

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



March 2023

Sac & Fox Trail and Indian Creek on a cold, sunny winter day. Photo by Nichole Clefish Plagge

## Trail Connections

A newsletter published by the Linn County Trails Association



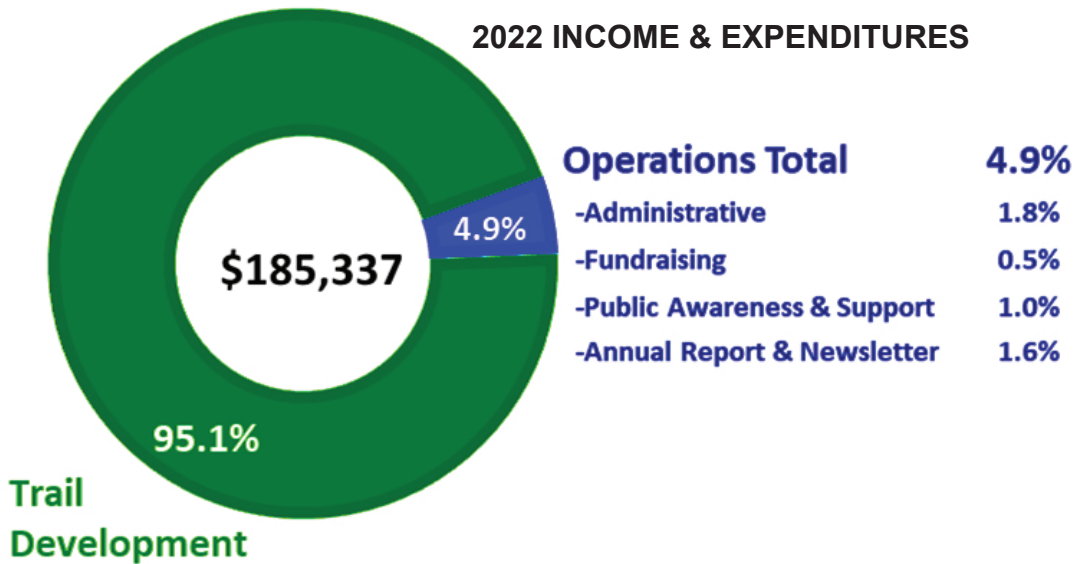


## Opinions needed!

In 2020 we sent out a trail survey and received 392 responses! The 2020 survey helped with goals for future trail development. An example was the request for more east/west trail connections and more trails on the west side of town. While many of these trails were penciled in, your opinions helped move the east/west Grant Wood Trail and the Cherokee Trail on the NW side of Cedar Rapids forward!

**Watch for the 2023 survey and  
LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!**

### 2022 INCOME & EXPENDITURES



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BOARD MEETINGS ARE ON THE SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH (EXCEPT JULY AND DECEMBER) AT THE CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS WATER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (1111 SHAVER ROAD NE). ALL BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO LCTA MEMBERS. IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND, PLEASE EMAIL CONTRIBUTOR@LINNCOUNTYTRAILS.ORG

## President's Report - by Tom Peffer

Happy Spring 2023!

Before we all turn our attention to the exciting trail developments that will occur this year, I want to take a quick look back at the amazing year of 2022. The Linn County Trails Association, the City of Cedar Rapids, the City of Marion, the Linn County Conservation Department, and the Linn Area Mountain Biking Association all made great strides in expanding the recreational trails system in Linn County.

In 2022, the Linn County Trails Association's Board of Directors completed our largest fundraising campaign ever! With your help, \$300,000 was raised during calendar years 2021 and 2022. As an indication of the broad support for recreational trails, 540 individuals and 33 businesses contributed to the campaign. Special thanks go to the Hall Perrine Foundation. Its \$50,000 grant was instrumental to our success. Although 82% of donations to LCTA come from individuals, it is very hard to raise \$300,000 without a few larger donations from foundations or corporations. The donation from the Hall Perrine Foundation got us off and running. Also important to our success were contributions from the Linn County Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation (\$10,000) and the McGrath Automotive Group Corporate Donor-Advised Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation (\$2,500). Also important was the \$5,000 matching contribution from our partner, the Hawkeye Bicycle Association, as well as \$5,000 contributions from United Fire Group in both campaign years! Thanks to EVERYONE who helped us "Make Trails Happen"!

The \$300,000 was raised to support three trail projects. \$100,000 was contributed to the Linn County Conservation Department to further the easterly expansion of the Grant Wood Trail. \$100,000 was contributed to the City of Cedar Rapids to advance the design work for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Trail that will connect the Alliant LightLine Bridge and the renovated Cedar Lake. \$100,000 was contributed to the City of Marion for the design work for the Lucore Road Pedestrian Bridge and Side Path Project, to safely separate vehicular and pedestrian/bicycle traffic. LCTA will continue to report on how all those projects are progressing.

More hard surfaced trails were constructed in 2022 than in any other year in Linn County history! Over 16 miles of hard sur-



faced trails have been added to the Linn County trails network THE LAST 2 YEARS alone!! Expansion like that does not happen without a lot of good work by a lot of good people, including contributors to the Linn County Trails Association.

In 2022, the City of Cedar Rapids added 3.2 miles of hard surfaced trails, and 4.0 miles of on-street bicycle facilities. Highlighting that effort was the expansion of the Grant Wood Trail from C Avenue SE to Council Street SE, including a tunnel under Blairs Ferry Road, and an expansion of the Cherokee Trail.

In 2022, Marion added 5.5 miles of hard surfaced trails. Highlights include the expansion of the Grant Wood Trail from Lindale Drive to Sixth Avenue, including the addition of two beautiful bridges over Indian Creek and Marion Blvd, construction of the Indian Creek Trail from Donnelly Park to Tower Terrace Road, and completion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue side paths.

In 2022, the Linn County Conservation Department added 2.8 miles of hard surfaced trails. Additions to the Grant Wood Trail east of Waldo's Rock Park, the Highway 100 Trail and the Cedar Valley Trail north of Center Point highlight those efforts.

In 2022, the Linn Area Mountain Biking Association completed two additional miles of single-track trail along the Sac and Fox Trail.

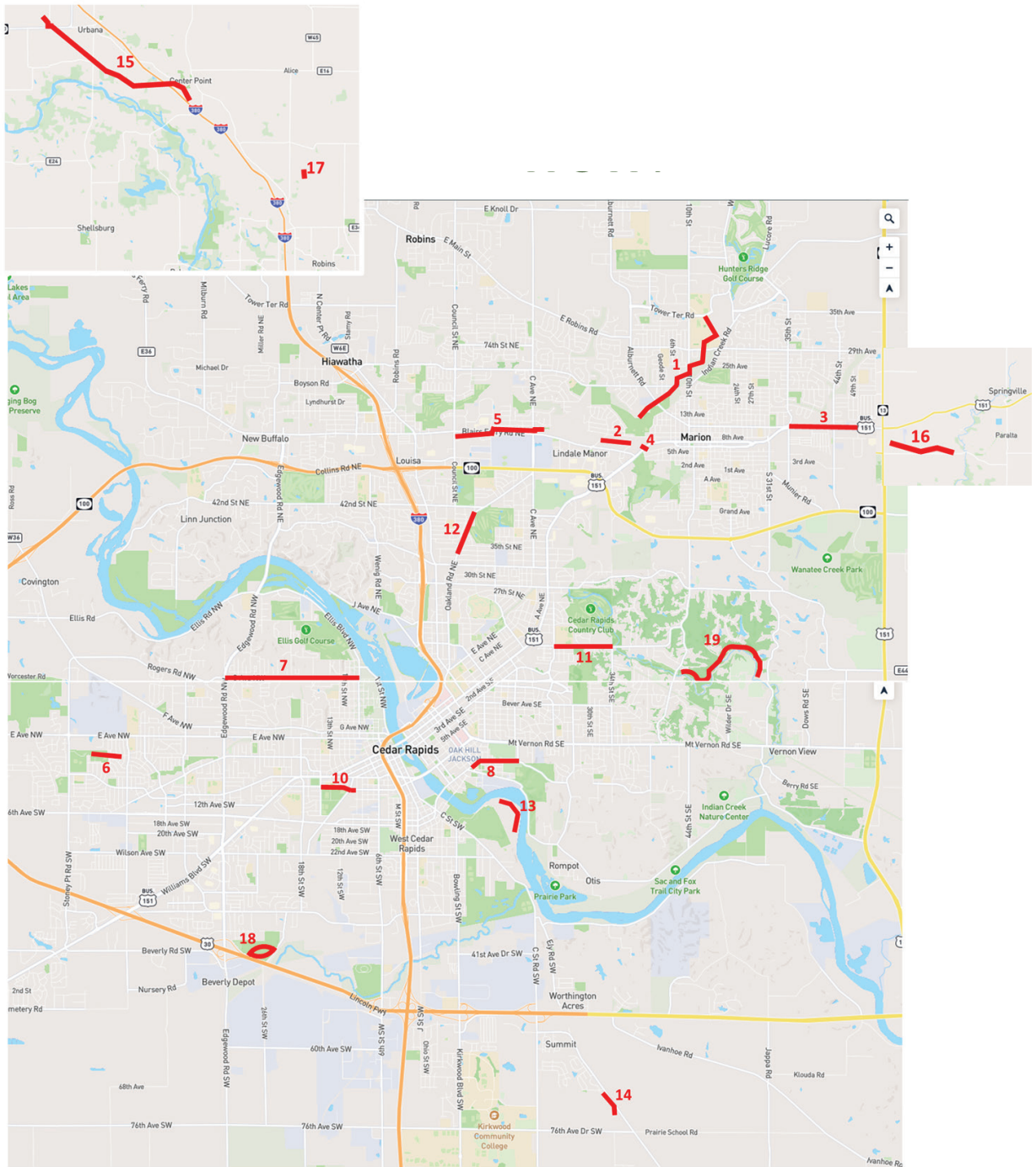
All in all, quite a year! I look forward to talking about what is happening in 2023 in later President's articles. 2022 will be hard to beat, but with continued support from our elected representatives, the staff of our trail partners and contributors to LCTA, the future looks bright.



Morgan Creek Park first snowfall.  
Photo courtesy of Greg Januska



# Reflecting on 2022. WOW!



## City of Marion

1. Indian Creek Trail from Donnelly Park NE to Tower Terrace Rd\*
2. Grant Wood Trail from Indian Creek west to Lindale Dr\*
3. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue side paths from 35<sup>th</sup> St east to 50<sup>th</sup> St\*
4. Grant Wood Trail Bridge over Marion Blvd

## City of Cedar Rapids

5. Grant Wood Trail Phase I from C Ave to Council St\*
6. Cherokee Trail Phase IIa Trailhead east from Morgan Creek Park\*
7. O Ave NW Bike Lanes from Edgewood Rd NW east to Ellis Blvd NW
8. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Bike Lanes from 7<sup>th</sup> St SE east to 19<sup>th</sup> St SE
9. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave SW shared use lane from C St SW to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW
10. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SW Bike Lanes between 15<sup>th</sup> St SW and 10<sup>th</sup> St SW
11. Cottage Grove Parkway SE Urban shoulders from Forest Dr SE to 34<sup>th</sup> St SE

12. Oakland Rd NE Bike Lanes from Center St NE to Golf St NE
13. Cedar Valley Trail Derecho damaged repair near Mt Trashmore

## Linn County Conservation

14. Cedar Valley Trail drainage improvements along Ely Rd SW north of 76<sup>th</sup> Ave SW
15. Cedar Valley Trail paving from Center Point north to Urbana
16. Grant Wood Trail paving from Waldo's Rock east to Oxley Rd
17. Cedar Valley Trail replacement bridge over Fishel Road

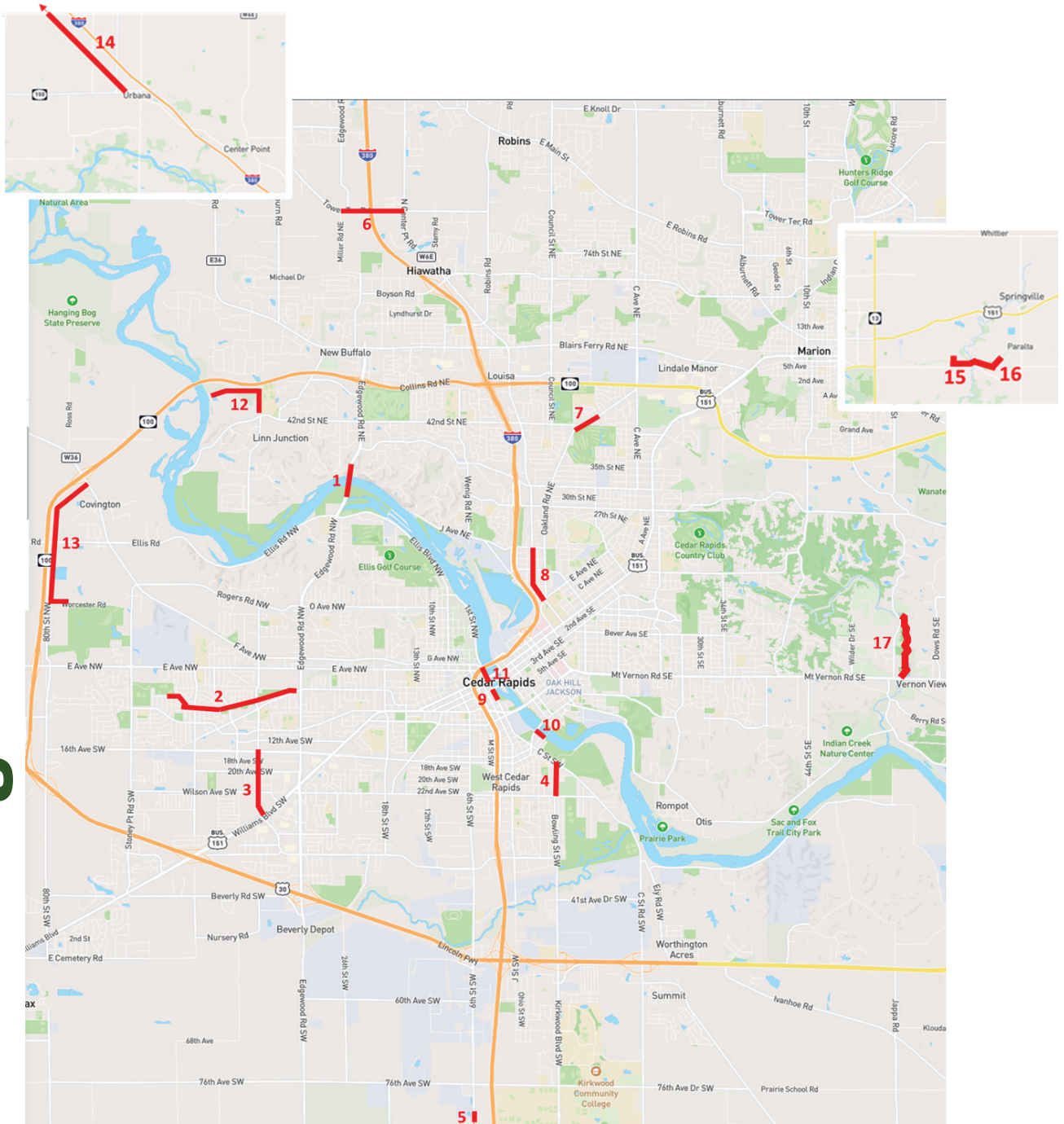
## Linn Area Mountain Bike Association

18. Beverly Park Trail additions including trail naming and signage
19. Aspen Trail near East Post Rd

\*PAGES 4 & 5 - Denotes Federal Aid through the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization



# Looking Forward to 2023



## City of Marion

Indian Creek Trail (Ribbon Cutting in Spring of 2023)

## City of Cedar Rapids

1. Edgewood Trail across the Cedar River\*
2. Cherokee Trail Phase IIb from Crestridge Ave SW east to Edgewood Rd\*
3. Edgewood Trail (Wiley segment) from 16th Ave SW south to Williams Blvd SW\*
4. Bowling St Trail from 33rd Ave SW north to C St SW\*
5. 6th Street SW Trail Intersections at Innovation Dr SW and at Commerce Park Dr SW
6. Tower Terrace Road NE side paths from Miller Rd NE east over I-380 to Center Point Rd NE
7. Old Marion Rd NE Bike Lanes from Golf St NE to Regent St NE
8. Center Pt Rd NE southbound Bike Lane from E Ave NE north to J Ave NE

9. 1st St SW Bike Lanes from 10th Ave SW north to 8th Ave SW

10. Trail along flood wall from 16th Ave SW to Riverside Park connecting through Riverside Park to C St SW

11. Ellis Trail from 2nd Ave SW to F Ave NW bridge

## Linn County Conservation

12. Morgan Creek (aka Highway 100) Trail Phase I from 42nd St / Xavier High School west to the Cedar River\*
13. Morgan Creek (aka Highway 100) Trail Phase III from Morgan Creek Park north to Covington Rd\*
14. Cedar Valley Trail paving north from Urbana
15. Grant Wood Trail extension from Oxley Rd east to Creekside Dr
16. Grant Wood Trail surfacing from Creekside Dr east to Paralta Rd.

## Linn Area Mountain Bike Association

17. Birch - single track trail on the Sac and Fox from Mt Vernon Rd north to Rosedale Rd.



# Thank you!!!

## 2022 Individual Donors

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2022 was a record year for LCTA, setting new records for both the number of individual (399) and business (26) supporters, in addition to receiving generous support from the Hall-Perrine Foundation, the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, and the Hawkeye Bicycle Association. THANK YOU all for your gifts of any amount!!

LCTA makes every effort to ensure donors are appropriately recognized. If your name has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our sincere apology and contact us at [contributor@linncountytrails.org](mailto:contributor@linncountytrails.org) so that we may correct the mistake.

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Hall-Perrine Foundation - \$50,000 Grant  
Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation - Linn County Fund - \$10,000 Grant  
Hawkeye Bicycle Association Member - \$5,000 Match

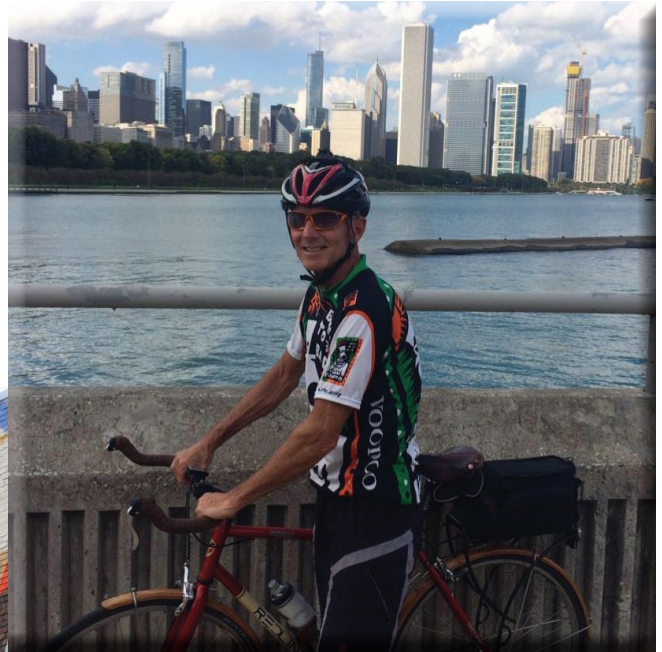


# Special Gifts

## In Memory of Scott Devore

Scott Devore could be found on a bike trail at any season. He was a great dad and friend to all and when he died suddenly in September of 2022, his family made a decision to give donations in his memory to LCTA. LCTA was honored to be selected and \$ 2345.00 was donated for trail development. Later, friends, some of whom were LCTA board members, gathered for a memory ride and dinner to share stories about Scott. A huge thanks goes to the Devore family for believing in LCTA's mission.

Scott, you will be missed but may great memories go on!



Memory Ride in honor of Scott Devore

## THANK YOU HAWKEYE BICYCLE ASSOCIATION!!

Hawkeye Bicycle Association really came through!

Thanks Hawkeye Bicycle Association for your generous matching gift for trail development! A total of \$13,570 was raised by HBA; \$8570 from HBA members and \$5000 from HBA!

We really appreciate your coordinated effort to **Make Trails Happen!**



Nadine Brock, LCTA board member and fundraiser extraordinaire and Jim Bernstein, HBA Board Member.

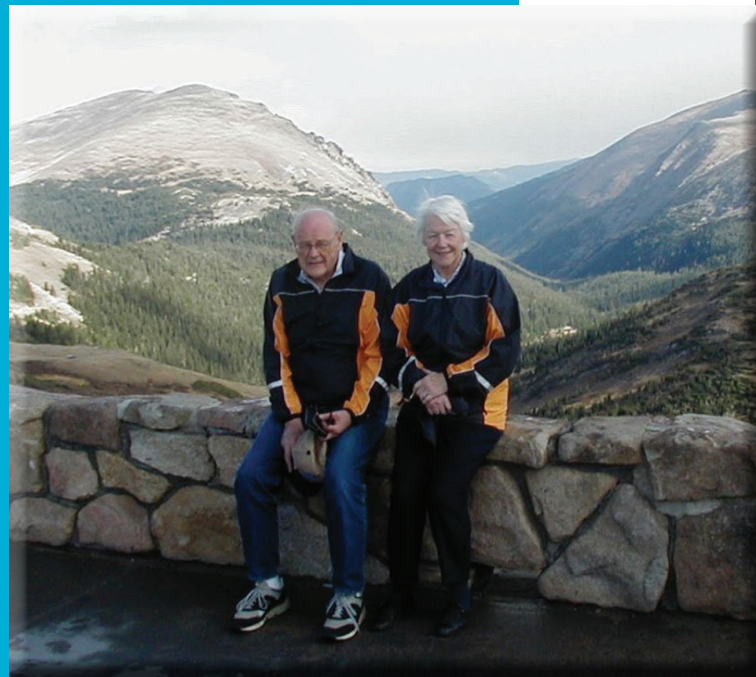


# Mike Wilson

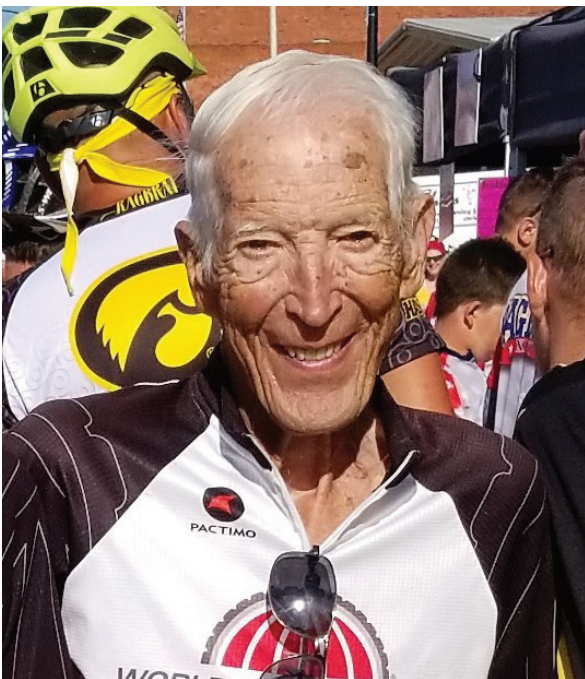
When Mike Wilson, former vice president of operations for Collins Radio, agreed to serve as president of LCTA in the 1990's, there was widespread opposition to trails. It gives him great satisfaction that the opposition has been transformed into widespread support and enjoyment. Because he understood the importance in documenting trail use, Mike encouraged efforts by John Wauer and fellow engineers to invent a trail counter. They succeeded in finding a way to convert the shadow of a passing user into a countable pulse. Their counters remain on Linn County trails to this day.

Mike has fond memories of walking with his wife, Esther, on the nearby Sac and Fox Trail. "The trail is rustic and fun to walk and the scenery constantly changes especially with the seasons." He continues to give financial support to the LCTA because "trails are a real asset to communities," for recreation and health. Employers find them to be helpful in hiring and retaining employees. "Personally, I have experienced these advantages."

Thank you, Mike Wilson, for your continued financial support of LCTA!



Mike & Esther Wilson



# Clarence Boesenberg

If you've spent any time on the trails, you've encountered Clarence Boesenberg somewhere along the way. Having turned 97 in February, he continues to amaze and inspire, logging over 110,000 miles on his bike just since installing his odometer in 1999. He's also completed nine RAGBRAI's since turning 85. Still going strong, his favorite routes are "to Urbana and Solon." His favorite destination? "Ely! To Dan & Debbie's Creamery."

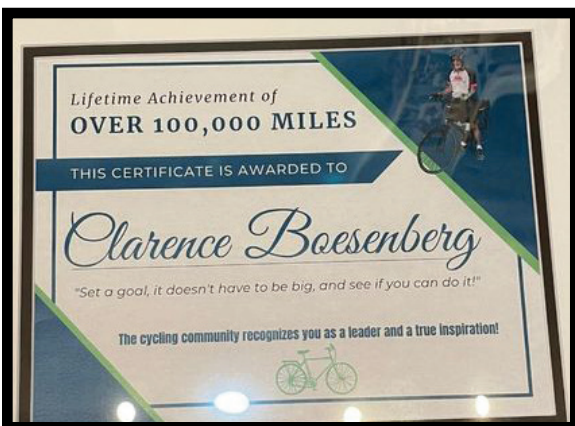
Clarence tells us, "I've spent many good days on the trails. Most any day I ride is a good day! A lot of people recognize and holler at me. I just feel bad that I don't recognize and know all of them."

When asked to what he attributes his hardiness, he replies, "Good genes and lots of riding. Biking has really helped me keep my health. I started riding 25 years ago when I was having trouble with my knees while walking and running. I found that riding didn't bother my knees."

He contributes generously to LCTA, saying, "Somebody before me made the trails that I enjoy. I just want to pay it forward!" Likewise, Salvation Army, Horizons, Linn County Food Bank, HACAP, Red Cross, American Cancer Society, and Church are benefactors of his generosity. He delivers for Meals on Wheels as well, saying, "They provided so much help to get my wife and I through her serious health issue; I just want to pay it back."

Add "Generous Soul" to "Good genes and lots of riding" to explain why he's still going strong at 97.

Say hi when you see him on the trail . . .







# KIDS ON TRAILS!!

Getting children out in nature and biking on the trails can be an amazing experience. As all parents (and Grandparents) know, pre-planning makes all the difference! Packing plenty of water and snacks, stopping often to enjoy the scenery and maybe even bringing a best friend or two can add to the enjoyment.

According to Rascal Rides, there are seven safety tips to make a super fun and successful ride! <https://rascalrides.com/7-safety-tips-for-biking-with-kids/>

1. Ride on bike paths (or protected bike lanes).
2. Everyone in the group wears a helmet.
3. Follow the laws and be predictable. Teach children to stay in their lane.
4. Mount lights on your bikes. It can get dark quickly and best to be prepared.
5. Carry a basic safety/fix kit with you.
6. Keep your child close. Until age 10, children have a hard time judging speed. On trails this is a bit easier but at crossings, they need to wait for you. Bring enough adults to keep speed groups together.
7. Make sure your child's bike is in good working condition.

Check out these photos of the fun that Dave Dechant had with his grandkids on the Cedar Valley Trail and Grant Wood Trail!







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Address	<b>Method of Payment:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Check (Enclosed) <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Me
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Email	Do you work for one of the following — or many other — employers which offer charitable gift matching? <b>Please include your form!</b> Aegon                      Cargill                      Intermec                      Collins Aerospace Alliant Energy          General Mills              PepsiCo (Quaker)          Other
<i>Your email address will be used only for supporter administration and LCTA information. It will not be sold or shared.</i> <b>All donations to LCTA are tax deductible.</b>	<b>THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION!</b>

<b>Trail Supporter Levels:</b>			
	<b>Trail Champion</b>	<b>\$5,000+</b>	
	<b>Trail Builder</b>	<b>\$1,000-\$4,999</b>	
	<b>Trail Blazer</b>	<b>\$500-\$999</b>	
	<b>Trail Partner</b>	<b>\$250-\$499</b>	
	<b>Trail Scout</b>	<b>\$50-\$249</b>	
	<b>Trail Friend</b>	<b>\$20-\$49</b>	