

TR 241 Bridge - A Story of Past Meets Present

Hancock County Commissioners in 1895 chose to connect the fertile farmland south of the Blanchard River to the northern markets by a bridge at the Carey Road (now SR 568). This location worked well by "Highbanks" near the big bend of the river in Marion Township. The Canton (Ohio) Bridge Company provided a one lane wide, pre-engineered 18' x 123' Pratt through-truss bridge to make the crossing.

Little is known of the early history; later inspection records tell more. As age and heavier loads crossing the river threatened the bridge, by 2007 it was time for a wider, stronger structure. The county and state cooperated on a replacement two lane wooden covered bridge, built in 2009 by Zachrich Construction Company of Defiance, Ohio.

Thanks to its engineering and ornate craftsmanship, the old iron bridge still had some useful, but limited, life left. It could be recycled for other public use. Visitors to Riverbend Recreation Area nearby along the Old Mill Stream State Scenic Byway could benefit from the old bridge in many ways. Its educational and aesthetic value has grown, even as it weakened.

Research and recommendations to preserve TR 241 Bridge were made by historic bridge consultant Vern Mesler of Michigan. The TR 241 Bridge was saved from demolition as part of the new bridge project. In the fall of 2009, it was moved off the river and rolled into Riverbend Park nearby. The bridge will now connect the special events area and campgrounds at a river oxbow to the park trails and Findlay Reservoirs. Preservation of the bridge as an Ohio engineering landmark is underway; your help is needed.

Thanks for your support.



Modern technology saves century-old TR 241 Bridge



Documented preservation work leads the way



Two years of planning, both bridges now ready to go

**Call to schedule a tour, see the maps and learn more!
(419) 425-PARK (7275)**

JOIN THE FUN, HELP BRIDGE THE GAP!

1895 Historic Bridge Project

Preserving the Marion Township Road 241 Bridge in Riverbend Park, Hancock County Ohio

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT
OF THE
HANCOCK PARKS FOUNDATION
AND HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT



TR 241 Bridge relocated to new location in Riverbend Park



TR 241—114 years bridging the Blanchard



Finial top ornament reflects Victorian era



Intricate wrought iron by Ohio craftsmen



Volunteers plan preservation



History stands the test of time



Dingey Movers of Zanesville on a roll



New abutments, new home

A bridge worth saving...

TR 241 Bridge is a call to action - save that old bridge! It is the last of its kind in Hancock County, and significant in Ohio. Adaptive re-use of the TR 241 Bridge can respect the past and preserve it for future use. While it no longer can handle modern traffic loads, there are lessons to be learned and other uses. The metal work is a history book of engineering and fabrication according to bridge preservation experts, good enough to make it worth the effort.

Bridge attracts local and state help...

Word spread fast about the possible fate of TR 241 Bridge, and now it's saved.

Considerable cooperation was realized early, thanks to the many "project partners" including:

- Hancock County Commissioners
- Hancock County Engineers Office
- Ohio Department of Transportation
- US National Park Service
- Marion Township Trustees
- Findlay-Hancock Co. Community Foundation
- Ohio Historic Bridge Association
- Old Mill Stream Scenic Byway Committee

How to get involved...

Your help is needed. The preservation process involves everything from welding and riveting, painting, decking, trails access, landscaping and historical/educational exhibits. It will take some time, but the bridge will be useable during these phases. Your time and talent, organizing help or working at the site are all an important part of this process. Professional advisors will be assisting all along the way. Contact the Hancock Park District to volunteer.

The Hancock Parks Foundation Bridge Fund

Help bridge the gap! Your cash gift to the Hancock Parks Foundation is tax deductible as an IRS designated 501(c)(3) charitable foundation ID #34-1621283. Contact us for further details at:

Hancock Parks Foundation
c/o Hancock Park District
1424 East Main Cross, Findlay Ohio 45840
(419) 425-PARK (7275)
Email: hpdparks@hancockparks.com



**DONATIONS of funds, materials and
volunteers WELCOME!**