

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL[®]

ROUTE ASSESSMENT REPORT
MAY 2025

RAILS TO
Trails
conservancy

OHIO



Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail | Photo by Jay LaPrete

Several iconic trails make possible the route across Ohio, which is already more than two-thirds complete. The Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail connects New Philadelphia north to Cleveland, providing a rich history and unique experience along the way. Instead of following the Ohio & Erie Canal 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)	235.3 (70.9%)
Total Great American Rail-Trail Gap Miles in Ohio (% of Total State Mileage)	96.6 (29.1%)
Total Trail Gaps in Ohio	10
Total Great American Rail-Trail Miles in Ohio	331.9

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT 2025

MAP 5: 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)
TRAIL GAP 3 – W.Va.–Ohio State Line to Jewett	25.2
Conotton Creek Trail	11.2
TRAIL GAP 4 – Bowerston to Zoarville	17.4
Zoar Valley Trail (Part of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail)	5.9
TRAIL GAP 5 – Bolivar COMPLETED	-
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail	29.2
TRAIL GAP 6a – Heartland Trail Extension (Clinton to Marshallville)	5.6
Heartland Trail (Marshallville to Orrville)	2.7
TRAIL GAP 6b – Heartland Trail Extension (Orrville)	1.3
Heartland Trail – Orrville	1.6
TRAIL GAP 7 – Orrville to Fredericksburg	14.1
Holmes County Trail (Fredericksburg to Killbuck; Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	15.8
TRAIL GAP 8 – Holmes County Trail Extension (Killbuck to Glenmont)	6.6
Holmes County Trail (Glenmont to Brinkhaven; Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	7.3
Mohican Valley Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	4.5
Kokosing Gap Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	13.5
Downtown Connector Trail (Mount Vernon; Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	1.0
Heart of Ohio Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	18.5
TRAIL GAP 9 – Centerburg to Licking–Delaware County Line COMPLETED	-
Sandel Legacy Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	1.8
TRAIL GAP 10 – Condit to Sunbury	0.5

Existing Trail or Trail Gap Name	Length in Ohio Along Great American Rail-Trail (in Miles)
Sandel Legacy Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	6.0
TRAIL GAP 11 – Sunbury to Galena COMPLETED	-
Thomas W. Hopper Legacy Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	1.5
TRAIL GAP 12 – Galena	0.3
Hoover Scenic Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	0.8
Genoa Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	4.0
Westerville B&W (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	2.5
Alum Creek Greenway Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	12.0
Downtown Connector Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	5.0
Scioto Greenway Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	3.9
Camp Chase Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	15.9
Roberts Pass Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	6.5
TRAIL GAP 13 – London	0.8
Prairie Grass Trail (Part of the Ohio to Erie Trail)	27.8
Creekside Trail	15.1
Mad River Trail	3.2
Great Miami River Trail	4.3
Wolf Creek Trail (Dayton)	2.9
TRAIL GAP 14 – Wolf Creek Trail Extension (Dayton to Trotwood)	5.0
Wolf Creek Trail (Trotwood to Preble County Line)	10.9
TRAIL GAP 15 – Preble County Line to Ohio–Ind. State Line	19.8
Total Miles	331.9
Existing Trail Miles	235.3
Trail Gap Miles	96.6

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

Planning Status	Partially planned
Funding Status	Partially funded
Construction Status/ Expected Completion Date	Some sections under construction and expected in 2025; remaining sections TBD

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 (JCSWCD) is developing a trail through the planned Hellbender Preserve. This planned 3-mile trail will 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 will follow an abandoned rail line through lands to be included in the preserve and would include several beautiful bridges and tunnels with rich histories. JCSWCD expects construction on the Hellbender Preserve Trail to begin in 2025.

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

CONOTTON CREEK TRAIL

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	11.2 / 11.2
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	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

Planning Status	Partially planned
Funding Status	Partially funded
Construction Status/ Expected Completion Date	TBD

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 it 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. In February 2025, a regional partnership of communities in Harrison, Carroll and Tuscarawas counties received notice of the successful procurement of Active Transportation Plan Development Assistance from the Ohio Department of Transportation. Part of this assistance will include identifying a connection that could help fill Trail Gap 4 between Bowerston all the way to New Philadelphia.

Tuscarawas County also has plans to extend the existing Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail south from Zoarville 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.

In addition, the county 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 Canal Towpath Trail.

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

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	19.6 / 5.9
Surface Type	Asphalt, ballast, dirt, grass
Trail Managers	Camp Tuscazoar Foundation Inc., Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ohioanderiecanalway.com • tuscazoar.org/zoar-valley-trail
TrailLink Map	4.1

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 Canal 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 Canal Towpath Trail.

OHIO & ERIE CANAL TOWPATH TRAIL

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	80.9 / 29.2
Surface Type	Asphalt, boardwalk, crushed stone
Trail Managers	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 81-mile Ohio & Erie Canal 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 Canal Towpath Trail will host the Great American Rail-Trail for 29.2 miles between Bolivar and Clinton.

The Ohio & Erie Canal 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. 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)

Planning Status	Partially planned
Funding Status	Partially funded
Construction Status/ Expected Completion Date	Some sections under construction and expected in 2025; remaining sections TBD

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. Funding is already in place to complete 1.1 miles of the trail from Coal Bank Road toward Marshallville, which is expected to be completed in 2025.

HEARTLAND TRAIL

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	4.3 / 4.3
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 2.7-mile segment of trail—was opened between Marshallville and Forrer Road in Orrville. Another 1.6-mile trail segment, Phase 2, is open in Orrville. Phase 2 makes use of city sidewalks and multiuse trail to travel through the center of Orrville, connecting parks, local businesses and homes.



Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail | Photo by Jason Cohn

TRAIL GAP 6B – HEARTLAND TRAIL EXTENSION (ORRVILLE)

Planning Status	Fully planned
Funding Status	Fully funded
Construction Status/ Expected Completion Date	Under construction and expected in 2025

In the spring of 2021, Rails to Trails of Wayne County and the city of Orrville received a \$947,972 grant through the TA 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 2025.

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.



Ohio to Erie Trail | Photo by Eric Oberg

OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	270 / 148.3
Surface Type	Asphalt, concrete, crushed stone
Trail Managers	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 150 miles across the state, winding southwest through Ohio's scenic countryside and bustling midwestern towns. The Ohio to Erie Trail is planned to span the state, reaching a total of 326 miles.

The Ohio to Erie Trail is formed by a collection of regional trails traveling across Ohio between Cleveland and Cincinnati. Included in the Great American Rail-Trail route are 17 uniquely named trails that fall within the Ohio to Erie Trail footprint but are often operated independently. Each of the 17 trails will be discussed in the following pages.

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

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	23.1 / 23.1
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	Holmes County Park District, Holmes County Rails to Trails Coalition Inc.
Website	holmescountychamber.com/recreation/holmes-county-rails-trails-coalition
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.

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

Planning Status	Fully planned
Funding Status	Fully funded
Construction Status/ Expected Completion Date	Phase I under construction and expected in 2025; Phase II expected in 2027

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 2025. 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 / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	4.5 / 4.5
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.

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

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	13.5 / 13.5
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	Knox County Park District, Kokosing Gap Trail Board
Website	kokosinggaptrail.org
TrailLink Map	traillink.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.

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

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	1.0 / 1.0
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	City of Mount Vernon, Knox County Park District
Website	knoxcountyparks.org/trails
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/downtown-connector-trail

The 1-mile Downtown Connector Trail connects the Kokosing Gap Trail to the Heart of Ohio Trail through Mount Vernon. The trail 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 / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	18.5 / 18.5
Surface Type	Asphalt, ballast
Trail Managers	Heart of Ohio Trail Inc., Knox County Park District
Website	heartofohiotrail.com
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/heart-of-ohio-trail

The Heart of Ohio 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. 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.

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

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.

TRAIL GAP 10 – CONDIT TO SUNBURY

Planning Status	Partially planned
Funding Status	Unfunded
Construction Status/ Expected Completion Date	TBD

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 / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	1.5 / 1.5
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	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.

TRAIL GAP 12 – GALENA

Planning Status	Partially planned
Funding Status	Unfunded
Construction Status/ Expected Completion Date	TBD

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 while work continues to identify the best option to complete the trail.

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

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

The Hoover Scenic Trail winds 0.8 mile through the Hoover Nature Preserve area. 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.

GENOA TRAIL (PART OF THE OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL)

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	4.0 / 4.0
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	Delaware County Friends of the Trail, Preservation Parks of Delaware County
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

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

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	23.0 / 2.5
Surface Type	Asphalt, concrete
Trail Managers	Delaware County Friends of the Trail, Westerville Parks & Recreation
Website	parks.westerville.org/parks-trails/trails/ohio-to-erie-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/westerville-bw

The Westerville B&W (Bike & Walk Route) 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. The spine of the Westerville B&W was built on a former rail corridor and connects 23 miles of trail throughout the city.

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

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	25.2 / 12.0
Surface Type	Asphalt, concrete
Trail Managers	Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, Columbus Recreation & Parks Department
Website	columbusrecparks.com/facilities/trails/greenways/alum-creek-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/alum-creek-greenway-trail

The Alum Creek Greenway Trail winds alongside the picturesque Alum Creek for 25.2 miles and hosts the Great American Rail-Trail for 12 miles between Westerville and downtown Columbus. The Alum Creek Greenway Trail celebrates active transportation by honoring important figures with plaques and bridges along the trail.



Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail | Photo by Jason Cohn

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

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	5.0 / 5.0
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, Columbus Recreation & Parks Department
Website	columbusrecparks.com/facilities/trails/greenways/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. The fully paved Downtown Connector Trail serves as an important link between neighborhoods on the city's east side and downtown Columbus. 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 / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	12.2 / 3.9
Surface Type	Asphalt, concrete
Trail Managers	Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks, Columbus Recreation & Parks Department
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • columbusrecparks.com/facilities/trails/greenways/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.

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

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	15.9 / 15.9
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	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.

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

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	6.5 / 6.5
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	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 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.

TRAIL GAP 13 – LONDON

Planning Status	Partially planned
Funding Status	Unfunded
Construction Status/ Expected Completion Date	TBD

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 / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	27.8 / 27.8
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	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, 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 marks the western end of the Great American Rail-Trail's journey along the Ohio to Erie Trail.



Great Miami River Trail | Photo by Tom Bिल्cze

CREEKSIDE TRAIL

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	15.1 / 15.1
Surface Type	Asphalt, concrete
Trail Managers	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.

MAD RIVER TRAIL

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	7.1 / 3.2
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	Five Rivers MetroParks, Miami Conservancy District
Website	metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#mad-river-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.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.

GREAT MIAMI RIVER TRAIL

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	86.2 / 4.3
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	Five Rivers MetroParks, Miami Conservancy District
Website	metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#great-miami-river-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.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. 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 two options to cross the Great Miami River, both meeting up at the Wolf Creek Trail.

WOLF CREEK TRAIL

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in Ohio (in Miles)	16.2 / 13.8
Surface Type	Asphalt
Trail Managers	City of Dayton, Five Rivers MetroParks
Website	metroparks.org/places-to-go/paved-trails/#wolf-creek-trail
TrailLink Map	traillink.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. 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.

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

Planning Status	Partially planned
Funding Status	Partially funded
Construction Status/ Expected Completion Date	Some sections expected in 2026; remaining sections TBD

Five Rivers MetroParks is actively working to complete the 5-mile gap in the Wolf Creek Trail. The route to complete this gap 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

Planning Status	Partially planned
Funding Status	Unfunded
Construction Status/ Expected Completion Date	TBD

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 feasibility assessment was completed in 2024 and suggests three phases to complete this gap. Further design and fundraising are underway to begin the first phase of construction.

APPENDIX: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Abandoned rail corridor – When a railroad company ceases operations on a line or terminates the line itself. Abandonment is official when the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has issued an order authorizing abandonment of the line and the railroad has notified the STB that it has consummated the abandonment authorization.

Active rail corridor – Any rail corridor that has not been formally abandoned through the process identified by the Surface Transportation Board.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – The federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability.

Arterial road – A major thoroughfare, particularly one used to provide a large traffic capacity for traveling longer distances.

Ballast – The trackbed upon which railroad ties are laid, often composed of crushed stone.

Bike lane – A portion of the roadway that has been designated by striping, signage and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

Bike route – On-street routes that are signed for bicycle travel but do not provide any physical or visual separation from automobile traffic.

Bollard – A short post used to divert traffic from an area or road.

Contiguous – Sharing a common border; touching.

Culvert – A tunnel carrying a stream or open drain under a road, railroad or trail.

Decking – The surface of a bridge.

Federal Railroad Administration – An agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation that handles matters related to the railroad industry.

Geographic Information System (GIS) – A system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage and present spatial or geographic data.

Greenway – A strip of undeveloped land, set aside for recreational use or environmental protection.

Interim on-road connector – An on-road segment that is to be used temporarily while a trail is being planned or built.

Multiuse trails – Trails that are designed to accommodate more than one type of use (walking, bicycling, horseback riding, etc.).

Non-motorized trails – Trails that do not allow travel using vehicles with motors.

Off-road trails – Trails that are outside of a roadbed for motorized vehicles.

Protected bike lane (cycle track) – A bikeway that is at street level and uses a variety of methods for physical protection from passing traffic. Protected bike lanes (cycle tracks) can allow bicycle movement in one or both directions on one side of a road.

Railbanked/railbanking – Condition allowing a railroad to “bank” a corridor for future rail use. During the interim, alternative trail use is a viable option.

Railbed – The roadbed of a railroad track.

Rail corridor – The tracks and railroad right-of-way (generally 50 to 100 feet wide, though it varies widely by geography).

Rail-trail – The conversion of a disused railway track into a multiuse trail. The characteristics of abandoned railways—flat, long, frequently running through historical areas—are appealing for various developments.

Rail-with-trail – A trail located adjacent to an active rail line.

Rail yard – A complex series of railroad tracks for storing, sorting, loading and unloading railroad cars.

Recreational Trails Program – A competitive grant program managed by state trail administrators; therefore, only projects that meet certain criteria may be funded. Its funds are drawn from the larger Transportation Alternatives Program.

Right-of-way – The land on which a railroad line, road or utility is built.

Roadway – The strip of land over which a road passes.

Shared land marking (sharrow) – Road marking used to indicate a shared land environment for bicycles and automobiles.

Shared-use path – A form of infrastructure that supports multiple recreation and transportation opportunities (a common synonym for “trail”).

Shoulder (road) – A strip of land adjacent to the traffic lane of a road, often used as an emergency stopping lane.

Surface Transportation Board (STB) – The federal agency that oversees changes made by railroad companies. Formerly the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Towpath – A road or trail on the bank of a river, canal or other inland waterway.

Trailbed – The roadbed of a trail.

Trail gap – Section of trail that still needs to be built to connect the existing trails.

Transportation Alternatives Program – A program administered by the Federal Highway Administration to authorize funding for programs and projects defined as “transportation alternatives,” including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The Transportation Alternatives Program is the largest federal source for trail funding.

Waterway – A river, canal or other route for travel by water.



At Rails to Trails Conservancy, we are building a nation connected by trails. We reimagine public spaces to create safe ways for everyone to walk, bike and be active outdoors.