

CAMP CHASE TRAIL - Let it take you Places!

by Jody Dzurainin, Friends of Camp Chase Trail Communications

The Friends of Camp Chase Trail are thrilled to announce that the Camp Chase Trail is nearing completion on the Hilltop. The idea for the Camp Chase Trail began 25 years ago when the late Ed Honton launched the group dedicated to creating a recreational path from Cincinnati to Cleveland utilizing former railroad and canal corridors. The 325+ mile trail is made up of many segments that are collectively called the "Ohio to Erie Trail", named after the river and lake it connects. The name "Camp Chase Trail" is a tribute to the Railway which granted the easement for the trail to be built. The rail line name pays homage to the historical Camp Chase Civil War encampment and Confederate Cemetery.

The section of Camp Chase Trail being built on the Hilltop is 3 miles between Georgesville Road and N. Eureka Ave in Highland West and the construction on the trail east of Georgesville Rd is expected to be completed this Fall. Next year a multi use path will be built alongside Georgesville Rd and Sullivant Ave that will connect Camp Chase Trail on the Hilltop to the existing main part of Camp Chase Trail (12 miles) which goes over I-270, through Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park and is a connection to the Ohio to Erie Trail which goes on to London, Xenia, Loveland and Cincinnati.

If you travel the trail east toward Downtown Columbus, from the northeast point near Holton Park, the Camp Chase Trail connects to a road route which takes you to McKinley Ave where the Hilltop Connector Bridge connects the trail to the Scioto Greenway Trail which goes on to Grandview Ave (1.5 m), Confluence Boat House (3 m), North Bank Park (3.75 m), Bicentennial Park Fountains (4.5 m) and the Scioto Audubon Metro Park and Grange Nature Center (5.5 m).

The builders of the Camp Chase Trail are Franklin County Metro Parks (11.5 miles) and City of Columbus (3.5 miles) and it will be patrolled by Metro Parks Greenways Rangers and maintained by Metro Parks crews. In an emergency, trail users should dial 911 and first responders will be directed to your location. Columbus Police have participated in meetings with the Hilltop Action Team and we have a strategy for keeping the trail safe. The action team has plans to hold seasonal litter clean ups along the trail and we would sure appreciate if trail users help by picking up litter on a regular basis to maintain optimal conditions.

Travel the trail the RIGHT way! The trail is for people-powered transport only - no motorized vehicles or motorized children's toys. Please run, walk, rollerblade, skateboard and bike on the RIGHT side and when you need to pass, do so on the LEFT side and give warning with a bell or say "passing". When passing it's OK to cross the yellow line and then return to the right side, as long as the oncoming trail lane is clear, if not yield until you can pass safely. Always YIELD to slower moving trail users.

The trail can be found North of Broad at: N. Sylvan (by Jones Lumber); N. Westmoor; North end of Haldy; N.Hague (by Modlich Monument); and N. Ogden. The NE end of the Camp Chase Trail is in Highland West at approximately 375 North Eureka Ave between Holton Park Rec Center and Valleyview Drive. Come enjoy your new Trail!

Learn more at www.ohioerietrail.org and www.campchasetrail.co or facebook/campchasefriends

Reach Metro Parks Greenways Rangers at 614-620-1865

More Here: <https://columbus.gov/recreationandparks/trails/Trail-Rules-and-Etiquette/>

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