

# 2016 Trails Showcase



**June 2, 2016**

**Brecksville Human Services Center, Brecksville, Ohio**

The Greater Cleveland Trails & Greenways Conference - Trails Showcase - is an opportunity for municipalities, non-profits, park systems and for profit enterprises to highlight their accomplishments and share “Best Practices” on the development and construction of trails, bike lanes and related facilities as well as very creative programming conducted on these facilities. Thank you to all organizations that submitted a project or program this year.

2016 marks the second formal Trails Showcase with a remarkable set of thirty-six nominations from seven counties, sixteen municipalities & neighborhoods, four park systems, nineteen non-profit organizations, and eleven for-profit organizations.

Projects include physical trails, bike lanes and special, physical features which provide for or enhance pedestrian or bicycle use.

Programs are activities or events for people which take place on trails, bike lanes and associated green spaces.

All of the nominations are outstanding. Yet, in order to highlight the most laudable and noteworthy, The GCTG Committee would like to thank the following individuals for serving on the Recognition Panel:

*Michael Christoff*, Architect, VOCON

*Bob Downing*, Reporter-Blogger, Akron Beacon Journal

*Carrie Handy*, Director of Planning and Development, City of Oberlin

*Jeff Jameyson*, Outreach Program Manager, Cleveland Clinic

*John Mitterholzer*, Senior Program Manager For The Environment, Gund Foundation

*Eric Oberg*, Director of Trail Development, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Midwest Regional Office

*Dan Rice*, Chief Executive Officer, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

*Michael Schipper*, Deputy General Manager, Engineering & Project Management, GCRTA

*Pete Snavely Jr.*, Snavely Group

*Bryan Stone*, Executive Vice President / General Counsel, Omni Development Group

Trails Showcase Committee:

*Matt Hils*, Principal, Behnke Landscape Architecture

*Elaine Price*, Principal Planner, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

*Amy Snell*, Planning Team Leader, GCRTA

*Melissa Thompson*, Active Transportation Engineer, NOACA

The Showcase was made possible with the support of the following sponsors:

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# Projects

# North Royalton

# Aukerman Park



- **Type:** Natural surface
- **Length:** ± 0.4 mile "Meadow Trail" loop; ± 2.8 acre new park from 14 acre parcel
- **Cost Acquisition:** \$219,000 (\$180,000 City of North Royalton, fee simple; \$39,000 Cleveland Metroparks, conservation easement)
- **Cost Park Improvements:** \$145,000 (\$90,000 NatureWorks/ODNR; \$55,000 Cleveland Metroparks)

County: Cuyahoga



Acquisition of Aukerman Farm occurred in 2012 through a partnership between the City of North Royalton and Cleveland Metroparks. Cost of acquisition was \$219,000, with \$180,000 coming from the City of North Royalton for fee simple title and \$39,000 from Cleveland Metroparks for a conservation easement. The land was added to the far western end of Brecksville Reservation near the York Picnic Shelter. Cleveland Metroparks also agreed to \$141,000 in improvements to the site for a new picnic shelter, restrooms, and informational kiosk, making the venture 50-50. Cleveland Metroparks subsequently applied to ODNR's NatureWorks program in Cuyahoga County to assist in this funding, and was awarded in \$90,000 in late 2014, and the Park District made up the remaining \$55,000 cost. The NatureWorks program provided funding for the pavilion, kiosk, and restrooms. Cleveland Metroparks staff installed trailhead parking and the Meadow Trail.

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# Barberton Magic Mile



- **Bike Lanes**
- **1 Mile Loop**
- **\$2,000,000**
- **Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) Connecting Communities Grant, Barberton Community Foundation, City of Barberton**

County: Summit



**BARBERTON**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Barberton is a historical suburban city with the feel of a small town community. Its fabric & residents proudly celebrate an industrial heritage while looking forward toward growth and a renewed sense of place.

The City of Barberton was founded by industrialist O.C. Barber who planned a community to support his match production facilities (later known as Diamond Match Company) in the 1890s. The town developed around the natural amenity of Lake Anna, named for Barber's daughter. Their family farm and estate, Anna Dean, was built at the higher elevation overlooking Downtown and the industrial valley, where the piggery and other farm-related buildings remain today. Barberton's rapid industrial growth can be attributed to its access by both the Ohio-Erie Canalway which opened along the banks of the Tuscarawas River in the late 1820s, and the railway system in the 1850s. Barber was able to actively attract residents and other industries to his new town and stimulate the economy so rapidly that Barberton became known as the "Magic City." The planned grid of the Downtown core remains largely intact today, with Lake Anna as it's central green space and community gathering hub.

The historic Ohio & Erie Canalway has been transformed into a 100+ mile multi-purpose trail now nationally recognized as the Towpath Trail. Extending from Lake Erie and Downtown Cleveland, the trail runs through Cuyahoga Valley National park, Akron and Canton. The trail focuses on the legacy of Northeast Ohio as an industrial center and connects with communities along the route via "last-mile" connector trails that reach out into cities and neighborhoods, linking recreation with the regions shared history. The Towpath Trail extends just east of Downtown Barberton in the Tuscarawas River Valley. Prior to receiving grant funding, the City and Foundation identified the need to capitalize on this trail asset and connect Barberton's industrial history with the story of the canalway. As an initial step, the city created a

new downtown connection with a bridge, funded by the Barberton Community Foundation, to make access to downtown viable for recreation users.

## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES GRANT

The purpose of these plans, funded by the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), focus on the concept of livability. Plans should enhance neighborhoods by improving transportation connections and promoting alternative modes of transportation like walking, biking, and transit. Grant funding was used to hire a consultant to study a general area of a community and to develop a plan containing analysis and recommendations. The City of Barberton applied for and was selected for a Connecting Communities Grant in 2013.

## INITIAL GOALS

- Uncovering Barberton's history and identity
- Encouraging a strong sense of community among Barberton's residents and businesses
- Strengthening North-South connections throughout the city's downtown core
- Determining appropriate scale and size of roadways and infrastructure
- Increasing pedestrian and bicycle safety

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Barberton Towpath Connector Trail



- **Type:** All-purpose Trail
- **Length:** 350 feet, including 120 foot bridge.
- **Cost:** \$350,000
- **Funding Sources:**
  - City of Barberton,
  - Barberton Community Foundation

City: Barberton  
County: Summit

 Environmental  
Design Group



Barberton, which evolved from a canal era town in the early nineteenth century, has actively pursued the benefits that Ohio and Erie Canalway visitors will bring to the City. This effort has gained strength because of the County's replacement of the Robinson Avenue Bridge and the segregated bike lane that spans the Tuscarawas River, CSX Railroad corridor and the Ohio and Erie Canal, all impediments to towpath connection. The connection includes a separate pedestrian bridge over the River that parallels the street bridge, trail connections to the Robinson Avenue bike lane, the Towpath, and a 24-car downtown trailhead on City land at the downtown side of the Robinson Avenue bridge.

**Jeff Kerr**

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## Black River Bikeway

**Type:** All-purpose

**Length:**  
 Built: 7.5 miles  
 Future Total: 15 miles

**Cost:** \$7M, to date

**Funding Sources:**

- Lorain County Metro Parks
- CMAQ

County: Lorain

The Black River Bikeway is an ongoing multi-decade project to provide a north-south connector between Lake Erie at Lakeside Landing in Lorain, to the North Coast Inland Trail in Elyria. Spur trails connecting adjacent neighborhoods to the North-South spine, when completed, will provide approximately 100,000 residents access to Lake Erie and the North Coast Inland Trail. A trip along the Bikeway provides an education about the past and present of Lorain County, traversing a myriad of land uses: park and greenway, steel slag field, urban commercial, and suburban residential areas.

**HISTORY:**

1. This trail began as part of a master plan completed in 1992 for the Black River Reservation, owned by the Lorain County Metro Parks. As part of the master plan, an all-purpose trail (APT) was recommended to connect day use areas at the southern end of the reservation to a new day use area at the northern end of the park. As a result, a 2.25 mile long APT was constructed along the Black River. This portion of the river has a 60' high shale wall in the middle of the park that was impassable. As a result, over 1,000 lineal feet of bridges had to be designed and built to navigate around this cliff and, appropriately, it became known as the Bridgeway Trail.
2. The Bridgeway Trail was wildly successful and quickly became well known as Lorain County's version of the more famous Towpath Trail to the east. As a result, planning soon began for extension of the trail to both the north and the south.



3. The first extension to the north was built in 2007 and became known as the Steel Mill Trail. This one-mile long extension traverses through old slag fields adjacent to the steel mills along the Black River.
4. After construction of this phase, federal CMAQ funds were sought to extend the trail to the south. The first extension connected the Bur Oak day use area to the High Meadows day use area within the Black River Reservation. This connection required another crossing of the Black River and a steep, ADA-accessible climb out of the river valley. With the use of federal funds, the APT officially became known as the Black River Bikeway, although the original two portions are still referred to as the Bridgeway Trail and the Steel Mill Trail.
5. Connections to the south remain ongoing. Two phases of construction have built approximately 2-1/2 miles of side path along urban roadways in the City of Elyria. Currently, the final 2-1/2 mile 4thlong portion through Cascade Park is under design.
6. To the north, extensions have been more challenging. Initial plans to route the bikeway through an old dump site and undeveloped industrial park have been altered due to environmental concerns. The northernmost portions are most likely to occur as sidepaths along existing roadways. These alternatives are currently intended to be studied as part of a Transportation for Livable Communities grant from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency.

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# Brunswick Lake Multi-purpose Path



- **Type:** All-purpose, paved, shared-use path with timber boardwalks, and timber abutments
- **Length:** 1.0 miles
- **Cost:** \$408,061
- **Funding Sources:**
  - Medina County Park District
  - City of Brunswick

County: Medina  
NOACA District: #3



This trail came to be through a partnership between Medina County Park District and the city of Brunswick. One best-practice method included a timber piling construction process that minimally impacted the wetlands and floodplains. The contractor drove the pilings into the earth and constructed the boardwalk one section at a time so the equipment never entered the wetland.

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# Chardon – Maple Highlands Trail



- **Type:** All-purpose Trail
- **Length:** .47 mile trail
- **Cost:** \$445,000
- **Funding Sources:**  
Federal Transportation  
Alternative Program

City: Chardon  
County: Geauga

 Environmental  
Design Group



The Maple Highlands Trail is a north-south, off-road all-purpose trail that will connect multiple communities in Geauga County. This 0.47 mile long section of the trail, extending from Fifth Avenue down to Water Street, is one of the missing links of the 12.4 mile trail system which travels through the heart of the City of Chardon. Environmental Design Group was hired by the City of Chardon to perform engineering, design and right-of-way services including design of necessary earthwork and grading, paving, drainage, erosion control, landscaping, trailheads, striping, signing and ADA accessibility.

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# Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail



- **Type:** All Purpose Trail
- **Length:** ± 1.7 miles
- **Cost (design/construction):** Phase I: \$1.7 million; Phase II: \$2.9 million; Phase III: TBD; Willow Ave. Bridge: \$2.6 million; Wendy Park Bridge: \$7 million
- **Funding Sources:** Private (TPL); TIGER (requested); State of Ohio; CMAQ (Phase III)

County: Cuyahoga

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

LAND studio



The Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail, formerly known as the Lake Link Trail, represents the implementation of the long-held desire to connect the Towpath Trail and riverfront to the lakefront. Phase I of the trail from Scranton Road to Columbus Road officially opened in August 2015, and coordination and design continues on the remaining segments, with Phase II set to go to bid in May 2016. The project is a result of collaboration between LAND studio, The Trust for Public Land, and Cleveland Metroparks, all of which have worked together to move the project forward through fundraising and grant-seeking, land assembly, and design and project management. Throughout the project, the team has dealt with the challenges and surprises of developing an urban trail within an old rail corridor, which includes construction and modification of multiple bridges, resolving encroachment issues, dealing with environmental concerns, and securing real estate interests from multiple entities.

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# Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail - Phase I

Design/Build Partnership

Cleveland Metroparks, Palmer Engineering, J.D. Williamson Const.



- All Purpose Trail in urban setting
- Phase I - 0.42 miles in length from the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail to Columbus Road
- Cost: Phase I - \$1.75 million  
Funding – Private (TPL)
- Project Development Partnership
  - Cleveland Metroparks
  - Land Studio
  - The Trust for Public Land
- Design/Build Team
  - Palmer Engineering
  - J.D. Williamson Construction

County: Cuyahoga  
City of Cleveland



The team of Palmer Engineering and J.D. Williamson Construction Company was the successful bidder for a design-build project to construct 2200' (0.42 mi.) of the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail (formerly known as the Lake Link Trail) in the City of Cleveland. Phase I of the recreational all-purpose trail extends from the existing Ohio & Erie Canal Trail on the west bank of the Cuyahoga River to Columbus Road, and is a key section of the overall 1.7 mile Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail which will ultimately connect the Ohio & Erie Canal Trail at the southern end of the Scranton Peninsula with Cleveland Metropark's Wendy Park on Whiskey Island. The Phase I alignment winds through varied topography which includes previously redeveloped parkland, industrial property and a heavily wooded area where debris had been historically dumped. Palmer Engineering coordinated extensively with multiple agencies and stakeholders including J.D. Williamson, Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Cleveland, and Industrial Flats Railroad to develop a functional, constructible and aesthetically pleasing project that met a diverse range of expectations. Phase I of the trail officially opened in August 2015 and was immediately embraced by the community and a multitude of new users. The project was made possible through the Project Development Partnership of Cleveland Metroparks, LAND studio, and The Trust for Public Land who's combined efforts enabled the project to come to fruition through diligent land acquisition efforts, fundraising, design, construction, and project management. Coordination and design on the remaining trail sections is ongoing with additional segments to be constructed soon.

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# Coe Lake Reforestation



**Type:** All-purpose, Walking, Running, Biking, Fishing —trails are dedicated for non-motorized use.

**Length:** 0.3 miles

**Cost:** \$104,000

**Funding Sources:** City of Berea

County: Cuyahoga  
(Cuyahoga District #)



Coe Lake has been Berea's hidden gem. Enhancing the area with upgraded trails for hiking and biking and adding special areas for fishing or just relaxing by the water has made this an attractive destination for people of all ages and abilities. A major part of the project was the addition of dozens of trees and hundreds of plants.

**Matt Madzy, director of planning, engineering and development,**

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# Cuyahoga Valley National Park East Rim Phase I



- First Mountain Bike Trail in CVNP
- 2.3 miles
- \$200,000.
- Funding by Knight Foundation and NPS Centennial Funding

Summit County  
Boston Heights

Spectrum Design, Alex  
Stewart

Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
Conservancy for CVNP



Patty Stevens, Capital projects Manager, conservancy for CVNP

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# Freedom Trail, Phase 1



- **Type:** All-purpose trail
- **Length:** 4.25 mile rail and trail connecting Kent with Akron through Tallmadge.
- **Cost:** \$1.7M
- **Funding Sources:** AMATS, Federal Transportation, Summit Metro Parks

City: Tallmadge/Akron  
County: Summit

 Environmental  
Design Group

 Summit  
Metro Parks

The Freedom Secondary Trail created an important link between Metro Parks and the cities of Kent and Tallmadge with the Towpath Trail and the Ohio & Erie

Canalway. The Freedom Secondary Trail, is a 4.25 multi-purpose bike and hike trail. The first phase of the Freedom Secondary Trail began at the west side of Southwest

Avenue in Tallmadge and ended at the west side of Middlebury Road in Kent. The trail is primarily built upon an abandoned railroad bed and adjacent to an inactive railroad owned by Metro Regional Transit Authority. The project required six street crossings and one bridge crossing. While most of the project utilized existing infrastructure left from the previous rail line, some conditions required special attention. Ultimately, the trail will become the missing link in a system that connects four counties, more than six metropolitan park districts, the Towpath Trail, and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

**Jeff Kerr**

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# Hampton Hills Mountain Bike Trails



## Partnership between Summit Metro Parks and the City of Akron

- New recreational amenity for residents of Summit County
- 2 of 4 phases complete.
- Cost to date: \$32,000/mile
- 4.8 miles will open in June 2016.

County: Summit



The mountain bike trails at Hampton Hills were a learning process for the park staff on how to build and maintain these types of trails. Our Board of Park Commissioners did not want to use a undisturbed natural area for the mountain bike trails, so when we went into an agreement with the City of Akron, in 2010, to provide parkland around the Hardy Road landfill the plan took off. The park district is excited about our new recreational amenity for the residents of Summit County, centrally located at Hampton Hills Metro Park in Akron and Cuyahoga Falls.

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# Lake Medina Trail



- **Type:** All-purpose trail
- **Length:** 1.6 mile around Lake Medina
- **Cost:** \$2M
- **Funding Sources:** NOACA/Federal Funding; Medina County Park District

City: Medina  
County: Medina

 Environmental  
Design Group



In the early 1960's, the City of Medina was looking for a way to supplement its water supply. A decision to create an upland reservoir was made and the development of Lake Medina began. Through the creation of a long earthen levy, the valley adjoining the west branch of the Rocky River was flooded with water pumped from the river. Three large capacity pumps located in the concrete pump house on the northern side of the lake were used daily as the City pumped water into the lake and took out water to be used for the City's water supply. Since the decommissioning of the reservoir in 2002, Lake Medina has been a hidden resource providing resident's access for hiking, fishing, canoeing, and cross-country skiing. Access was limited to a small trailhead on State Route 18.

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# Lake-to-Lakes Trail (Phase 2)



**Type:** multipurpose path  
**Length:** .6 miles  
**Cost:** \$712,000

## Funding Sources

NOACA  
ODNR  
Shaker Heights  
Cleveland Heights

County: Cuyahoga  
(Cuyahoga District 9)

Environmental  
Design Group



Clean Ohio Fund  
Environmental Fund



CLEVELAND  
HEIGHTS

SHAKER  
HEIGHTS

Phase 2 of the Lake-to-Lakes Trail included construction of a new asphalt, multi-purpose, ADA accessible path (approximately 0.6 miles in length) along Fairhill Road in Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights. The City of Cleveland completed Phase 1 construction in late 2012. The trail links the Shaker Lakes in Shaker Heights to Lake Erie with a nearly continuous off-road trail.

The trail was first conceived in 2005. Many years were spent preparing a multi-jurisdictional trail master plan and acquiring funding. After five years of grant applications, the project team achieved full funding for the Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights section of the trail in 2013. Completion of Phase 2 eliminated a missing link in the trail and created numerous regional connections.

Phase 2's cost of \$712,000 was funded by NOACA, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the City of Shaker Heights, and the City of Cleveland Heights. Planning partners included University Circle Inc., the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, Cleveland Public Art (now LAND studio), Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, Shaker Square Area Development Corporation, and the cities of Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, and Shaker Heights. The trail was designed by Environmental Design Group and constructed by F. Buddie Contracting.

**Ann Klavora**

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# Lakewood Park Promenade & Solstice Steps



- **Type:** All-purpose trail
- **Length:** 1+ mile loop trail with lower and upper promenade overlooking Lake Erie complete with terrace seating
- **Cost:** \$2.20M
- **Funding Sources:** General Funds; Clean Ohio

City: Lakewood  
County: Cuyahoga

 Environmental  
Design Group



Lakewood Park is valued as one of the few places within the city for public access to expansive views of Lake Erie. Situated on a bluff with the lake below. The park offers dramatic views of the downtown Cleveland skyline and western sunsets. The Lakewood Park Solstice Steps design sought to overcome the obstacle of access and visibility of the lakefront by the creation of stunning steps that wrap the northwest corner of the park. It connects a new upper promenade with the lower walkway through the continuation of its walkway to the elevated area of the park. Informal and formal seating is widely available throughout the structure, encouraging patrons to gaze at the beautiful lake. Environmental Design Group was hired to develop a master plan and construction documents for this part of the park to create a place to celebrate the lake and its beauty. Additionally, the firm coordinated the Rule 13 permitting and construction administration for the project.

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## Liberty Park –Maple Trail



- **Type:** All-purpose trail
- **Length:** ¼ Mile ADA accessible
- **Cost:** \$1.0M (total project)
- **Funding Sources:** Summit Metro Parks

City: Twinsburg  
County: Summit

 Environmental  
Design Group

 Summit  
Metro Parks

Sitting upon the ledges of this 2,000 acre park, the Liberty Park Nature Center will be the Summit Metro Park's newest nature center. The park includes an incredible assortment of ecosystems and wildlife habitats including vast wetlands, sandstone ledges, abundant forests and open fields. The Liberty Park Nature Center will be a satellite to the original F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm visitor center. It will provide a year-round gathering and programming space that is relaxing and rustic in feel. Additionally, the nature center will function as the trailhead for the Ledges Trail with interpretation that will tell the story of the area.

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# MEDINA COUNTY BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION ROUTE SYSTEM



- **Type** (Medina County Bicycle Transportation Route System)
- **Length** undetermined
- **Cost:** internally funded
- **Funding Sources**  
**Medina County Engineer**

County: Medina  
(

Project Consultant  
A. F. Ratajczak

Project Partner Medina County  
Engineer

N/A

Anthony Ratajczak

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## Midview Schools Walking Path



- **Type:** All purpose 8 foot wide, limestone path
- **Length:** 3,000 Ft.
- **Cost:** \$41,958.99
- **Funding Sources:** Lorain County General Health District Mini Grant

County: Lorain



The Midview School system, which consists of an elementary, middle, and high school, applied for funding through the Lorain County General Health District to construct a 3,000 foot path on the school campus. The United Way of Greater Lorain County, the Common VIEW Collaborative, and Eaton Township are all contributing partners in this project. The path was constructed for the intended use of students, teachers, staff, and residents to walk, ride, and roll. Construction began in the spring of 2015 and concluded in August. The path was created using a durable compacted limestone compound to ensure that both walkers and riders would be able to utilize the path. In 2016 the same partnership also applied for and was granted additional funding to add various amenities to the path such as hydration stations, trashcans, and signage.

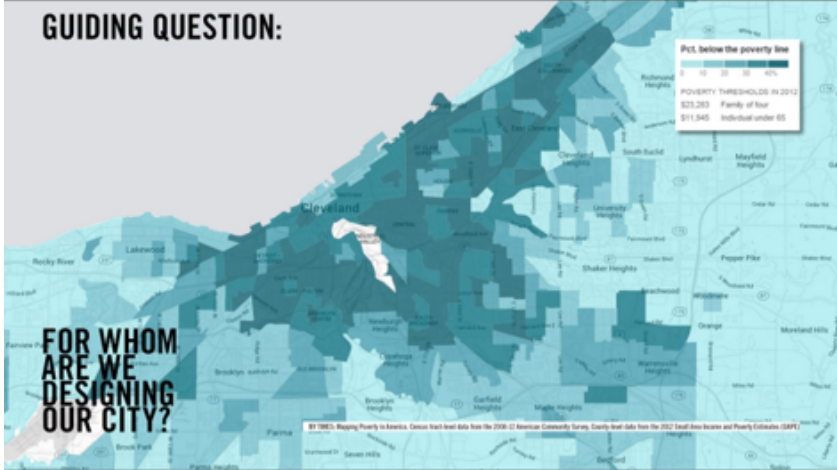
**Sara Tillie**

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# The Midway Cleveland Conceptual Planning

**GUIDING QUESTION:**



- **Type:** Separated Cycle-track Network
- **Length:** 70 - 100 miles
- **Cost:** \$ 1.5 million/mile
- **Funding Sources:** t-b-d
- **Status:** Grassroots effort resulted in Cleveland Planning Dept to pursue NOACA TLCI funding. Project received funding, and is in next phase of planning

1

County: Cuyahoga



# Niles Greenway Trail



- **Type:** All-purpose trail
- **Length:** 4 mile multi-use trail with a pedestrian bridge to cross the Little Stillwater Creek
- **Cost:** \$4M
- **Funding Sources:** Ohio Department of Transportation

City: Niles  
County: Trumbull

 Environmental  
Design Group

CITY OF *Niles*

Environmental Design Group prepared environmental, ecological and cultural studies, the environmental document, planning and bikeway construction documents for the construction of the approximately 4-mile Niles Bike Path, which was part of the Great Ohio Lake to River Greenway in Northeast Ohio. The trail was developed in the abandoned right-of-way of a CSX Rail line that passes through town and connects with the Mill Creek Park District trail segment to the south and the City of Warren's trail segment to the North.

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# Nimisila Reservoir Hike & Bike Trail



- **Type :**  
*pedestrian, bike*
- **Length**  
*1.3 miles*
- **Cost :**  
*44,173.99*
- **Funding Sources:**  
*City of Green  
Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor  
Coalition  
ODNR*

County: Summit  
(City of Green)



The impetus for this project was to create a trail circling the whole of Nimisila Reservoir to provide an unparalleled walking, running and biking experience in this stunningly beautiful setting. Phase I (S. Main Street between E. Caston & W. Nimisila Roads) was a successful collaboration between three agencies – the City of Green, Ohio & Erie Canalway and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The now-completed Phase I provides pedestrian and bike mobility, car and boat parking, scenic views and connectivity to local restaurants and neighborhoods. The Nimisila Reservoir is located in the City of Green and is part of the Portage Lakes State Park.

Over the years, ODNR engineers had identified that the overall integrity of the earthen structure of the top of the dam was threatened by large ruts and bared areas and both the dam and its auxiliary embankment. These irregularities collected surface water, allowing it to infiltrate and weaken the compacted soils beneath. The construction of the trail not only enhanced the dam's recreational value to the surrounding communities of the City of Green and the City of New Franklin, it strengthened the dam and made routine inspections easier.

**Wayne L. Wiethe, Director of Planning**

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# Panhandle Passage Trail



- **Type:** All-purpose Trail
- **Length:** 1.5 mile multi-use trail with a pedestrian bridge
- **Cost:** \$575,000
- **Funding Sources:** Ohio Department of Transportation; Recreational Trails; ARC

City: Dennison  
County: Tuscarawas



THE VILLAGE OF  
**Dennison, Ohio**  
JEFF DRYDEN MAYOR

The project is a multi-purpose trail linking the Twin Cities of Uhrichsville and Dennison along the Little Stillwater Creek Greenway, within public park lands and city street rights-of-way. It is part of the regional vision for Tuscarawas County outlined in the County's 2006 Trail and Greenspace Plan and is identified as one of its priority projects. The project is not only seen as a needed alternative for community transportation, but also the project is envisioned as an opportunity for economic growth for the two communities by expanding tourism to the Dennison Depot and the Twin Cities. A richer experience is planned for visitors that captures the early settlement of the community, its industries and people that will lead to opportunities for service businesses to flourish in the two downtowns. The project was 100% funded through grants obtained from ODOT, Recreational Trails, ARC and local and civic donations.

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# Royalview Mountain Bike Trail

## Royalview Trail Mill Stream Run Reservation



**Trail Legend & Symbols**

- Trailhead** - A trailhead is a place where a trail begins or ends. It is usually marked with a trailhead symbol.
- Trail** - A trail is a path or route that is used for hiking, biking, or other outdoor activities. It is usually marked with a trail symbol.
- Boardwalk** - A boardwalk is a path made of wooden planks that is used to cross wet or muddy areas. It is usually marked with a boardwalk symbol.
- Trailhead & Boardwalk** - A trailhead and boardwalk symbol is used to mark the beginning of a trail and a boardwalk section.

**Trailhead & Boardwalk**

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- **Type:** Mountain Bike
- **Length:** ± 9 miles in two loop trails
- **Cost (design & construction):** ~\$50,000
- **Funding Sources:** Emerald Necklace Endowment Fund and over 1,500 hours of volunteer work by Student Conservation Association and the Cleveland Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA)

County: Cuyahoga



Cleveland Metroparks opened the Royalview Mountain Bike Trail, the Park District's second dedicated mountain bike facility, in Mill Stream Run Reservation in June 2012. This unique trail was designed and constructed in partnership between Cleveland Metroparks staff and volunteers from the Student Conservation Association and the Cleveland Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA), who volunteered over 1,500 hours over the course of nine months. Construction on the narrow-track trail was done mainly by hand to minimize impacts to the environment caused by heavy equipment.

The facility consists of two mountain bike two loop trails that total about 9 miles, with an additional mile open only to hikers. Both trails are one-way for mountain bikers, and both are open to hikers in either direction. The terrain is beginner-to-intermediate-level, with gentle climbs and descents, and some roots and rocks. Sections of boardwalk were installed to promote effective drainage, and, to minimize damage during wet times, the trail is periodically closed. This practice that has proven to be successful with mountain bikers, ensuring that the trail is sustainable and useable to the community.

Sara Maier

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## Summit Metro Parks Bike & Hike Trail Critter Crossings



- **Type:** Bike & Hike Trail is an asphalt paved multi-purpose trail (land owned by First Energy with an agreement with SMP for trail)
- **Length:** 33 miles
- **Location:** Near Boston Ledges, between SR 303 & Boston Mills Road
- **Design:** In-house by Planning Staff
- **Cost:** \$18,000

County: Summit

FirstEnergy

Summit  
Metro Parks

This was a trial to provide salamanders, frogs and other amphibians an alternative route to their habitats, which were interrupted when, originally, the railroad came through and now the trail. The trail is constructed and maintained by Summit Metro Parks on land owned by First Energy. This project was an idea by our Natural Resource Department and then designed by our planning staff. The critter crossings were built in fall of 2015. Our Natural Resource Department has done observations this spring to see how effective the tunnel crossings are and they found the following: the species of salamanders that we expect to be helping directly (because their aquatic larval stages require small perennial streams) include northern dusky (*Desmognathus fuscus*), northern two-lined (*Eurycea bislineata*), long-tailed (*E longicauda*) and northern red (*Pseudotriton ruber*). Other terrestrial species that occupy the general vicinity and will likely inhabit the culverts include our common red-backed salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*) and northern slimy salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*), as well as potentially a few others.

Mark Szeremet

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# Tallmadge Meadows – Meadow Woods Trail



- **Type:** All-purpose Trail
- **Length:** 2.0 mile trail
- **Cost:** \$250,000
- **Funding Sources:** Summit Metro Parks
- In 2007, Metro Parks acquired the adjacent 287-acre former County Home property.

City: Tallmadge  
County: Summit

 Environmental  
Design Group

 Summit  
Metro Parks

Environmental Design Group provided master planning and Phase I construction documents for the newest addition to the Summit Metro Parks system. The 320-acre parcel is adjacent to Munroe Falls Metro Park and the Summit County Fairgrounds and was the site of the County's original home for the aged and indigent.

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# Programs

## All Geared Up



**2<sup>ND</sup> Annual**

**FAMILY BIKE RIDE**  
**FREE BIKE HELMETS**  
**BIKE RODEO**  
**COMMUNITY BIKE POLICE**  
**FATHER & CHILD RELAY RACE**  
**LOW COST PRE-OWNED BIKE SALE**  
**LOCAL CYCLING INFORMATION**

**AND MUCH MORE!!**  
**FUN FOR ALL AGES!!**  
**FREE AND OPEN**  
**TO ALL FAMILIES!!**

**May 14th, 2016, 9am-12pm**  
Canterbury Elementary School, 2530 Canterbury Rd., Cleveland Hts.

**REGISTER AT: [WWW.ALLGEAREDUP.INFO](http://www.allgearedup.info)** **#ALLGEAREDUP2016**

**Canterbury Elementary School, 2530 Canterbury Road, Cleveland Heights.**

**Promotes:**

- Health & fitness
- Education & safety
- Nature

**A Bike Event for Families, Community Wide. 2015 and 2016.**

County: Cuyahoga

The postcard to promote the event gives a good overview. The event is free. There is a website to register and get more information (<http://allgearedup.info/>) and a Facebook page for much more information (<https://www.facebook.com/allgearedup2015/>). Darren Carter, a Canterbury student's father, created and donated his time for much of this. Here's a link to a story about the event, with many more photos, produced by the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District: <http://www.chuh.org/AllgearedUp.aspx>



## Bike Lakewood



- **City of Lakewood**  
Bike Lakewood
- Bike Lakewood is the city's plan to establish bicycling as a main means of transportation.
- The goal is to be recognized as one of the most bicycle friendly communities in the country.
- **Year Started:** 2012

County: Cuyahoga  
(Cuyahoga District 2)



In Lakewood, biking isn't just for recreation. In fact, in this city of more than 52,000, it's a primary means of transportation.

Bike Lakewood, a long-standing resident-led advocacy group, has been a part of a comprehensive citywide effort to keep the city one of the most bike-friendly communities in the state of Ohio.

The idea for the plan started rolling in 2011 with extensive discussions, community meetings and a comprehensive bike study. A traffic count at the busy intersection of Detroit and Andrews avenues saw an "astronomical" number of pedestrians and cyclists. During one six-hour period, there were — count 'em — 1,100 pedestrians and about 300 bikes at that intersection.

Those numbers have only increased since then. And so has Bike Lakewood's increased and mobilized efforts.

The city of Lakewood has spent more than \$50,000 to support the Bike Lakewood initiative. Lakewood's Bicycle Master Plan was adopted by City Council in 2012 and has led to several significant milestones such as the installation of 16 bicycle signs and more than 50 new bicycle racks citywide, including the region's first on-street bicycle corral. Funds have also been allocated to introduce shared lane markings or "sharrows" on Detroit and Madison Avenues.

**Colin McEwen**

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## Burning River 100 Trails Fundraising



- **Partners:** Western Reserve Racing (WRR),
- **Type:** Health & fitness, nature, financial sustainability, community engagement
- **Description:** Race participants can choose to run on behalf of trails in three park districts
- **Year Started:** 2014

Cuyahoga County



Each year Western Reserve Racing (WRR) manages the Burning River 100, a trail running race through Cleveland Metroparks (CM), Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and Metro Parks serving Summit County. In 2014, WRR racing added a 50 mile race and several relay team options to grow participation.

WRR has a long history of donating back to the parks. The company decided to allow runners to fundraise for CM and CVNP. For example, 8-person relay runners raise minimum \$1600, or \$200 per runner. Individual and relay runners could choose to raise money for trails in the park system of their choice through pledges.

CM had particular success with the program. In the first year, runners raised \$1000 for CM. In 2015, Over 50 runners, including Park District employees and volunteers, chose to support CM. Over 50 people signed up as CM fundraisers. They raised \$11,000 for trails!

**Jim Christ**

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# Cleveland Metroparks Trails App



- **Cleveland Metroparks** teamed with **Southwest General Hospital**
- **Type:** Health & fitness, nature
- **Description:** A web based application providing an easy way to navigate trails and discover healthy outdoor amenities from your phone or other device.
- **Year Started:** 2013

Cuyahoga County



CM published a free "trails app" for iOS and Android mobile devices in 2015. This GPS-enabled application allows users to

locate any point of interest in our park system, such as scenic overlooks, restrooms, picnic areas, and more. It provides them with park

wayfinding assistance to navigate by car, bike, bus, or on foot. Users can also download trail maps for use offline. The CM

Ranger Department has frequently used this app in day-to-day operations and in resolving jurisdictional issues. The code for OpenDroneMap and the trails application is freely available for replication and reuse by others.

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## Cleveland Metroparks Trails Volunteer Program



- **Cleveland Metroparks**
- **Type:** Health & fitness, nature, community engagement
- **Description:** Trail volunteers build, maintain and monitor Cleveland Metroparks mountain bike trails
- **Year Started:** 2013

Cuyahoga County



Cleveland Metroparks (CM) Trails Division built a sophisticated volunteer program around the mountain bike trails in Bedford and Mill Stream Run Reservations. CM mountain bike trails are designed to minimize impact, reduce maintenance, and maximize user enjoyment. Large sections of them are built and maintained by hand. When embarking on the building of Royalview mountain bike trail, the Park District reached out at first to the mountain bike community for volunteers. But soon, trails volunteers came from the ranks of hikers, runners, and other people that just like building trails. Today over 100 registered trails volunteers help build, maintain, and monitor the two mountain bike trails.

**Kara Browning**

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# Fit Walks



- **Partners:** Lorain County General Health District, Lorain County Metro Parks, WOBL/WDLW Radio
- **Type:** Health & fitness
  - Accessibility, special needs, & socializing
- **Walking Group**
- **2011**

County: Lorain



Fit Walks is a program designed to encourage walking in several communities across Lorain County. The partners each have a role in the program. The Lorain County General Health District tracks data and outcomes, promotes through its communication channels, and engages the other partners in planning, implementation, and evaluation. The Lorain County Metro Parks open up their indoor facilities in Oberlin and Amherst so community members can walk safely during inclement weather. This is at no cost to participants. When the weather improves, the Metro Parks offer use of walking trails in Oberlin and Amherst. The radio station is a promotional partner. They advertise the walks on the radio, provide DJ personalities to attend the walks, and also provide prizes and incentives for walkers. The program started when the radio station was doing a Holiday campaign promoting sensible eating and exercise over the holidays. The momentum kept building, so they extended their campaign, and brought in partners with the Health District and the Metro Parks. At first the program featured speakers from Mercy Hospital, but soon it was evident that walkers were creating their own bonds and relationships, and preferred socializing with one another over listening to speakers.

**Erin Murphy**

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## Ohio Horseman's Council Project Partnering



### Ohio Horseman's Council, Cuyahoga County Chapter (COHC)

**Type:** Health & fitness,  
Nature

**Description:** COHC raised \$500 and offered it as a match to monies from Cleveland Metroparks Trails Fund to complete a much-needed trail repair.

**Year Started:** 2014

Cuyahoga County



Cuyahoga County Chapter of Ohio Horseman's Council (COHC) has worked tirelessly to be of support to the Cleveland Metroparks (CM) bridle trail system. This photo depicts CM trails staff on COHC member's horses. COHC invited them out to experience and understand the trails as a rider.

Since 1996 COHC has assisted CM in grading, trimming, installing signage, clearing culverts and deadfall, picking up litter, installing posts, monitoring trail conditions, and sending out notices of trail closures, openings, and other trail information to the equine world.

Raising money and donating for projects of trail repair is a top priority of the council. Through fundraising efforts from both entities, we were able to have a section of trail repaired in the Brecksville Reservation connecting this important trail to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). COHC raised \$500 and CM matched it with \$500 from the Trails Fund to fix this long-standing trail problem.

Equestrians, runners and hikers could not use the connector from Brecksville reservation to CVNP because the mud was so deep. The few trail users there were went around the mud, widening the trail and impacting natural resources.

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## Saturday Social Ride



- Ohio City Bicycle Co-op
- Type:
  - Health & fitness
  - Education & safety

The Social Ride has been part of our public programs since 2000, often utilizing our city's bike infrastructure – most recently the Towpath Centennial Trail connector which ends just across the Cuyahoga River from our facility in the Flats.

Cuyahoga County  
District 7



# Towpath Marathon



- **Canalway Partners**
  - Annual health & fitness event
- The Towpath Marathon was established in 1992 to introduce the Towpath Trail as a new recreational amenity and to promote the establishment of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area

County: Cuyahoga



The Towpath Marathon was established in 1992 to introduce the Towpath Trail as a new recreational amenity and to promote the establishment of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area.

The race serves as a showcase for the Towpath Trail, creating awareness of the trail and serving as a celebration of healthy lifestyles

**Ken Schneider**

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## City of Mayfield Heights Parks and Recreation **Trek Wars**



- **Mayfield Heights Parks and Recreation**
- **Type:**
  - Health & fitness
  - Nature
- **Individual Walking Program designed for participants to utilize Metro Parks systems and to exercise year long**
- **Year Started: 2016**

Cuyahoga County



The City of Mayfield Heights does not have any trails they can call their own. Our city does have eager people that enjoy trail walking. Most of those same people would admit to not using the trails we have in the surrounding area. Our primary initiatives were to 1. get our community, and our surrounding communities, exercising throughout the entire year (we have enticed people in our school district to use the indoor track to continue to log miles) and 2. get an influx of people into the hidden gem of Northeast Ohio, the Metro Park systems. We wanted to develop a program that would benefit our citizens as well as the Metro Parks. We wanted to develop a program that didn't limit or constrain our participants. We decided that this was going to be an individual based program. There weren't going to be any set times or group leaders. If there is a trail or landmark that you want to go to and you can fit it into your schedule, go see that landmark, go walk that trail.

While we were developing this program, it became evident that we wanted a lot of interaction, which would be difficult without a group leader. This is our first program that we are encouraging and even requesting that people communicate through posts and pictures to our Recreation Facebook page.

We wanted a program with many benefits. In addition to the obvious physical benefits of exercise, we created a scoring system in where the participant earns points for how many miles they logged, how many trails they hiked - based off suggestions from officials at each Metro Park, how many landmarks they hiked to - also based off suggestions from officials at each Metro Park, how many pictures they uploaded to our Facebook page and how many destinations they "walked" to. The participants can then convert their points into items we have available. We are working with area vendors and companies to help sponsor the program so that the quality of items that the participant can get will be worth their time and energy.

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# WOMEN OUT WALKING



- The Cleveland Heights Parks and Recreation Department developed a free new health & fitness program encouraging women to walk daily & increase the use of the beautiful City park paths.
- 12 week walking program from April 10 - July 10
- Participants received a WOW t-shirt, water bottle and pedometer.
- Dee Marsky 216-691-7372 [dmarsky@clvhts.com](mailto:dmarsky@clvhts.com) and Amy Jenkins 216-691-7379 [ajenkins@clvhts.com](mailto:ajenkins@clvhts.com)

Cuyahoga County  
District 10







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