

Moonville Rail-Trail Connection Project



The Project

The Athens Conservancy, in conjunction with Moonville Rail-Trail, Inc., and the Athens County Commissioners, has undertaken a project to connect the trail with 4.5 miles secured for the project so far, out of total of almost 9 miles needed. The easy portions of the project have been acquired, and now the more difficult parts are left.



Grade west of New Marshfield

Two major bridges also need to be replaced as of this writing, both at Brookville, and four more bridges need to be replaced on the existing rail-trail west of Mineral in Athens County. Grading, signage, access control and other measures are also needed.

The trail will be open to foot traffic, horses, and bicycles. It will be a stone surface. Access points with parking are being planned. Acquisition of land for a trailhead in Mineral is underway with several lots now secured, and several more to be purchased.

The Plan

A plan has been created for the project. It can be viewed on-line, at the Athens Conservancy website. Go to the resources tab and select “Moonville Rail-Trail Connection Project.”

How Can You Help?

- Money is always needed. It’s needed for property purchase, bridge replacement, grading, signage, and other costs. You can make a donation through the Athens Conservancy website or by mailing a donation to the Athens Conservancy at:

Athens Conservancy
PO Box 2281
Athens, OH 45701

- If you are able to donate significant time and expertise to the project, we’d love to have you on the steering committee. Contact us by email at info@athensconservancy.org or write us at the address above.
- If you have a connection to any of the outstanding properties to be secured, please contact us, as well.
- Spread the word.

Websites of interest:

Athens Conservancy: www.athensconservancy.org

Moonville Rail-Trail:

<https://vintoncountytravel.com/parks-and-recreation/moonville-rail-trail>

Hockhocking Adena Bikeway:

<http://athensohio.com/wheretoplay/hockhocking-adena-bikeway-2>

Background

The Moonville Rail-Trail is a 16-mile-long rail-trail in eastern Vinton County and western Athens County, running from Mineral, Ohio, west to Zaleski, Ohio. It is open to horses, hikers, and bicyclists, but is still under development, with several bridges yet to be replaced. However, completion is underway.



King Switch Tunnel



The Moonville Rail Trail



