



Summer 2022

Dear Friend of ConnectCR,

Happy summer! We hope you are enjoying the sunshine and can spend time on a trail or two.

### Cedar Lake

Construction at Cedar Lake is well underway, with the initial work being related to flood protection. A temporary earthen causeway is now in place to segregate the western area of the lake. The causeway will allow the lake to be dewatered on the west side. Construction can begin on the flood-protection levee once the area is dried out. The city and contractor are working with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources on a dewatering permit. Depending upon permit timing, lake dewatering could start as early as late fall 2022. The dewatering process will take several weeks. Once the levee is complete, the temporary earthen causeway will be removed.

Part of the trail around the lake is closed due to construction, but you can still walk or ride your bike on other routes near the lake. Just keep your eye out for possible detours.

The City of Cedar Rapids and our project management firm ([www.wsp.com](http://www.wsp.com)) are being strategic about the order of improvements at the lake. Flood protection work is being done first, so as not to damage any anticipated ConnectCR amenities. We expect the actual ConnectCR work will begin this fall. One of the first ConnectCR improvements will be trail work on the east side of Cedar Lake where an area will be filled in to prepare for a new trail that will run right by the lake (instead of in the street) and go all the way around the lake. When the project is complete, there will be two loops around Cedar Lake, including one loop with a boardwalk that will let you walk out over the water.

You can view Cedar Lake's master plan on our website: <https://connectcr.org/cedar-lake-master-plan>



Bikers enjoy a ride near Cedar Lake this summer.



A sign at Cedar Lake shows visitors the master plan for the lake area.



Despite the lake construction, bikers are still flocking to the trails and to businesses like the Sag Wagon at Cedar Lake.

## Shaver Road and McCloud Run

Just to the north of Cedar Lake, the city is raising the bridge on Shaver Road and making significant changes to McCloud Run. While not a part of the ConnectCR project, these improvements will greatly enhance the experience in the Cedar Lake area and on trails near the lake.

On Shaver Road, the bridge abutment and piers are constructed. The concrete bridge deck is scheduled to be poured in September. Overall, the roadway will be reconstructed above the 2008 Cedar River flood level, backing into the McCloud Run. The project is scheduled for completion in mid-2023.

At McCloud Run, construction from Shaver Road, westward toward the Cedar River, will begin this fall. The existing concrete channel will be removed, and the streambed will be naturalized to match the trout stream that exists upstream of Shaver Road. This project will also include a levee from Shaver Road, around the Alliant Energy property, and connecting to the levee at Cedar Lake. Construction is scheduled to last through 2024. You can see a recent drone video of work on Shaver Road and McCloud Run here: <https://youtu.be/ZEEct55CUng>

To the right is a drawing of how McCloud Run is projected to look. Note how the streambed is naturalized. Also note the two trails on the left. One trail will run under the bridge and closer to the stream; the other trail will cross Shaver Road and allow trail users access to the trail from Shaver. Other improvements include widened trail widths, nearby trailhead parking, a trail on top of the levee, and benches where trail users can take in scenic views.



## The Alliant Energy LightLine

To the south of downtown Cedar Rapids, ConnectCR's pedestrian/trail bridge project is in a design and engineering phase. Behind-the-scenes architectural and landscape design work, plus various tests for things like water flow at the bridge location, have been happening quietly for the past several months. Groundbreaking for the bridge is anticipated in 2023. In case you didn't hear--the bridge will now be called The Alliant Energy LightLine. Here's a news article detailing that:

<https://www.thegazette.com/local-government/connectcr-pedestrian-bike-bridge-in-cedar-rapids-will-be-named-alliant-energy-lightline/>



The future location of the Alliant Energy LightLine is marked by signs with drawings of the bridge and a planned park nearby.

### A Mural Dedicated to ConnectCR

Our thanks to the Cedar Rapids Downtown District and Murals & More for making this art on our local trails happen! If you haven't seen it yet, check out the new mural dedicated to ConnectCR. The mural called "Fragments" is located along the 4<sup>th</sup> Street bike trail on the east side of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue parking garage in downtown Cedar Rapids. This location is about halfway between Cedar Lake and the future Alliant Energy LightLine.

This cool timelapse video shows the mural being created this spring:

<https://youtu.be/ig2c-K8Rf7Y>



We still receive inquiries about donating to ConnectCR to get a plaque at either the lake, bridge, or both locations. If you know someone who would like a plaque, donations are being accepted at:

[www.connectcr.org](http://www.connectcr.org)

Look for the "donate" button in the center of the website's homepage.

Follow us on Facebook for more updates: [www.facebook.com/connectcr.org](https://www.facebook.com/connectcr.org)

You can also see the Shaver Road/McCloud Run drone video on our Facebook page as well as the ConnectCR mural video just mentioned.

Questions? Please email us at: [connectcr.org@gmail.com](mailto:connectcr.org@gmail.com)

Thank you for your continued support of ConnectCR!  
Project completion is scheduled for 2025.