



Fairfield County Trails

Volume 3, Issue 1

The Fairfield Heritage Trail Association

Winter 2010

Who or What is FHTA?

The FHTA Case Statement

The Fairfield Heritage Trail Association (FHTA) is a group of Fairfield County citizens committed to developing a network of trails linking Fairfield County. The term, trail, is used throughout our literature to describe a system of bikeways for use by non-motorized vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Other names or concepts may include bike path, hiking trail, nature walk, jogging trail, greenway or linear park. The goal of FHTA is to bring together existing and potential users of trails with civic leaders to facilitate the creation of a trail system for Fairfield County, Ohio.

In addition to being an excellent place to reside, Fairfield County contains many natural, cultural and historical sites that make it a high-quality tourist destination. Visitation is currently limited to travel by automobile, bicycle or foot, all using the same busy highway system, creating unsafe conditions for non-motorized travel.

The establishment of trails will create a safe, peaceful and effective environment for providing important recreational opportunities for young and old alike. The actual benefits of physical activities such as walking, bicycling, skating, horseback riding and cross-country skiing on cardiovascular health and weight control are well documented in the professional literature.

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Why a Shared-use trail system?

Shared-use trails and bicycle create transportation and recreation opportunities for all citizens and visitors, as is readily confirmed by the tremendous usage of the new Lancaster City Bike Trail. (While the official name is Lancaster City Bike Trail, the trail is open to all non-motorized traffic, so that it may be enjoyed by many more people than just cyclists.) LCBT construction began in 2005 and thus far comprises over seven miles of trails in Lancaster. Less than one half of one mile remains until a paved trail from MRDD/Forest Rose, the Agricultural Center and OU-Lancaster to Plaza Shopping Center is completed.

On any given day, at any given time, at any given location along the LCBT, people are using the trail. School children walk to class along several sections (near Tallmadge, Ewing, Lancaster High School, OU-L); several grocery stores are near different parts of the trail; different commercial interests are easily accessible from the LCBT; nature enthusiasts enjoy their interests; and runners, walkers, rollerbladers, cyclists, skateboarders and dogs get their exercise.

Shared-use trails are democratic, allowing different pursuits on the same ground, offering opportunities to more citizens than single use facilities.

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McCleery Covered Bridge

The McCleery Bridge was built in 1864 by Jacob Brandt, who went on to construct many bridges in Fairfield County and the rest of the state of Ohio. This was the first large bridge built by Mr. Brandt, 97 feet long at a cost of \$12.50 per linear foot.

The bridge carried Leonard Road across Walnut Creek about 2.5 miles southwest of Baltimore (Basil) near the bed of the Ohio and Erie Canal, and just south of a mill operated by William Gear. Walnut Creek ran through the McCleery farm (or McLeery – both

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spellings have been used), and was named for the family.

The design of the bridge is a Single Span, Multiple Kingpost Truss.

In 1983, the bridge was moved to the Jim Walter Property on Pleasantville Road, just west of State Route 158. Approximately 48 feet of the bridge was lost to dry rot, and the remaining section is 50 feet long.

The McCleery Bridge is the oldest standing covered bridge in Fairfield County.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter graciously donated the McCleery Bridge and it was installed in 2006 over Fetters Run near Thomas Ewing Middle School and the practice field just south of Fulton Field.



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Summer 2010 will see construction on a new section of trail in Amanda, funded partially by a grant secured by FHTA members through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. This one mile section of the proposed Johns Trail utilizes abandoned rail bed from near Marshall's Granary to Sand Hill Rd. One block from the east end of this short section is the campus for Amanda-Clearcreek Local Schools. The long-range plan is to extend the Johns Trail east to meet the LCBT at Olivedale Senior Center where it turns north.

Phases III and IV of the LCBT will connect the Plaza Shopping Center with the Ety Rd. commercial area and then meld in the mix of shared-use trail, shared roadways, and bike lanes to join with Franklin County's extensive and excellent network of trails.

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Progressive community leaders recognize that Fairfield County must promote the construction of an interconnected trail system adjacent to designated open space, passing through rural, suburban and urban areas alike. The economic benefits of multi-use trails for Fairfield County include increased visitor and tourist traffic, increased sales of food and recreational equipment, and increased property values. People want to live near clean, safe recreational opportunities.

The FHTA is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization, recognized with letters of support from local village, city, township and county government agencies as well as civic and fraternal organizations.

See the list of trail endorsers below. ❖

The Fairfield Heritage Trail Association has received the endorsement of the following groups:

Adventure Cycling Association
Amanda-Clearcreek Board of Education
Amanda Village Council
Bremen Area Historical Society
Bremen Mayor Toni Harper; Village of Bremen
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hamburg
Dum-Ford House Bed and Breakfast, Amanda
Fairfield County Commissioners
Fairfield County Historical Park Commission
Fairfield Union Board of Education
Hocking Township Trustees
Lancaster Board of Education
Lancaster City Council
Ohio University - Lancaster
Progressive Referrals Group of Lancaster
Rushcreek Township Trustees
Fairfield County Mental Health
& Recovery Service Board
The Friends of Clear Creek
The Friends of the Hocking River



GOBA 2010 in Southeast Ohio

The 22nd annual Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure will set up a colorful tent city on Saturday June 19 in Logan.

GOBA is a weeklong bicycle tour during which some 3000 cyclists visit a series of 6 towns in Ohio, riding 40-60 miles each day. 2010 overnights are in Logan, McConnellsville, Marietta, Athens, and McArthur.

GOBA's unofficial motto is "Ride to Eat and Eat to Ride!" Each year towns across Ohio compete for the opportunity to host GOBA because of the economic benefit, and the chance to encourage on-going, year-round tourism.

"Our figures indicate the riders average spending about \$30 a day in the communities they stay in," said tour director, Julie Mills. That's a \$90,000 direct boost to the local economy. ❖

Tour de Cause, tour of Fairfield County Covered Bridges

On July 17, the Tour de Cause will begin and finish at the Ohio University–Lancaster campus. The Tour de Cause, organized by The Lancaster Cause, consists of four rides, from 10 to 100 miles. Each ride will pass by or through one of Fairfield County's 23 historic covered bridges.

The 10 mile "Nature Ride," will take riders along the Lancaster City Bike Trail to Olivedale and back, past two covered bridges. 35, 62 and 100 mile riders will share the beautiful roads of the county and may see 11 covered bridges

Tour de Cause riders will be overloaded with amenities: T-shirt, inner tube, Panera, Cristy's Pizza, Arby's sandwiches, bike mechanics, stocked rest stops, live entertainment, and the opportunity to meet plenty of county residents and learn Fairfield County history.

FHTA will be manning the Olivedale rest stop with snacks, water and friendliness. Other stops will be staffed with locals from Amanda, Sugar Grove, Millersport, and other communities. This ride will surely be one of the best, and you won't want to miss it.

Check the website www.tourdecause.org to find the ride that's right for you, your family, and your friends. All money raised is being donated to the ADAMH Board and The Recovery Center.

CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

March	
5	COG meeting
9	Monthly meeting
April	
13	Monthly meeting
17	COP Spot Tour
?	Lawrence St. Gardens cleanup
?	Trail cleanup, Lancaster Bicycle
May	
8-9	TOSRV
11	Monthly meeting
16	Community Ride, Lancaster
17-21	Bike to Work Week
21	Bike to Work Day
June	
5	Spring HOOT
8	Monthly meeting
19-26	GOBA
?	COG meeting - Audubon Park
July	
13	Monthly meeting
16-17	Consider Biking Bike Festival
17	Tour de Cause
17	Steve Barbour Memorial Tour
24	Festival Fair Day rodeo
August	
10	Monthly meeting
20-22	Pelotonia
September	
11	COP Covered Bridge Tour
14	Monthly meeting
?	Community Care Day

A community has to have the capacity to envision the future they want, and not just the future they are likely to get.

- Unknown

The Fairfield Heritage Trail Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation.

President	Brett Navin
Vice-President	Jeff Vandervoort
Secretary	Peggy Mahler
Treasurer	Dave Scheffler

Membership applications, meeting times, minutes, etc:
www.fairfieldheritagetrail.org
 Email: president@fairfieldheritagetrail.org



Fairfield Heritage Trail Association
 112 E. Main St. Suite 300
 Lancaster, OH 43130

Membership Application (Mail to: FHTA, c/o Dave Scheffler, 112 E. Main St. Ste 300, Lancaster, OH 43130)		
First Name	Last Name	
Address 1		
Address 2		
City	State – Zip	County
Home Phone	Work Phone	E-Mail
Have you ridden an existing rail-trail? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Which?	Have you ridden the Lancaster City Bike Trail?
Do you know any political office holders? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Who?	Who?
Do you belong to a service club? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Which	Are you willing to do public speaking? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Please list any ideas you have related to accelerating the development of the Fairfield Heritage Trail.		
Membership Level		
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$20.00/year <input type="checkbox"/> Household - \$30.00/year Amount Enclosed: \$_____		
Tee shirts? We've got Tee shirts! Be the first on your block to sport the new Fairfield Heritage Trail t-shirt. Only \$10.00 each - order one for each member of your household. Enter quantity of each size: S ____ + M ____ + L ____ + XL ____ + XXL ____ = Total # of shirts ____ x \$10.00		
Date: _____		Grand Total: \$_____