



## Trail Updates from Partners in Linn County

02/12/2024

All information approved by each person named below.

### **A. Linn County Conservation Department (Randy Burke updated 2/9/24):**

#### 1. Cedar Valley Nature Trail:

- 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 culverts are complete. They are nearly complete with the installation of 8 smaller culverts which are a part of their paving project. Paving in Black Hawk County is scheduled to begin in the spring. In the Linn County section, the Bear Creek Bridge construction is complete, and open. The 52nd St. underpass is nearing completion. The underpass is installed and final grading is nearly complete. Bids for the 6 miles of trail paving were accepted in December, with the low bid of \$2.3 million accepted from L.L. Pelling. Construction is anticipated to begin in early spring of 2024.

#### 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 has been redesigned with the rebid **now scheduled for late 2024. Work is anticipated for FY2025.**
- 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 on this project is complete, with only a couple of minor punch list items to complete. Contractors are hauling hundreds of loads of dirt, daily, being removed from the Cedar Lake area. Trucks are turning into the dumping area and crossing the trail of 80th street near the south edge of the water treatment plant. **The majority of this work is now complete and this section of trail will now be opened.**
- 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.
- Design work and working on additional funding is currently happening on Phase 4 of the Morgan Creek Trail from the Covington Rd. underpass to the west side of the Cedar River. The County is also looking for funding to begin the design phase of the Cedar River Bridge. (The Biechler Bridge).

### 3. Grant Wood Trail:

- The section from Oxley Road to Creekside Drive is completed.
- LCCD has received bids and signed a contract with PCI for the improvements from Creekside Drive to Paralta Road. Work was originally scheduled to begin sometime this fall, but it appears that it will now begin in the spring. 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 2.5.24):**

### 1. 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. Working through completing all appraisals to send packets to property owners for approval. Might require an agreement amendment with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for a trail/bridge in Faulkes Woods Park.
- Revised cost estimate received in January showed a nearly \$1M increase. Fortunately, the revised CMPO TIP cycle will allow for the City to submit an additional funding request to lessen the local burden.
- Gateway feature materials ordered. Fabrication to begin in the coming months.

### 2. Lucore Road and Bridge Sidepaths:

- Discussion with impacted property owners to continue. Want to get archeological studies done if weather allows.

### 3. Grant Wood Trail

- Marion Pocket Park along Grant Wood Trail (just east of 31st Street, south of Legion) with relocated caboose will begin taking shape. Council discussion/approval to name the park Draper Park on the agenda for 2/8/24.

**C. Linn Area Mountain Bike Association (Rob McKillip): 2/11/2024**

- Most trails are in surprisingly great riding condition! The ground never really froze. Doing some early spring trail maintenance.
- Two weeks of intense winter! LAMBA made a significant grooming effort which resulted in 48 hour window from groomed trail riding
- LAMBA annual meeting 2/20 at the Sag Wagon

**D. City of Cedar Rapids (Ron Griffith updated 02/02/24):**

- A construction contract to remove trees damaged by the August 2020 derecho storm will affect the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from J Ave NE to 42nd St NE between April and July of this year. There is the possibility of trail closures and a trail detour during this work.
- 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 section from E Ave NE to Lincoln Ave NE recently opened. The next segment from Lincoln Ave NE to H Ave NE will be done by the end of 2023. The entire project from E Ave NE to J Ave NE will be complete in 2024.
- 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. This work has been pushed back to 2024 construction.
- Grant Wood Trail (formerly Lindale Trail)
  - 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. Construction is expected to get underway in 2024.
- 6<sup>th</sup> St. NW/SW Trail & Bikeway
  - The 6th St NW extension between 1st Ave W to F Ave NW opened last year. Bike lanes were part of the project and connected 6th St SW to Ellis Blvd NW, which has existing bike lanes from F Ave NW to Penn Ave NW.

- Additional trail segments (approximately 0.6 miles total) were 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. The Commerce Dr SW roundabout was opened to traffic in July 2023. The Innovation Dr SW/St Martins Blvd SW roundabout was open in November 2023.
- Bowling St Trail
  - Design work is complete to rebuild the Bowling St Trail from 33rd Ave to Wilson Ave. The project will be bid in February 2024. 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. This will complete the connection of the Bowling St Trail to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. The project is expected to begin construction in 2024 and completed in 2025.
- 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 Harbet Ave NW. Trail paving has been completed thru Jacolyn Park and Cherokee Park. Crossing improvements at Jacolyn Dr NW and Wiley Blvd NW and neighborhood connections were completed in September 2023. Work on the roundabouts at Gordon Ave NW/West Post Rd NW and Gordon Ave NW/Harbet Ave NW is complete. Final pavement markings and punch list items will be completed in 2024.
  - Design work for Phase III from Edgewood Rd NW to 13th St NW has started with construction expected in 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 was completed in 2023. The trail ties into existing bike lanes on Wiley Blvd that run from 16th Ave SW to Johnson Ave SW. A mid-block crossing (including a median refuge island) about halfway between 20th St SW and Wilson Ave SW with a rectangular rapid flashing beacon was installed with 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 was bid and awarded in October 2023. Construction will be completed in 2024.
  - 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 2025.

- Tower Terrace Rd NE
  - Grading work has finished on the section between C Ave NE and Alburnett Rd (Marion). The proposed roadway includes a 10' wide trail on both sides of Tower Terrace Rd NE. Paving will occur in 2024 as two separate projects.
- 4th Street Trail segment of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail
  - The 4th Street Trail project will extend the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from where it stops at 7th Avenue SE in downtown Cedar Rapids to the future Alliant Energy LightLine™ bridge over the Cedar River. The Project is early in the design phase.
- 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.**
  - Shaver Rd NE to 10th St NE - Work has begun 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. **The portion of the trail thru Riverside Park was completed in September 2023.**
  - 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 was rebuilt as part of Flood Control work. The bike lane between 2nd Ave SW and 1st Ave W was eliminated with the project.
  - 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 2024.
- ConnectCR
  - Alliant Energy LightLine Bridge - **demolition of the existing railroad bridge started late last year. Design work is underway for the new pedestrian and bicycle bridge which will become the new route for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Construction on the bridge will start in late 2024 or early 2025.**
  - Cedar Lake - **Design work for extending the Cedar Lake Loop Trail on the east side of Cedar Lake is nearly complete.** This segment will eliminate the need to use Shaver Rd NE to complete the loop.

Published by Linn County Trails Association  
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