



# TRAIL NEWS

ISSUE #30

HURON COUNTY, OHIO

SUMMER 2020

## NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL

# United Fund Recipient !



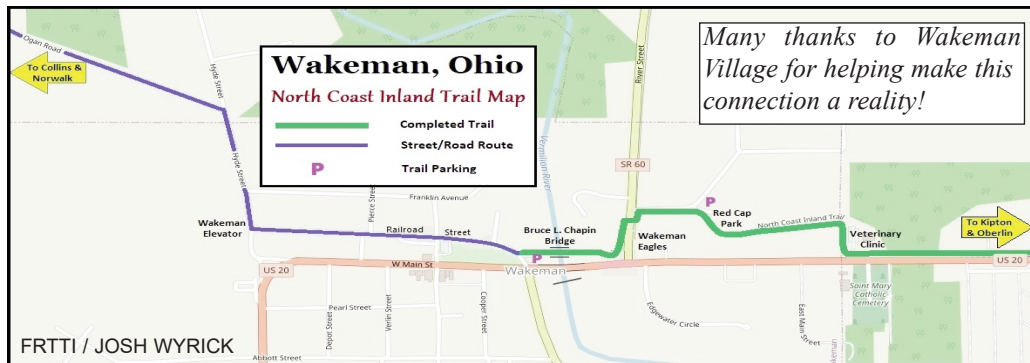
After a lengthy and thorough application process, the Norwalk Area United Fund has agreed to assist Firelands Rails To Trails for the year 2021 in the amount of \$10,000 !

United Fund values organizations that promote the community's well being and Firelands Rails To Trails is happy to help serve those needs through healthy recreation. Our trails serve a wide variety of people in local communities and also form a key link in regional recreation plans as part of the North Coast Inland Trail network. Firelands Rails To Trails will strive to collaborate with

United Fund to complete our common mission.

The intensive United Fund application process has helped make Firelands Rails to Trails a better organization. The application process exhaustively looked at our financial reporting, our volunteer efforts, our mission focus, and an extensive list of anecdotal evidence on how we impact individuals and improve the quality of life in the communities we connect. We are grateful that UF places its trust in FRTTI as a worthy partner and we appreciate their support.

# Wakeman - now a NCIT Trail Destination!



Soon after the S-Curve of the connector was installed, volunteers cleaned the bridge deck and sealed the railings. Seeding of the adjacent landscape will follow.

Wakeman has the connections! And is quickly becoming a true trail **Destination!**

Wakeman Mayor Chris Hipp and members of Wakeman Village Council know a good thing when they see it - and that is the NCIT and all those who show up on bike and foot to visit and patronize local businesses. Just spend a short time in Wakeman Park on any given nice day and you'll see bikers arriving from the east and west.

Wakeman now has the connections to Kipton and Norwalk thanks to a new trail connector at the east end of the Bruce L. Chapin Bridge. This sweeping S-curve of trail connects Red Cap Park and the bridge and was constructed by Wilhelm Construction through a joint effort between FRTTI, the Village of Wakeman, and Lorain County Metroparks. FRTTI has also applied for State Capital Funding for the project with the hopes of being reimbursed in full for the project.

Wakeman Village will finalize the SR 60 crossing with flashing crosswalk lights and additional signage very soon.



For this map and other trail maps visit: [www.frtti.org](http://www.frtti.org)

## Laylin-Townsend Update



Wow!

The last frontier. That's right - we are working on the last piece of trail - and a very important one at that. This section of trail will connect our largest population center - Norwalk - to points east through some of our best scenery and best trail sections. This piece of trail begins at the Norwalk Township Hall at Townsend Avenue and Perrin Street and heads east to connect to the existing trail at Laylin Road.

FRTTI is actively working on this section with Haynes Construction and we are making plans to have this open and usable by fall. This piece needs extensive grading and drainage work and we will add more stone next summer.

We are hoping local businesses can help us complete this gap!

## Depot Doings



The Depot received a fresh coat of paint on the north side. Our dedicated volunteers have been repainting one side per year. We aim to have the depot open weekends this fall - stay tuned!

## Looking back: How cool is that???

*You tell us!*

It is hard to believe this is our 30th issue of *Trail News!* Thank you for being our dedicated supporters all these years. We hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter in the comfort of your favorite chair, with a tired dog at your feet and well-weathered trail maps at arm's reach.

Seems like just a short while ago local resident Mallory Clemons was clearing brush with his excavator just west of North West Street. He was one of our first serious volunteers who brought in big equipment and believed whole-heartedly in this all-volunteer trail when others thought it was too big to tackle or not worth doing. But that was 2002, and since then so much trail has been built by such wonderful people.

Over the years we have all experienced some cool stuff on the trail. From wildlife to meteorites to stunning sunsets, or maybe your fastest time between two trail points thanks to new running shoes or a new bike. For some of us FRTTI board members, one instance stands out:

FRTTI hosted a night ride on a November evening starting at the depot and going to Bellevue and back. The weather was a misty mix of rain and snow but it did not dampen the spirits of those dozen riders that night. Coming back east we passed Williams Road and wayyy off in the distance we could see unknown faint lights down the trail. As we pushed through the wind and falling leaves, the mileposts clicked by and we soon realized it was the warm glow of our depot lights welcoming us!

But the interesting part is the fact that this exact scene was played out thousands of times a night all across America for over 100 years as passenger trains pulled into small towns and cities. It is a scene most of us have never witnessed nor will we ever. But for that one instance on bikes we all had a sense of what it was like to arrive at an almost surreal, new, or maybe familiar place out of the darkness of many passing miles. Inside the warm depot we were welcomed by friends, just as arriving train passengers would have been back when the depot was built in 1863.

Join us on one of our upcoming fall night rides and you'll see plenty of wildlife - if you're quiet enough - and you might just catch a glimpse into the past. After all, this was the route of America's original Transcontinental Railroad from 1853 until the branch line ended in 1976.

Seen something cool on the trail? Drop us a line and a picture via email or facebook and we'll publish the most interesting ones in upcoming issues. After all, this is only Issue 30, and we have lots more to tell about this great adventure called the North Coast Inland Trail.



## What Trails Mean to Industry !

**We've been at this for over 20 years!** And in that time a handful of volunteers have built over 20 miles of trail. We've used our own trucks and tractors and tools and have relied on donations from about 200 individuals and a small group of local businesses. While individuals get so much enjoyment out of the trail, it is the businesses who have so much to gain!

FRTTI recently did a case study entitled: "What do Trails mean to Industry" which showcases the impact a new trail has on a business and their community in Iowa. They see the potential the trail brings in terms of attracting and keeping young, professional, healthy people in their community. We hope you as a business owner can relate.

Over the years our individual members have kept gas in our mowers, purchased new equipment, and paid the insurance bills and the like. These individuals will renew their memberships at the end of the year and we are eternally grateful for their support.

Years ago we had some support from our park district partners in adjacent counties, but with the increase of bike trail projects in their respective counties, we find ourselves completely on our own. **We are not supported by local tax dollars** so in order to get the last link of trail between Laylin and Townsend completed this fall, we will need a significant contribution from our business community. We hope you agree from reading our case study that trails mean good things to businesses. And we hope you can help us in our last section of trail construction. Thank you for your consideration and we hope to see you on the trail!

### Business and Civic Group Laylin-Townsend Trail Project Donation Form

Business: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Donation Amount:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$500

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000

\_\_\_\_\_ \$2,500

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to  
Firelands Rails to Trails Inc.  
44 E Main Norwalk 44857

**Thank you for helping us complete  
this last key piece of trail!**

**Trails mean good things to businesses ! Are you on board ?**