

PATH Progress Update

3/27/2016

A lot of progress has been made since the last update. The Emerald Path is now complete from the Indian Beach Town line to The Point with a spur leading into Emerald Isle Woods; 12 enjoyable miles of Path for cycling/walking/jogging. We have also worked hard on related bicycle and pedestrian projects and amenities to add to the community's enjoyment of the Emerald Path. Lighting has been added down Coast Guard Road, additional lighting has been installed in the "Downtown" area, sidewalk spurs have been added near CVS, Emerald Plantation, and CG Rd./Speedway for safety, a new bike rack, turtle statuary, and benches have been added at the new Welcome Center, and minor maintenance and beautification efforts along the Path have been made.

Although we have made substantial improvements with donated dollars, we are still soliciting additional donations to move forward on other additions/projects. We hope to build a pedestrian ramp at the beach driving entrance at the Point as a safety issue to separate pedestrians and vehicles in a now confined space. We are also looking forward to further expanding the Path from 58 down to the Pier in the future. Of course all of this costs money, and with a tight Town budget we are looking at donations from the community, visitors, and businesses along with possible grants to help move projects forward. Committee members thank you all for your past support and hope we can continue to receive further support in the future.

Don't forget to support and participate in the E.I. marathon/½ marathon/5K on April 9 and the Bike the Banks event on May 7 with 100, 50, and 10 mile charity rides.

5/30/2014

Paving of the Emerald Path all the way down Coast Guard Rd. to Ring St. is now complete with some minor landscaping work to be completed shortly, but this section is now fully open for business and is getting a lot of use already. The remaining section of the Path on Hwy. 58 is nearing completion so you can now ride/walk/jog from Coast Guard Rd. to the Indian Beach town line except for a section from 18th St. to 7th St. which is still being worked on. Hopefully this too will be completed shortly. When fully completed, the entire multi-use path will wind almost 11 miles from one end of town to the other. If you need company or an incentive, there is an informal bike ride every Tuesday night at 5:30 leaving from the Hwy. 58 Bike shop; go as

far or as little as you like at your own pace and meet some new friends. Whatever you do, get out and enjoy YOUR Emerald Path!

4/30/2014

Commissioners agreed to formally name the town's multi-use path "The Emerald Path", keeping the name simple, green, and related to the Town. It is now complete along Hwy. 58 up to the Eastern Regional Beach Access and we are making good progress on completing the eastern end of the Emerald Path to the Indian Beach town line; hopefully this section will be completed by the end of May, weather permitting! Construction of the storm water system along Coast Guard Rd. is also progressing well and once this is complete in the next few weeks, the path section on the other end of town from the Dolphin Ridge/Royall Oaks subdivision to Ring St. can be completed. Once the two remaining sections are finished the Emerald Path will stretch a distance of almost 11 miles, providing an enjoyable and safe place to ride, jog, or walk in safety in and around town. Congratulations to the Town and all those who stepped up with generous donations and grants to make this happen for our community. We will continue to raise funds to help out with amenities related to bicycle and pedestrian activities in the town and are seeking input from the public as to what else they would like to see. Possibilities to explore might be such issues as additional bike racks, path lighting, landscaping, path additions, bike & pedestrian route maps, etc. This is the community's path and we welcome all input for consideration. Meanwhile, get out and explore and enjoy the extended Emerald Path!

12/10/2013

"The newest extension of The PATH from Fairfax to the Ocean Drive "Dogleg" is now well underway. This will add an additional 1.4 miles to The PATH and is expected to be complete by February. Meanwhile, we are moving forward on plans for another extension after that which would add another 2.6 mile segment along NC 58 between the Eastern Regional Access and the Indian Beach town limits. Hopefully this can start in February and be complete by Memorial Day 2014. In addition, we also expect to be able to begin construction in March or April on the 1 mile section of The PATH along Coast Guard Rd. from Dolphin Ridge to Ring St., depending on progress with the storm water project along this stretch. Anticipated completion for this section is targeted for Memorial Day 2014. An incredible amount of progress thanks to concerned citizens and the Town's incredible responsiveness. Stay tuned, and enjoy the expanding multi-use PATH!"

9/16/2013

The newest addition to The PATH from Hurst Street to Fairfax Street is now complete, adding another .4 miles to The PATH for the community's use and enjoyment. Now you are able to walk, run, ride for 5.7 miles on The PATH. With the passage of the Community Improvement Package in the Town's budget we will be seeing further extensions of The PATH on Rte. 58 and Coast Guard Rd. with projections that construction will be underway in early Spring with an ambitious goal of completion by Memorial Day. The Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee continues to advocate for The PATH and improvements, discussing and considering options and feasibility for ideas such as additional bike racks, maps of The PATH and other bicycle routes locally and county wide, lighting, safety issues and programs, landscaping and beautification, etc. We look forward to continued input and ideas from the community so that we can continue to improve the quality of life in the area.

7/17/2013

Despite initial delays with weather, the latest PATH extension from Hurst to Fairfax is now well under way and making good progress. When complete, this will add another 4/10 mile to the well used PATH. With the Town's adoption of the Community Improvements Package in the new budget, we should see some very positive results for further extension of The PATH throughout Town and down Coast Guard Rd. starting in the near future, with considerations of the most feasible and economical ways of completing these major undertakings. We continue to solicit donations that will help in these endeavors and also allow us some PATH related amenities that might not otherwise be possible. We are currently exploring the feasibility of such items as additional bike racks, possible lighting, mile markers on CG Rd., further PATH extensions to reach other parts of Town, landscaping and beautification, maps of cycling and walking routes in the Town and county, etc. Members of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee are very open to ideas and feedback along these lines and we look forward to concerned citizens' help in further improving our community.

5/18/2013

The newest section of The PATH from Ocean Oaks/Cape Emerald to Dolphin Ridge/Royall Oaks is now fully complete except for a few plantings that still need to be added on the tiered slope because of the questionable weather that has put everything behind in many areas. This should be completed shortly, but it certainly doesn't affect one's ability to get out on our multi-use PATH and walk, jog, cycle; enjoy it! On the other end of town, the contractor for the addition from Hurst to Fairfax has been delayed due to the weather and other commitments but is expected to begin construction on June 3. Our Down and Derby PATH party, silent auction, and fundraiser earlier this month was a success allowing us to raise another \$4650 in donations to add to funds that can help support further development of The PATH. Thanks to

all who came and enjoyed a great event, and thanks to all of the community minded residents and visitors who continue to donate to further extensions. APPRECIATED!

3/21/2013

We're putting the finishing touches on the newest section of The PATH extending it to Dolphin Ridge/Royall Oaks with additional retaining walls, some landscaping, and striping and signage yet to come. It's walkable/rideable, jogable at this point, so get out and enjoy it! We will continue fundraising for the next section along the Coast Guard Rd. end of The PATH that would take it to Spinnakers Reach and eventually beyond, and will need everyone's continued support and help with that.

Also, more good news... the bid opening for the Hurst to Fairfax section will occur on March 25, construction on that should start shortly after, and hopefully be completed by Memorial Day. Stay tuned and stay supportive of this important project in YOUR community.

2/15/2013

Take a drive/ride/walk/run down Coast Guard Rd. and you'll see that the next extension of The PATH is well under way and should be completed by Easter!! Many thanks go to the Town for coordinating this along with matching funds that have been donated by generous folks in our community. It's been a real community effort and we hope you'll be part of it. We'll continue fundraising efforts for the next section which will go to Spinnakers Reach with an estimated cost of \$124,000 total and we'll need everyone's help to make this a reality.

We also have good news about an additional 4/10 mile extension from Hurst to Fairfax thanks to the Town and a NCDOT grant that we have finally settled negotiations on. Bidding for the job should begin shortly and with luck and good weather, we hope to have this section completed by Memorial Day. Keep your fingers crossed!

Also, don't forget that the Friends of The PATH will be hosting a fun "Down and Derby" fundraiser on May 4 of this year at the Emerald Isle Beach & Pool Club located in Dolphin Ridge. There'll be great music from Big Drink, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction for a big selection of items generously donated by local businesses and members of the community. Check out the flyer on this web page; only 100 tickets are available so get yours soon. Thanks to everyone in the community for your support of The PATH, and get out there and enjoy it as the nice weather starts to return!

1/4/2013

2012 was a busy year for fundraising to support further extension of The PATH down Coast Guard Rd. Through Committee efforts and community generosity, we are happy to report that substantial donations along with matching funds from the Town will allow us to further extend

The PATH to the Dolphin Ridge/Royall Oaks entranceway. Weather permitting; we expect construction of this segment to begin within the next two weeks and to be completed before Easter. Many thanks to all who have helped to make this a reality through their generous donations, time, and community spirit.

Aside from this effort, we are still negotiating with the State on final details for our grant to further extend The PATH along Rt. 58 at the East end of town. This will add another 4/10 mile from its' present terminus to Fairfax St. Once final details are agreed upon with the State, construction should begin shortly and is expected to be completed before our next year's season.

The next section that we will continue fundraising efforts for will extend The PATH to Spinnakers Reach. A longer section, this piece will be more expensive with a total estimated cost of \$124,000 so we will need all the community support that we can get. Please talk it up with friends, family, and neighbors; your support and donations are greatly appreciated!

10/12/2012

We're getting closer to being able to start on the next section of The PATH extension on Coast Guard Rd.! We now have almost \$41,000 in the bank from generous donations to put towards this next section that will extend The PATH to the entrance to Dolphin Ridge/Royall Oaks. Once we reach \$50,000 (less than \$10,000 away) the Town hopes to be able to match donation funding and begin construction. BUT... we need to get to that mark, so everyone's support is necessary. Please consider the benefits to your community and help out with donations large and small; everything helps get us closer.

Aside from this effort, through hard work and perseverance, the Town was able to secure a grant and allocate funds to further extend The PATH along Rt. 58 on the other end of town for 4/10 mile from its' present terminus. Construction on this will hopefully begin in late fall and complete before next year's season. This will give us over five miles of multi-use PATH for walkers, joggers, and cyclists to use and enjoy. Thanks to everyone for their support and... keep it coming!

8/30/2012

Fundraising progress continues and we now have \$34,222 in the bank and \$33,775 pledged over the next three years to put towards further extension of The PATH along Coast Guard Road. Thanks to our most recent large donor, Shorewood Realty, and also a variety of smaller donations, we are getting closer to the next extension to Dolphin Ridge/Royall Oaks. Donation jars out in the community at a variety of businesses have brought in \$2002 from small donations that we wouldn't have received otherwise. We still have a long ways to go and need everyone's support and donations to make this a reality, so please help out when and where you can.

8/7/2012

Thanks to substantial donations from Doug Starcke and also Emerald Isle Realty coupled with continuing smaller contributions, we now have \$26,650 in the bank and \$30,000 pledged over the next three years to put towards further extension of The PATH down Coast Guard Rd. The next section (to Dolphin Ridge/Royall Oaks) has a cost of around \$99,000 so we have a ways to go, but our fundraising efforts continue in the community and we have also had some success with donation jars at various businesses raising almost \$1400 in this manner. Thanks to everyone for their help and community spirit!

You will also notice that we have started placing major donor names on the large donation recognition plaque at the entrance to Emerald Isle Woods. We still need substantial funds to continue extension so please think about making a donation, large or small, as a gift and a legacy to YOUR community.

7/17/2012

Through perseverance and follow up by Town staff, we were able to secure a grant from NCDOT and with approval of the use of some additional Town funds we are looking forward to a .4 mile extension to The PATH section along Rte. 58. After competitive bids are decided, this should allow an extension to Fairfax Rd. from the present terminus at Hurst St. We anticipate construction will begin late this year.

Meanwhile, fundraising continues for further extension down Coast Guard Rd. (since this is a Town road, we are unable to receive any State or Federal funds to help out). After previous extensions on this section of The PATH we now have a balance of \$13,904 in donations with pledges of \$22,650 over the next two years. The cost for the next section along Coast Guard Rd. is approximately \$99,000 however, so we have a ways to go yet just for this section, and need everyone's help to make this a reality. In addition to boosting public awareness with information boxes at Merchants' Park, E.I. Woods, and the present terminus at Ocean Oaks, we have placed donation jars out in the community and so far we have raised \$1100 with this. Names of major donors will be posted shortly on the Donor sign at the entrance to E.I. Woods and this should also help with public awareness.

Take a look any day at the number of people who are out there using The PATH and it will reaffirm that this is not only a sound investment for safety, recreation, and fitness for residents and visitors, but also a factor in increasing property and rental values along Coast Guard Rd. and a boon to local businesses. So, that's where we stand; we'll keep plugging along. Please spread the word to everyone and anyone if you want to see this happen.

5/25/2012

Come on out and check out The PATH's newest extension from Emerald Woods to Ocean Oaks/Cape Emerald. As hoped, the contractor was able to complete work so that it is ready for Memorial Day weekend use! Thanks to all who donated to this effort and thanks to the Town for matching funds enabling a faster completion. Next emphasis is an extension to Dolphin Ridge/Royall Oaks, so keep those donations coming and help make this a reality too in YOUR community.

5/16/2012

Despite rumors of rain and rumbles of thunder, the paving for the section of the PATH to Ocean Oaks/Cape Emerald is complete! In the next week, there will be clean up, prettying up, striping, etc. and all should be ready before Memorial Day. Many thanks to generous donors and the Town who helped make this possible. The next section is to Dolphin Ridge/Royall Oaks and fundraising for this will continue (cost is estimated at \$99,000). Let's keep the ball rolling with donations to help out; progress has been great but we need everyone's continued help!

5/4/2012

After raising \$33,500 in donations that were matched by the Town, construction is well underway on Coast Guard Rd. to extend The PATH to Ocean Oaks/Cape Emerald. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has since raised an additional \$7200 and has secured additional pledges of \$25,400 over the next three years towards further extension. Substantial donations will be needed however before beginning work on the next section which will take the PATH to Dolphin Ridge/Royall Oaks (approximately \$99,000); then on to Spinnakers Reach, Lands End, etc. We will continue fundraising efforts and need everyone's help."

4/25/2012

Thanks to public donations, we were able to raise \$32,500 that the Town was able to match, allowing construction to begin on the next section of The PATH along Coast Guard Road. This section will take The PATH from its' present terminus at Emerald Isle Woods down to the entrances to Ocean Oaks/Cape Emerald.

The Emerald Isle Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee is continuing its' capital campaign fundraising efforts to further extend The PATH, with the next section targeted to the Dolphin Ridge/Royall Oaks entrances. The cost for this upcoming section is estimated at \$99,000 so we will need everyone's help with large and small donations to help make this a reality for our community. Presently, we have received additional donations of \$7500 and pledges of \$18,000 to start building the base for creation of this next section.

Thanks to all for your generous contributions so far and caring for our community. Please spread the word to friends, neighbors, and visitors to help make this a reality!