



TRAIL NEWS

ISSUE #21

HURON COUNTY, OHIO

SUMMER 2015

NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL

GRAND OPENING! *New Trail to-and-through Uptown Norwalk!*

The North Coast Inland Trail has finally reached the west side of Uptown Norwalk, thanks to Firelands Rails to Trails volunteers and a much appreciated license agreement with Ohio Edison. FRTTI volunteers have constructed a new 0.7 mile crushed limestone trail between North West Street and Baker Street with volunteer labor and much assistance from Jim Schlachter as well as Joe Wilhelm of Wilhelm Construction.

In a symbolic handing over of the NCIT trail route signs, FRTTI then handed over trail construction between Baker Street and Townsend Avenue to the City whereby they created a well designated bike route through Uptown Norwalk and eastward. "We finally made it!", said FRTTI Treasurer Rick Schaffer.

"We're excited to finally reach the west side of town at Baker Street", said FRTTI President Lance Franke, "And also very excited about the vision of Mayor Rob Duncan and City Engineer Josh Snyder as well as the cooperation of the Norwalk General Services Department under Wally Ritchie. Together we are all creating a safe route which is beneficial to trail users, Norwalk residents and the business community."

The City of Norwalk made a significant investment in the North Coast Inland Trail. On the section between North West Street and Baker Street, the city installed ADA-compliant hard surface trail approaches at each road crossing. On the on-street portion of the trail, signage, some of which was donated by FRTTI with the assistance of Lake Erie Construction, was erected to both guide trail users through the city and to inform motorists to be watchful for bicyclists. On-street pavement markings were also installed to help trail users and to promote safety. In addition, curbs along the on-street portion of the trail are being painted green, where practical, as a travel aid for trail users.

"We are extremely excited to have users of the NCIT visit our city," said Mayor Rob Duncan, "and we're doing all we can to make their visit safe." FRTTI would like to thank Ohio Edison, Jim Schlachter, Joe Wilhelm, our members and donors, as well as Mayor Duncan and his dedicated staff for seeing this through.

GRAND OPENING
as part of
IMAGINE
NORWALK
FRIDAY, JULY 31
6:30 PM
MONROE ST at
HESTER ST.
ALONG THE
NEW NCIT !
Check out
imagineinorwalk.com
for the latest
details !



FRTTI Trustees discuss trail details with Mayor Rob Duncan and symbolically hand over signs.



Jim Schlachter yanks old railroad ties with his backhoe as Steve Siesel pushes construction forward.



Gordon Oney and Stan Bernhardt disc the soil with a tractor loaned by Gerald Oney.



Joe Wilhelm and crew bring in truck loads of 9D crushed limestone for a smooth trail surface.



Lance Franke leads a work crew with Rich Libbee on his tractor setting posts at intersections.



Rick Schaffer and Mary Ivory install proper signage at each intersection.



Spring posts are installed and smooth concrete aprons are poured at the roads.



Ride it !
The finished product awaits you!

WWW.FIRELANDSRAILSTOTRAILS.ORG

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Annual Dues: _____ New _____ Renewal

Student \$ 5.00

Individual \$ 10.00

Family \$ 15.00

Club or Organization \$ 30.00

Supporting \$ 50.00

Sustaining \$100.00

Benefactor \$250.00

Donation _____

Endowment Fund _____

TOTAL _____

I would also like to donate:

Labor _____

Equipment _____

Detach and Mail this section.

Please make your check payable to:

Firelands Rails To Trails, Inc.

44 East Main St. Norwalk, OH 44857

Membership fees and donations to Firelands Rails to

Trails are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

TN21

No time to rest!



While the stone is still fresh and the paint is barely dry on the new section into Norwalk, FRTTI volunteers were hard at work in Collins on trail maintenance.

Whether the NCIT stays in pristine A-1 condition year-round is entirely up to you!

We wish to thank our dedicated volunteers who work many hours on and off the trail: mowing, trimming, maintaining, marketing, budgeting, contacting, coordinating, and planning.

We also wish to thank our many members and donors large and small who fund so many of our maintenance projects. Their generosity fills tractor gas tanks and helps with small projects.

We are often asked how does one get involved in working on the trail and are you roped in to working every weekend on the trail for the rest of your life?

FRTTI has many dedicated volunteers who rarely miss a scheduled work day (see schedule at right). We also have volunteers we see once a month or maybe four times a year. Every one of these volunteers plays a huge role and our success comes from their dedication and commitment to the NCIT.

Mowing and trimming is handled by pools of volunteers in a rotating fashion coordinated by email. Some use their own equipment and others use FRTTI owned equipment.

Interested volunteers can attend one of our board meetings or simply show up at a work day.

If you are not yet a member, will you please join us and sign up today? Thank you!

More from the Railroad Section Gang



It's Four Men to a Tie (Except on the M&StL Ry!)

As hundreds of ties were pulled up and relocated to other parts of the trail property, FRTTI volunteers used tie tongs to move them, with four volunteers to a tie as seen here.

In the book, "The Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway In Color" by Gene Green, the author describes a work crew cleaning up after a wreck in the Oskaloosa, Iowa, rail yards in 1960:

"Two wreckers are still working on (locomotive) 406. Laborers on this job were George Danielson, Bill Dost, and Harry Davis, about whom a story should be told. W.J. Weatherall (car dept. superintendent) in the light gray top coat, observed Harry Davis, unassisted, picking up entire ties and tossing them to one side. Weatherall inquired of Wrecker Foreman Doyle Richards as to the identity of Davis. When Richards gave Weatherall the name, Weatherall was heard to comment "Remind me to never take exception to anything that man says."



Thanks, Monroeville students!

Monroeville Schools held its Service Learning Day at various places in the community. Two bus loads of students elected to do service on the North Coast Inland Trail. Much Garlic Mustard, an invasive and noxious species, was removed along with debris that was picked up from the railway. Thanks to all the students, the aids and the teachers who participated.

CONTACT US

Firelands Rails To Trails Inc.
44 East Main St. Norwalk, OH
bikedoc123@frontier.com
419-465-3367 or 668-3027
or via the website:
www.firelandsrailstotrails.org

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Cut and mail the form above or visit us online and print the membership form.
- **Join FRTTI for as little as \$5**
- Sign up for our Email News
- Join us on one of our Work Days
- Tell some friends about it!

Board Meetings are open to members and the general public and are held the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Depot at Donald E. Morrow Park, 69 S. Ridge Rd. (Rt. 99), Monroeville.

Work Days are generally held the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday 8am-12pm. Watch for email and simply show up!

TRAIL NEWS

Published by the Trustees of Firelands Rails to Trails Inc. (FRTTI) and is mailed to all members.

Edited by Joe Mantey

Wonderful photos by Josh Wyrick
For more photos from work days as well as trail scenes, check our Facebook page!