



Hike/Bike Fact Sheet:

Solon to Chagrin Falls Trail



- ◆ The Solon to Chagrin Falls Trail will advance direct connections between Solon and Chagrin Falls via an approximate four (4) mile long hike/bike trail along an abandoned railroad line.
- ◆ The initial two (2) miles of trail would be located in Solon and would commence in the City's downtown commercial area and progress eastward, cross Liberty Road, to a point just south of a tributary of the Chagrin River, approximately 500 feet south of the Solon/Bentleyville border.
- ◆ Crossing the Chagrin River is not part of the immediate project and the ultimate connection of Solon's portion of the trail to the existing trail system owned by the Cleveland Metroparks will require partnering with the Metroparks and other governmental agencies and the general public. The Cleveland Metroparks will be available to provide further input regarding their overall trail plans at the 4-23-18 Town Hall meeting.
- ◆ Installed portions of the trail exist in adjacent communities including the bridle trail in the Village of Bentleyville and a paved portion of the trail in Bainbridge Township.
- ◆ The estimated construction cost is \$1 million for the 2-mile long, 10 feet wide section of trail in Solon and the City has applied for approximately \$899,200 in state funding. \$300,000 has already been awarded by the State of Ohio for potential use on this project.
- ◆ Property values: According to a 2008 University of Cincinnati thesis, properties near the Little Miami Trail sell for \$9,300 more than comparable properties 1/4 mile away from the trail (*The Economic Benefits of the Clean Ohio Fund Conservation*).
- ◆ Safety: "Converting an abandoned rail corridor to a trail tends to reduce crime by cleaning up the landscape and attracting people who use the trail for recreation and transportation," according to the Rails to Trails Conservancy, *Rails-Trails and Safe Communities*.
- ◆ The trail will be maintained by the City of Solon Service Department, including but not limited to, mowing, asphalt maintenance, refuse containers, weed spraying, etc. The City's ultimate goal would be to have the trail incorporated into the Metroparks system.
- ◆ The trail will be open dawn to dusk and will not be lit.
- ◆ The trail will not be plowed in the winter, nor snow melt put down.

- ◆ Motorized vehicles, such as 4-wheelers and snowmobiles, will not be permitted, nor horses as it is not proposed as a bridle trail.
- ◆ The City would need to purchase up to two safety vehicles to access the trail in case of a physical injury requiring medical attention.
- ◆ The need for the installation of fencing/screening has been identified for areas near Carter Lumber, Valley Forge, and Highland Loch. Additional locations for fencing/screening will be identified through the plan development and public input process.
- ◆ Limited tree removal will take place within the trail corridor and will be primarily restricted to the area occupied by the trail itself.

