



## Friends on Linn County Trails:





## President's Message

Thanks to the work of many volunteers and gifts from many generous donors, we've had a busy year making trails happen in Linn County! A few highlights include hosting and attending several trail events, farmers' markets, and bike rides, recognizing trail supporters. If you haven't checked out our website (Linn-CountyTrails.org) or Facebook page (Facebook.com/LCTrails) in a while, you're missing out on a ton of great trails updates!

We also celebrated with our local government partners as they opened new trail segments, including portions of the Morgan Creek Trail in Linn County; the Indian Creek Trail in Marion; the CeMar/Grant Wood Trail bridge over Marion Boulevard; new pavement on the Grant Wood Trail in Linn County; work almost completed on a new western portion of the Grant Wood Trail headed toward the Cedar Valley Nature Trail in Cedar Rapids; improvements around the Cedar River Trail near Mount Trashmore; and many new miles of on-street bicycle facilities this year.

This year, the Linn County Trails Association Board acknowledged the growing diversity of trail users and their interests by adopting a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy — a commitment to represent, include and serve a diversity of Linn County residents in our efforts. This diversity includes — but is not limited to — factors such as gender, race, ethnic heritage, age, residential location, socio-economic background, physical abilities, sexual orientation and gender identity, and many others to assure all perspectives and opinions are included for trail development and advocacy.

Diversity of trail usage is an important part of our efforts. Trail

users can walk, roll, run, skate, ski, or bike; use strollers, scooters, or trailers; and bring their pets with them — all kinds of users are welcome and included. The trails are meant for everyone to find a healthy activity in nature to enjoy the outdoors and the beauty of Linn County.

I am excited to share that there has never been a more active time for trail development in Linn County. To get to this point, we stand on the shoulders of giants. Years of volunteer efforts, trails advocacy, voter-supported efforts to fund trail development, the help of local, state and federal tax and grant dollars, and donations from trail supporters just like you.

This work continues today. As you may know, the Linn County Trails Association is in the midst of a \$300,000 Capital Campaign effort to fund three trail projects — in Cedar Rapids, Marion and rural Linn County. Private dollars have become increasingly important in accelerating and prioritizing trail projects — as all kinds of worthy outdoor recreation, transportation, and quality-of-life project priorities continue to compete for public funding.

If you haven't already, we hope you'll consider a gift this year to push our fundraiser effort past the finish line. We're nearing our goal, but we wouldn't be able to do any of this without the years of steady and growing support from people who walk, roll, bike, hike and stroll the trails in Linn County.

Happy Trails!

Phillip Platz

President, Linn County Trails Association

## Capital campaign update

Thanks to all who have given to LCTA's 2021/2022 Capital Campaign!!!

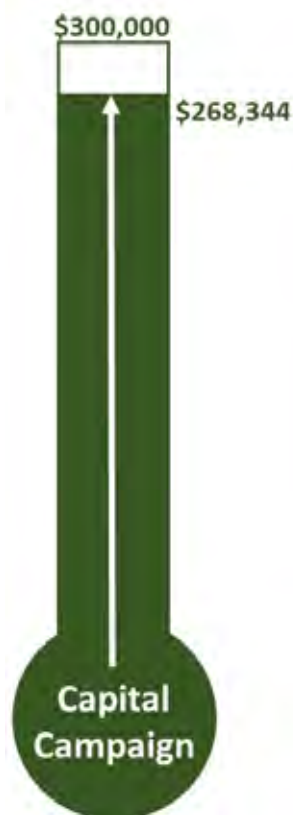
We are very close to the \$300,000 goal. In addition to a \$50,000 grant from Hall Perrine Foundation, trail user and sponsor donations to date have ranged from \$5 to \$5,000 with a median of \$100.

If you haven't contributed to the Campaign to date, your support, no matter the amount, can help push us over the top.

As a refresher, the Capital Campaign is targeting a \$100,000 contribution to each of three projects: 1) to help Linn County Conservation with extension of the Grant Wood Trail east. 2) to help City of Marion to advance the engineering on the Lucore Road Bridge trail project, and 3) to help the City of Cedar Rapids advance the engineering for the downtown portion of the Cedar River Trail.

Phillip Platz, President,  
and the LCTA Board

<https://www.facebook.com/lctrails>



## Thank you to businesses that contributed to the capital campaign in 2022!

### Trail Builders \$1,000+

HDR Engineering  
Jams Coffee Bar  
United Fire Group

### Trail Blazers \$500-\$999

Anderson Bogert  
Banklowa  
Bully's North  
Goldfinch Cyclery  
Hall Bicycle Company  
Linn Area Credit Union  
Stamats Communications Inc.  
Veridian Credit Union

### Trail Partners \$100-\$499

Cedar Rapids Tourism  
Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust  
Iowa Running Company  
Shoemaker-Haaland Engineering  
The Sag Wagon  
The Pedalers Fork  
Third Base Brewing

### Employer Match - check it out!

Many local employers offer employee matches for charitable donations. Organizations that we know have supported us in the past from members like you are:

Raytheon Technologies (Collins Aerospace)  
Pepsico Company (Quaker)  
Alliant Energy

Please consider designating LCTA as the recipient in your employee donor match. The website below can be used to determine whether your company has an employee donor match.

<https://tinyurl.com/xytx8rh>

<https://linncountytrails.org/>

## Future Connectivity & Destinations

1 GWT Phase II

2 CeMar Phase V

3 GWT Springville

4 Morgan Creek Phase I

5 Morgan Creek Phase III

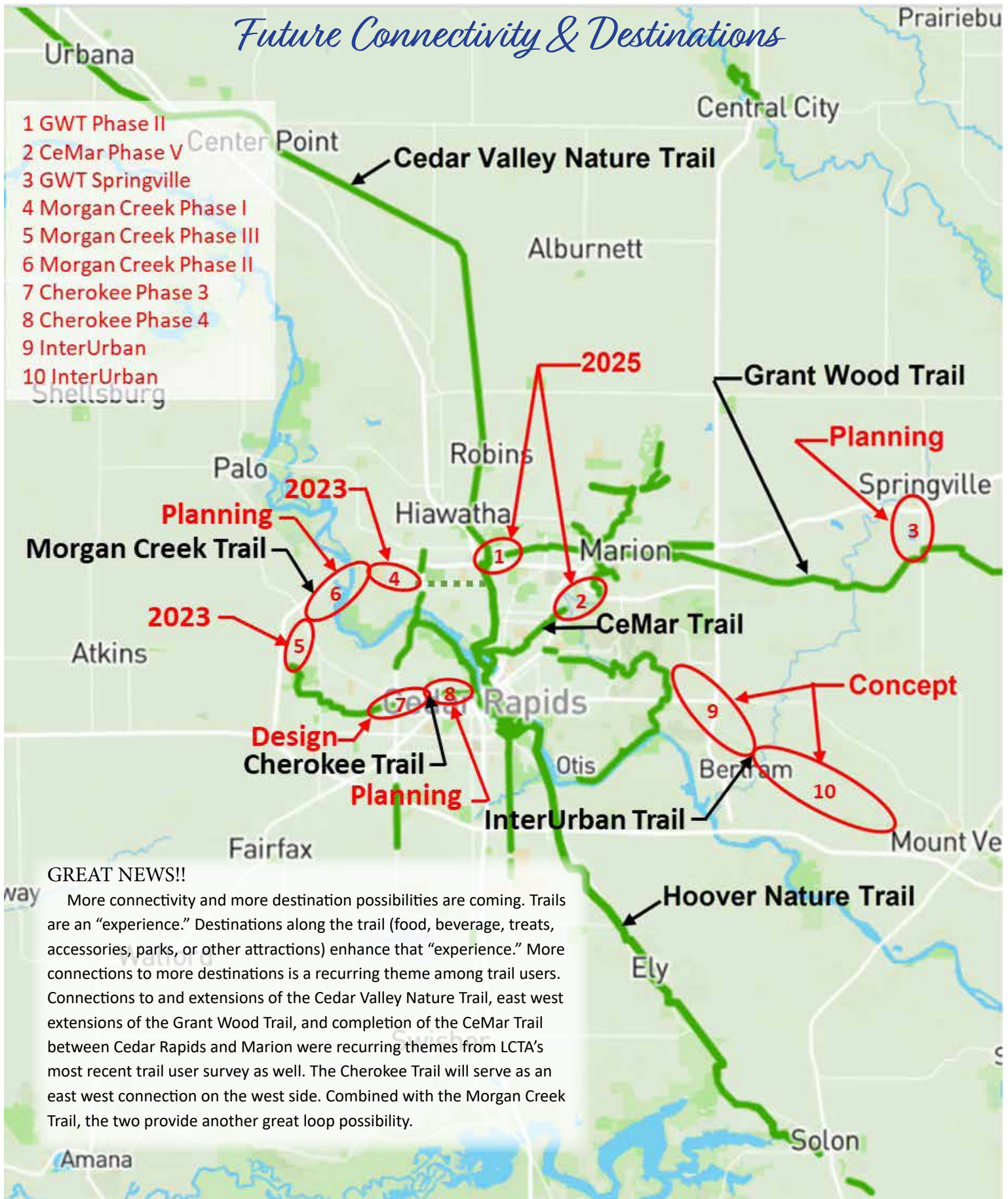
6 Morgan Creek Phase II

7 Cherokee Phase 3

8 Cherokee Phase 4

9 InterUrban

10 InterUrban



### GREAT NEWS!!

More connectivity and more destination possibilities are coming. Trails are an “experience.” Destinations along the trail (food, beverage, treats, accessories, parks, or other attractions) enhance that “experience.” More connections to more destinations is a recurring theme among trail users. Connections to and extensions of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, east west extensions of the Grant Wood Trail, and completion of the CeMar Trail between Cedar Rapids and Marion were recurring themes from LCTA’s most recent trail user survey as well. The Cherokee Trail will serve as an east west connection on the west side. Combined with the Morgan Creek Trail, the two provide another great loop possibility.

*Follow the connections, 1 to 10, to see where your future travels will be!*



## Connection 1 – Grant Wood Trail to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail

### A look to the future - Grant Wood (aka Lindale) Trail Extension Phase II . . .

This is the “final piece” to connect the north-south Cedar Valley Nature Trail and the east-west Grant Wood Trail. Oh, the access and destination possibilities north-south and east-west this connection will provide . . .

Check out the photos below. This segment is in design pending final alignment selection. The preferred alignment is along the railroad right-of-way, which is still active from the midpoint between Council Street and Center Point Road west. But the City is working with the Iowa DOT and the Canadian National Railroad on several alternatives. If all goes well, completion as early as fall 2025.



View from Council Street west - old RR ties removed and stacked.



Looking farther west from Council Street - in transition area to section with old rail still in place.



Looking NE from the The Pedaler's Fork deck at the CVNT bridge in the area where GWT to CVNT connection will be made!

## Connection 2 – CeMAR Phase 5 connecting CR to Marion! Wow!

Phase 5 of the CEMAR trail from just east of 1st Avenue through the Faulkes Heritage Woods area to Highway 100 will start after completion of the Sanitary Sewer Project scheduled for construction in 2023. Remaining property acquisitions are a priority.

The Iowa Economic Development Authority announced a third round of funding from Destination Iowa to support quality of life and tourism. The City of Marion has been awarded \$3 million toward the development of Marion's Central Plaza into a four-season gathering space and completion of the last segment of the CEMAR Trail connecting downtown Marion. The last segment from Highway 100 to the 1st Avenue bridge undercrossing should be completed by 2025.





## Connection 2 – CeMAR Phase 5 connecting CR to Marion; Continued

**Starting at 32nd Street Drive SE:**



Starting from the south, looking NE at future trail alignment from the end of CeMar Phase 4.

**Starting from Highway 100 area:**



Approaching Hwy 100 bridge over Indian Creek from the North.



Looking NE at trail alignment.



Looking south at corridor from under Hwy 100 bridge.



Looking over Indian Creek Crossing



Looking south at corridor from top of Hwy 100 bridge.

## Connection 3 – Grant Wood Trail to Springville

The Linn County Conservation Department is completing trail alignment work from Paralta to Springville. A public open house was held in October to discuss alignment. They are also working with IDOT to review an overpass on Highway 151 into Springville. Completion of the last segment into Springville is greater than five years.

This trail was steered along by Keith Fletcher, an emeritus board member who unfortunately passed away a few years ago. He would be very pleased with this connection!



The east side of X-20 appears to be the preferred option to date.



## Connections 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8

**Connections 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8** will create a loop from the east to the west side of Cedar Rapids! Following the existing bike lane along 42nd St NE from the CVNT to Xavier HS, Phase 1 of the Morgan Creek Trail continues the connection!

**Connection 4 - Phase I of the Morgan Creek Trail** starts at 42nd St NE passing on the west side of Xavier High School, by the Rock Island Botanical Preserve, then to the Cedar River. This will be bid in November with paving in 2023.



Phase I Looking North from 42nd along west side of Xavier High School



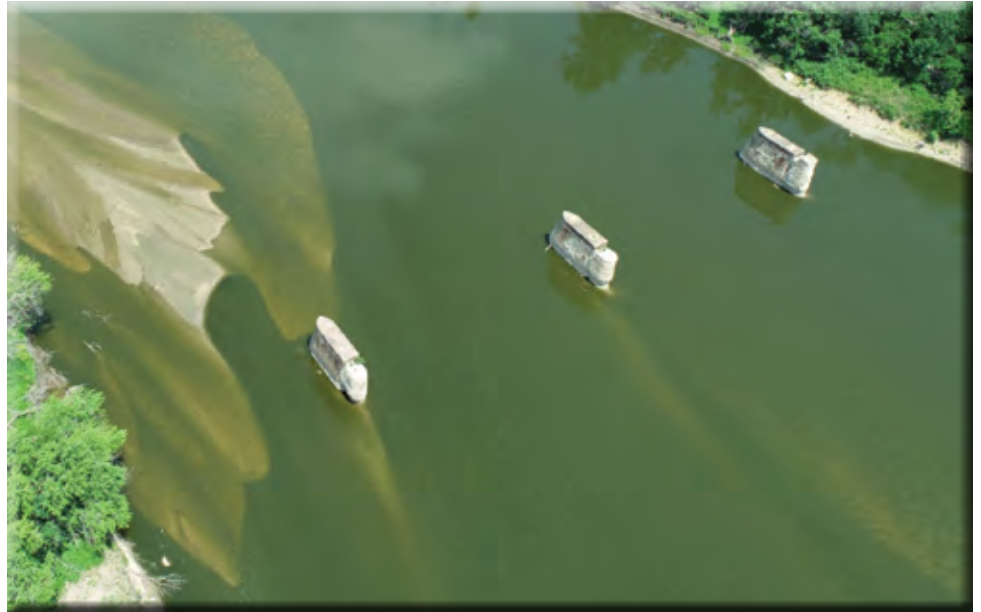
Phase I looking west along north side of Rock Island Botanical State Preserve

### **Connection 5 - Phase 3 of the Morgan Creek Trail**

Phase 3 of the Morgan Creek Trail west of the Cedar River from Covington Road to Worcester Road (by Morgan Creek Park) will be bid in late fall/early winter with construction anticipated in 2023

### **Connection 6 - Phase 2 of the Morgan Creek Trail**

A study has recently been completed regarding the Cedar River crossing and alignment for the Morgan Creek Trail. The Funding has yet to be obtained for this portion.



Unfortunately the old Railroad piers are not suitable for use in the Cedar River Crossing without significant repairs. Further study is required.



Another view of the RR piers and crossing to complete the connection of the Morgan Creek Trail.



### Connection 7 and 8 - Cherokee Trail Phase 3 and 4

With phase 1 complete from Morgan Creek Park to the east side of Cherry Hill Park, Phase 2 of the Cherokee Trail will use a bicycle boulevard through quiet neighborhoods and connect back up to a trail by Jacolyn Park and Cherokee Park prior to Edgewood Road. This trail section is very scenic through the parks. At Edgewood Road Phase 3 and 4 take over!



Cherokee Trail in Cherry Hill Park.



Cherokee Trail following a bicycle boulevard before connecting back to a paved trail to Edgewood Road.



Cherokee Trail work in October - almost to Edgewood Rd!

**Phase 3 from Edgewood Road to 13th St NW** is in the Preliminary design phase – final alignment has not been selected.

**Phase 4 from 13th St NW to the Cedar River with connections to downtown Cedar Rapids and the CVNT** has not been started - final alignment has not been selected but is being coordinated with Flood Control design work between 3rd St NW and 1st St NW and a Paving for Progress construction project underway at F Ave NW and Ellis Blvd NW.

## Connections 9 and 10

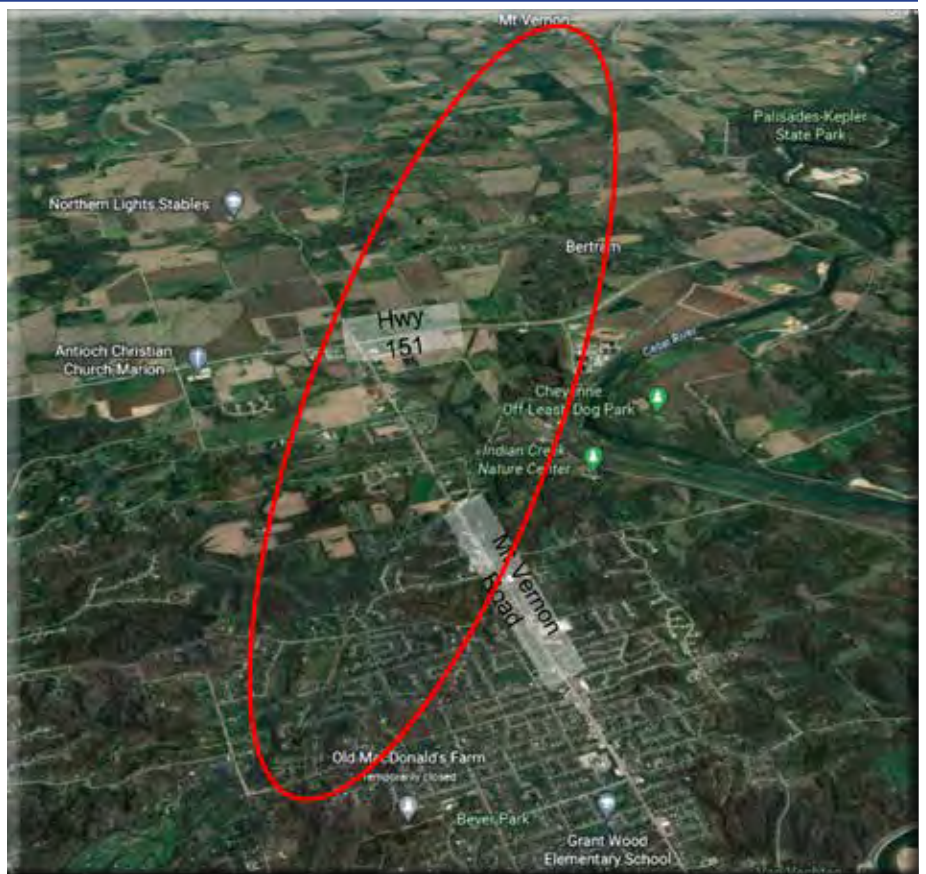
### Interurban Trail Cedar Rapids to Mount Vernon

Anticipate completion of the trail from Indian Hill Rd SE through Bever Park to East Post Road in the next 5 years. Conversations about starting in Mount Vernon and going west, or Cedar Rapids and going east, are ongoing.

Future Interurban, looking east from east of E Post Rd



Future Interurban, looking west from west of E Post Rd





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

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## LCTA Calendar of Events

### November 29

#### Day of Giving.

Please consider making your donation to LCTA.  
We are registered as an approved charitable organization.  
<https://tinyurl.com/2bzew8zu>

### December 8, 2022

#### Pint Night at SOKO Outfitters, outdoor sports store.

TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
LOCATION: SOKO Outfitters

41 16th Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 - Czech Village

DETAILS: Buy a pint glass and join other trail enthusiasts to raise money for LCTA. Every dollar spent on pints at the SOKO Outfitters store that night goes to LCTA! Please join us for this social hour to talk trails and raise money for trails at the same time.

### January 9, 2023

#### LCTA Board Meeting

TIME: 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
LOCATION: City of Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building  
1111 Shaver Road NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
(Enter through the chain link gates and park/enter in back of the building.)  
DETAILS: LCTA members are welcome to join.  
CONTACT: [contributor@linncountytrails.org](mailto:contributor@linncountytrails.org) for more information

## LCTA DONATION FORM

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address will be used only for supporter administration and LCTA information. It will not be sold or shared.

**All donations to LCTA are tax deductible.**

Do you work for one of the following — or many other — employers which offer charitable gift matching? **Please include your form!**

Aegon	Cargill	Intermec	Collins Aerospace
Alliant Energy	General Mills	PepsiCo (Quaker)	Other

Donate immediately online at:  
**[linncountytrails.org/campaign](https://linncountytrails.org/campaign)**

or mail this form with your contribution to:  
**Linn County Trails Association**  
P.O. Box 2681  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Trail Supporter Levels:

**Trail Builder:**  
\$1000+  
**Trail Blazer:**  
\$500 - \$999  
**Trail Partner:**  
\$100 - \$499  
**Trail Scout:**  
\$20 - \$99



**We appreciate your annual support! The last date that you donated is on the back of this report.**