



The Ohio to Erie Trail

Winter 2016

Newsletter #52

Alum Creek Trail Dedicated

The final leg of the Alum Creek Trail was dedicated on October 1, and the Ohio to Erie Trail is now open from downtown Columbus to Delaware County. The City of Columbus through the efforts of Brad Westall made progress each year in building the trail.

At the dedication ceremony Mayor Coleman of Columbus said, "We're the next big Bike City, USA."

Photo of the Ohio To Erie Trail on the newly opened Alum Creek Trail.



Lisa Daris

Daris Chosen as New Ohio to Erie Trail Fund Coordinator

The OTETF Board is pleased to introduce Lisa Daris of Columbus as the new part-time Executive Coordinator. Lisa will handle the day to day operations of the organization and report to President Moffitt and the officers.

She has extensive experience in the corporate world as well as

with non-profit organizations. Her accomplishments include serving on the Community Advisory Committee for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's transportation department. She is also on the board of FLOW (Friends of the Lower Olentangy), chairs the Columbus Outdoor Pursuits Boat-

ing Program and is the founder of SLOW MONEY, a non-profit organization that focuses on peer-to-peer principle based lending. In addition she has her own seasonal kayaking company, Olentangy Paddle. She is a graduate of The Ohio State University.



Camp Chase Trail Nears Completion

October 30 marked the opening of the newest segment of Camp Chase Trail from Galloway Road to Sullivant Ave, which includes the big bridge over the highway.

The opening of this segment eliminates several miles on high traffic roads and brings a continuous route into the Greater Hilltop Neighbor-

hood. Still to come are trail signage and the pavement of segments between RR crossings.

Public parking is not yet available along the new segment.

For more information about the Camp Chase Trail visit the Friends of Camp Chase Trail.



Mohican Valley Trail of OTET Paved

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Knox County Commissioners and the Knox County Park District another 3.7 miles of the Ohio to Erie Trail has been paved. Known as the Mohican Valley Trail that starts just north of Danville and stretches past the Bridge of Dreams to Route 62, the MVT was recently paved with asphalt substrate and chip/seal topcoat, according to Knox Park Director Lori Totman.

Former Knox Park Director Kim Marshall had written and received a Clean Ohio Trail Fund grant and the Knox

County Commissioners via the Knox County Park District provided the matching funds. Matt Simpson of CT Consultants designed the work and Small's Asphalt Paving performed the work. The Mohican Valley Trail had previously been packed earth and limestone.

The Mohican Valley Trail is one of the sections of the OTET that allows equestrians and buggies. Now the paving makes this section much more conducive for all cyclists, hikers, runners and those with strollers and electric assistive mobility devices.

Web Site Development Grant

The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund has been awarded an Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area (NHA) Strategic Initiative grant of \$2,000 to help defray some of the costs for development of the new OTET web-site. The Ohio & Erie Canalway provides financial support to assist units of government, regional planning organizations, nonprofits like OTETF, and others in the preservation, interpretation and development of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area.

Van Winkle Resigns

We were saddened to see our Executive Coordinator Julie Van Winkle leave us at the end of October when her work with the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA) and Columbus Outdoor Pursuits increased.

Julie worked for us for just over a year and managed to help move the OTET forward with a new web site, brochure,

Schneider and Westall Retire from Board

Two long time and influential Board members of the Ohio to Erie Trail Fund, Jim Schneider of Greene County and Brad Westall of Franklin County are leaving the Board but become Advisory participants.

Schneider is a well-known trail builder and advisor. He

New OTET Website "Live" on November 1st

The new OTET web site has been designed to attract more users and consequently to the entire 330 miles of the Trail. Foremost in the new user-friendly design is its compat-

ibility with smart devices like pads and phones. So, from PC to smart phone, the new OTET web site will be able to communicate much more information to Trail visitors.

The OTET journey utilizes the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail through the NHA - over 85+ miles in the Northeast Ohio Counties of Tuscarawas, Stark, Summit and Cuyahoga. Through the new web site, OTET will enable us to enhance, provide information and also promote the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area. The funds are awarded following the completion of the web site development.

logo and stickers. We thank her for her efforts and wish her the very best.

In the interim while we conducted a search for our new Executive Coordinator, Jerry Rampelt, our Executive Director for a decade, volunteered to step back in and assist us with running the organization.

oversaw our large way-finding sign project with Jerry Rampelt.

Westall has been the OTETF's City of Columbus and Franklin County representative. One only has to travel through that area to see the work he has accomplished on the recreational trails.

Donate to the Ohio to Erie Trail

We are in the midst of the annual appeal for donations. We only send one letter per year asking for donations so please make a donation. You can also donate online at ohioerietrail.org by clicking the donate button.



Annual OTET Ride Now Open

The six-day, five night 2016 Ohio to Erie Trail bicycle ride from Cincinnati to Cleveland is now taking reservations at Ohio to Erie Trail 2016 Bike Adventure, 118 Graceland Blvd. #146, Columbus, Ohio 43214. Only 20 riders will be permitted to join this great adventure!

Daily mileage ranges from 40 to 67 with nightly stays in Xenia, Columbus, Mt. Vernon, Millersburg, and Massillon. The entire 330 miles is fully supported with a luggage/bike vehicle, mechanic and OTET staffers. There is a cost range depending on when you register. Individuals will be responsible for making their own motel/hotel registrations at lodging facilities where OTET has reserved rooms. Food is paid for by individual participants as well.

Several older sections of the OTET will have been paved, and the route by September will utilize the beautiful Alum Creek Trail on the east side of Columbus as well as a great new path to Glenmont in Holmes County! Some days are shorter than others and allow for bikers to either take a more leisurely ride, add miles on other trails, or spend time at sites along the way. A

truly beautiful adventure has been planned.

Trail surfaces are fine for road bikes, hybrids and mountain bikes. The OTET ride is considered a beginner to intermediate level adventure. While 90% of the trail is essentially flat, there are some hills along the way but none that are too long to just enjoy walking. Participants only need to carry what they will need for the day. Weather in September in Ohio is typically dry with temps ranging from morning lows of 45-55 to afternoons of 70-80...perfect for bike travel.

Day 1: Downtown Cincinnati at Smale Park on the Ohio River to Xenia (67 miles) and overnight at the Ramada Inn.

Day 2: Xenia to Columbus (60 miles) overnight at in the center of town at the Red Roof Inn.

Day 3: Columbus to Mt. Vernon (50 miles) and overnight at the Holiday Inn Express.

Day 4: Mt. Vernon through Amish Country to historic Millersburg (48 miles) and the Comfort Inn.

Day 5: Millersburg to Massillon (40 miles) for our shortest ride of the week and stay at the Hampton Inn.

Day 6: Massillon to Cleve-

land, and it is special. First we leave much earlier because there is an option at Akron (30 miles) to take a Cuyahoga Valley Scenic train ride (\$3 bike and rider) to just outside of Cleveland. Riders need to catch the train at 10:45 a.m. Those who to ride the train have 10 miles remaining by bike after the train arrives in Independence. Participants who wish to bike the entire distance have 62 miles to Cleveland. Then we get to Lake Erie and peddle back to the Great Lakes Brewing Company for a late lunch before heading home.

OTET will transport all bicycles and gear to either Columbus or Hamilton for pick up on Friday of Saturday after the ride. Hamilton is about 25 miles north of Cincinnati. Those who wish to obtain transportation to Columbus or Cincinnati might want to utilize the Megabus that departs from Cleveland (2 miles from Great Lakes Brewing Company) at 4:30 p.m. on September 15th. Fee to Columbus ranges around \$15 and for Cincinnati \$30. Reservations can be made 90 days prior to travel. Check web site for drop-off locations (www.megabus.com).

There is room for only 20 participants on a first-come, first serve basis. The cost, payable by check to the Ohio to Erie Trail Fund includes a set of OTET Maps and varies by registration date: check received by January 1, 2016 - \$400; April 1, 2016 - \$425; June 1, 2016 - \$450; August 10 - \$475.

The OTETF has determined that the donation amount to the organization is the amount paid over \$125 and each participant will have received a donation statement.

Cancellation refunds up to July 1st will be made minus a \$40 taxable donation. After July 1 the cancellation fee is an \$80 taxable donation. We will establish a waiting list on first come basis for a \$25 fee which will be fully refunded if the individual does not participate. If space comes available you will be notified immediately.

To join us in the exciting ride across Ohio send the following information and your check in the appropriate amount made out to the Ohio to Erie Trail Fund and send it to the address above in this article: name and full address; e-mail; telephone number(s) age; and type of bicycle.



118 Graceland Blvd. #146
 Columbus, Ohio 43214
www.ohioerietrail.org

A network of trails from Cincinnati to Cleveland, using lands formerly occupied by railroads and canals.

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U. S. Postage
 PAID
 Columbus OH
 Permit 5466

Address Changes:

E-mail changes to: ohioerietrail@gmail.com
 Telephone Number changes to: 614-918-3636

New Brochure, Logo & Stickers

This has been a productive year for the OTET Board with our Marketing Committee under the direction of Mary Plumley. The committee got the new web site designed and operational while completing a total redesign of our 8-page *OTET Let the Adventure Begin!* In addition to the brochure the committee oversaw the development of a new logo for the organization as well as an oval OTET bumper sticker featuring the new logo. The brochures



are being distributed to local and state tourism bureaus as well as to various travel organizations. The large and small stickers are available for purchase on the web site along with our OTET jerseys and our set of four OTET maps. To order OTET materials go to ohioerietrail.org and click the Shop tab.



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