

NEWS

Work underway to add trails throughout Crawford County

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Roger Lomshek is usually looking to ride his bike in a place where he can train for racing. But every now and then, he prefers the Watco Trail.

“With my four-year-old daughter, once in a while, we’ll come out and do that kind of stuff,” explained Lomshek.

Along with being a bicycle enthusiast, he’s also the chairman of the Crawford County Active Transportation Board, and working with Live Well Crawford County to implement the county’s master trail plan.

“These kinds of trails are the perfect thing for a family to enjoy– getting out, riding, maybe if somebody wants to jog for a couple of miles, things like that,” said Lomshek.

Live Well Crawford County Director Brad Stroud says the master plan for Crawford County is really a blue print for the future.

“Things that we’ll focus on as far as establishing new means or repairing means of active transportation,” Stroud explained.

Stroud says one of the first projects, extending the Watco Trail more than five miles from where it ends at Georgia Street in Pittsburg to the City of Cherokee already has a bit of a head start.

“Simply because the trail would extend along an abandoned railroad that Watco companies had,” Stroud added.

Stroud says the land is “rail banked,” meaning Watco still owns the land, despite not using it. He says that would prevent a potentially lengthy land acquisition process, and let them get started on making some needed improvements.

“The surface would have to be reworked,” Stroud continued. “It has a gravel base, being that it was a railroad, that gravel is too large to use for a bicycle trail, so we’d have to come in and and bring in a fine chat.”