



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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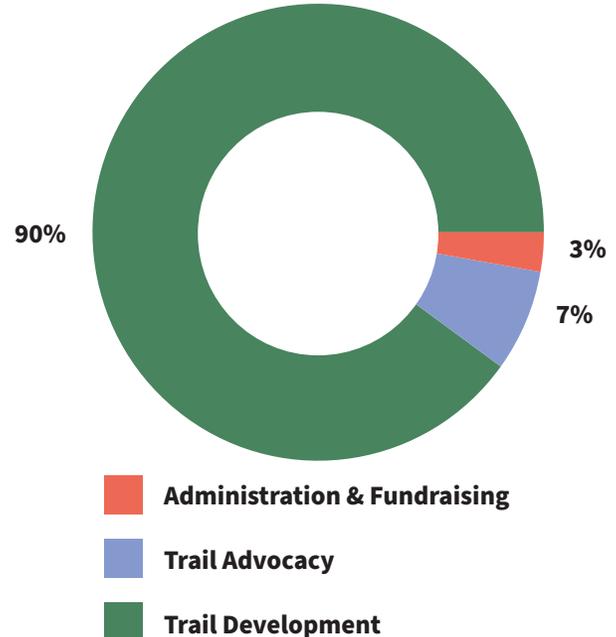
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# EXPENDITURES

*(3 year average through 2025)*



**COVER PHOTO:** Snowshoeing, courtesy of Meghan Dielschneider

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we close out this year, I'm filled with gratitude and pride for what the Linn County Trails Association has accomplished together. This has been a strong and meaningful year for trails in Linn County — not because of any single project, but because of the steady commitment, collaboration, and passion shown by our volunteers, partners, and supporters.

This year, we continued to do what we do best: help make trails happen. Through advocacy, planning, partnerships, and hands-on work, we supported the growth and improvement of trail opportunities that connect our communities, enhance outdoor recreation, and improve quality of life across the county.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers and supporters. Your time, expertise, financial contributions, and belief in our mission continue to be the heart of this organization. Whether you donated to our campaign or general fund, attended meetings, spoke up for trails, or supported us behind the scenes — your involvement matters, and it makes a lasting difference.

Looking ahead to the coming year, our focus is on our new capital campaign. We are focused on 3 major projects:

• **Emmons Street Trail Bridge in Hiawatha** • **Edgewood Rd Trail** • **The Beichler Bridge**

These three projects are detailed in our first newsletter for 2026. Each of them help us continue to interconnect more of our county to the trails network. The demand for safe, connected, and enjoyable trails has never been stronger, and the Linn County Trails Association is well positioned to meet that moment. I am excited to see what we do next year and am ready to take meaningful steps forward.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are shaping a future where trails connect people to places, to nature, and to each other.

With appreciation and optimism,  
**Craig Miller**, Board President





HOW A

# Trail is Born

**T**rails and bikeways start long before the first concrete is poured. Linn County Trail Association has a long history of helping make trails happen across every stage of the process.

A trail starts with an idea. These trail concepts are generated through a variety of sources. LCTA works closely with partners such as the City of Cedar Rapids, Linn County Conservation, and the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization to solicit feedback and uncover opportunities. LCTA has participated in this part of the process through user surveys, asking trail users where LCTA should focus fundraising efforts and how to prioritize funding. Local governments and the MPO also hold public meetings to solicit feedback. This feedback is crucial for ensuring that trails meet the needs of the community—trails don't happen without your voice!

“

*Every mile of bikeway represents years of optimism, hard work, and vision to bring projects to life and make trails happen.”*

As ideas take shape, LCTA's role shifts to keeping projects moving forward. Sometimes this means negotiating land purchases in the right of way, such as during the initial creation of the Grant Wood Trail. Over time, LCTA acquired parcels of land before donating it to Linn County Conservation in 2005. Twenty years later, work continues to expand on the foundations built in the early years and extend the Grant Wood Trail and other trails into further connections across the network.

LCTA's work can also take the form of donating funds toward design work, an expensive and often unseen part of the process to bring a trail to life. LCTA is currently raising funds to contribute toward the design costs for the Biechler Bridge, which will span the Cedar River on the Morgan Creek Trail, and recently raised

funds for the design of the Interurban Trail through Cedar Rapids. By supporting this crucial phase of the planning process, LCTA helps create a roadmap for the future of trails.

With land purchased and designs created, trails can start to take shape. LCTA contributes to construction costs across a variety of surfaces and geographies within Linn County, such as the expansion of the Morgan Creek Trail and the CeMar Trail. Over multiple phases, years of behind the scenes work, and tireless support and advocacy from LCTA, trails like CeMar have transformed from ideas into realities that connect our community and see daily use from walkers, runners, cyclists, and more. Every mile of bikeway represents years of optimism, hard work, and vision to bring projects to life and make trails happen. ■

## Thank you to all of our donors for your generous support of Linn County Trails Association!

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Sag Wagon



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## TRAIL BLAZER (\$500 - \$999)

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## TRAIL PARTNER (\$250 - \$499)

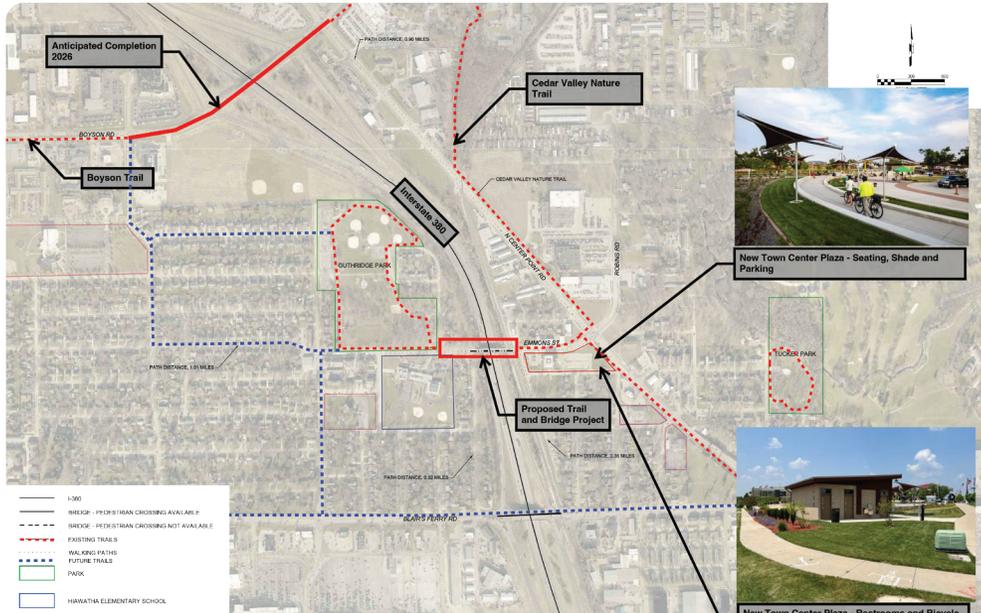
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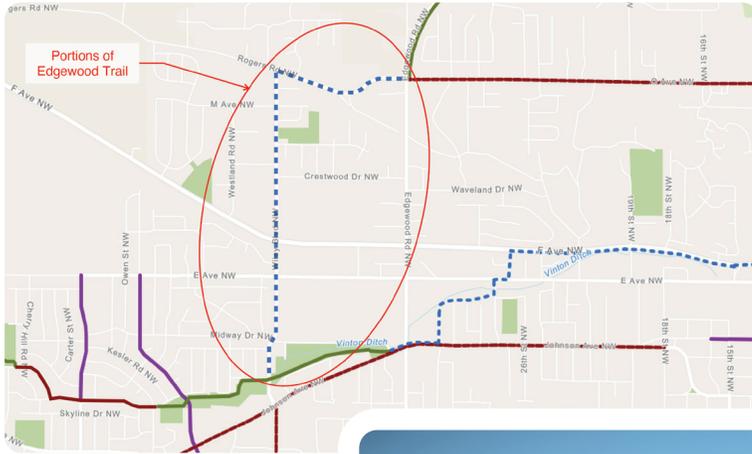
Level 10

The Linn County Trails Association is fundraising for three new projects! We are raising \$100,000 for the Emmons Street Trail in Hiawatha, \$100,000 for the Edgewood Road Trail (O Ave NW to 16th Ave NW) in Cedar Rapids, and \$100,000 for the design of the Biechler Bridge continuing the Morgan Creek Trail over the Cedar River. We are excited to move forward on these projects and help **make trails happen!**

## EMMONS STREET TRAIL



## EDGEWOOD ROAD TRAIL



## BIECHLER BRIDGE DESIGN



# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR TRAILS



## DONOR INFORMATION

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**Method of Payment:**  Check  Bill Me  My gift is eligible for a charitable match from my employer. **Please include your form!**

I would like to make a **one-time gift** of: \$\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a **recurring gift** of: \$\_\_\_\_\_ to start on \_\_\_\_\_

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*Your email address will only be used for supporter administration and LCTA information. It will not be sold or shared. LCTA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Your gift is fully deductible as allowed by law.*

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| Trail Builder  | <b>\$1,000 - \$4,999</b> | Trail Scout   | <b>\$50 - \$249</b>  |
| Trail Blazer   | <b>\$500 - \$999</b>     | Trail Friend  | <b>\$20 - \$49</b>   |

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**Linn County Trails Association**  
P.O. Box 2681  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

