

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2016

Chief Ladiga Trail set to re-open

City of Jacksonville crews are putting the final touches on repairs to a series of sinkholes which opened along the Chief Ladiga Trail after heavy rains in December and January. The Trail is scheduled to re-open Friday morning at 10:00 a.m.

After receiving an initial evaluation report from a geotechnical engineering firm, the city elected to excavate and backfill the damaged area. "Through utilizing internal labor by the city's street department, we were able to minimize costs while still performing an effective repair. Our guys did a great job," said City Administrator Jarrod Simmons. Simmons estimates the total cost of the repair work will be around \$25,000 for materials and re-surfacing after all invoices are paid.

Mayor Johnny Smith echoed those sentiments, "Our street department crew under the direction of Stanley Carr deserves a tremendous amount of credit. They really did a fantastic job in completing the repair and limiting other possible damage to the Trail during the course of the repair work. The Chief Ladiga Trail is a wonderful asset to the City of Jacksonville and all of Calhoun County; it will be great to have it back in full working order. Thank you to Calhoun County and the other surrounding communities for your willingness to help and interest in seeing these repairs completed."

The city will hold a brief grand re-opening ceremony Friday morning, June 24, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. where the Trail intersects with Warren Drive between the cities of Weaver and Jacksonville.

The repairs are complete just in time for this weekend's Iron Mountain Challenge. Check out ironmountainchallenge.com for more information.

Quick Facts

The Chief Ladiga Trail is Alabama's premiere rails-to-trails project. It traverses 33 miles through the countryside of Calhoun and Cleburne counties, and connects the municipalities of Piedmont, Jacksonville, Weaver and Anniston.

A series of sinkholes opened along the Chief Ladiga Trail after heavy rains in December 2015 and January 2016.

The sinkhole area was located approximately one-half mile north of where the Chief Ladiga Trail intersects Warren Drive. That section of the Trail is located in unincorporated Calhoun County, but is owned by the City of Jacksonville.

The city engaged the services of geotechnical engineering firm Building and Earth Sciences to perform a geotechnical evaluation report of the area. In its report the firm listed four possible options for repair.

The city elected the excavation and backfill option.

By utilizing city forces within the street department the total cost of repair was minimized. The total cost of materials and resurfacing are estimated to be under \$25,000 once all invoices are paid.

The trail will reopen at 10:00 am on Friday June 24, 2016. The city will hold a brief ceremony where the Trail intersects Warren Drive between Weaver and Jacksonville.

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