

## APPENDIX E — Non-Governmental Trail Maintenance and Management Models

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### Non-Governmental Trail Management and Maintenance Models

**Friends of Madison County Parks, London (Ohio)** This group is a 501 c3 non-profit whose mission is to support the trails in Madison County. They began as an advocacy group working with the county commissioners to find a way to make trail development possible in the area. To make the interface between the state and the local government easier to manage the county decided to form a park district, but lacking funds to create anything concrete they had to be creative. The county commissioners with help from the friends group created the entity with the park district board of directors being the county commissioners. This allowed the county to apply for grant money as a park district without having to hire a single employee. The friends group now had a park district on paper in which they could help raise funds for. Madison County now has 11.5 miles of beautiful paved trail with more on the way. The friends group routinely does maintenance work on the trail such as clearing brush, trash pick-up, as well as organizing volunteer community bike patrols. The group is also active fundraising for the park district. They have raised the money it takes the district to contract out the mowing along the trail each year. They also make a fundraising drive every five years to cover the costs of crack sealing along the trail system. This relationship has worked out well, allowing the county residents the pleasure of a first rate trail system while adding minimal workload and costs to the local government. [www.fmcpt.com/](http://www.fmcpt.com/)

**Kokosing Gap Trail, Knox County (Ohio)** The Kokosing Gap Trail is a 14 mile segment of the cross state Ohio to Erie Trail in central Ohio. The trail was built in 1989 and maintenance has been overseen since then by a local group of volunteers. The group is led by a 12 member board that is appointed by the county commissioners. The board is a 501 c3 certified non-profit, which allows it to raise the funds necessary to care for this facility. The group does this through multiple grant requests as well as well

organized and targeted fundraising events along the trail. The group has been so successful that in addition to keeping up the maintenance of the trail they have also built a storage facility that houses all of their equipment. [www.kokosinggaptrail.org/](http://www.kokosinggaptrail.org/)

**Firelands Rails-to-Trails, North Coast Inland Trail (Huron County, Ohio)** The Firelands Rails-to-Trails group in Northwest Ohio came into existence 9 years ago. They were formed to help Huron County which had an existing park district, but no funding to operate it. The surrounding counties bought the corridor for trail development through Huron, but there was no way to develop the trail. The Firelands volunteers organized as a 501 c3 non-profit to begin raising funds to support the county in the effort. The group is administered by an 11 member volunteer board. The group writes grants for itself as well as for the park district. They also provide themselves, and solicit from local companies, a huge amount of “in-kind” work on the trail. This work is well documented and used as the local match money to satisfy State and Federal grant requirements. Firelands volunteers currently do all the maintenance on 7.7 miles of opened trail, as well as prep many more miles for development. They have also successfully raised enough money for the local park district to buy a tractor which the Firelands volunteers now use for trail maintenance tasks. [www.firelandsrailstotrails.org/](http://www.firelandsrailstotrails.org/)

**Monongahela River Rail-Trail System (Mon River Trails) (Monongalia, Preston & Marion Counties, West Virginia)** The Mon River Rail-Trail system in north central WV is a premier, multi-county, 50+ mile rail-trail. Intersecting urban, suburban, and rural environments, the trail has been a source of community revitalization and an economic stimulator for over a decade. In 1991, a group of local trail advocates incorporated to form a nonprofit organization, the Mon River Trails Conservancy (MRTC), with the goal of preserving a soon-to-be-abandoned CSX railroad corridor. With help from the city of Morgantown, MRTC was awarded state funding

to acquire 51 miles of the corridor just 5 years later. Large sections of the trail (over 40 miles of corridor) outside city boundaries were managed and maintained by MRTC until 2005, when the organization entered a license agreement with the city of Morgantown to transfer partial management responsibilities. The city was quick to realize the benefits the trail brought to the region, and forged a relationship and agreement between MRTC and Monongalia County in order to ensure that the trail is properly maintained. The County contributes some funding to the City, which now employs its Department of Parks and Recreation to maintain the entire trail. This example illustrates how trail acquisition, management, and maintenance can be successfully shared by local government and nonprofit organizations. Due to the popularity of the trail and the evident economic benefits it produced, the city was able to justify and take responsibility for trail maintenance – extending services beyond its boundaries to include a three-county region. [www.montrails.org/](http://www.montrails.org/)

**Washington & Old Dominion Trail (Arlington, Loudoun & Fairfax Counties, Virginia)** The Washington & Old Dominion Trail in Northern Virginia, also known as Railroad Regional Park, is owned and operated by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, which is comprised of three counties and three cities in the area that contribute tax dollars based on population size. The authority's structure is based in the Virginia Authorities Act, which also authorizes water authorities and other public bodies. The Regional Park Authority was in place years before the railroad right-of-way was acquired and the trail was built. Established in 1991, the Friends of the Washington and Old Dominion Trail (FOWOD) is a citizen-driven organization dedicated to protecting and improving the W&OD Trail. It was re-established as an advisory body of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority in 1997. The purpose of the FOWOD is to support and enhance the trail as a recreational, environmental and historic resource through volunteer efforts in fund raising, promotion, educational programming and

maintenance. The governing body of the FOWOD consists of 15 northern Virginia residents from a number of jurisdictions on or near the trail who have a variety of recreational interests in the facility. [www.wodfriends.org/](http://www.wodfriends.org/)

**Wallkill Valley Rail Trail (Ulster County, New York)** Efforts to establish the 12.2-mile Wallkill Valley Rail Trail began by volunteers in 1983, involving five different legal entities and spanning several years. Once plans were in place, the volunteers organized into the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association, dedicated to maintaining and promoting the trail. Association members cleared brush, smoothed the road bed and repaired the bridges to make them suitable for walking, bicycling and horseback riding. Different sections of the trail are owned by the Town of New Paltz, the Village of New Paltz and the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, Inc. In 2002, the Association was awarded a significant grant to make physical improvements to the trail. A condition of that grant was formal maintenance agreements with each of the trail owners. Because of the long term record of cooperation and mutual trust, forging these agreements was a relatively easy task, according to the Association. [www.gorailtrail.org/](http://www.gorailtrail.org/)

**Capital Crescent Trail (Washington, DC and Montgomery County, Maryland)** The Capital Crescent Trail Cooperative Management Plan addresses trail design standards for amenities, signs, and access; trail management standards for multiple use, safety and law enforcement, maintenance, outreach and events, and volunteer programs; and trail administration. The information is fairly basic; the Plan documented who does what on behalf of the trail since it is managed by multiple entities, including the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail, the National Park Service and Montgomery County, Maryland. The Cooperative Management Plan also acts as a rough design guide for amenities in order to create a single image throughout the trail. [www.cctrail.org/](http://www.cctrail.org/)