



Photo Credit: Bob Trinnes



Ohio to Erie Trail

Spring 2022

Newsletter #65

Trail Town Spotlight: Canal Fulton

The Ohio and Erie Canal was a transportation and commercial artery linking Portsmouth on the Ohio River to Cleveland on Lake Erie in the mid-late 1800s. Small towns and villages grew and prospered with improved access to markets for their fruit, produce, coal, and manufactured goods.

Canal Fulton is one of those towns that grew on the Ohio and Erie Canal. The canal era ended in the early 20th century and the canal became an overgrown legacy of times gone by. Communities along the canal began reconstructing the canal's towpath into the multi-use Ohio and Erie Canal Trail in the 1990s.

The Ohio to Erie Trail follows the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail for 66 miles from Massillon through Canal Fulton on its path to Cleveland. Canal Fulton is a popular destination for cyclists, hikers, equestrians, and lovers of nature. The town offers a glimpse of canal history blended with modern visitor amenities.



Photo Credit: Tom Bower

St. Helena III, a re-creation of a canal boat, gives a first-hand experience of life on a canal boat, the operation of the canal locks, and canal history as it cruises the canal. Towpath visitors may encounter the St. Helena III on the canal with draft horses pulling the boat from the trail. The Canalway Center, adjacent to the St. Helena III dock, is a must-stop to learn

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Trail Progress

Cuyahoga: The Cuyahoga County section of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail was completed in 2021. <http://canalwaypartners.com/towpath-trail/>

Wayne: Completion of a 0.3 mile section north of Market Street in Marshallville includes a small parking area for vehicles hauling horse trailers. Orrville received a TAP grant for 1.6 miles of the Heartland Trail between Allen Ave and Forrer Rd, construction expected to begin summer 2023 and planning is underway for the 1.1 miles from Marshallville to Coal Bank Rd. (2026).

Stark: In Massillon, the trail has long term closures for flood levee repairs. The section between Lake Ave. and Cherry St is expected to be completed by June 2022. Work is progressing south of Cherry St with completion of the entire project expected in late fall 2022. Check with Ernie's in Massillon for advice to ride or hike around the work. <https://www.erniesbikeshop.com/massillon>

A bridge was recently replaced on the Sippo Valley Trail just east of state route 93. There are two more bridges on

the Sippo Trail that will require work in the near future and the Towpath Trail by Towpath Court will be realigned in 2022.

Holmes: The Trail project from Glenmont to Killbuck is being done in 2 phases. The first phase is underway with construction expected to start in July 2022.

Knox: The last 1.3 miles of trail that will connect Knox, Licking and Delaware counties received a Clean Ohio Trail Fund grant and is scheduled to be done by the end of May 2022.

Delaware: Preservation Parks is completing preliminary design and engineering of 1,200' of trail corridor in Sunbury from State Route 37 to Cherry Street. The project received a Clean Ohio Trails grant for Preservation Parks to design & engineer 1,500' of trail from Hartford Road to Walnut Street just

NE of Sunbury. Also, Preservation Parks is completing architectural design for repurposing Sunbury's railroad depot into a trailside wayfinding station, restroom and education facility.



Franklin: The Downtown connector trail (next to I-670) is being widened and repaved during 2021-2022. The eastern half from Alum Creek Trail to Leonard Ave is complete and phase 2 to Ft Hayes/Cleveland Avenue will be completed in 2022. This is a complete rebuild and

includes improvement of the crosswalks and safety of the path. The Franklin County Engineer's office is installing signage and pavement markings on the Hilltop Connector road route between the Scioto Trail and Camp Chase Trail.

Ohio to Erie Trail has a Ride with GPS link to help with the downtown Columbus navigation, visit <https://ohio-to-erie-trail.org/ohio-to-erie-trail-navigation-through-columbus/>

Madison: Friends of Madison County Parks and Trails are working with Madison County Commissioners to raise funds for land acquisition to construct a 1 mile

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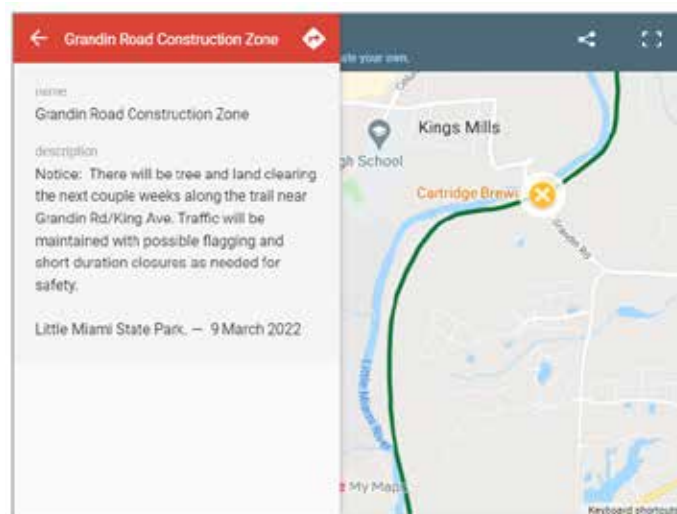
OTET approaching downtown Columbus in Franklin County

Bridge Construction on the Little Miami Scenic Trail (Mile 31-32)

A common request we are getting is for information about the King Avenue bridge replacement project impacting the trail June-December 2022 and spring 2023. The project separates the bike path from the roadway, improving safety for users of the Little Miami Scenic Trail. We know this closure is an unexpected adjustment and although there is no official detour, there are options for navigating around it. The list of all Ohio to Erie Trail alerts can be reviewed at <https://ohioerietrail.org/alerts/>.

During the times when the trail is completely closed, an alternative is to ride on roads around the closure using routes

suggested by riders in the area. They are on Ride with GPS if you search on keywords "LMT Detour". There are steep hills and these are merely suggestions, not officially signed detours, please make decisions based on your experience and comfort level. Another option is to call a taxi, ride share service or trail shuttle to bypass the area. If you are a warmshower touring member, perhaps a local host could help you navigate the area. To talk to someone who has traveled through there lately, join the facebook group dedicated to the Ohio to Erie Trail enthusiasts and post your request for advice. Go to facebook and search "groups ohio to erie trail" and it should



be the first result, the full group name is "Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail / Ohio To Erie Trail Enthusiasts Group". Trail riders and hikers should expect there to be times when the trail is completely closed and times when walking and pushing a bicycle is allowed. For your safety, do not enter an active

construction site. The Warren County Engineer advises trail users to consult the posted signs for information. This map image is from our Interactive Map and the best information will be on the Friends of the Little Miami State Park facebook page or miami-valleytrails.org.

Canal Fulton can't from page 1 more about the canal and Canal Fulton.

The Canal Fulton Canoe Livery, a block west of St. Helena III, offers paddlers a scenic, peaceful ride down the adjacent Tuscarawas River. Pedal and paddle options are available to combine a towpath bike ride with a paddle down the river. Primitive camping is available at the livery.

Brimstone Bicycles is a few steps from the canal in downtown Canal

Fulton. The full-service bike shop offers, bicycles, accessories, bike rentals, and bicycle repair services.

Local cyclists make Canal Fulton a popular destination for ice cream rides. Cherry Street Creamery, an enticing small-town Ohio ice cream and sandwich stand sits along the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

No visit to Canal Fulton is complete without a stroll through downtown.

Stop at Speak Easy Coffee & Conversation for a cappuccino or espresso. Brews of a stronger variety can be had at The Barrel Room on Canal or the Canal Boat Lounge. Both offer a variety of food and beverages.

Tandem Trails Guestroom offers a quiet overnight in a century home a few blocks from the historic downtown. Dragonfly Bed and Breakfast, a short walk from the trail, features a tea room,

winery, and gift shop in addition to their bed & breakfast.

The rural location of Canal Fulton on the southern section of Ohio and Erie Canal Trail makes it an ideal place for a quiet weekend getaway. Massillon, Barberton, and Akron are ideal casual bike rides on the Ohio to Erie Trail. Visit and enjoy a trip back to Ohio's canal days in an unspoiled natural and historic setting.

Meet Executive Director - Jody Dzurandin



Jody has been involved with the Ohio to Erie Trail for 11 years and in January she became the Executive Director of the organization. Before serving on the Board for 4 years, she assisted with the original website and social media. Her background in Finance and

Public Administration provides a strong foundation for navigating the many hats of the Trail's Executive Director. She is looking forward to becoming acquainted with the many dedicated trail friends working to bring Ed Honton's visionary dream into reality!

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. Registration filled up in March, but there is a

waiting list if you would like to be notified of any future openings.



Ohio to Erie Trailaplooza

On Saturday, June 25th, Delaware, Licking and Knox Counties will be celebrating the completion of one of the last significant gaps of the Ohio to Erie Trail in central Ohio. This all-day celebration will encourage folks to explore

the trail and the local communities. Visitors can start from any point on the trail, go in either direction, and ride as far as they would like.

Communities from Westerville to Danville will welcome trail users

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 are 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

New Water Bottles



A new 24 oz Quencher Bike Water Bottle is available in our online shop. Stay hydrated and look great with an official Ohio to Erie Trail water bottle.

Be sure to check out all the items in our store, including stickers, performance tees, t-shirts, jerseys, and more!

with good eats, demonstrations, and entertainment.

More information is available at preservationparks.com/programs.

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/



Trail Progress con't from page 2 segment in downtown London.

Warren: See article in this newsletter for details on the Grandin Road/ King Avenue Bridge replacement construction impacting the Little Miami Scenic Trail

Hamilton: The steel Beechmont Bridge structure is underway with a September 2022

completion expected. The Anderson Township project to construct a .35 mile new trail access point from the planned Beechmont Bridge project to Elstun Road is mainly funded by Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments with an estimated 2024 completion. OKI, along with Great Parks of Hamilton

County funded the 0.5 mile Beechmont Bridge connection between the Little Miami Scenic Trail and Lunken Airport which is expected to be complete by fall 2022. This section will link the Little Miami Scenic Trail

to Lunken Airport Trail, Armleder Park Trail, and the Ohio River Trail.



Closing the Gaps: OTET Exceeds 90% Designated Trail

The Ohio to Erie Trail will celebrate a watershed event in the fall of 2022 when the Holmes County Trail extension from Glenmont to the OH520 intersection is completed. This new 3.8-mile trail section will eliminate 4.6 miles of road and increase the total percentage of dedicated bike trail on the OTET to over 90%. A series of new trails and trail

extension projects in five counties during 2021 and 2022 have combined to reach this milestone.

The new 5.4-mile Delaware County Trail from Foundation Road to County Line Road, which was completed in November 2021, started this flurry of trail construction projects. The 1.3-mile western extension of the

Heart of Ohio Trail in Knox and Licking Counties, which is scheduled for completion in May 2022, will connect to the new Delaware County Trail to complete the trail route from Sunbury to Centerburg. This three-county trail project will eliminate 8.7 miles of roads.

The third construction project is

the much anticipated Beechmont Bridge Connector and Little Miami Scenic Trail extension in Hamilton County. When this massive project is completed this summer a total of 5 miles of heavily-trafficked street riding in Cincinnati will be eliminated. The Beechmont Bridge Connector will allow riders to cross the Little Miami River at Lunken Airport and join the Little Miami Scenic Trail.

By the end of 2022 the Ohio to Erie Trail will have over 90% dedicated bike trails and 3.6% streets and 5.9% rural roads. Of the remaining 31 miles of off trail riding 17 of those miles are on the Fredericksburg to Dalton road section through the scenic Amish countryside.



New Business Directory

In 2022, we began offering a searchable trail business directory through our ClubExpress page. To see the list go to otet.club-express.com and in the menu of options choose "Business Directory". We welcome you to support the trail by becoming a member, although a ClubExpress membership sign in is not required to VIEW the directory.

More at <https://ohio-to-erie-trail.org/trail-business-directory/>



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Ideal For 50 – 70 degree weather, the fabric is windproof and water-resistant. Purchase at - www.ohioerietrail.org/shop.

In 2022, we will reach the point where 90% of the Ohio to Erie Trail route is on trail and we continue to advocate for the remaining 10% to achieve our mission to promote, develop and establish a multi-use, non-motorized network of regional trails and greenways linking Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland from the Ohio River to Lake Erie. Please support our efforts at <https://ohioerietrail.org/donate-now/>

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