



The Cannonball Courier

Fall 2017

Grant given to extend paved trail six miles

A recent Blade article by Mark Reiter announced a \$2.1 million grant to cover 95 percent of a project to expand the Wabash Cannonball trail into eastern Fulton County. These state transportation funds will be used to replace hard-packed cinder ballast, dirt and grass trail with pavement from the Lucas County line to State Route 109, just south of Delta.



Toledo Area Metroparks have been granted state transportation funds to extend the paved section of the Trail six miles into Fulton County. Construction is expected to begin as early as summer 2019.

“Matt Cleland, the Metroparks’ deputy and financial director, said the improvements will foster more use of the Wabash Cannonball Trail and enhance opportunities for connectivity to other biking and hiking trails, including the North Coast Inland Trail in Ottawa County.

“... The Metroparks match for the grant is \$112,667 or 5 percent of the total construction cost.

“Mr. Cleland said the earliest that construction could begin would be in the summer of 2019.”

NORTA will be responsible for paying for long term capital improvements and major maintenance projects while the park district will be responsible for mowing, snow removal, litter control and safety.

(source: The Blade, August 24, 2017)

Annual Meeting

Please join us for NORTA’s annual membership meeting and volunteer appreciation dinner. This year’s program will feature an overview of what has been happening on the Trail in the past year. There will also be a report on upcoming special projects, and our goals for the future.

WHEN? Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017
5:00 - 6:00 Social hour
6:00 - 7:00 Dinner
7:00 - ? Meeting

WHERE? Delta 109 Tavern & Eatery
(Main dining room)
214 Main Street, Delta, OH

NOTE: In addition to on-street parking, there is a public parking lot behind the restaurant.

NORTA Annual Dinner

Number of Reservations _____

Name _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____

Email _____

Email my confirmation Mail my confirmation

Send a check for \$20 per person, payable to NORTA.

Mail to: NORTA Treasurer
P.O. Box 234
Delta, OH 43515

You may also pay online through PayPal.
Go to www.wabashcannonballtrail.org

Please Note: membership renewal is due in September.

Working with local communities improves trail



West Unity provides shelter, restrooms, drinking fountains and electricity to enhance the trail experience.

WEST UNITY

New restrooms were installed by West Unity this spring, with public water and electricity provided by the village.

LIBERTY CENTER

The South Fork Extension Project is a joint venture between NORTA, the Village of Liberty Center, and the Liberty Center Historical Society that will extend the trail from Henry County Road 6C to County Road 7 and on to the restored railroad depot in Liberty Center that will serve as a trailhead. The project is partially funded by a Clean Ohio Trail Fund grant from Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The bidding process is underway and construction may take place this fall or, more likely, next spring with a completion date of June 1, 2018.

Officers and Board members

Below you will find contact information for various board members. You may also contact us via our website: www.wabashcannonballtrail.org. Phone: 419-822-4788 or 1-800-951-4788

President: Tom Duvendack (tomfortrails@windstream.net)
Vice President: Tom Striggow (tstriggow@yahoo.com)
Secretary: Bonnie Markley (bonniejm@windstream.net)
Treasurer: Patti Gehring (pmgnorta@buckeye-express.com)
Maintenance: Randy Miller (RMiller@frontier.com)

Jay Budde (jbudde0407@embarqmail.com)
Bob Hofbauer
John Fitzgibbons (fitzgibbons75@yahoo.com)
Ed Snyder

Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Association, Inc. (NORTA) Membership Form

Name(s) _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell (Optional) _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Membership Categories:

___ Senior/Student \$10

___ Individual \$15

___ Family \$25

___ Patron \$100

___ Business/Organization \$50

___ Other \$ _____

___ Lifetime \$1,000 Donation

Contributions are tax deductible

Our thanks to Gerken Paving

In a recent letter to Brent Gerken of Gerken Paving Inc., board member Randy Miller shared how very thankful we at NORTA are for their willingness to again partner with us to improve the Wabash Cannonball Trail in Northwest Ohio.

“Last year you offered to help us by allowing us to purchase 18 truckloads of Recycled Asphalt Paving (RAP) from the resurfacing project on State Route 15 in Williams County at \$30 per truckload to transport the material to the Trail.

“When I called you this year, prior to the start of the US 20A resurfacing project, you again offered us the same arrangement, with one question. You asked me, “How many loads do you need?” From the moment I gave you my response, “As many loads as you can spare,” you set in motion the means to make this happen...

“... We took loads to many different locations along the length of the whole project to minimize the distance needed to travel and in the end, we had received 217 truckloads of RAP. We use the material to build up the surface of the Trail at areas where it floods during rainy seasons and to smooth out rough sections.

“We know that you could have sold every truckload of RAP to others for much more than you offered it to us. We are so grateful that you have chosen to partner with us and to bless



To give you some idea of how much RAP was used (above, left) and the final result on the trail (above, right) looking west from County Road 6.

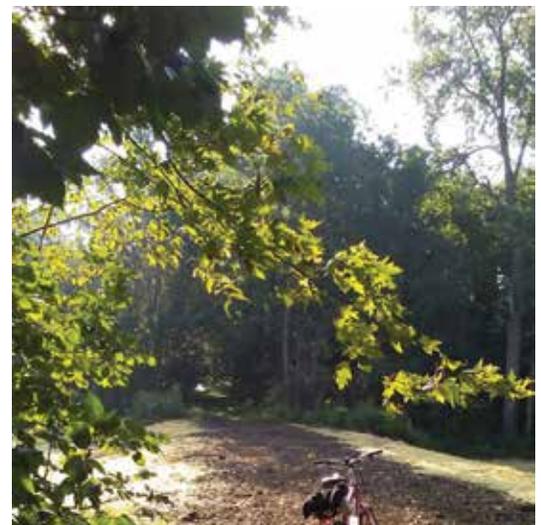
us with this resource. I’m sure you know we are a 501(c)(3) organization, and that everyone on our Board of Trustees and everyone who is working with us to develop and maintain the Trail are volunteers. We are able to do everything we do because of people and companies like Gerken. We know that you could have made between \$20,000 to \$27,000 if you would have said “No” to our request and sold the material.

“For these actions over the past two years, we would like to offer to you a ‘Corporate Lifetime Membership’ to our organization. We would also like to formally recognize your contributions at our annual dinner this year in October. You and your guests are invited to join us at that meeting to receive recognition and, more importantly, our thanks.”

Pipeline trail crossing completed

The E. T. Rover pipeline trail crossing has been completed on the Wauseon-owned section to the trail between Fulton County Roads 20 and 21. The pipeline was bored under the trail without disturbing the surface or causing trail closure during construction.

As can be seen in the photo at right, the contractor has re-graded the surface, planted grass seed on the embankment slopes and left the trail in better condition than before the pipeline construction.



Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Assoc. Inc.
P.O. Box 234
Delta, OH 43515
1-800-951-4788
www.wabashcannonballtrail.org

WANTED/NEEDED

Ongoing needs include:

- Heavy deep cell battery
- Battery charger/jumper
- Hand cleaner such as Go-Joe
- Round Up herbicide for grass control
- Shop rags
- Plumber to fix broken water pipe in NORTA office
- Cash donations - specify toward any of the above and money will be used for that purpose

Crew builds kiosk for Williams County trail head



On Saturday July 29, 2017, Ed Snyder, Bonnie Markley, Bob Hofbauer, Patti Gehring and Jay Budde finished cutting and assembling the first timber-frame kiosk that will display the new trail maps. The maps will be posted at the trailheads in Williams County this fall. Projects like these not only produce important infrastructure for the trail, but also build lasting friendships among volunteers.



It's just a skinny park!

"Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Association, Inc. (NORTA) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit volunteer organization, whose mission is to promote and steward the development and maintenance of the Wabash Cannonball Trail for public recreational use."