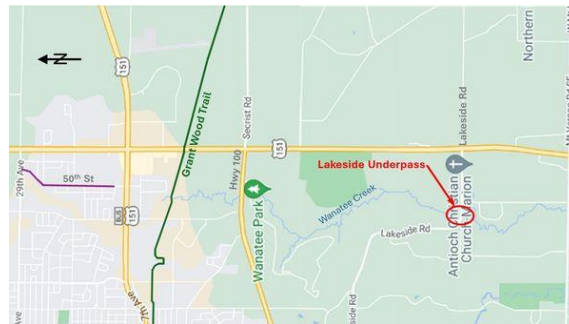


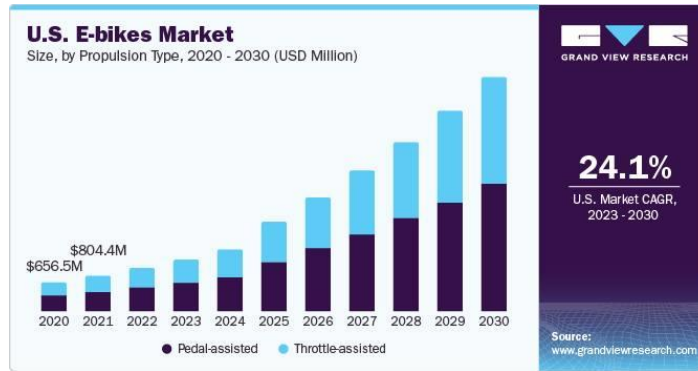
## April 2024 LCTA Newsletter

**Maniti Trail- it's coming!**  
**E-bikes - Controversial or Complimentary?**  
**Birds Eye View of your Favorite Trails!**  
**Tree Planting along Marion Trails - Volunteers Needed**  
**Celebrate with Marion, the Indian Creek Trail**  
**Business Sponsors**  
**Calendar of Events**



A Preliminary Alignment Study for the **Maniti Trail** is nearing completion. The trail will follow Wanatee Creek from 29th Ave on the North side of Marion to **Grant Wood Trail** and Wanatee Park Trail Connections to a future **InterUrban Trail** Connection at Mt Vernon Road. North of Highway 100 will be City of Marion, Iowa Government and south of Hwy 100 will be Linn County Conservation projects.

Construction will be multiple phases of multiple years. An underpass for the trail at Lakeside Road has bid and will be constructed this summer. A mowed path will follow the County's portion of the trail as a funding package is put together to surface the trail. The portion through Wanatee Park will likely come first. The section of trail south of Lakeside Road will require significantly more grading work. There is no timeframe other than the underpass this summer.



**E-bike** popularity is booming with double digit growth forecast to continue through 2030, putting more E-bikes on the trails. New E-bike owners are sharing that they are “empowering.” Some traditional cyclists view them as “cheating.”

“Empowering” E-bikes make cycling accessible for more people by allowing a comfortable exertion level so riders may ride more often and go further regardless of wind, hills, or heat conditions. It also equalizes the ride for those with varying skill levels so they can ride together.

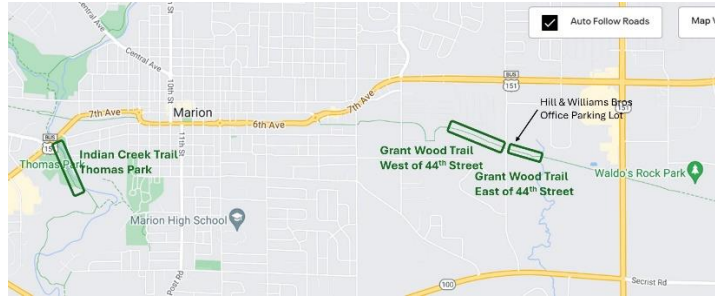
“Cheating” in the sense that some believe E-bikes provide an unfair advantage in replacing human effort with battery power, making riding less physically demanding when cycling is supposed to be about physical exercise.

Folks use E-bikes for many reasons as detailed below.



Iowa Code allows E-bikes on trails with stipulations. A local bike shop owner says the E-bike market is past the tipping point and it’s time to embrace E-bikes whether it is a personal preference or not.

Regardless of how one is rolling, conventional or electric assisted, the key on multi-use trails is etiquette and courtesy to other users regardless of how they are rolling, running, or walking.

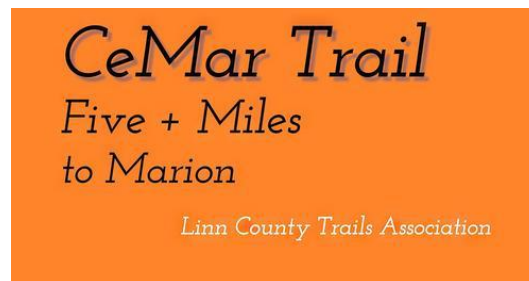


### Help - 20 to 30 Tree Planting Volunteers Needed

Thanks in large part to a \$5,000 grant from Iowa Department of Natural Resources, LCTA in collaboration with City of Marion, Iowa Government will be planting 71 trees along the Grant Wood and Indian Creek Trails.

Those interested in volunteering should sign up at <https://signup.com/go/ozxEHtj> and arrive a little before 1 pm on Sunday April 21 @Hill and Williams Brothers Trucking, who has graciously allowed volunteers to park in their office parking lot at 625 44th Street. Information is detailed on the signup link. Hope to see you there!

Watch for other volunteer activities in 2024. The season is just starting!



Want to know from a bird's eye view where your favorite (or next to be favorite) trail travels? Check out this link to the LCTA website videos created by Steve Sovern. So far you can view Connect CR Cedar Lake, Cedar River Trail South from downtown CR, Hoover Trail CR to Solon. Cedar Valley Nature Trail Cedar Rapids to Urbana, downtown CR Trails, Grant Wood Trail, CEMAR Trail AND soon to hit the website the Indian Creek Trail, Cherokee Trail and the Morgan Creek Trail. <https://linncountytrails.org/v...>



LCTA and the City of Marion celebrate the completion of the Indian Creek Trail. This project consisted of a 2-mile, 10-foot wide, hard surface trail that follows along Indian Creek from the Boyson Trail to Tower Terrace Road and is another important connection in Marion's trail network.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! We're off and running in 2024!! Sixty-Eight donors have contributed through the end of March.

This includes seven Business Sponsors already on board for 2024, UFG Insurance Jams Coffee Bar Benchmark, Inc. Shive-Hattery Hometown Restyling House Divided Brewery Briar Ridge Bikes.



Trail friends visiting Jams Coffee Bar in Urbana, an important trail sponsor!

### **Calendar of Events- Spring 2024**

April 20 th, EcoFest NewBo

April 21<sup>st</sup> Tree Planting along trails in Marion

May 9<sup>th</sup> Day of Caring May (Trail Cleanup Event/Location TBD)

May 11<sup>th</sup> CMPO bike ride

May 13-17<sup>th</sup> Bike to Work Week (Stay tuned for details)

