



# Ohio to Erie Trail

Fall 2021

Newsletter #64

## Loveland - A Trail Town Destination

Public art, restaurants, lodging, ice cream, public restrooms, and beautiful parks and rivers make Loveland a welcoming community for all trail travelers. In fact, Loveland is recognized as a Trail Town by the Buckeye Trail, a 1,444 mile hiking trail loop that passes through the city.

Many long distance travelers of the Ohio to Erie Trail find themselves planning a lay-over day in Loveland because there is so much to do and see. Approximately 120,000 trail users pass through this area each year. This number increases to 250,000 when you consider trail uses, which includes people using the trail as a destination rather than a "pass through corridor". This article highlights some of the don't miss places in Loveland that you can use to plan your trip.



If you don't have a bike with you, start at Loveland Bike Rentals, which offers weekend rentals from March through November and daily mid-May through mid-August.

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[www.ohioerietrail.org](http://www.ohioerietrail.org)



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## Trail Progress

### Cuyahoga County:

For an update on progress on the Ohio & Erie Towpath Trail, see here - <http://canalwaypartners.com/towpath-trail/>

### Stark County:

The Stark County Park District has paved a couple sections that have been troublesome due to periods of high water washing away the trail surface. The newly paved sections are north of Canal Fulton between the Stark and Summit County lines as well as a short piece of trail just south of Canal Fulton near Lock 4 Park.

The Army Corps of Engineers is working on

word on how long it will be closed.

Massillon Area Greenways Inc (MAGI) is still planning on doing improvements to the trail and its environs as it enters Massillon from the west.

**Wayne County** has received state capital appropriation to fund a .3 mile segment and a small parking area and drainage improvements. The substantial completion date is 11/30/21 with total completion in the spring of 2022.

A TAP grant has been awarded in partnership with the city of Orrville.



Construction of the Beechmont Connector along the Little Miami Scenic Trail

the flood easement levee in Massillon and periodic closures of the trail will be necessary throughout 2021. The area affected is between Cherry Street and Lake Avenue. Detour signs are posted. No

Design engineering has started and the completion date is set for fiscal year 2024.

### Holmes County:

This new segment of trail is funded thanks to the efforts of the State

of Ohio, Holmes County Park District, Ohio to Erie Trail board contributions, and local funding activities such as the Holmes County annual auction. A review by ODOT has been conducted and the project will be modified slightly to gain ODOT approval. Construction has been delayed due to necessary easements needed. Construction is now scheduled to start January - February of 2022.

**Delaware County:** A critical 1.1 miles of the OTET north of Sunbury was constructed in the fall of 2021, thus eliminating five miles of on road

route. Also, a request for funding to the ODNr Clean Ohio Trail Fund program was submitted. This request was for 1,500 feet of trail near Sunbury with a tentative 2022 construction timeframe.

### Licking County:

Engineering design is nearly complete for a small segment of paved trail. The proposed schedule is advertising for construction in January with completion date of May 20, 2022.

**Knox County:** An ODNr Clean Ohio Fund grant was awarded to construct the remaining 1.1 miles of the Heart of Ohio Trail to the Licking County line. This project is currently in the design engineering phase.

**Franklin County:** The Downtown connector trail (next to I-670) is being widened and repaved during 2021-2022. Phase 1, from Nelson Road/ Alum Creek connection to Leonard Avenue has been completed. Phase 2 will be from Leonard to the end of the path @ Ft Hayes/Cleveland Avenue will be complete in 2022. This is a complete rebuild and includes improvement of the crosswalks and safety of the path.

Pavement markings that include a designated bike lane will be added North of Camp Chase along McKinley Road to Eureka. This work is scheduled to be completed by April 2022.

### Madison County:

Friends of Madison County Parks and Trails are working with Madison County Commissioners to raise funds for land acquisition to construct a 1 mile segment in downtown London.

### Hamilton County:

Anderson Township continued on page 3

## 2021 Moffitt Memorial Ride

The annual fundraising ride included 46 riders and 11 volunteers this past September.

The volunteers were responsible for taking care of luggage transport, SAG stops along the way, and helping cyclists with mechanical needs along the way. The riders appreciated their assistance, which allowed them to ride the entire 326 miles "in luxury", without having to carry their luggage or worry about mechanical breakdowns.

A thank you shout out to 50 West Cycling for hosting the first SAG stop

and for fixing a flat that the executive coordinator, Lisa Daris had upon leaving the stop. She turned back around and the flat was fixed in minutes. Great service with a smile from Dave and his crew at 50 West Cycling Company in Cincinnati!

The ride was treated to photography by Dave Honchul who staged himself at several picturesque locations along the way. Many of the riders themselves were talented photographers and videographers - thank you for sharing your talent with all of us and thank you for riding!



Progress con't from page 2

secured \$750,000 from OKI (Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments) to construct a .35 mile new trail access point from the planned Beechmont Bridge project to Elstun Road. ODOT District 8 is currently designing the project with Anderson Township with an estimated date of completion of 12/31/2024.

.4 mile segment is scheduled to start 3/14/21 and finish 8/31/22.

A 0.5 mile segment of trail is under construction as of early March and is scheduled to be completed fall 2022. This section will link the Little Miami Scenic Trail to Lunken Airport Trail, Armleder Park Trail, and the Ohio River Trail.

OKI, along with Great Parks of Hamilton County funded the Beechmont Bridge connection between the Little Miami Scenic Trail and Lunken Airport on 12/28/20. Construction on this





# Featured Rider - Arbor Lang



Arbor with parents Anne and Andy

Many of us accomplish 100K or even 100 miles of cycling on the trail, but how many of us accomplish this before we turn 10 years old? Get ready to be inspired!

The first time Arbor Lang rode a section of the Ohio to Erie Trail, ice cream played a big part in her vow to return for a longer bike ride. The same could probably be said for many of us.

That next June of 2019, Arbor returned and rode 100k on the trail!

Another year, another goal, and that year, Arbor set her sights on a

## Interested in becoming a member of the 326 Club?

The only requirement is to travel on wheels the entire trail (326

century ride - 100 miles. The year was 2020, and it was a different year for all of us. Her bike goals and the trail connected her family in a familiar way and filled them with resounding positivity and hope. They continued to grow their strength. By July, her goal of a century ride was in the books, or rather on Strava. Since then, she's accomplished another century this past October, from Columbus to Cincinnati, with her dad and mom riding and supporting her all the way.

According to her dad, Andy, "Training with your

kid is probably the most enlightening, sometimes stressful, but most fulfilling time in the saddle"

Whatever your reason for visiting the trail – ice cream, exercise, nature, or other – Arbor Lang is a source of inspiration for all of us!

**What type of bike did you ride?** A 24" Kid's Salsa Journeyman

**What was the most challenging part of the ride?** The end of the second day. There were some hilly road sections and all three of us were tired and not communi-



Arbor approaching downtown Cleveland

cating as well as usual!

**What month did you ride?** October

**What was your average mileage per day?** 68 miles

**Did you stay in campsites or hotels?** This was a "slackpacking" bike trip. We had previously completed a traditional carry-everything family bikepacking trip on the GAP Trail. For this trip, we opted to have one parent drive to the day's destination and ride towards the other two, accompanying them back to the destination.

**Day 1:** Columbus to the Kokosing Campground in Howard, Ohio

**Day 2:** Howard to an Airbnb in Massillon

**Day 3:** Massillon to Edgewater Beach in Cleveland.

your photo on our Club 326 webpage at [ohio-to-erietrail.org/326-club/](http://ohio-to-erietrail.org/326-club/)



and another segment the other way). Take a photo of yourself (ideally at Lake Erie or at the Ohio River) and e-mail it to us at [ohioerietrail@gmail.com](mailto:ohioerietrail@gmail.com) along with your name and hometown. We'll put

# Moffitt Memorial 2022

The seven-day, six-night Moffitt Memorial annual ride is being planned for 2022. Dates for this fully supported tour are Saturday, September 10 - Friday, September 16.

**Tour Capacity:** 45 riders

**Daily Mileage:** Distances range from 30 to 67 miles. Shorter days allow for a more leisurely ride 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.

**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 water and snack stops are about every 15 miles.

**Pricing:** The cost is variable, depending on the date of registration, ranging from \$795 to \$895.

A unique aspect of this ride is that much of

the cost is considered to be a tax-deductible DONATION. Food and lodging are paid for by the participants.

We anticipate opening registration in December. Watch our website and social media for updates.

#OH2ERIE



# Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Trail Town Initiative

The initial phase of a trail town initiative has been funded through a Green Funds grant through the Columbus Foundation. The recipient is the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) who is partnering with the Ohio to Erie Trail, Rails To Trail Conservancy, and many other partners in their region.

This initiative will establish a Central Ohio region wide trail town implementation strategy, with a goal of informing a larger state-wide trail town program.

The first goal is to create a trail town guidebook that will primarily serve as an implementation blueprint and includes best practices and other shareable documents for anyone, both within MORPC's region and beyond to use as they set their sights on becoming a trail town. In

addition, the first phase will provide specific, easy to implement trail town infrastructure recommendations to 4-6 communities along the Ohio to Erie

Trail. What is a trail town? Good examples of trail towns can be found along Pennsylvania's GAP (Great Allegheny Pass) Trail and along the Buckeye Trail, a 1,444 mile hiking trail loop in Ohio. Trail towns welcome travelers in many ways, including having easy to access amenities such as restrooms, food, lodging, secure parking for bikes, and helpful signage.

What does it take to be a trail town? The criteria varies, depending on where you are. This initiative will be looking at models that currently exist, especially the trail towns of the Buckeye Trail and GAP Trail.

Why do we need trail towns? Travelers recognize trail towns as places they can find everything they may need to support themselves. By having established trail towns, visitor numbers will go up, and benefits of trail tourism will help support economic vitality within the small towns. Trail towns not only encourage tourism, but they provide important quality of life amenities to residents already living nearby including walkable town centers.

How soon before a trail town is established along the Ohio to Erie Trail?

The initial phase of creating a commu-

nity guidebook is scheduled to take about a year. After the initial phase, it may be a few years before communities can secure funding to add what amenities are necessary. The good news is that many towns are off to a good start and have some of the amenities that will qualify them as a trail town so the time frame could be a lot less. There are even some communities along the OTET that already draw tourists and cyclists from across the country and have established themselves as trail friendly places.







A new public art installation tells the story of the region

Loveland - con't from page 1

If you're looking for lodging accommodations, you have the option of roughing it at a primitive campsite located about 1,000 feet north of Nisbet Park, so you'll be close to the public restrooms, which were newly upgraded in 2020. To reserve a spot, click on this link and then fill out the "Buckeye Trail Town Camp Site Request" form. <https://www.lovelandoh.gov/requesttracker.aspx>

If you're looking for something more chic, check out the Loveland Lofts, which opened in spring of 2020, located across from Montgomery Cyclery at 210 West Loveland Avenue.

Once you get settled in, sample some local brews and spirits at Narrow Path

Brewing Co or Cappy's Wine and Spirits. Restaurant options are plentiful, ranging from a grab-and-go healthy tacos at Tahona Kitchen and Bar or sandwiches at Paxton's Grill to many sit-down full service locations. Enjoy a burger and beer at

Ramsey's Trailside or for a special treat, check out Bishop's Quarter which has a full bourbon selection. Authentic Italian fare is the specialty at Enoteca Emilia. Or go a little more casual at The Works. Reservations are recommended for many of these locations, so plan ahead!

After dinner take a leisurely walk along the trail and enjoy the scenery of the Little Miami Scenic River, a state and nationally designated scenic river. For an after dinner treat, your

options are the Loveland Sweet Shop, Trailside Ice Shack Italian Ice, Greater's Ice Cream, Trailside Provisions, or Loveland Dairy Whip.

Start your morning off right with coffee and a treat at Cocoa Bites or Mile 42 Coffee. Head over to Loveland Canoe and Kayak for an adventure on the Little Miami Scenic River. Then, spend some time browsing the many boutiques within walking distance of the trail. Alley Boutique, Lemons and Limes, Haven Grey, Busy Bee, and Blume have unique, eclectic items for you and your home!

If you forgot a critical piece of gear at home, be sure to stop by Vertical Drop, an outfitter that supplies kayaking, stand up paddle boards, and other outdoor apparel. For your cycling needs, Montgomery Cyclery has the parts and service to get your riding again.



Trailside Ice Shack serves up the cool treats on a hot summer day in Loveland, Ohio

Once you are ready to start your trip along the trail, be sure to park your vehicle at the Linda Cox parking lot close by, which offers multi-day parking for trail users.

The Loveland community values the trail so much, that people are willing to pay a \$9,000 premium to live within 1,000' of the trail. This data comes from a 2011 University of Cincinnati property value impact study.

Spend some time in Loveland and you'll soon be planning your return visit!



## Reimagining the Rubber City

Tires rolled out of Akron during the past century giving the city the nickname as the Rubber City. Akron's legacy as a center of industry and commerce preceded the days of rubber with the Ohio and Erie Canal. Cyclists on the Ohio to Erie Trail pedal through the artifacts of canal days and the rubber industry.

The Ohio to Erie Trail follows the path of the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail (Towpath Trail) through Akron. Akron Civic commons brought together several civic institutions in recent years to reimagine the city's industrial and commercial past as public spaces where people

Ohio to Erie Trail visitors a gateway through the heart of these vibrant public spaces.

### Summit Lake

The Towpath Trail's floating towpath floats along the eastern shore of Summit Lake. Summit Metro Parks opened the Summit Lake Nature Center earlier this year reimagining an early 1900's amusement park building into a modern interpretive center focusing on

### Ohio and Erie Canal Park

Ohio and Erie Canal Park is a short distance north of the I-76/I-77 underpass on the Towpath

addition of a protected bike line, streetscaping, and numerous art installations. Murals on the northern and southern



Lock 3 along the OTET is the place for entertainment - live performances are held in the summer and the area is converted to an ice skating rink in the winter.

The neighborhood has been reimagined with murals, public art, and places to gather, reflect and relax. Ohio to Erie Trail visitors meander through an urban oasis of a gently rolling trail along the Ohio to Erie Canal.

### AKRON'S CIVIC GATEWAY

AKRON'S CIVIC Gateway reimagined Downtown Akron as a welcoming space for the community and visitors. Main Street saw the

walls of the Akron Civic Theater serve as dramatic backdrops for Lock 3 and Lock 4 Park, gathering spaces for entertainment and community events.

### Northside District

Vibrant murals and public art are plentiful in Akron's Northside District. This is the city's art district with many galleries, entertainment and dining venues. Northside Marketplace is home to a diverse collection of unique shops and dining. The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Northside Station sits on the northern end of the district.



Lock 4 Park in Downtown Akron. The rushing water of the Ohio-Erie Canal creates multiple water falls through Lock 4 that, along with the historic brick facades of some of the oldest buildings in the city, give the space a distinctly urban feel.

gather, play, and build community.

The reimagination of the Towpath Trail gives

wildlife education, urban gardening, and water-based recreation.





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## New Jackets

The official OTET jacket is in stock now! Light as feather and fit for any weather, the Superlight Cycling Jacket is a favorite—and for good reason! This windproof and water-resistant custom cycling jacket is the perfect three-season companion. It's made from ultra-light-weight Hypercloud fabric, features reflective piping for increased visibility, and packs away in seconds when the sun starts to shine.



Ideal For 50 – 70 degree weather, the fabric is wind-proof and water-resistant Don't forget about our jerseys, t-shirts, and stickers available in the shop too! [www.ohioerietrail.org/shop](http://www.ohioerietrail.org/shop).



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