

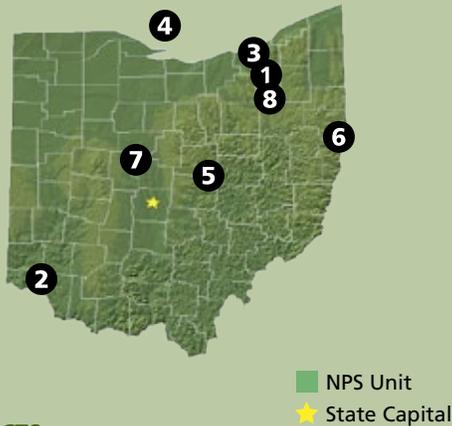


Ohio News



Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Cuyahoga River Use Strategy
2. Greater Cincinnati Regional Trails Strategy
3. Greater Cleveland Trails and Greenways
4. Lake Erie Islands Water Trails
5. Ohio Statewide Trails
6. Power of 32+ Regional Trails Strategy
7. Richwood Lake Trail
8. Southeast Summit County Trails

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Recent Successes

Connecting Trails in the Greater Cincinnati Region

Nine counties in three states of the Greater Cincinnati Region are being connected by a network of nearly 400 miles of existing trails and planning exists for over 400 additional miles!

This information was gathered at a series of stakeholder meetings held around the region in the fall of 2013. The resulting map and data was introduced at the 2014 Regional Trails Summit as a vision for the future of connected trails but also as an integral part of the Meet Me Outdoors interactive recreation website. At the summit, members of the Regional Trails Alliance attended educational and interactive sessions and were inspired by Eleanor Dunlap's presentation about the nexus of health and trails. One highlight of the day was the signing of a Resolution of Support for the Regional Trails Plan by many communities and organizations.



Resolution signed by supporters of the Regional Trails Plan.
Photo: NPS

Current Projects

1. Cuyahoga River Use Strategy

Project Partner: Cuyahoga Valley National Park
NPS Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Congressional Districts: OH - 10, OH - 11, OH - 13

Project Goal

Develop recreational use on the 20 miles of Cuyahoga River in Cuyahoga Valley National Park linking to the planned Cuyahoga River Water Trail.



Cuyahoga River use assessment, Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Photo: NPS,

NPS Role

Develop a strategy for implementation of recreation on the Cuyahoga River considering safety, programming, regulations, park messaging, education, water quality, and access points.

by developing the capacity of the Green Umbrella Regional Trails Alliance and refine the Regional Trails map. Plan a third regional trails summit to highlight the regional trails vision and progress with implementation.

NPS Contact: Rory Robinson
Location: Cleveland, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Medina, Summit and Lake Counties
Congressional Districts: OH - 9, OH - 10, OH - 11, OH - 13, OH - 17

Project Goal

Make Greater Cleveland a place of diverse and balanced transportation, recreation, and fitness options; complete the recreation and transportation-choice network by connecting the major unconnected trail pieces; create opportunities for existing or future sections to join the major network; build upon the current infrastructure of the existing road system with its current and future street treatments; and make the network accessible to persons of all socioeconomic levels.

2. Greater Cincinnati Regional Trails Strategy

Project Partner: Green Umbrella Regional Sustainability Alliance
NPS Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: OH, IN, KY
Congressional Districts: OH - 1, OH - 2, OH - 8

Project Goal

Create a connected regional trails vision for the Greater Cincinnati Area

NPS Role

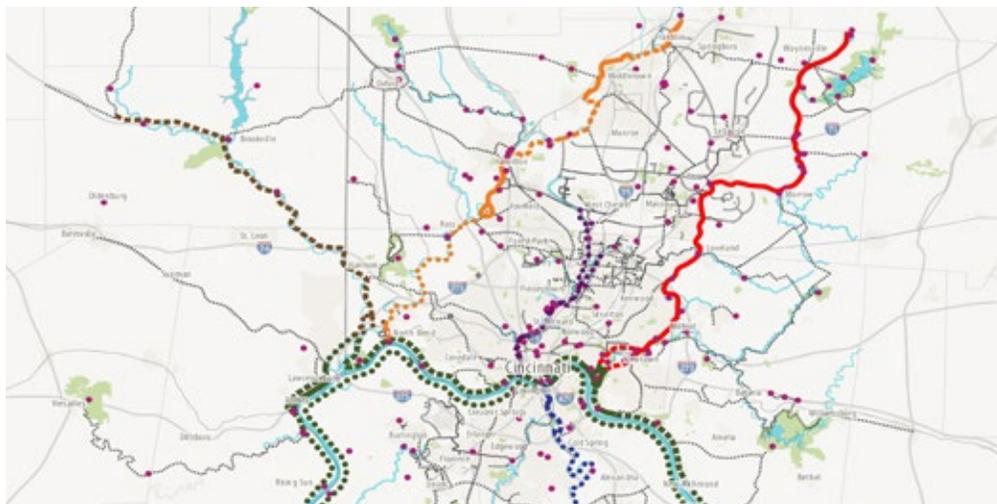
Continue to convene partners and seek support in the development of a regional trails strategy and to strengthen the Regional Trails Alliance to identify and implement an interconnected system of trails.

3. Greater Cleveland Trails and Greenways

Project Partner: Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

NPS Role

Continue the work with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and many other regional partners that was started with the Greater Cleveland Trails and Greenways Conferences in 2010, 2012, and 2014. Convene and facilitate discussions leading to the development of a regional consortium focused on trail and greenway development in the Greater Cleveland Area. Once the network is formed, continue to provide assistance as a member. Provide support for the Greater Cleveland Trails and Greenways Conference 2016.



OH-KY-IN Regional Trails Plan Photo: NPS

Current Projects

4. Lake Erie Islands Water Trails

Project Partner: Put-in-Bay Township
Park District

NPS Contact: Andrea Irland

Location: Lake Erie Islands

Congressional District: OH - 9

Project Goal

Establish well-defined water trails around Lake Erie Islands with specific access points, signage, cultural/natural interpretation, and safety information.

NPS Role

Engage the community in development of water trails around the Lake Erie Islands with special attention to safety and natural resource interpretation.

Assist with facilitation of meetings, stakeholder and public engagement, access point assessments, and creation of materials.

5. Ohio Statewide Trails

Project Partner: Ohio Trails Partnership

NPS Contact: Rory Robinson

Location: Ohio, Statewide

Congressional Districts: All

Project Goal

Develop and maintain the nation's best close-to-home, non-motorized statewide trails system through a strong partnership between land management agencies and a wide variety of trail user groups.

NPS Role

Help revitalize the Ohio Trails Partnership to be the voice for non-motorized trail opportunities throughout Ohio. Focus on increasing the partnership's recognition, acceptance, and capacity. Assist the Ohio Trails Partnership to define outreach strategies to organizations and individuals leading to strong support of trails from state and local government, regional agencies, and the private sector.



Mapping connections in the Power of 32+ Region. Photo: NPS

6. Power of 32+ Regional Trails Strategy

Project Partner: Pennsylvania Environmental Council

NPS Contact: Andrea Irland

Location: OH, WV, PA, NY, MD

Congressional Districts: OH - 6, OH - 7, OH - 11, OH - 13, OH - 14

Project Goal

Completing and connecting nearly 1,600 miles of shared use trails in a 53-county, five-state area.

NPS Role

Assist in community and stakeholder engagement, gap analysis, development of the name/brand, and community outreach/participation strategies.

7. Richwood Lake Trail

Project Partner: Richwood Civic Center

NPS Contact: Andrea Irland

Location: Richwood

Congressional District: OH - 15

Project Goal

Develop a 1-mile multipurpose trail connected to and embraced by the community.

NPS Role

Assist small community in building multipurpose path around a lake in a village park that connects schools, senior center, and downtown while realizing a host of other benefits. Lead community engagement and facilitate planning and implementation.

8. Southeast Summit County Trails

Project Partner: Western Reserve Land Conservancy

NPS Contact: Andrea Irland

Location: Summit County

Congressional District: OH - 17

Project Goal

Connect Haley's Run and Adam's Run Trails to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail and to Springfield Lake.

NPS Role

Identify and reach out to partners and community members to advance the connection of trails, develop program opportunities, and realize benefits from a connected system of trails and parks.

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



Andrea Irland
330.657.2378
andrea_irland@nps.gov



Rory Robinson
330.657.2951
rory_robinson@nps.gov



David Thomson
402.661.1570
dave_thomson@nps.gov

2014 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,278.74 Miles of Trail Developed

2,046.25 Miles of River Conserved

9,411.06 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at
www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

Work will continue on strengthening the Regional Trails Alliance to share resources and convey benefits. Further additions and ongoing refinements will be made to the map and more communities will be engaged to make these regional trail connections a reality.

Trails and Greenways: A Priority for Greater Cleveland

Recognizing the value of trails and greenways as pathways to healthy communities, decision makers, planners, practitioners, and trail advocates from around Greater Cleveland gathered in June, 2014 to share ideas, discover new tools, and set the stage to transform plans and concepts into successfully completed projects. This event included expert speakers, topic panels, and networking opportunities and hosted Mark Fenton, one of the nation's foremost authorities for walkable communities, public health issues, and the need for community, environmental, and public-policy initiatives.

The Greater Cleveland Trails & Greenways Open House Reception and Trails Recognition Showcase followed. It recognized and awarded 30 projects and programs in the region as unique and exemplary.

Trails and greenways were also recognized as a regional priority by the launch of The Greater Cleveland Trails Leadership Network in early 2014, as "a collaboration to facilitate communication, keep focus, and drive the regional trail effort raising the visibility, prioritization, funding methods and implementation of relevant actions in order to complete the recreation, transportation-choice network."

Participation includes the leadership of more "traditional" trail focused organizations such as city and county planning agencies, regional metropolitan planners, Cleveland Metroparks, and advocacy groups such as Bike Cleveland. Other participants included the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, making this a unique and inclusive organization.



Attendees at the Greater Cleveland Trails and Greenways Conference, are inspired by speaker Mark Fenton. Photo: NPS