



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

NOTICE OF A MEETING CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS STEERING COMMITTEE

REMOTE MEETING
May 14, 2025, 11:00 am– 12:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Program Alignment

Jessica Kuenzli reported that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the overall program alignment of the Central Ohio Blueways and to move forward with next steps, especially considering other concurrent programs.

Jessica mentioned that the User Experience Working Group and the Water Trail Designation Working Group were consolidated into one cohesive group called the River Ready Working Group, aiming to move forward with both user experience and water trail designation goals. MORPC staff has been working on various planning documents, including a draft project implementation guideline and a waterway hazard removal contract, but has not received as much engagement as hoped.

Jessica proposed pausing work on the Central Ohio Blueways over the Summer to better align efforts with other ongoing projects and alleviate duplication, with plans to reconvene in the Fall.

3. Central Ohio Greenways Trail Towns Update

Melinda Vonstein provided updates on the Central Ohio Greenways, including the progress made in connecting the region by trail, the ambitious vision of adding 500 miles of trails, and the launch of the Trail Towns program.

Melinda also discussed the Greenways Planning Studio, which aims to encourage bold and collaborative visions for Central Ohio, offering technical assistance to regional partners and potentially advancing water trail designation as a technical assistance offering.

Melinda reported on the recent completion of an environmental sensitivity index for Franklin County, which identifies the most environmentally sensitive areas and aims to encourage green infrastructure to protect these areas.

4. Regional Water Advisory Council Update

Edwina Teye discussed the Regional Water Advisory Council, which has been formed to provide strategic leadership on water resources planning, management, and resiliency, and to implement recommendations from the Regional Water Study.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

5. Open Floor / Q&A

Member Rayburn shared information about the City of Dublin's water recreation opportunities, including kayak launches at Amberlee Park and Riverside Drive, and plans for further improvements at Riverside Crossing Park.

6. Next Steps

Staff will

- Discuss reconvening the Steering Committee and Working Groups again in Fall.
- Evaluate the feasibility of designating local water trails within individual jurisdictions before stitching them together for cross-jurisdictional water trail opportunities.
- Email Members with an opportunity to sign up for the bike map update project and volunteer to ride the routes.

Members will email Lynn Kaufman (LKaufman@morpc.org) to become a part of the Trail Towns and/or Trail Development Working Groups.

7. Adjourn

Please notify Lynn Kaufman (lkaufman@morpc.org) to confirm your attendance for this meeting or if you require special assistance.

The next Central Ohio Blueways Steering Committee meeting will be August 13, 2024, at 10:30 am. Location is TBD; details to follow.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Hybrid Meeting

Blueways Steering Committee Meeting

May 14, 2025

Members Present

- Doug Crandall, Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries
- Zac Guthrie, City of Gahanna
- Jonathan Miller, Burgess & Niple
- J.M. Rayburn, City of Dublin
- Broc Sehen, Madison Soil & Water Conservation District
- Pamela Steck, City of Columbus
- Daniel Weis, T&M Associates

Staff Present

- Tunazzina Alam
- Morgan Fuller
- Riky Jimenez Cuduco
- Lynn Kaufman
- Jessica Kuenzli
- Edwina Teye
- Melinda Vonstein



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CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 14, 2025



AGENDA

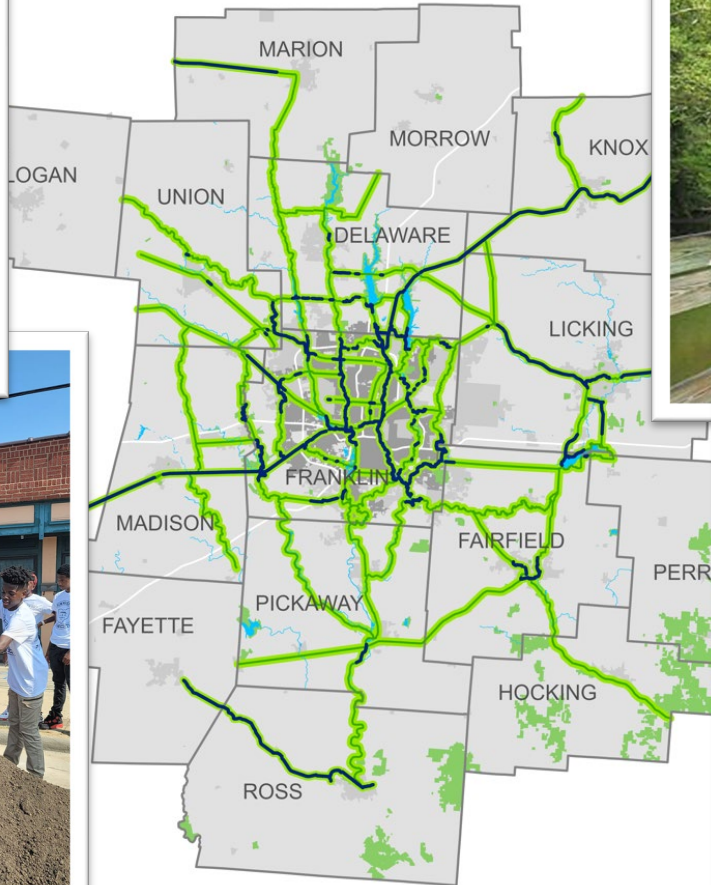
- ▲ Introductions
- ▲ Program Alignment
- ▲ COG Update
- ▲ Regional Water Advisory Council Update
- ▲ Open Floor/Q&A



PROGRAM ALIGNMENT

- ▲ **Working Groups** – Consolidated User Experience WG and Water Trail Designation WG to one cohesive group, titled “River Ready”.
- ▲ **Draft Planning Documents** – Created a draft Onion Bag Project Implementation guideline and waterway hazard removal contract.
- ▲ **Big Walnut Creek Water Trail Designation** – Reviewed designation guidelines with ODNR and added City of Obetz to Big Walnut Creek planning.

CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS – 1,000 MILES!



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TRAIL TOWNS OF CENTRAL OHIO

"Trail towns" is both an investment and an attitude. To be a trail town is to pay attention to trails, to invest in them, and make a concerted community-wide effort to improve trail-to-town connections.

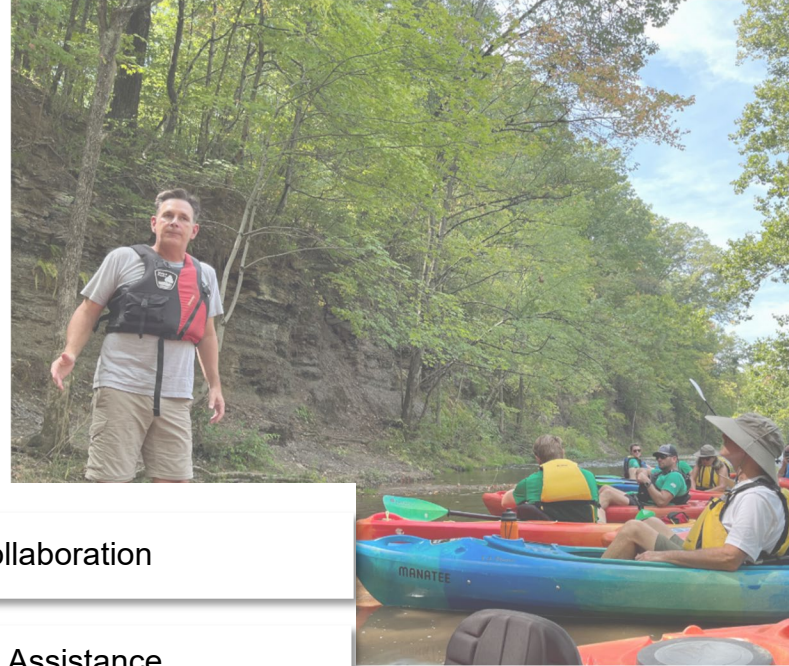


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GREENWAY PLANNING STUDIO

To inspire our communities to **boldly and collaboratively envision** a vibrant Central Ohio, seamlessly connected by accessible, safe, and welcoming greenspaces—and to develop **actionable pathways** to bring that vision to reality for all Central Ohioans.



Regional Collaboration

Technical Assistance

GIS Database Host

Greenway Studio Fellowships

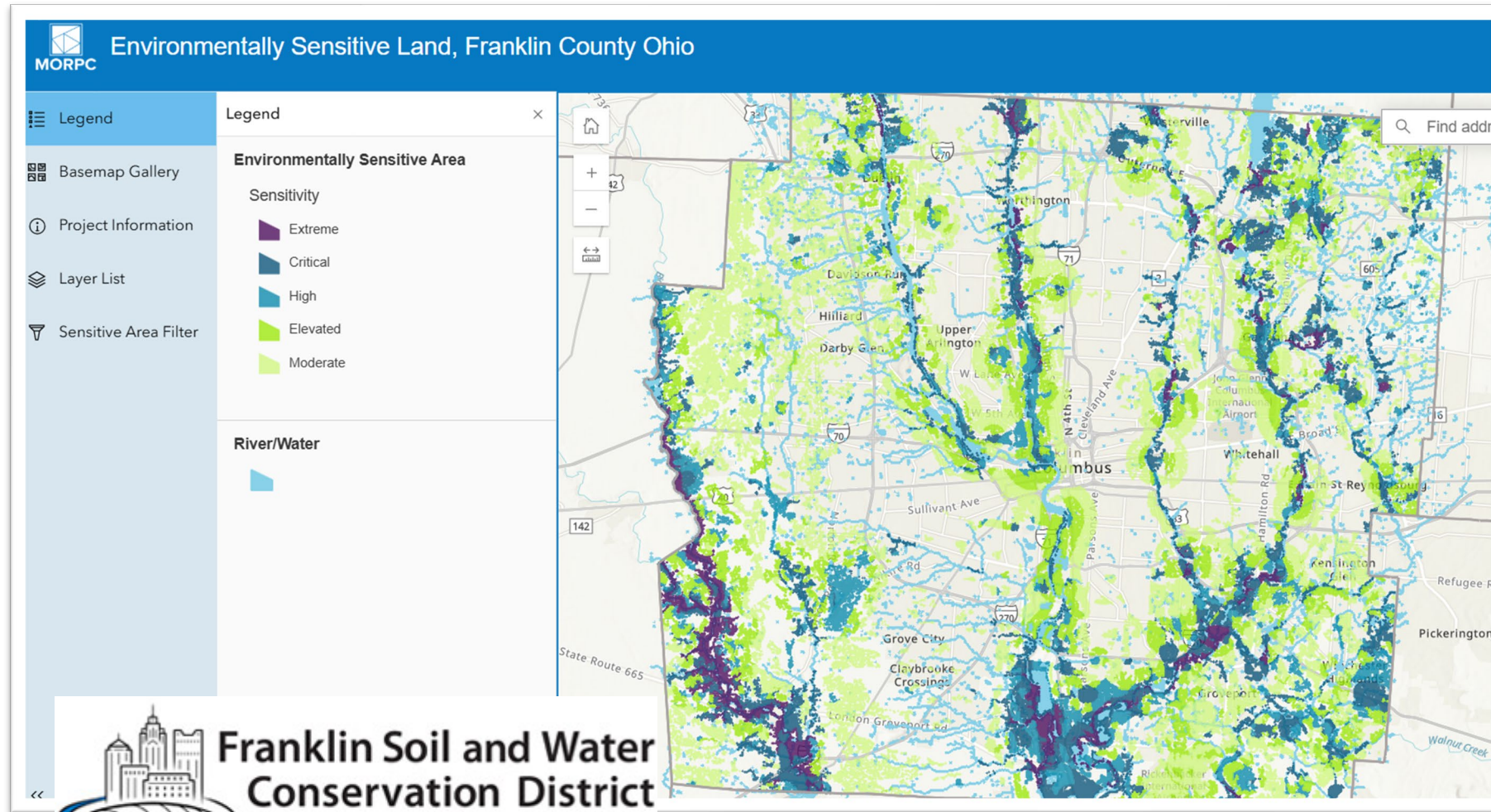
Greenways
Planning Studio

(GPS)



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ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX



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CENTRAL OHIO CYCLING GUIDE

- *Bike Level of Stress Map*
- 15-County *Trail Map*
- *A Trail Town Story Map* Template
- AI Imagery **Safety Analysis**



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REGIONAL WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE



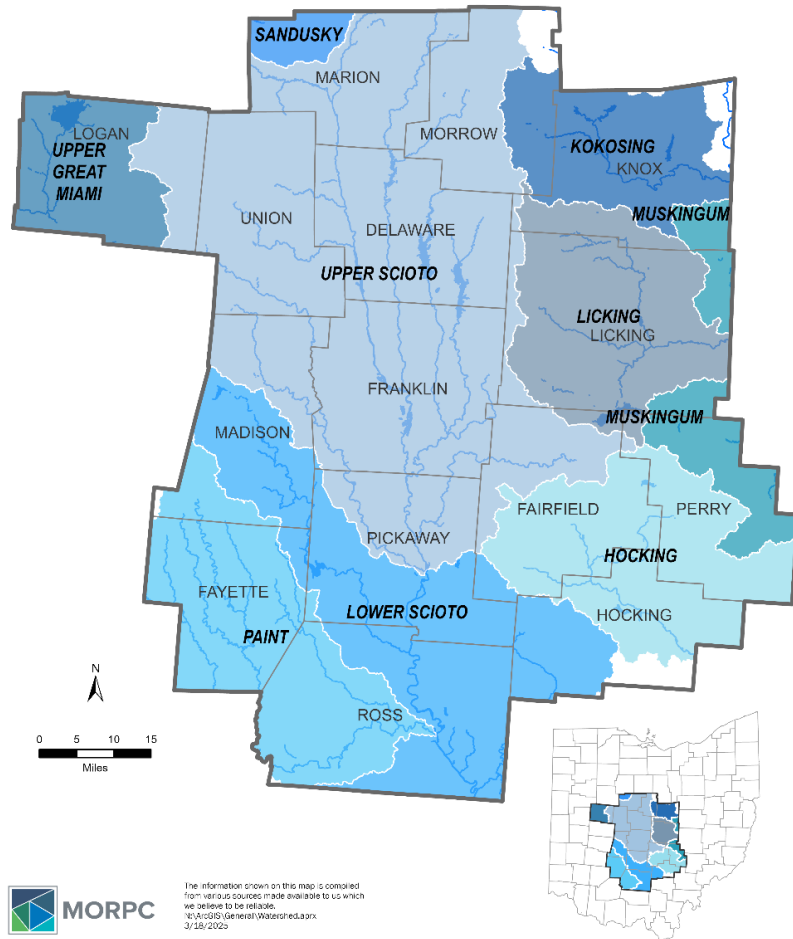
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REGIONAL WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL (RWAC)



MORPC

Central Ohio Watersheds



- Provide strategic leadership on water resources planning and management
 - water supply, water reuse, and water quality in Central Ohio.
- Serving as an implementation body on regional projects including water quality, source water protection etc.
- Long term vision is to mirror the MPO system and becoming a regulatory body.



**Do You have Any
Questions or Thoughts?**





THANK YOU

