

What started several years ago as a Girl Scout Gold Award project for then two high school girls, Morgan Rogers and Caitlyn Tipple, is now becoming a reality. The Town Center Trail construction will begin this May with an expected completion date of no later than June 30, 2014. When completed, the 1.1-mile all-purpose trail will connect community assets in North Ridgeville's Town Center including South Central Park, Senior Center, City Hall, North Ridgeville Branch Library, and North Ridgeville Middle School. The 10-foot wide asphalt trail will provide residents with a dedicated recreational pedestrian and bicycle facility.

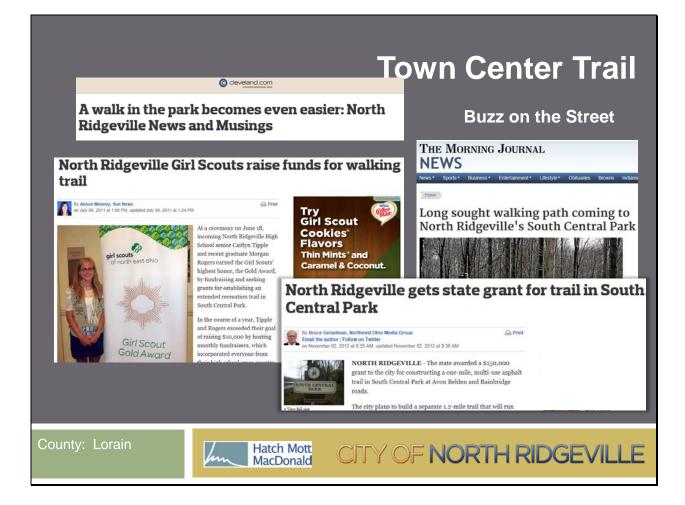
Contact Person: Kevin M. Fougerousse Parks & Recreation Director, City of North Ridgeville 440.353.0825 kfougerousse@nridgeville.org



The trail will provide a loop around South Central Park, replacing narrow and worn trails walking trails often submerged after heavy rains, with a longer, wider trail that safely accommodates bicyclists and connects park amenities that include a fishing pond, splash pad, playground, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts and pavilion. A northern spur to the trail will cross Bainbridge Rd and connect the City's Town Center with links to City Hall, Senior Center, Library, Middle School and Saint Peter Church and School.



The Town Center Trail is not only a recreational amenity for the residents of North Ridgeville, but also provides a key non-motorized transportation link between the City's Town Center, South Central Park and its neighborhoods, while also providing a safe, off-road connection for children who walk or bike to North Ridgeville Middle School and Saint Peter Church School.



The construction of the Town Center Trail will provide the community with a long-awaited dedicated off-road trail facility in the heart of South Central Park and the City's civic center. These efforts were started in 2011, when North Ridgeville High School senior Caitlyn Tipple and recent graduate Morgan Rogers earned the Girl Scouts' highest honor, the Gold Award, by fundraising and seeking grants for establishing an extended recreation trail in South Central Park. The girls were inspired to launch the project by the dwindling members of their cross country team, who often run on busy city streets, many of which are without sidewalks.



The City of North Ridgeville is one of the fastest growing residential communities in Northeast Ohio with the Town Center Trail providing a much needed recreational and transportation facility. The project was made possible by fundraising of the local Girl Scouts to create a loop trail within South Central Park. After submitting two unsuccessful funding applications to ODNR, the City expanded the project to include a northern leg connecting the Town Center as recommending by the City NOACA Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) study. In 2012 the project was awarded funding through the Recreational Trail Program based partially on the modified trail alignment's ability to connect numerous community assets. In the future, the trail will connect to the proposed 10-foot wide All-Purpose Trail that will run along the south side of the Center Ridge Road corridor project from Stony Ridge Rd to Lear Nagle Rd providing enhanced east-west multi-modal access across the City.