



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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morpc.org

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**NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting
+1 614-362-3056 United States, Columbus (Toll)
(888) 595-9475 United States (Toll-free)
Conference ID: 591 674 183#

April 15, 2020
2:30-3:30 p.m.

- 2:30 - 2:35 pm** **Welcome & Introductions**
Jim Schimmer, Chair
- 2:35 – 2:45 pm** **MORPC Program and Policy Updates**
Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer, MORPC
Joe Garrity, Director of Government Affairs & Strategic Initiatives, MORPC
- Sustainability Dashboard
 - Regional Sustainability Agenda
 - Energy Academy
 - Sustaining Scioto Board
 - Policy Report
- 2:45 – 3:00 pm** **Featured Projects in Response to COVID-19: Air Quality and Trail Use**
Brooke White, Sr. Air Quality Specialist, MORPC
Melinda Vonstein, Central Ohio Greenways Coordinator, MORPC
- 3:00 – 3:30 pm** **Adapting to COVID-19 and Impacts on Sustainability Work (Discussion)**
- How has COVID-19 impacted your work? What about specific impacts to Sustainability work?
 - How are you adapting? - e.g. moving events online where possible, collecting new data/research, pausing programs
 - What needs do you have? How can we support one another?
 - Are there any silver linings can we identify from this experience so far?
- 3:30 pm** **Adjourn**

PLEASE NOTIFY LYNN KAUFMAN AT LKAUFMAN@MORPC.ORG TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR IF YOU REQUEST SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Karen J. Angelou
Chair

Erik J. Janas
Vice Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Secretary

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

April 15, 2020. 2:30 pm

Members Present

Kristen Atha, AECOM
Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Kate Bartter, OSU Sustainability Institute
Robin Duffee, Violet Township
Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington
Kyle O'Keefe, SWACO
Megan O'Callaghan, City of Dublin
Aslyne Rodriguez, Empower Bus

Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard
Chair Jim Schimmer, Franklin County,
Economic Development & Planning
Alana Shockey, City of Columbus, Public
Utilities
Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
Eric Walli, Honda North America, Inc.
Joe Massey, COTA

MORPC Staff Present

Kerstin Carr	Joe Garrity	William Murdock	Melinda Vonstein	Brooke White
Jon-Paul d-Aversa	Lynn Kaufman	Edwina Teye	Brandi Whetstone	

Called to Order at 2:30 pm.

Legislative Policy Updates – Joe Garrity
Click [here](#) for the Legislative Policy Update.

Working Group Reports

Click [here](#) for all Working Group Reports.

Working Group Highlights

Sustainability Dashboard Working Group

MORPC staff continues collecting the best available data to populate the dashboard, identifying outreach opportunities for the launch, and planning for the second round of user testing. An invitation will be emailed to the members of the SAC, RDAC, and other stakeholders. The dashboard development is in the final stages, and user testing will help with fine-tuning before the public launch.

Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee

The Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee will have its kickoff meeting soon, and begin working to update the Regional Sustainability Agenda. Confirmed Sub-committee Members are:

James Mako, Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission
Jenny McAdams, Franklin County Public Health
Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington (Chair)
Kyle O'Keefe, SWACO
Basar Ozbilen, OSU City and Regional Planning
Nick Plouck, City of Dublin
Alex Slaymaker, Smart Columbus

Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
Eric Walli, Honda of North America

Energy Academy

MORPC's 2020 Energy Academy kicked off in March. There is no fee for the following classes, but advance registration is encouraged. All classes will take place 10:00 am thru 12:00 pm via webinar, and are being supported by AEP and MORPC's Local Government Energy Partnership.

Dates:

March 11	Central Ohio's Energy Landscape and Programs
June 10	Community Resilience – Equity & Health Impact of Energy
September 9	Solar Toolkit & Benchmarking
December 9	Planning for the Future & Financing

Sustaining Scioto Board

The Sustaining Scioto Board will have its kickoff meeting on April 29. Kristen Atha of AECOM will be the Chair, and she has also joined the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC). We welcome Kristen to her first SAC meeting.

Featured Projects in Response to COVID-19

Air Quality -- Brooke White

A nationwide study by Harvard's School of Public Health shows that where there is more air pollution, more people die from COVID-19. The study shows a 15% increase in deaths from COVID for every 1 ug/m³ increase in long term particulate matter exposure (17-year average). Exposure to air pollution is basically like having a pre-existing condition as it relates to COVID-19. There are differences in the severity of COVID-19 impacts based on race as it relates to air pollution as well.

Air pollution is lower under the current shut down in Italy as shown by satellites. However, air pollution is also affected by weather, which leads to a high variability from day to day. Air pollution in the United States may have been impacted as much by the weather as by the shutdown. We'll have to wait until after the pandemic for a definitive answer.

MORPC is deploying low cost Purple-Air air quality monitors in the downtown area to track the impact of the shutdown. MORPC will use the shutdown as a baseline, and then as businesses come back online, compare the levels of air pollution. Three monitors are currently deployed, on at Broad and High, Pearl and Gay, and at the Franklin Park Conservatory. More are expected to go up soon.

Trail Use -- Melinda Vonstein

There has been an increase in trail use across the country, as trail use is a source of exercise and healthy activity. In an analysis of trail counters for the week of March 16–22, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy found a nationwide trail usage increase of nearly 200% from that same week in 2019.

The surge is exciting, but careful trail use is important. Hocking Hills State Park is closed until further notice because of overcrowding. Fortunately, in our region trails are still mostly open to the public, and MORPC is encouraging trail users to use appropriate social distancing. It is important to track how trail use is changing. MORPC will be expanding the spring trail count volunteer opportunity to a four-week period during the stay at home order.

Adapting to COVID-19 and Impacts on Sustainability -- Discussion – William Murdock
MORPC staff has created a [COVID-19 Resource Hub](#) with information for local government and community leaders. MORPC is also convening twice weekly community update calls for all the levels of our membership, and staff is continually making special surveys and one-to-one calls to members. Throughout this time, MORPC staff has moved to 100% remote work. All meetings have been canceled or moved to remote. As Committee members can see, the critical work on sustainability continues.

Jim kicked off the discussion and invited members to share their experiences on how they are coping and adapting to the impacts of COVID-19. The following questions were posed to help guide the discussion:

- How has COVID-19 impacted your work? What about specific impacts to Sustainability work?
- How are you adapting? - e.g. moving events online where possible, collecting new data/research, pausing programs
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Dan Sowry shared experiences about the work they were doing to plan the next Ohio EPA conference in 2020 which will be cancelled. He talked about the need to pivot to webinar and remote opportunities. Local and state government funding concerns were also shared, as we expect that budgets will be cut. Kyle O'Keefe also commented on experiences and challenges in the solid waste and recycling industry, and the importance of continuing our waste reduction efforts.

The group decided that it was worthwhile to continue the discussion so additional dates will be offered for scheduling.

Adjourned at 3:25 pm.

The next SAC Meeting is
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 2:30 pm
Location: TBD





Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Letty Schamp)

Next meeting: May 13, 2020, 2pm

The Central Ohio Greenways Board met virtually on March 18th. New Board member Al Obayuwana with the YMCA was welcomed to the group. The Board adopted revised “Central Ohio Greenways Definitions” that clearly describe the types of trails that COG supports and the process for updating the “Regional Trail Vision”.

The Board also reviewed COG Working Group activities:

The COG Operations & Access working group is exploring the opportunity developing a micro-grid project to support trail lighting and disaster shelters in the hilltop area with support from MORPC’s Sr. Energy Planner. The group plans to begin exploring funding opportunities over the next few months.

The COG Marketing & Communications working group developed a toolkit for a series of events called the “Taste of the Trails.” The toolkit will help trail partners facilitate events to celebrate trails in their communities. Five communities have expressed interest or set dates for “Taste of the Trails” event, however some events are being canceled or postponed due to COVID-19 “Stay at Home” orders.

The COG Trail Development working group will make recommendations to update the “Regional Trail Vision” during the next board meeting. The working group is also managing two ongoing projects: Trail & Active Transportation Prioritization Study and Urban Greenways Design Guide.

The COG Partnership working group is developing a “Trail Funding Resource Guide”. The group and the Urban Land Institute has placed work related to the “Rapid 5” project on hold due to budget and fundraising concerns related to the COVID-19 situation.

Central Ohio Greenways is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation and is monitoring how trail managers in Central Ohio and across the country are dealing with social distancing and over-crowding on trails.



Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Dale Arnold)

Next meeting: May 26, 2020, 2pm

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group did not meet in March in light of the conflict with the Columbus Climate Action Workshop. The Working Group will meet again, virtually, on May 26th.

The Solar Toolkit subgroup meets virtually on the last Thursday of every month. A beta-test site of the toolkit is available for feedback. Please contact Jon-Paul d’Aversa at jpdaversa@morpc.org for information. Additional resources are in development and will be available through the toolkit as they are collected or created.

The Air Quality Sensor Network subgroup will meet virtually in April. The subgroup and stakeholders received and provided review on an Air Quality Monitoring Action Plan. The Action Plan provides for

deployment of low-cost particulate matter monitors in the downtown area during the pandemic shutdown. The monitors will remain in place as economic and transportation activity resume to quantify the impacts to air pollution. The Action Plan is currently being implemented.



Sustainable2050

Next meeting: Friday, June 26, 2020, 9:30am

Sustainable2050 members held their Q1 meeting on Friday, March 27 on the theme of Natural Resources. Our thanks to Jennifer Fish (Franklin Soil & Water), Rosalie Hendon (City of Columbus), and Melinda Vonstein (MORPC) for adapting their presentations to a virtual meeting format. The Q2 meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 26. The City of Dublin will host this meeting on the topic of Mobility.

As a reminder, MORPC aims to certify the Tier Status of all Sustainable2050 members – and grow the membership – in 2020. If your community or agency is interested in participating in Sustainable2050 or earning its Tier Status, please contact Jennifer Noll, Principal Planner, for assistance at jnoll@morpc.org.

Sustainability Dashboard Working Group (Co-chair: Justin Milam/Rick Stein)

Next meeting: April 21, 2020, 9:30am

The Sustainability Dashboard Working Group, a collaboration between MORPC's Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC), has continued meeting monthly to guide the development of a Sustainability Dashboard, with technical support from the MORPC Team and CURA at OSU.

The Team continues collecting the best available data to populate the dashboard, identifying outreach opportunities for the launch, and planning for the second round of user testing. An invitation will be emailed to the members of the SAC, RDAC, and other stakeholders identified by the team beginning April 15th. The dashboard development is in the final stages, so the user testing will help with fine-tuning before the launch expected in June.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer
April 15, 2020



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WELCOME!



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To conserve internet bandwidth for this call, please mute your microphone and turn off your video camera.

Please use the chat function to let us know if you have a comment or question.



AGENDA



1. Welcome and Introductions

2. MORPC Program and Policy Updates - *Brandi Whetstone, Joe Garrity, MORPC*

- Sustainability Dashboard
- Regional Sustainability Agenda
- Energy Academy
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3. Featured Projects in Response to COVID-19: Air Quality and Trail Use– *Brooke White, Melinda Vonstein, MORPC*

4. Adapting to COVID-19 and Impacts on Sustainability - Discussion

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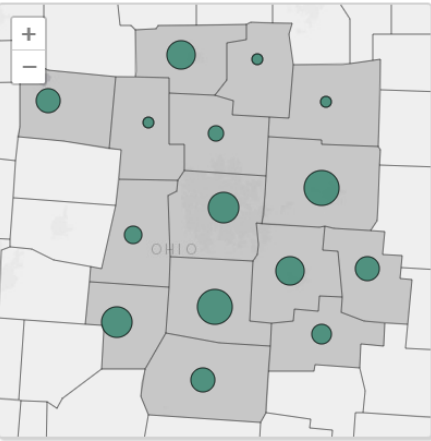


REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD



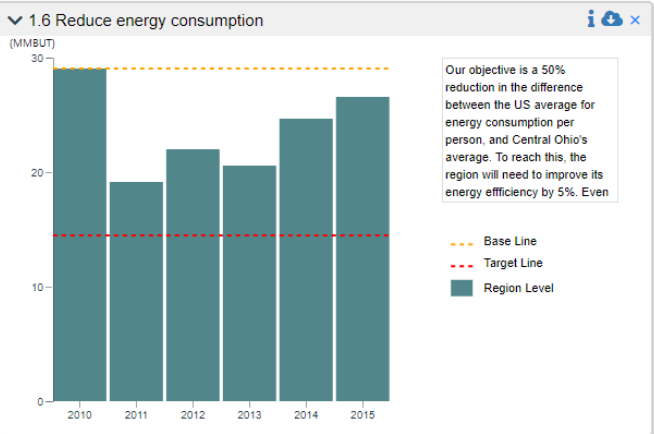
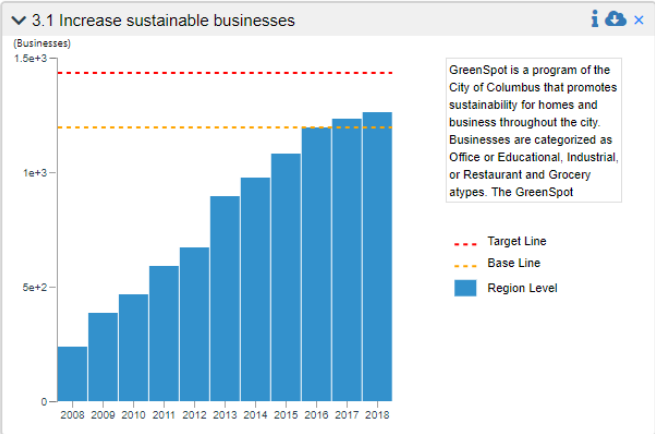
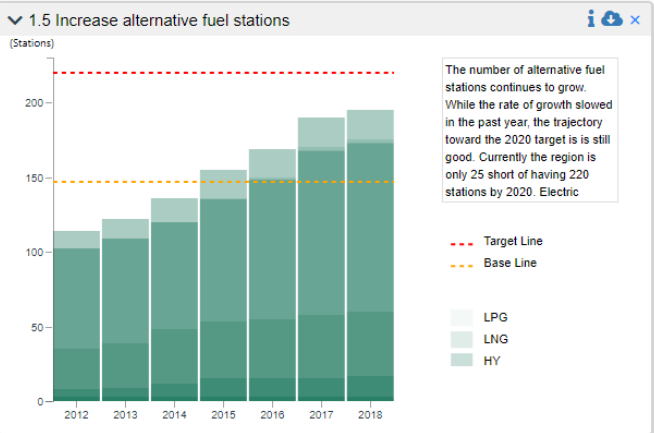
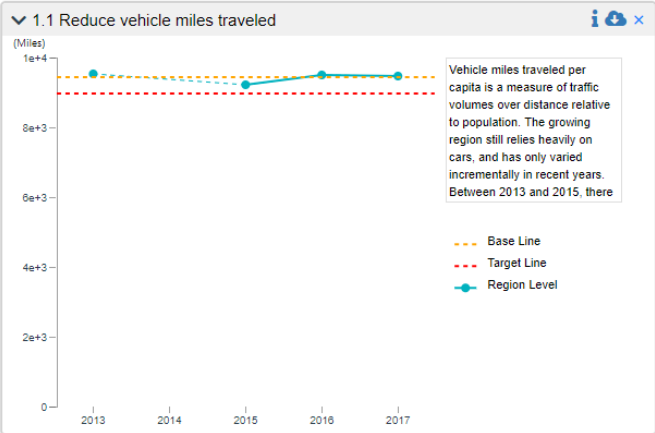
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MORPC Sustainability Dashboard



1.5 Increase alternative fuel stations

> Options





REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA



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- Jenny McAdams, Franklin County Public Health
- Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington (Chair)
- Kyle O'Keefe, SWACO
- Basar Ozbilen, OSU City and Regional Planning
- Nick Plouck, City of Dublin
- Alex Slaymaker, Smart Columbus
- Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
- Eric Walli, Honda of North America



ENERGY ACADEMY



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- CLASSES TAKE PLACE 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE

March 11	Central Ohio's Energy Landscape and Programs
June 10	Community Resilience – Equity & Health Impact of Energy
September 9	Solar Toolkit & Benchmarking
December 9	Planning for the Future & Financing

*Contact Jon-Paul d'Aversa for more
information jpdaversa@morpc.org*





POLICY REPORT



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Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission *Monthly Legislative Update*

April 2020



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COVID-19 State Update

Joseph Garrity
Director of Government Affairs
+ Strategic Initiatives
(614) 233-4127
jgarrity@morpc.org

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AIR QUALITY AND TRAIL USE DURING COVID-19

Brooke White, Sr. Air Quality Specialist

Melinda Vonstein, Central Ohio Greenways Coordinator
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AIR QUALITY

- Ozone Season March 1st - October 31st
- Air quality data collection and analysis



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Sign up for Air Quality Alerts

morpc.org/airquality

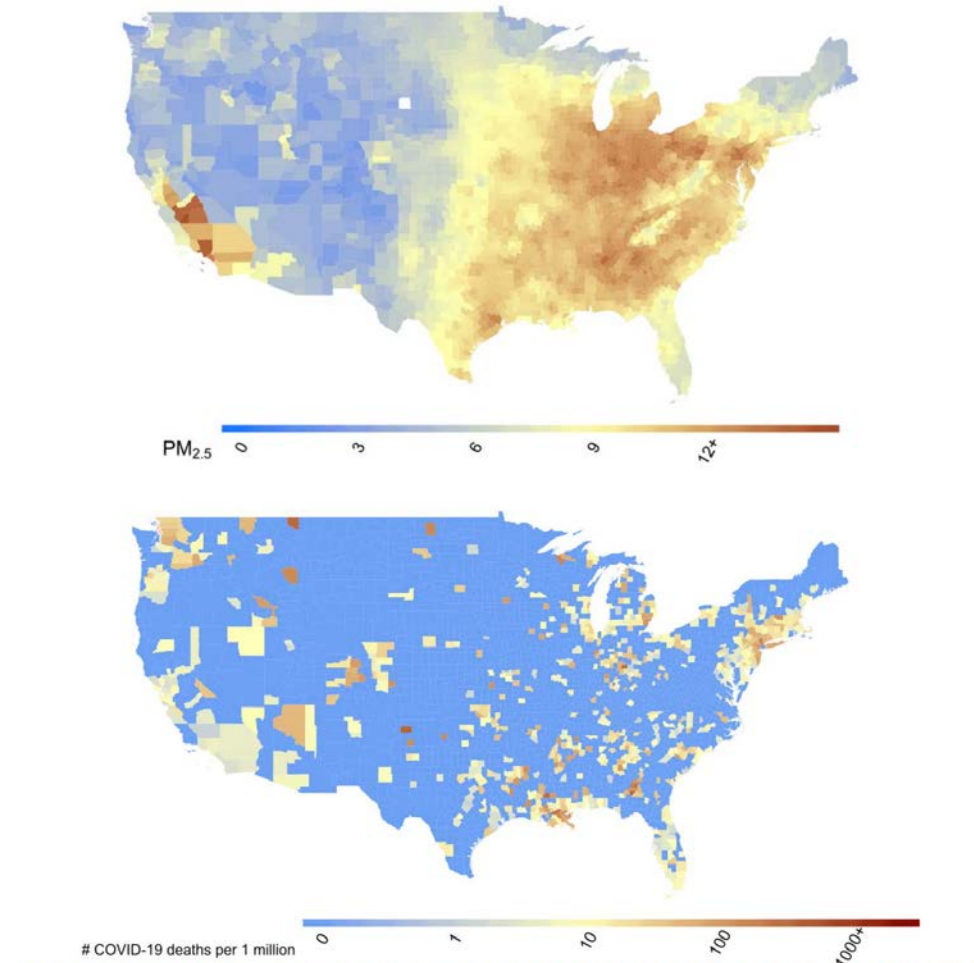




Long Term Air Pollution Exposure and COVID-19



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Pandemic Shut Down Impacts on Short Term Air Pollution

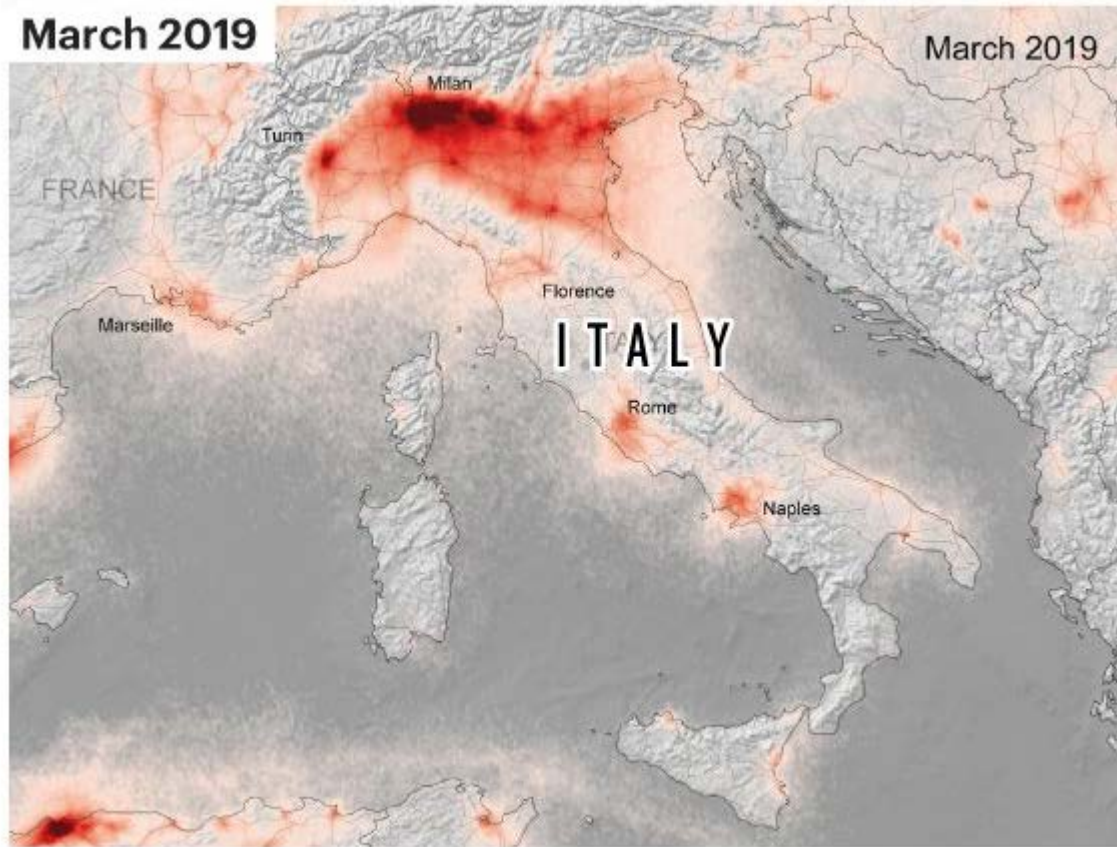
NO₂ concentration in troposphere

Low

High

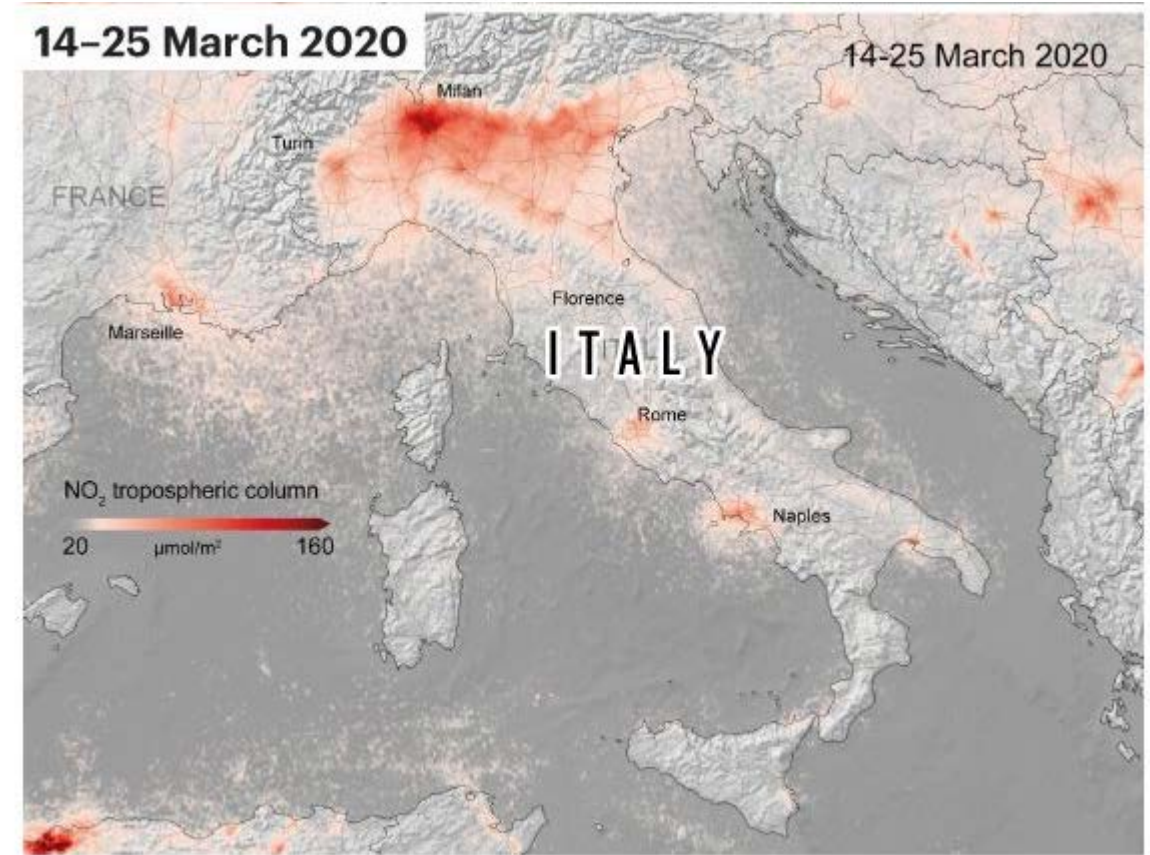
March 2019

March 2019



14-25 March 2020

14-25 March 2020

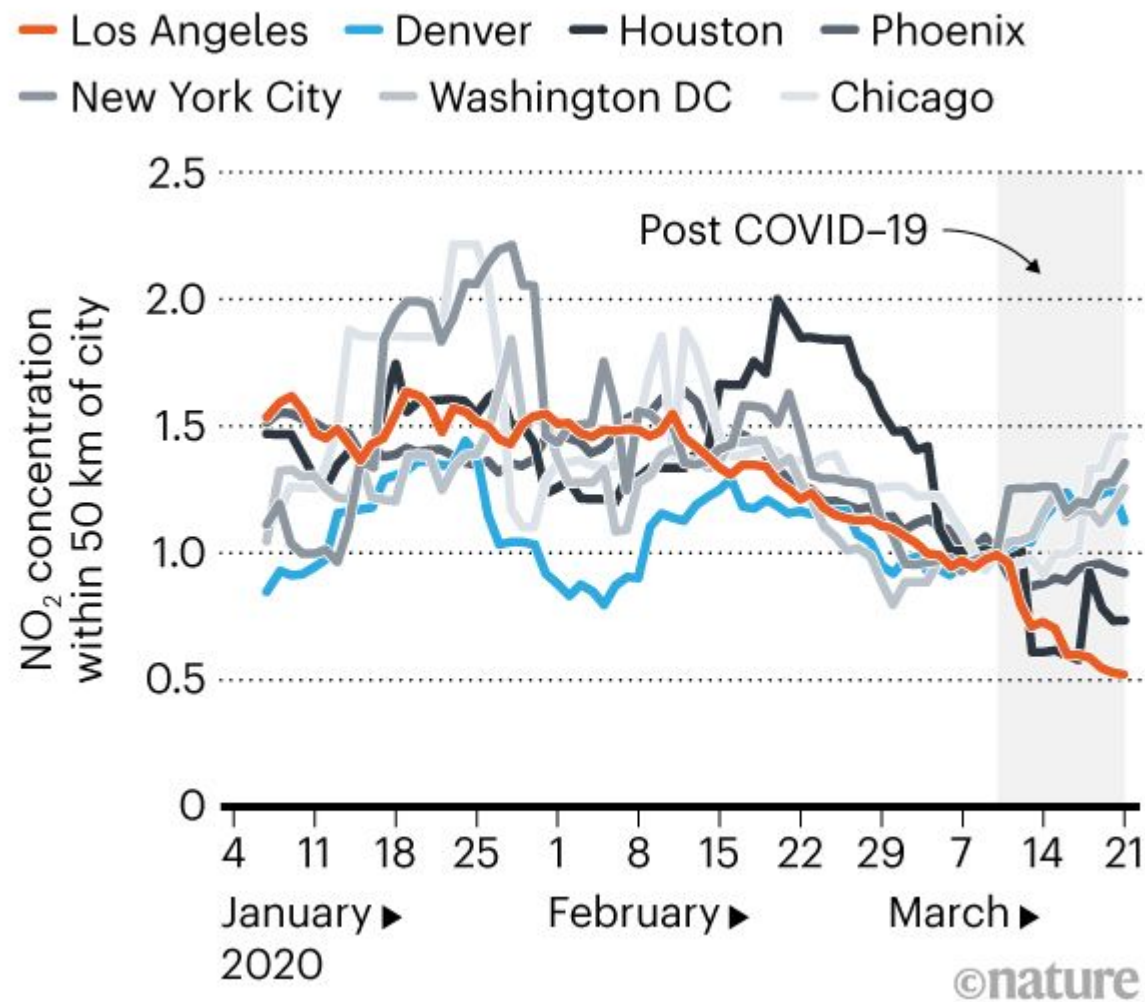




Pandemic Shut Down Impacts on Short Term Air Pollution



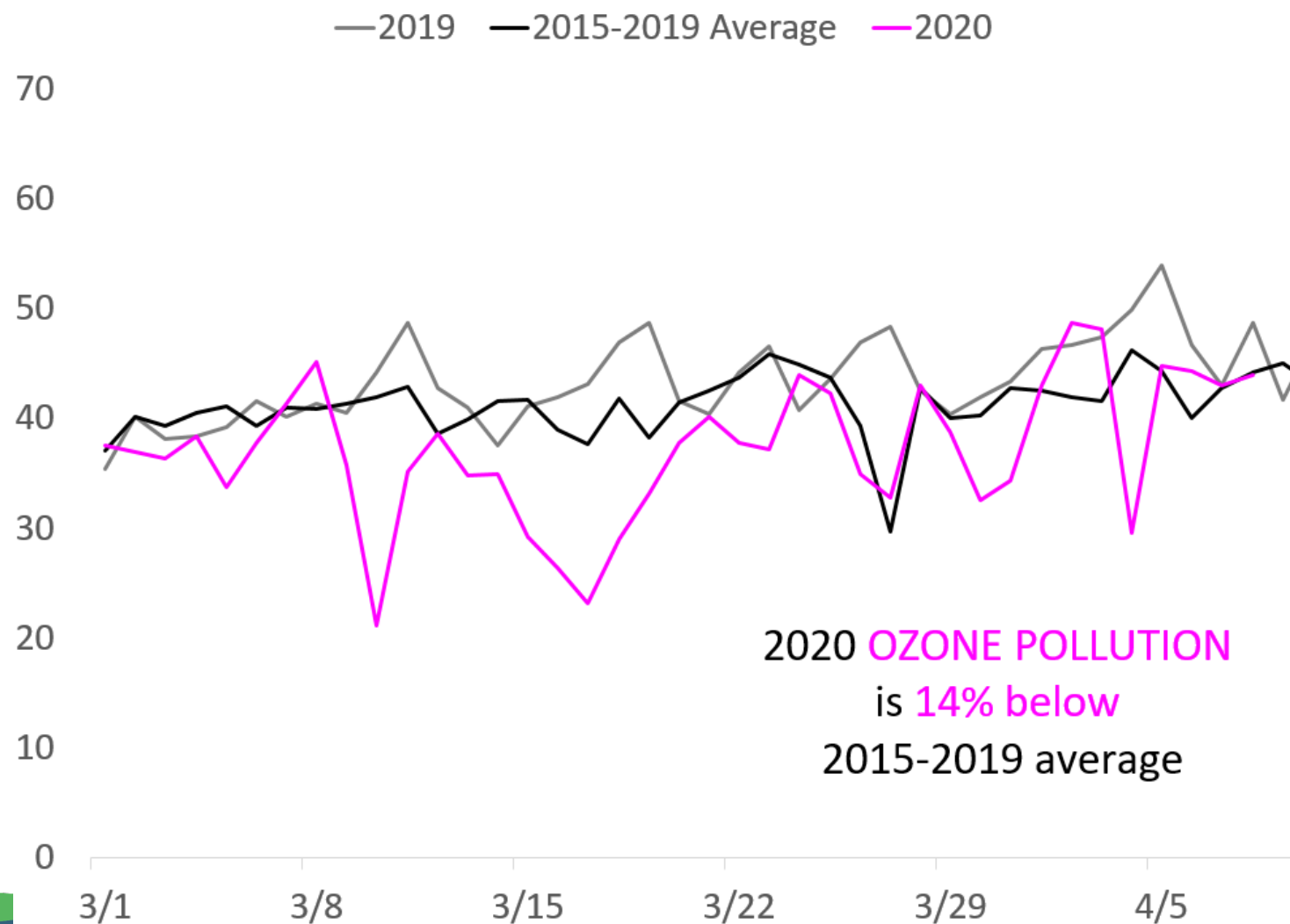
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Pandemic Shut Down Impacts on Short Term Air Pollution

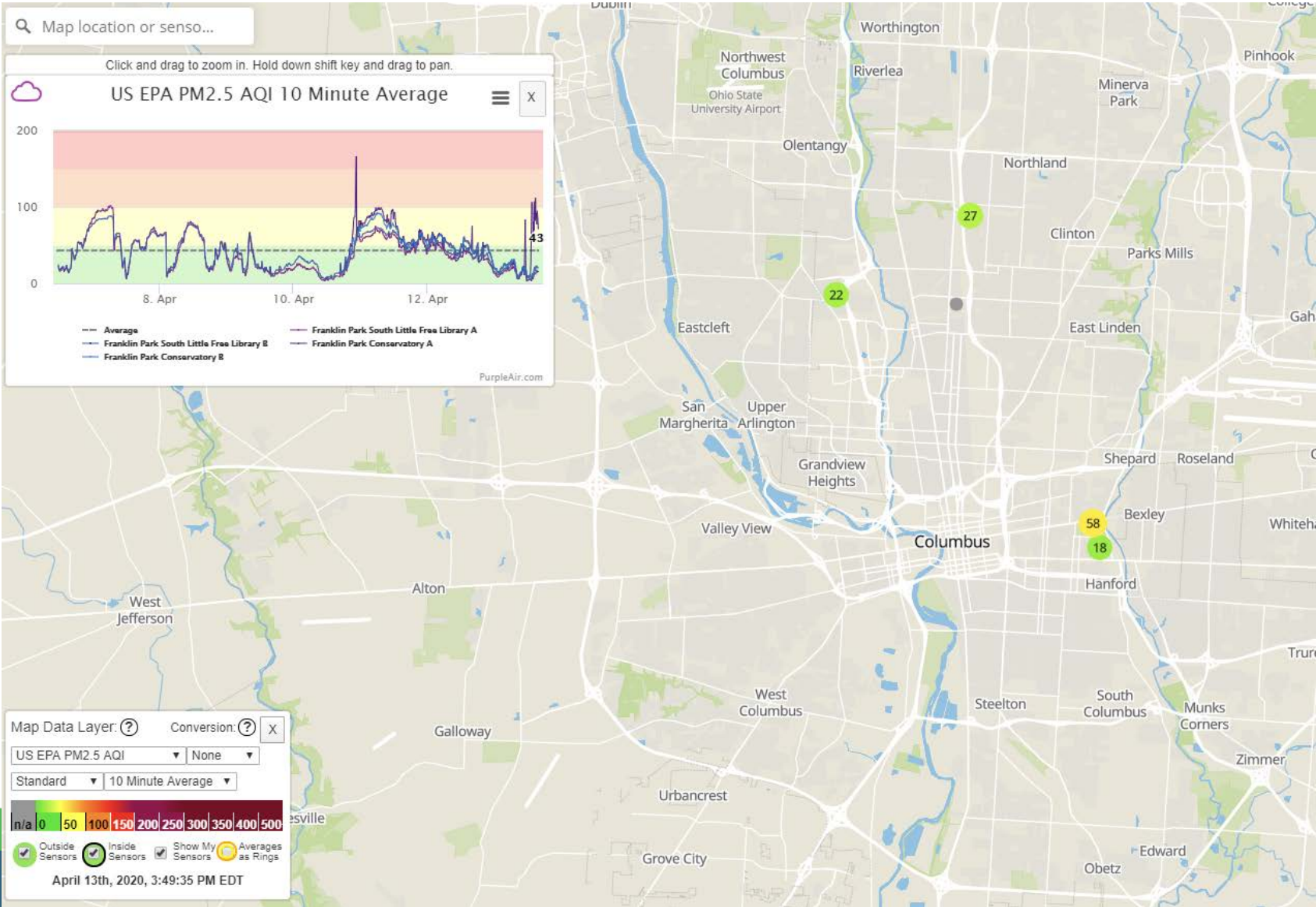




Pandemic Shut Down Impacts on Short Term Air Pollution



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CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS



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SHARE THE TRAIL

Practice Safe Social Distancing on the Trail

Before you head out, check to ensure the trail is open. Be prepared that trails may have limited services: facilities may be closed, and maintenance and security may be limited or unavailable. Find trail-manager contact info at [TrailLink.com](https://www.traillink.com). Check [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov) for the latest public-health guidance.

- ✱ On the trail, do not gather in groups.
- ✱ Keep 6 feet between you and others at all times.
- ✱ Carry water, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to further protect yourself.
- ✱ Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.
- ✱ Avoid playgrounds or other areas where groups may form.
- ✱ Leave any area where you cannot maintain a 6-foot distance.
- ✱ Do not touch your face.
- ✱ Stay home if you exhibit any symptoms of illness.

Visit railstotrails.org/COVID19 for resources and information about ways to stay healthy and well during this time of social distancing.

 rails-to-trails conservancy

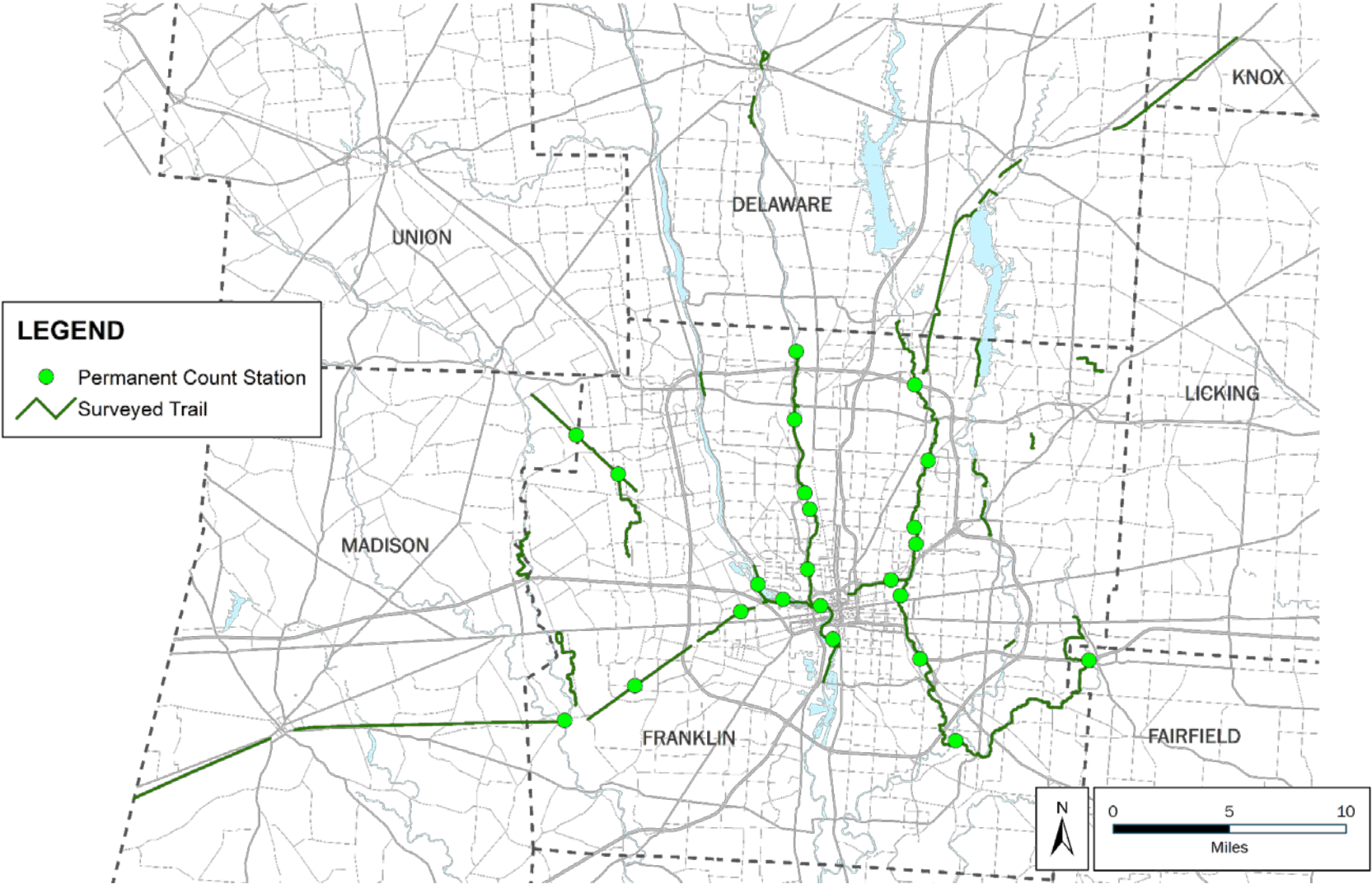




CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS



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Jim Schimmer

Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee

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Mike Compton

Vice-Chair

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