

TRAIL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:



Mile Markers & Trailheads



Help us maintain your community's recreational trail !

Firelands Rails to Trails, Inc. is an all-volunteer, 501c3 non-profit organization which co-owns and manages the North Coast Inland Trail in Huron County.



The North Coast Inland Trail is a 103.5 mile recreational trail extending from Lorain to Toledo. It is the 10th-longest non-motorized rail trail in the U.S. and boasts beautiful scenery.

The trail is built on the former Norwalk Branch of the New York Central Railroad and was THE original transcontinental railroad between New York and Chicago.



US Bike Route 30 is THE main bike route across the U.S.

Established by Adventure Cycling and AASHTO and unveiled in the summer of 2021 as an ODOT project, this route shares the NCIT and will bring even more long distance cyclists through Huron County. It stretches from Montana to New Hampshire.



The Buckeye Trail is a 1,440-mile hiking trail which reaches into all corners of Ohio. Established in 1958, the Buckeye Trail sees thousands of visitors as well as through-hikers each year. Ohio is the only state in the union to have such a trail.

The Buckeye Trail now shares the NCIT trail routing along with US BR 30 through Huron Co.



Proud partner of the Norwalk Area United Fund

Thank you for your support!

MILE MARKER SPONSORSHIP

Firelands Rails to Trails, Inc. (FRTTI) is an all-volunteer, non-profit group which built and maintains the North Coast Inland Trail (NCIT) in Huron County.

We have no paid employees and are not supported by any taxes. The NCIT was constructed with \$2M in state (ODNR) and federal funds (ODOT) which are specifically allocated for bike trails. This is your money which we successfully brought back to Huron County to build the NCIT. Small local and corporate grants also were procured. In addition, FRTTI volunteers contributed \$2M in in-kind volunteer hours during construction from 1998-2021.

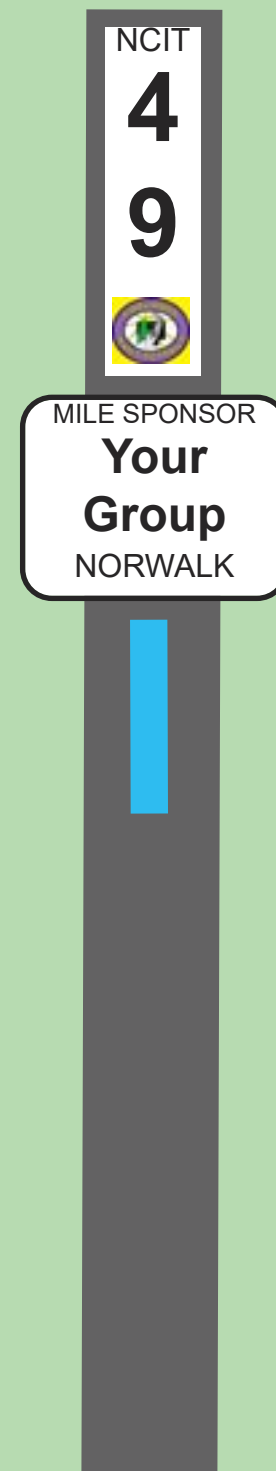
All maintenance must come from donations, and businesses have much to gain! The trail sees 2,000 users per week, with half of them from out of the county, and many from out of state. 24 states and 11 countries so far - and that's just who we happen to talk to. The trail also keeps and attracts young, healthy professionals in our communities.

Mile Marker Sponsors get on-trail recognition on a mile marker. The existing wood mile markers will be replaced with attractive and durable composite 6x6 posts with new sponsor signs. Details at right. Prices per marker were calculated by the FRTTI Board based on trail user data and location. Sponsorship is first-come, first-serve. Sponsor signs will be affixed to both sides of the mile marker post. Half-mile markers will remain as is, unsponsored.

The sponsor is not responsible for any maintenance of that mile, but should your business or civic group care to formally join us at an organized work day in the area of your sponsorship, we would definitely welcome you. The 16 miles of crushed stone we operate costs approximately \$2,000 per mile per year to maintain. Our yearly maintenance budget is around \$35,000. And that does not include any equipment purchases or major repairs or special projects.

Support your trail and get high-visibility recognition !

Many thanks are in order to the local businesses who have supported us over the past 23 years and who have suggested this sponsorship program, which is being used successfully on so many trails across the country.



Mile Marker Sponsorship

Yearly contribution to support our general fund for trail maintenance.

We encourage multi-year commitments. Two year commitment saves \$100 per year, payable at inception. Three year commitment saves \$200 per year, payable at inception.

Program runs May 1 thru May 1. Payments due by April 30.

Collins Westward
MM 39 \$2,000
MM 40 \$2,000
MM 41 \$2,000
MM 42 \$2,000
MM 43 \$2,000
MM 44 \$3,000

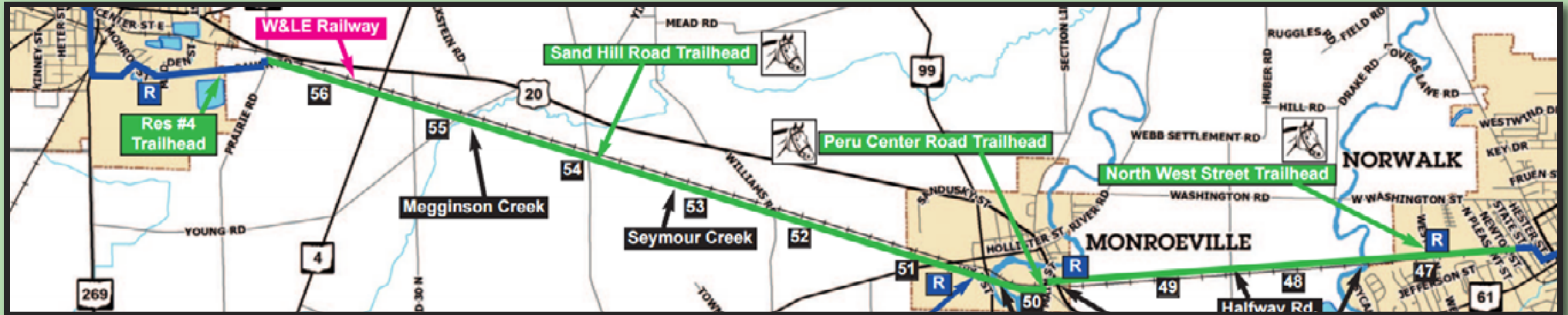
Norwalk Westward
MM 47 \$3,000
MM 48 \$3,000
MM 49 \$2,000

Monroeville Westward
MM 50 \$3,000
MM 51 \$3,000
MM 52 \$1,000
MM 53 \$1,000
MM 54 \$1,000
MM 55 \$2,000
MM 56 \$3,000.

Keep it natural !

FRTTI runs a very efficient operation, with only enough on-trail amenities and signage on the trail to operate a safe and scenic trail. While we appreciate your donations and sponsorship, we are not looking to add anything else to the trail beyond these sponsorship signs at trailheads and mile markers. Anything else added would simply mean more maintenance and less natural beauty. Less is more!

MILE MARKER and TRAILHEAD Locations



Mile Markers run east to west and are in the exact locations of the original transcontinental railroad mile markers between Buffalo and Chicago. Miles count up westward from Lorain to Toledo. There are currently no mile markers east of Collins on the road route or along the ODOT US 20 Bikeway.

TRAILHEAD SPONSORSHIP



- Your business or civic group can:
- Ensure future viability of the trail
 - Support the volunteers who make it happen
 - Gain visibility at a hugely popular recreation trail
 - Be a partner in a vital community park project
 - Easily sponsor at a variety of levels

Trailhead Sponsorship involves a one time donation at one of our beautiful, park-like, high-visibility trailheads. Prices for sponsorship are based on a combination of trail usage data, trailhead size, and trailhead location. Trail sponsors would receive a deluxe sign as detailed at right. This one time donation would be directed, at the trail board's discretion, to the general maintenance fund, the endowment fund, a special project, large equipment purchase, or combination, depending on current and future needs.

Wakeman Trailhead, Wakeman \$10,000

Hartland Center Trailhead, Collins \$10,000

Townsend Avenue Trailhead, Norwalk \$15,000

North West St. Trailhead, Norwalk \$30,000

Sand Hill Trailhead, Bellevue \$15,000



Your sponsorship allows volunteers to maintain the trail



Transcontinental riders from Oregon in Uptown Norwalk. Riders like these are seen almost daily.



Artist's rendering of our new Trailhead Sponsorship sign, which is based on our predecessor railroad's logo, the New York Central System "Cigar Band".