



Photo Credit: Tom Bilcze



Ohio to Erie Trail

Fall 2018

Newsletter #58

Moffitt Memorial Ride Memories

The Moffitt Memorial Ride of 2018 will be one to remember for the 40 cyclists who joined us for the annual adventure on September 8 –14. The tour started under dry conditions in Cincinnati, but those conditions weren't meant to last. The first two days of riding were a testimony to safe surfaces as the trail grew extremely wet from over an inch of rain in a short period of time.



Riders summit on the a hill in Wayne County during the 2018 Moffitt Memorial Ride

The first morning's stop of day one was at Fifty West Cycling. The friendly staff welcomed riders with snacks, refreshments, and the last chance to stock up on raingear before heading into Hurricane Gordon's effect on Ohio. Loveland, Ohio offered respite from the rain for the first lunch stop for several riders. However, many riders forged on, eager to get out of the rain and into Xenia where Rails to Trails Conservancy hosted a warm reception for riders at Devil Wind Brewery. Food, local brews, and the opportunity to get dry were most welcome as the cheers for riders marked their arrivals.

Hurricane Gordon's rain continued into Columbus, but on day 3, sunshine, warmth, and homemade muffins greeted everyone at the first stop outside of Columbus at the Westerville depot in Hanby Park. As the group traveled through Centerburg and Mount Vernon, Heart of Ohio Trail and Kokosing Gap Trail board members, a Knox County Commissioner, a former Mount Vernon City Council member, and Knox County Park District representatives welcomed riders to the trail with snacks and water!

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Progress Along the Trail

Friends of Madison County Parks and Trails celebrated the opening of a new segment of the trail in London, Ohio, this past summer. Madison County has funded almost 90% of the construction cost of this section that extends about 1/3 of a mile. They are still fundraising for the last \$7,000.

In **Knox County**, the segment between Bridge of Dreams to the Holmes County line was repaved in September. The parking lot area was also improved to make it ADA compliant handicap vehicle/van accessible.

The new Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park connector in **Franklin County** is now under construction. It will extend paved Camp Chase Trail within the Metro Park, replacing the segment where



Early construction stages of the Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park Connector

the trail previously used the roadway, connecting the Indian Ridge parking area to the existing trail at Darby Creek Drive. The section from the canoe access parking area to Indian Ridge will remain a compacted gravel surface for the foreseeable future.

The **Sullivant Georgesville Connector** along Sullivant Ave and Georgesville Road is finished with the exception of a 300 foot section located south of the trail and the RR crossing. This last section will be built in 2019. This connector eliminates the one mile roadway along Industrial Mile Road.

A 2.4 mile segment of the **Heartland Trail** is currently under construction and is scheduled to be completed by the end of November 2018. This section of trail from Forrer Rd. (just north of the Orrville Industrial Park) to the Village of Marshallville was funded through \$500,000 of Clean Ohio Trail funding, and local funding including an OTETF contribution of \$15,000.

Glenmont's trail-head now includes a shelter, picnic tables and restrooms thanks to a generous donation from an OTET board member.



Riders enjoy the Glenmont trailhead shelter while on the Moffitt Memorial ride.

The **Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS)** has secured funding through a District 17 NRAC (Natural Resources Assistance Council) to make public access improvements, including parking

The **Village of Galena** has cleared and paved about 1 mile from Miller Park to Heathermere subdivision north of the village.

Great Parks of Hamilton County will begin construction in 2019 to connect the Beechmont Bridge to the 4 mile Lunken Trail which will connect to the Ohio River Trail on Riverside Drive. This connection will substantially change the OTET route from streets to the Trail.

Completion is scheduled for 2021. The 5 mile Riverside Drive shared use portion of the Ohio River Trail will hopefully be transferred to Oasis rail corridor once the City of Cincinnati, the Southwest Ohio Regional Transportation Authority (SORTA), Great Parks of Hamilton County and Ohio River Way complete difficult negotiations with Genesee & Wyoming Railroad.

Preservation Parks of Delaware County will pave the trail section between Cherry and Walnut Streets and the Sandel Legacy Trail in Sunbury. Paving will be completed by fall 2018.

Negotiations are continuing by Delaware Preservation Parks for the land south of Meredith State Road. Preservation Parks is putting in wo primitive campsites off the trail at Char-Mar Park. Delaware County Friends of the Trail (DCFT) is working on a grant request with Preservation Parks for 2019 funding.

Cuyahoga County has multiple projects in the works that will eliminate roadway miles in the downtown Cleveland area. Stay tuned for how these projects will affect the OTET route and its northern terminus location!

Moffitt Memorial Ride Announcement

Next year's seven-day, six-night Ohio to Erie Trail bicycle ride is set for September 7-13, 2019. Reservations can be made through our web site at OhioToErieTrail.org beginning in December.

Tour Capacity:
45 riders

Daily Mileage:
Distances range from 30 to 67, beginner to intermediate level. Shorter days allow for a more leisurely ride, additional miles on other trails, or site-seeing along the way.

Terrain:
Trail surfaces are fine for road bikes, hybrids and mountain bikes. While 90% of the trail is essentially flat, there are some hills along the way that are typical for Ohio cycling. None are too long to just enjoy walking.

Overnight Lodging:
Riders stay at hotels at special rates.

SAG (Support and Gear):
This ride is fully supported with luggage transfers, on-route vehicles, a mechanic and OTET staff. Participants only need to carry what they will need for the day. Support stops are about every 15 miles with water and snacks.

Pricing:
The cost is variable, depending on the date of registration, ranging from \$700 to \$800.

A unique aspect of this ride is that much of the cost is considered to be a tax-deductible DONATION.

After the ride, the cost to produce the ride per individual is then subtracted from the amount each participant donated. Riders receive a letter stating how much of their payment was applied without services or goods given in return. For example, riders in 2018 ended up donating about $\frac{2}{3}$ of their ride cost.

Food and lodging are paid for by the participants.

Weather:
September in Ohio is typically dry with temperatures ranging from morning lows of 45-55° to afternoon highs of 70-80°.

Itinerary:
Day 1 (67 miles):
Start in downtown Cincinnati at Smale Park on the Ohio River.

Destination: Xenia, Hampton Inn

Day 2: (59 miles)
Destination: Downtown Columbus, Red Roof Inn Plus+

Day 3: (51 miles)
Destination: Mt. Vernon, the Grand Hotel

Day 4: (41 miles)
Destination: Amish Country, historic Millersburg, Comfort Inn

Day 5: (38 miles)
Destination: Massillon, Hampton Inn

Day 6: (30 miles)
Destination: Downtown Akron Marriott Courtyard

This leisurely day allows for stops along the O&E Canal Towpath including our trail partner bike shop, Ernie's.

Optional: For extra miles, venture into the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and ride the scenic train back to Akron.

Day 7: (40 miles)
Destination: Lake Erie, Cleveland

Riders travel through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the ONLY National Park in Ohio. There is time to visit museum centers, memorials, and shops. The grand finale is a shared lunch celebration at the Edgewater Yacht Club.

Return Transportation:
Available for a small fee to Columbus or Cincinnati.

Cancellation Fees:
\$150 until April 30
\$250 until May 31
\$350 until August 7
Last day to cancel: August 7

For more information, access our website or contact ohioerietrail@gmail.com.



The OTET Southern terminus is where the adventure begins!

Moffitt Memorial (con't from page 1)

The group stopped by the Knox County Depot to view the poster of the historical train route that this segment of the trail follows.

The Grand Hotel was a favorite lodging spot in Mount Vernon where riders were treated to a lovely view of the downtown square from the balcony, luxurious rooms, "tea time" in the lobby, and an extravagant breakfast like no other.

As the riders headed into Amish country, the trail widened and horse and buggies became a common site. The section of the trail just south of Glenmont, completed in fall of 2017, was a highlight of the ride. Riders climbed up a ridgeline to the Baddow Pass for 3.5 miles and then coasted downhill into the idyllic

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Moffitt Memorial Ride Memories



Fandom

After riding the Moffitt Memorial, Al Burnard became one of the trail's biggest fans! ❤️ ❤️ ❤️



Holiday Gift List

Don't forget to get your favorite cyclist(s) gifts from our OTET Shop. Our new 4.3 oz. 60% combed ring-spun cotton/40% polyester

t-shirt makes the perfect gift! To order: www.ohioerietrailshop.com



Don't forget about our jerseys and stickers available in the shop too!



Moffitt Memorial (con't from page 3)

small town of Glenmont, where a feast of local food fare awaited at the trail head, compliments of Tom Alexander, OTET board member.

Small town charms continued as the tour traveled through Millersburg and Dalton, with stops along the way at local restaurants, general stores, bakeries, craftsman furniture stores, and coffee and ice cream shops.

On day 6, Ernie's Bicycle Shop in Massillon opened early so riders could visit while they enjoyed breakfast from the Blue Heron Cafe next door.

The tour switched to an urban terrain in Akron before riders enjoyed the beauty of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Many riders pushed on to make the most of this day with an adventure on the Cuyhoga Valley Scenic Railroad that returned them to Akron, where they dined at one of the many local restaurants in the area.

The final day was a low mileage day, giving riders plenty of time to arrive at Edgewater Park, where they joined the final lunch and celebration at the Edgewater Yacht Club, compliments of an OTET board member.

Riders hailed from Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Georgia, Nebraska, and Texas. Although their time spent together was brief, their memories of the ride and comraderie formed will last a lifetime.

THE 326 CLUB

The 326 Club includes more than 100 people that have cycled, hiked, or otherwise traveled the entire length of the Ohio to Erie Trail in a single trip since 2016. If you qualify for the 326 Club, please let us know and we'll add your name and home city and state to the webpage. Meet two 326 members below!



Name: Jimi Nixon

Age at time of trip: 47

Trail Experience: This was my first! I trained for several weekends to insure that I could do high mileages, but due to cooler weather, the trip turned out to be easier than some of my single day trips.

Month of Trip: September 7 – 8, 10 – 11 (9/9 was a layover due to rain)

What made you decide to bike the entire trail in one trip:

Wanted the cachet of cycling the OTET.

Lodging along the way: Camping, including the Bridge of Dreams in Brinkhaven. Another stop at the Quarry in Massillon was planned, but aborted.

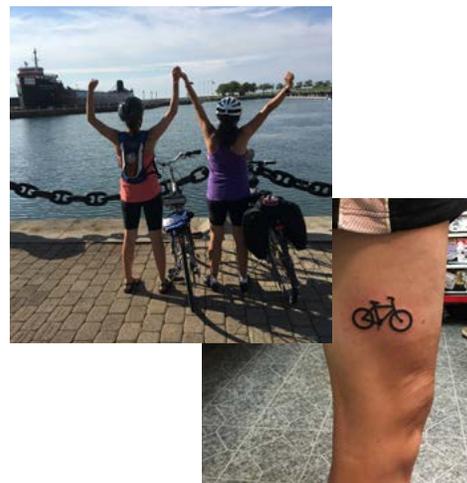
Model/Type of Bike: Jamis 25" El Cheapo model road bike. Happy to say it held up nicely and I didn't even have to change a single tire!

Biggest challenge on the trip: Riding the remnants of Hurricane Gordon on Saturday. Also fell for the first time ever on some leaves that day. On the other hand, I made my best time that day.



Sherry Clouser, 49 of LaGrange, Ohio and Hannah Clouser, 22

of New York City biked the trail in a single 6-day trip. This mother-daughter team started in Cincinnati and ended in Cleveland! To celebrate, they each got a bike tattoo. The memories, and the tattoos will last a lifetime! Their trusted Fuji bikes got them through the many miles, which were often wet from rain - it rained every day! They took a little longer than planned, due to the rain, and they especially enjoyed the historical Millersburg hotel.





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This string of characters is the official Ohio to Erie tag used for social media posts.

Post your photos with this hashtag and you might see your photo shared on our site or in our newsletter!

Did You Know?

Since 1998, \$14.7 million from the State of Ohio's Clean Ohio Trail Fund and the Recreational Trail Program have been allocated to the Ohio To Erie Trail and its connectors! Thank you!



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