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Ohio to Erie Trail

Spring/Summer 2021

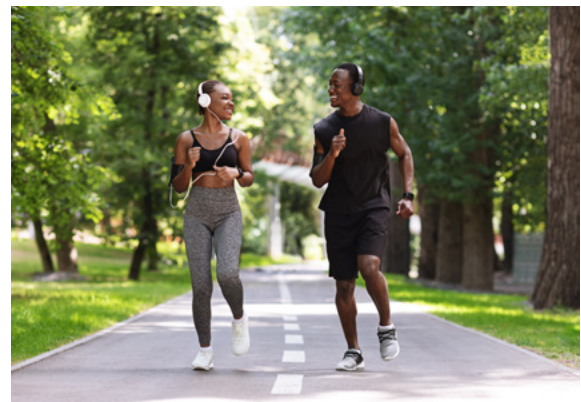
Newsletter #63

Regional Trails of the OTET

Since Ed Honton first envisioned a recreation trail from the Ohio River to Lake Erie in 1991, the plan was to connect regional trails to form the route. Over the past thirty years, Ed's vision has become a reality with currently 24 regional trails, totaling 277 miles, making up 85% of the Ohio to Erie Trail. These regional trails add to the diversity of environment, geography, and history that an adventurer experiences when traversing the Buckeye State.

The regional trails come in all shapes and sizes. The shortest trail, the Hilltop Connector in Columbus, is 3/10 of a mile long. The longest trail, the O&E Canalway Towpath in northeast Ohio, is 66.7 miles long. There are five trails less than 1 mile long, eleven trails that are 1 to 10 miles in length, six trails in the 11 to 30 mile range, and two trails over 30 miles long.

The Ohio to Erie Trail includes a National Park, a State Park, and a myriad of community, county, and Metro parks. The regional trails and trailheads that connect these parks are owned and maintained by the various city, county, state or federal organizations where they reside. It is the unrelenting efforts of these governmental organizations and Friends of the Trail groups, who spend thousands of hours each year to maintain and expand these trails, that make the Ohio to Erie Trail possible.



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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 the flood easement levee in Massillon and periodic closures of the trail will be necessary throughout 2021. The area affected is between Tremont Ave. Bridge and Lake Ave.

A suggested detour is available on the Route Alerts webpage at <https://ohioerietrail.org/updates/>

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 with an estimated finish date of construction as 11/1/2021.

Additionally, a TAP grant request in partnership with the city of Orrville has been submitted to complete a 1.6 mile segment

A recreational trails grant request is pending to fund a restroom/pavilion near the 0.3 mile section being completed this year near the Marshallville Preserve walking trail adjacent to the Heartland Trail. The finish date is 11/01/2022

Holmes County:

Approximately 4 miles of roadway section between the trail head in Glenmont towards Killbuck Township Road 54 on State Route 520 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. Construction is scheduled to begin sometime after July 1, 2021.

Delaware County: A new 1.4 mile segment is scheduled to be finished by 11/30/2021.

Design will start in spring, construction in late summer and fall

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:

Construction on the Licking Trailhead at County Line Road will begin 07/30/2021

This project is funded with both local and state funds.

Licking County hopes to have some level of trail built this year between Delaware and Knox County. It might be grass or gravel.

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.

Franklin County: The Downtown connector trail (next to I-670) is being widened and repaved during 2021-2022. Phase 1 is from Nelson Road/ Alum Creek connection to Leonard Avenue. Phase 2 will be from Leonard to the end of the path @ Ft Hayes/Cleveland Avenue. 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.

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.

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Construction on the Heart of Ohio Trail in 2012.



Wednesdays.
29217 Mickley
Road, Danville,
Ohio 43014

beverages, snack
foods, and basic bicycle
supplies. Deli sandwiches
are made to order.
8221 County Road 192,
Holmesville, OH 44633

Cardinal Hill
Grocery can
be seen on the
west side of the
Holmes County
Trail 1-mile



north of Holmesville
and 3.5-miles south
of Fredericksburg. The
Amish bulk goods and
grocery offers cyclists

Cycling in Amish Communities

The northern section of the Ohio to Erie Trail cuts through one of America's largest Amish communities. Amish buggies and bicycles share this scenic portion of the trail. Cyclists should respect the privacy of the Amish by only taking photos from a distance or from behind with no faces being recognizable. Here are two unique Amish

experiences you can experience on the trail.

Weaver's Farm and Furniture is a short relatively flat 1/2 miles from the Tiger Valley Road crossing of the Mohican Valley Trail. The deli offers made-to-order sandwiches. The deli's specialty is buttery soft Amish pretzels that are free, one per person, on

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 wind-proof and water-resistant custom cycling jacket is the perfect three-season companion. It's made from ultra-lightweight 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 windproof and water-resistant. Don't forget about our jerseys, t-shirts, and stickers available in the shop too!
www.ohio-toerietrail.org/shop



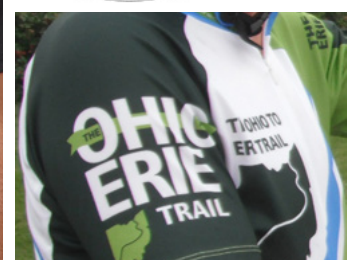
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Hamilton County: Anderson Township secured \$750,000 from OKI (Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments) to construct a .35 mile new trail access point from the planned Beechmont Bridge project to Elstun Road. ODOT District 8 is currently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

Construction on this .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.



326 Club Feature

On August 1-3, 2020 Mike Lowe of Powell, Ohio completed the entire Ohio to Erie Trail (Cleveland to Cincinnati) as part of #MyPelotonia. Traditionally, Mike would ride the 2-day 180 mile Pelotonia route, but due to COVID, all riders were challenged to come up with their own #MyPelotonia challenge.

Mike had always wanted to complete the Ohio to Erie Trail, and 2020 seemed like a good opportunity to check it off of his bucket list. His original plan was to do the route over 4 days, but one of his Pelotonia donors challenged him to get it done in 3 days! The temperature for the ride was nice, but he had rain for the first 2 days. He stayed overnight at the Mt. Vernon Grand Hotel and at the new Hampton Inn in Xenia.

Since he had so many miles to do in 3 days, he didn't get a chance to do a lot of sightseeing, but he kept a list of parts of

the trail he would like to go back and ride again, and stop along the way to enjoy the scenery more.

In addition to completing the Ohio to Erie Trail, Mike raised \$14,000 for cancer research in 2020. He has participated in

the highlight of his trip was dipping his back tire in Lake Erie and then dipping his front tire in the Ohio River two days later. Mike is signed up to ride 180 miles in Pelotonia in 2021 and has raised \$2200 this year, bringing his all-time fundraising



Mike Lowe at Lake Erie

Pelotonia for 8 years and in those 8 years, he has helped raise \$80,000 for cancer research. He enjoyed tying together this great cause and the legendary Ohio to Erie trail. Mike reports that

total to \$82,000 If you're interested in joining Mike in raising funds to fight cancer, you can view his page here: pelotonia.org/profile/ML0097

Age at time of trip: 41

Bike: Trek Domane Project One Road Bike

Direction traveled: North to South

Experience prior to Ohio to Erie Trail: YSC Tour de Pink, Pelotonia, and Training Rides

Biggest challenge on the trip: Getting back on the bike on day two in the cold rain.

#OH2ERIE



Interested in becoming a member of the 326 Club?

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

miles) in one trip. If you hiking, you can qualify by hiking the trail in a single season. You can travel north to south or south to north. You can leapfrog (travel along one segment one way

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 along with your name and hometown. We'll put



your photo on our Club 326 webpage at ohioerietrail.org/326-club/

Moffitt Memorial 2021

Registration is open for the seven-day, six-night Moffitt Memorial annual ride scheduled for Saturday, September 11 - Friday, September 17. To register: <https://app.donorview.com/nbvGk>

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 \$750 to \$850.

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.



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The regional trails of the Ohio to Erie Trail include: (south to north)

- Ohio River Trail
6.3 miles
- Lunken Airport Trail
1.0 mile
- Little Miami Scenic Trail
54.8 miles
- Prairie Grass Trail
29.0 miles
- Roberts Pass
6.9 miles
- Camp Chase Trail
15.3 miles
- Hilltop Connector
0.3 mile
- Lower Scioto Greenway
3.0 miles
- Downtown Connector
3.5 miles
- Alum Creek Trail
10.4 miles
- Westerville Bike & Walk Route
2.8 miles
- Genoa Trail
4.7 miles
- Hoover Scenic Trail
0.6 mile
- Galena Brick Trail
0.5 mile
- Sandel Legacy Trail
1.6 miles
- Heart of Ohio Trail
15.6 miles
- Kokosing Gap Trail
14.3 miles
- Mohican Valley Trail
4.5 miles
- Holmes County Trail
22.5 miles
- Salt Creek Trail
0.6 mile
- Sippo Valley Trail
9.8 miles
- O&E Canalway Towpath
66.7 miles
- Centennial Lake Link Trail
0.4 mile
- Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway
2.1 miles

Something you may want to consider the next time you come upon an area where there is maintenance or construction happening on one of these trails... thank them for their hard work rather than complain about having your activity disrupted. Better yet, get involved with one of the Friends of the Trail groups and volunteer to keep the Ohio to Erie Trail one of the premier across State bike routes in the country.



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TO ERIE
TRAIL**

118 Graceland Blvd. #146

Columbus, Ohio 43214

www.ohioerietrail.org

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Send address and email changes to: ohioerietrail@gmail.com



OTET Mileage Composition by Region - 2021

<u>Region</u>	<u>Trails*</u>	<u>Streets</u>	<u>Roads</u>
Southern	62.1	6.4	-0-
South Central	54.5	3.0	-0-
North Central	65.8	5.1	16.6
Northern	94.6	2.4	15.5
Total	277.0	16.9	32.1
Percentage	85%	5.2%	9.8%

* 24 Regional Trails

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