



Ohio to Erie Trail

Spring 2019

Newsletter #59

Trail Progress

Hamilton County The \$6M bridge connecting the OTET to Lunken Airport Trail will begin in the fall of 2019 and be completed by summer of 2021.

Ohio River Way (ORW) has expanded its fund raising goals from just The Oasis ORW to The Crown (Cincinnati's 30 mile loop Trail that includes Oasis). ORW continues its efforts to bring Genessee & Wyoming Railroad on board in a collaborative effort to complete the southernmost portion of OTET.

The **Madison County** Engineering Department plans to reseal the trail this year from Wilson Road to the Clark County line.

Franklin County Construction has started on the final link of the Camp Chase and Ohio to Erie Trail at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. This section will provide an off-road trail through the park largely along a former railroad track that provided east-west rail service through what would later become park land. When completed, later this year, the trail will give park visitors a scenic bike ride or walk in one of Metro Parks largest parks. Metro Parks received

assistance through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Clean Ohio Trails Fund to help construct this section of trail. Estimated completion is late summer or early fall, 2019.

A section connecting the trail to Sullivant Avenue, shown below, is under construction along Georgesville Rd on the Camp Chase segment.



continued on page 2



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Progress continued from page 1

In February, **Delaware County** Preservation Parks applied for an ODNR COTF grant to construct 2.25 miles of trail north-east of Sunbury. If ODNR awards the project, design will start in early 2020 with construction beginning in the spring or summer of 2020.

In March, Preservation Parks cleared 3.5 miles of downed trees and brush from the trail corridor recently purchased (NE of Sunbury). The corridor isn't open to the public yet but is now walkable by staff, engineers and contractors as we proceed with implementing the trail.

Preservation Parks plans to install two primitive camp sites along the trail at Char Mar Ridge Park in Genoa Township. These will be free to trail users touring the OTET and has an anticipated opening in late spring or summer.

Licking Planning Commission/**Licking County** Area Transportation Study (LCATS) will be moving forward with land acquisition for a .2 mile segment and the surrounding 40 acres that was funded by District 17 NRAC (Natural Resources Assistance Council).

In **Knox County**, two FixIt stations will be installed. One will be installed by the county's Park District at the Kokosing Gap trail head in Danville and the other will be installed by Eagle Scout John Humphrey near North Clayton Street on the Heart of Ohio Trail.

The section between Glenmont and Killbuck in **Holmes County** is currently in the engineering phase and scheduled to be paved by 2021.

Cuyahoga County Progress is underway along the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway Connector, which will connect the Cleveland Foundation Centennial



Opening Day for Trails in Knox County at the CA&C Mount Vernon depot

Trail Lake Link to the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway at 25th Street. Work has also begun on the Canal Basin Park Connector – which will join the trail to Canal Basin Park along Center

Street and Detroit Ave.

Recently completed trail projects include:

- Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail Phases I and II (links Towpath at Scranton Rd. to Columbus Rd. and Lakeview Terrace to Detroit Ave. at the Viaduct

- Mill Creek Connector (links the Towpath to Warner Rd, most of the distance to Garfield Blvd

- Valley Parkway Connector (links

Mill Stream Run and Brecksville Reservation) opened in October

Additionally, a trail will be built under I-90 at MLK linking Harrison Dillard Bikeway to the Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway in 2019.



Opening Day for Trails in Cleveland

The Village of Galena is in the engineering phase for the critical missing 0.6 mile segment between Galena and Sunbury. Their plan is to start construction this summer or early fall.

New Northbound OTET Trail Guides Available

The newly redesigned 2019 OTET Tour Guides, with complete mileage charts, are available for your planning whether you are traveling south or northbound. Special thanks to board member volunteer Bob Niedenthal for creating these guides.



The guides are available at www.OhioToErieTrail.com for just \$15.

Become a Friend of the OTET and save \$5 on your Tour Guide order.

You're invited!

To Learn!

Want to learn from the experts who have ridden the trails? Read the journals of previous trail visitors as they share their experiences - the good (sunshine), the bad (rain!), and the greatness (all of it!) of the Ohio to Erie Trail.

<https://bit.ly/2UWnvib>



Ohio to Erie Trail is now a destination on CycleLifeHQ. Visit the resource page on our website: <https://bit.ly/2KGQ5jz>

To Celebrate!

RAILS-TO-TRAILS CONSERVANCY AND CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS CELEBRATE THE PREFERRED ROUTE OF THE GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL

Join Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Central Ohio Greenways and distinguished guests for the reveal of the cross-country, preferred route of the Great American Rail-Trail!

Wednesday, May 8, 2019, from 12:30-3 p.m.
Program starts at 1 p.m.

Camp Chase Trail at Wilson Road Park
275 South Wilson Road, Columbus, OH

Brought to you by:
Central Ohio Greenways, City of Columbus Recreation and Parks, REI, Metro Parks, MORPC, Ohio to Erie Trail and Friends of Camp Chase Trail



Learn more: rtc.li/grtohio
Contact: eric@railstotrails.org

THE 326 CLUB



I am 71 years old and our grandson was born with a rare genetic defect called Creatine Transporter Deficiency (CTD). His body creates creatine but is missing the transporter necessary to get it to the brain cells and muscles for development due to a mutation.

I decided to ride across the state in June 2018 to raise awareness and funds for the Association for Cerebral Creatine Deficiency Syndromes.

I rode my 1988 Cannondale from Cincinnati to Cleveland for 6 days, stayed at B&B's or Inns along the way and met many amazing people who were interested in hearing my story and gave emotional as well as financial support.

I rode 60 to 70 mile days between Westerville and Cleveland on the highest temperature and humidity days of the year. Sometimes I didn't see another person for hours and thought I was suffering until I thought of the children and families dealing with CCDS and my ride was put back into perspective for me. I raised a total of \$5500 for the foundation.

OTET salutes you, Chuck!

To Save the Date!

Trails Across Ohio Summit

Saturday, March 28, 2020
Mount Vernon, Ohio

Stay tuned for details and registration information later this year.





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Funds are currently being raised to install a memorial along the trail for Dr. Tom Moffitt, who led the board of the Ohio to Erie Trail for 15 years. Dr. Moffitt passed away in 2017 and is greatly missed by friends, family, and the cycling community. The memorial will include a bronze plaque with an engraved image and words commemorating his leadership and service to OTET.

To donate, use the enclosed envelope or go to www.ohioerietrail.org/product/custom-donation/

