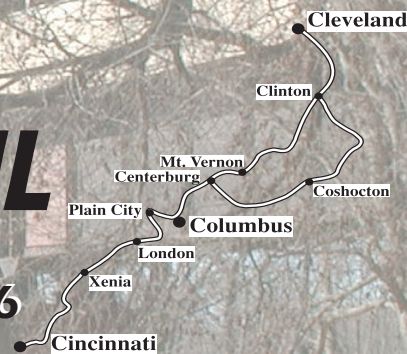


The

OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL

Winter 2011

Newsletter #46



Downtown Akron Trail Completed

A dedication ceremony on October 25 marked the completion the Ohio to Erie Trail and Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail in Akron where the trails are on the same path. The Towpath trail between Falor Street at Spaghetti Warehouse to Bartges Street, and the Bartges Street Bridge have been re-constructed at a cost of \$6 million.

President and CEO of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition Dan Rice spoke to how the city has worked hard for many years to finalize the project. "I think you will agree with me that the Towpath Trail through downtown Akron is a national model for cities across the country and has far exceeded our expectations," Rice said.

Akron is the first major city to have the entire length of the hike and bike trail completed within its corporate limits. Rice stated that community members have been patient and now can reap the rewards after three years of constant effort. He hopes the Towpath Trail will bring much more to community members than just an outdoor activity.

Rice added, "This path of progress is revitalizing downtown Akron with new housing, restaurants and businesses that are seeking locations along the Towpath Trail so their employees and customers can enjoy this wonderful regional resource".



L/R: George Brown, Dan Rice, Keith Shy, Frances Buchholzer, Mayor Plusquellic, Carol Curtis, Paul Stoehr

The dedication of the bridge on Alum Creek in honor of Ed Honton on July 15, 2011, was a tremendous success with approximately seventy-five people in attendance. On a bright sunny day, many of Ed's family joined us to celebrate Ed's accomplishments for the Fund.

Ed Honton Bridge Dedication

Ed Honton inspired the Ohio to Erie Trail (OTET) with his enthusiastic work toward completing the 300 mile trail. Before his death in 2005, he logged many miles biking across the state, helped develop other trails, designed trail maps and contributed to the development of at least 36 other bike routes in central Ohio.

The contributions that Ed made along with his persistence in completing The Ohio to Erie Trail highlighted remarks made by Mayor Coleman of Columbus, Franklin County Engineer Dean Ringle, MORPC Executive Director, and Ohio to Erie Trail Executive Director Jerry Rampelt. In addition, we are happy to report that the financial generosity of the donors more than covered the cost of the plaque, and the additional funds will be put to use to continue our work to complete The Ohio to Erie Trail.



L/R: Maggie (Honton) McElroy, Monica (Honton) Eggleton, Jerry Rampelt, Chester Jourdan, Dean Ringle, Mayor Michael Coleman, Melodee Kornacker, Chas Honton, Stephen Honton

Ed Honton Bridge Donations

We thank the people listed below for their donations toward the plaque placed on Alum Creek in honor of Ed Honton.

Joyce Allen	Columbus Foundation	Jerry Rampelt
Dr. James & Carol Amon	Roger Fox	Joseph & Janelle Reardon
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	Kathleen Novicki	Mark & Jill Young
	Audrey Nugent	Zarnick Family Foundation
	Susan Palmer	
	Jacqueline Pisauro	

Sign Grant Awarded

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has recommended that The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund be awarded a grant of \$57,960 from the federal Recreational Trails Program.

The grant will be used to install signs along The Ohio to Erie Trail from Cincinnati to Delaware County. In some places signs already exist, and money from the grant will complete signs along the route.

Earlier this year the Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program granted \$24,000 (\$8,000 per year for three years) for trail signs in Knox, Holmes, and Wayne Counties.

Installation of the signs along the OTET will provide directions locations, distances, and information about resources near the trail.

On most trails you have to be familiar with the route to know where to travel, and a uniform system of signs will offer consistency for directions.

Thank You from Trail Riders

(We received this letter in the fall.)

We just wanted to thank you for all your efforts to create such an amazing trail! My friend and I rode the entire trail from Cincinnati to Cleveland from July 8 to July 12 on bikes. We packed our bikes with camping gear and homemade panniers. We camped in Xenia, Alum Creek, Howard, stayed at a hotel in Massillon and arrived in Cleveland on the fifth day. It was an amazing experience and one we won't soon forget.

Thanks again...looking forward to seeing the trail progress in the coming years...and maybe a few less hills (ha-ha! We did a lot of "bike hiking" through Holmes county).

--Keri Shuman & Nicole Piunno



Keri Shuman and Nicole Piunno at the finish line at Harvard Ave in Cleveland



Photo credit – Gene Pass

Lilly Chapel Trail Paved

Asphalt paving occurred on November 1 in Madison County between Wilson Road and Lilly Chapel. That means the OTET is paved from Hamilton County to Georgesville in Franklin County and totaling 96 miles.

Work continues on the bridge in Georgesville to connect the trail to Battelle-Darby Creek Metro Park. The route is planned to continue under the railroad trestle at Darby Creek and up along the south side of the tracks, staying on Metro Parks land up to Kropp Road. At that point, it will go back onto the Camp Chase Railroad right-of-way.

Little Miami Bike Trail Increases House Value

Home values within 1,000 feet of the Little Miami Trail are valued \$9,000 more according to a study by the University of Cincinnati. Professor Rainer vom Hofe conducted the study and says it is the first to quantify the impact of the bike trail on residential property values.

Property values increased by \$9 per foot as the property was closer to the entrance of the trail. The researchers examined housing characteristics for 300,000 homes with 1,762 being analyzed for the study.

More information can be found at the address below from the University of Cincinnati. (<http://www.uc.edu/news/NR.aspx?id=14300>)

Construction of Alkire Bridge Begins

The Franklin County Engineer's Office is currently managing the construction of a new Metro Parks bike trail on the south side of the Alkire Road Bridge. While travel across the bridge will be maintained during most of the project, there will be times when short closures could occur. The new trail and bridge widening is being funded by Metro Parks at a cost of \$1.2 million. Completion is expected in December 2011.



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