

Cricket Frog Trail paving progress

COVINGTON - Phase 1 of Covington's effort to pave the Cricket Frog Trail within its city limits is nearly complete. The trail has been paved from Emory Street to Turner Lake Road, a distance just under 1.46 miles. Additional work is needed where the trail intersects city streets, but when that is done the first phase will be complete.

Phase 2 will result in paving from Conyers Street to the Covington Bypass. Phase 3 will complete the section between Pace and Emory streets and include renovation of the Dried Indian Creek Bridge.

Following recent action by the Covington City Council, combined funding from the city as well as from the grants and donations obtained by Newton Trails is sufficient to complete all three phases.

NEWTON COUNTY - Newton County has paved three sections of the Cricket Frog Trail, including:

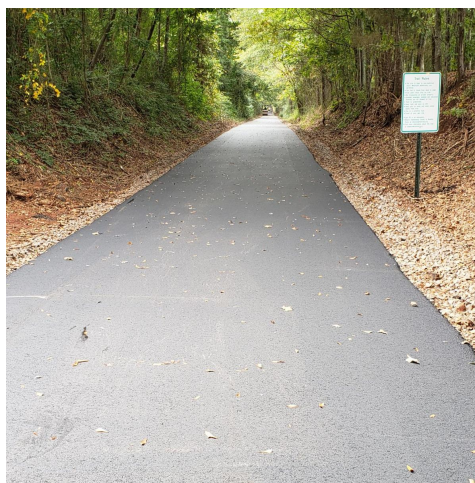
- 0.77 miles from Sewell Road to Ziegler Road;
- 1.26 miles from East Bear Creek to Mansfield; and
- 1.46 miles from the Covington Bypass to East End Road.

Newton County has also cleared and graded all of the remaining trail between Covington and Mansfield making the surface level and smooth enough for hiking and mountain biking. However, the trestles -- or bridges if you prefer -- over the Alcovy River, West Bear Creek, and East Bear Creeks are dangerous and not passible (see below).

SUMMARY - Since August nearly five miles of the Cricket Frog Trail have been newly paved and made available to walkers, runners, cyclists, and other non-motorized uses. Newton Trails thanks the City of Covington, Newton County, and its many supporters and donors for this success. Watch for more paving progress news at www.newtontrails.org/paving-progress-cricket-frog-trail.



A Newton Trails crew after a litter pick-up event along the newly paved trail near Old Brown Bridge Road.



Newly paved trail behind Beaver Park east of Mansfield.



Please stay off the trestles; they are dangerous

With more of the Cricket Frog Trail paved or in some places cleared and graded, it is easier than ever to access its four trestles also known as bridges.

PLEASE DO NOT CROSS OR ATTEMPT TO CROSS ANY OF THE TRESTLES AS THEY CURRENTLY EXIST.

The City of Covington and Newton Trails have plans and funding for renovation of the Dried Indian Creek trestle. That work is projected to be completed in the next several months and when done, the new trail bridge will be safe to cross.

In the coming months and years, Newton Trails will give high priority to raising the funds needed to renovate the Alcovy River, West Bear Creek, and East Bear Creek trestles. However, those trestles are and will remain unsafe to use until further notice.

Covington Conyers Cycling Club (C4) loves trails



Newton Trails (NT) had a recent conversation with John Keck, president for the Covington Conyers Cycling Club (C4).

NT - What does C4 think about multiuse recreational trails?

Keck - We love the trails. If we had our wish we would like to be able to ride bikes on trails like the Eastside Trail and the Cricket Frog Trail for the entire length we would like to ride.

We really believe that this part of the state can become a cycling destination. We think that because when the Cricket Frog is complete we can

ride out and back and complete a 30 mile ride. Our area could become just as popular as the Silver Comet Trail. So we are anxious to help in the development of the Cricket Frog Trail.

NT - What is C4 doing these days?

Keck - The club includes about 520 riders. There are two primary things we are doing right now.

We are presently working through our Christmas bike build and give away. What we do there is we reach out to neighbors and businesses and ask for donations of used bicycles. We take those used bicycles in, repair them, and then donate them to underprivileged children in the area. We also have a page set up where people can contribute. We use that money to buy parts for the used bicycles and to buy new bicycles. We started this year's project in August and we will donate 55 bikes to underprivileged children on December 11.

We try to participate in charitable activities throughout the year. COVID shut down many of the things we would have normally done, but in October we participated in a bike ride to raise money to fight breast cancer.

The second thing we have spent a lot of time on this year is to create a safer infrastructure for cycling. We have gone to county governments within our area, including Newton, Rockdale, Walton, and Morgan counties. Our first meeting was a year ago. We told them about cycling in the area and asked them if they could help us create a safer infrastructure by putting up signs along the county roads that we ride. Each of the counties agreed to do that. The signs read "share the road" or "allow 3 feet to pass." We now have signage on about 300 miles of roads.

What we also did was try to tie the signage in with places where riders access the Cricket Frog Trail. We want to be able to ride our bikes to the trail, get on the trail, and ride down to any exit and then get off on roads that are marked with signs. These efforts are complementary with Newton Trails' efforts.

NT - Thank you for all that C4 does for this community and for supporting Newton Trails financially and through your various activities!

For more C4 information visit www.c4cycling.com or www.facebook.com/groups/466334936719276

Adopt-a-Spot program taking off, but spots are still available

Businesses, community groups, neighborhood associations, families, and individuals are invited to adopt-a-spot of trail that appeals to them. Most "spots" will run from one road crossing to another. However, Newton Trails is open to proposals for adopting spots of varying length.

Adopt-a-spot participants perform light trail maintenance, including removal of small branches and litter, as well as inspections of signage and trail conditions. If they spot an issue outside their ability to correct, Newton Trails board members can mobilize appropriate volunteers or other resources to address the problem. Following a six-month trial period, Newton Trails will erect a sign recognizing the adopter.

For more details and an application form visit www.newtontrails.org/adopt-a-spot.

Newton Trails thanks its current Cricket Frog Trail Adopt-a-Spot participants, including:

- Montessori School of Covington - the 0.25 mile segment just west of Clarke Street;
- Covington GA Lions Club - Pace Street to Conyers Street;
- Monty Eckles - Sewell Road to Zeigler Road;
- Buck and Mandie Rogers and family - Dixie Road to Elks Club Road; and
- Rodney Sheets - Elks Club Road to East Bear Creek.



Monty Eckles (left) has adopted a spot. He is shown in discussion with board member Cynthia Eagan (right).



Buck and Mandie Rogers and family have adopted a spot. Buck (left) and board chair Greg Richardson (right) talked it over.

Newton Trails' 2020 business and organization sponsors

Newton Trails appreciates and always seeks to recognize and thank individuals, businesses, and organizations which contribute time, money, or materials in any amount. For details, about Newton Trails' Sponsorship/Supporter Program, please go to www.newtontrails.org/membership.



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Newton Trails' mission is to promote, develop, and sustain a connected system of trails that supports a vibrant, healthy, and prosperous community.

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