The Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is a developing 101-mile trail that connects dozens of Northeast Ohio communities. With 87 miles on the ground, this trail is an important economic asset in the region and a critical link in the Cleveland to Pittsburgh corridor, part of the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition’s 1,500-miles-plus regional trail network vision. A 2017 study of the trail’s users, led by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, highlights the impact and the unlocked potential of direct trail-user spending on the region.

37 percent of trail users meet or exceed recommended weekly levels of physical activity.\(^2\)

More than half use the trail for health and exercise (54 percent).

Health-care cost savings for trail users are as much as $4 million ($14–21 per user).\(^3\)

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\(^1\) Single automated trail-traffic counter placed near Lock 29 trailhead in Peninsula, Ohio, within Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

\(^2\) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends 150 minutes of physical activity per week for adults.