deductible.

Do you work for one of the following — or many other — employers which offer charitable gift matching? **Please include your form!**

- | | | | |
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| Aegion | Cargill | Intermec | Collins Aerospace |
| Alliant Energy | General Mills | PepsiCo (Quaker) | Other |

Donate immediately online at:
linncountytrails.org/campaign

or mail this form with your contribution to:
 Linn County Trails Association
 P.O. Box 2681
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Please accept my donation of \$ _____

Trail Supporter Levels:

- Trail Builder: \$1000+
- Trail Blazer: \$500 - \$999
- Trail Partner: \$100 - \$499
- Trail Scout: \$20 - \$99



Scan. Pay. Go. Last 4: 0721

We appreciate your annual support! The last date that you donated is on the back of this report.