



Fairfield County Trails News

Volume 3, Issue 2

The Fairfield Heritage Trail Association

Spring 2010

Lancaster Trail update

The LCBT construction is nearing the end of Phase II and will be entering Phase III soon.

Phase II, connecting Olivedale Park with the new bridge behind the Plaza Mall, is nearing completion. The two "lowflow" bridges have been installed over Hunters' Run behind Martens' Park. They have not been completed but it is possible this spring to ride with caution. By mid summer, the Hunters' Run project should be ready for riders of all ability.

"We've set a deadline of the Tour de Cause [July 17] to have the bridges finished," Parks and Recreation Director Mitch Overton said.



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Blacklick Creek Trail and Three Creeks Trail to meet at US 33

By Eric Oberg

The much anticipated meeting of two major trails is set to occur by this fall just north of Canal Winchester. The Blacklick Creek Trail and the Three Creeks Trail will be connected at US 33 via a bike/ped overpass bridge.

This connection will allow seamless connection from Three Creeks Metro Park to Pickerington Ponds Metro Park. By connecting into the existing Three Creeks Trail this also opens up the entire greater Central Ohio Greenways network to residents of Canal Winchester and all over the southeast Franklin County area. With many innovative solutions laid out in the recently passed Fairfield County Active Transportation and Open Space Plan, this also creates a direct path for trail efforts in Fairfield County to connect into this emerging regional trail system.

The new connection will extend the Blacklick Creek Trail north from its current terminus just south of Route 33. An 880 foot bridge will take users over 33 across to the west side of Blacklick Creek and follow the creek,

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Walter-McCleery Covered Bridge to be repaired

The Walter-McCleery Covered Bridge on the Lancaster City Bike Trail crossing Feters Run at Thomas Ewing Junior High School, will be repaired this summer by Lancaster City Parks and Recreation.

Mid and late February snow storms dumped several inches in Lancaster, and the weight of the snow caused concern. An LPR crew made immediate modifications, knowing that a more extensive project would be in

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order.

Oak lumber has been ordered from a supplier at Zaleski State Forest. LPR Director Mitch Overton said the repairs will be scheduled around the various 5Ks and other activities that use this section of the trail this summer.

Built by Jacob Brandt in 1864, the design of the bridge is a Single Span, Multiple Kingpost Truss. Its original location was on Leonard Road at Walnut Creek. In 1983, the bridge was moved to the Jim Walter Property on Pleasantville Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter graciously donated the McCleery Bridge and it was installed in 2006.

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

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The finishing touches will be placed on Phase II later this summer, and the trail will move into Phase III, which will extend the trail from behind the Plaza Shopping Mall to the Hocking Valley Mall. Trail planners have been in contact with property owners and the city to determine the best route for the new trail.

Several groups have expressed interest in beautifying the trail. One recent Saturday morning, Lancaster residents Mary and Rick Bozman, and Verena and Ralf Lucker spent a Saturday morning did just that.

The couples turned the soil and planted hostas, lilies and other non-invasive plants, and then spread mulch donated by Lowe's Manager Steve Wright. Ride along the train tracks between Mary Burnham Park and Lawrence St. to see their work.

See www.lancasterparks.com the Lancaster Parks and Rec webpage, and click on the link to see the trail map. ❖

Visit www.fairfieldheritagetrail.org

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

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crossing over it one more time before meeting an existing trail which will take it to the intersection of Winchester Pike and Ebright Road. The trail will then go under Winchester Pike at the road bridge and then follow Shannon Road connecting to the existing trail north of Shannon Road which leads all the way to Pickerington Ponds.

As a part of the project, Shannon Road will be straightened as it nears Winchester Pike. Funding for the project is through a mixture of sources including Federal Transportation Enhancement Grants as well as by the Columbus Metro Parks. The completion of this vital connection will be a boon for trail users all over the region, but especially for those who live and recreate in southeast Franklin and northwest Fairfield County. ❖



Spring Wildflowers on the LCBT

By Pat Navin

There are so many wildflowers on the bike trail this spring. Thanks to the keen eye and knowledge of FHTA member Marilyn Walker, we know that there are at least 25 different types of wildflowers between Lawrence St. and Estep's.

One wildflower you might see right now is the black-eyed susan is a biennial, daisy-like flower that can grow up to 2 ft. Its Golden yellow petals surround a brown center.

Lyre-leaf greeneyes or chocolate flower is a velvety-leaved, 1-2 ft. perennial. Its mounded, coarse, gray-green foliage has a chocolate aroma. It's a leafy plant with numerous, daisy-like blossoms 2 inches across with yellow petals and a maroon center. These flowers open in the morning and droop in the heat of day. ☺



CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

May

- 8-9 TOSRV
- 11 Monthly meeting
- 16 Community Ride, Lancaster
- 17-21 Bike to Work Week
- 19 Ride of Silence
- 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

Gear up for GOBA 2010: SE OH

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.

See www.goba.com for details. ❖

Tour of Fairfield County Covered Bridges: Tour de Cause 2010

The 2010 Tour de Cause will begin and finish at the Ohio University-Lancaster campus on Saturday July 17. Each of the four rides, from 10 to 100 miles, will pass by or through a number of Fairfield County's historic covered bridges.

The 10 mile "Nature Ride" will take riders along the Lancaster City Bike Trail to Olivedale and back. FHTA will be manning the Olivedale rest stop/turnaround. Rides of 35, 62 and 100 miles will take cyclists along beautiful county roads to see up to 11 covered bridges, and the post-ride party will include live music and lunch provided by Cristy's Pizza.

This ride will surely be one of the best, and you won't want to miss it. See www.tourdecause.org for details. All money raised is being donated to the ADAMH Board and The Recovery Center. ❖

Downtown Bike Rack Project

Main Street Lancaster, FHTA and the City of Lancaster have begun work on the creation and installation of 21 bike racks in downtown.

Buckeye Honda has offered to donate 10% of service bills (up to a \$100 donation, and as so requested by customers) to the project for a limited time. This is a great opportunity, and we need your support – is your car ready for some work? Call Buckeye Honda at 653-7678, or stop in at 2615 N. Memorial Dr., Lancaster.

Donations may also be made to Main Street Lancaster, Bike Rack Project, PO Box 77, Lancaster, OH 43130. ❖

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: \$_____