



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

NOTICE OF A MEETING
CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS BOARD
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 Liberty St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

HYBRID MEETING
May 21, 2025, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions

MORPC Updates

Events

- **Summit on Sustainability**
Melinda Vonstein announced that the Summit on Sustainability is the region's premier sustainability conference, focusing on Central Ohio Greenways trails and waterways, with tracks dedicated to these topics throughout the day.
- **Riverfest**
The Columbus Art Festival and Riverfest will feature free kayaking downtown on June 6 - 8, 2025, with kayaking available on Sunday and water conservation activities on Saturday. Saturday's activities will include a group of young people from Columbus painting rain barrels and learning about water conservation and career paths in the water space.

Legislative Update

Kyle Probert provided an update on the state budget provision regarding eminent domain use for recreational trails. He mentioned that MORPC is opposing the language and has raised concerns with Senate leadership.

Kyle also discussed the federal budget process, highlighting the Columbus Region Coalition's endorsement of 19 community projects totaling over \$60 million. He also mentioned that MORPC representatives recently met with USDOT to discuss priorities and funding expectations.

LinkUS

Zachary Sunderland, COTA, provided an update on the LinkUS program, including the passage of the ballot initiative for a .5% sales tax dedicated to transit support infrastructure. He also mentioned the extension of COTA service to midnight and the upcoming CIP projects. The 5-year CIP from 2026 to 2030 includes 83 projects, with 40 projects beginning or being partly funded in 2026. Several projects are part of the COG network.

Attributable Funds Committee

MORPC staff provided a brief update on the Attributable Funds Committee's evaluation of criteria for ranking and processing applications. The Committee will provide input on the evaluation process in the coming months.

Regional Water Study

Edwina Teye presented the finalized Central Ohio Regional Water Study and the new Central Ohio Water Projection Dashboard. The study shows that the region has enough water to meet current and anticipated drinking water demands, but significant investments in water and wastewater

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

infrastructure will be needed. The Central Ohio Water Projection Dashboard is an interactive planning tool that helps community members and officials make informed decisions about water resource management and infrastructure.

Natural Resources Advisory Council

Edwina reported that the Clean Ohio Funds program, has funding availability for District 3 (Franklin County) and District 17 (Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, and Morrow Counties). District 3 has over \$5 million available for open space acquisition and riparian corridor enhancement. District 17 has \$2.2 million available. Preliminary Screener applications for District 3 are due on June 2, 2025, with final applications due on August 29, 2025. District 17 does not have a preliminary Screener application, and final applications are due on September 19, 2025. The Clean Ohio Funds program helps protect conservation properties in perpetuity. It is administered by OPWC, with MORPC facilitating the application and selection process for funding.

Regional Water Advisory Council

Edwina introduced the Regional Water Advisory Council, which will provide strategic leadership on water resource management in Central Ohio. The Council will serve as the implementation body for recommendations from the Central Ohio Regional Water Study. The Council has 34 Members representing academia, water and wastewater utilities, conservation, and local governments.

30 years of Bikeways – Central Ohio’s Trail Story

Melinda shared maps showing the progress of bikeway and trail development in the region over the past 30 years. The maps highlight the significant increase in bikeway miles and the success of the COG Board in building trails and sidewalks.

Working Group Updates

Trail Town Working Group

The Trail Town Working Group is working on launching a version of the Trail Towns program next year. They are drafting criteria for trail towns and identifying technical assistance offerings and member benefits.

- **Brand Book**
Member Kauffman presented the updated Trail Towns brand book, which includes edits based on input from the previous Board meeting. The branding reflects urban, rural, and suburban elements, accessibility, biking, hiking, and alignment with MORPC’s color palette.

Member Toth moved to recommend that the Trail Towns of Central Ohio Brand Book be submitted to the Sustainability Advisory Committee for review and adoption. Member Scocco seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Trail Development Working Group

- **Gateways of Regional Significance**
Melinda presented a draft definition for a Gateway of Regional Significance, which includes criteria for trailheads and amenities. The Board discussed the definition and provided feedback on the distance and accessibility requirements.
- **Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI)**
Member Scocco emphasized the importance of COG having a voice in the LinkUS TSI project selection process. She noted that in the first round of TSI projects, COG’s prior work was heavily considered, and it is hoped that that consideration continues.

Greenway Planning Studio (GPS)

Melinda provided an overview of various projects and services offered by the Greenway Planning Studio, including the Central Ohio Cycling Guide, Environmental Sensitivity Index, and partnerships with local communities for trail and park planning.

- **Central Ohio Cycling Guide**
Melinda reported that the Central Ohio Cycling Guide is an ODOT-funded project to update the ten-year-old Regional Bikeways Map. It includes refreshing the bike level of traffic stress map for Franklin and parts of Delaware Counties, and creating a 15-county Trail Map with curated, family-friendly routes. The project also features an ESRI story map template for Trail Towns and an AI-based safety analysis of biking routes in the Cities of Westerville, Bexley, and Grove City. While the printed map is outdated, the digital bikeway data remains current.
- **Mapping Natural Assets / BLOOM (Building Landscapes of Opportunity & Mitigation)**
Staff completed an Environmental Sensitivity Index to identify the most environmentally sensitive areas in Franklin County. This data is available on the COG website. Building on this, MORPC is seeking funding for a project called BLOOM, which will combine the natural asset index with a green infrastructure toolkit. The goal is to create a framework that links sensitive areas to actionable green infrastructure strategies that support conservation and sustainable development.
- **GPS Fellows**
The Greenway Planning Studio (GPS) Fellowship Program is active this year. The Fellows are working on a project with the City of Obetz to activate trails, a project for COTA to prioritize trails to transit for TSI, and a project for MORPC to develop a trail art framework. The GPS program is designed to support innovative planning efforts and foster collaboration across the region. Attendees were encouraged to connect with the Fellows as they progress through their summer projects.
- **City of Hilliard Technical Assistance**
The Greenway Planning Studio is providing technical assistance to the City of Hilliard to develop a Wayfinding & Trail Town project. This includes biking all of Hilliard's trails to inform the planning process. The project is part of a broader effort by the Greenway Planning Studio to collaborate with local governments and support community-based greenway initiatives.
- **Jerome Township Parks & Cemeteries Plan**
The Greenway Planning Studio is working on a Parks & Cemetery Plan for Jerome Township. The project is part of the studio's broader technical assistance efforts, and it was noted that the Fellow is learning a lot about cemeteries, which was described as "really fascinating."
- **Central Ohio Blueways**
The Greenway Planning Studio is working to align the Central Ohio Blueways Steering Committee with the Central Ohio Greenways initiatives.

Other Business

Adjourn

Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or LKaufman@morpc.org to confirm your attendance for this meeting or if you require special assistance.

The next Central Ohio Greenways Board Meeting will be July 16, 2025, 10:00 am.



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Hybrid Meeting

Central Ohio Greenways Board

May 21, 2025

Members Present

- Chair Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's Office
- Brad Bodenmiller, Logan Union Champaign Regional Planning Commission
- Mike Bodine, City of Marion
- Deserae Dinger, Burgess & Niple
- Jody Dzurarin, Ohio to Erie Trail
- Jonett Haberfield, Visit Fairfield County/Escape to Buckeye Lake
- Beth Hugh, Korda Nemeth Engineering
- Adrienne Joly, City of New Albany
- Dan Kaderly, Quarry Trails Metro Park
- Kari Kauffman, Experience Columbus
- Angela Mitchell, Black Women in Nature
- Eric Oberg, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- J.M. Rayburn, City of Dublin
- Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard
- Kelly Scooco, City of Columbus
- Zach Sunderland, COTA
- Chris Tavenor, Ohio Environmental Council
- Olivia Toth, Knox County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Mara Villaseca, OSU Knowlton School of Architecture

Staff Present

- Tunazzina Alam
- Lynn Kaufman
- Cheri Mansperger
- Kyle Probert
- Edwina Teye
- Melinda Vonstein



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Central Ohio Greenways Board Meeting

May 21, 2025



Mark your calendars for MORPC's upcoming events



 **June 4, 2025 - Transportation Innovation Forum: Smart Moves. Efficient Solutions**
The Ohio State University Vitria on the Square

 **June 5, 2025 - Securing Our Energy Future: Planning Energy Resilience for a High-Demand Future**
MORPC Office

 **June 6-8, 2025 - Columbus Arts Festival & Riverfest**
Downtown Riverfront

 **September 9, 2025 - Safe Streets Central Ohio Safety Forum**
Wigwam Center

 **September 30, 2025 - Summit on Sustainability: Local Roots. Lasting Impact.**
The Hilton Columbus Downtown

Visit www.morpc.org/events for more information



MORPC UPDATES

- Legislative Update
- LinkUS
- Attributable Funds Committee
- Regional Water Study
- Natural Resource Advisory Council



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

KEY PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES



State Budget – HB 96 includes language removing recreational trails from “public use” definition for eminent domain purposes. MORPC is on record opposing this change.



Congress – Language in reconciliation bill to terminate bike commute reimbursement exclusion.

19 community projects being considered for federal budget.



Infrastructure Week – MORPC visited DC for infrastructure week with NARC and AMPO; met with USDOT to outline priorities and advocate for federal funding.

CLEAN OHIO GREENSPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM



WHAT CAN THE FUNDS BE USED FOR?

- **Open Space**

- Acquisition of open space.
- Acquisition of easements.
- Construction or enhancement of facilities (parking, trails, etc.), on properties purchased with Clean Ohio funds

- **Riparian Corridors**

- Fee simple acquisition of lands to provide access to riparian corridors or watersheds.
- Acquisition of easements for the purpose of protecting and enhancing riparian corridors or watersheds.

***** Not Eligible: Acquisition of open space for “active recreation” like baseball diamonds, tennis courts, or other similar facilities.**

DISTRICT 3 – FRANKLIN COUNTY (\$5million)



**Scan QR Code for
District 3 specific info.**

**District 3/Franklin County Preliminary Screener
Application:** Due June 2, 2025

Submit to: Edwina Teye, 614-233-4233,
eteye@morpc.org

Final Application: August 29, 2025

Purpose: Acquire open space, protect and enhance
riparian corridors or wetlands

Eligible Applicants: Local governments, non-profits,
Soil & Water Districts, other political subdivisions
(park districts, etc.)

More information:
<https://publicworks.ohio.gov/districts>
for info on surrounding districts/counties

CONSERVATION FUNDS AVAILABLE – DISTRICT 3

- *Annual Allocation \$3.5million

Round	Available	Applications	
		Received	Funded
16	\$3.1 million	5	4
17	\$4.2 million	3	3
18	\$3.8 million	3	3
19	\$5.8 million	7	5
20	\$5 million	--	--

NATURAL RESOURCE ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

- Policies & selection criteria
- Approve funding awards
- 1 appointed to represent the District Integrating Committee
- 1 appointed by the local Soil & Water Conservation District
- 9 members selected from five groups:
 - Group 1 Local Governments
 - Group 2 Environmental Groups
 - Group 3 Park System
 - Group 4 Agriculture & Forestry
 - Group 5 Business, Realtors & Planning
- 3-year terms



DISTRICT 17 – \$2.2million



Scan QR Code for District 17 specific info.



District 17 Counties: Delaware, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Morrow & Pickaway

Preliminary Screener Application: N/A

Final Application: September 19, 2025

Submit to: OPWC Workwise

Purpose: Acquire open space, protect and enhance riparian corridors or wetlands

Vacant Seats: Groups 1 - 5

More information:

<https://publicworks.ohio.gov/districts>
for info on surrounding districts/counties

CONSERVATION SCHEDULE – ROUND 20

District 3

- Preliminary screener
 - Confirm eligibility
 - NRAC members ask questions and offer suggestions
 - Strongly encouraged but not required
- Final application
 - Scored by NRAC members

June 2	Preliminary Screeners Due
June 23	Applicants Presentations
August 29	Final Applications Due
September 12	Site Visits
November 13	Scoring & Voting
November 3	Final Action – Award Funds

District 17

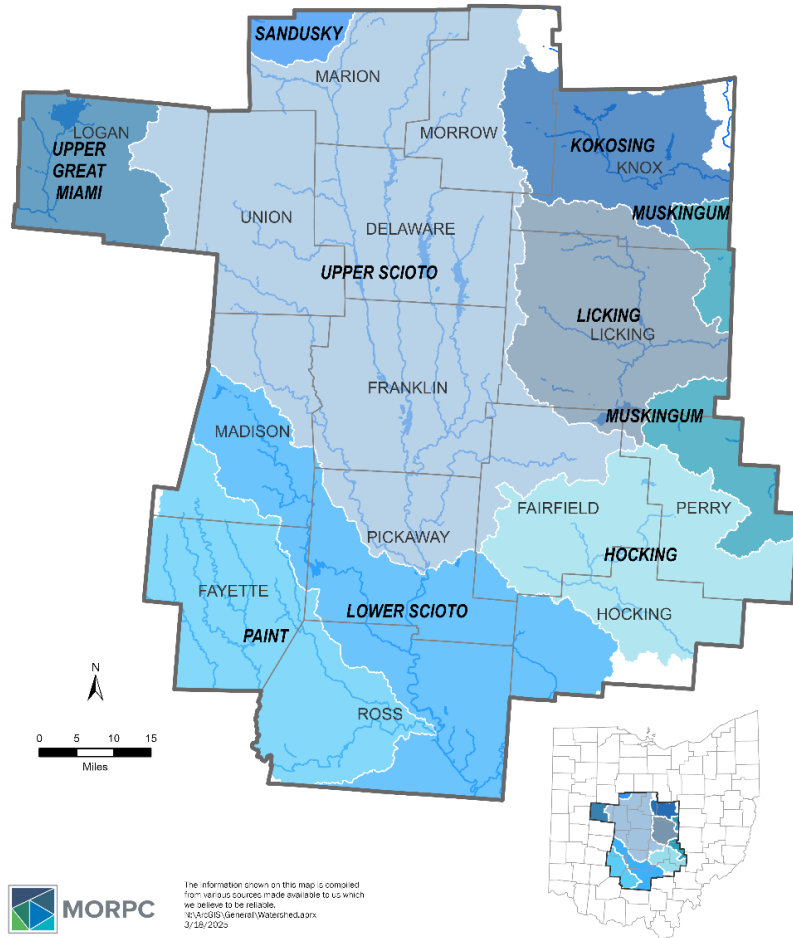
*****No Preliminary Screeners**

September 19	Final Applications Due
September 26	Applicants Notified of Missing Required Information
October 2	Submittal of Missing Information
October 10	Site Visits & Applicant Presentations
November 13	Scoring & Voting
November 3	Final Action – Award Funds

REGIONAL WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL (RWAC)



Central Ohio Watersheds



The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
12/14/2019 General Watershed.mxd
3/18/2020

- 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.

CENTRAL OHIO REGIONAL WATER STUDY



Key Findings

- Current water volumes in the 15-county region are generally sufficient to meet current and anticipated drinking water demands.
- Projected residential and economic growth may require additional infrastructure investments in water and wastewater facilities and/or the advancement of water recycling strategies.



Scan the code to access the
Central Ohio Regional Water
Projection Dashboard

SAVE THE DATE RIVERFEST 2025



MORPC



Join us at the Columbus Arts Festival for Riverfest!

Enjoy free kayaking, paddle boarding and canoeing for the entire family on a first come, first served basis.

Safety vests will be provided.

Where: Bicentennial Park

When: June 7- 8, 2025.

Time: 11am – 4 p.m.



Franklin Soil and Water
Conservation District
Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years

BetheChange
for clean water .org



COLUMBUS
WATER & POWER



EDWINA TEYE, Ph.D.

Sr. Water & Natural Resources Prog. Mgr.
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

T: 614.233.4233

eteye@morpc.org

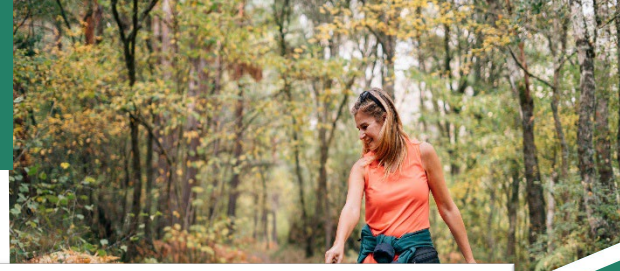
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43215



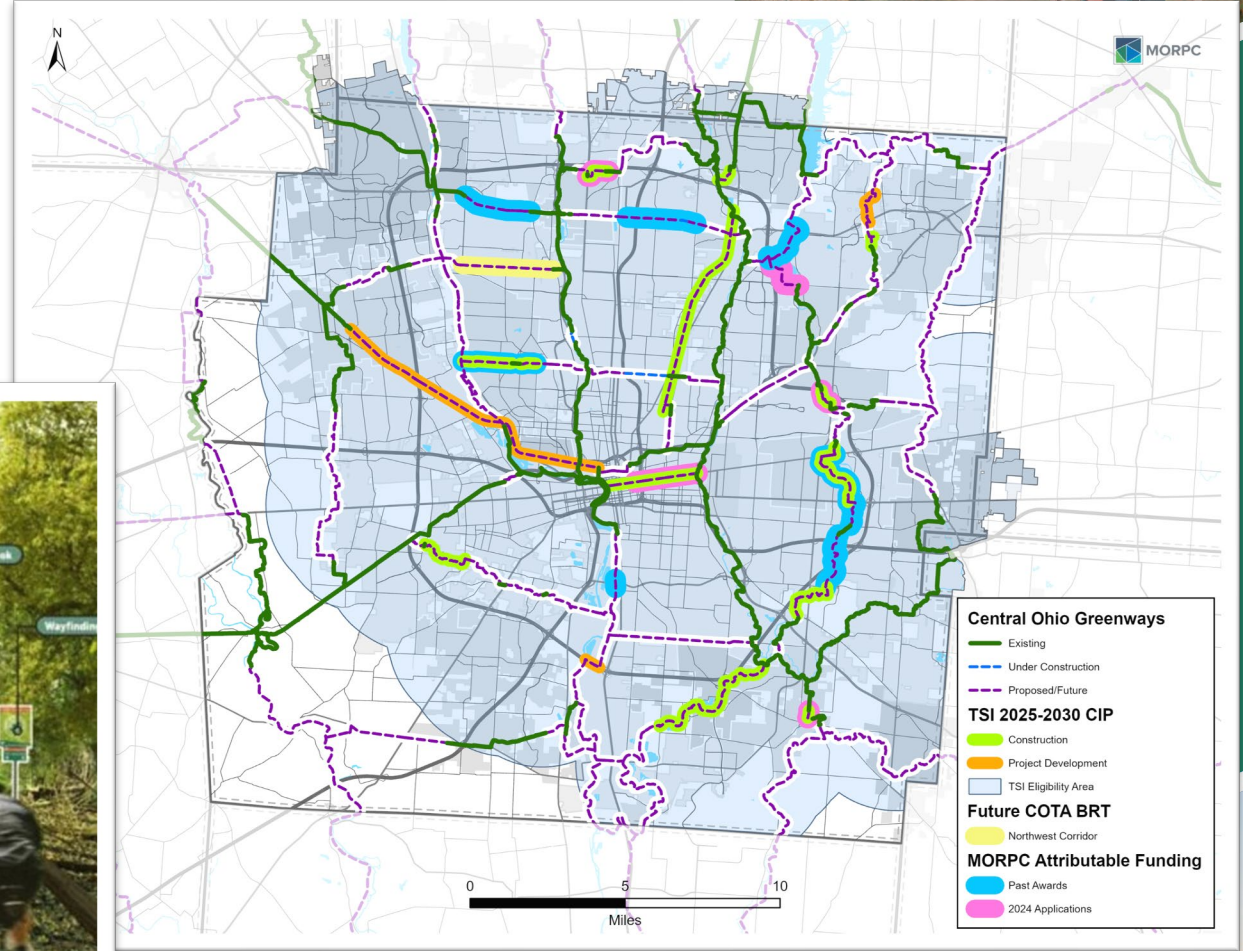
MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



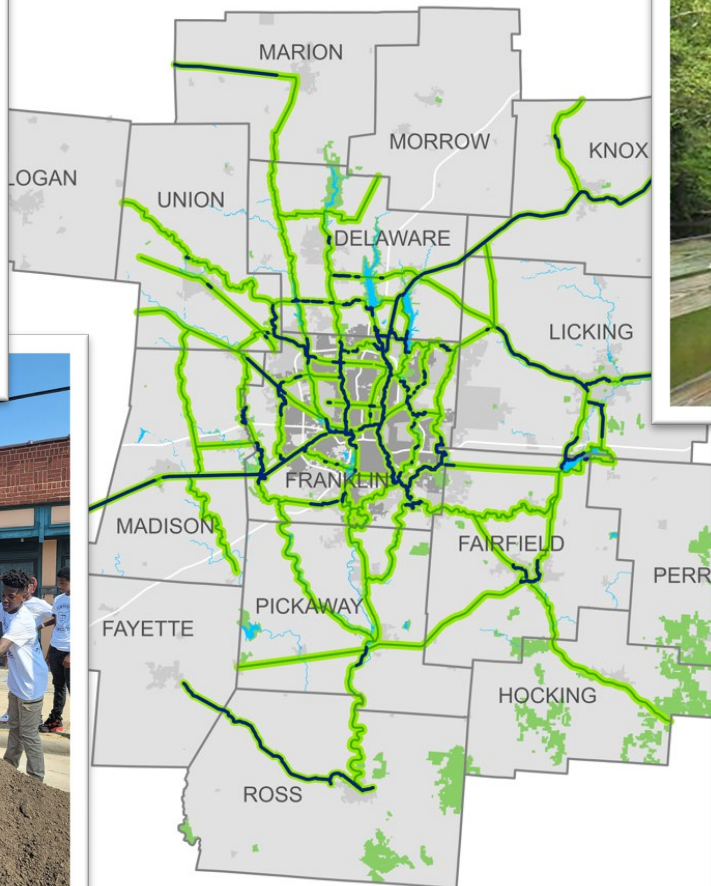
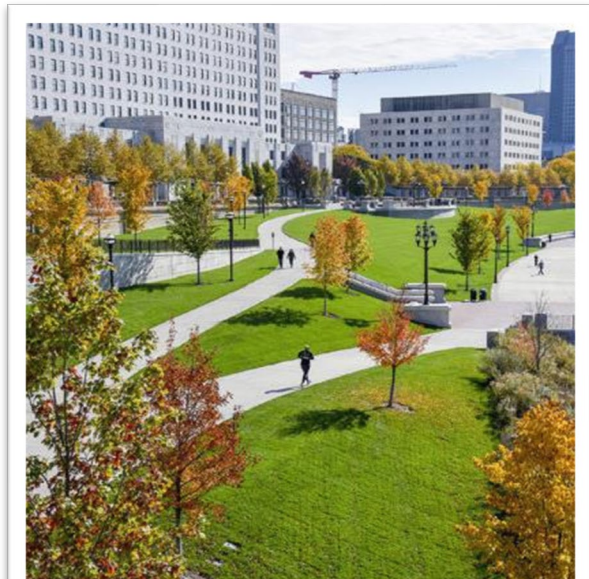
A TRANSFORMATIVE ERA



*In the next 5 years regional funding is going toward either constructing or development over a **25% of the COG Vision in much of Franklin County!***



CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS – 1000 MILES!



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



REGIONAL BIKEWAY PLAN

1994

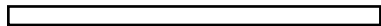
MPO BOUNDARY



PROPOSED BIKEWAYS



1994 BIKEWAYS



2024 BIKEWAYS



10X MILES ADDED

MPO BOUNDARY



PROPOSED BIKEWAYS



1994 BIKEWAYS



2024 BIKEWAYS



TO VIEW THE MAPS, SCAN THE QR CODE



GATEWAYS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

A **Gateway of Regional Significance** is a **premier trailhead** located along a **Trail of Regional Significance** that serves as the welcoming entry point into a community.

It safely connects trail users to nearby **trail towns**, activity centers, **mobility hubs**, and multimodal transportation options, including **transit**.

Gateways provide comprehensive amenities that support a **safe**, comfortable, and engaging experience—encouraging **exploration** and **inspiring** trail users of all ages and abilities.

As prominent sites for placemaking, public art, and expressions of community identity, they celebrate the unique character of each place and stand as visible symbols of local pride.

Trailheads meet the definition of a Gateway of Regional Significance if they have or are located within a safe two mile walk or bike ride from a Trail Town or Activity Center that provides all of the following amenities: amenity 1, amenity 2, amenity 3... and 80% of the following amenities: amenity 1, amenity 2, amenity 3



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



GATEWAYS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Trailheads meet the definition of a **Gateway of Regional Significance** if they have or are located within a safe - for all ages and abilities - **two mile walk or bike ride** from a Trail Town or Activity Center that provides all of the following amenities: amenity 1, amenity 2, amenity 3... and 80% of the following amenities: amenity 1, amenity 2, amenity 3

FEATURE REQUIREMENTS	ACCESS POINTS	TRAILHEAD LEVELS		
		BASIC	ENHANCED	PREMIER
Access to Streets & Roadways	✓	✓	✓	✓
Information Kiosk/Map		✓	✓	✓
Bike Parking		✓	✓	✓
Seating		✓	✓	✓
Transit Access*			✓	✓
Sidewalk Access			✓	✓
Restrooms			✓	✓
Water Access			✓	✓
Placemaking Elements				✓
Shelter(s)				✓
Facilities Staff				✓
Unique Design				✓

Traditional indoor lodging (hotel, B&B, etc.)
Private rentals (Airbnb, VRBO, etc.)
Camping
Bike rental (or bike share)
Bike shop/repair
Other businesses offering basic bike repair tools and parts
Bike repair stations (self-serve, free)
Outfitter
Restaurants
Coffee shop
Bakery
Bar/craft brewery
Grocery store
Farmers market
Pharmacy/medical facility
Library/computer/internet
Visitor or welcome center
Post office
Public restroom
ATMs
Laundry
Shuttle services
Public transportation
Taxi or car rental
Active ride share community (Lyft, Uber)
Trail souvenirs
Trail directional signage
Trail information kiosk
Bike racks
Trailhead parking



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



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.

BRAND BOOK REVIEW:

The Trail Town Working Group Presents the Final Brand Book to the COG Board for review and requests the COG Board consider making a recommendation to the MORPC Sustainability Advisory Committee to approve and adopt the brand as outline in the Brand Book.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



TRAIL TOWNS WORKING NEXT STEPS

- Finalize Criteria to be a Trail Town
- Identify Trail Town Technical Assistance Offerings and Member Benefits.



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



BRAND GUIDELINES

Central Ohio Trail Towns

LOGO VERSION 1

With Trillium
Flower



LOGOTYPE

TYPOGRAPHY

Catseye Bold/
Century Gothic

TRAIL TOWNS
OF CENTRAL OHIO

TRAIL TOWNS
OF CENTRAL OHIO

LOGOTYPE + VISUAL

TYPOGRAPHY

Catseye Bold/
Century Gothic

TRAIL TOWNS
OF CENTRAL OHIO



TRAIL TOWNS
OF CENTRAL OHIO

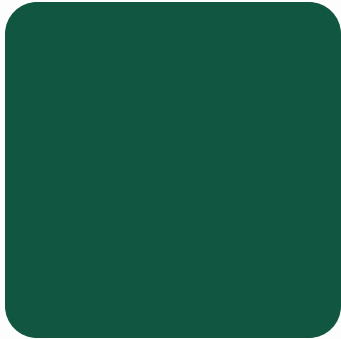
TOWN LOGO SAMPLE

WESTERVILLE



01

PRIMARY COLOR PALLETE



HEX: #115640



HEX: #5AB65F



HEX: #FBD88E



HEX: #A3E5EB

02

TYPOGRAPHY

Catseye, BOLD

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 ! @ # \$ % ^ & * ()

Century Gothic, BOLD

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

1234567890!@#\$%^&*()

Century Gothic, Regular

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

1234567890!@#\$%^&*()

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

- Identify Gateways of Regional Significance
- Develop a strategy for recommending COG priorities to the LinkUS TSI Coordinating Committee
- Recommend Updates to the State and US Bike Route Network to ODOT

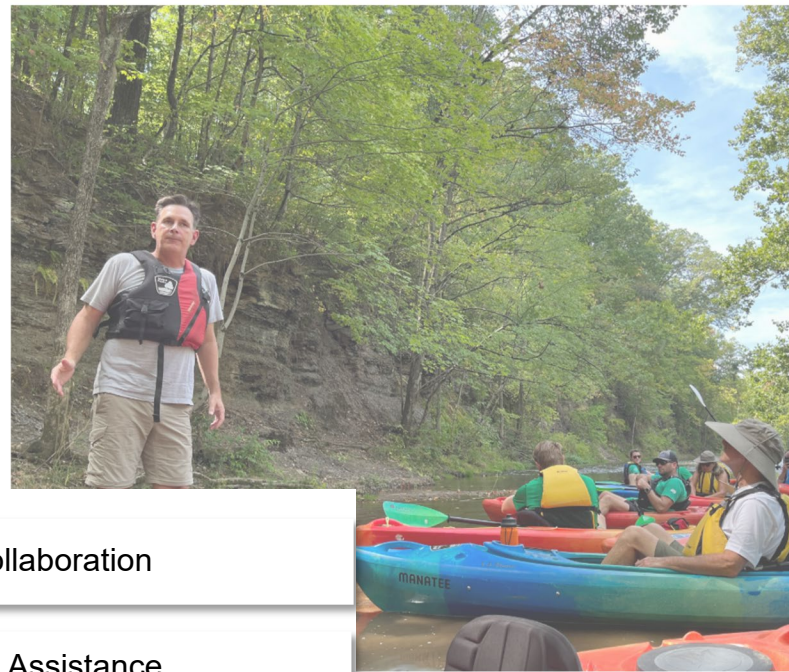


MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



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)



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



CENTRAL OHIO CYCLING GUIDE

- *Bike Level of Stress Map*
- 15-County *Trail Map*
- A *Trail Town Story Map* Template
- AI Imagery Safety Analysis
 - MORPC
 - Westerville
 - Bexley
 - Grove City

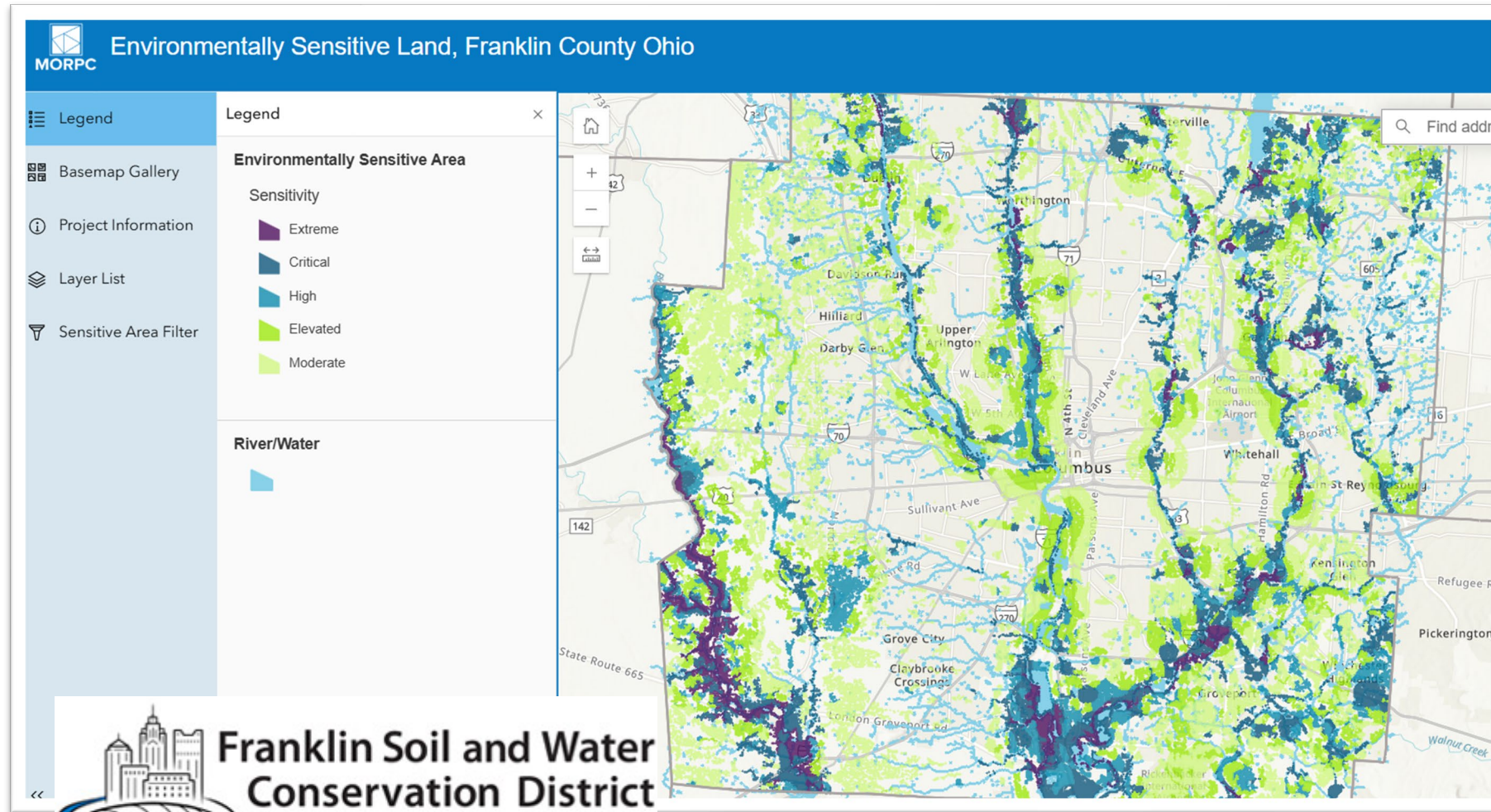
We need your help!



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



BLOOM: Building Landscape Of Opportunity & Mitigation

PURPOSE: To create a framework linking environmentally sensitive areas to green infrastructure strategies and funding. Strategies may support conservation, restoration, and mitigation to enhance water quality, access to nature, and economic development.

PHASE 1: an online resource such as a dashboard, story map, or other engaging tool to make environmentally sustainable decision making more accessible to implementation partners throughout the region

PROGRAM GOALS: Technical Assistance and Implementation Program



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



GREENWAY PLANNING STUDIO FELLOWSHIP

Central Ohio Greenways Public Art Framework

Trail Gateways & Trail Activation in Obetz

Reconnecting People, Nature & Community: A Trail-to-Transit Plan



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



City of Hilliard Technical Assistance

Wayfinding Plan – Blind Cycling Tour & Audit, wayfinding assessment & recommendations, and a signage location plan

Trail Town Framework – Leverage Cycling Guide and Trail Town framework to support Hilliard in advancing Trail Town concepts



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



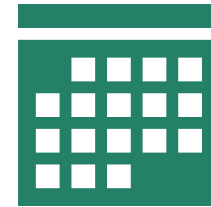
Jerome Township Park & Cemeteries Plan



- ✓ Demographic analysis
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory and condition assessment
- ✓ Public survey completed
- ✓ Stakeholder interviews completed



- ✓ **Mapping and spatial review**



- ✓ Demographic analysis
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory and condition assessment
- ✓ Public survey completed
- ✓ Stakeholder interviews completed



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



Central Ohio Blueways

Water Trail Designation

Conservation & Protection

Water Access



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



THANK YOU!

MIKE ANDRAKO, P.E.
COG BOARD CHAIR

Franklin County Engineer's Office

T. 614-525-6158
mandrake@franklincountyengineer.org

MELINDA VONSTEIN, AICP

Greenway Planning Studio Lead
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

T: 614.233.4222
mvonstein@morpc.org
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43215

