

**The  
Ohio to Erie  
Trail**



118 Graceland Blvd. #146  
Columbus, Ohio 43214  
www.ohioerietrail.org

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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**A network of trails from  
Cincinnati to Cleveland, using  
lands formerly occupied by  
railroads and canals.**

## **The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund**

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### **Address Changes:**

Email changes to - ohioerietrail@gmail.com  
Telephone Number changes to - 614-918-3636

## **AN APPEAL FOR HELP!**

**We understand that the economy is affecting everyone. Please consider making an additional contribution so we can continue to take care of our beloved trail system.**

**An envelope is enclosed in the newsletter for your contribution. All contributions to The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund are tax deductible.**

The

# OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL

Summer 2011

Newsletter #45



## Section of Camp Chase Trail Opens

Wayne Roberts (OTETF board member), pictured below, is cruising the Camp Chase Trail in Madison County. This section opened in late 2010, and it is the first trail on an active rail line along The Ohio to Erie Trail.



Photo credit – Jerry Rampelt

### Wayne Roberts cruising the Camp Chase Trail

Notice that there is no need for a fence between the rail line and trail. Far too often fences are installed along trails for what seems to be no apparent reason. Rail lines throughout the United States run for hundreds of thousands of miles without fencing. Unnecessary fencing only adds costs that could be spent on additional trail construction.

Franklin County Metro Parks is managing the construction of the Camp Chase Trail. That section will eventually end just east of I-270 and Sullivant Ave on the west side of Columbus.

## Lunken Airport (Cincinnati) Trail Section Dedicated



### Cincinnati Mark Mallory & Dignitaries at Ohio River Trail Opening

Students of Cincinnati's K-12 Riverview Academy assisted on May 13th with the ribbon cutting on the new trail segment of The Ohio to Erie Trail (OTET) that connects to another portion of the route at their school. Under the guidance of Michael Moore, Cincinnati's Director of Transportation & Engineering, another 1.1 miles of the Ohio to Erie Trail was officially opened near Lunken Airport.

Construction took 15 months at a cost of \$2.2 million dollars and brought the reality of a riverfront to lakefront recreational trail closer to fruition. Cincinnati continues to struggle with how to get an off-road route into the downtown area for that remaining gap of 4 miles.

## Signs Being Installed Along OTET

The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund is assisting with the installation of signs along nearly the entire route of The Ohio to Erie Trail. The first three signs were placed in Madison County and in the picture Wayne Roberts (OTETF board member) is admiring the seven foot high sign. The signs are made of aluminum and modeled after signs placed along the Little Miami Scenic Trail.

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## Ed Honton Bridge Dedication

July 15 at 3:00 p.m., Innis Park

Innis Park, 3000 Innis Road  
Columbus, OH 43224

Innis Park is at the northwest corner of  
Sunbury Road and Innis Road.



*Photo credit – Jerry Rampelt*

*One of the first three of the signs that was placed in Madison County*

The Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program provided The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund \$24,000 for the purchase of trail signs in Knox, Holmes, and Wayne Counties. The three year grant allows \$8,000 per year for the purchase of signs, with the local communities taking responsibility for the installation of the signs.

## **The OTETF applies for \$48,360 Recreational Trail Program Grant**

The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund submitted a \$48,360 grant application to the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for trail signs. If approved, signs as pictured above will be installed along The Ohio to Erie Trail from central Ohio to Cincinnati.

Communities participating in the installation of signs are enthused about uniform signage being installed. This offers travelers a consistent sign style with critical information needed for traveling The Ohio to Erie Trail.

## **Volunteers Installing Sign Overlays**

Tom Moffitt (OTETF Board President) of Hamilton and volunteer Bob Niedenthal of Oxford installed the first of the new route number signs in Xenia to designate the Ohio to Erie Trail as #1. They have placed new sign overlays on over 100 signs in the Champaign, Clark, and Greene Counties. With the help of the Friends of Madison County Parks & Trails, under the leadership of OTETF Board Member Wayne Roberts, an additional 40 signs were renumbered north to the Franklin County line in May and early June.



*Photo credit – Susan Moffitt*

*Bob Niedenthal and Tom Moffitt pictured installing a sign overlay*

Since The Ohio to Erie Trail is the longest trail in Ohio, trail managers have agreed to the renumbering from Xenia north. The Ohio to Erie Trail already carries a #1 south to Hamilton County through The Little Miami State Park. Other trails in the region are being changed to correspond to the new plan.

## **Ohio to Erie Trail Reopens in Clark County**

The Clark County Park District reopened its parks and trails on April, 1, 2011. An important section of The Ohio to Erie Trail was closed after the Clark County Park District levy failed in November of 2010. The official reopening was attended in excess of one-hundred people.

Through the efforts of volunteers and some financial contributions, the park district was able to reopen. Unfortunately, the financial situation is not viable over the long term unless or until a levy is passed to support Clark County parks and trails.



*Photo credit – Jerry Rampelt*

**Jim Campbell (Clark County Park District Executive Director) celebrates the reopening of the trails in Clark County.**

Next to Jim Campbell in the above picture is the “Park Closed” sign that was erected last November to block access to the trail after the levy failure.

## Volunteers Make Trails Attractive

Bill and Betsy Schwinn of Terrace Park organized numerous volunteers to help replace fence rails and remove hundreds of honeysuckle plants along The Ohio to Erie Trail. The group worked for three months along the 1.1 mile-section of the Little Miami Scenic Trail, part of The Ohio to Erie Trail running from Miamiville to Camp Dennison, just north of Milford.



**Betsy and Bill Schwinn  
doing trail work**

After the volunteers of the Friends of the Little Miami State Park (FLMSP) completed their work, Cody Kitt and his company, Blue Ox Tree Service of Milford, volunteered a full day in late March to remove the debris! You can read more about FLMSP at their web site: [www.littlemiamistatepark.org](http://www.littlemiamistatepark.org).

## No Clean Ohio Funds in 2011

The Clean Ohio Trails Fund will not have a funding round this year, which will have a major impact on trail projects. Because of the State of Ohio budget situation, it

was determined to delay funding for projects for one year, even though voters approved the Clean Ohio Fund in 2008 by a 69% to 31% votes. Applicants for funding in 2011 were notified of this change by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The Clean Ohio Trails Fund has been a significant source of money for local trail work, and this decision will delay construction projects for another year.

## Dedication of Ed Honton Bridge July 15, 2011

You are invited to attend the dedication of a classic iron bridge over Alum Creek in memory of our former leader Ed Honton. Only through the vision and tireless work of Ed did The Ohio to Erie Trail become a reality.

As former Franklin County Engineer, Ed would appreciate a bridge being named for his efforts with The Ohio to Erie Trail.



*Photo credit – Jerry Rampelt*

The ceremony will be on Friday, July 15, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. at Innis Park (3000 Innis Road Columbus, OH 43224). Innis Park is at the northwest corner of Sunbury Road and Innis Road. The entrance is off of Innis Road, and the bridge is one-half mile from the parking lot along the trail.

Joining us on July 15 will be family and friends of Ed Honton, along with Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman and Franklin County Engineer Dean Ringle.

## Please Donate

We are asking for donations to help defray the cost of a bronze marker that will be placed near the bridge. For making a contribution you will receive an Ohio to Erie Trail lapel pin and recognition in the newsletter.

Please make note in the memo section of your check that this donation is for the **Ed Honton Bridge**. Be sure to return it with your name and address so we can mail your pin to you. Thank you for helping us and honoring our founder, Ed Honton.