



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:

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

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

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

February 19, 2020. 2:30 pm

Members Present

Kate Bartter, The Sustainability Institute, OSU
Robin Duffee, Violet Township
Joe Massey, COTA
Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington
Megan O'Callaghan, City of Dublin
Kyle O'Keefe, SWACO
Aslyne Rodriguez, Empower Bus

Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard
Chair Jim Schimmer, Franklin County
Alana Shockey, City of Columbus
Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
Eric Walli, Honda North America

MORPC Staff Present

Rachael Beeman
Kerstin Carr
Jon-Paul d'Aversa
Joe Garrity

Natalie Hurst
Lynn Kaufman
William Murdock

Jennifer Noll
Stephen Patchan
Edwina Teye

Melinda Vonstein
Brandi Whetstone
Brooke White

Meeting Called to Order at 2:30 pm.

Welcome & Introductions

Members and staff introduced themselves, welcoming new committee members Robin Duffee, Megan O'Callaghan, and Kyle O'Keefe.

Sustainable2050 Update

The next Sustainable2050 meeting will be on March 27, and will focus on topics related to natural resources and celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Members and staff will work to develop a strategic plan for Sustainable2050, to guide the group's work throughout 2020.

Climate Resilience as a Component of Sustainability Work

Resilience: The capacity of a system to retain essential functions before, during, and after a hazard strikes. See <http://toolkit.climate.gov/>

- Improve emergency preparedness capacity
- Resource protection
- Water supply planning
- Protecting public infrastructure
- Microgrids
- Social services to protect and prepare vulnerable population

With extreme weather events, there may be increased incidents of water quality issues, with stormwater and nutrient runoff into waterways, and damage to infrastructure. A priority through Sustaining Scioto is to create, update, and maintain climate projections and tools to support planning and implementation initiatives. This information is vital to increase the resilience of the region, and to inform how to mitigate climate change and reduce emissions.

Mitigation: Reducing emissions and stabilizing the levels of greenhouse gases. Examples can be found within existing goals and objectives of the Regional Sustainability Agenda, including:

- Reduce per capita energy consumption
- Reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT)
- Increase percentage of vehicles using alternative fuels
- Increase the number of local renewable energy projects
- Increase the number of homes receiving weatherization services

Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee

A subcommittee is being formed to update the current Regional Sustainability Agenda. Justin Milam will chair the subcommittee, with work beginning in April 2020, to coincide with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Staff and members discussed items and ideas that should be considered in the Regional Sustainability Agenda:

- Resilience
- Mitigation
- Social equity - It was suggested that the general public be surveyed on the subject of what should be in the Regional Sustainability Agenda. Energy burden and other equity metrics were recommended, such as distance to parks for all residents.
- Content/metrics should be measurable to show progress.
- Different perspectives should be considered. Staff is recruiting members from different backgrounds in the MORPC membership to work on this Subcommittee.

Working Group Updates

Sustainability Dashboard Working Group

The Working Group continues to meet monthly to guide the development of the Sustainability Dashboard, with technical support from CURA at OSU. Working Group members beta tested the Dashboard in January and provided input. Members of the Regional Data Advisory Committee and the Sustainability Advisory Committee will be invited to perform the second round of user testing in late March or early April. The goal is for the Dashboard to launch in early June. The Working Group will meet again on April 21.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

The Working Group met on January 28. Michael Forrester, Energy Manager of the City of Cincinnati, presented on Cincinnati's American Cities Climate Challenge and renewable energy programming. The Working Group will meet again on May 26.

Solar Toolkit Subgroup

The Subgroup met on January 30 to assess existing toolkits for applicability to Central Ohio. Craig Foster of Energility will serve as Chair of the Subgroup. The Subgroup will meet again in March.

Air Quality Sensor Network Subgroup

The Subgroup met on February 3 with Ayaz Hyder, OSU Professor of Environmental Health Sciences serving as Chair. The meeting focused on the central motivation for creating an air quality sensor network program in Central Ohio. The motivation will be used to craft other aspects of the program as time progresses. The Subgroup will meet again on March 2.

Central Ohio Greenways Board

The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board welcomed three new members at the January 15 meeting: Leah Evans, Homeport; Julie Walcoff, Toole Design; and Bill Hebble, Franklin County Engineers Office. The Board also discussed developing a formal process for the annual update of the COG Regional Trail Vision. The Board will meet again on May 13.

COG Operations & Access Working Group

The Working Group is exploring the opportunity of working with AEP to develop an energy micro-grid to provide power for trail lighting and disaster shelters in the Hilltop area. The Working Group will meet on March 2.

COG Marketing & Communications Working Group

The Working Group is developing a toolkit for a series of events called "Taste of the Trails." The toolkit will help trail partners facilitate events to celebrate the trails in their communities. The Working Group will meet on February 25.

COG Trail Development Working Group

The Working Group hosted four quadrant meetings in Franklin County to learn more about trail projects and goals from partners. The Working Group is also managing two ongoing projects: Trail & Active Transportation Prioritization Study and Urban Greenways Design Guide. The Working Group will meet on February 20.

COG Partnership Working Group

The Working Group met on February 18 to continue efforts to develop a Trail Funding Resource Guide. The group also continues to work with the Urban Land Institute to increase awareness of COG by developing a scope for the Rapid 5 initiative. The Working Group will meet again on April 21.

Policy Update / Government Affairs

House Bill 476

HB 476 was introduced on January 21, to amend the law regarding eminent domain. In addition to allowing an owner of real property to appeal to the appointing authority of a park district, the county probate judge, to veto the appropriation of land for the purpose of providing a recreational trail, HB 476 would also allow the property owner to ask for a veto from a board of township trustees or the council of a municipal corporation depending upon the location of the real property. MORPC opposes House Bill 476 because it leads to creating a precedent that could add restrictions or caveats for other local entities with eminent domain authority.

Federal – Waters of the U.S.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has finalized its revised "waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) rule, drawing praise from various industry groups and criticism from environmentalists.

Other Business

Adjourned at 4:00 pm.



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 due 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.

Increasing Resilience, Reducing Emissions

Brandi Whetstone, MORPC



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BACKGROUND



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THREATS & VULNERABILITY



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These are just a few of the threats and vulnerabilities that were identified:



Reduced Water Volumes



Increased Energy Bills



Loss of Power



Lower Water Quality



Increased Economic Burden of Repairs



Damage to Infrastructure



Increased Water Demand



CLIMATE SMART: FARMING WITH WEATHER EXTREMES



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Climate Smart: Farming with Weather Extremes (go.osu.edu/climatesmart)

224 views • Jun 28, 2019

2 0 SHARE SAVE





INFORMED DECISION MAKING



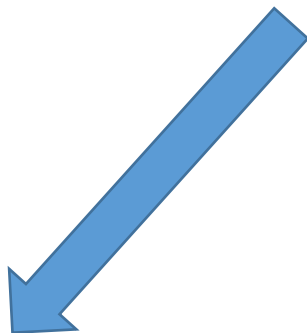
Create, update, and maintain climate projections and tools to support planning and implementation initiatives



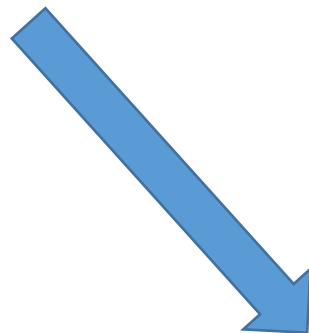
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Informed Decision Making



Increase resilience



**Mitigation /
Reduce Emissions**



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Resilience: The capacity of a system to retain essential functions before, during, and after a hazard strikes. *

- Improve emergency preparedness capacity
- Resource protection
- Water supply planning
- Protecting public infrastructure
- Microgrids (solar + battery back up for example)
- Social services to protect and prepare vulnerable populations

*U.S. Federal Government, 2014: U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit. <http://toolkit.climate.gov>. Accessed 2/14/20.



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Mitigation: Reducing emissions and stabilizing the levels of greenhouse gases.

- Reduce per capita energy consumption
- Reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT)
- Increase percentage of vehicles using alternative fuels
- Increase the number of local renewable energy projects
- Increase the number of homes receiving weatherization services



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DISCUSSION

- Increase resilience and reduce emissions → Should those serve as the guiding principles for the Regional Sustainability Agenda?
- How do we define them? (are definitions clear?)
- How do we talk about them?
- How do we create action?

Brandi Whetstone

Sustainability Officer

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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Columbus, OH 43215



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer
April 15, 2020



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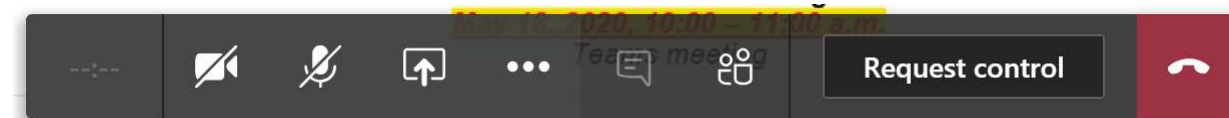
WELCOME!



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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
 - Policy Report
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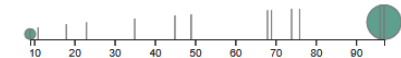
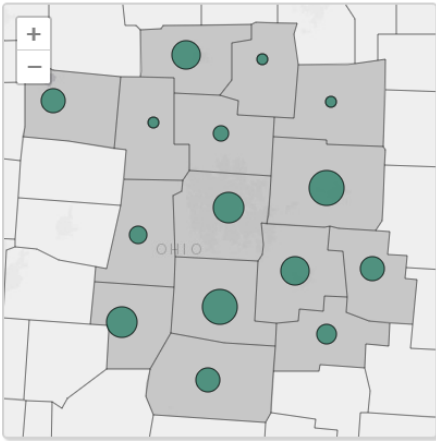


REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD



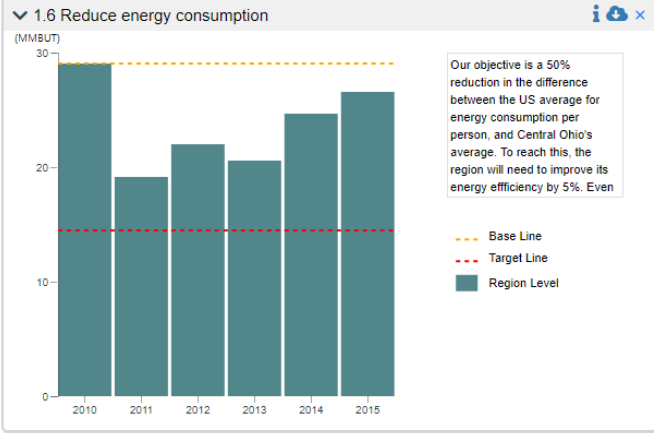
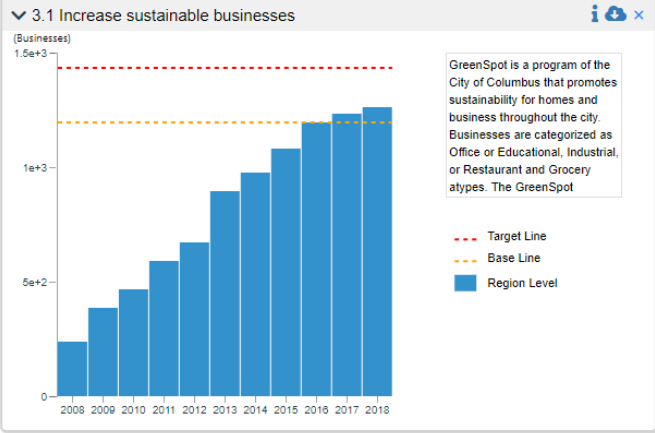
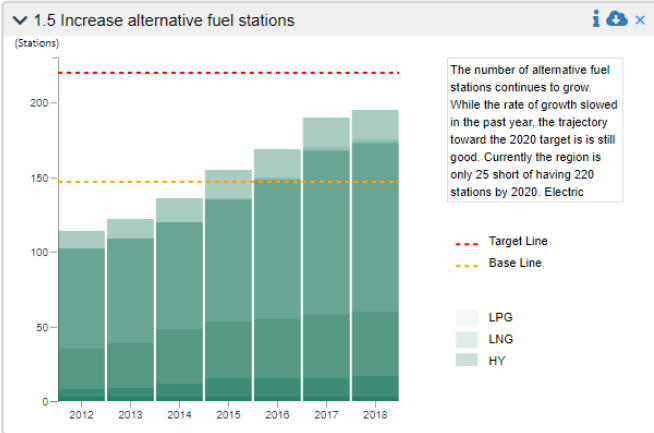
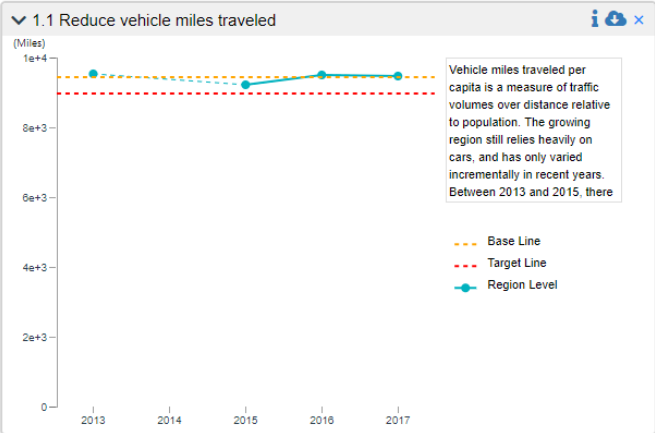
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MORPC Sustainability Dashboard



1.5 Increase alternative fuel stations

> Options





REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA



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Confirmed Sub-committee Members:

- 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



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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

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



Sign up for Air Quality Alerts

morpc.org/airquality

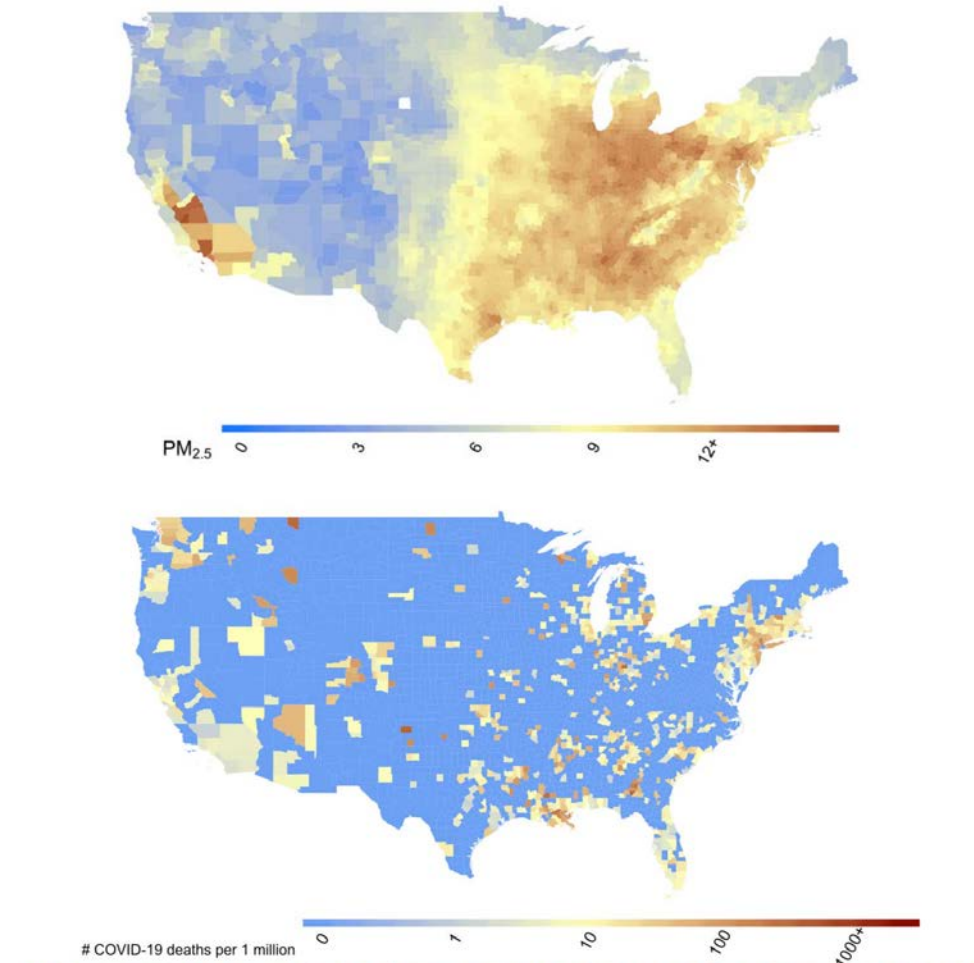




Long Term Air Pollution Exposure and COVID-19



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Pandemic Shut Down Impacts on Short Term Air Pollution



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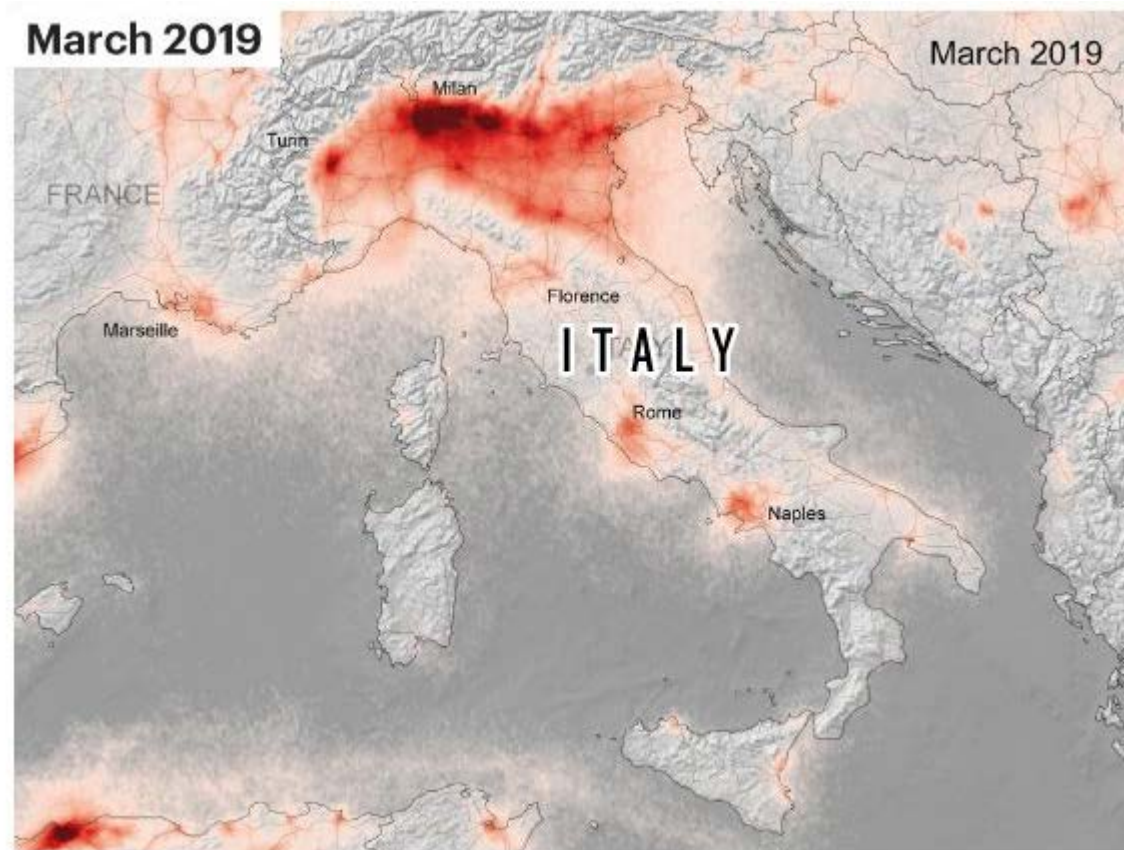
NO₂ concentration in troposphere



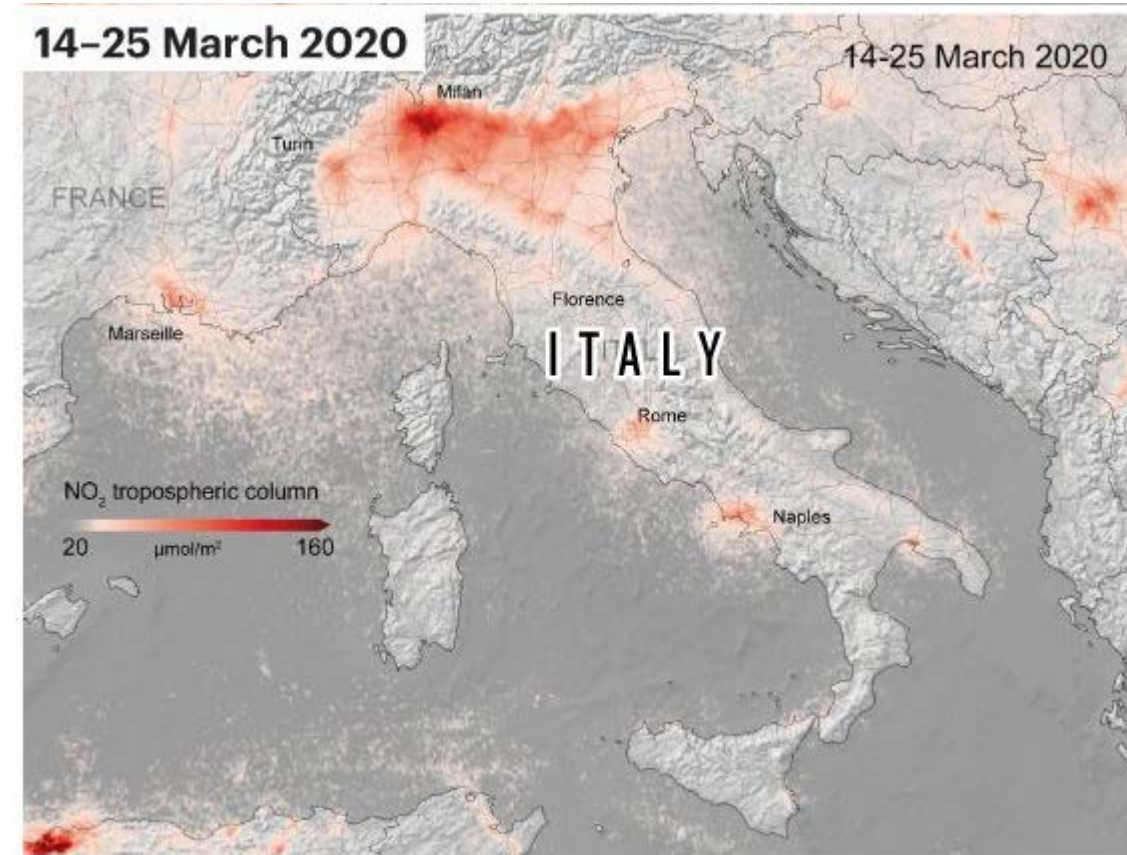
Low

High

March 2019



14-25 March 2020

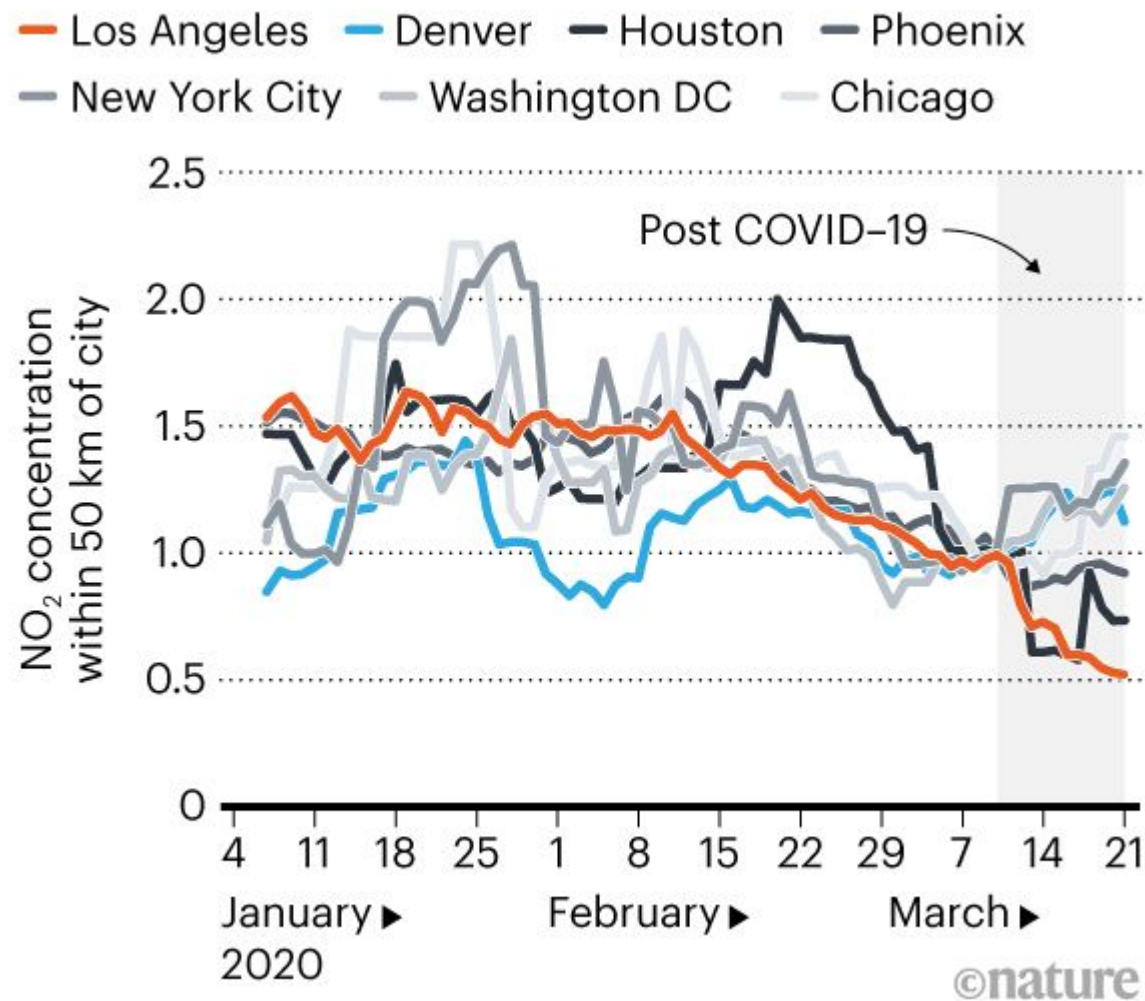




Pandemic Shut Down Impacts on Short Term Air Pollution



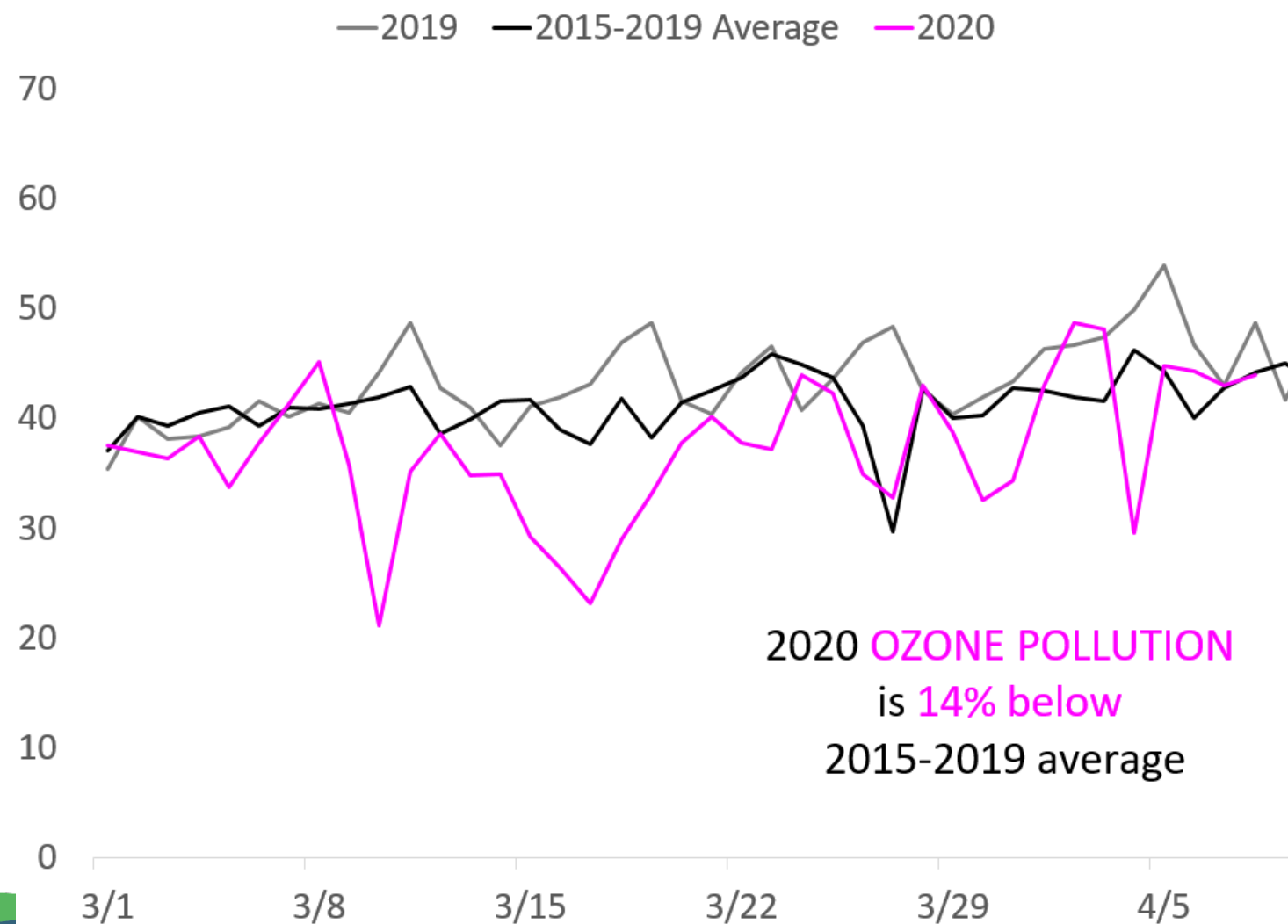
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Pandemic Shut Down Impacts on Short Term Air Pollution

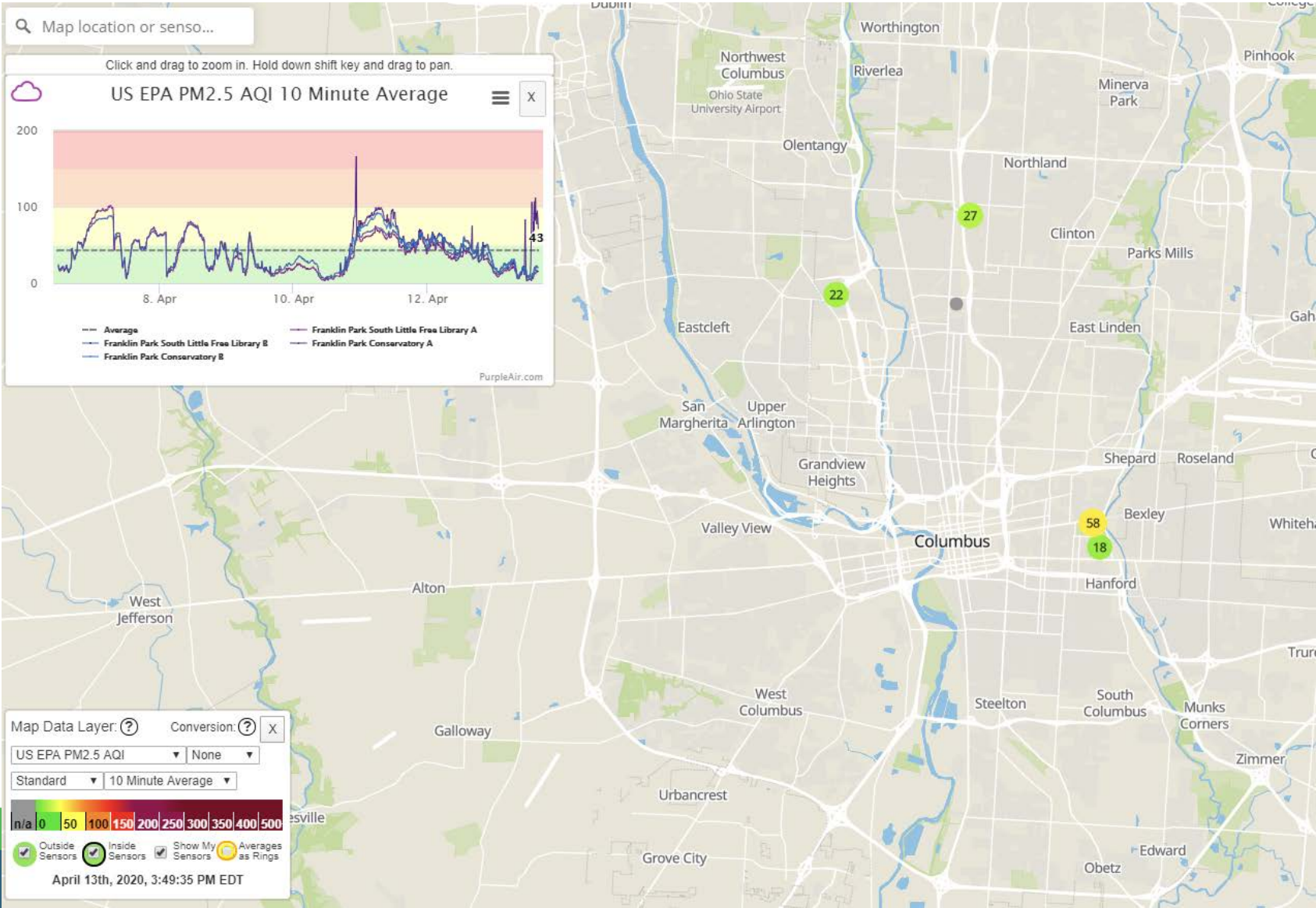




Pandemic Shut Down Impacts on Short Term Air Pollution



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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

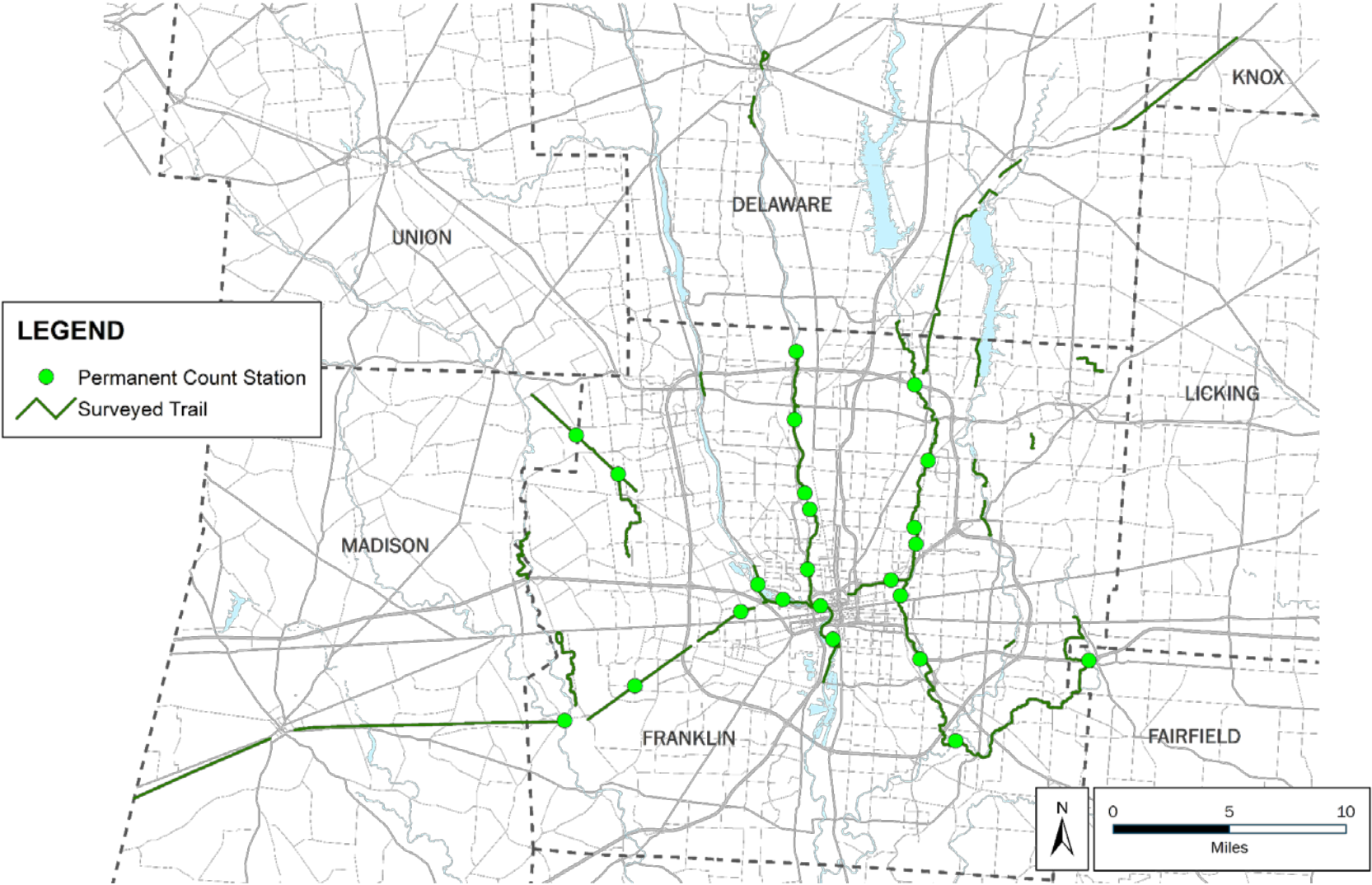




CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS



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Jim Schimmer

Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee

jrschimmer@franklincountyohio.gov

Mike Compton

Vice-Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee

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