



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

**NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 Liberty St., #100
Columbus, OH 43215**

December 14, 2022, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

AGENDA

- 2:30 – 2:45 pm** **Introductions and Updates – Ben Kessler, Chair and Kerstin Carr, MORPC**
- Welcome new team members
 - RAPID 5 update
 - Water and Wastewater Planning Workshop
- 2:45 – 2:50 pm** **Summit on Sustainability Recap – Amanda McElDowney, MORPC**
- 2:50 – 2:55 pm** **US EPA Grant for Air Monitoring – Brandi Whetstone, MORPC**
- 2:55 – 3:15 pm** **Introduction to Central Ohio Blueways Project – Jonathan Miller, MORPC**
- 3:15 – 3:30 pm** **Working Group/Board Updates – Ben Kessler, Chair**
- Sustaining Scioto Board: *Glenn Marzluf*
 - Sustainable2050: *Brandi Whetstone*
 - Energy & Air Quality Working Group – *Matt Stephens Rich*
 - Central Ohio Greenways Board: *Mike Andrako*
- 3:30 – 3:45 pm** **Policy and Federal Funding Updates – Joe Garrity, MORPC**
- 3:45 – 4:00 pm** **New Business and Member Updates – Ben Kessler, Chair**
- 2023 meeting schedule
- 4:00 pm** **Adjourn – Ben Kessler, Chair**

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 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
will be on February 15, 2023 at 2:30 pm**

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Erik J. Janas
Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall
Secretary

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Hybrid Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

December 14, 2022, 2:30 pm

Members Present

- Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's Office
- Vice-Chair, Mayor Laurie Jadwin, City of Gahanna
- Edward Johnson, Columbus Public Health
- Chair, Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley
- Natalie Kruse-Daniels, Ohio University
- Glenn Marzluf, Del-Co Water Company
- Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health
- Mike Shelton, OSU Sustainability Institute
- Megha Sinha, NBBJ
- Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
- Matt Stephens-Rich, The Electrification Coalition
- Carolyn Thurman, City of Westerville
- Eric Walli, Honda
- Mayor Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne

Public Present

- Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley

MORPC Staff Present

- Kerstin Carr
- Dave Dixon
- Brian Filiatraut
- Joe Garrity
- Lynn Kaufman
- Grant Lach
- Amanda McEldowney
- Jonathan Miller
- Jennifer Noll
- Edwina Teye
- Brandi Whetstone

Called to Order at 2:30 pm.

Introductions and Updates

Kerstin Carr introduced Dave Dixon as MORPC's new Director of Data Analytics & Strategy, emphasizing the importance of data in sustainability efforts. Updates included the formal establishment of the RAPID 5 board, which is fundraising to support regional project facilitation. Additionally, a Water and Wastewater Planning Workshop held on December 6 was highlighted, with over 80 participants discussing regional growth, updated precipitation data, and Ohio EPA's planning and permitting processes.

Summit on Sustainability Recap

Amanda McEldowney reported that the October 14 Summit on Sustainability had over 540 attendees, returning to pre-pandemic levels. The event raised \$57,000 in sponsorships and featured two plenary sessions and 19 breakout sessions. The most attended session focused on LinkUS and RAPID 5. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with requests for longer breakout sessions. The next Summit is scheduled for October 26, 2023.

US EPA Grant for Air Monitoring

Brandi Whetstone announced a \$500,000, three-year US EPA grant awarded to MORPC and Franklin County Public Health for air quality monitoring in underserved communities. The project will expand on existing PurpleAir monitoring, focusing on PM2.5 pollution. A community advisory board will guide the project, and data will inform public engagement and potential policy recommendations.

Questions from Committee Members addressed regulatory coordination, seasonal pollution trends, and specific sources like outdoor wood boilers.

Introduction to Central Ohio Blueways Project

Jonathan Miller presented the re-launch of the Central Ohio Blueways initiative, originally started in 2015. The project aims to designate five waterways as official ODNR Water Trails, update mapping, and improve signage and access. Sustainability considerations include equitable access, environmental protection, and public safety. Committee Members discussed integrating RAPID 5 mapping, safety education, and ecological concerns such as woody debris and tick exposure.

Working Group/Board Updates

Sustaining Scioto Board

Member Marzluf reported that the Board is focusing on regional water resource planning, including updated hydrology data and outreach to agricultural communities. Future direction and funding strategies are under review.

Sustainable2050

Brandi reported that the December 9 meeting focused on funding opportunities and member priorities. MORPC will continue its technical assistance program with OSU, supporting local sustainability plans.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

Brian Filiatraut reported that the Working Group met November 15 and discussed the National Climate Assessment and Senate Bill 52 education strategy. Updates included Columbus's solar co-op and upcoming air quality reports.

Central Ohio Greenways Board

Member Andrako reported that the Board approved four trail vision updates and discussed upcoming projects, including a Wayfinding Plan and Trail Town Framework. A recent funding round awarded \$53 million to nine pedestrian and bike projects, five of which align with the COG vision.

Policy and Federal Funding Updates

Joe Garrity shared updates on MORPC's Public Policy Agenda, emphasizing investment, prosperity, and equity. Legislative highlights included ARPA funding allocations, distracted driving legislation, and upcoming federal omnibus budget developments. A new Regional Investment Officer will be hired to align funding with strategic priorities.

New Business and Member Updates – Ben Kessler, Chair

Members shared updates including:

- Ohio EPA's recycling and litter prevention grant program.
- Village of Lockbourne's water/sewer expansion and trail development plans.
- Upcoming APA Ohio Conference in Columbus (Sept 27–29).
- Franklin County Public Health's New Year's Eve recycling drive.
- City of Westerville's new planner hire to support mobility planning.
- National Climate Assessment public comment period.
- EV charging incentive program report and upcoming federal funding opportunities.
- City of Bexley's RFP for business recycling and stormwater treatment regulations.

2023 meeting schedule

Adjourned at 4:00 pm.



Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Mike Andrako, P.E.)

Next meeting: January 18, 2023

The COG Board met on November 16 and welcomed new Board Member J.M. Rayburn, City of Dublin. The Board also heard from Jody Dzurainin, who shared an update on the Ohio to Erie Trail. Other agenda items included working group reports, and a discussion on the Spring 2023 COG Board retreat.

The COG Trail Development Working Group and Partnership Working Group met on October 19 to consider updates to the Regional Trail Vision. These updates reflect new feasibility understandings that are the result of MORPC's Technical Assistance 2022 projects and other local community plans. Four proposed changes were approved during the COG Board meeting. The changes include an east/west trail that will connect the Olentangy and Alum Creek Trails on the north side of Columbus, a modified proposed alignment to the Scioto Trail, a modified alignment to the Alum Creek Trail in Delaware County, and the Heritage Trail extension on the west side of Franklin County

The COG Marketing and Operations Working Groups met October 25 to discuss the outdoor trails pass and the COG Website updates. The working group will advise on a Wayfinding Planning Project. MORPC is currently accepting proposals for this work through Dec. 16. This group will also guide the work of an expanded Trail Town Framework project that will consider the unique needs of urban communities. This project is expected to begin in January 2023.

The Outdoor Trails Passport, a program in collaboration with Experience Columbus, is live. Residents and visitors are invited to access the passport online any time they explore a greenways trail. By checking in at locations across the COG network, passport users become eligible to win prizes.

MORPC and City of Columbus Recreation and Parks partnered on a trail count equipment pilot project that launched in the summer of 2021. The final results will be released within a project report by the end of the year, that will provide equipment recommendations to our regional partners as well as a detailed model for collaboration between MORPC and partners to collect, process, and analyze data moving forward. Additionally, MORPC will purchase 5 trail counters to be installed by partners along the Ohio to Erie Trail.

The Central Ohio Greenways hosted a Winter Trail Forum on December 6, 2022. During the forum nearly 100 trail planners, advocates, elected officials, park planners, and trail users came together to share their work. The Rapid 5 team shared their vision of the future of Central Ohio, MORPC staff shared updates on regional trail planning projects including a wayfinding and trail town project, and each county had the opportunity to share updates on local trail work. The Forum's keynote panel was a conversation with Geno Tucker, Remember Us Urban Scouts and Angela Mitchell, Black Women in Nature. Both shared how they are helping encourage Black women and children to use the trails through bike rides and wellness programming.



Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Matt Stephens-Rich)

Next meeting: January 24, 2022

The working group met in person for the first time this year for its last meeting of 2022. Dr. Aaron Wilson and Jason Cervenec hosted the working group at the OSU Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center. Dr. Wilson, who is the Midwest Lead Author of the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5), presented on the general climate trends and the updates to the NCA5, as well as the expected impacts for the Midwest due to climate change. The most recent draft of the NCA5 is available for public review and comment. If interested, please visit [review.globalchange.gov](https://www.globalchange.gov). You can leave comments through January 27, 2023. After the presentation, the working group toured Byrd Polar learning about its various programming, highlighted by their ice core cold storage facility. The next working group meeting will be held virtually on January 24, 2023.

Energy Updates: Contact Brian Filiatraut for more information at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

MORPC has conducted the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for the City of Columbus for the past five years. After submitting this year's GHG inventory, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) recognized the City of Columbus as one of 122 cities on the "2022 CDP Cities A List," a list recognizing cities globally for their efforts to reduce emissions and build resilience. For more information, please visit [the CDP website](https://www.cdp.net/en).

The Columbus Area Residential Solar Co-op, a collaboration including MORPC, Solar United Neighbors, City of Columbus, and others, closed its first round this past October. There were 265 people who registered for the solar co-op, and, to date, 32 have signed contracts totaling 265.59 kW in residential solar. The second round of this co-op is planned to kick off in April 2023.

The Regional Schools Energy Strategy (ReSES) is an opportunity for schools, school districts, and local governments to move forward with onsite solar power generation through a collaborative solar co-op to secure best pricing on installation and electricity rates. MORPC is in discussions with interested entities.

Air Quality Updates: Contact Prince Kwarteng-Crooklynn for more information at pkwarteng@morpc.org.

There have been no Air Quality Alerts since June. The team continues to develop an air quality plan to document air quality trends, past activities, and plans for next year as part of our participation in the U.S. EPA Advance program. Ozone monitoring season ended Oct. 31 so we are working with our air quality forecasting firm to create the annual air quality report for ozone and PM2.5, with an expected release date of mid-January.

We are excited to share that a proposal submitted by MORPC, and Franklin County Public Health, was selected for a U.S. EPA community air monitoring grant. The project will leverage and expand the scope of our current neighborhood air monitoring project, with a focus on areas that are most vulnerable to health impacts from air pollution and COVID-19. Air quality monitoring and modeling will be used to identify and understand the distribution and causes of particulate matter pollution, and to create interventions based on disproportionate impacts and source drivers. The project is expected to kick off in early 2023.



Sustainable2050

Next meeting: Thursday, March 23, 2023

The final Sustainable2050 quarterly meeting of the year was on December 9 at MORPC. The meeting featured updates from MORPC's Economic Development Officer, Megan Stein, about MORPC's funding opportunities website. A funding opportunities panel featured presentations on federal funding, Clean Ohio

Conservation Fund, Ohio EPA grants, and SWACO Waste Reduction Grants. The presentations were followed by breakout group discussions focused on common priorities around waste reduction, natural resources, and energy and climate. The priority areas were identified through a pre-meeting member survey.

During November and early December, MORPC featured Sustainable2050 member spotlights on social media platforms, including Lockbourne, New Albany, Columbus, Clinton Township, and Bexley.

MORPC is also partnering again with OSU City & Regional Planning and Sustainability Institute to provide free technical assistance to Sustainable2050 members through planning studios and environmental capstone courses. The call for proposals will be announced in January.

The next quarterly meeting is on Thursday, March 23 at 9:30am. Membership and tier status certification is open to MORPC members. Please contact MORPC's Sustainability Officer, Brandi Whetstone, for more information at bwhetstone@morpc.org.



Sustaining Scioto Board (Chair: Glenn Marzluf)

Next Meeting: December 15, 2022

The Board met on October 26 and listened to a presentation by member Laura Fay on the mid-term strategies outlined in the Sustaining Scioto Study. The presentation helped the Board to think about progress made so far but also led to a discussion about priorities for 2023 including funding for water quality monitoring in the watershed, precipitation data updates, among others. The team also brainstormed on how to increase board membership. A Request for Qualifications was posted in September to recruit a consultant to develop a communication plan that increases awareness of climate change impacts on water and support for farmer adoption of water quality practices and public and private sector investments. The Board will meet again on December 15.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team:

The Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team met on November 17. Members listened to a presentation from Glen Delany and Erin Mackey with Earth Economics, a non-profit that works with local and federal government, communities, and tribes to increase investment in nature. Earth Economics is a pioneer in the field of ecosystem services and integrated economic analysis—valuing the benefits that nature creates. Members also discussed priorities for 2023 to include webinars and field trips focused on structural and non-structural best management practices within the agricultural landscape.



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer
December 14, 2022



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AGENDA

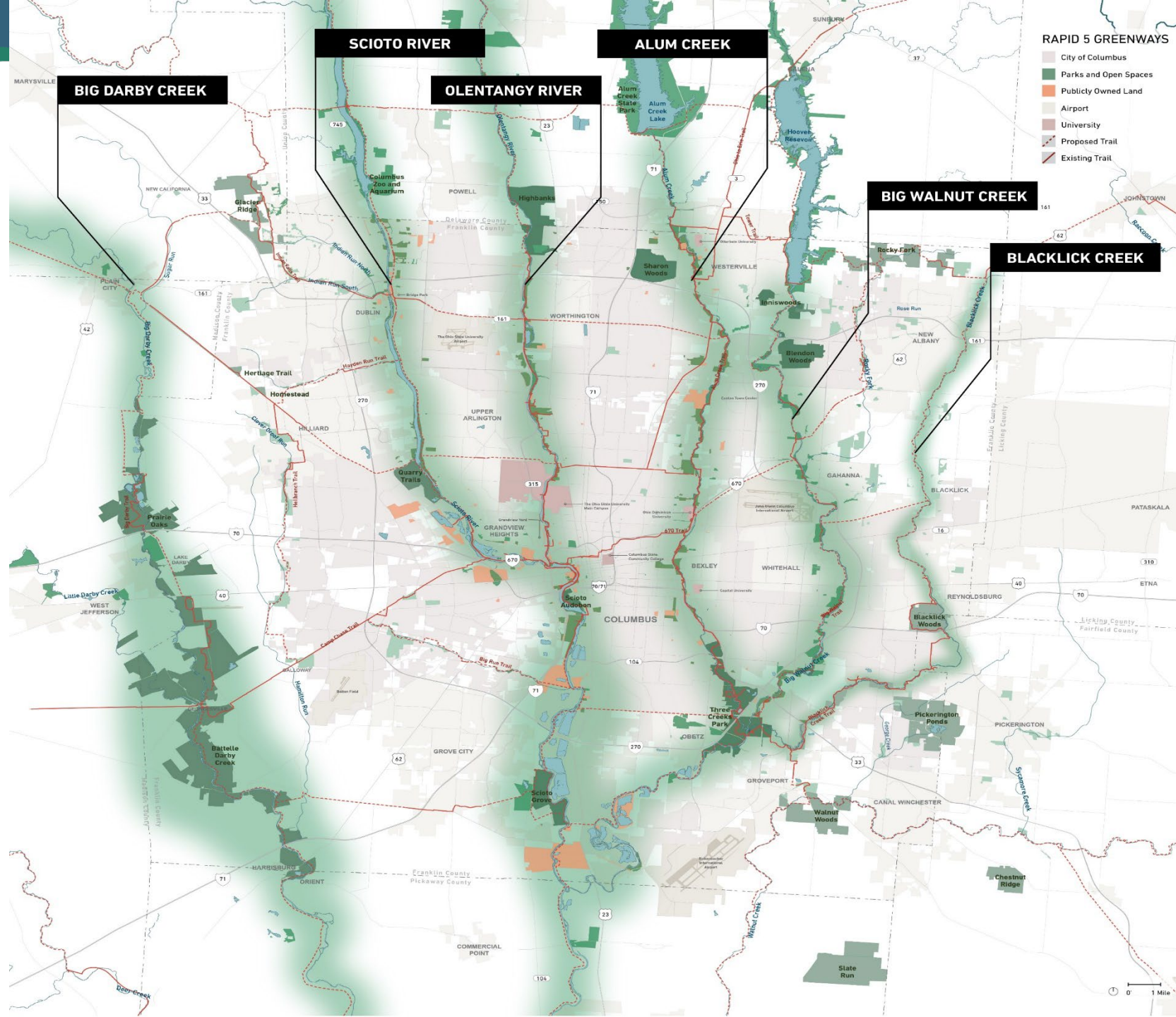


MORPC

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- 4:00 Adjourn – *Ben Kessler, Chair*

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RAPID PROJECT





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Central Ohio Water and Wastewater Planning Workshop

December 6, 2022 | 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM | Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission



**Contact Edwina Teye for more
information and meeting slides,
eteye@morpc.org**



SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY 2022



PRESENTED BY:



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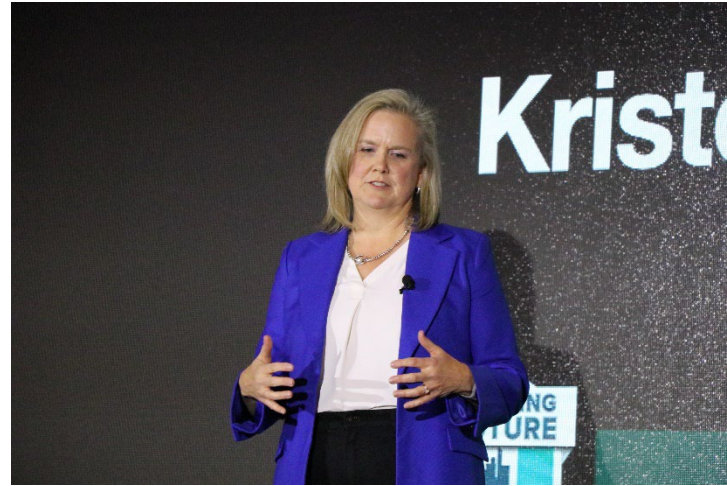
Exhibitors

SWACO | Ohio University | Energility | Open Road Renewables | LEED | Cycle Forward

Central Ohio Transit Authority | Ohio Air Quality and Development Authority

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission | NOPEC | Wendel Companies | Ohio Environmental Protection Agency







SAVE THE DATE

Summit on Sustainability

October 26, 2023

Hilton Columbus Downtown

US EPA GRANT FOR AIR QUALITY MONITORING

Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer
December 14, 2022



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US EPA GRANT AWARD



Project:	Air Monitoring & Source Apportionment in Underserved Communities
Project Location:	Franklin County, Ohio
Recipient:	MORPC
Project Partner:	Franklin County Public Health
Project Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Particulate Matter (PM2.5)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on underserved communities impacted by emissions from mobile sources and stationary sources, utilizing air quality monitoring and modeling tools to measure PM2.5.• Data will help to identify and understand the distribution and causes of air pollution and create interventions based on disproportionate impacts.
Award:	\$500,000 for 3 years

PROJECT TEAM



Layla Abraham, FCPH



Jennie McAdams, FCPH



Prince Kwarteng-Crooklynn,
MORPC



Brandi Whetstone,
MORPC

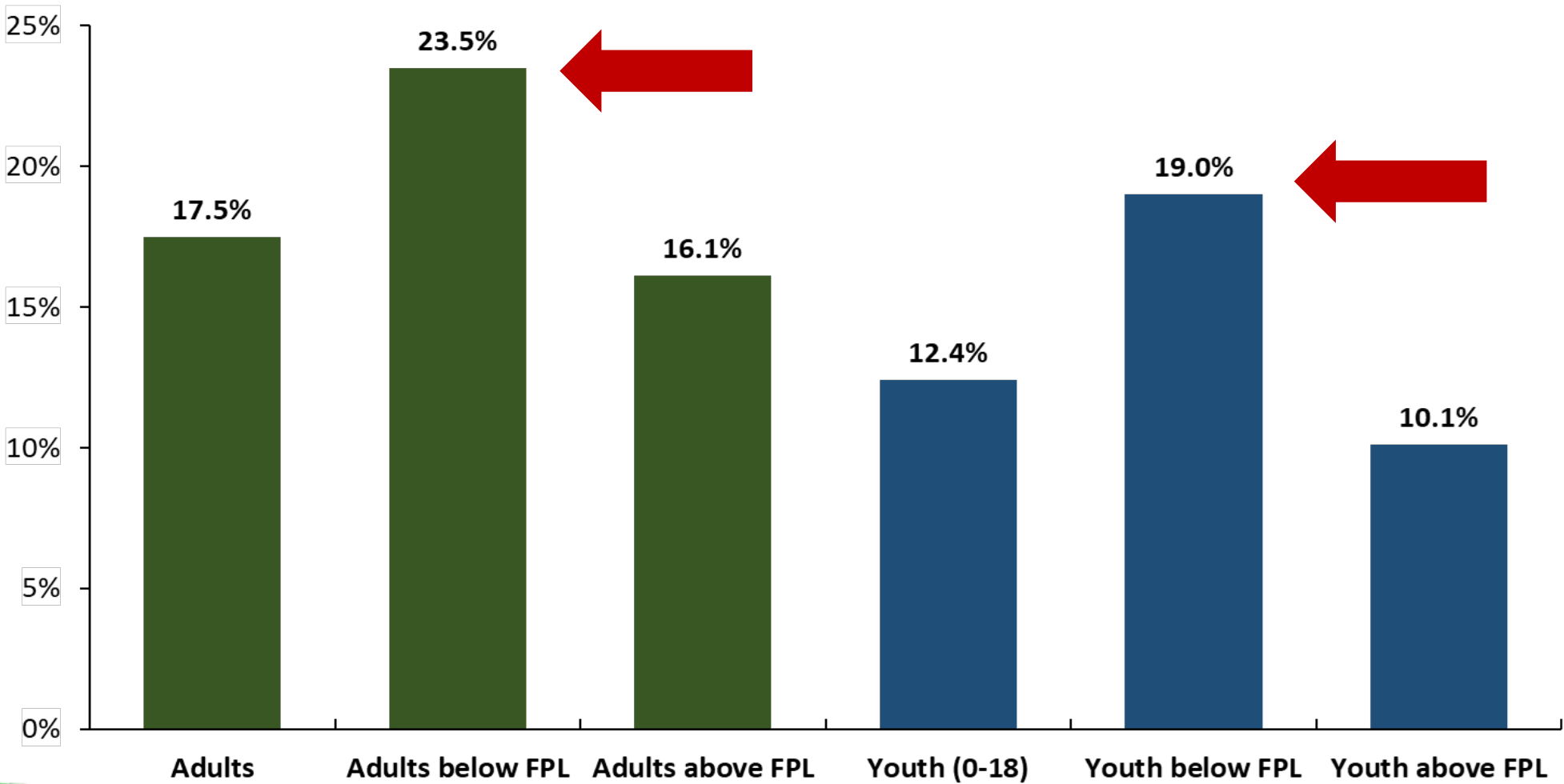


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WHY PARTICLE POLLUTION IS A CONCERN



Asthma Rates in Franklin County



Brandi Whetstone

Sustainability Officer

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

bwhetstone@morpc.org



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CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)
Tuesday, December 14th



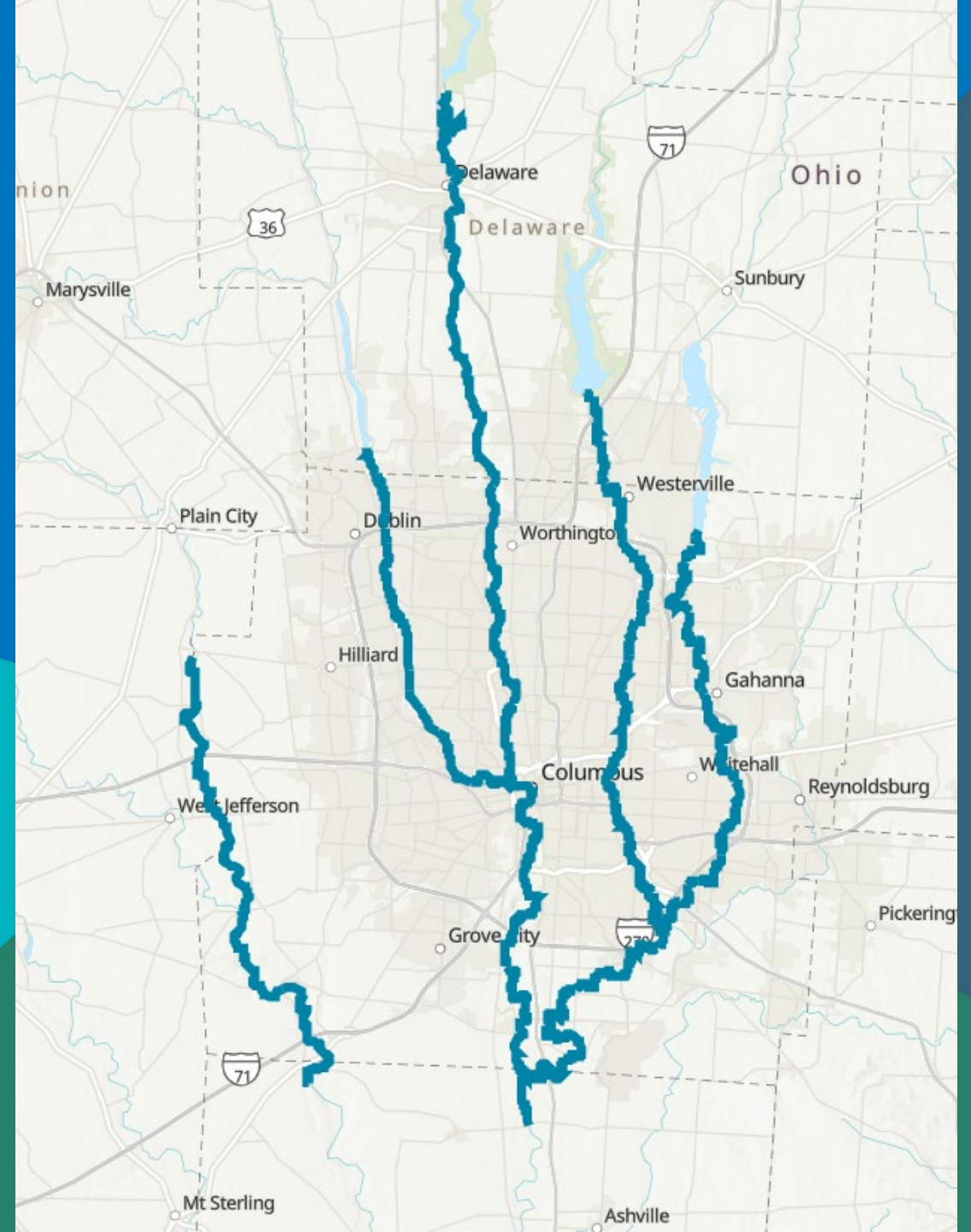
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ORIGIN

- Initiated in 2015
- Purpose
 - To Promote Water Trails in Central Ohio
- Objectives
 - Assess 92 miles of proposed Blueways
 - Increase Use and Knowledge of Central Ohio's Water Trails and Water Resources
- Tasks and Deliverables
 - Evaluate and Prioritize Access Points
 - Blueways Mapping (Access, Hazards, etc)
 - Develop Logo and Branding/Signage
 - Create Educational Information



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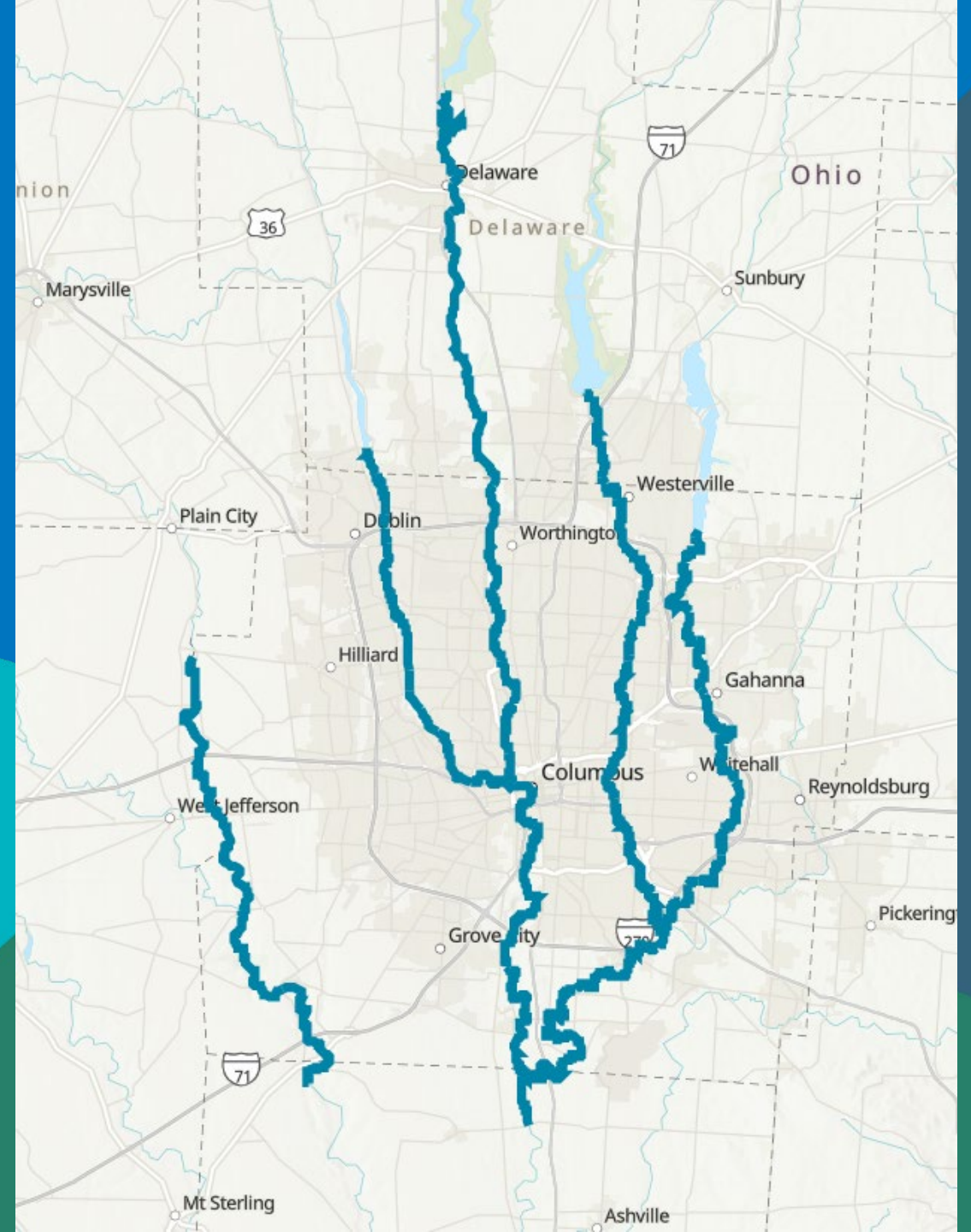


ORIGIN

- Debuted in 2018
- Features
 - Online Mapping of Access Points
 - Water Safety
 - Boat Registration
 - Protection of Waterways
 - Links to Water Levels
- Coverage
 - Big Darby Creek (Scioto Darby Road to Orient)
 - Scioto River (O'Shaughnessy Dam to Rickenbacker)
 - Olentangy River (Delaware Dam to Scioto River)
 - Alum Creek (Alum Creek Reservoir to Three Creeks/Big Walnut Creek)
 - Big Walnut Creek (Hoover Dam to Rickenbacker)



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RE-FOCUSED EFFORTS

Current Focus

Designate the five centralized waterways as Water Trails through ODNR

- Partnership Agreements
- Update Mapping

**Olentangy River from Broadmeadows to Confluence is only designated Water Trail*

What's After That?

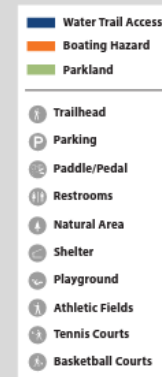
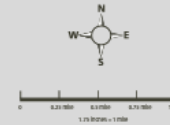
- Wayfinding & Signage
- Access Point Best Practices
- Connections to Points of Interest
- Synchronize Access



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Olentangy River Water Trail

8.94 miles / Class I - II



Watch for signage to portage around lowhead dams:



SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

What can a Central Ohio Blueways project do to further sustainability efforts in our region?

- Partnership Agreements?
- Interactive Mapping?
- Access Point Improvements?
- Inclusions to Wayfinding and Signage?

Are there ways to address sustainability and conservation during the Water Trail designation process?

- Public river access brings concerns



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THANK YOU

JONATHAN MILLER, AICP, GISP

Senior Planner

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

T: 614.233.4219

jmiller@morpc.org

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100

Columbus, OH 43215



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POLICY UPDATE



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Joe Garrity, MORPC

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SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE




2023 Meeting Schedule*

- February 15
- April 19
- June 21
- September 20
- December 13

*All meetings occur 2:30-4:00PM





**Wishing you a happy and healthy
holiday season!**

Ben Kessler

Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee

bkessler@bexley.org

Laurie Jadwin

Vice-Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee

laurie.jadwin@gahanna.gov

Brandi Whetstone

Sustainability Officer

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

bwhetstone@morpc.org



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