



## Involvement Opportunities

Central Ohio Greenways (COG) is a trail network of national significance spanning over 180 miles, connecting central Ohio to other parts of the state and country. These trails are traveled more than 12 million miles annually providing economic, quality of life, and health benefits to the community.

An informal network of trail developers and trail advocates began meeting in 2005 to plan and prioritize additional trail development, install unified way-finding signage, and study the impacts of trails. Ten years later, the effort was formalized to reenergize, refocus, and strategically pursue the vision of increasing trail miles and trail usage. The COG Board was formed and became embedded within MORPC's Sustainability Advisory Committee in order to coordinate with other regional priorities. Board members represent the public, private, and non-profit sectors. The Board is supported by working teams that address key regional issues including: **trail development, programming, partnership, and marketing/communications.**

Just as a mechanical cog is a projection on a gear crucial in imparting motion, working groups meet bi-monthly to ensure momentum for the initiative. Each is chaired by a Board member who approves membership within their team. Working teams continuously accept new members who fit the description of: subject matter expert, trail enthusiast, community leader, business partner, advocate, and more. Recruiting passionate, talented, and motivated individuals to serve on the working teams is integral to the success of COG. Those who are interested in serving as a member of a COG working teams should contact the appropriate Board Chair to discuss the possibility.

**Trail Development:** Responsible for: developing a Central Ohio Greenways map, filling in trail gaps in the existing network, and physically connecting the multi-county region through a comprehensive trail network.

Chair:

Laura Ball  
City of Dublin  
[lball@dublin.oh.us](mailto:lball@dublin.oh.us)  
614-645-8432

Co-Chair:

Steve Studenmund  
Franklin County & Columbus Metro Parks  
[studenmund@metroparks.net](mailto:studenmund@metroparks.net)  
614-895-6231

**Programming:** Responsible for: encouraging trail use through the development of programmatic initiatives. The possibilities are endless, but will require significant buy-in from partners to ensure success.

Chair:

Scott Ulrich  
City of Columbus Public Health  
[stulrich@columbus.gov](mailto:stulrich@columbus.gov)  
614-645-5318

Co-Chair:

Catherine Girves  
Yay Bikes!  
[Catherine@yaybikes.com](mailto:Catherine@yaybikes.com)  
614-371-8232

**Partnership:** Responsible for: engaging funders, businesses and healthcare leaders, and elected officials in the advancement of the COG system, but also to partner with other transportation, recreation, or health organizations on initiatives related to advancing economic, quality of life, and health benefits to the residents of Central Ohio.

Chair:

Abby Rhodebeck  
REI  
[arhodeb@rei.com](mailto:arhodeb@rei.com)  
614-475-1938

Co-Chair:

Brad Westall  
City of Columbus Recreation & Parks  
[BRWestall@columbus.gov](mailto:BRWestall@columbus.gov)  
614-645-2441

**Marketing/Communications:** Responsible for: promoting trail experiences such that COG is seen as a tourist attraction, transportation corridor, and recreational asset; "selling" the many benefits of trails to gain additional buy-in from decision-makers; and creating and updating marketing materials including reaching audiences through social media outlets, brochures, advertisements, website, and promotional items.

Chair:

Eric Oberg  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
[eric@railstotrails.org](mailto:eric@railstotrails.org)  
614-837-6782

Co-Chair:

Leslie Strader  
City of Columbus  
[LRStrader@columbus.gov](mailto:LRStrader@columbus.gov)  
614-645-7673