

OHIO



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

ROUTE

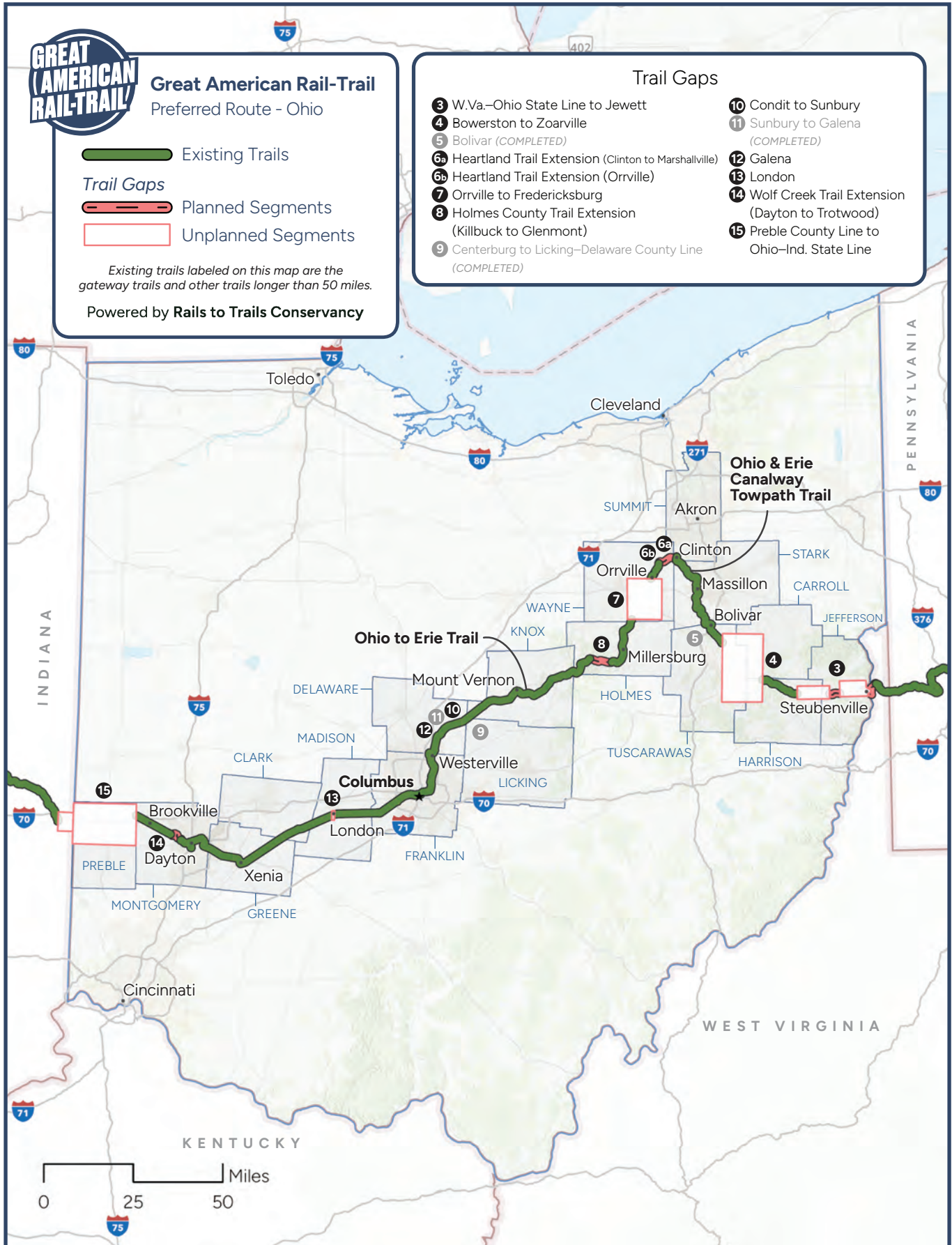
Several iconic trails make possible the route across Ohio, which is already more than two-thirds complete. The Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail connects New Philadelphia north to Cleveland, providing a rich history and unique experience along the way. Instead of following the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail to Cleveland, however, the Great American Rail-Trail will branch off at Clinton, Ohio, to head about 150 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)	234.9 (70.8%)
Total Great American Rail-Trail Gap Miles in Ohio (% of Total State Mileage)	97.0 (29.2%)
Total Trail Gaps in Ohio	10
Total Great American Rail-Trail Miles in Ohio	331.9

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT 2024

MAP 5: OHIO



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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	0.3
Conotton Creek Trail	11.2	Hoover Scenic Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	0.8
TRAIL GAP 4 – Bowerston to Zoarville	17.4	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)	27.8
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	3.2
Holmes County Trail (Glenmont to Brinkhaven; Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	7.3	Great Miami River Trail	4.3
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)	18.5	TRAIL GAP 15 – Preble County Line to Ohio–Ind. State Line	19.8
TRAIL GAP 9 – Centerburg to Licking–Delaware County Line COMPLETED	-		
Sandel Legacy Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	1.8	Total Miles	331.9
TRAIL GAP 10 – Condit to Sunbury	0.5	<i>Existing Trail Miles</i>	234.9
Sandel Legacy Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	6.0	<i>Trail Gap Miles</i>	97.0
TRAIL GAP 11 – Sunbury to Galena COMPLETED	-		
Thomas W. Hopper Legacy Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	1.5		

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Rendering of the Market Street Bridge if converted to trail use | Created by Divya Manek

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

As discussed earlier in Trail Gap 2, a trail could cross over the Ohio River into Steubenville, Ohio, on the Market Street Bridge. Once in Steubenville, a trail could head north and skirt the Ohio River or travel through town on a proposed protected bike lane through downtown Steubenville.

Near Broadacre, the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District has plans to develop a trail through the planned Hellbender Preserve. This planned 3-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.

In late 2023, the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District included funds in an Appalachian Regional Commission grant application that would complete 7 miles of trail along the Great American Rail-Trail. This would include protected bike lanes through Steubenville, the Hellbender Preserve Trail, and the rehabilitation of two unique tunnels and a bridge with a historical connection to Abraham Lincoln.

Options to complete the remaining sections of trail within this gap continue to be explored.

CONOTTON CREEK TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	11.2
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	11.2
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Friends of the Conotton Creek Trail, Harrison County
Website	harrisoncountyohio.org/trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/conotton-creek-trail

The Conotton Creek Trail features 11.2 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 17.4-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

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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 Transportation Alternatives (TA) program grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation and is currently raising funds for the local matching funds.

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 to determine the best route for New Philadelphia’s portion of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ohioanderiecanalway.com tuscazoar.org/zoar-valley-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/zoar-valley-trail

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	ohioanderiecanalway.com
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/ohio--erie-canal-towpath-trail

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 Orrville and is working on converting it into a trail called the Heartland Trail. The group completed a feasibility study of Trail Gap 6a in 2020 and is currently raising project construction funds. State funding totaling \$55,000 has been secured for 650 feet of trail in Marshallville.

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In late 2023, Rails to Trails of Wayne County submitted a request for a capital bill to complete 3.2 miles of Trail Gap 6a from Warwick Road to Marshallville. There is also a Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside request for a portion of this segment. Awards should be finalized in the spring or summer of 2024.

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	traillink.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.

OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	270
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	148.3
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	traillink.com/trail/ohio-to-erie-trail

Starting at Fredericksburg, the Ohio to Erie Trail hosts the Great American Rail-Trail for about 150 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

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- Alum Creek Greenway Trail
- 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	holmescountychamber.com/recreation/holmes-county-rails-trails-coalition
TrailLink Map	traillink.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 2024. Funding is already in place and engineering is complete to make this first section possible.

In June 2023, the Holmes County Park District received funding from the Transportation Alternatives program to complete the last remaining section of Trail Gap 8. This section between Killbuck and state Route 520 is scheduled for completion in 2027.

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	traillink.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.

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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	kokosinggaptrail.org
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/kokosing-gap-trail

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	knoxcountyparks.org/trails
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/downtown-connector-trail

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)	18.5
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	18.5
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt, ballast
Trail Manager	Heart of Ohio Trail Inc., Knox County Park District
Website	www.heartofohiotrail.com
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/heart-of-ohio-trail

The Heart of Ohio Trail, part of the Ohio to Erie Trail, travels 18.5 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 was extended 1.3 miles in 2022 to connect with the Meredith State Road Trail at the Knox-Licking county line. 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 COMPLETED

Trail Gap 9 (Centerburg to Licking- Delaware County Line) is now a completed trail segment as part of the Heart of Ohio Trail.

SANDEL LEGACY TRAIL

Total Length (in Miles)	7.8
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	7.8
Trail Type	Greenway, Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Delaware County Friends of the Trail, Preservation Parks of Delaware County
Website	preservationparks.com/parks/ohio-to-erie-trail
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/sandel-legacy-trail

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The Sandel Legacy Trail consists of two trail sections totaling 7.8 miles of trail. The first section, formerly known as the Meredith Road State Trail, travels from the Licking–Delaware county line to the unincorporated community of Condit.

The second section travels 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 is formerly known as the Big Walnut Community Trail, and it 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. 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 10 – CONDIT TO SUNBURY

The bridge over Big Walnut Creek was rehabilitated in 2023, reducing the remaining amount of trail left to complete Trail Gap 10. Preliminary engineering was completed in 2022 for the final segment between East Cherry and South Columbus streets. Preservation Parks of Delaware County and the city of Sunbury are working to acquire the necessary property. Once that is complete, funding can be acquired for construction.

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	dcft.typepad.com/galenabricktrail
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/thomas-w-hopper-legacy-trail

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 County Road 104/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 0.3-mile gap between the Thomas W. Hopper Legacy Trail and the Hoover Scenic Trail along the Hoover Reservoir. An on-road route is signed along County Road 104/Dustin Road and County Road 24/West Columbus Street to support riders currently looking to fill this gap.

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

Total Length (in Miles)	0.8
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	0.8
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Delaware County Friends of the Trail, Preservation Parks of Delaware County
Website	preservationparks.com/parks/ohio-to-erie-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/hoover-scenic-trail

The Hoover Scenic Trail, part of the Ohio to Erie Trail, winds 0.8 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	dcft.typepad.com/genoatrail genoatwp.com/departments/parks/trails.php
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/genoa-trail

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	westerville.org/services/parks-recreation/parks-and-trails/recreation-trail-system
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/westerville-bw

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	columbus.gov/recreationandparks/trails/alum-creek-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/alum-creek-greenway-trail

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 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.

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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	columbus.gov/recreationandparks/trails/downtown-connector-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/downtown-connector-trail-(columbus)

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"> columbus.gov/recreationandparks/trails/scioto-trail sciotomile.com/locations/scioto-greenways-recreational-trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/scioto-greenway-trail

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	facebook.com/campchasefriends
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/camp-chase-trail

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, 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	fmcpt.com/roberts-pass
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/roberts-pass-trail

The 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. The 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 the 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)	27.8
Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	27.8
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	fmcpt.com/prairie-grass-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/prairie-grass-trail

The Prairie Grass Trail travels 27.8 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	metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#creekside-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/creekside-trail

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)	3.2
Trail Type	Rail-trail
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Five Rivers MetroParks, Miami Conservancy District
Website	metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#mad-river-trail
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/mad-river-trail

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 3.2-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)	4.3
Trail Type	Greenway
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Manager	Five Rivers MetroParks, Miami Conservancy District
Website	metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#great-miami-river-trail
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/great-miami-river-trail

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	metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#wolf-creek-trail
TrailLink Map	trailink.com/trail/wolf-creek-trail-(oh)

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, the 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. The first section of trail to be constructed in this gap will consist of approximately 2 miles between Wesleyan MetroPark and Hickorydale Park, expected to begin construction in the spring of 2026.

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

The Wolf Creek Trail currently ends at the Preble County line. The Ohio Department of Transportation initiated a study in 2023 to develop a planning-level cost estimate for the design and construction of a multiuse path along U.S. 40 from Preble County Line Road to state Route 320. The study is underway and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2024, with the goal of having at least one phase of the trail gap ready for fundraising by the time of the study's completion.