



MID-OHIO REGIONAL **MORPC** PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
morpc.org

T. 614. 228.2663
TTY. 1.800.750.0750
info@morpc.org

CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS ADVISORY PANEL MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

HYBRID MEETING

June 7, 2023, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

AGENDA

Welcome & Purpose

Jonathan Miller opened the meeting by noting a change in the agenda: the planned EMS discussion was postponed due to the absence of the Cuyahoga River Water Trail representatives. Instead, the meeting would focus on litter, woody debris, and partnership agreements. The purpose was to refine guidance and expectations for maintenance and operations within the Blueways program.

May 10, 2023, Meeting Summary

Jonathan summarized the previous meeting's outcomes, which were organized into three categories:

- **Maintenance & Operations:** Focused on access points, signage, woody debris, and EMS response.
- **Usage & Experience:** Emphasized ADA accessibility, signage clarity, and dam release information.
- **Environment & Water Quality:** Highlighted the limited direct impact of the Blueways program, suggesting a focus on education, advocacy, and grant support for conservation.

UPDATE: Mapping

Jonathan reported updates to the interactive mapping system, including a new data schema and the addition of Knox County's Kokosing River Water Trail. The updated map aims to better serve both public users and water trail designation needs.

UPDATE: Big Walnut Creek

Jonathan shared that outreach to jurisdictions along Big Walnut Creek had been positive. Meetings with several communities indicated strong interest in water trail designation. A larger stakeholder meeting is planned for July, with a draft partnership agreement expected in August.

DISCUSSION: Maintenance

Access Point Operations

Discussion centered on hours of operation, amenity repair, and general upkeep. Members agreed that:

- Hours should be determined by the access point owner/operator.
- These hours should be communicated to Blueways for inclusion in brochures and maps.
- Maintenance expectations should be flexible, recognizing varying jurisdictional capacities.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Erik J. Janas
Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall
Secretary

- A light-touch reporting mechanism (e.g., seasonal check-ins) was suggested to ensure access points remain safe and usable.

Litter

Members and staff discussed challenges in managing litter, especially between access points. Key points included:

- The importance of a reporting system for litter sightings.
- Potential use of ArcGIS crowdsourcing tools to track litter hotspots.
- Encouraging jurisdictions to participate in or promote annual river cleanups.
- Avoiding legal complications by not requiring jurisdictions to clean areas outside their property.
- The City of Columbus offered to provide cleanup supplies as an incentive.
- The “Onion Bag Project” was introduced as a sustainable litter collection method.
- Suggestions were made to map designated litter drop-off points to avoid improper disposal.

Woody Debris

Members and staff explored best practices for managing woody debris, balancing safety and ecological concerns. Key takeaways:

- Michigan’s “Clean and Open” method and Cuyahoga River’s 12-foot clearance standard were cited as models.
- Best practices should be included in the partnership agreement, but not strict requirements.
- Jurisdictions should be required to report debris, not necessarily remove it.
- Removal is costly and often complicated by property ownership and permitting.
- Scenic Rivers and other partners offered to share existing guidance.
- Members agreed that clear expectations and reporting mechanisms are essential to avoid deterring participation.

Partnership Agreements: Updated Draft

Jonathan announced that two updated drafts of the partnership agreement would be circulated:

1. A version incorporating previous feedback.
2. A streamlined version removing contentious items.

Members were asked to review both and provide feedback at the July meeting.

Wrap-Up & Next Steps

- Jonathan will send out the two draft partnership agreements for review.
- The July meeting will focus on EMS, with input from Columbus Fire Department.
- The August meeting will address access point design.
- A float trip was proposed to engage stakeholders and observe access points firsthand.

Adjourn

Please Notify Lynn Kaufman at lkaufman@morpc.org if you will not be able to attend this meeting, or if you require special assistance.

The next Central Ohio Blueways Advisory Panel Meeting will be Tuesday July 11, 2023 at 10:30 AM, and will be held as Hybrid.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Hybrid Meeting

Central Ohio Blueways Advisory Panel Meeting

June 7, 2023

Members Present

- Aryeh Alex, City of Columbus
- Tom Davis, Pickaway County Park District
- Heather Doherty Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Laura Fay, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed
- John Frye (Knox County Park District)
- Dick Lorenz, Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries
- Tatiana Parfenova, Metroparks

Staff Present

- Jonathan Miller

CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS

ADVISORY PANEL

JUNE 7, 2023



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

MARCH 8, 2023 AGENDA

- I. Welcome & Purpose
- II. May 10, 2023 Meeting Summary
- III. UPDATE: Mapping
- IV. UPDATE: Big Walnut Creek
- V. DISCUSSION: Maintenance
 - I. Litter
 - II. Woody Debris
- VI. Partnership Agreements: Updated Draft
- VII. Wrap-Up & Next Steps
- VIII. Adjourn



MORPC



MAY 10, 2023 MEETING SUMMARY

FOUR MAIN CATEGORIES

Maintenance & Operations

- Access Points
- Woody Debris
- EMS Response

Usage & Experience

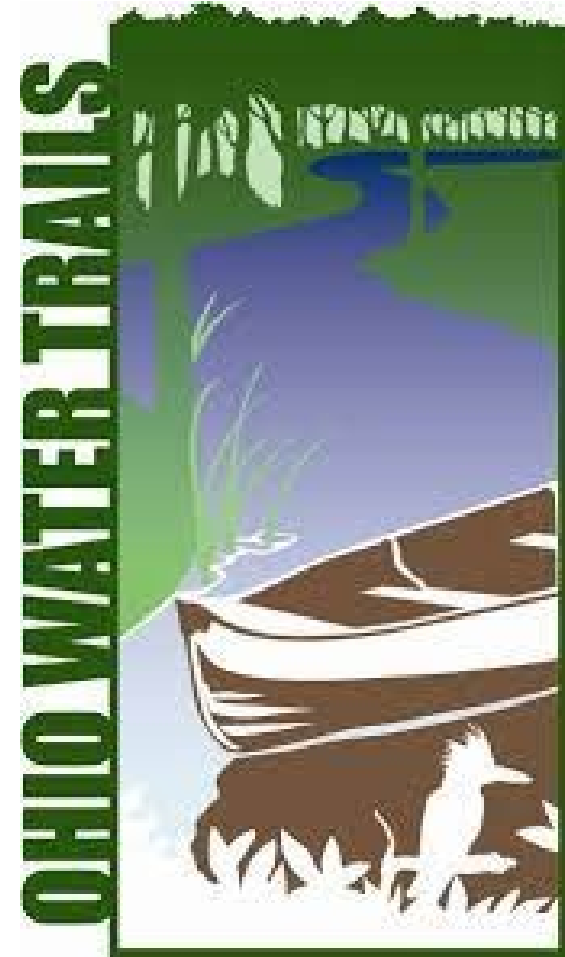
- Access Points
- Signage

Environment & Water Quality

- Education & Advocacy
- Community Assistance



MORPC



MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Access Points

Woody Debris

EMS Response



MORPC

MAINTENANCE + OPERATIONS

- Litter - "who can I call?"
 - criteria for removal e.g. logs/debris w/ major jam
 - jurisdictional oversight cities vs twps
 - Army Corps?
 - conservation agencies can help to think thru (ecological considerations)
 - Role of Water Trails: interpretive/learning experiences (signs)
 - Brochures require edu on streamers
 - criteria/process for reporting - opportunity for tech/crowd sourcing
 - Larger Park Districts have procedures in place
- capacity/needs/ differs from urban to rural ecology
- Combined Sewer Overflow - urge caution
 - need to be able to notify users (at the access point on signs + on an app for users)
- Sign maintenance will need to be part of the considerations for partners - good shape, current info
 - consistent branding/design
 - "you are here" + other wayfinding on Bridges
- EMS Response - people lost/stranded/need help
 - signs to give emergency contact info
 - app to provide em contact info, real-time river levels
- Coord Dam releases + notifications

USAGE & EXPERIENCE

Access Points

Signage

USAGE + EXPERIENCE

Signage

- ★ Standards/GUIDELINES
- ★ PLACEMENT
 - BRIDGE - FCEO+ODOT
- COG
- FUNDING for Signage
 - ODNK

Access Points

- ★ Design GUIDELINES
 - ADA
 - PLACEMENT
 - PARKING
 - MIN. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
 - CRUSHED STONE
 - CONSIDER USE
- Sell the benefit to the community
 - ✓ sug. for net benefit
 - ADD TREE canopy
 - ADD MORE CONSERVATION



MORPC

ENVIRONMENT & WATER QUALITY

Education & Advocacy

Community Assistance



MORPC

ENVIRONMENT + WATER QUALITY

Impact riparian corridor

ADA accessible parking lots
im perviousness
unless roll-off

due diligence in guiding design + implementation
check out TASC

limited tree cutting
more people → more litter - "onion bag project"

Safe Water Quality - e.g. E. coli
who samples e.coli for Rec safety
Does CRPD check reservoirs?

Containers for litters

parking @ inlets + outlets?
or liveries - Westerville - shuttle
or pedal + paddle
metroparks-guided tours

dams + portages

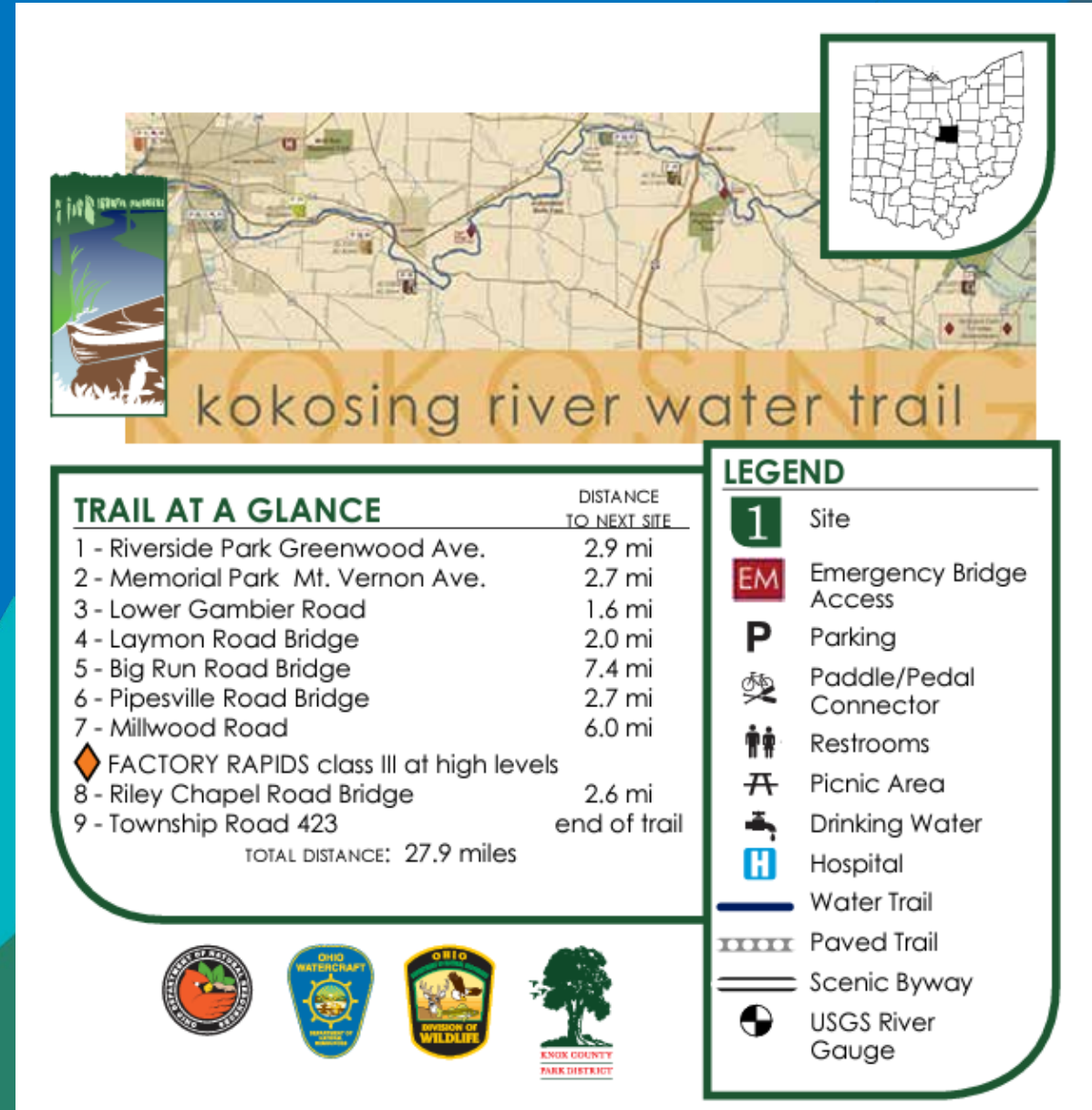
UPDATE: MAPPING

NEW SCHEMA CREATED

- Pending Data Transfer & Updates

NEW INCLUSIONS: KNOX COUNTY

- Kokosing River Water Trail



UPDATE: BIG WALNUT CREEK

INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSIONS

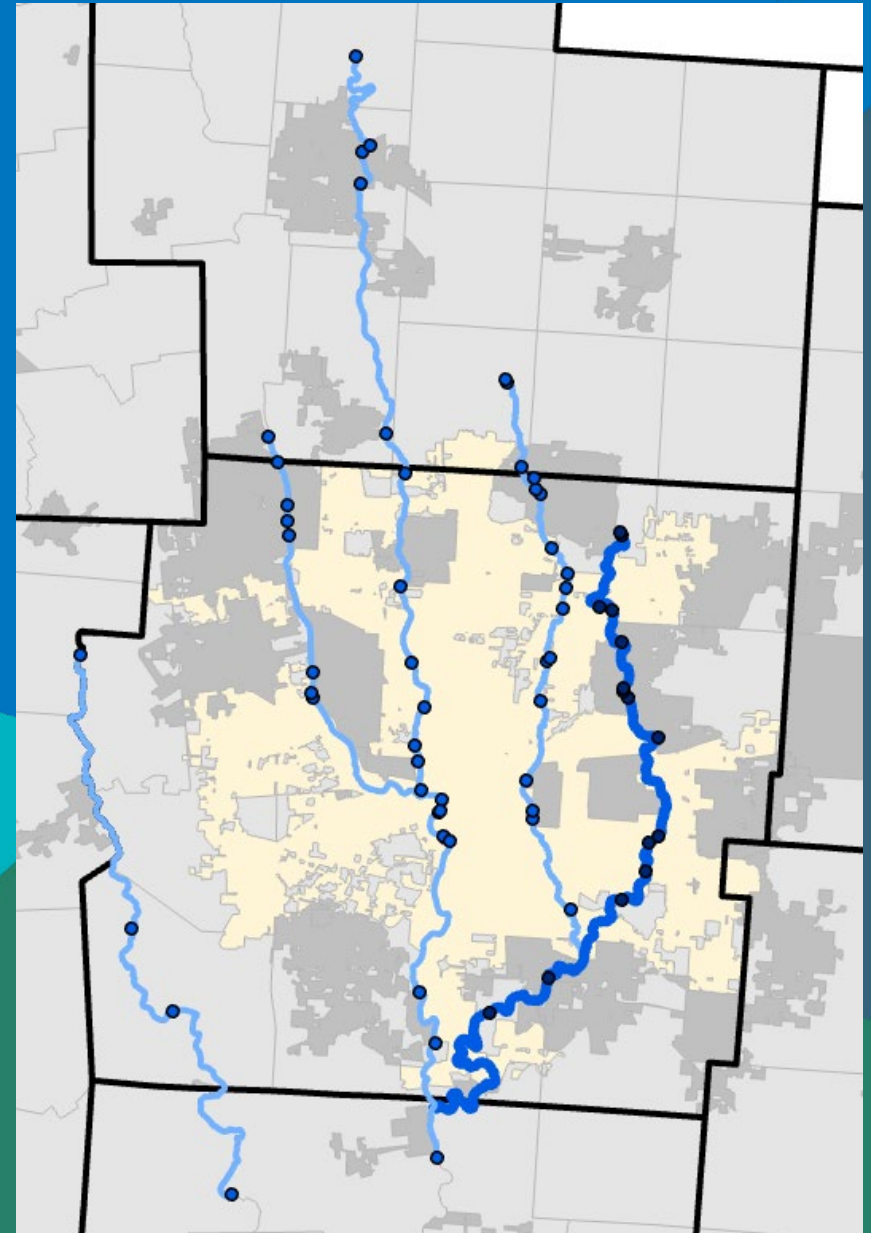
- Communities along the Big Walnut between Hoover Reservoir and the Scioto River

PARTNERSHIP GROUP MEETING

- Introduction: Tentatively July
- Start of Recommended Draft in August



MORPC



DISCUSSION: MAINTENANCE

ACCESS POINT OPERATIONS

- Hours of Operation?
- Amenity Repair?
- Access Point Upkeep?



DISCUSSION: MAINTENANCE

LITTER

- Who is Responsible?
- Minimum Standards?
- Access Points VS Between Access Points

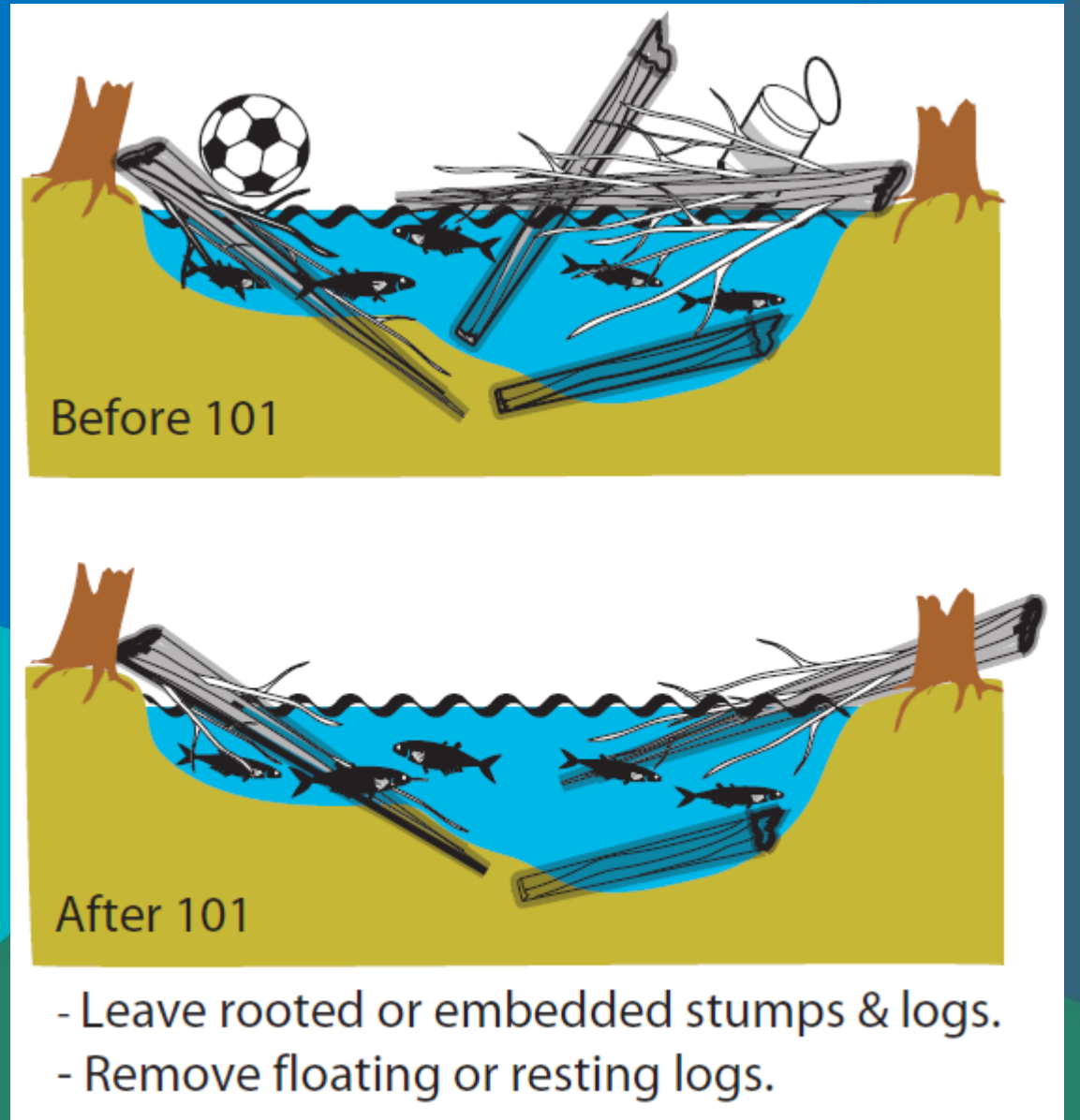


MORPC

DISCUSSION: MAINTENANCE

WOODY DEBRIS

- When to Keep VS When to Remove
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality “Woody Debris Management 101: Clean and Open Method”
- Cuyahoga River Water Trail Partners Practice



PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS: UPDATED DRAFT

WOODY DEBRIS

- When to Keep VS When to Remove
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
“Woody Debris Management 101: Clean and Open Method”
- Cuyahoga River Water Trail Partners Practice



NEXT STEPS

REVIEW DRAFTS

- Make updates / Recommended Edits
- Preferred Format

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- JULY: EMS & Hours of Operation
- AUGUST: Access Point Design

THANK YOU

JONATHAN MILLER, MPA, AICP, GISP

Senior Planner

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

T: 614.233.4219

jmiller@morpc.org

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100

Columbus, OH 43215



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

