

THE MILWAUKEE ROAD

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS

*\*Denotes new board member*

Tom Pepper, President  
Kimberly Poston, Vice President  
Dave Dechant, Treasurer  
Kevin Kirchner, Assistant Treasurer  
Kyle Lundberg, Secretary

## ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Dennis Goemaat (Linn County Conservation)  
Randy Burke (Linn County Conservation)  
Kesha Billings (City of Marion)  
Roman Kiefer (MPO)  
Ron Griffith (City of Cedar Rapids)  
Dave Benderson (Hawkeye Bicycle Association)

## AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

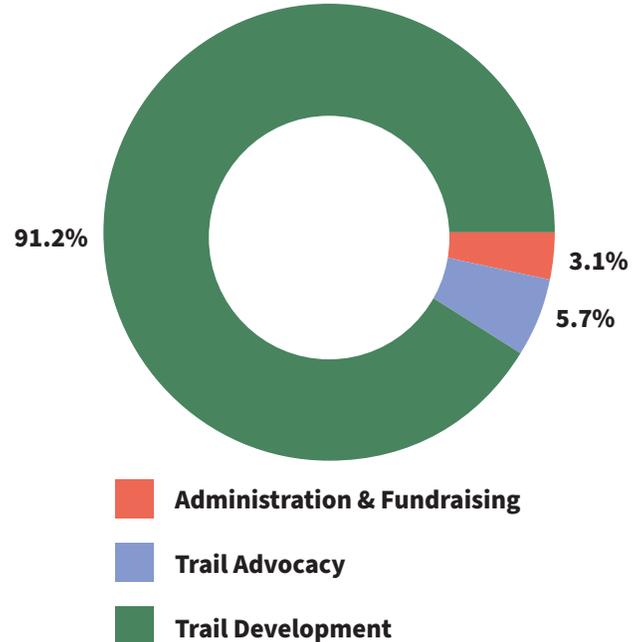
Greg Barnett	Leland Freie	Dick Mundy
Jon Bogert*	Diane Handler	Nikki Northrup*
Richard Bradford	Steve Hershner	Allyssa Rentschler*
Curt Eilers	Greg Januska	Gray Roling
Vicky Evans	Emily McGrath	Larry Scott
Jim Fraise	Robert McKillip	Rebecca Skalsky*
Alex Frazier*	Craig Miller	John Wauer

## EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

Jan Barnum	Ron McGraw	Jim Wing*
Dean Barnum	Esther Wilson	
Keith Fletcher	Mike Wilson	

# EXPENDITURES

*(3 year average through 2023)*



**COVER PHOTO:** Sunset from Indian Creek Bridge on Grant Wood Trail, courtesy of Phillip Platz

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LCTA's mission is to be a catalyst for the development and growth of a system of connected, multi-use trails through Linn County. For the trails system to be safest and most beneficial, it must be "connected". The overall goal is to be able to get on the trails system, and stay on protected trails or bicycle lanes, for the entire ride, walk, run, skate or roll. Slowly, but surely, with the help of the cities of Linn County, the Linn County Conservation Department, the Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization, LCTA and you, that goal is coming closer to reality.

This summer, one trail goal that seemed impossible years ago should be met. Incredibly, the Cedar Valley Nature Trail (CVNT) will be completely hard surfaced. Black Hawk County will hard surface its remaining 10 miles of trail. Linn County will hard surface its remaining 6 miles of trail. When those projects are completed, hopefully by the end of July of this year, we all will be able to ride from Solon to Cedar Falls, a distance of 85 miles, on a safe, hard surface separated trail. An incredible north/south trail through Linn County, the backbone of our system, will be complete.

In the summer of 2025, two significant east/west trail connections to the CVNT should be completed. Those are the Grant Wood Trail (GWT) and the CEMAR Trail. The GWT will connect with the CVNT at 51st Street NE and head east through Cedar Rapids, Marion, under Highway 13 to Creekside Road, a total distance of 11 miles. The CEMAR Trail will connect with the CVNT at Cedar Lake and head east through Cedar Rapids and Marion to Thomas Park, a distance of 6 miles.

Many more connections await. Progress, however, is being made. Thanks to everyone who has played, and will play, a part in developing the trails system.

**Tom Peffer**, Board President



## Thank you to all of our donors for your generous support of Linn County Trails Association!

### TRAIL CHAMPION (\$5,000+)

Mike & Elizabeth McGrath

### TRAIL BUILDER (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Anonymous  
Dean & Janice Barnum  
Robert Becker & Diane Handler  
Richard & Diane Bradford  
John & Judy Bryant  
Richard & Donna Butikofer  
Robert & Linda Erlandson  
David & Beth Feldmann  
Charles Grado & Ruth Macke  
Stephen & Joanne Hammes  
Tork & Lynn Harman  
Brian & Sandy Holterhaus  
Theodore & Kathy Kron  
Robert Laughlin  
Corenne & Mark Liabo  
Emily & Murphy McGrath  
Ron McGraw  
Dwyer Miller Charitable Fund  
Andrew Nordine

Nathaniel Oster  
Sarah Pauley  
Marsia Pedelty  
Tom Peffer & Carroll Reasoner  
Gary Roling  
Walter & Shelby Roth  
William (Duffy) & Belva Schamberger  
Brad Stapley  
Mollie Schlue & Tom Tapp  
Jack & Lori Tibbs  
John & Mary Wauer  
Keith Whipple  
Mike Wilson  
Jim & Barbara Wing  
Richard & Ann Woodward  
Sunny Yang & Baoli Zhang

### TRAIL BLAZER (\$500 - \$999)

Greg & Teresa Barnett  
Gordon & Jann Baustian  
Clarence Boesenberg  
Becky Boscaljon  
Alan Buck

Steve & Mary Chamberlin  
Cindy Dietz  
David & Marla Erickson  
David & Carolyn Evans  
Dennis Gladhill  
Sue Henderson  
Donald & Roberta Kaas  
Douglas Klostermann  
Ann Leland & Chris Murders  
Gary & Laura McGraw  
Ron & Sue Olson  
Robert F & Bertha M Reth Tribuno  
Robert Rush & Judi Whetstine  
Janice Russell  
Steve & Maria Schrader

### TRAIL PARTNER (\$250 - \$499)

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Troy & Geri Albrecht  
David & Susan Benderson  
Kelly & David Bryant  
Tony Burton  
Leo Buzalsky  
Carol & Bill Calloway  
Thomas Bollinger & Amy Dudgeon  
Jane Christiansen  
Tim Costas  
Alan & Jan Crandall  
David Dechant

Vic C Dielschneider  
Richard & Mary Doyle  
Robert & Susan Frederick  
Kathy Good  
Matt & Carrie Gray  
Glen & Kristen Heims  
Bill Henricksen  
Darryl & Amy High  
Denise Houlahan  
Greg & Keelyn Kanz  
Sheila Keil  
Kevin Kirchner  
Jeff Koolbeck  
Whealen & Laura Koontz  
Steven & Lisa Loesch  
Laura Meade  
Benjamin Melton  
James & Rose Marie Monagan  
Iris Muchmore & Mark Ogden  
Bob & Sharon Neilly  
Dennis Nelson & Lesli Nesmith  
William & Kathryne Oates  
Mike Plotz  
Kurt Rogahn  
John & Karen Roltgen  
Tim & Laura Sagers  
Henry Schmoll  
Allen & Jacqui Sorensen  
Barbara & Eric Tupper  
Ruth Van Tol

Terry Wegener  
Earl White  
Jody & Frank Wilson  
Daniel & Rebecca Zange

**TRAIL SCOUT (\$50 - \$249)**

Allan & Catherine Alcock  
Wendy Anderson  
Jim & Terri Archibald  
Steve & Vicki Archibald  
Daniel & Marianne Arndorfer  
LeAnn & Mike Arnold  
John & Ann Bader  
Margo Ballou  
Lydia & Mark Barger  
Chuck & Janice Barnes  
Kathryn & Gerry Barr  
Brian Bast  
Jim & Patty Bazan  
Brian Beatty  
Brian & Shari Bedard  
James Bernstein & Lynn Franklin  
Shannon Bisgard  
Scott & Eileen Britten  
Nadine Brock  
Dan Bruns  
Martin & Audrey Bruns  
Jay Bubenyak  
Jeffrey & Diane Buffo  
Susan & Tom Bullis

Patrick Burns  
Gayle Buroker  
Diane & Jim Bys  
David & Alexandria Carey  
Tim Carson  
Ibrahim Cetindag  
Linda & Bob Charlton  
Mark Chipokas  
David Christ  
David Claiborne  
Michelle Clark  
Robert & Paulette Clark  
Cliff Clendenen  
Michael & Lois Coates  
Peter Cole  
Ken & Becky Collier  
Ray & Mary Collins  
Bill & Mary Cummings  
Terry Dahms  
Jerry & Nancy Danforth  
Matt Depaepe  
Margaret deSalme  
Brian & Teri Donnelly  
Mary & Steve Doty  
Greg & Kim Driscoll  
Dillon Drury  
John Dulle  
Linda Edwards  
Stan & Carol Eilers  
Mike & Peggy Emery

Christopher Evans  
Vicky Evans  
Brian Fagan  
Cheryl Fiala  
Paul Fiegen  
Nancy Finch  
Michael G Fisher  
Kathy Flanagan  
Jim Fraise  
Leland Freie  
Ryne George  
Charley Gerard  
Dennis Goemaat  
Ron & Pat Gonder  
Todd & Donna Goodell  
Mark Goodsmith  
Marilyn Gott  
Lisa & Douglas Greif  
Ron Griffith  
Arthur Hackett  
John & Pat Hancock  
Alan & Melanie Harms  
Phil Hartgrave  
Susan Hartley  
Ed & Marlene Hayek  
Roger Heidt  
Shelley Helms  
Stan & Sharon Henson  
John & Nancy Herring  
Dorothy Hershner

Steve & Marta Hershner  
Richard & Ronda Hill  
Cheyrl Hines & Matt Petrzelka  
Cheri Hochstetler  
Jim & Ann Hoffman  
Dave & Ann Horner  
John Houser  
Dale & Laura Jackson  
Bruce Jacobs  
Greg & Linda Januska  
Courtney Jasper  
Kevin Jasper  
David Jeffries  
Brad Jenewein  
Charles & Mary Johnson  
Katie Johnson  
George & Mary Kanz  
Dan & Julie Kaspari  
Gina Kaufman  
Stephen Kemble  
Kevin & Gail Kennedy  
Christine Kirpes  
Jim & Barbara Klein  
Dawn Klohs  
David Knutson  
Roger & Mary Kay Kolb  
Kelle Kolkmeier  
Dennis Korver & Jane Yergler  
Edward Kosowski  
Larry & Mary Kramer

Jeff Lake  
 La Ree Landt  
 Brandy Lindsey  
 Jim Lorenz  
 Richard Lorenz  
 Laura & Kyle Lundberg  
 Catherine Lyman  
 Cassie Lynch  
 Michael Mach  
 Donald Matsunaga  
 Steve & Denise Maze  
 Gary & Keely McAfee  
 Rex McCright  
 Otis McGowan  
 Daniel & Karla McGrail  
 Robert McKillip  
 Jane Melloy  
 Forrest & Cynthia Meyer  
 Craig Miller  
 Dr. Ronald & Sandra Miller  
 Carel & Monica Minjeur  
 Bob & Susie Moran  
 Matthew Morken  
 Edwin & Barbara Mumford  
 Rick & Carrie Mysak  
 Robert Naujoks & Sharon Reilly  
 Gregg Nelson  
 Jane & Bruce Nesmith  
 H. J. Nicholson  
 Cynthia Nielsen

John & Christine North  
 Nikki Northrup  
 Don & Martha Norton  
 Pat O'Donnell  
 Heberth Obando  
 Scott & Penny Olson  
 Kyle Olund  
 Scott & Jan Overland  
 John Persick  
 Mike & Nichole Plagge  
 Nancy & Jeffrey Pomeranz  
 Kimberly Poston  
 Don & Barbra Pulkrab  
 Mark Ramsey  
 Deb Ratchford  
 Amy Reasner & Bill Stone  
 Allyssa Rentschler  
 Greg Reynolds  
 Rick & Connie Richardson  
 Randall & Eleonora Rieck  
 Steve Rinderknecht  
 Patti Roman  
 Jane Scheer & Robin Hursh  
 Gerald Scherrman  
 Howard & Sheri Schiffer  
 Mark Schile  
 Linda Hudson Schultz  
 Brian Scott  
 Larry Scott  
 Patrick Shannon

Will Sharpe  
 Joe & Audrey Sheller  
 Lyndon Sison  
 Richard & Joan Smith  
 Brian Soenen  
 Steve Sovern  
 Frank & Barbara Stephen  
 Craig Stocki  
 Terry & Marlyse Strait  
 Carolyn Stucker  
 Brian Studier  
 Keith & Nancy Sutherland  
 John & Sherry Swanson  
 Daniel & Trish Talley  
 Curtis & Annette Taylor  
 Kevin Temple  
 Teresa Thayer  
 Byron & Sheryl Thompson  
 Bruce & Lynn Tiemann  
 Robert & Ann Tow  
 Daniel Toy  
 Keith True  
 John & Pamela Van Heukelom  
 Kent & Jacque Van Meter  
 Nate & Kayte Veldhuizen  
 Leonard & Mary Ann Verdeck  
 Justin Voss  
 Ronald Wasick  
 Shelly Wehr  
 William Werner

Bryan & Gayla Wesner  
 Reta Westercamp  
 Chad Whipple  
 Marty & Diane Wiesenfeld  
 Brad & Denise Willhite  
 Gail & Paul Williams  
 Craig & Candace Wood  
 Mike & Jo Woods  
 Dale Wulf  
 Michael Yakos  
 Cheri Young  
 Chad & Christine Zach  
 Marlin Zuber

#### **TRAIL FRIEND (\$20 - \$49)**

Keith Abkes  
 Kelli Albert  
 Betsy Baertlein  
 Robert Bagsby  
 Ruth Balster  
 Sarah Barber  
 Sam Black  
 Bob Blockhus  
 Jenny Bosking  
 Terry & Linda Brecht  
 Marjie Carson Zach  
 Michael Davis  
 Ann Dorr  
 Brian Farrell  
 Mary Freeman

Sally Harms  
Julie Henson  
Kevin Hoheisel  
Jonathan & Karla Ice  
Alex Jasper  
Glen Jasper  
Michael Johnson  
David Mahlke

Connor Mahr  
Rita Malloy  
Joel McGuire  
Debbie & Todd Michal  
Donna Moeller  
Robert Nassif  
Kay Nelson  
Jim Payne

Mariah Obiedzinski  
Kirschen Seah  
Pam Serovy  
Janice Scheurs  
Cate Sheller  
Michael & Jackie Simoens  
Christopher Sosa  
Guy Stackhouse

Carl Tawney  
Karen Taylor  
Allen Tupker  
Brian Tupker  
Ellis & Lisa Vann  
Jason Wasek  
Pam Williams

## BUSINESS SPONSORS

### **TRAIL CHAMPION (\$5,000+)**

Diamond V  
Greater Cedar Rapids Community  
Foundation  
Hawkeye Bicycle Association  
UFG Insurance

### **TRAIL BUILDER (\$1,000 - \$4,999)**

Benchmark, Inc.  
Hall Bicycle Company  
HDR Engineering  
Jams Coffee Bar  
Lil' Drug Store Products  
McGrath Automotive Group  
Northtowne Cycling and Fitness, Ltd.

Sag Wagon LLC  
Venture Real Estate  
Wednesday Night Bike Club

### **TRAIL BLAZER (\$500 - \$999)**

Allegra  
Anderson-Bogert  
Banklowa  
Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust  
Goldfinch Cyclery  
GreenState Credit Union  
Impact7G  
Junge Automotive Group  
Shoemaker-Haaland Engineering  
Snyder & Associates, Inc

SOKO Outfitters

### **TRAIL PARTNER (\$250 - \$499)**

Brady Preston Gronlund PC  
Briar Ridge Bikes  
Cancun Mexican Restaurant  
Cedar Rapids Tourism Office  
Christianson Chiropractic  
Cost Cutters CRIC LTD  
Home Town Restyling, LLC  
Iowa Running Company  
The Loose Chain  
Metro Studios  
Morning Story  
The Pedaler's Fork

Pinnacle Realty  
Roscoe's Pizza  
Target  
Walmart Facility # 3630  
Whirlybirds

### **TRAIL SCOUT (\$50 - \$249)**

Cassill Motors  
Center Point Community  
Historical Society  
House Divided Brewery  
Kickstand LLC



## A MESSAGE FROM

# Jim Wing

**J**im Wing, a long-time trail advocate and member of the Linn County Trails Association (LCTA), has always enjoyed being on trails, especially those in rural areas and ones that have any association with trains. So, it is no surprise that his favorite trail spot is the bridge over Simmons Creek on the Grant Wood Trail, as it was constructed out of a railroad flatcar and is on a former railroad right-of-way. As a bonus, the area is a hot spot for beautiful patches of bluebells and other wildflowers.

Jim, a past LCTA president, was involved in the grass roots development of the LCTA, which was not always easy going. “I am most proud of how a small group of us persevered at a time when local government was not supportive, and in some instances, hostile, to trail development. I am also very proud of the mature organization into which LCTA has evolved.

“

*My advice to other trail users is to always appreciate the fact that they are healthy enough to be able to enjoy the trails.”*

— JIM WING

Barbara and I have always believed in the trail movement. While in college, I used to walk an abandoned section of the current ‘Trolley Trail’ in Waterloo.” This fueled his desire to get exercise while enjoying nature. In addition to trails, Jim and Barbara also support the HACAP Food Pantry, Children’s Hospital, and several other charities.

Jim’s go-to trails are the Grant Wood Trail and the Hoover Trail south of Cedar Rapids. Barbara is often his hiking companion although he also likes to walk alone. An injury ended his bicycling days. His favorite trail day ever was his first ride on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from Waterloo to Cedar Rapids. The weather was perfect, and he was appreciative of a multitude of flora and fauna.

Jim is most excited about the completion of the missing link of the GWT by Creekside Road, which is a work-around of a key section of the GWT that LCTA was unable to secure. “We acquired every piece of property we needed except that one and now that has been resolved.”

“My advice to other trail users is to always appreciate the fact that they are healthy enough to be able to enjoy the trails. The climate surrounding trail building is so different than what it was when we started. Everyone wants trails. This is so very different from when trail support was viewed as a political liability. Today, the Linn County Conservation Department, along with the cities of Cedar Rapids and Marion, are making huge strides to complete what will be a fantastic trail network.” ■

The Linn County Trails Association is fundraising for TWO new projects! We are raising \$100,000 for design of the Interurban Trail from East Post Rd to Rosedale Rd and \$75,000 for local match to limestone surface the Grant Wood Trail from Paralta Rd to Springville Rd. We are so excited to move forward on these trails!

## INTERURBAN TRAIL

A century after its use as a commercial trolley corridor, LCTA would like to speed conversion of the Interurban corridor to a safe, beautiful, hard surface trail, connecting Cedar Rapids and Mt Vernon. Current plans are to design and construct sequentially from Bever Park to East Post Road and then from East Post Road to Rosedale Road with completion in 2027 or beyond. With the injection of \$100,000 of additional funds—the focus of our new campaign—the City of Cedar Rapids will target design of the entire 2.6 miles in 2025 and start construction in 2026!

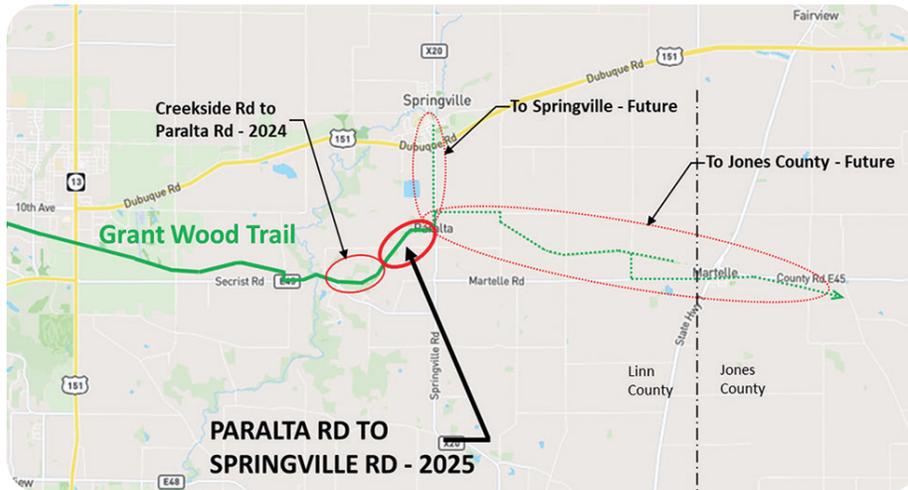
Construction from Rosedale Road to Mt. Vernon will be coordinated by Linn County Conservation Department and will occur as funds become available. LCTA will be ready to help with local match as this is a high priority recreation and transportation corridor!



## GRANT WOOD TRAIL

The second target for LCTA's Capital Campaign is the 0.8-mile Paralta Road to Springville Road segment. The historic Milwaukee Railroad corridor is a double track. This allows for both compacted limestone and grass surfacing, resulting in simultaneous multiple trail uses, along with separation between bicyclists, runners and walkers, and horseback riders.

The compacted limestone trail surface can also serve as a sub-base for a future asphalt overlay. There are many areas where trees line the corridor, as well as areas that have open vistas with prairie grasses, creeks, and woodlands. LCTA is delighted to help preserve this scenic corridor for trail users!



# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR TRAILS



## DONOR INFORMATION

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## GIFT INFORMATION

**Method of Payment:**  Check  Bill Me  My gift is eligible for a charitable match from my employer. **Please include your form!**

I would like to make a **one-time gift** of: \$\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a **recurring gift** of: \$\_\_\_\_\_ to start on \_\_\_\_\_

DATE

*Your email address will only be used for supporter administration and LCTA information. It will not be sold or shared. All donations to LCTA are tax deductible.*

**DONATE ONLINE AT [LINNCOUNTYTRAILS.ORG/DONATE](https://linncountytrails.org/donate)**



## TRAIL SUPPORTER LEVELS

Trail Champion	<b>\$5,000+</b>	Trail Partner	<b>\$250 - \$499</b>
Trail Builder	<b>\$1,000 - \$4,999</b>	Trail Scout	<b>\$50 - \$249</b>
Trail Blazer	<b>\$500 - \$999</b>	Trail Friend	<b>\$20 - \$49</b>

Scan QR code to donate online at or mail this form with your contribution to:

**Linn County Trails Association**  
P.O. Box 2681  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

