



TRAIL NEWS

ISSUE #32

HURON COUNTY, OHIO

SPRING 2022

NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL

TRAIL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce the Trail Sponsorship Program! (TSP)

This winter we spent a great deal of time talking with trail groups in Iowa and Pennsylvania on how they fund their day to day operations such as trail maintenance and mowing, as well as equipment purchases and contracted stone resurfacing. There are grants galore for actual trail construction, but all funding for daily trail maintenance on many trails like ours must come from donations.

Over the years we have had several large businesses and local civic groups approach us and ask: "How can we help?", or "What do you need?" And many stepped up. Some also asked, "Is there a way for us to be recognized - on the trail - for our support and involvement?" This is a good question with a good answer.

Several trails in the midwest use a trail sponsorship program where local businesses and civic groups can buy, or sponsor, mile markers, as well as trailheads.

There are two ways to sponsor: Yearly mile marker donations, and one-time (larger) donations for a trailhead. And the donating company will get their name on the mile marker or trailhead. Our Trail Sponsorship Program booklet is now on our website under "About Us."

Berry Global - Mile Marker 51

Trail neighbor and trail supporter Berry Global, of Monroeville, stepped up to be the very first sponsor - before the ink was even dry on our new TSP Booklet! Berry Global is sponsoring Mile Marker 51, which is adjacent to their plant at Rt. 547.

Berry Global creates innovative packaging and engineered products for customers around the globe, harnessing the power of 47,000 global employees across more than 295 locations worldwide. Berry's Monroeville facility produces food grade injection molded packaging primarily for the Dairy and Deli industry. Eleven of their employees posed with their new sign.

"We're delighted to participate in this trail sponsorship program as it demonstrates the commitment in our mission statement "to enhance the communities in which we live and work". We acknowledge the trail as a valuable community resource worthy of our support for the benefit of our employees and the residents of Huron County." - Deric Elder, Plant Mgr.

FRTTI President Josh Wyrick arrived for the photo by tractor, while out mowing. "Yes, all our tractors are all driven by volunteers, but without the help of wonderful partners and neighbors like Berry Global, our fuel tanks would all be empty!"

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MILE SPONSOR

Berry Global
Monroeville



You can also pick up our colorful, 8-page TSP Booklet at the bike shop in Norwalk.

WINTER TO SPRING HAPPENINGS

Just because bears hibernate during the winter doesn't mean we do! Winter is when we do so much work to get the trail ready for spring - and the time is now to get out and ride and run and walk. The trail looks A-1 and we have begun our mowing rotations - all volunteer - running five tractors across the entire county. Here's a look at some of the work performed this winter. We hope you enjoy the trail thanks to the efforts of so many.



Ditch mowing at Collins...



Lots and lots of tree trimming!



Removing limbs and vines...



Hauling off logs and debris...



Blowing off the bridge decks, and...



The trail is ready for spring!

US BIKE ROUTE 30 PREPARATIONS



The US Bike Route 30 signs are up! And just in time as bikers begin their cross-country treks this spring, from Washington to Maine via THE main transcontinental route - right through Huron County. We are very excited to be part of US Bike Route 30.



FRTTI Board members celebrated the US BR 30 routing in Wakeman, top right, Monroeville, right, and Norwalk, left. We also hosted meetings at the depot to assist local officials in planning and proper signage for this influx of cycling tourists.



This trail is entirely maintained by volunteers and donations and we are not supported by any tax dollars. Please consider joining and sponsoring us, or ask your employer about becoming a mile marker sponsor!