

# OHIO



The Great American Rail-Trail passes through Xenia, Ohio, along the Ohio to Erie Trail. | Photo by Eric Oberg

## ROUTE

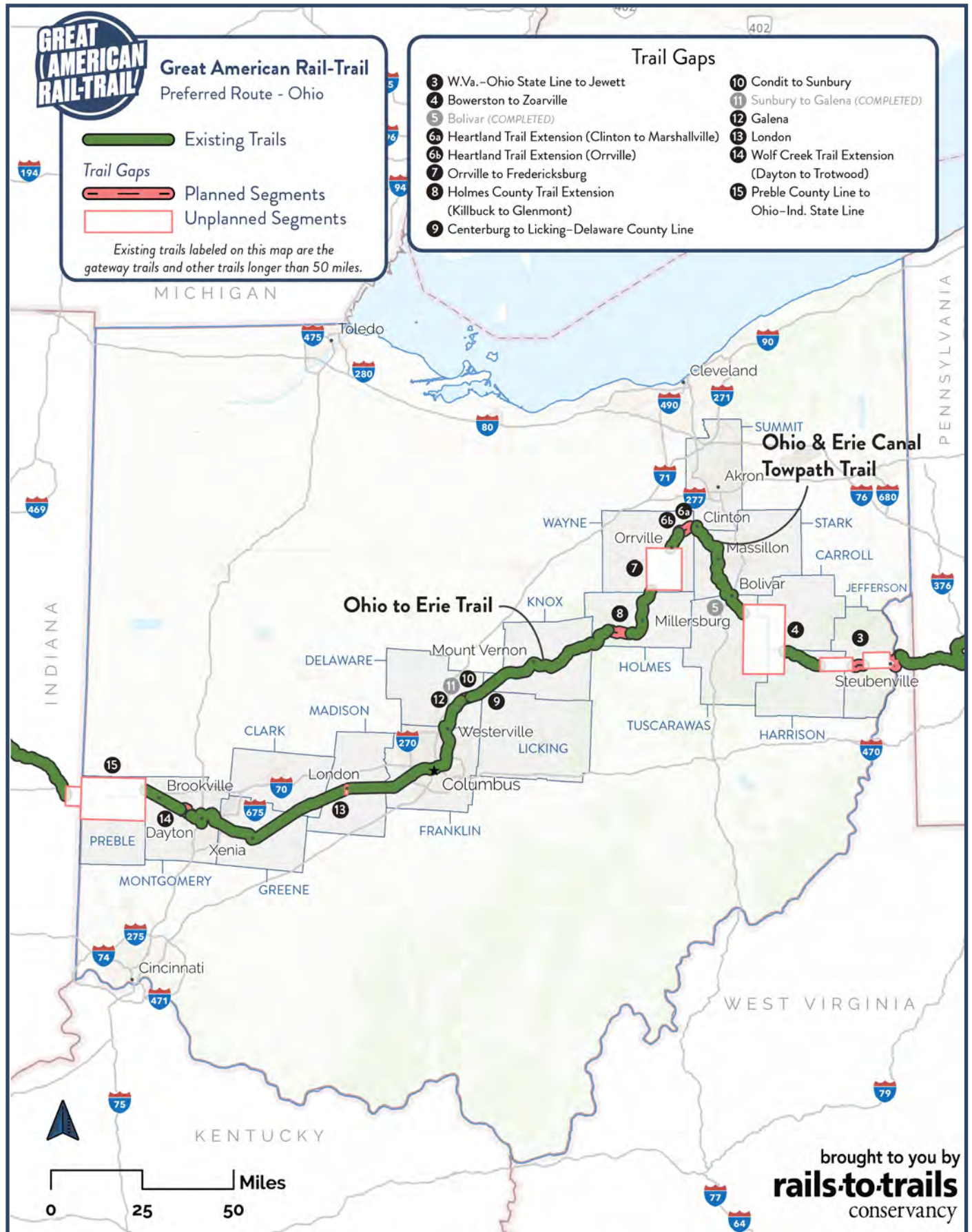
Several iconic trails make possible the route across Ohio, which is already two-thirds complete. The Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail connects New Philadelphia north to Cleveland, providing a rich history and unique experience along the way. Instead of following the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail to Cleveland, however, the Great American Rail-Trail will branch off at Clinton, Ohio, to head about 147 miles southwest on the developing Ohio to Erie Trail, which travels to Cincinnati through Columbus.

## TABLE 10 GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL MILEAGE IN OHIO

Total Great American Rail-Trail Existing Trail Miles in Ohio (% of Total State Mileage)	234.0 (69.8%)
Total Great American Rail-Trail Trail Gap Miles in Ohio (% of Total State Mileage)	101.3 (30.2%)
Total Trail Gaps in Ohio	11
Total Great American Rail-Trail Miles in Ohio	335.3

# GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT 2022

## MAP 5: OHIO



GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT  
OHIO

**TABLE 11 GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE THROUGH OHIO**

Existing Trail or Trail Gap Name	Length in Ohio Along Great American Rail-Trail (in Miles)	Existing Trail or Trail Gap Name	Length in Ohio Along Great American Rail-Trail (in Miles)
TRAIL GAP 3 – W.Va.–Ohio State Line to Jewett	25.2	TRAIL GAP 12 – Galena	0.5
Conotton Creek Trail	11.5	Hoover Scenic Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	0.6
TRAIL GAP 4 – Bowerston to Zoarville	17.9	Genoa Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	4.0
Zoar Valley Trail (Part of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail)	5.9	Westerville B&W (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	2.5
TRAIL GAP 5 – Bolivar COMPLETED	-	Alum Creek Greenway Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	12.0
Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail	29.2	Downtown Connector Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	5.0
TRAIL GAP 6a – Heartland Trail Extension (Clinton to Marshallville)	6.0	Scioto Greenway Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	3.9
Heartland Trail (Marshallville to Orrville)	2.3	Camp Chase Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	15.9
TRAIL GAP 6b – Heartland Trail Extension (Orrville)	1.3	Roberts Pass Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	6.5
Heartland Trail – Orrville	1.6	TRAIL GAP 13 – London	0.8
TRAIL GAP 7 – Orrville to Fredericksburg	14.1	Prairie Grass Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	29.2
Holmes County Trail (Fredericksburg to Killbuck; Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	15.8	Creekside Trail	15.1
TRAIL GAP 8 – Holmes County Trail Extension (Killbuck to Glenmont)	6.6	Mad River Trail	3.0
Holmes County Trail (Glenmont to Brinkhaven; Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	7.3	Great Miami River Trail	4.0
Mohican Valley Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	4.5	Wolf Creek Trail (Dayton)	2.9
Kokosing Gap Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	13.5	TRAIL GAP 14 – Wolf Creek Trail Extension (Dayton to Trotwood)	5.0
Downtown Connector Trail (Mount Vernon; Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	1.0	Wolf Creek Trail (Trotwood to Preble County Line)	10.9
Heart of Ohio Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	17.2	TRAIL GAP 15 – Preble County Line to Ohio–Ind. State Line	21.8
TRAIL GAP 9 – Centerburg to Licking–Delaware County Line	1.3		
Meredith State Road Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	1.5	Total Miles	335.3
TRAIL GAP 10 – Condit to Sunbury	0.8	Existing Trail Miles	234.0
Sandel Legacy Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	5.7	Trail Gap Miles	101.3
TRAIL GAP 11 – Sunbury to Galena COMPLETED	-		
Thomas W. Hopper Legacy Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	1.5		

# GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT OHIO

## TRAIL GAP 3 – WEST VIRGINIA–OHIO STATE LINE TO JEWETT

As discussed earlier in Trail Gap 2, a trail will likely cross over the Ohio River into Steubenville, Ohio, on the Market Street Bridge. Once in Steubenville, there are no formal plans to fill the 25.2 miles to the existing Conotton Creek Trail.

**Segment 1 (Steubenville to Alikanna, Ohio):** RTC has met with the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District as well as Brooke Hancock Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission to develop a proposed trail alignment through Steubenville and Jefferson County in Ohio. As discussed in Trail Gap 2, a trail could cross over the Ohio River from Weirton, West Virginia, to Steubenville, Ohio, via the Market Street Bridge. From the Market Street Bridge, approximately 1.5 miles of trail are under development in Steubenville along the riverfront, heading north toward the Steubenville Marina. At Alikanna, a trail would need to cross U.S. 22, where there is potential for an at-grade crossing or an underground crossing that could make use of an old bridge.

**Segment 2 (Alikanna to Jewett, Ohio):** From Alikanna, the corridor could follow Wills Creek northeast to parallel North Fork Wills Creek and 7 Creeks Road. The corridor could diverge from North Fork Wills Creek to cross state Route 43 and Reeds Mill Road until meeting up again with North Fork Wills Creek to parallel Cedar Lick Run at Kragel Road, continuing to Broadacre.

Near Broadacre, the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District has plans to develop a trail through the planned Hellbender Preserve. This planned 2.6-mile trail would bring attention to the hellbender salamander, an endangered species native to Ohio and the eastern United States. The greatest population of hellbenders in the country is found in Jefferson County. The planned Hellbender Preserve Trail would follow an abandoned rail line through lands to be included in the preserve and would include several beautiful bridges and tunnels with rich histories. The trail would educate the public on conservation efforts underway to save the eastern hellbender, as well as highlight the natural resources and history of the area.

Between Broadacre and Unionport, at Carman Road/Township Road 201, the proposed corridor crosses the Jefferson–Harrison county border. The corridor could parallel a rail corridor owned by the Columbus & Ohio River Railroad Company to pass through Broadacre, Unionport and Cadiz Junction before reaching the eastern terminus of the Conotton Creek Trail.

## CONOTTON CREEK TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	11.5
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	11.5
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Friends of the Conotton Creek Trail, Harrison County
Website	<a href="http://harrisoncountyohio.org/trails">harrisoncountyohio.org/trails</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://trailink.com/trail/conotton-creek-trail">trailink.com/trail/conotton-creek-trail</a>

The Conotton Creek Trail features 11.5 miles of rail-trail traveling from Jewett to Bowerston, Ohio. Once the corridor of the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway, the trail now travels across Ohio’s countryside and features five covered bridge crossings over the Conotton Creek. The trail was repaved in 2021, which will make this popular trail more accessible for the many seniors who are part of the surrounding community.

## TRAIL GAP 4 – BOWERSTON TO ZOARVILLE

From the western end of the Conotton Creek Trail in Bowerston, Ohio, the Tuscarawas County Trail and Green Space Master Plan illustrates a plan to complete this 17.9-mile gap as part of a countywide network of trails, but does not discuss exact routing or project timeline plans. The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District owns significant land between Harrison, Carroll and Tuscarawas counties and is a willing and eager partner on trail development in the area. Tuscarawas County also has plans to extend the existing Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail south toward Dover for about 4 miles. The county has received a TA program grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation and is currently raising funds for the local matching funds. Construction is anticipated in 2022.

The county also has plans for 4–5 miles of bike lanes south from New Philadelphia toward Dennison. A strategic combination of these initiatives could help fill Trail Gap 4. New Philadelphia is partnering with the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition to complete a connectivity study in 2022 to determine the best route for New Philadelphia’s portion of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail.

# GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT

## OHIO

### ZOAR VALLEY TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO & ERIE CANALWAY TOWPATH TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	19.6
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	5.9
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt, ballast, dirt, grass
Trail Manager	Camp Tuscazoar Foundation Inc., Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition
Website	· <a href="http://ohioanderiecanalway.com">ohioanderiecanalway.com</a> · <a href="http://tuscazoar.org/zoar-valley-trail">tuscazoar.org/zoar-valley-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://traillink.com/trail/zoar-valley-trail">traillink.com/trail/zoar-valley-trail</a>

The Zoar Valley Trail runs alongside the Tuscarawas River for nearly 20 miles from New Philadelphia north to Bolivar, Ohio. The Zoar Valley Trail will host the Great American Rail-Trail along its northernmost 5.9 miles, beginning south of Historic Zoar Village. The village features architecture dating back to 1817, when Historic Zoar Village was founded by a group of German Separatists seeking religious freedom. The Zoar Valley Trail travels past Historic Zoar Village and is a part of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail, which extends beyond Bolivar.

The Camp Tuscazoar Foundation operates the Zoar Valley Trail, including providing camping facilities, water and restrooms for trail users.

### TRAIL GAP 5 – BOLIVAR COMPLETED

Trail Gap 5 (Bolivar) is now a completed trail segment as part of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail.

### OHIO & ERIE CANALWAY TOWPATH TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	82.9
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	29.2
Trail Type	Canal
Surface Type	Asphalt, boardwalk, crushed stone
Trail Manager	Canalway Partners, City of Akron, Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, Stark County Park District, Summit Metro Parks, Tuscarawas County Park Department
Website	<a href="http://ohioanderiecanalway.com">ohioanderiecanalway.com</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://traillink.com/trail/ohio--erie-canal-towpath-trail">traillink.com/trail/ohio--erie-canal-towpath-trail</a>

The nearly 83-mile Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail follows a historical canal where mules pulled boats from New Philadelphia to Lake Erie in Cleveland from 1827 to 1913. When the full towpath trail is completed, it will be 101 miles long and incorporate several trails, including the Zoar Valley Trail. The Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail will host the Great American Rail-Trail for 29.2 miles between Bolivar and Clinton.

The Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail is part of the Ohio to Erie Trail and overlaps with the Ohio to Erie Trail from Massillon north to Clinton. The mileage from Bolivar to Clinton will be credited to the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail, rather than the Ohio to Erie Trail, so that total mileage of the Great American Rail-Trail is not duplicated.

The Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail is managed by various jurisdictions, including the county park districts in Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas counties, as well as the National Park Service via Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition is the active nonprofit organization that leads many initiatives in support of the towpath trail. The towpath trail along the Great American Rail-Trail is within the jurisdictions of Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas counties and features a crushed limestone surface that is mostly Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible.

A 2-mile segment of the towpath trail through Bolivar was completed in 2021, connecting the trail from the south side of Bolivar to the Bolivar Aqueduct McDonnell Towpath Trailhead.

### TRAIL GAP 6a – HEARTLAND TRAIL EXTENSION (CLINTON TO MARSHALLVILLE)

Rails to Trails of Wayne County owns the right-of-way of an abandoned Cleveland, Akron and Columbus (CA&C) rail line from Clinton to the city of Orrville and is working on converting it into a trail called the Heartland Trail.

Rails to Trails of Wayne County completed a feasibility study of Trail Gap 6a in 2020 and is currently raising funds for project construction. A total of \$55,000 in state funding has already been secured for 650 feet of trail in Marshallville.

# GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT OHIO

## HEARTLAND TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	3.9
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	3.9
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Rails to Trails of Wayne County
Website	waynecountytrails.org
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/ohio--erie-canal-towpath-trail

Two portions of the Heartland Trail have been completed. In September 2019, Phase 1—a 2.3-mile segment of trail—was opened between Marshallville and Forrer Road in Orrville. Rails to Trails of Wayne County and RTC celebrated the new paved trail with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Marshallville.

Another 1.6-mile trail segment is open in Orrville. The trail segment makes use of city sidewalks and multiuse trail to travel through the center of Orrville, connecting parks, local businesses and homes. The completed segment begins at North Main Street, just south of Hostetler Road. The trail travels south along Main Street and heads west behind a residential property. After crossing Mineral Springs Street, the trail continues south, traveling through parkland and passing the Orrville Dog Park. The trail transitions to sidewalk as it heads south along North Ella Street and ends at West Market Street.

### TRAIL GAP 6b – HEARTLAND TRAIL EXTENSION (ORRVILLE)

In the spring of 2021, Rails to Trails of Wayne County and the city of Orrville received a \$947,972 grant through the Transportation Alternatives Program via the Ohio Department of Transportation. The grant will complete the 1.3-mile gap in the Heartland Trail between Forrer Road and Allen Avenue. Construction is anticipated in 2024.

### TRAIL GAP 7 – ORRVILLE TO FREDERICKSBURG

The southern terminus of the existing portion of the Heartland Trail is located at West Market and North Ella streets in Orrville. An abandoned rail line runs from just south of Orrville for more than 13 miles to Fredericksburg, but unfortunately, much of the right-of-way from Orrville south to Fredericksburg has been sold to private landowners. Rails to Trails of Wayne County has a long-term vision to connect a future trail between the communities of Orrville and Fredericksburg, and the organization is exploring all options, including attempting to reacquire the former rail corridor land. Further research should be done to determine the best future trail option available to fill this 14-mile gap.

## OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	270
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	147.6
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt, concrete, crushed stone
Trail Manager	Multiple; see separate trail sections below (coordination provided by Ohio to Erie Trail Fund)
Website	ohioerietrail.org
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/ohio-to-erie-trail

Starting at Fredericksburg, the Ohio to Erie Trail hosts the Great American Rail-Trail for about 147 miles across the state, winding southwest through Ohio’s scenic countryside and bustling midwestern towns. The Ohio to Erie Trail was first envisioned by Ed Honton, who founded the trail and served as first president of the nonprofit Ohio to Erie Trail Fund. The trail was further developed by the National Park Service and various trail groups. The Ohio to Erie Trail is planned to span the state, reaching a total of 326 miles. As of 2019, about 275 planned miles were paved trails, with some 50 miles on streets or rural roads.

The Ohio to Erie Trail is formed by a collection of regional trails traveling across Ohio from Cleveland to Cincinnati. Included in the Great American Rail-Trail route are 17 trails that fall within the Ohio to Erie Trail footprint but are uniquely named and often operated independently. Each of the 17 trails will be discussed below, with their respective mileages included. The 17 trails along the Ohio to Erie Trail and Great American Rail-Trail route include:

- Holmes County Trail
- Mohican Valley Trail
- Kokosing Gap Trail
- Downtown Connector Trail (Mount Vernon)
- Heart of Ohio Trail
- Meredith State Road Trail
- Sandel Legacy Trail
- Thomas W. Hopper Legacy Trail
- Hoover Scenic Trail
- Genoa Trail
- Westerville B&W
- Alum Creek Greenway Trail

# GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT

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- Downtown Connector Trail
- Scioto Greenway Trail
- Camp Chase Trail
- Roberts Pass Trail
- Prairie Grass Trail

The Ohio to Erie Trail is maintained through the combined efforts of trail partners including: the City of Mount Vernon, the Clark County Park District, Columbus and Franklin County MetroParks, Delaware County Friends of the Trail, Friends of Madison County Parks & Trails, Friends of the Camp Chase Trail, Genoa Township, Greene County Parks & Trails, Heart of Ohio Trail Inc., the Holmes County Park District, the Holmes County Rails to Trails Coalition Inc., the Knox County Park District, the Kokosing Gap Trail Board, the Madison County Park Board, the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, the Ohio to Erie Trail Fund, Preservation Parks of Delaware County, Rails to Trails of Wayne County, Summit Metro Parks, the Village of Galena and Westerville Parks & Recreation.

### HOLMES COUNTY TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	23.1
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	23.1
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Holmes County Park District, Holmes County Rails to Trails Coalition Inc.
Website	holmestrail.com
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/holmes-county-trail

The Holmes County Trail, part of the Ohio to Erie Trail, is currently open in two disconnected segments, connecting Fredericksburg to Killbuck and Glenmont to Brinkhaven. Located in the heart of Amish Country, the Holmes County Trail was the first recreational trail in the country designed to accommodate Amish buggies. Holmes County Rails to Trails Coalition Inc. and the Holmes County Park District maintain and develop the trail.

The Holmes County Trail is currently divided into two segments of existing trail with a gap between them:

**Segment 1** – 15.8 miles of trail between Fredericksburg and Killbuck.

**Segment 2** – 7.3 miles of trail between Glenmont and Brinkhaven (also known as Gann).

The gap from Killbuck to Glenmont is discussed in Trail Gap 8.

### TRAIL GAP 8 – HOLMES COUNTY TRAIL EXTENSION (KILLBUCK TO GLENMONT)

There is a 6.6-mile trail gap in the Holmes County Trail between Killbuck and Glenmont. Trail users currently utilize state Route 520—a rural, two-lane road with no shoulder—as an interim on-road connector to travel from Killbuck to Glenmont. Holmes County Rails to Trails Coalition Inc., with the Holmes County Park District, will complete Trail Gap 8 in two parts. First, roughly 4 miles from the existing trail in Glenmont to state Route 520 will be completed in 2022. Funding is already in place and engineering is complete to make this first section possible. Funding is being sought for the remaining section between state Route 520 and Killbuck, which is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2023.

### MOHICAN VALLEY TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	4.5
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	4.5
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Knox County Park District
Website	knoxcountyparks.org/trails/bike-trails/mohican-valley-bike-trail
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/mohican-valley-trail

From the western terminus of the Holmes County Trail in Brinkhaven (also known as Gann), the Mohican Valley Trail travels 4.5 miles west to Danville. Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail, the Mohican Valley Trail follows an abandoned right-of-way of the old Penn Central Transportation Company on the eastern edge of Knox County. The Mohican Valley Trail features the Bridge of Dreams, a 370-foot covered bridge over the Mohican State Scenic River.

The trail is administered by the Knox County Park District. There is a trailhead located off East Street in the Village of Danville. Trail users can continue through the quiet streets of Danville to reach the Kokosing Gap Trail. Knox County Park District intends to resurface the Mohican Valley Trail soon.

# GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT OHIO

## KOKOSING GAP TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	13.5
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	13.5
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Knox County Park District, Kokosing Gap Trail Board
Website	<a href="http://kokosinggaptrail.org">kokosinggaptrail.org</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://trailink.com/trail/kokosing-gap-trail">trailink.com/trail/kokosing-gap-trail</a>

The Kokosing Gap Trail travels 13.5 miles from Danville to Mount Vernon. The trail is rich in railroad history, which is displayed throughout the route. Once the corridor of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the rail-trail features two railroad bridges, each more than 250 feet long, over the Kokosing State Scenic River, as well as restored train cars in Gambier. The trail is part of the Ohio to Erie Trail and is overseen by a 15-member board. From the city of Mount Vernon, trail users may either connect to the 1-mile Downtown Connector Trail or remain on the Kokosing Gap Trail to end in the city's Phillips Park.

## DOWNTOWN CONNECTOR TRAIL (MOUNT VERNON; PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	1.0
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	1.0
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	City of Mount Vernon, Knox County Park District
Website	<a href="http://knoxcountyparks.org/trails">knoxcountyparks.org/trails</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://trailink.com/trail/downtown-connector-trail">trailink.com/trail/downtown-connector-trail</a>

The 1-mile Downtown Connector Trail opened in May 2016 and connects the Kokosing Gap Trail to the Heart of Ohio Trail through Mount Vernon. The trail is part of the Ohio to Erie Trail and begins at the western terminus of the Kokosing Gap Trail on Mt. Vernon Avenue. The trail travels west along the Kokosing River to the restored CA&C Railroad Depot, where it connects to the Heart of Ohio Trail.

## HEART OF OHIO TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	17.2
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	17.2
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt, ballast
Trail Manager	Heart of Ohio Trail Inc., Knox County Park District
Website	<a href="http://heartofohiotrail.com">heartofohiotrail.com</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://trailink.com/trail/heart-of-ohio-trail">trailink.com/trail/heart-of-ohio-trail</a>

The Heart of Ohio Trail, part of the Ohio to Erie Trail, travels 17.2 miles from Mount Vernon to Centerburg. Along the trail in Mount Vernon, Ariel-Foundation Park proudly displays Ohio's industrial past in the form of a 250-acre adaptive reuse project. Once the site of a glass-making factory, this space now features sculptures, lakes, an observation tower and walking trails. Ariel-Foundation Park links to both the Heart of Ohio Trail and the Kokosing Gap Trail. The western terminus of the Heart of Ohio Trail will eventually run to the Knox-Licking county line and is discussed below. The Knox County Park District and the Heart of Ohio Trail Inc. have championed the Heart of Ohio Trail and are in the process of creating a welcome center with a new restroom along the trail as well.

## TRAIL GAP 9 – CENTERBURG TO LICKING-DELAWARE COUNTY LINE

There is a 1.3-mile gap from Huffman Road outside of Centerburg in Knox County, Ohio, to the Licking- Delaware county line. In January 2020, the trail corridor was acquired as part of a 40-acre plot of land that will be called the Newell Recreation Preserve. In the spring of 2021, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources awarded \$498,000 from the Clean Ohio Trails Fund to complete this gap in the Heart of Ohio Trail. Project construction went out for bid in January 2022 and is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2022.



# GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT

## OHIO

### MEREDITH STATE ROAD TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	1.5
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	1.5
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Delaware County Friends of the Trail, Preservation Parks of Delaware County
Website	<a href="https://preservationparks.com/ohio-to-erie-trail/meredith-state-road-trail">preservationparks.com/ohio-to-erie-trail/meredith-state-road-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="https://trailink.com/trail/meredith-state-road-trail-">trailink.com/trail/meredith-state-road-trail-</a>

The 1.5-mile Meredith State Road Trail travels from the Licking–Delaware county line to the unincorporated community of Condit. Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail, the paved Meredith State Road Trail is supported by Preservation Parks of Delaware County and Delaware County Friends of the Trail.

### TRAIL GAP 10 – CONDIT TO SUNBURY

Preservation Parks of Delaware County’s park plan for the years 2019–2028 outlines Ohio to Erie Trail developments from Condit to Sunbury, Ohio. Preservation Parks of Delaware County owns the railroad corridor from Meredith State Road to Hartford Road in Sunbury and completed 2.5 miles of this section in the fall of 2020. In the spring of 2021, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources awarded \$316,500 from the Clean Ohio Trails Fund to complete Trail Gap 10. Delaware County intends to complete the remaining 0.8 mile of Trail Gap 10 in 2022, including the completion of a bridge over Big Walnut Creek.

### SANDEL LEGACY TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	5.7
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	5.7
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Delaware County Friends of the Trail, Preservation Parks of Delaware County
Website	<a href="https://preservationparks.com/ohio-to-erie-trail/sandel-legacy-trail">preservationparks.com/ohio-to-erie-trail/sandel-legacy-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="https://trailink.com/trail/sandel-legacy-trail-">trailink.com/trail/sandel-legacy-trail-</a>

The Sandel Legacy Trail travels 5.7 miles through the village of Sunbury. Once an abandoned railroad bed, the trail was donated by Walter and Kathy Sandel with funding for trail conversion provided by a NatureWorks grant. The trail was formerly known as the Big Walnut Community Trail and continues to serve as a community hub, with a picnic area and former depot that houses the Delaware County Model Railroaders Group. The trail is supported by Preservation Parks of Delaware County and Delaware County Friends of the Trail. Eventually, the Meredith State Road Trail and Sandel Legacy Trail will merge under the name Sandel Legacy Trail. In 2018, Delaware County received a grant to purchase additional trail corridor, and in 2020, the county constructed an additional 2.5 miles of trail along this corridor.

### TRAIL GAP 11 – SUNBURY TO GALENA – COMPLETED

Trail Gap 11 (Sunbury to Galena) is now a completed trail segment as part of the Thomas W. Hopper Legacy Trail.

### THOMAS W. HOPPER LEGACY TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	1.5
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	1.5
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Village of Galena
Website	<a href="https://dcft.typepad.com/galenabricktrail">dcft.typepad.com/galenabricktrail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="https://trailink.com/trail/thomas-w-hopper-legacy-trail">trailink.com/trail/thomas-w-hopper-legacy-trail</a>

The 1.5-mile Thomas W. Hopper Legacy Trail, formerly known as the Galena Brick Trail, is the section of the Ohio to Erie Trail that goes through the village of Galena. The latest section of the trail, which opened in late 2019, begins at Dustin Road and follows a former railbed northward to Sunbury. Largely wooded, it includes a bridge over Little Walnut Creek and travels through Miller Park, which contains a small playground. A trailhead parking lot is located where the trail crosses North Walnut Street in Galena. The trail is supported by the village of Galena.

### TRAIL GAP 12 – GALENA

The former rail corridor that now houses the Thomas W. Hopper Legacy Trail continues south from Galena; however, it was developed as part of the Blackhawk Golf Course. There is now a 0.5-mile gap between the Thomas W. Hopper Legacy Trail and the Hoover Scenic Trail along the Hoover Reservoir. Utilizing local roadways will help connect the trail gap.

# GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT OHIO

## HOOVER SCENIC TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	0.6
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	0.6
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Delaware County Friends of the Trail, Preservation Parks of Delaware County
Website	<a href="http://preservationparks.com/ohio-to-erie-trail/hover-scenic-trail">preservationparks.com/ohio-to-erie-trail/hover-scenic-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://traillink.com/trail/hover-scenic-trail">traillink.com/trail/hover-scenic-trail</a>

The Hoover Scenic Trail, part of the Ohio to Erie Trail, winds 0.6 mile through the Hoover Nature Preserve area. More than 220 bird species have been observed along the trail, including bald eagles and ospreys. The trail begins south of the village of Galena and runs along the shore of the Hoover Reservoir within the Hoover Nature Preserve. The trail heads west to cross South Old 3C Road via a bicycle and pedestrian bridge. Trail users continue west for a short way on Plumb Road to connect to the Genoa Trail. The trail is supported by Preservation Parks of Delaware County and Delaware County Friends of the Trail.

## GENOA TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	4.0
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	4.0
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Delaware County Friends of the Trail, Genoa Township, Preservation Parks of Delaware County
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://genoatwp.com/departments/parks/trails.php">genoatwp.com/departments/parks/trails.php</a></li> <li><a href="http://dcft.typepad.com/genoatrail">dcft.typepad.com/genoatrail</a></li> </ul>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://traillink.com/trail/genoa-trail">traillink.com/trail/genoa-trail</a>

The 4-mile Genoa Trail parallels state Route 3 from south of Galena to Westerville, Ohio, but is separated from the highway by trees and vegetation. Once an abandoned railroad, the corridor now features a multiuse asphalt trail and amenities for trail users, including benches and a bicycle repair station. The Genoa Trail is part of the Ohio to Erie Trail and is supported by Genoa Township, Delaware County Friends of the Trail and Preservation Parks of Delaware County.

## WESTERVILLE B&W (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	23.0
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	2.5
Trail Type	Greenway, rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt, concrete
Trail Manager	Delaware County Friends of the Trail, Westerville Parks & Recreation
Website	<a href="http://westerville.org/services/parks-recreation/parks-and-trails/recreation-trail-system">westerville.org/services/parks-recreation/parks-and-trails/recreation-trail-system</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://traillink.com/trail/westerville-bw">traillink.com/trail/westerville-bw</a>

The Westerville B&W (Bike & Walk Route), part of the Ohio to Erie Trail, is an extensive system of paved multiuse trails forming many loops throughout the city of Westerville, a suburb of Columbus. The Westerville B&W will host the Great American Rail-Trail for 2.5 miles, connecting to the Alum Creek Greenway Trail. The spine of the Westerville B&W was built on a former rail corridor and connects 23 miles of trail throughout the city. The trail system is managed by Westerville Parks & Recreation and Delaware County Friends of the Trail.

## ALUM CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	25.2
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	12.0
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Asphalt, concrete
Trail Manager	Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, Columbus Recreation & Parks Department
Website	<a href="http://columbus.gov/recreationandparks/trails/alum-creek-trail">columbus.gov/recreationandparks/trails/alum-creek-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://traillink.com/trail/alum-creek-greenway-trail">traillink.com/trail/alum-creek-greenway-trail</a>

Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail, the Alum Creek Greenway Trail winds alongside the picturesque Alum Creek for 25.2 miles. The Alum Creek Greenway Trail will host the Great American Rail-Trail for approximately 12 miles to travel between Westerville and downtown Columbus. The Alum Creek Greenway Trail celebrates active transportation by honoring important figures with plaques and bridges along the trail. From the Alum Creek Greenway Trail, users may connect to the I-670 Downtown Connector Trail at Airport Drive in Columbus.

# GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT

## OHIO

### DOWNTOWN CONNECTOR TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	5.0
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	5.0
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, Columbus Recreation & Parks Department
Website	<a href="http://columbus.gov/recreationandparks/trails/downtown-connector-trail">columbus.gov/recreationandparks/trails/downtown-connector-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://trailink.com/trail/downtown-connector-trail-(columbus)">trailink.com/trail/downtown-connector-trail-(columbus)</a>

The Downtown Connector Trail parallels I-670 for 3.5 miles from Ohio Dominican University to Clinton Middle School and Columbus State Community College. Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail, the fully paved Downtown Connector Trail serves as an important link between neighborhoods on the city's east side and downtown Columbus. The asphalt trail was planned and implemented through the collaborative efforts of the city of Westerville, the city of Columbus, and Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks. A 1.5-mile segment of the Downtown Connector Trail is largely on road, utilizing lower-volume roads and bike lanes with clear signage, and is described as "easily navigable."

### SCIOTO GREENWAY TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	12.2
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	3.9
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt, concrete
Trail Manager	Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, Columbus Recreation & Parks Department
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://sciotomile.com/locations/scioto-greenways-recreational-trails">sciotomile.com/locations/scioto-greenways-recreational-trails</a></li> <li><a href="http://columbus.gov/recreationandparks/trails/scioto-trail">columbus.gov/recreationandparks/trails/scioto-trail</a></li> </ul>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://trailink.com/trail/scioto-greenway-trail">trailink.com/trail/scioto-greenway-trail</a>

The Scioto Greenway Trail is a 12.2-mile trail that traverses the banks of the Scioto River, connecting several parks and offering scenic views of downtown Columbus along the way. The first greenway built in Columbus, the Scioto Greenway Trail serves as the spine of the Scioto Mile, a string of prominent parks and landmarks in downtown Columbus. RTC contributed \$7,500 to this trail connection in 2013 with a grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation's Metropolitan Grants Program. The Scioto Greenway Trail will host the Great American Rail-Trail for 3.9 miles, traveling through the west side of Columbus.

### CAMP CHASE TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	15.9
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	15.9
Trail Type	Rail-with-rail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, Columbus Recreation & Parks Department, Friends of the Camp Chase Trail
Website	<a href="http://centralohiogreenways.com/trails/camp-chase-trail">centralohiogreenways.com/trails/camp-chase-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://trailink.com/trail/camp-chase-trail">trailink.com/trail/camp-chase-trail</a>

The Camp Chase Trail travels 15.9 miles from Columbus to West Jefferson, Ohio. The trail, named after the railroad with which it shares a corridor, serves as a shining example of a well-constructed rail-with-trail. The trail was built by Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks and the Columbus Recreation & Parks Department. The Friends of the Camp Chase Trail group supports the trail through monthly trail cleanups and events. The trail ends at a trailhead with restrooms and parking at Wilson Road Southeast in West Jefferson, Ohio, and connects directly to Roberts Pass Trail. The Camp Chase Trail will soon be widened to better accommodate cyclists.

# GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT OHIO

## ROBERTS PASS TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	6.5
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	6.5
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Friends of Madison County Parks & Trails, Madison County Park Board
Website	<a href="http://fmcpt.com/roberts-pass-trail">fmcpt.com/roberts-pass-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://traillink.com/trail/roberts-pass-trail">traillink.com/trail/roberts-pass-trail</a>

Roberts Pass Trail runs 6.5 miles from Wilson Road in rural Fairfield Township to London, Ohio. The paved trail, which is part of the Ohio to Erie Trail, passes through farmland for its entirety and is shaded by tree canopy throughout. Local volunteers secured the right-of-way and a work lane for construction of the trail. Roberts Pass Trail is named after Wayne Roberts and Gene Pass, the leaders of Friends of Madison County Parks & Trails. A memorial plaque near Maple Street in London records the history of the Roberts Pass Trail. The trail travels through farmland and ends at Maple Street.

## TRAIL GAP 13 – LONDON

The 0.8-mile gap in London begins at South Walnut Street near the western terminus of Roberts Pass Trail and continues to Midway Street, the eastern terminus of the Prairie Grass Trail. There is currently an interim on-road connector through London's segment of the Ohio to Erie Trail. An off-road trail through London is currently being explored in more detail.

## PRAIRIE GRASS TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length (in Miles)	29.2
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	29.2
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Clark County Park District, Friends of Madison County Parks & Trails, Greene County Parks & Trails, Madison County Park Board
Website	<a href="http://fmcpt.com/prairie-grass-trail">fmcpt.com/prairie-grass-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://traillink.com/trail/prairie-grass-trail">traillink.com/trail/prairie-grass-trail</a>

The Prairie Grass Trail travels 29.2 miles from London to Xenia, Ohio. The Prairie Grass Trail is part of the Ohio to Erie Trail and is one of four rail-trails that radiate from Xenia Station. Once a Baltimore and Ohio Railroad freight yard, Xenia Station now includes a local history museum that features information about the three railroads that once ran through the town: the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Wellston Subdivision and two lines of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The Prairie Grass Trail continues southwest from London to Xenia and ends at Xenia Station, a spot that also marks the western end of the Great American Rail-Trail's journey along the Ohio to Erie Trail. The Great American Rail-Trail continues west on the Creekside Trail from Xenia Station.

## CREEKSIDE TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	15.1
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	15.1
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt, concrete
Trail Manager	Five Rivers MetroParks, Greene County Parks & Trails
Website	<a href="http://metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#creekside-trail">metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#creekside-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://traillink.com/trail/creekside-trail">traillink.com/trail/creekside-trail</a>

The Creekside Trail travels 15.1 miles northwest to Dayton through the town of Beavercreek, Ohio. The Creekside Trail is a rail-trail and is part of Miami Valley Trails—a network of more than 340 miles of trails that travel throughout Ohio's scenic Miami Valley. The Creekside Trail is also one of several trails that radiate from Xenia Station, allowing for connections to the Xenia–Jamestown Connector, the Little Miami Scenic Trail and the Prairie Grass Trail (the latter two are also part of the Ohio to Erie Trail, which continues south to Cincinnati). Greene County Parks & Trails manages the Creekside Trail east of the Greene County line, while Five Rivers MetroParks manages the trail west of the Greene County line to Eastwood MetroPark in Dayton, where the Creekside Trail's northwest terminus is located.

# GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT OHIO

## MAD RIVER TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	7.1
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	3.0
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Five Rivers MetroParks, Miami Conservancy District
Website	<a href="http://metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#mad-river-trail">metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#mad-river-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://trailink.com/trail/mad-river-trail">trailink.com/trail/mad-river-trail</a>

The scenic 7.1-mile Mad River Trail follows the Mad River into downtown Dayton. The Mad River Trail will host the Great American Rail-Trail for a 3-mile section that begins in Dayton's Eastwood MetroPark and travels to RiverScape MetroPark. The paved trail is relatively flat and is accessible for cyclists, skaters and pedestrians of all ages. The Mad River Trail is administered by the Miami Conservancy District and Five Rivers MetroParks.

## GREAT MIAMI RIVER TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	86.2
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	4.0
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Five Rivers MetroParks, Miami Conservancy District
Website	<a href="http://metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#great-miami-river-trail">metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#great-miami-river-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://trailink.com/trail/great-miami-river-trail">trailink.com/trail/great-miami-river-trail</a>

The Great Miami River Trail runs alongside the Great Miami River for 86.2 miles from Piqua down to Fairfield. The Great Miami River Trail is the backbone of Ohio's paved Miami Valley Trails network, spanning 340 miles throughout Ohio's Miami Valley. It will host the Great American Rail-Trail for approximately 4 miles through downtown Dayton.

There is a 7.6-mile loop around downtown Dayton on both sides of the Great Miami River. From the connection to the Mad River Trail, the Great Miami River Trail breaks off in two directions, giving trail users the following options:

**Option 1** – Travel north along Deeds Point MetroPark and Kettering Field to cross the Great Miami River at Island MetroPark.

**Option 2** – Travel south, heading into the heart of the city, to cross the river at West Stewart Street.

Both options connect to the Wolf Creek Trail in Dayton, where Wolf Creek branches off the Great Miami River just south of W. S. McIntosh Memorial Park.

## WOLF CREEK TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	16.2
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	13.8
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	City of Dayton, Five Rivers MetroParks
Website	<a href="http://metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#wolf-creek-trail">metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#wolf-creek-trail</a>
TrailLink Map	<a href="http://trailink.com/trail/wolf-creek-trail-(oh)">trailink.com/trail/wolf-creek-trail-(oh)</a>

The Wolf Creek Trail is currently open in two disconnected segments and travels northwest for 13.8 miles from Dayton to the Montgomery–Preble county line. Part of the Ohio Miami Valley's 340 miles of off-road trails, Wolf Creek Trail is a well-maintained asphalt route that winds alongside Wolf Creek. With its longer, westernmost segment managed by Five Rivers MetroParks, Wolf Creek is one of the five waterways that gives MetroParks its name. The city of Dayton manages the trail east of Trotwood.

The Wolf Creek Trail is currently divided into two segments of existing trail with one gap (Trail Gap 14) between them:

**Segment 1** – 2.9 miles of trail heading west from Dayton to the unincorporated community of Stillwater Junction.

**Segment 2** – 10.9 miles of trail between Trotwood and Preble County Line Road in Brookville.

At the conjunction of the Mad River Trail and the easternmost endpoint of the Wolf Creek Trail, the Great American Rail-Trail route will head west on the 2.9-mile Segment 1 to Trail Gap 14, described below. From Trotwood, the Great American Rail-Trail route will continue northwest on the 10.9-mile Segment 2 to Preble County Line Road in Brookville, which marks the beginning of Trail Gap 15.

# GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT OHIO



*Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail in Ohio | Photo by Richard T. (Tom) Bower*

## **TRAIL GAP 14 – WOLF CREEK TRAIL EXTENSION (DAYTON TO TROTWOOD)**

Five Rivers MetroParks is actively working to complete the 5-mile gap in the Wolf Creek Trail. The preferred route of the Great American Rail-Trail connects Wesleyan Nature Center to Vickwood Lane in Trotwood, the easternmost endpoint of Segment 2, via Hickorydale Park. The route has been determined and funding for construction is anticipated to be secured in the next few years.

## **TRAIL GAP 15 – PREBLE COUNTY LINE TO OHIO-INDIANA STATE LINE**

The Wolf Creek Trail currently ends at the Preble County line. About eight to 10 years ago, the Preble County Commissioners bought the former rail corridor on which the existing Wolf Creek Trail now sits. When private landowners challenged the County Commission on the titles for a portion of the route, the county chose not to fight the challenge. The Preble County Commissioners currently own about 80% of the corridor and are reluctant to move toward trail development as a result.

The Preble County Commissioners expressed interest in looking at a route that uses the Ohio Department of Transportation Right of Way along U.S. 40. Additionally, the Preble County Park District plans to pass a resolution supporting the vision of the Great American Rail-Trail. The planned resolution would both state the Preble County Park District's dedication to finding a suitable way to connect the Great American Rail-Trail through Preble County and ask the Preble County Commissioners to do the same. Another part of the resolution would mention the need for a feasibility study to explore the best way to accomplish linking the Great American Rail-Trail 21.8 miles through Preble County to connect to a future trail development across the border in Indiana.