

Taking stock

With the end of a successful year--over six miles of new paving on the Cricket Frog Trail in 2020; changes within the Newton Trails Board of Directors; and the beginning of a new year with plans for additional success, now is a good time to reflect on Newton Trails' mission, beneficiaries, volunteers, priority work, and supporters. This special edition of our quarterly newsletter is devoted to such reflection. Please share it with anyone interested in non-motorized, multi-purpose, recreational trails.

Mission

To promote, develop, and sustain a connected system of trails that supports a vibrant, healthy, and prosperous community.

Beneficiaries

Why is Newton Trails' mission important? Because non-motorized, multi-use trails repeatedly have been shown to have large, significant, and positive impacts on recreational opportunities, citizens' health, economic development, tourism, and the ability of people to safely get to work, go shopping, or otherwise move around their community. In a very real sense, Newton Trails serves all Newton County residents, businesses, and visitors.



Priority work

Paving. Continue partnering with the City of Covington and Newton County to pave and finish more miles of the Cricket Frog Trail.

Bridges. *All bridges along the Cricket Frog Trail are closed until further notice. Please do not attempt to cross them.*

However, the following work is planned:

- The City of Covington and Newton Trails are partnering to renovate and pave the Dried Indian Creek Bridge. That work will be done early in 2021.
- Newton Trails seeks to raise \$25,000 this year for the purpose of building safe temporary bridges across West Bear Creek and East Bear Creek.



- Newton Trails will obtain engineering review, designs, and cost estimates for renovation and paving of the Alcovy River trestles. This trestle will remain closed until it can be permanently renovated.

Interconnection. Newton Trails will continue to work toward extending the Cricket Frog Trail to Newborn and Porterdale as well as to interconnect new and existing Newton County trails and on-road bicycle routes.



Volunteers

Newton Trails could not function without the contributions of its wonderful, hard-working volunteers. Indeed, there are too many to list by name. Thank you to all!

The following few are recognized because of their unique skills, essential roles, and/or length of service. If you are interested in becoming a Newton Trails volunteer, please visit newtontrails.org/volunteer.



Board of Directors.

- Duane Ford (chair)
- Debra Griffith (secretary/treasurer)
- Greg Richardson (past-chair)
- Jim Behning
- Lowell Chambers
- Cynthia Eagan
- John McCarthy.

Each director has a unique role based on individual skills and interests. Short biographies appear at newtontrails.org/about-ourboard.

Volunteers in essential roles.

- Edgar Law Firm, LLC - legal services
- Vicki Bailey - website manager
- Scotty Scoggins - Instagram and Facebook manager
- Melanie Sheets, Craig Hudson, and Dave Sheffield - Wednesday morning hike leaders
- Maurice Carter and Florian Pohl – 1st Sunday bicycle ride leaders
- Cynthia Meichsner - grant-writing

Adopt-a-Spotters. The following individuals and organizations have officially adopted a segment of the Cricket Frog Trail promising to perform light maintenance as well as periodically inspect signage and trail conditions. Anyone interested in becoming an adopt-a-spot participant, should visit newtontrails.org/adopt-a-spot.

- Clarks Grove Home Owners Association - Turner Lake Road to Park Street, Covington
- Montessori School of Covington - Park Street to Clark Street, Covington
- Cynthia Eagan - Robinson Street to Pace Street, Covington
- Covington Lions Club - Pace Street to Conyers Street, Covington
- Buck and Mandie Rogers and family - Dixie Road to Elks Club Road, Newton County
- Rodney Sheets - Elks Club Road to Macedonia Road, Newton County
- Covington Conyers Cycling Club - Macedonia Road to Gaithers Road, Newton County
- Monty Eckles - Sewell Road to Zeigler Road, Newton County



Newton Trails' donors and sponsors

Newton Trails thanks every individual, business, and organization which contributes time, money, or materials in any amount. Each year 200 to 300 donors provide essential financial or in-kind support.

In 2021, the Board of Directors has set a fund-raising goal of \$25,000 with the money to be spent for temporary bridges over West Bear Creek and East Bear Creek. Funds donated in excess of what is needed for the temporary bridges, if there are any, will be used to purchase signage, trail maintenance equipment, or trail amenities. Donations may be made at newtontrails.org/donations.

Displayed here are the logos of the businesses and organizations which sponsor Newton Trails. Details about Newton Trails' Sponsorship/Supporter Program are at newtontrails.org/membership.



Support Newton Trails by following these links

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