



# Ohio to Erie Trail

Fall/Winter 2019

Newsletter #60

## Moffitt Memorial Ride Registration is Open

The annual Moffitt Memorial Ride has a reputation of filling up quickly. Registration is capped at 45, making it easy for riders to form enduring friendships throughout the week. The 2019 ride was no exception. Many riders have kept in touch with one another and ridden together since the ride. Some riders return to ride each year. And often, one or two people come back to volunteer for a day or even the entire week.

Perhaps it is the small town charm or the big city vistas of the Ohio to Erie Trail that keeps people coming back. Each year, the trail changes a bit as more progress is made, turn-

ing roadway into designated trail miles. Whatever your pleasure, don't miss the opportunity to ride the entire trail September 19-25.

The ride is fully supported with a mechanic and luggage truck that follows the group. Volunteers provide snack and hydration stops every 12-15 miles along the way. Riders have the option of staying at hotels along the way which provide discounts to the group. Post-ride shuttling back to Cincinnati is provided for a small fee.

For more information about the ride, see page 3.



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



## Trail Progress

### Hamilton County

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

Once the Beechmont Trail bridge is complete, Trail users will follow the Lunken Trail to the Ohio River Trail to downtown Cincinnati.

### Franklin County

Construction is close to completion 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. 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 early 2020.

The section connecting the trail to Sullivant Avenue, shown below, is now complete.

### Delaware County

Preservation Parks applied for an ODNR's COTF (Clean Ohio Trail Fund) grant to complete a 2.25 mile segment northeast of Sunbury. If ODNR awards the project, design will start in early 2020 with construction beginning in the spring or summer of 2020. In addition, Preservation Parks plans to submit a COTF application to construct another 1.4 miles of trail in 2021.

## New Merchandise Available



New this season - Moisture-wicking t-shirts and luggage tags!

We also have our cotton/poly blend t-shirts,

jerseys, and stickers for you or a cyclist friend!

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

<http://ohioerietrail.org/shop/>

The Village of Galena completed a critical missing 0.6 mile segment between Galena and Sunbury. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of this new segment was held in November. Although temperatures were only in the 20s, a large crowd came out to celebrate the opening.

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 2020.

Licking Planning Commission/**Licking County** Area

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*A new section along Georgesville Road in Franklin county was completed in 2019, eliminating a segment of roadway on Industrial Mile.*



*Lisa Daris, Executive Coordinator of OTET, second from left at the Galena ribbon-cutting ceremony that took place in November.*



# Moffitt Memorial Ride

Next year's seven-day, six-night Ohio to Erie Trail bicycle ride is set for September 19-25, 2020. Reservations can be made through our web site at [OhioToErieTrail.org](http://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-deductable

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 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):**

Dip your tire in the Ohio River and start your journey from downtown Cincinnati! Destination: Xenia

**Day 2: (59 miles)**

Destination: Downtown Columbus

**Day 3: (51 miles)**

Destination: Mt. Vernon

**Day 4: (41 miles)**

Destination: Amish Country, historic Millersburg

**Day 5: (38 miles)**

Destination: Massillon

**Day 6: (30 miles)**

Destination: Downtown Akron

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

Enjoy lunch on the Cuyahoga River and then finish the last segment of your journey. Dip your tire in Lake Erie and enjoy your achievement!

**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 18

For more information, access our website or contact [ohioerietrail@gmail.com](mailto:ohioerietrail@gmail.com).

# Moffitt Memorial Ride Memories

*Volunteers had friends in Knox County who helped with a warm reception at Ariel Foundation Park. Riders were thankful for food and beverages as they finished up Day 3 in Mount Vernon.*



*Need a quick fix, or something more complex? No worries - where the riders go, so does our mechanical support provided by our President, Mike Groeber.*



*Picturesque scenery is abundant along the Ohio to Erie Trail!*



*A trip on the Trail is not complete without stopping in at Ernie's Bicycle Shop in Massillon!*

**(cont. from page 2)**

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).

The Licking County Commissioners, in

conjunction with the Licking Park District are moving forward with a 40-acre land acquisition which has a .25 mile segment of OTET to connect Knox, Licking and Delaware Counties. The land acquisition

is being funded by a Clean Ohio grant through District 17 NRAC (Natural Resources Assistance Council).

As a result, the **Knox County** Park District is taking the lead on a Clean Ohio Trail Fund joint-grant submission on behalf of the Knox County and Licking County Commissioners. The COTF grant is due in February 2020 and if awarded, will allow Knox County to pave the last remaining 1.1 miles of OTET and Licking

County's .25 miles of trail to connect the three counties.

In Knox County, two FixIt stations have been installed. With additional funding from the Knox County Health Department, plans call for an additional FixIt station to be installed in Mount Liberty on the Heart of Ohio Trail in 2020.

The Knox County Park District recently awarded a contract to Grassbaughs Construction to build an ADA compliant parking

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*A bridge under construction along a new segment of the Camp Chase Trail in Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park.*

*Photo Credit: Bike Commuting in Columbus*

## Save the Date! To Celebrate!

April 18, 2020 is Opening Day for the Trails!

Opening Day for Trails is the national kickoff celebration for the spring trail season. Started by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in 2013, Opening Day encourages people to get outside and celebrate America's exceptional trails and trail systems. On April 18, 2020, people across the nation will kick off the spring trail season by hitting their favorite trails for a walk, run, ride or special event.

This year, OTET board members and friends will gather at Avoca Park for a special memorial dedication to Dr. Tom Moffitt, who led the organization for many years as President. We will be installing a plaque in the area honoring him for his leadership, service, and vision. Watch our Facebook and website events for specific times as the date gets closer.

### Ohio Trails Connections Summit

Saturday, March 28, 2020     Mount Vernon, Ohio  
 Registration: [ohioerietrail.org/trailsummit\\_2020/](http://ohioerietrail.org/trailsummit_2020/)

Who should attend? Elected officials, visitor bureau leaders, and community members who want to leverage trails for economic growth and increased recreational tourism.

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lot at the corner of Patton Road and U.S. 36/S.R. 3. The small gravel parking lot will have a concrete pad parking area with a concrete sidewalk which will allow easy access to the Heart of Ohio Trail. Future plans call for a few primitive campsites, adjacent to the parking lot and 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 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.

## Mark Sparling - Six-time 326 Club Member!



**Trips:** I've ridden OTET six times (four one-ways south to north, four or five days each, and one 9-day round trip south to north to south), Italy, 2019 (1,800 miles and 138,000 feet of vertical climb over 28 riding days, from Palermo to Como)

**Month of Trip:** October (previous OTET trips were in August and September; this was the coldest by far!)

**Direction:** South to North five times and once North to South

**Lodging along the way:** On the seven total trips, I've predominately used hotels, and a couple B-n-Bs.

**Model/Type of Bike:** Scattante 330 road bike, from Performance Bike

**Occupation:** Controller / Financial management, retired in 2018

**Challenges on the trip:** The route is excellent, and has improved in several areas over my 7 rides (more trail miles, fewer road miles). Weather has been a factor on a couple rides (rain, cold, wind), and getting through downtown Akron was challenging due to construction. But it's a fantastic resource other states would be envious to have.

Ride it and enjoy it!

If there was a list for multiple trip or most miles on the trail, Mark Sparling would be at the top!

**Hometown:** Bellbrook, OH

**Age at time of trip:** First ride was in 2014 (age 59), the most recent was in 2019 (age 64).

**Other Multi-Day Bike**





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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/](http://www.ohioerietrail.org/product/custom-donation/)