



CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS FORUM

DECEMBER 8, 2020

9:30 – 11:00 AM | MICROSOFT TEAMS

AGENDA:

COG Trail Prioritization Effort

Melinda Vonstein & Cheri Mansperger

Rails to Trails Conservancy: Trail Moments

Eric Oberg

Legislative Trails Caucus Planning

Brian Housh

Ohio to Erie Trails Update

Matt Simpson

CORPO Rural Trail Planning

Mike Borger

Regional Trails Roundtable Discussion

Letty Schamp



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION





Central Ohio Greenways Forum

December 8, 2020

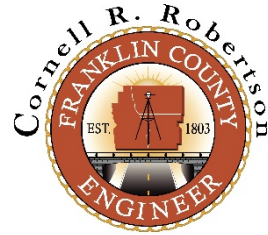
9:30 – 11:00



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR



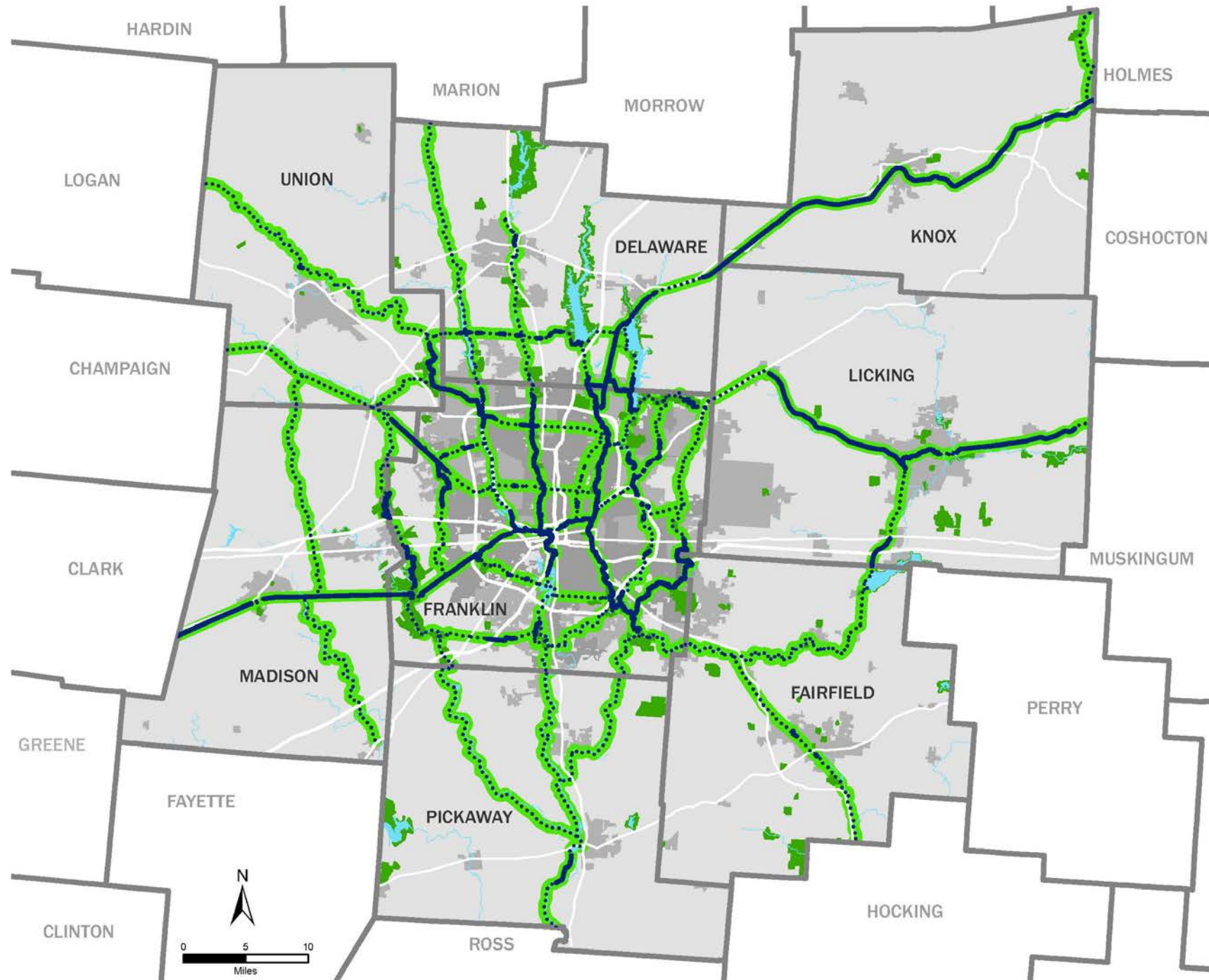
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SERVICE

Trail & Active Transportation Prioritization Study

Central Ohio Greenways – Trail Development
Working Group



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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Central Ohio Greenway Trails

Regional Trail of Significance

- Existing Multi-use Path
- Proposed Multi-use Path
- Greenway Trail Corridor
- River/Water
- Park/Open Space

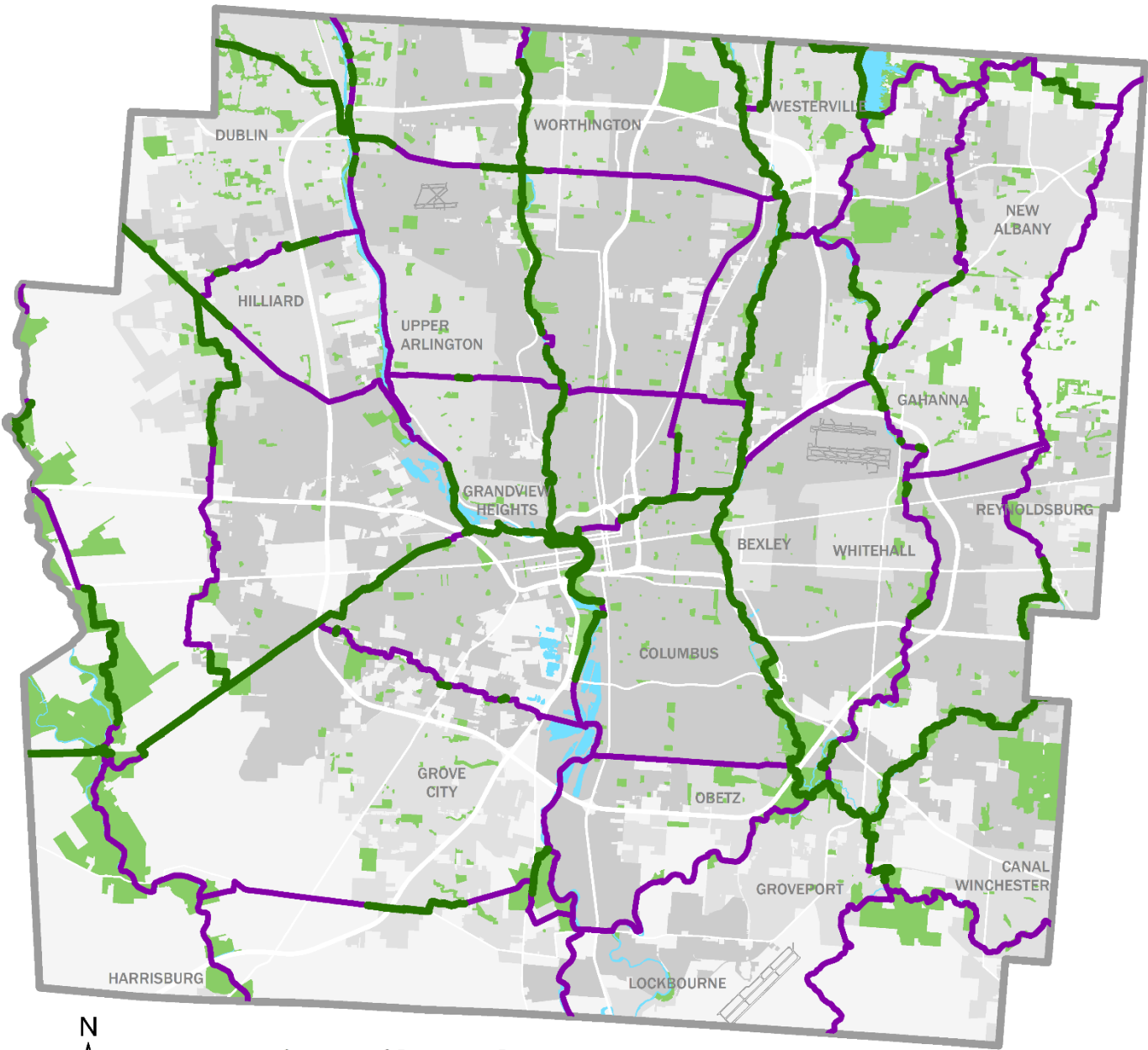


The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
N:\ArcGIS\CORE\COR\COTrailvision_pp1.mxd
6/16/2020

Franklin County

120 Miles
of Existing Trails

176 Miles
of Proposed Trails



Central Ohio Greenway Trails

Franklin County, Ohio

- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Proposed Multi-Use Trail
- River/Water
- Park/Open Space

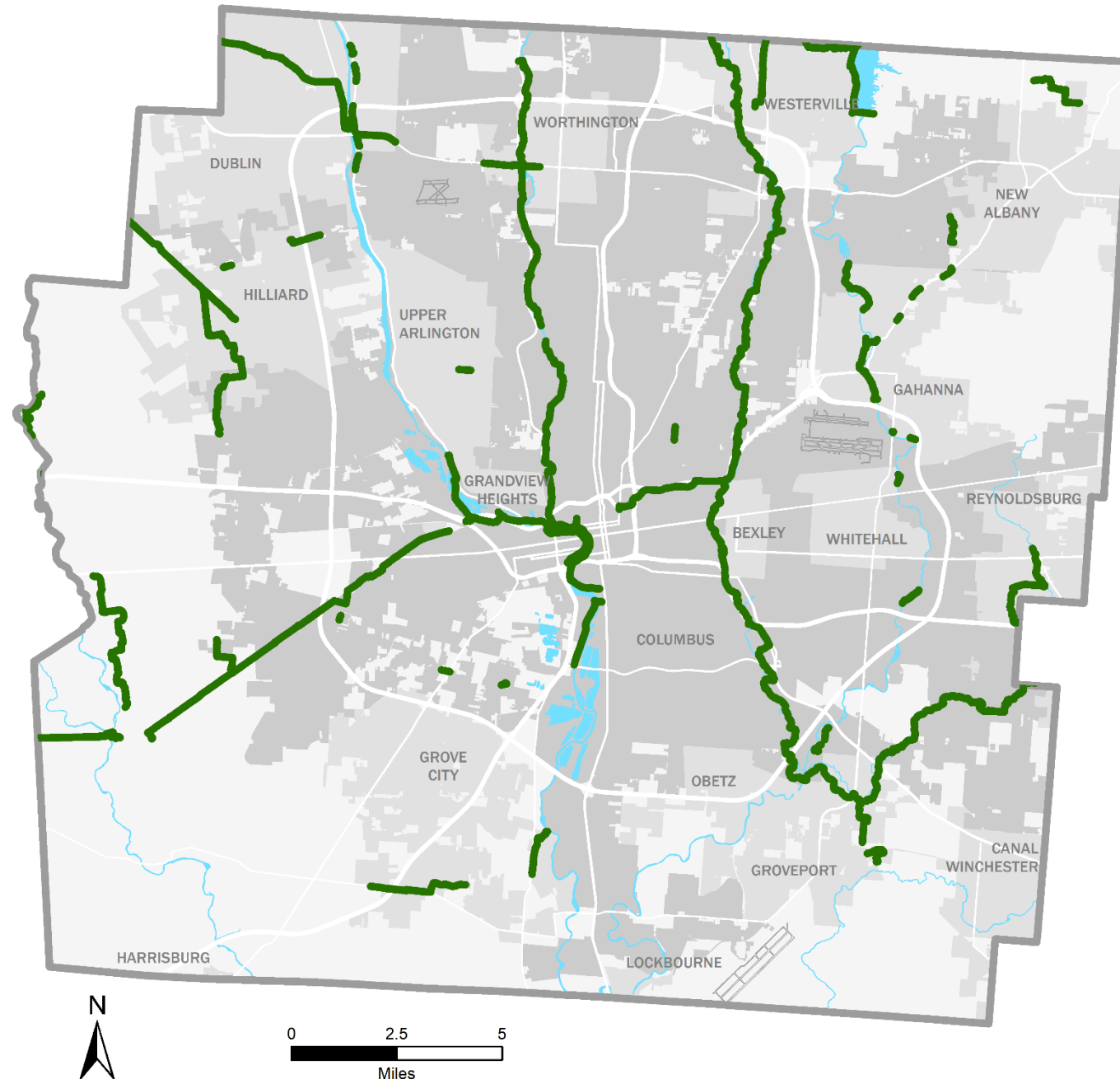


Ohio
Location
Map





The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
N:\ArcGIS\CORE\COG\Prioritization\Report\COGTrails.mxd
10/13/2020

120 Miles
of Existing Trail



Central Ohio Greenway Existing Trails

Franklin County, Ohio

-  Existing Multi-Use Path
-  River/Water

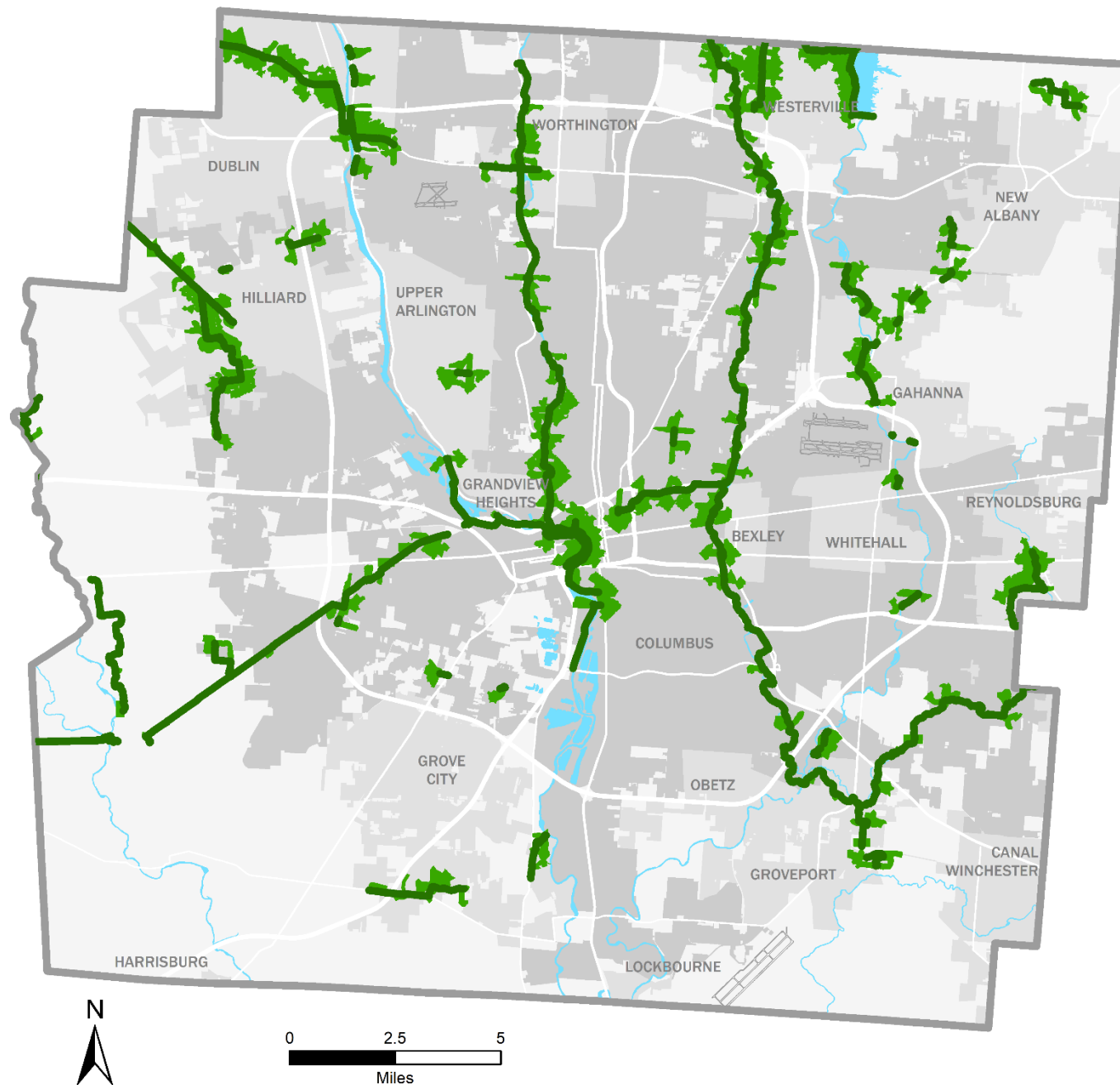


The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
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10/13/2020

120 Miles of
Existing Trail

14%
Population
Can walk to a trail from
home.

Walk to a trail from
23% of Jobs



**Pedestrian
Friendly
Access within
1/2 Mile of
Existing Trail**
Franklin County, Ohio

- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Pedestrian Friendly Access to Existing Trail
- River/Water



Ohio
Location
Map

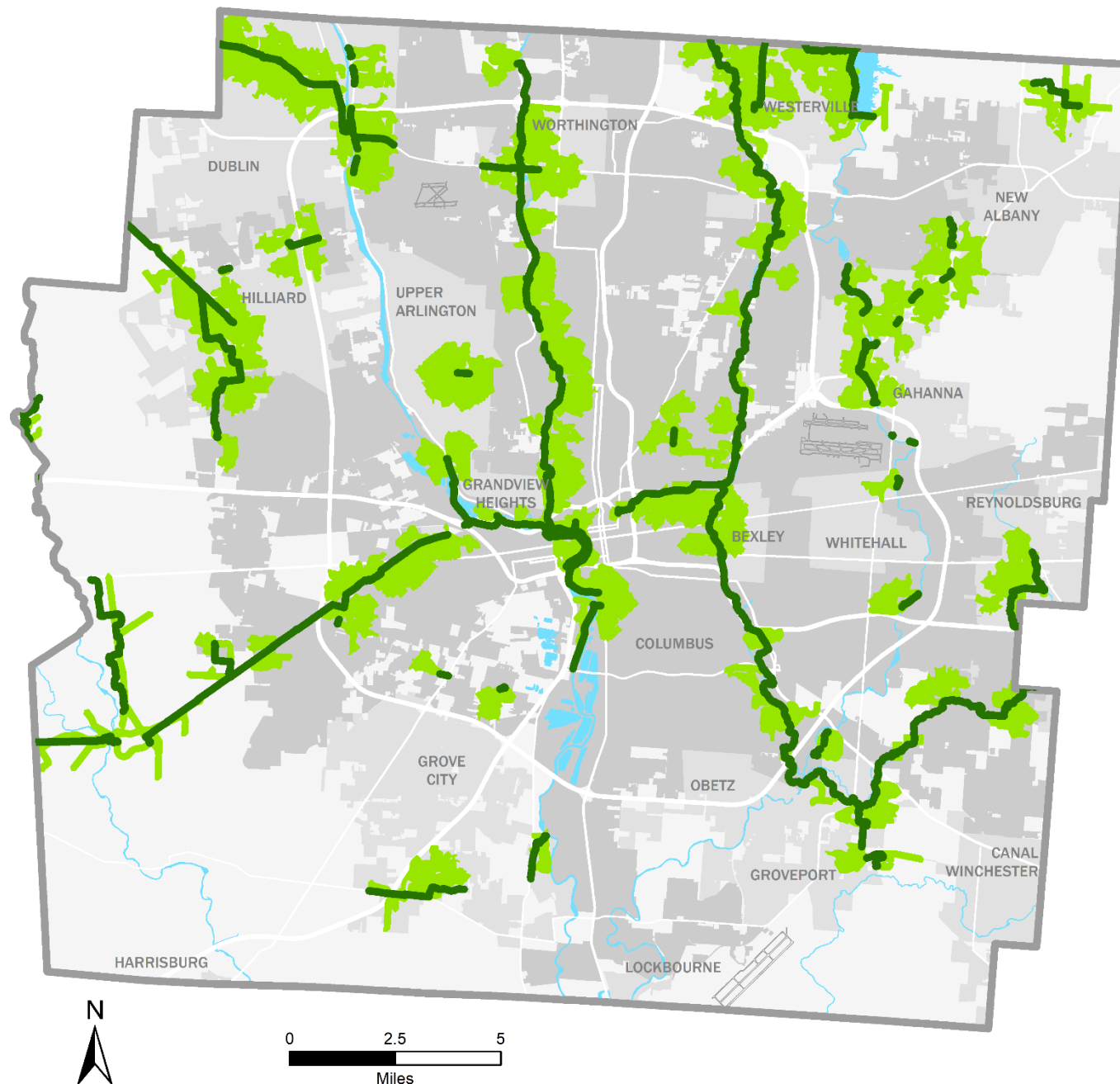


The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
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10/13/2020

120 Miles of
Existing Trail

27%
Population
Can bike to a trail from
home.

bike to a trail from
28% of Jobs



Bike Friendly Access within 1 Mile of Existing Trail Franklin County, Ohio

- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Bike Friendly Access to Existing Trail
- River/Water

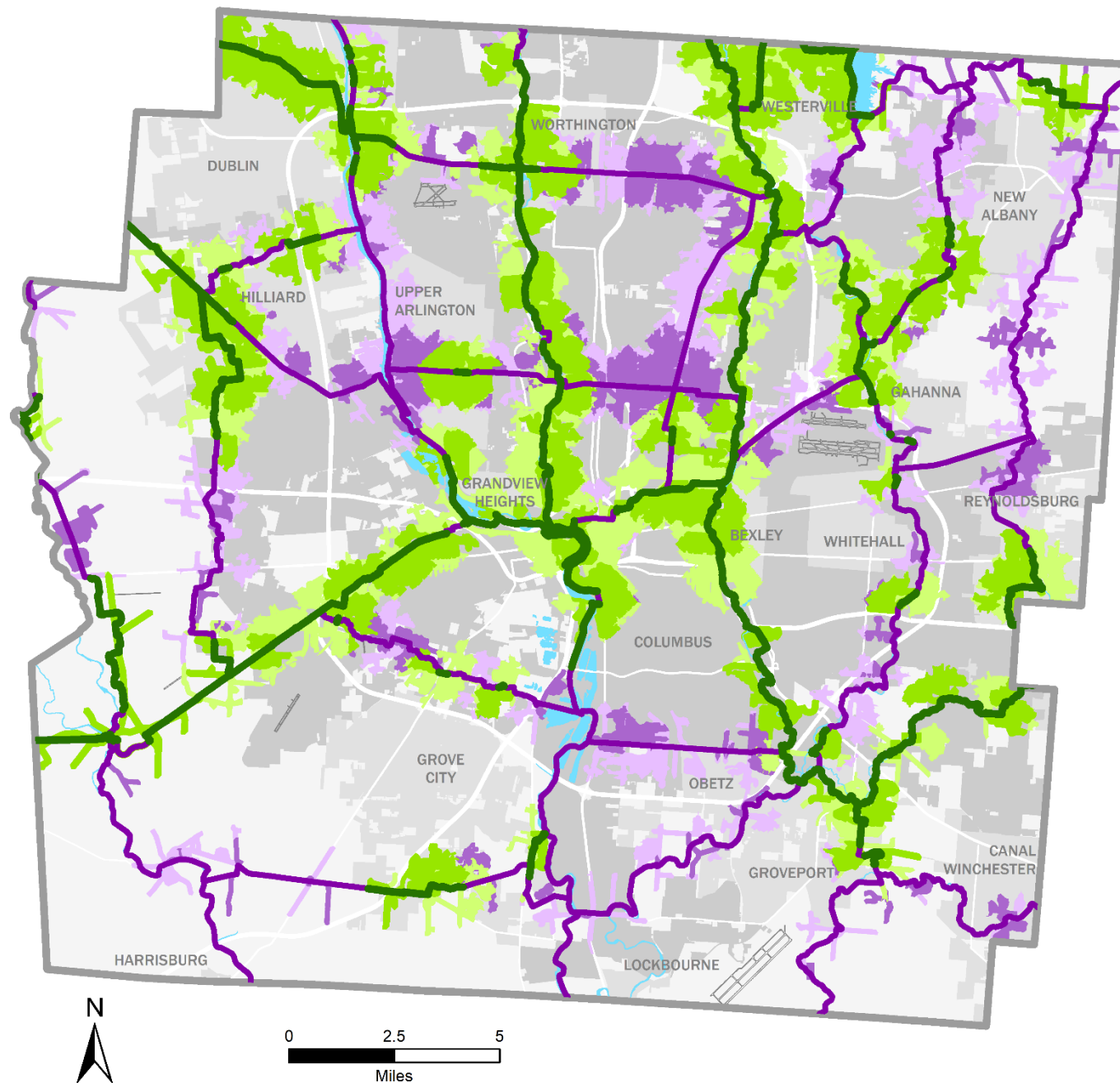


The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
N:\ArcGIS\CORE\COG\Prioritization\Report\Bikefriend_E.mxd
10/13/2020

296 Miles of
Existing and Proposed
Trails

39%
Population
could bike to a trail
from home

bike to a trail from
41% of Jobs



Central Ohio Greenway Trail Access Within 1 Mile Franklin County, Ohio

- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Proposed Multi-Use Trail
- Bike Friendly Access to Existing Trail
- Access to Existing Trail
- Bike Friendly Access to Proposed Trail
- Access to Proposed Trail
- River/Water

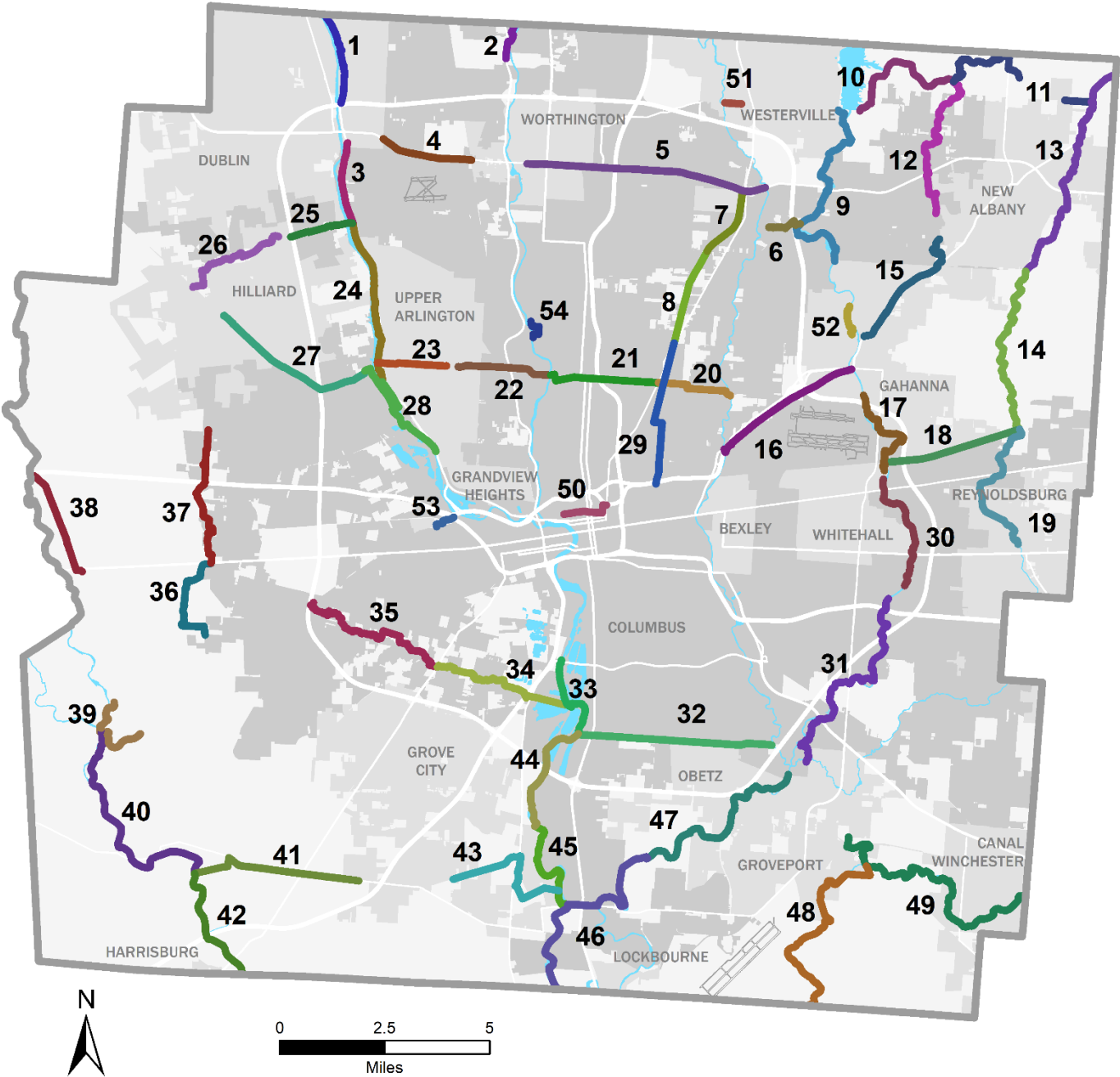


The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
N:\ArcGIS\CORE\COG\Prioritization\Report\AllRoads.mxd
10/13/2020

54 Segments

Ranked based on
potential impact on

Social Equity
Public Health
Environment
&
Economy



Proposed Trail Segmentation

Franklin County, Ohio

- Proposed Corridor
- River/Water



The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
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10/13/2020

Trail Segment Ranking Criteria

Connectivity

Low stress roads

Existing Trails

Existing Access Points

Proposed Access Points

Bus Stops

Barriers

Health/Environment

Acres of Parks

Miles of Riparian Corridor

Number of Crashes

Equity

Poverty

Unemployment

Race

Disability

Population

Zero Car Households

Economy

Jobs

Education Facilities

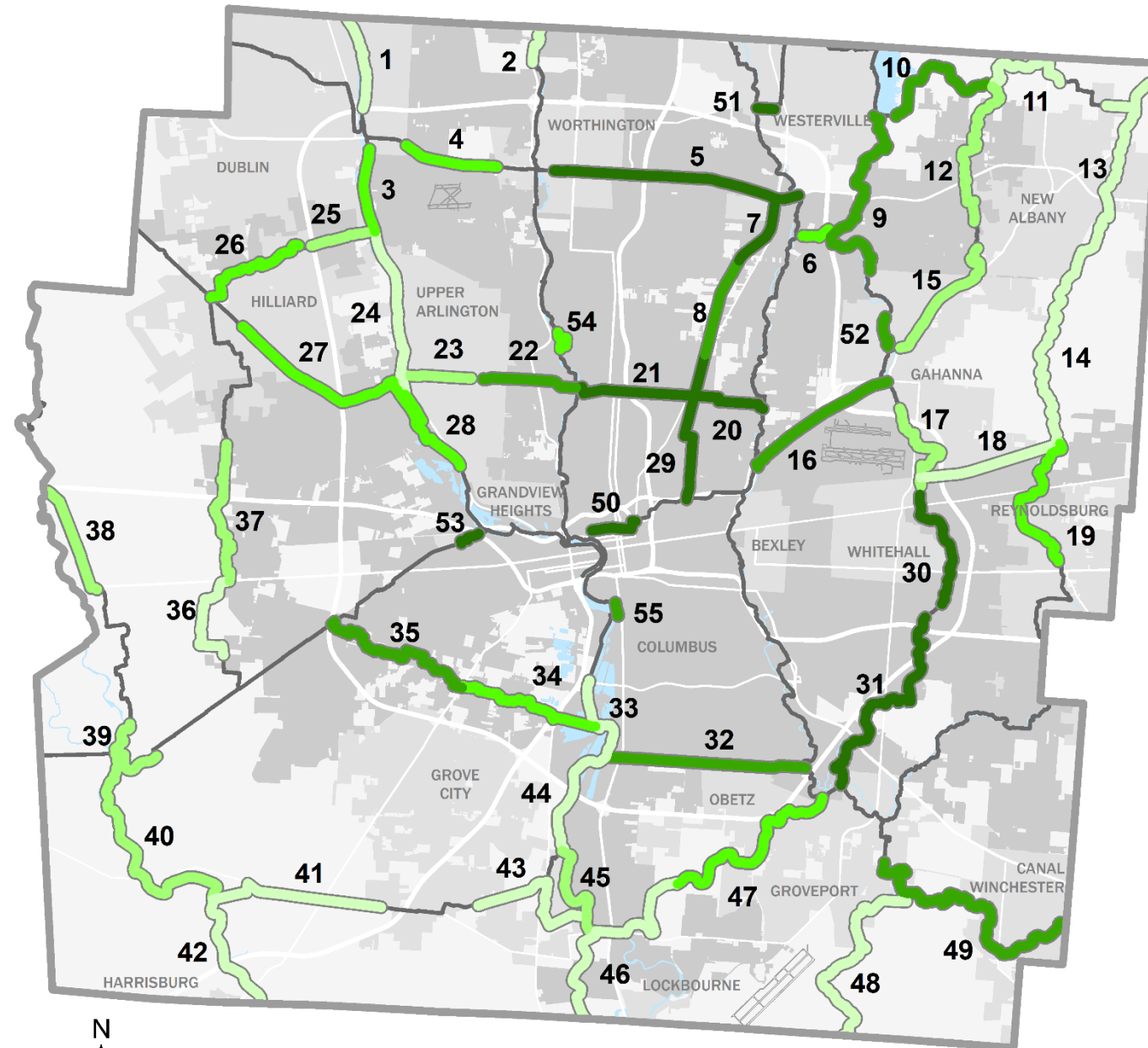
Cultural Amenities



MORPC

Ranking of Proposed COG Trail Corridors

Franklin County, Ohio



- Highest
-
-
- Lowest
- Existing Trail
- 31** Corridor ID

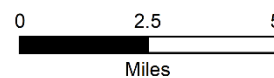
Source: MORPC



MORPC



The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
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11/5/2020



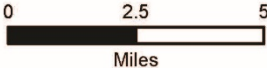
Central Ohio Greenways' Regional Trail Vision Prioritization

Franklin County, Ohio

Regional Trails

- Existing
- High Impact Proposed
- Other Proposed

Source: MORPC

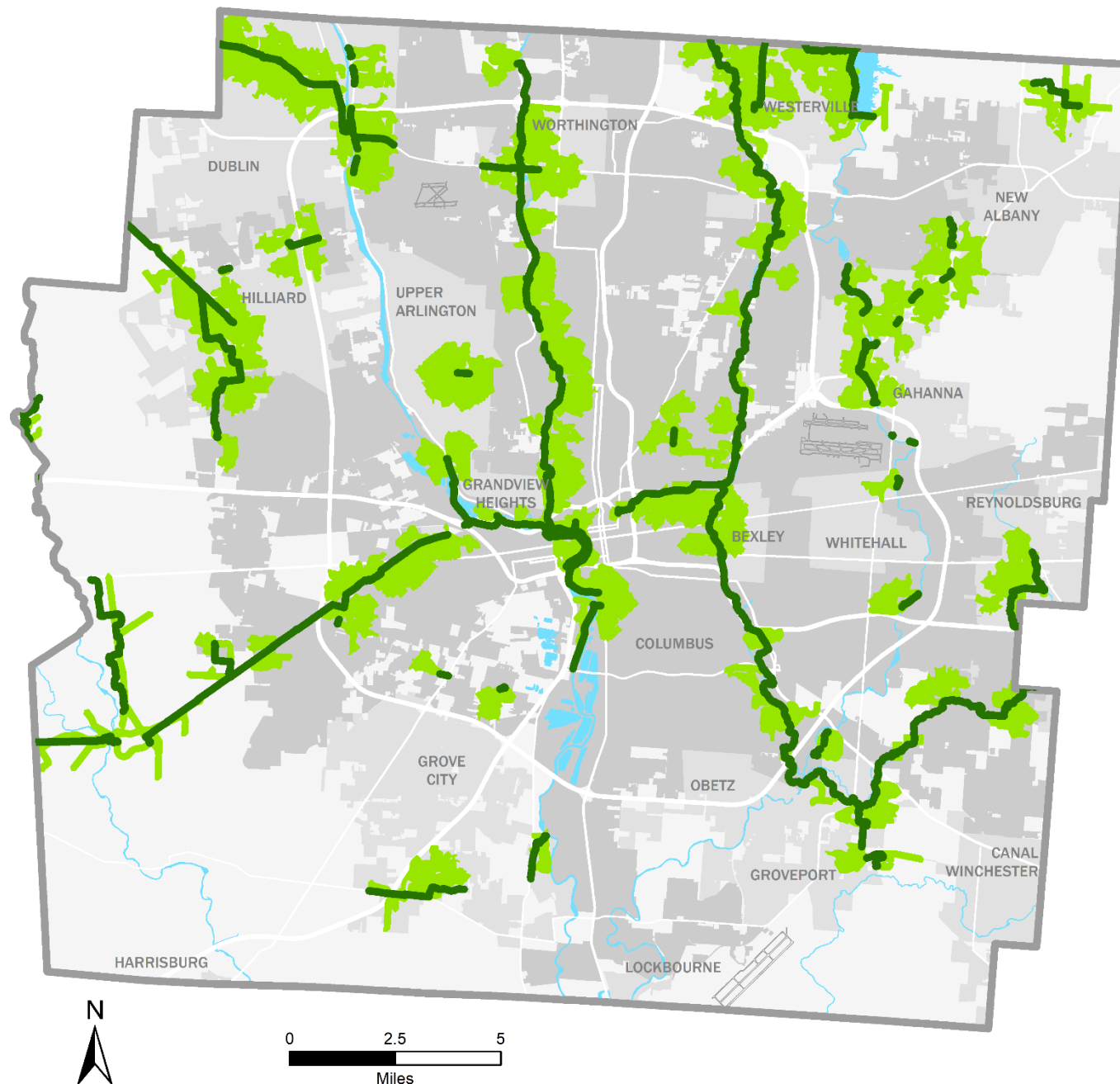


The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
N:\ArcGIS\CORE\COG\Prioritization\Report\Top10.mxd
11/16/2020

120 Miles of
Existing Trail

27%
Population
Can bike to a trail from
home

bike to a trail from
28% of Jobs



Bike Friendly Access within 1 Mile of Existing Trail Franklin County, Ohio

- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Bike Friendly Access to Existing Trail
- River/Water



Ohio
Location
Map

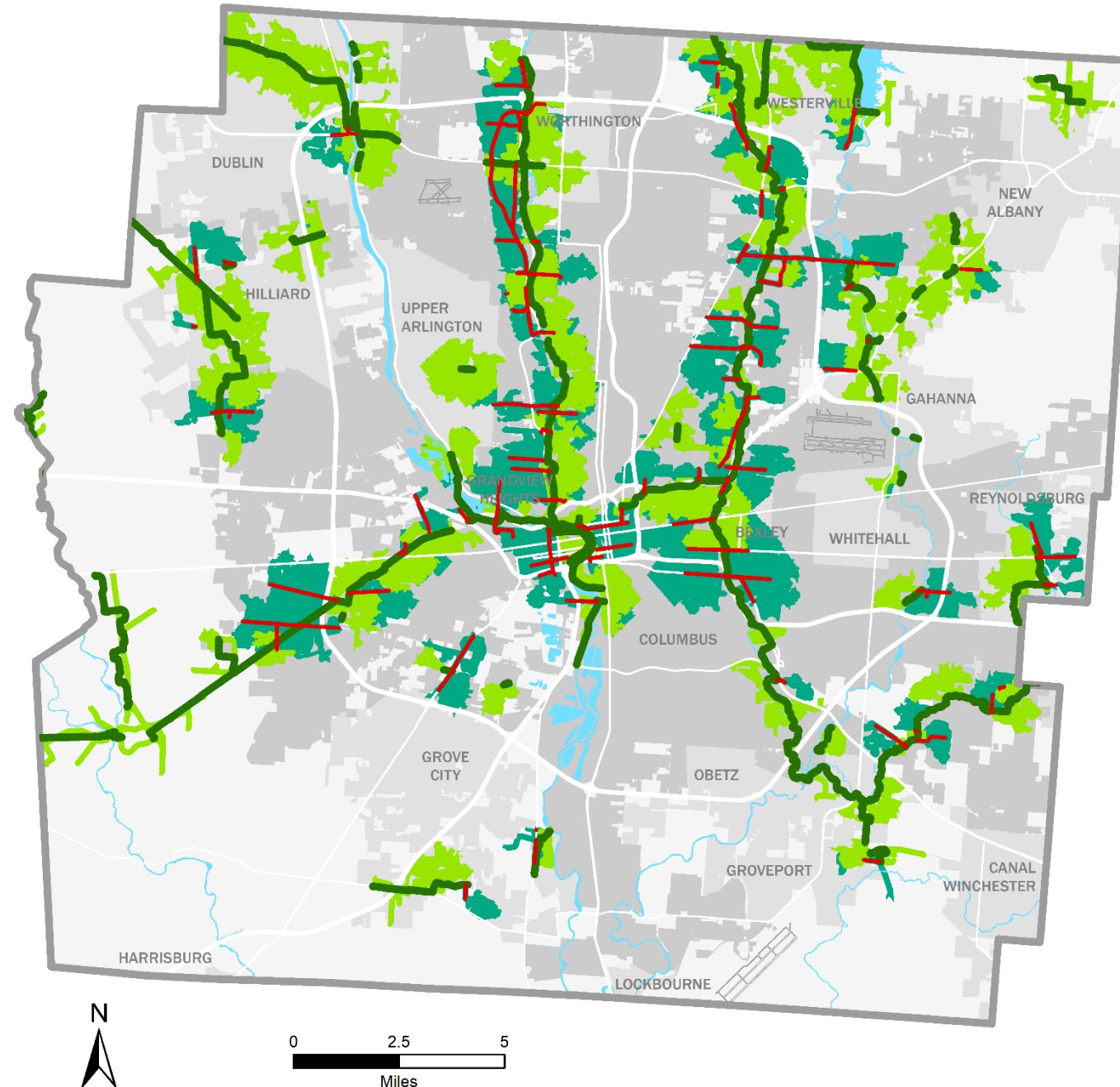


The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
N:\ArcGIS\CORE\COG\Prioritization\Report\Bikefriend_E.mxd
10/13/2020

120 Miles of
Existing Trail

50 Proposed
1st mile / last
mile connections

45%
Population
could bike to a trail
from home



Improving Access to Existing Trails Within 1 Mile Franklin County, Ohio

-  Road Improvement
-  Existing Multi-Use Path
-  River/Water
-  Existing Access to
-  Improved Access to Trail

Simulation of expanded bike friendly access, with selected road facility improvements

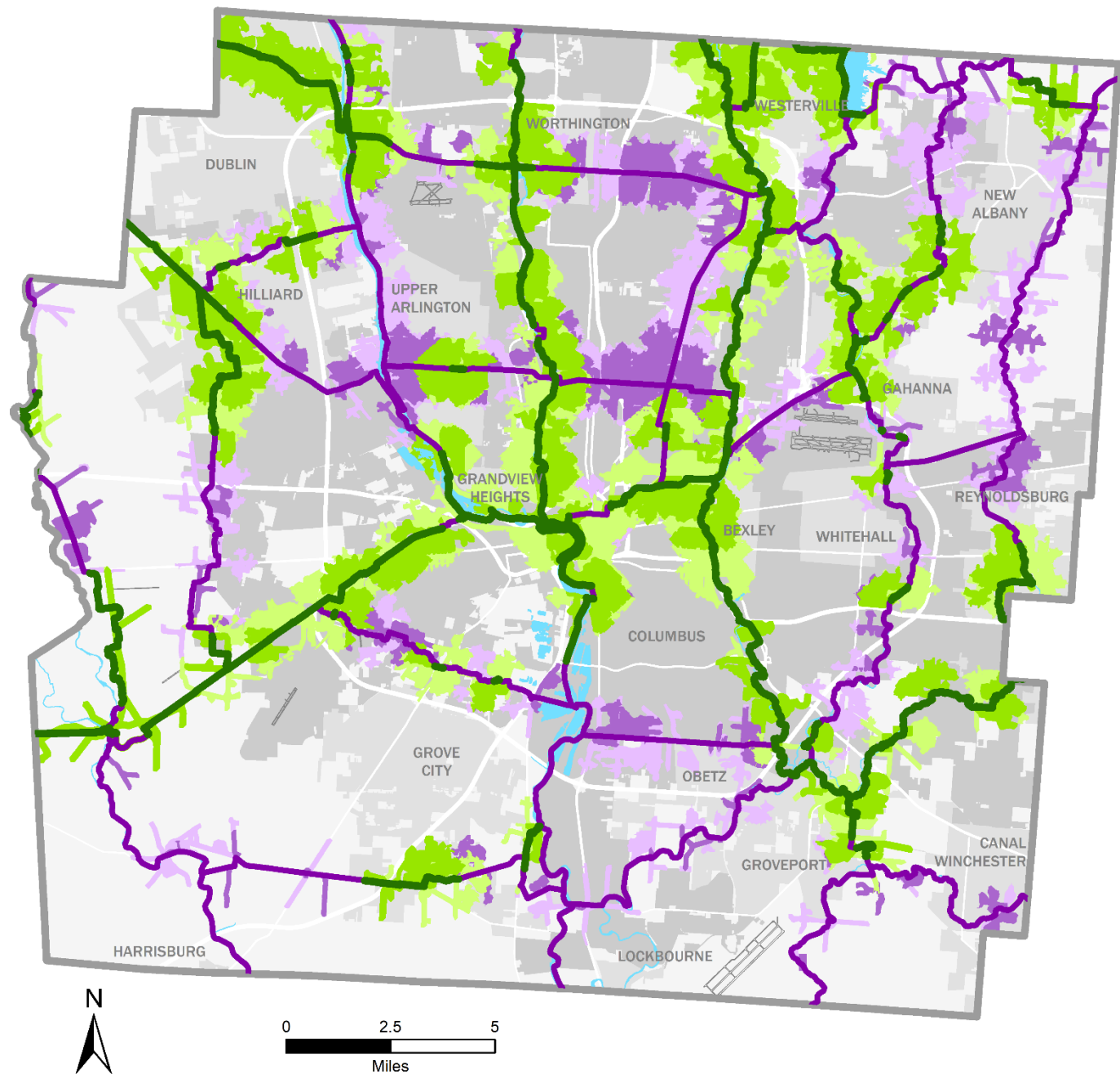


The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
N:\ArcGIS\CORE\COG\Prioritization\Report\FirstMile.mxd
10/13/2020

296 Miles of
Existing and Proposed
Trails

59%
Population
could bike to a trail
from home.

bike to a trail from
62% of Jobs



Central Ohio Greenway Trail Access Within 1 Mile Franklin County, Ohio

- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Proposed Multi-Use Trail
- Bike Friendly Access to Existing Trail
- Access to Existing Trail
- Bike Friendly Access to Proposed Trail
- Access to Proposed Trail
- River/Water



Ohio
Location
Map



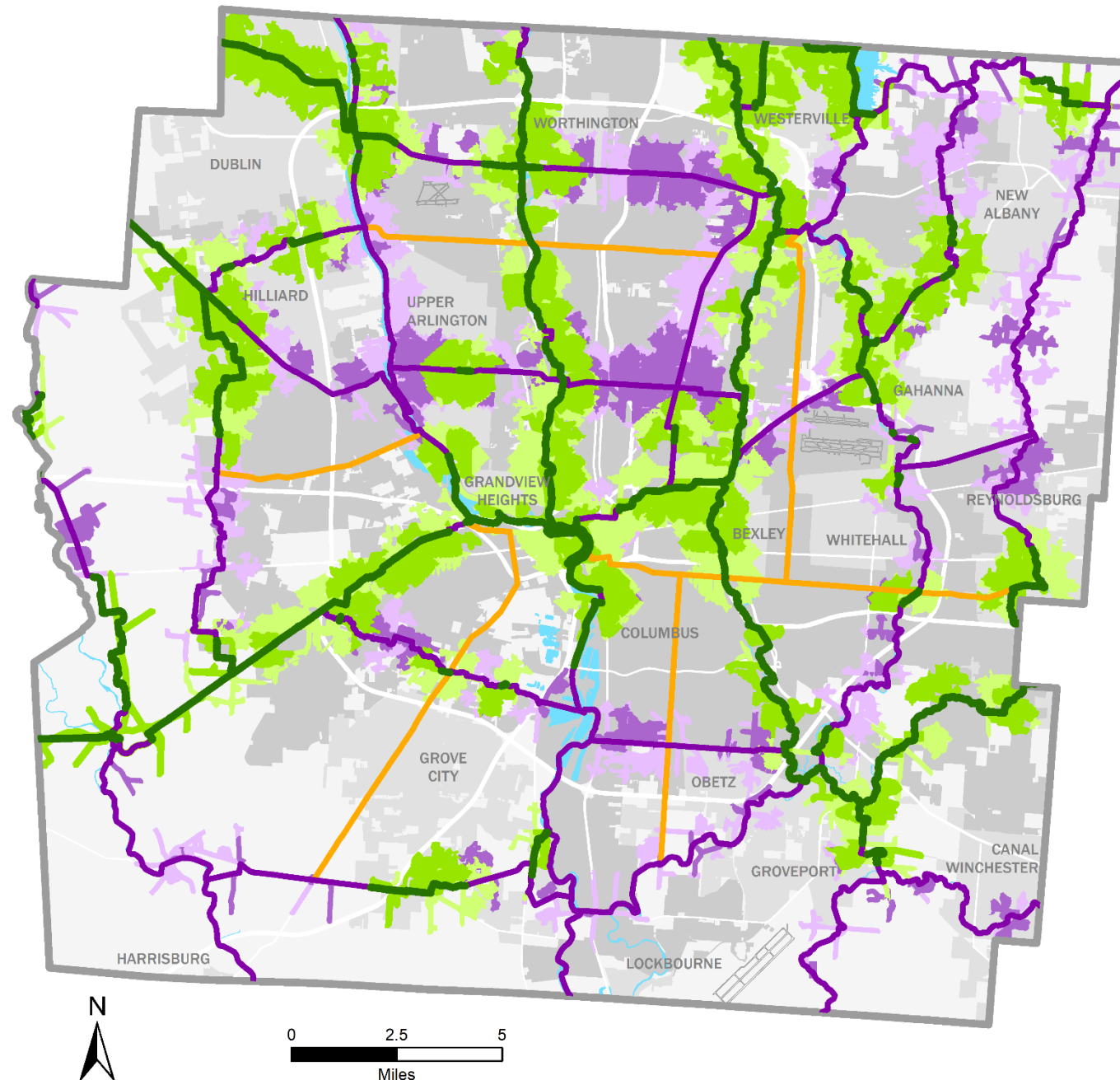
The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
N:\ArcGIS\CORE\COG\Prioritization\Report\AllRoads.mxd
10/13/2020

120 Miles of
Existing Trails

176 Miles of
Proposed Trails

50 Miles of
“Recommended Trails”

76% of
Population
and **Jobs**



Central Ohio Greenway Trails Access Within 1 Mile Franklin County, Ohio

- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Proposed Multi-Use Trail
- Recommended Trail
- Bike Friendly Access to Existing Trail
- Access to Existing Trail
- Bike Friendly Access to Proposed Trail
- Access to Proposed Trail
- River/Water

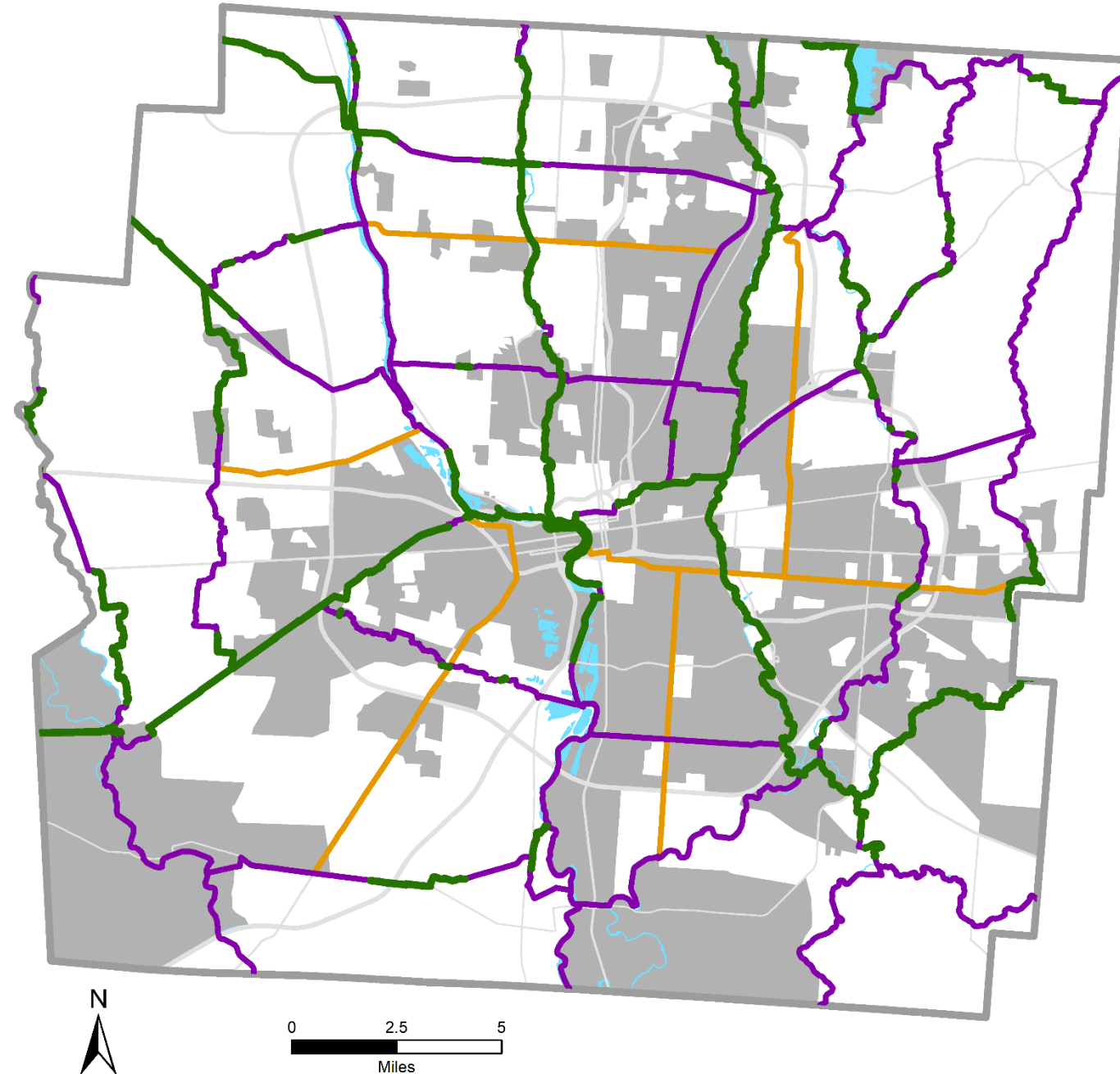


Ohio
Location
Map



The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
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10/13/2020

466
Neighborhoods
experiencing high rates of
poverty



Neighborhoods with Above Average Poverty

Franklin County, Ohio

- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Proposed Multi-Use Trail
- Recommended Trail
- Above Average Poverty

Source: Census ACS 2014-18,
200% Poverty

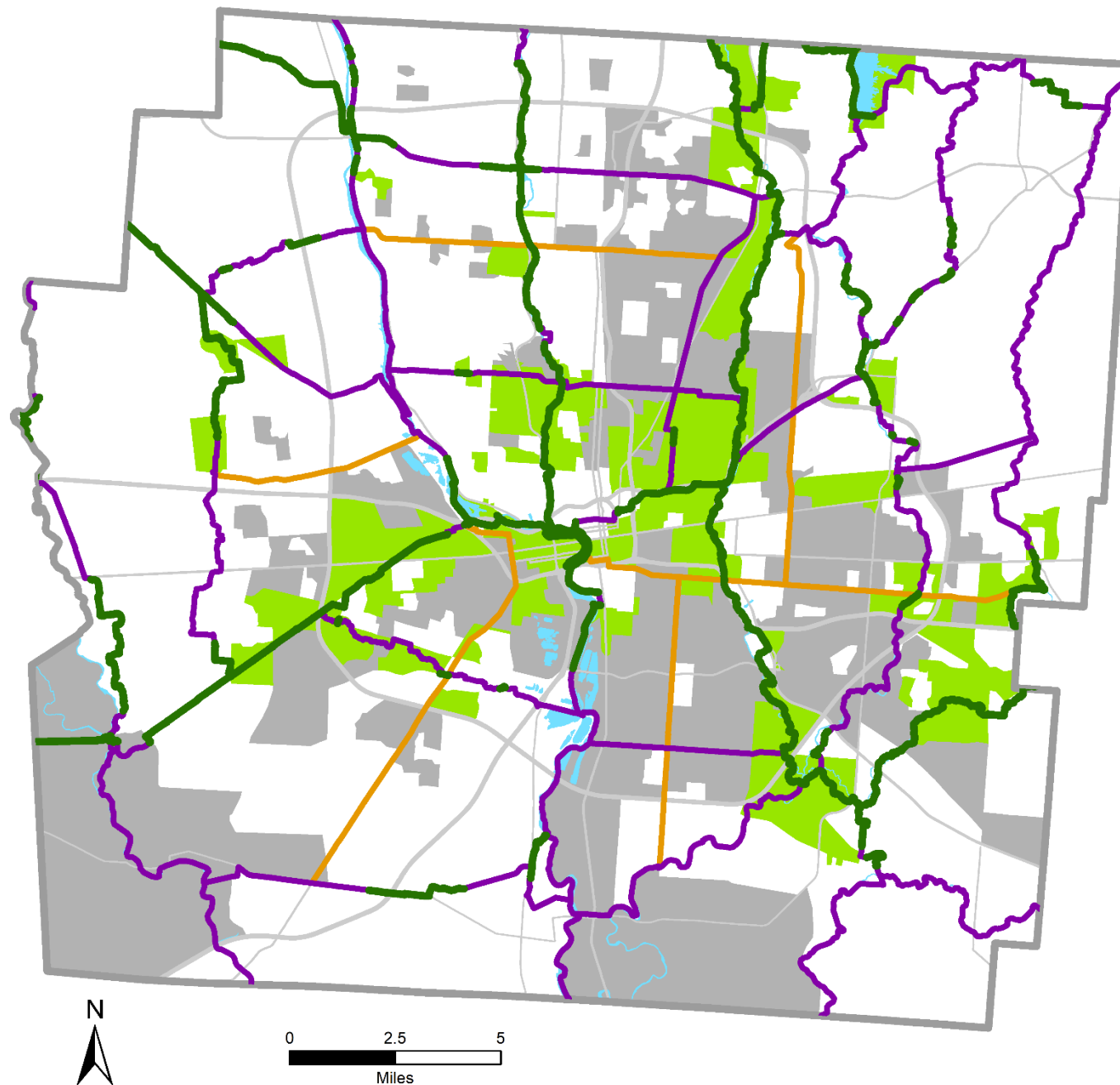


The information shown on this map is compiled from various
sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
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10/13/2020

466

Neighborhoods
experiencing high rates of
poverty

40% of the high poverty
Neighborhoods
are served by current trails



Neighborhoods with Above Average Poverty with Access to Existing Trails Franklin County, Ohio

- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Proposed Multi-Use Trail
- Recommended Trail
- Above Average Poverty**
- Access to Existing Trail
- No Access to

Source: Census ACS 2014-18,
200% Poverty



The information shown on this map is compiled from various
sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
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10/13/2020

466

Neighborhoods

experiencing high rates of poverty

59% of the high poverty

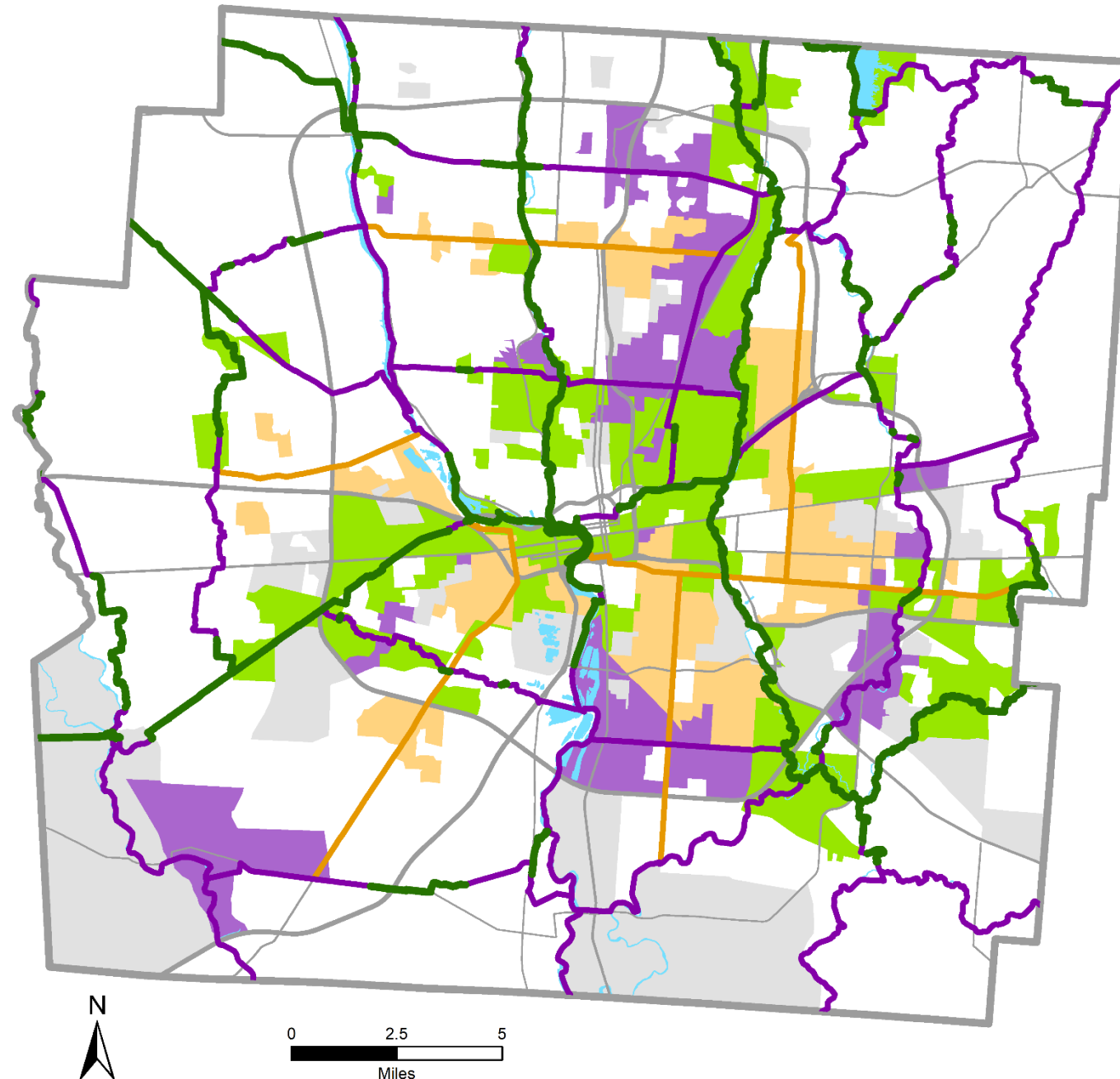
Neighborhoods

will be served by existing and proposed trails.

85% of the high poverty

Neighborhoods

could be served by existing, proposed, and “recommended” trails



Trail Access for Neighborhoods with Above Average Poverty Franklin County, Ohio

- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Proposed Multi-Use Trail
- Recommended Trail

Above Average Poverty

- Access to Existing Trail
- Access to Proposed Trail
- Access to Recommended Trail
- No Trail

Source: Census ACS 2014-18, 200% Poverty



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The information shown on this map is compiled from various sources made available to us which we believe to be reliable.
N:\ArcGIS\CORE\COG\Prioritization\Report\Poverty200.mxd
10/13/2020

THANK YOU!

Melinda Vonstein, AICP

Central Ohio Greenways Coordinator
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Mvonstein@morpc.org

Cheri Mansperger

GIS Manager
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Cmansperger@morpc.org



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A photograph of two men walking on a paved trail. The man on the left is wearing a pink t-shirt, black shorts, and a black face mask. The man on the right is wearing a grey hoodie over a yellow and blue striped tank top, red shorts, and a black face mask. They are walking towards the camera. In the background, there is a black metal fence on the left, green trees, and a building with a green street sign that says 'Q 200'. The trail continues into the distance with more trees and a person on a bicycle.

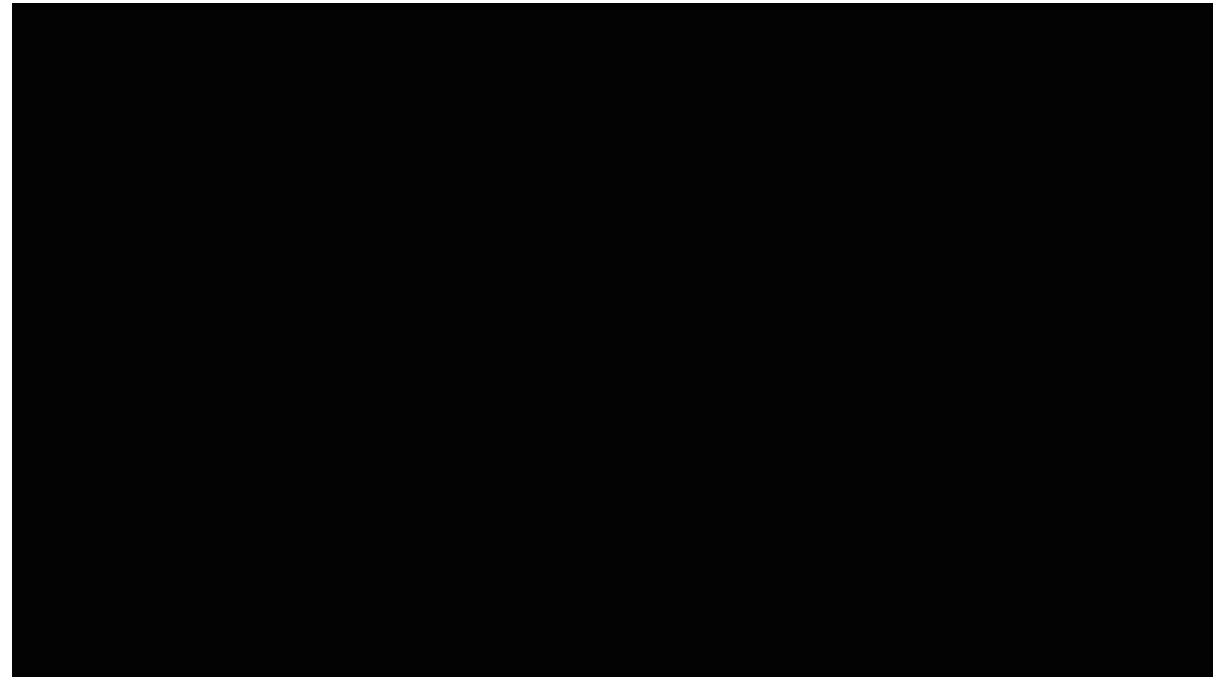
MOVING FORWARD FROM THE PANDEMIC: PLANNING TO SUSTAIN AND GROW THE TRAILS, WALKING AND BIKING MOVEMENT



rails-to-trails
conservancy

THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY OF THE MOMENT

- Pandemic accelerating shift in social norms and individual behaviors
- Surging trail use, bike boom and changing home/work norms
- Demand for outside space and decreased traffic resulted in rapid deployment of “streets for social distancing”
- Pandemic elevating long-standing equity issues, including access to trails/outside
- Confluence of funding opps: reauthorization, stimulus (TBD), challenging state budgets, presidential transition



ATTITUDES + BEHAVIORS

- 75% believe that trails contribute significantly to the well-being of a community.
- **46% say they now consider trails and open spaces to be important, whereas 37% considered trails to be important before the pandemic.**
- 78% said it is very important to have access to places to walk and bike that are completely separated from vehicle traffic.
- 70% would like to use the trail a lot or a little more frequently.
- **66% are getting outside about the same or more than they were before the pandemic.**
- 86% say that having access to open space/outdoors has reduced their stress.

Source: RTC survey conducted via SurveyMonkey, May 2 – May 22, 2020 among 1,980 respondents including 740 RTC members and 1,240 respondents from the general public, representing an oversample of 31% Latinx, 33% Black and 36% White.

Source: RTC ongoing Trail Moments survey conducted via SurveyMonkey, Sept. 7 – Nov. 30, 2020 among 1,060 respondents from the general public, Representing 74% White, 9% Latinx and 4% Black.

STAGES OF CHANGE

Amenity —————→ **Necessity**

Trails are nice to have

I use trails for fun

I need trails in my
neighborhood

I demand trails for
my community

Strategy #1

Showcase Diverse Trail Use and Capture the Story
Audience: New-to-trails walkers, bikers, runners, etc.

Strategy #2

Encourage Quick Build Infrastructure Change
Audience: Mayors, local decision makers

Strategy #3

Amplify and Influence
Audience: Trails, Bike, Outdoors, Health, Funder Sectors

STRATEGIC APPROACH



www.trailmoments.org #TrailMoments



Courtesy Quest Skinner

“We take for granted these public spaces and the impact they can have ... just to be able to take a run and connect with nature and back into your own mind is priceless.”

—**Quest Skinner, Washington, D.C.**



Vincent Viars completing his first 5K trail run |
Courtesy Vincent Viars

“This is where I’m going to get emotional, because I feel like running saved my life If I hadn’t gotten into exercise ... [t]here’s no doubt I would have had a heart attack.”

—**Vincent Viars, Morgantown, West Virginia**



Amy on Ohio's Roberts Pass Trail | Amy
Collins-Warfield

“Trails are a literal escape from the monotony and existential angst of 2020. I am grateful to have rail-trails nearby, and thankful for our park staff and volunteers for keeping them in such nice condition.”

—**Amy Collins-Warfield, Columbus, Ohio**



"Riding these trails has been so impactful; it has brought me a healthy way to work out the stresses of life—and a peace of mind."

—Anamaria Spiteri, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

Story Curation: Hundreds of Survey Responses

"The next thing I know I had almost spent 2 hours there. Since I have been walking the trails lately I was able to take a short cut back to my vehicle. I am enjoying exploring and reconnecting to our city here."

Robin Harrison, 55-64
Identified as Black, F
Houston, TX

Since March I have been doing daily walks, long weekend bike rides and getting to hike some of my bucket list adventures! I am no longer as stressed and I have even found a new job that's closer to home and way less stressful! I think it all had to do with having the time to think on those daily walks and really go after what I wanted!

Jessica DeVirgi, 25-34
Identified as Caucasian, F
Hazlet, NJ

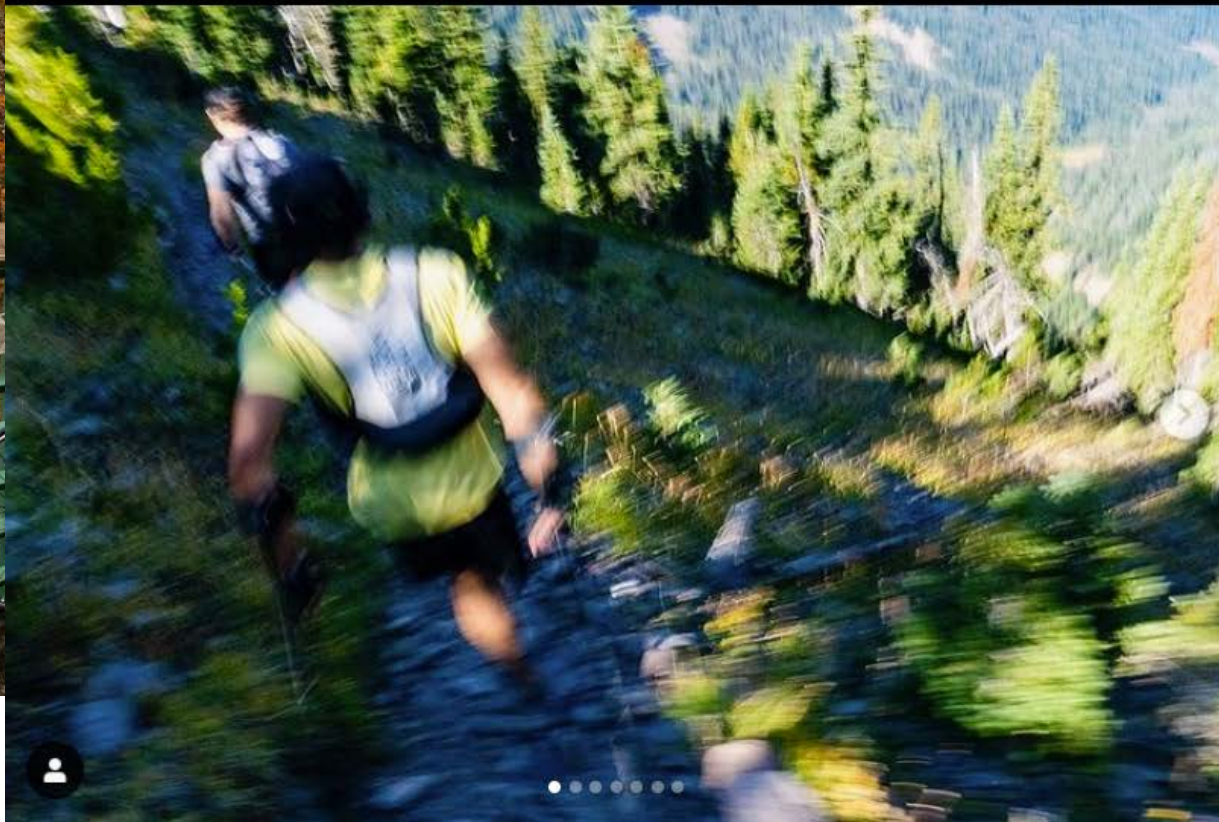


coleman_concierge • Following

Paid partnership with railstotrails
Chief Ladiga Trail



coleman_concierge It started with a trail...



vasu_sojitra • Following

Paid partnership with railstotrails
Montana



vasu_sojitra #TrailMoments w/
@RailstoTrails

Being on the trail has been a whirlwind! So many emotional and physical ups and downs. From the 1 mi nature walks to the +30 mi ultra runs in all climates. Now that the snow has started to fall let's keep the whirlwind going! Let's squeeze in a few last runs before switching over my

• Following
e Trail

In 2020, I've found consistent with running few years.

Because the pandemic has tainted. When will things return to normal? What will happen?



Liked by amachuuf and 449 others

7 DAYS AGO



you can control when you get out or how you get out. You can leave other worries at home for a short period in your

Add a comment...

Post

because you never know what you'll see out there: hikers, bikers, hikers, everyone is out there to enjoy the trails. So, what makes these trails so special?



Liked by anthonylear and 994 others

OCTOBER 26





Paso del Norte Trail

September 29 at 7:56 PM · El Paso, TX · 🌐

As people seek out spaces near their homes to be active at a safe physical distance, trails have proven to be so important to so many spaces to play, commute, walk, bike, run and explore. This is why we have partnered with @railstotrails to capture these moments of joy, moments of solitude, moments for exercise and self-care. 🚴



We hope you'll share your "Trail Moments" and the stories of how trails have impacted your life during COVID-19. 😊

Thank you, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, for your support of trails!

Paso del Norte Health Foundation El Paso
Border Coalition for Fitness Sun City Cruisers
Podium Finish Sport Boutique-Cafe-Indoor
training

#TrailMoments #pdntrail #pasodelnortetrail
#trails See Less

— at Independence Bike & Hike Path.



Paso del Norte Trail is at Playa Drain Trail.

September 29 at 8:04 PM · El Paso, TX · 🌐

Para muchos de nosotros, salir al aire libre o a los senderos en donde podemos jugar, caminar, andar en bicicleta, correr y explorar a una sana distancia ha sido de gran importancia y ayuda. 🚴 🏃 🚶

Por eso hemos decidido colaborar con @railstotrails para capturar esos momentos. Tus historias y experiencias son significativas y marcan la diferencia. Esperamos que nos puedas ayudar compartiendo tus historias 😊

#TrailMoments

1700+ Signs Distributed in 30 states

IA, FL, OH, PA, IL, NH, WA, MD, VA, WI, NY, TX, MI, VT, TN, AL, SC, IN, AR, MN, CT, NM, CO, UT, NE, MA, CA, GA, NJ, and WV

Forest Preserve District: Inspire Others By Sharing Your Trail Moments

 patch.com/illinois/mokena/forest-preserve-district-inspire-others-sharing-your-trail-moments

Cheryl Crane, Neighbor

October 30, 2020

Community Corner

The Trail Moments campaign shows how important local and regional trails are to health and wellness.

By Press Release Desk, News Partner

Oct 30, 2020 2:01 pm CT

Press release from the Forest Preserve District of Will County:

The Forest Preserve District has joined a Trail Moments campaign to show how important local and regional trails are to our health and well-being, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The effort was organized by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, a nonprofit group that promotes the creation of trails from former rail lines. The Forest Preserve District has installed signs promoting the campaign on its converted rail line trails to encourage those who use them to share their special Trail Moments with others. The Forest Preserve District's rails-to-trails paths are the Joliet Junction, Old Plank Road and Wauponsee Glacial trails.

"We believe that these trails are part of the fabric of the communities they serve and offer users a safe way to exercise their minds and bodies and experience a little bit of the nature around them," said Ralph Schultz, the Forest Preserve District's chief operating officer. "And we'd like to hear from others how these trails have impacted their lives."

SHARE THE TRAIL

Practice Safe Social Distancing on the Trail

Before you head out, check to ensure the trail is open. Be prepared that trails may have limited services: facilities may be closed, and maintenance and security may be limited or unavailable. Find trail-manager contact info at **TrailLink.com**. Check **coronavirus.gov** for the latest public-health guidance.

- ☀ On the trail, do not gather in groups.
- ☀ Avoid playgrounds or other areas where groups may form.
- ☀ Keep 6 feet between you and others at all times.
- ☀ Leave any area where you cannot maintain a 6-foot distance.
- ☀ Carry water, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to further protect yourself.
- ☀ Do not touch your face.
- ☀ Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.
- ☀ Stay home if you exhibit any symptoms of illness.

Visit **railstotrails.org/COVID19** for resources and information about ways to stay healthy and well during this time of social distancing.

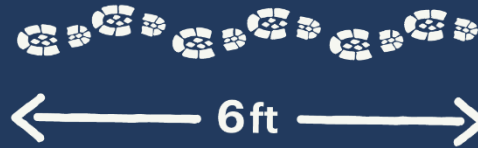


#RecreateResponsibly *Winter Edition*

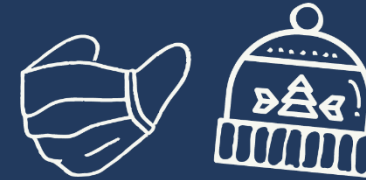
KNOW BEFORE
YOU GO



PRACTICE PHYSICAL
DISTANCING



PLAN
AHEAD



PLAY IT
SAFE



EXPLORE
LOCALLY



LEAVE NO
TRACE



BUILD AN INCLUSIVE
OUTDOORS



OH Legislative Trails Caucus - Opportunities



Brian Housh
Midwest Policy Manager

Trails are at the heart of healthy, thriving communities!

A solid green curved bar at the bottom of the slide, starting from the left and curving upwards towards the right.

Trails Caucus Best Practices

- Bipartisan, Bicameral, Multi-Regional & Diverse (e.g. District, Background)
- Co-Chairs from Both Parties and Both Chambers
- Coalition/Stakeholder Group to Support Caucus & Provide Leverage
- 2-4 Caucus Meetings/Events Annually
- Legislative Platform – Vision, Mission & Goals
- Caucus Newsletter & Regular Engagement Tactics (include Legislative Aides)



Ohio Trails Caucus in Action

- Mar 29, 2017 - Caucus Forms; Now 49 Members (Over 37% of Legislature; Convenes May & Sep)
- Oct 25, 2017 Kickoff Event with 200+ Legislators & Staff & Partners on Scioto Trail near Statehouse
- Nov 29, 2017 - Senate Unanimously Passes SCR 15 Designating 2018 “Ohio’s Year of the Trails”
- Jan 2018 - Dept of Natural Resources Launches Online Trail Map (trails.ohiodnr.gov)
- May 2019 – New State Trails Plan – *The Ohio Trails Vision* - is Released - https://ohiodnr.gov/static/documents/parks/trails/Ohio_Trails_Vision-2019-SM.pdf



Caucus Mission & Goals

- **Improve existing** trails
- **Ensure** smart **planning** for future trails; develop a statewide trails network
- **Connect** Ohioans with opportunities for outdoor recreation and active transportation

Initiatives / Near-Term Goals:

- ✓ Legislator Awareness Event
- ✓ Online Trail Map (Jan 2018)
- ✓ New State Trail Plan (May 2019)
 - Build Capacity within Relevant State Agencies
 - Statewide Economic Impact Study to Measure Benefits

Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus

*Creating a Statewide Trails Network
to Connect Ohioans*

Join a growing list of state legislators
committed to connecting Ohio's trails.

Contact Nate Shipman at
Nate.Shipman@ohiosenate.gov

“California of the Midwest”

MID-TERM (2019-2020) GOALS

Completion of short-term Caucus goals help focus these objectives:

1. Create State ATP/RTP to Accelerate Trail Network Development
2. Establish Dedicated Trail Maintenance Funding Source
3. Expand Funding for Trails, including Clean Ohio (Trails) Fund


Potential funding mechanisms – bonds, gas tax increase, dedicating recreation-related (e.g. bike/bike parts) sales tax revenues, increasing sales tax, other innovative funding sources/strategies



The OhioNetwork

“A multi-regional coalition advocating to complete & execute trail/active transportation plans across the Buckeye State, creating a statewide trails network to connect Ohioans.”

Ultimate Goals:

- Statewide Recreational/Active Transportation ***Trail Network***
 - ***Innovative Policies*** to Support Trail Network Development
 - Increased ***Dedicated Funding*** for Construction & Maintenance
 - Funding Assistance to Complete Local/Regional Trail/AT Plans
 - Connecting People, Places & Opportunities
- 

Opportunities – We Need YOU!

What are the priorities and How do we move forward?

- **The Ohio Trails Vision Implementation**
 - 12/22/2020 (10-11:30) – OhioNetwork Meeting
- **Connectivity & Maintenance**
- **Advocate Training**
 - 1/6/2020 (10-Noon) – COG Vision & Telling Your Stories
- **Caucus Membership**
 - Thank You to Tina Maharath, Stephanie Kunze & Andrew Brenner + Adam Miller, Richard Brown, Beth Liston, David Leland, Laura Lanese & Erica Crawley
 - Hearcel Craig + Mary Lightbody, C. Allison Russo Dontavius Jarrells & Kristin Boggs

Questions?

Brian Housh

Midwest Policy Manager

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Connect with RTC:

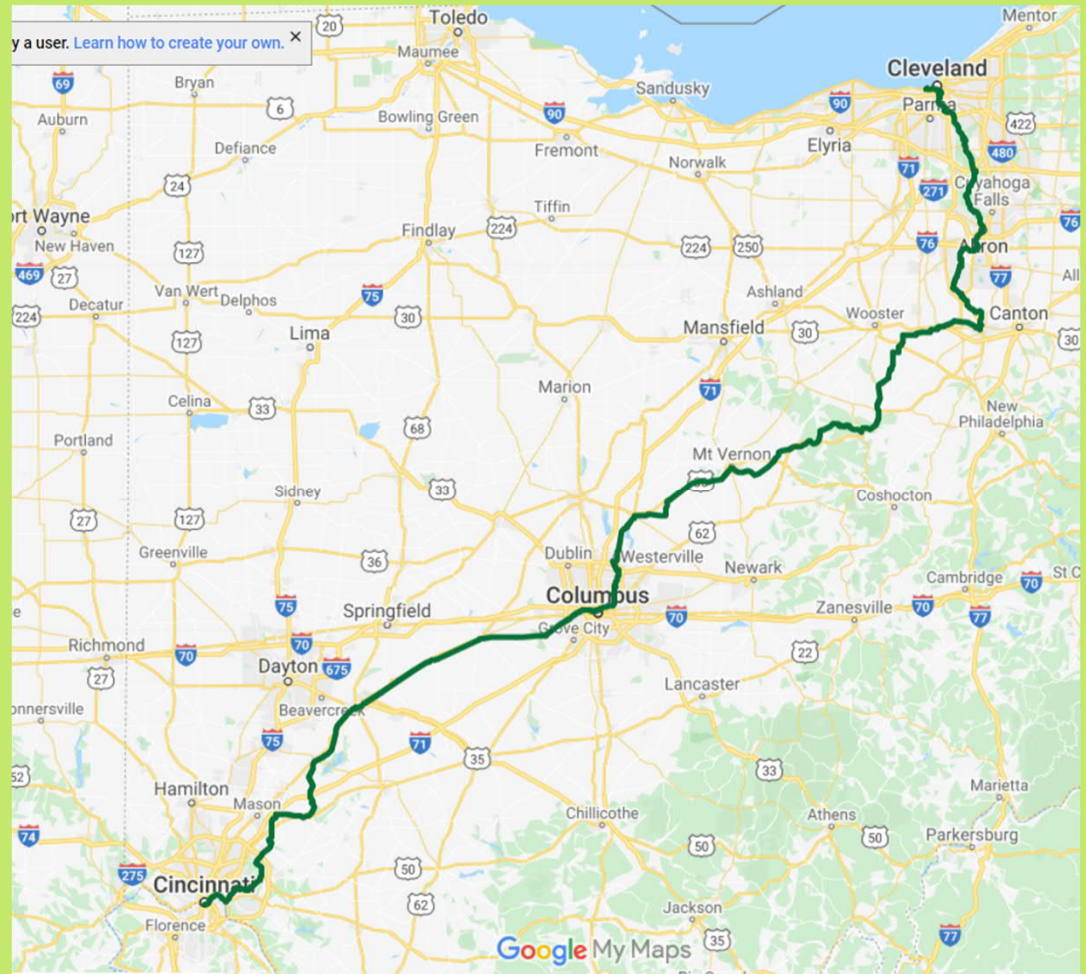
www.railstotrails.org

@railstotrails   



Ohio to Erie Trail Progress (326 miles is 85% Complete)

- Delaware County- 2.5 miles of trail construction
- Licking County Trailhead
- Camp Chase Trail (Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park)- 1 mile Construction



In The News

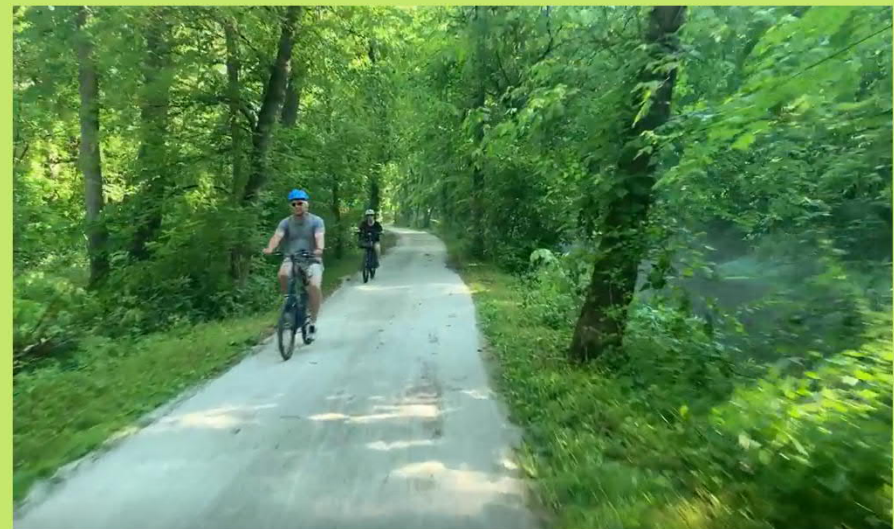
- Ohio Trail Connections Summit
- Promote OTET tourism
 - Wilderness Voyagers
 - WomanTours
- Plan your trip
 - Lodging and campsites
 - Bike shops
 - Attractions
 - Trail alerts
- 326 Club

326 Club = Tourism!









Questions?

www.ohioerietrail.org

