

Your Guide to The Licking County Recreational Trail

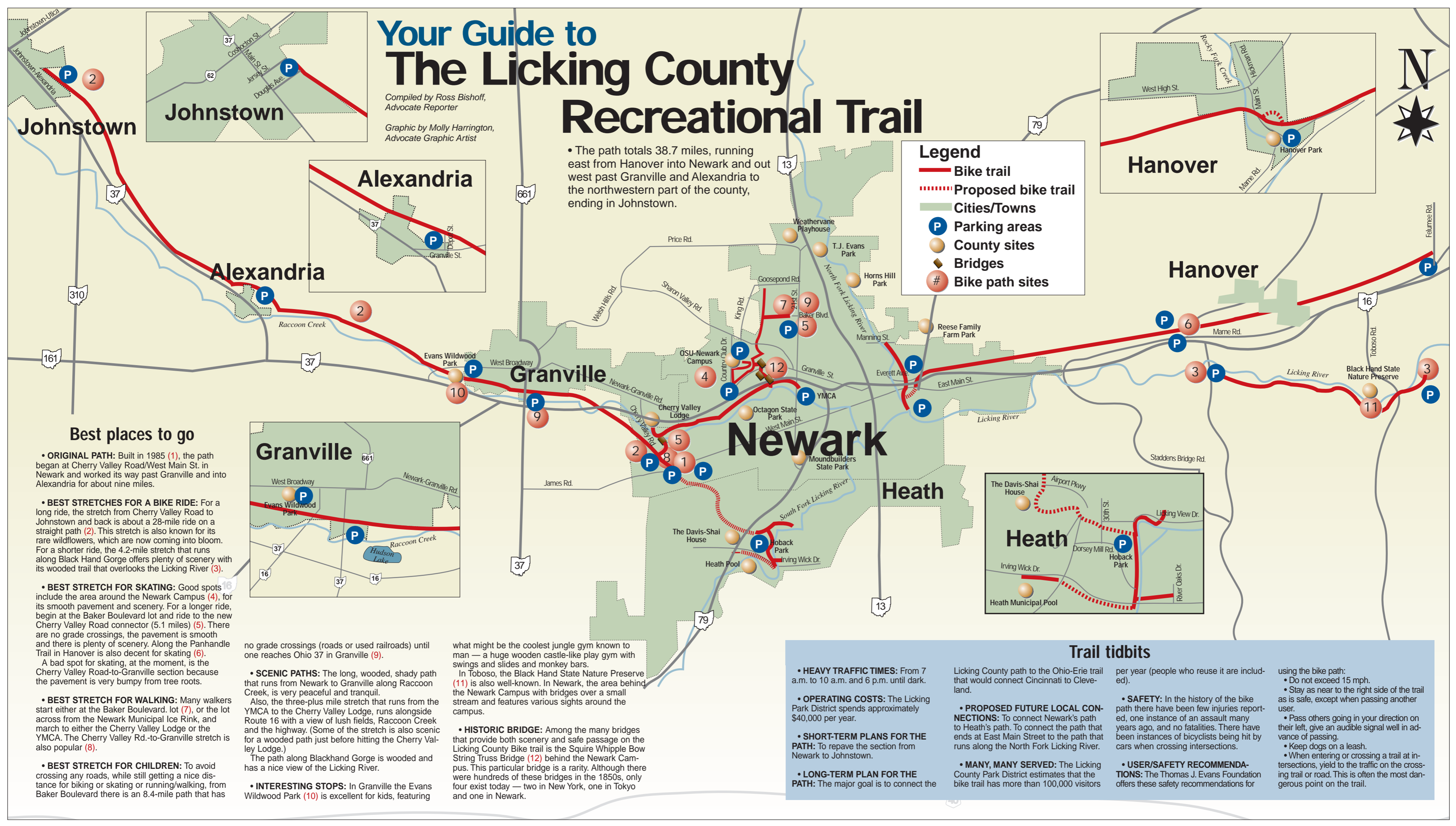
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• The path totals 38.7 miles, running east from Hanover into Newark and out west past Granville and Alexandria to the northwestern part of the county, ending in Johnstown.

Legend

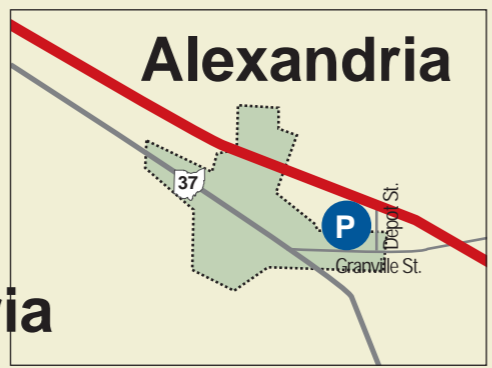
- Bike trail
- - - - Proposed bike trail
- Cities/Towns
- P Parking areas
- County sites
- ◆ Bridges
- # Bike path sites



Johnstown



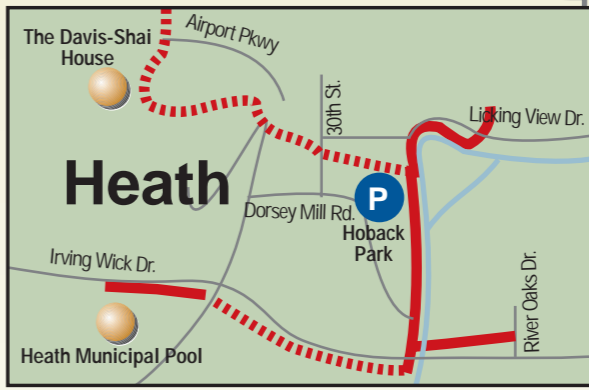
Alexandria



Granville



Newark



Hanover



Best places to go

- **ORIGINAL PATH:** Built in 1985 (1), the path began at Cherry Valley Road/West Main St. in Newark and worked its way past Granville and into Alexandria for about nine miles.
- **BEST STRETCHES FOR A BIKE RIDE:** For a long ride, the stretch from Cherry Valley Road to Johnstown and back is about a 28-mile ride on a straight path (2). This stretch is also known for its rare wildflowers, which are now coming into bloom. For a shorter ride, the 4.2-mile stretch that runs along Black Hand Gorge offers plenty of scenery with its wooded trail that overlooks the Licking River (3).
- **BEST STRETCH FOR SKATING:** Good spots include the area around the Newark Campus (4), for its smooth pavement and scenery. For a longer ride, begin at the Baker Boulevard lot and ride to the new Cherry Valley Road connector (5.1 miles) (5). There are no grade crossings, the pavement is smooth and there is plenty of scenery. Along the Panhandle Trail in Hanover is also decent for skating (6). A bad spot for skating, at the moment, is the Cherry Valley Road-to-Granville section because the pavement is very bumpy from tree roots.
- **BEST STRETCH FOR WALKING:** Many walkers start either at the Baker Boulevard lot (7), or the lot across from the Newark Municipal Ice Rink, and march to either the Cherry Valley Lodge or the YMCA. The Cherry Valley Rd.-to-Granville stretch is also popular (8).
- **BEST STRETCH FOR CHILDREN:** To avoid crossing any roads, while still getting a nice distance for biking or skating or running/walking, from Baker Boulevard there is an 8.4-mile path that has

- no grade crossings (roads or used railroads) until one reaches Ohio 37 in Granville (9).
- **SCENIC PATHS:** The long, wooded, shady path that runs from Newark to Granville along Raccoon Creek, is very peaceful and tranquil. Also, the three-plus mile stretch that runs from the YMCA to the Cherry Valley Lodge, runs alongside Route 16 with a view of lush fields, Raccoon Creek and the highway. (Some of the stretch is also scenic for a wooded path just before hitting the Cherry Valley Lodge.) The path along Blackhand Gorge is wooded and has a nice view of the Licking River.
- **INTERESTING STOPS:** In Granville the Evans Wildwood Park (10) is excellent for kids, featuring

- what might be the coolest jungle gym known to man — a huge wooden castle-like play gym with swings and slides and monkey bars. In Toboso, the Black Hand State Nature Preserve (11) is also well-known. In Newark, the area behind the Newark Campus with bridges over a small stream and features various sights around the campus.
- **HISTORIC BRIDGE:** Among the many bridges that provide both scenery and safe passage on the Licking County Bike trail is the Squire Whipple Bow String Truss Bridge (12) behind the Newark Campus. This particular bridge is a rarity. Although there were hundreds of these bridges in the 1850s, only four exist today — two in New York, one in Tokyo and one in Newark.

- **HEAVY TRAFFIC TIMES:** From 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. until dark.
- **OPERATING COSTS:** The Licking County Park District spends approximately \$40,000 per year.
- **SHORT-TERM PLANS FOR THE PATH:** To repave the section from Newark to Johnstown.
- **LONG-TERM PLAN FOR THE PATH:** The major goal is to connect the

- Licking County path to the Ohio-Erie trail that would connect Cincinnati to Cleveland.
- **PROPOSED FUTURE LOCAL CONNECTIONS:** To connect Newark's path to Heath's path. To connect the path that ends at East Main Street to the path that runs along the North Fork Licking River.
- **MANY, MANY SERVED:** The Licking County Park District estimates that the bike trail has more than 100,000 visitors

- per year (people who reuse it are included).
- **SAFETY:** In the history of the bike path there have been few injuries reported, one instance of an assault many years ago, and no fatalities. There have been instances of bicyclists being hit by cars when crossing intersections.
- **USER/SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Thomas J. Evans Foundation offers these safety recommendations for

- using the bike path:
 - Do not exceed 15 mph.
 - Stay as near to the right side of the trail as is safe, except when passing another user.
 - Pass others going in your direction on their left, give an audible signal well in advance of passing.
 - Keep dogs on a leash.
 - When entering or crossing a trail at intersections, yield to the traffic on the crossing trail or road. This is often the most dangerous point on the trail.

Trail tidbits