

City of Covington connects Cricket Frog Trail and Legion Field



The City of Covington recently completed a paved trail connecting the Cricket Frog Trail with Legion Field. The connector can be found immediately behind the amphitheater in the southwest corner of Legion Field.

"This is a wonderful addition to Newton County's trail network," said Greg Richardson, Newton Trails board chair. "We appreciate Covington's on-going commitment to building and maintaining multi-use trails as well as their partnership."

The project will include an improved sidewalk and steps between Legion Field and the back of the Covington Family YMCA parking lot. "The Covington Family YMCA is excited about the connector trail because it creates off-street access to the YMCA for community members and their families as well as a way for YMCA members exercising individually or in one of our classes to reach the Cricket Frog Trail," said Louly Hay-Kapp, executive director.

"Our goal as a council is complete connectivity and these additions are part of that plan," said City of Covington mayor Ronnie Johnston. "While a lot of users rely on the trail for health and leisure purposes, there is a percentage that relies on the trail for transportation. That might be getting to a job or the grocery store. Regardless of why someone chooses to use it, we want people to be able to traverse the city, exercise, conduct life responsibilities and business without getting in a car."

Ray Holt builds trail kiosk for Eagle Scout service project

Ray Holt has been involved in Scouts since he was six years old. This summer he built an information kiosk along the Eastside Trail near Eastside High School where he is a junior. The project meets the service project requirement for scouts seeking distinction as an eagle scout.

Lee Aldridge, Holt's eagle scout project coach, suggested he build the kiosk. It took him about a month to raise the money needed for materials. Contributions came from friends as well as from local businesses.

Holt's design replicates other kiosks along Newton County trails. Construction was completed in June. Aldridge said, "Ray is an incredible young man, highly intelligent, highly motivated, broadly skilled, and hard working."



Regarding the project, Holt said, "A lot of people helped." Boy Scouts encourages scouts to get help from fellow scouts and others when working on service projects.

Jerry Aldridge, scoutmaster, said that Troop 222 in Covington has had 72 scouts achieve an Eagle Award since 1989, a record of success he attributes to "good help, good parental support, and outstanding scouts." Many of the service projects completed by these eagle scouts were projects along Newton County trails. Many thanks to Troop 222 for their on-going support of Newton Trails!

Methodist teens volunteer for trail maintenance

On July 22, eleven teenagers and two adults from Trinity United Methodist Church of West Asheville, North Carolina put in two hours of voluntary trail maintenance along the Oxford Trail. The group cleared brush and picked up litter.

Every summer for the past six years, Andrew Tripp, children and youth director for the church, has led a six-day youth trip.



Two days are spent traveling, three days are devoted to service projects in the community the group is visiting, and one day is reserved for fun an amusement park or similar venue.

Each year the group has lodged at a different Methodist affiliated college or university. This year, they stayed at Oxford College of Emory University.

"They pitched right in and worked hard," said Duane Ford, Newton Trails board member and the group's contact. "Many thanks to Mr. Tripp, Trinity United Methodist Church, and the entire group. It was fun working side-by-side with them.

Upcoming events

- **Regional Bike Ride on Carrollton's Greenbelt Trail** - September 28, riders may meet at the Turner Lake Road Park and Ride in Covington at 8:30 a.m. or at the parking area at 1147 Rome Street, Carrollton at 10:00 a.m. The [Greenbelt Trail](#) offers a mix of forest and residential areas away from traffic noise. Afterwards riders will have lunch together at a restaurant named 302 South Street.
- **Wednesday morning hikes** - During the hot summer months, hikers meet at a nearby trailhead at 8:00 a.m.; when temperatures cool they meet at 9:00 a.m. For further details and to get on the email distribution list weekly hike information, contact info@newtontrails.org.
- **Thursday morning trail maintenance** - Volunteers meet at 9:00 a.m. at a designated work site and work one hour. To get on the email distribution list for details, contact info@newtontrails.org.
- **First Sunday community bike ride** - The first Sunday of each month people gather at 3:00 p.m. at the Covington Square for a no-drop, family-friendly bicycle ride around town.

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