



TRAIL NEWS

ISSUE #31

HURON COUNTY, OHIO

SUMMER 2021

NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL

COMPLETE !!

*LAST PIECE CONNECTS NORWALK TO COLLINS
and COMPLETES NCIT FROM ELYRIA TO GENOA!*

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO the idea of a recreational trail across Huron County - thus connecting Bellevue to Kipton - was nothing more than an idea - an idea now brought to completion by a dedicated group of volunteers and donors as well as generous contractors and amicable property owners and neighbors.

The last one mile section of trail in Huron County is now complete and just awaits YOU to experience it. The new trail section finally links Norwalk to the beautiful trail sections to Collins. And this also marks the completion of the last piece of trail between Elyria and Genoa which will soon link Lorain to Toledo and on to Indiana via the Wabash Cannonball Trail. At 103 miles, the NCIT is the 10th longest non-motorized rail trail in the U.S.

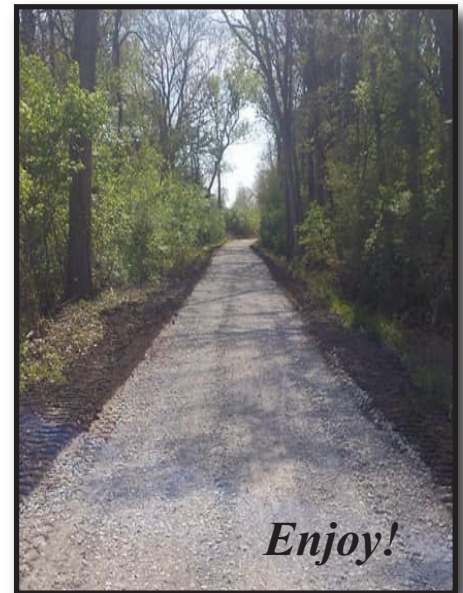
“We’re thrilled to finally close the gap between Norwalk and Collins. This piece has been on our project list for two decades”, says FRTTI President Josh Wyrick. “We especially would like to thank our trail neighbors and property owners who have been very patient and understanding during this long construction process.”

Many thanks are in order to those who were contracted with and who also donated time, materials, expertise, equipment and labor:

- Our members and donors who contributed so much cash.
- FRTTI Volunteer Board Members who worked behind the scenes, with the property owners, and as on-site construction managers.
- Norwalk Township Trustees - verbal support and coordination.
- Paul Miller Construction - early driveway and approach work.
- Edwards Land Clearing - large tree removal.
- D&H Grinding - small tree, brush, and stump removal.
- John Mikalacki - early grading work.
- Ted Heitsche - major stone donation.
- City of Norwalk - surplus fill from nearby project.
- Mesenburg Bros. Inc. - trucking services.
- Norwalk Concrete, Inc. - catch basins and drainage components.
- Joe Wilhelm, Wilhelm Construction - early trail route consulting.
- Derrick Marsh - drainage consulting.
- Huron County Soil and Water - drainage consulting.
- Huron County Sheriff’s Dept. - patrols during and after construction.

And most of all the primary contractor, Mark Haynes Construction, who donated so much grading and surface work, and was then hired to complete this section of trail.

FRTTI owns this trail easement between Laylin and Townsend Streets so we ask that you stay on the trail at all times and respect private property. A new trailhead has been constructed at Townsend Avenue, with additional parking at Rt 601. A formal Grand Opening will take place in the fall. In the mean time, enjoy it!



You can see more photos of the construction on our Facebook page.

What's new at the Depot? Quite a bit!

The depot is now open many weekends this spring and summer and already we have had many visitors from near and far in April alone. Over the winter an anonymous member donated and installed a new furnace! New displays include a Gene Markley exhibit (Gene and his NORTA crew originally bought the trail parcels from Penn Central!), a railroad tool display in the works which was donated by Tom Ballantine and John Ballantine; and new New York Central RR steam locomotive display is in the planning stages. The depot is restored to 1914 colors. Check our FB page for a list of dates and times when the depot will be open. If the flags are flying, come on in!

Mixed Freight - the latest news from the trail!

Many thanks are in order to our recent past Treasurer, Sonya Williams, for all her work on our finances. Sonya came to our organization a few years ago and without knowing much about how we operate, formatted our finances into budget categories which will serve as a template going forward. A finance committee now oversees this budget process. Thank you, Sonya! Thanks are also in order to board member, equestrian and runner Joyce Dupont, CPA, who does our taxes and 501(c)3 filings!

We're taking our trail presentation on the road soon. If your club, council, business or organization would like to know more about the trail and what it means to the business community (a lot!!) , drop us a line. 419-465-3367.

Many heartfelt thanks to the family of Tom Beres for designating FRTTI for memorial contributions. We appreciate all of Tom's friends and family who have given \$2,500 thus far. Tom was an avid cyclist, trail user and supporter, and a great friend.

Who is "Rails to Trails"? We get this question often!

Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC) is a Washington DC-based group which does a phenomenal job of lobbying for trail funding and promoting trails in general. Their extensive website, trailink.com showcases all trails nationwide. They are not involved in our trail and we are not affiliated with them, and they do not provide trail funding. FRTTI has a similar sounding name but we are a stand-alone, local group, but occasionally consult them on trail promotion ideas and trail data.

This trail is entirely maintained by donations. Join us!

About half the trails in the US are maintained by tax-supported park districts. The rest are managed by all-volunteer non-profit groups like us and are not supported by taxes and must rely on donations. We rely on our generous individual donors but would love more local corporate support. After all, trails mean business and keep young, active people in small communities! Not a member yet? Join today. We thank our current members who keep our organization going and the trail looking A-1 - you may renew your memberships at the end of the year.

Membership Form	
Name: _____	
Address: _____	
City: _____	
State: _____ Zip: _____	
Phone: _____	
Email: _____	
Annual Dues: _____ New _____ Renewal _____	
___ Student	\$ 5.00
___ Individual	\$ 10.00
___ Family	\$ 15.00
___ Business or Club	\$ 30.00
___ Supporting	\$ 50.00
___ Sustaining	\$100.00
___ Benefactor	\$250.00
___ Life Membership	\$1,000.00
TOTAL _____	
I would also like to donate:	
___ 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.	

RR Signage

What on earth do all those letters and numbers mean along the trail?

W = Whistle Post. Located 1500' before each crossing, the locomotive would sound 2 long, 1 short and 1 long whistle or horn.

SW = Station Whistle. 1 long.

C = Miles to Chicago.

B = Miles to Buffalo.

Yard Limit = entering Norwalk yard - expect an engine switching within the limits.

New Mileposts: Miles from Lorain



For more information visit www.frtti.org Thank you for your support!