

Frequently Asked Questions (We welcome other questions and suggestions.):

- ⤴ **What IS the Emerald Isle Multi Use Path?** “The Path” is a multi use path for bicycles, walkers, joggers, strollers, and others. Presently it goes through town alongside Emerald Drive (Rte. 58) from Coast Guard Rd. to Hurst St. with a smaller section open along Coast Guard Rd. to Emerald Isle Woods; a total distance of 4.7 miles. Plans for the near future are for further extension the length of Coast Guard Rd. to Ring St. Eventual long range plans are for completion of The Path from the bridge to the Indian beach line.
- ⤴ **Why do we need to raise funds to extend The Path along Coast Guard Rd.?** While the Town was able to secure State and Federal grants to provide for approximately 80% of the expansion of the Path along Hwy. 58 (a State road) to its’ present ending at Hurst St., Coast Guard Rd. is not eligible for these funds as it is a Town road, and Town budgets are limited without raising taxes. It’s up to the community to advocate for extension, help raise funds, and work with the Town on grants, matching funds, and other funding sources.
- ⤴ **How much have we raised so far towards extension on Coast Guard Rd.?** Through fundraisers, the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee raised \$25,065 and the Town was able to add to these funds which allowed an extension of a .3 mile section which reached to Emerald Isle Woods. In addition, we recently raised \$33,500 that was matched by the Town which is allowing us to extend further to Ocean Oaks. Once this work is completed, we will still have approximately \$7500 banked and \$17,900 pledged to put towards the next section (Dolphin Ridge/Royall Oaks) and will continue to add to this.
- ⤴ **What’s the cost look like to extend it to the Point?** Because utilities will need to be moved, land cleared and prepped ,retaining walls erected where necessary, and a base and asphalt laid, it’s an expensive proposition with approximately \$500,000 still needed at this point. Also remember that with inflation, costs will most likely increase the longer we wait. That’s why we need to start ASAP!
- ⤴ **Can extensions be done in increments?** YES! Because this is such a large undertaking, we hope to continue to raise funds and seek Town help when possible so that we can do other sections piece by piece as fundraising and funding allow. Detailed cost estimates for incremental sections on the South side of Coast Guard Rd. (i.e. Emerald Woods to Ocean Oaks, to Dolphin Ridge, to Spinnakers, to Lands End, etc.) have been completed. Commissioners and Town staff are very supportive of extending the existing Path and community support and enthusiasm is substantial.
- ⤴ **How can you help?** The obvious way concerned citizens, businesses, Home Owners Associations, civic organizations, and corporations can help is by making a tax deductible contribution to this worthwhile cause (make checks out to “Town of Emerald Isle – The Path” and send to the Town Hall, call the Town Hall at 252-354-3424 for Visa payment, or select the PAYPAL link on the Town’s website, Friends of the Path section). Given the need and inflation, we hope for substantial one time gifts; we are also providing the option of pledges to spread out donations over a four year period. You can also help by spreading the word among friends and neighbors, advocate for this with local businesses and corporations, and homeowners and renters who will definitely benefit from a safe Path into and out of town or just to other developments. Volunteers are needed to contribute ideas, work events, and especially to actively take on and implement future fundraisers. **The more interest and involvement, the faster it will get done!**