

COLUMBUS & FRANKLIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

SCIOTO TRAIL SOUTHERN EXTENSION STUDY

Overview

Metro Parks requested MORPC technical assistance to identify a preferred alignment for an extension of the Scioto Trail south from Lou Berliner Park/Scioto Audubon Park to South Columbus. The extension would serve recently acquired Metro Parks land planned to be developed into new parks and open space at and south of Williams Rd. The trail would extend into neighborhoods of high poverty and above average rates of households without access to a vehicle, providing additional mobility and recreational opportunities.

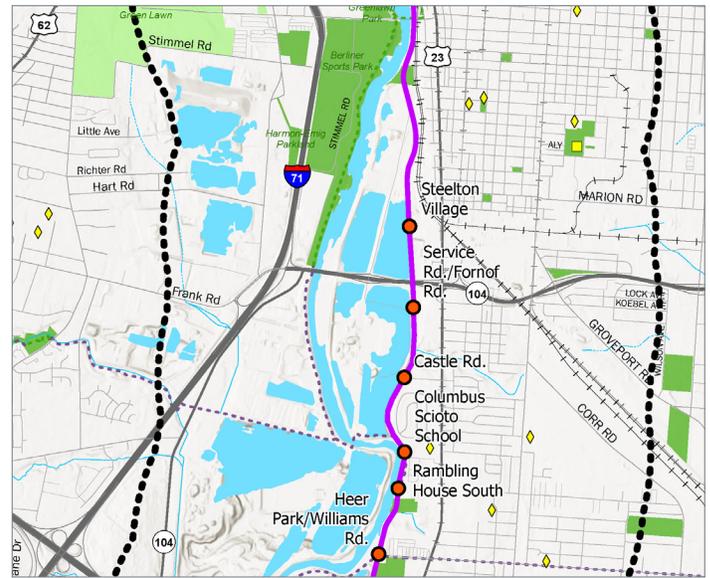
Services Provided

To identify a preferred route alternative for the trail extension, MORPC worked with Metro Parks to document existing conditions and identify potential routes and trail access points throughout the study corridor. Individual stakeholder meetings were held with landowners, leaseholders, and public agencies with jurisdiction along each potential route to determine feasibility. MORPC also developed a spreadsheet-based alternatives analysis tool to produce a weighted ranking of each potential alignment, which ultimately led to the selection of the preferred alternative.

Program Deliverables

In collaboration with Metro Parks staff, MORPC developed the following resources:

- » A collection of GIS layers (and PDF maps) of each route alternative, potential access points, and analysis buffers in an ESRI geodatabase.
- » An *Alternatives Analysis Workbook* containing the comparative analysis of 19 route alternatives across dimensions of accessibility, connectivity, constructability, trail user experience, and environmental impacts.



Preferred Alternative and Potential Access Points for Scioto Trail Southern Extension

- » A *Documentation and Implementation Plan* detailing the existing conditions data, stakeholder interview summaries, and the methodology and results of the route alternatives analysis. The plan also contains a section recommending next steps and potential sources of funding to advance project development.

Community Implementation

Metro Parks intends to advance design work for the trail extension in conjunction with the development of the Scioto South property and is working with a consultant for design services. Metro Parks also submitted an application in the 2022-2023 cycle for MORPC-Attributable Funding to construct a portion of the extension.

Project Manager

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