



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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morpc.org

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**NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

REMOTE MEETING

September 15, 2021, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

AGENDA

- 2:30 – 2:35 pm** [Welcome](#) – *Jim Schimmer, Chair and Ben Kessler, Vice Chair*
- 2:35 – 2:45 pm** [Policy Update](#) – *Joe Garrity, MORPC*
- 2:45 – 2:55 pm** [Summit on Sustainability Update](#) – *Amanda McElDowney, MORPC*
- 2:55 – 3:35 pm** **Regional Sustainability Agenda Target Setting (Action Item)** – *Liz Whelan-Jackson, and Ethan Hug, MORPC*
- 3:35 – 3:50 pm** **Working Group/Board Updates**
- Sustainable2050: *Ben Kessler*
 - Energy & Air Quality Working Group: *Matt Stephens-Rich*
 - Central Ohio Greenways Board: *Letty Schamp*
 - Sustaining Scioto Board: *Kristin Atha*
- 3:50 – 4:00 pm** [Rapid 5](#) – *Kerstin Carr, MORPC*
- 4:00 pm** **Adjourn**

Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or LKaufman@morpc.org to confirm your attendance for this meeting or if you require special assistance.

**The next Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
will be on December 15, 2021, 2:30 pm
This will be a remote meeting. Details will follow.**

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 15, 2021



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

2021 SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY

2021 SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY

October 15, 2021
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Hilton Columbus Downtown

www.morpc.org/summit

KEYNOTE



DANA BOURLAND

*Vice President of the Environment
Program at The JPB Foundation*



PROGRAM



2021 Summit on Sustainability Agenda	
Friday, October 15, 2021	
8:00 A.M.	Registration
8:30 A.M.	Opening Plenary Session
9:45 A.M.	Exhibit Hall
10:00 A.M.	Breakout Sessions
11:00 A.M.	Exhibit Hall
11:15 A.M.	Breakout Sessions
12:15 P.M.	Exhibit Hall
12:30 P.M.	Closing Plenary Session
2:00 P.M.	Exhibit Hall
2:15 P.M.	Breakout Sessions
3:15 P.M.	Exhibit Hall
3:30 P.M.	Breakout Sessions

REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIP



Member Rate	\$100
Early Bird (ends September 30)	\$150
General Registration	\$175

WWW.MORPC.ORG/SUMMIT

Presenting Sponsor:



Sponsorship Opportunities are available.
Contact Amanda McEldowney at
amceldowney@morpc.org.

REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA TARGET SETTING

Liz Whelan-Jackson
Ethan Hug



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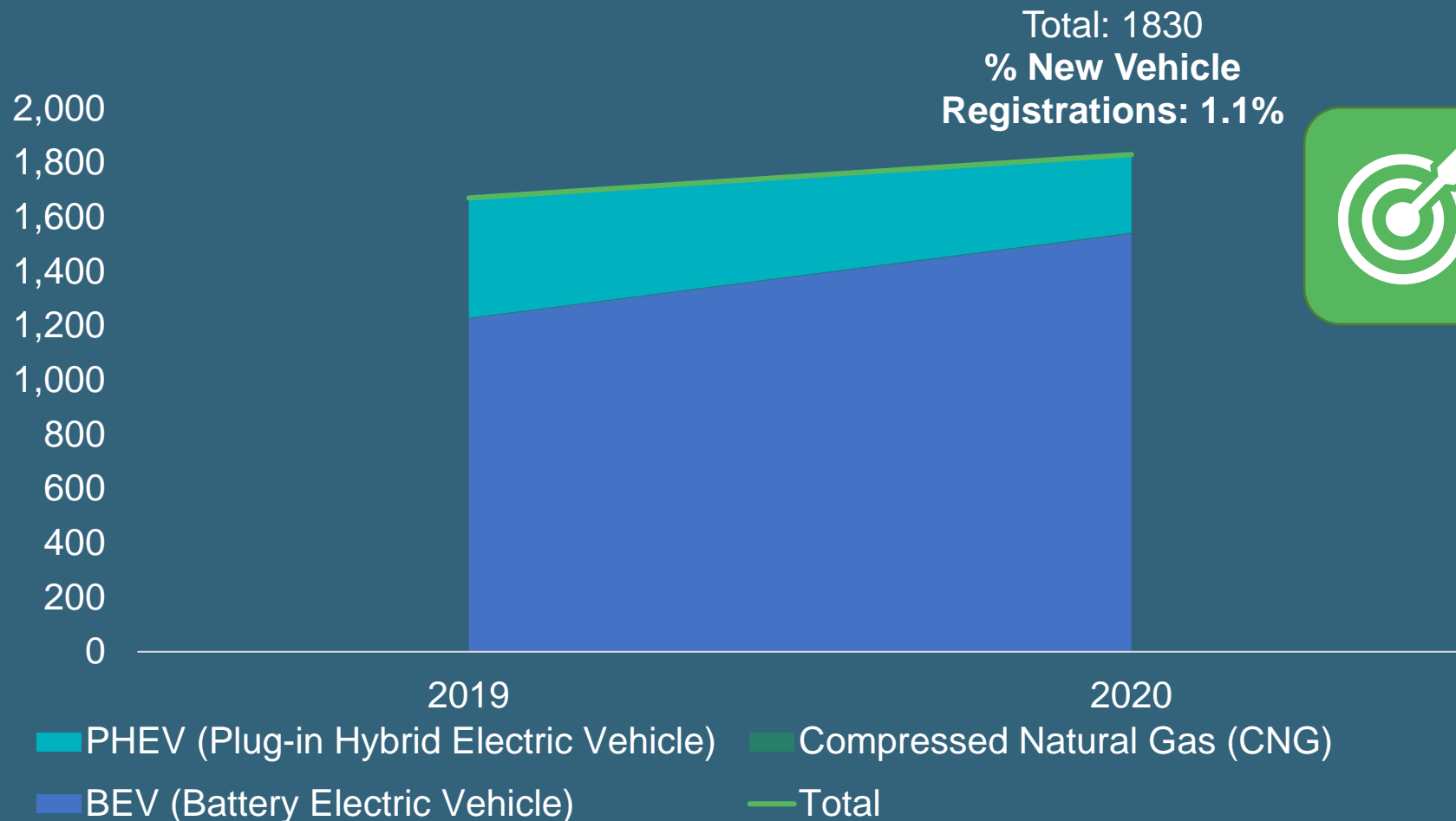
RSA Measures to be presented



- 1.2 Increase Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Infrastructure
 - a. Alternative Fuel Vehicle Adoption Rate
 - b. Alternative Fuel Vehicle Stations
- 1.3 Increase local Renewable Energy Generating Capacity
- 1.5 Reduce Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- 1.6 Increase the number of days with good Air Quality
 - a. Percentage of good air quality days OZONE
 - b. Percentage of good air quality days PM-2.5
- 2.1 Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill
- 2.2 Reduce per capita Water Consumption
- 2.3 Improve water quality in Central Ohio Watersheds
- 2.4 Increase the amount of land devoted to natural areas and ecosystem services
- 3.3 Increase access to parks and regional trails
 - a. Percent of Population near Central Ohio Greenways
 - b. Percent of Population Near Parks
- 3.4 Reduce household energy cost burden
- 3.5 Reduce the rate of elevated blood lead levels among children
- 4.1 Increase the number of businesses with established sustainability policies and practices
- 4.3 Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit or job centers

1.2.a Increase alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure

PERCENT NEW ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS
15-COUNTY REGION



>15%

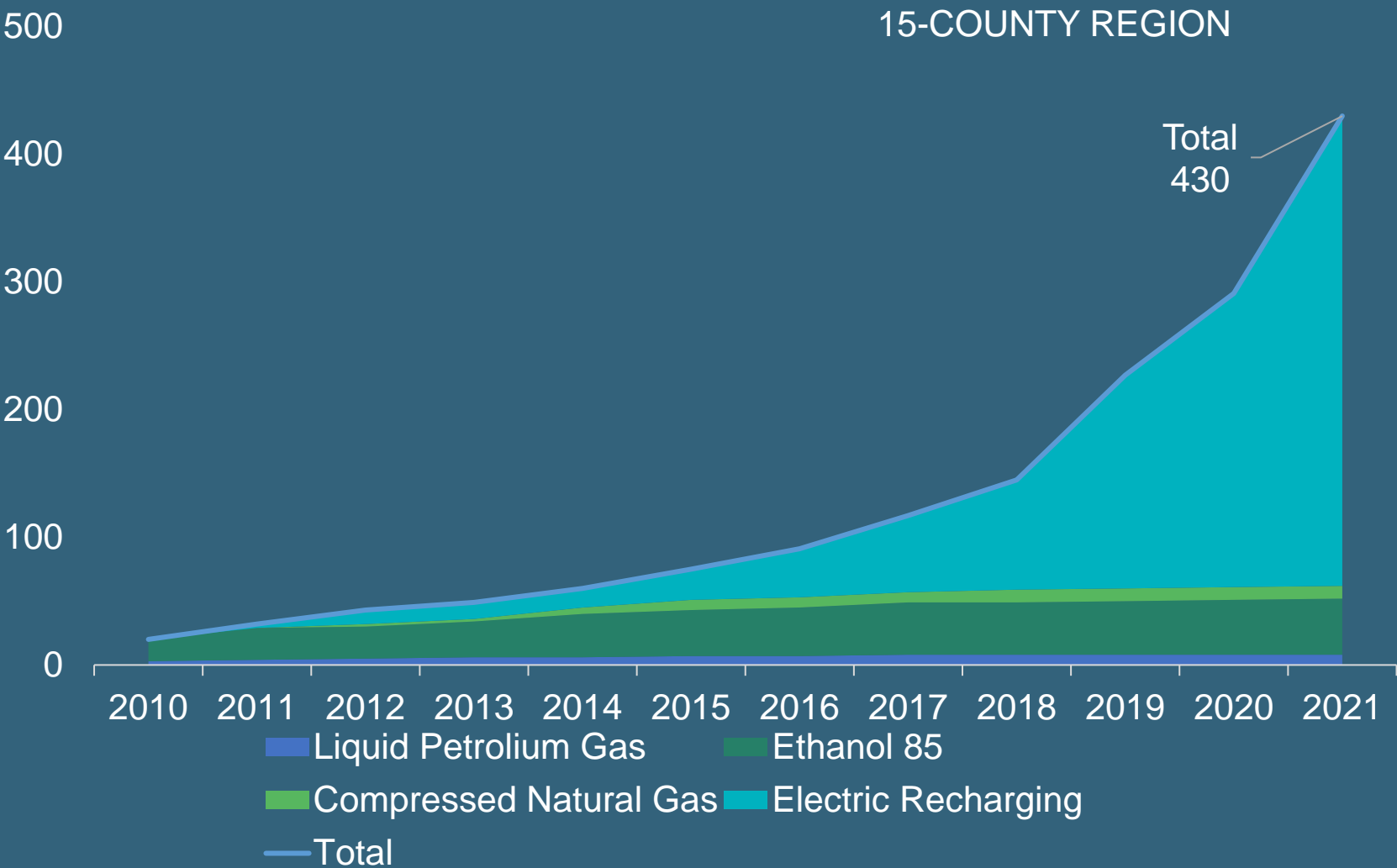
AFV of new cars purchased by 2025

DATA SOURCE:
HNTB

GOAL 1
IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

1.2.b Increase alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure

NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS
15-COUNTY REGION



>2,000

Public EV Charging
Locations by 2025

DATA SOURCE:

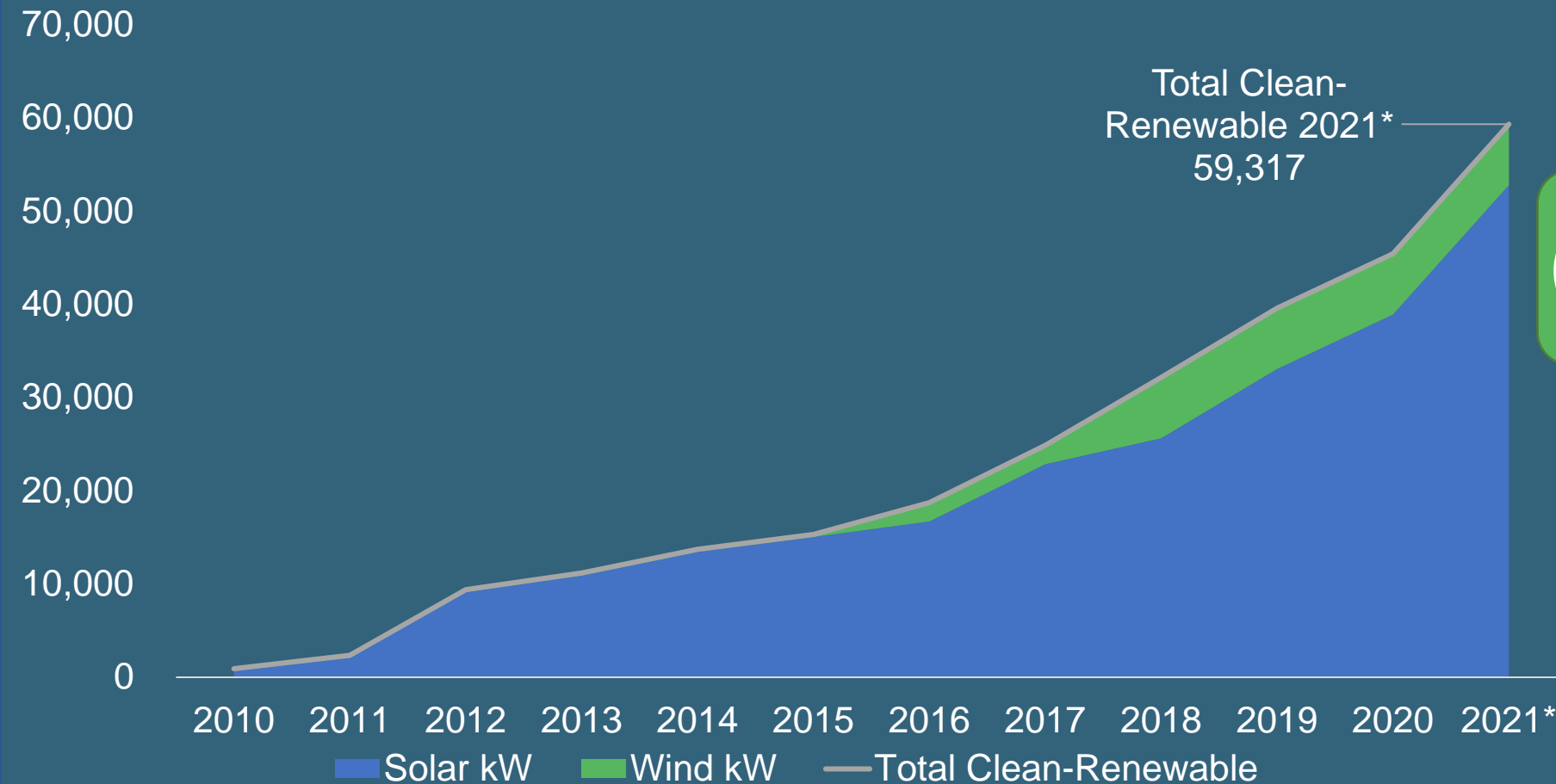
U.S. Department of Energy

GOAL 1

IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

1.3 Increase local renewable energy generating capacity

NON-UTILITY SCALE INTERCONNECTED WIND AND SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY MAXIMUM GENERATING CAPACITY (kWh) 15-COUNTY REGION



>128,800 kWh

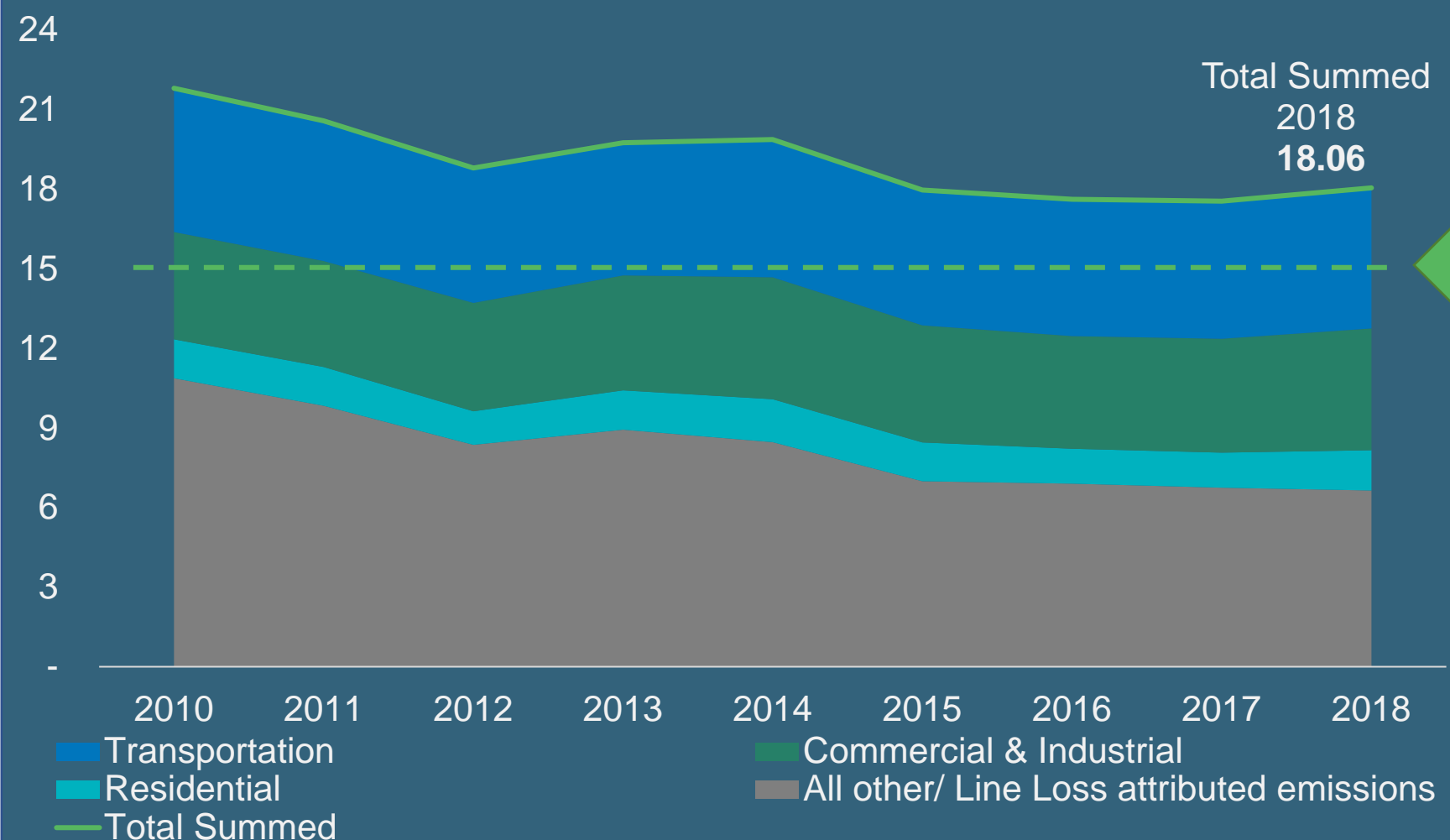
Clean-Renewable by 2026


DATA SOURCE:
PUCO

GOAL 1
IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

1.5 Reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions

ANNUAL PER PERSON CO-2 EMISSIONS FROM ENERGY AND FUEL CONSUMPTION (metric tons)
15-COUNTY REGION



 **<15** metric tons
CO₂ by 2025

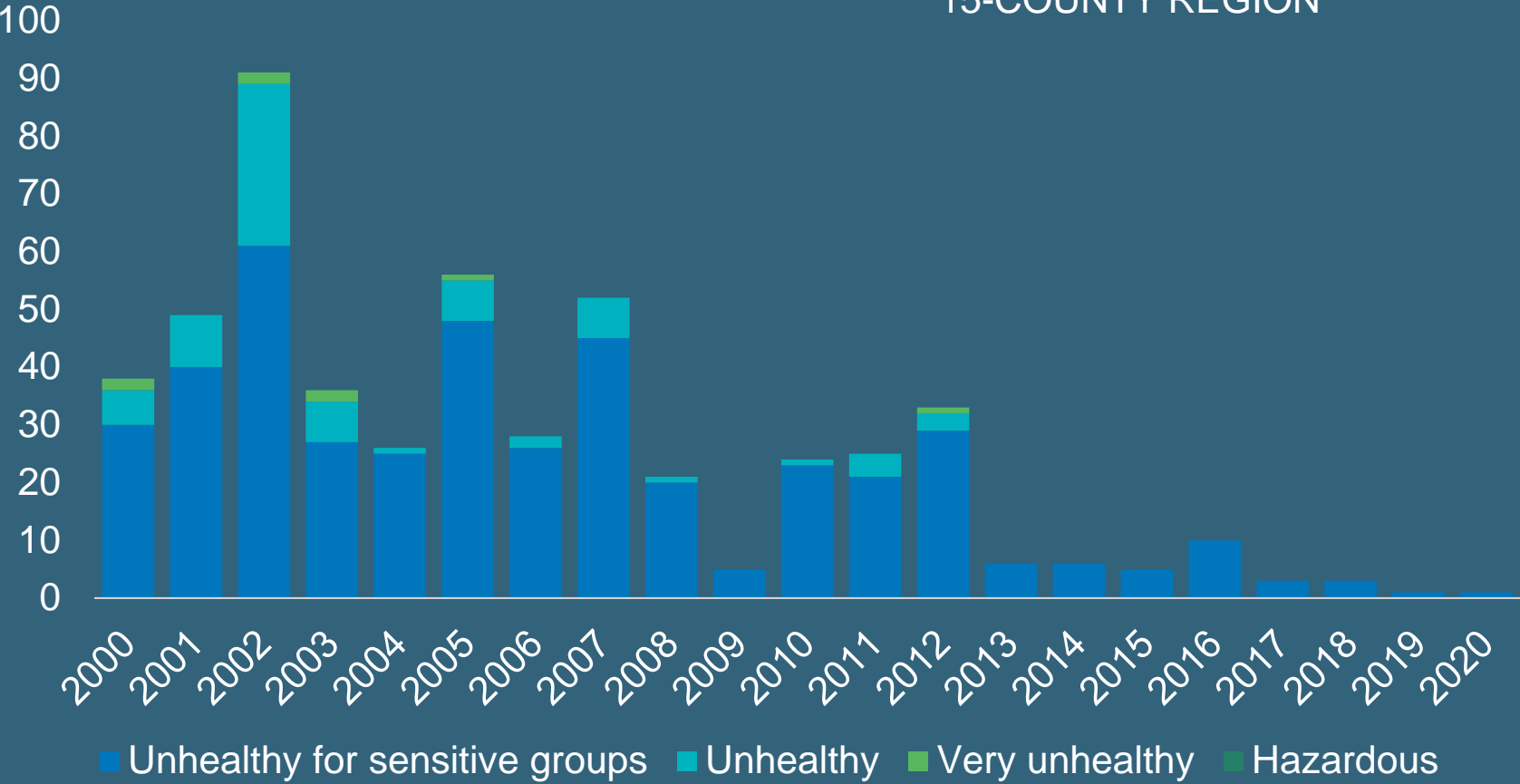
DATA SOURCE:
EIA & Census

GOAL 1
IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

1.6.a Increase the number of days with good air quality

NUMBER OF DAYS EXCEEDING ALLOWABLE LIMIT FOR OZONE
15-COUNTY REGION

DATA SOURCE:
EPA: AirNow



0 days

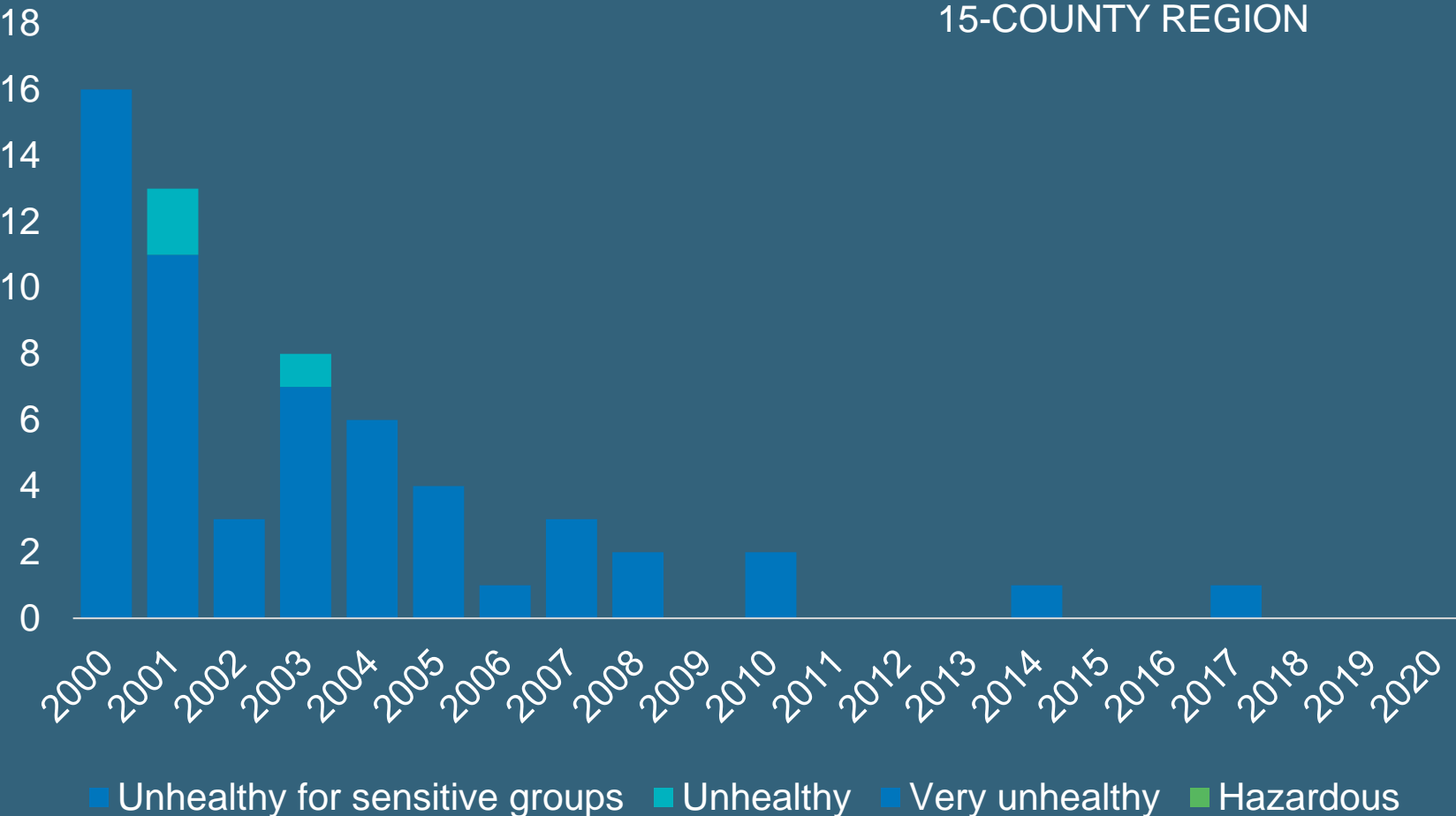
Unhealthy for sensitive groups or higher by 2025

GOAL 1
IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

1.6.b Increase the number of days with good air quality

NUMBER OF DAYS EXCEEDING ALLOWABLE LIMIT FOR FINE PARTICULATE MATTER (PM-2.5)

15-COUNTY REGION



DATA SOURCE:
EPA: AirNow



0 days*

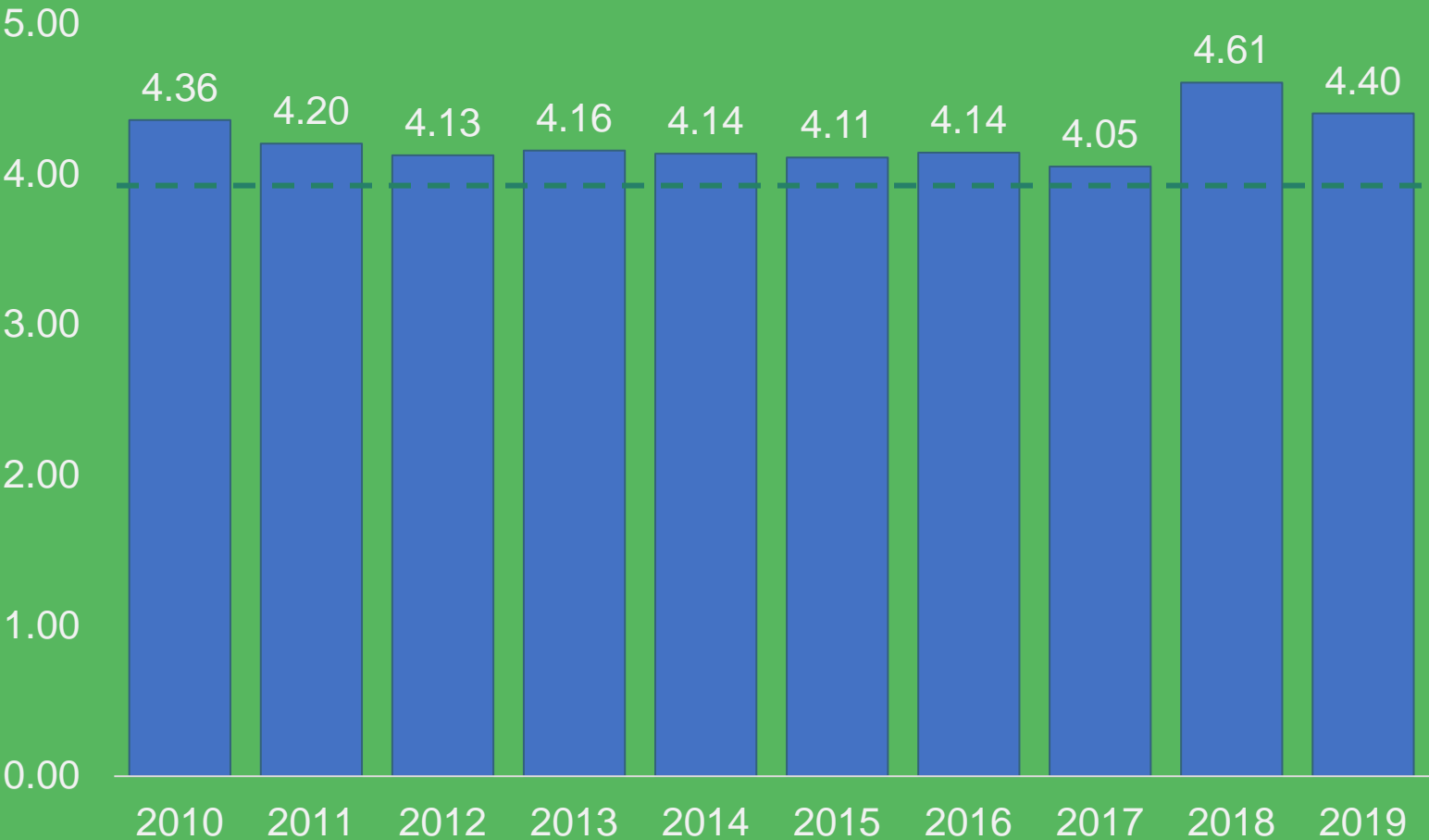
Unhealthy for sensitive groups or higher by 2025

■ Unhealthy for sensitive groups ■ Unhealthy ■ Very unhealthy ■ Hazardous

GOAL 1
IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

2.1 Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill

SOLID WASTE PER CAPITA PER DAY (pounds)
15-COUNTY REGION

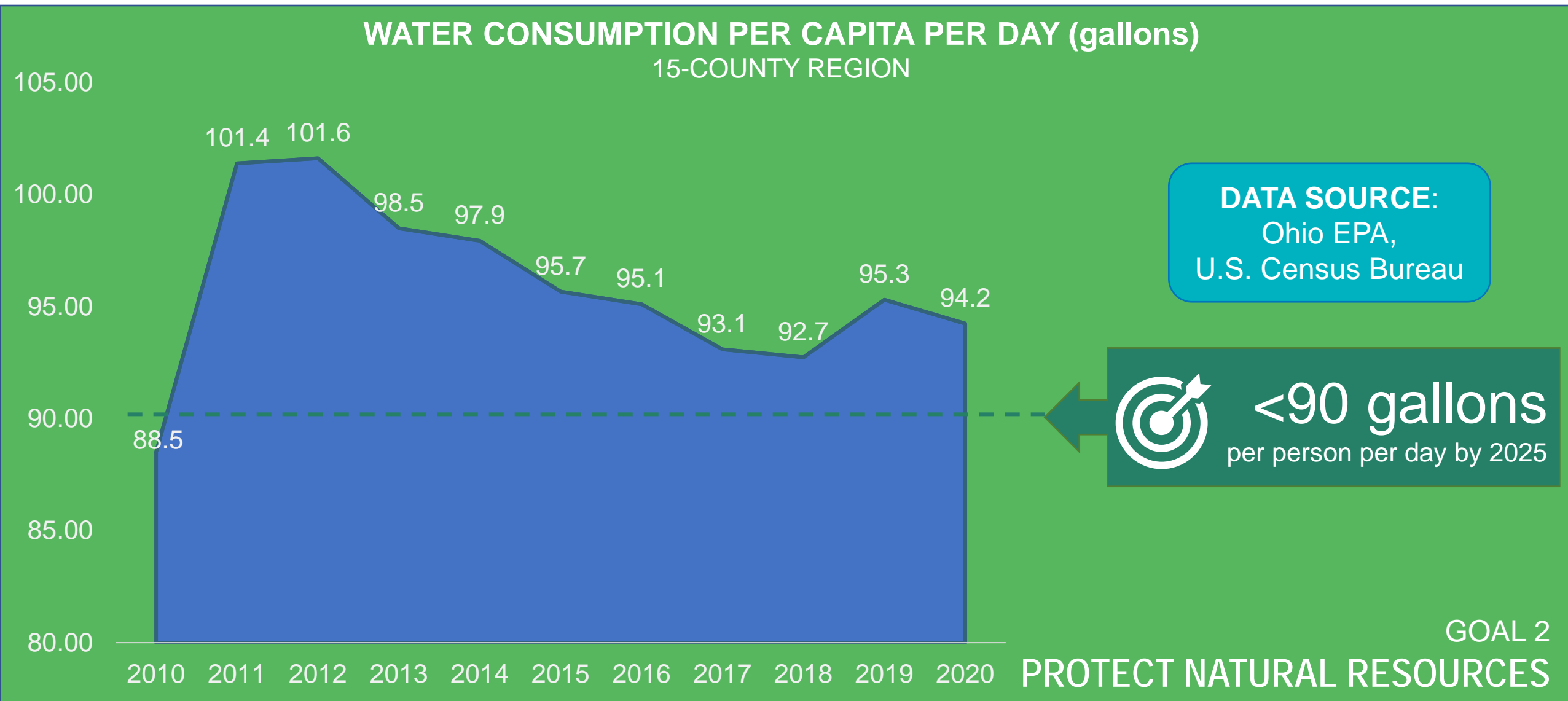




< 4 lbs.
per person per day by 2025

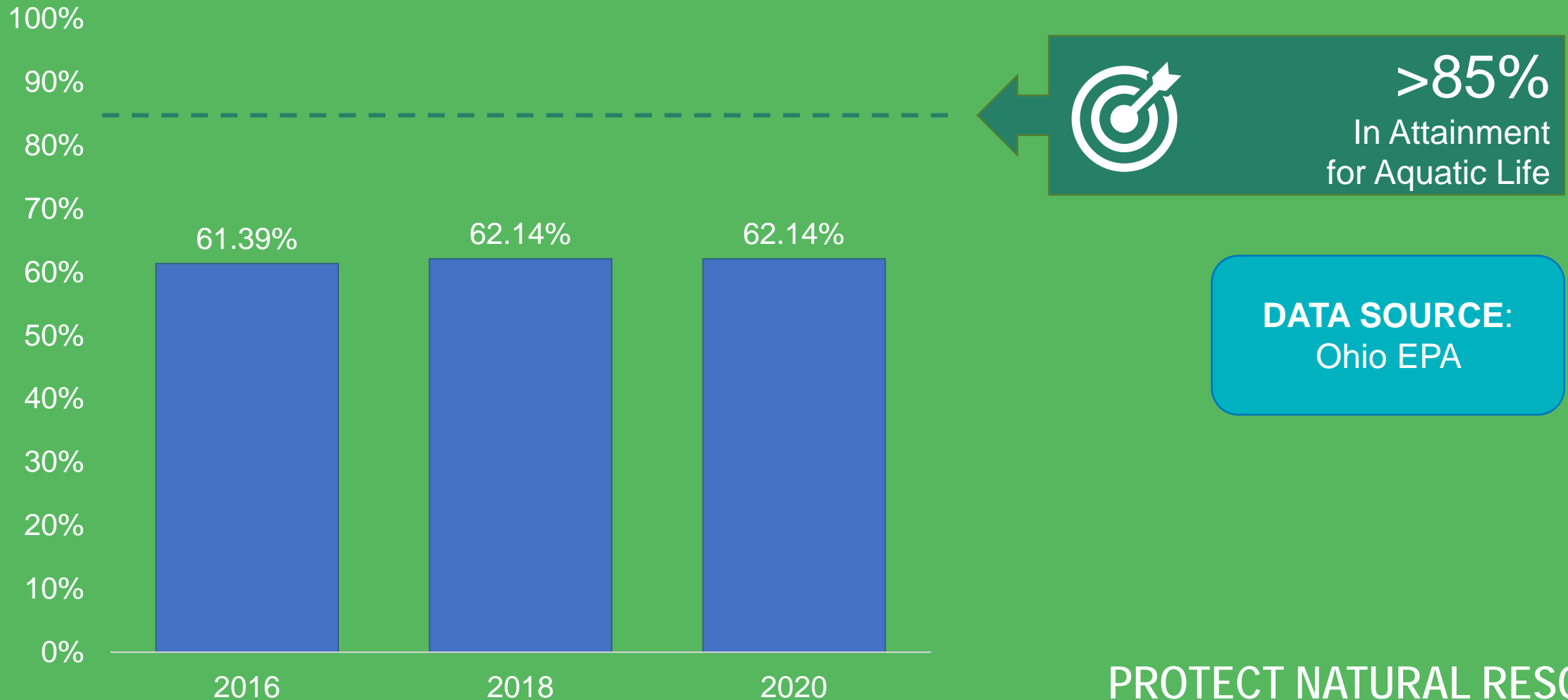
DATA SOURCE:
Ohio EPA, U.S.
Census Bureau

2.2 Reduce per capita water consumption



2.3 Improve water quality in Central Ohio watersheds

PERCENT OF SAMPLING SITES IN ATTAINMENT FOR AQUATIC LIFE
UPPER SCIOTO WATERSHED



2.4 Increase the amount of land devoted to natural areas and ecosystem services

ACRES OF LAND ACQUIRED USING THE CLEAN OHIO FUND (3-year average)
15-COUNTY REGION



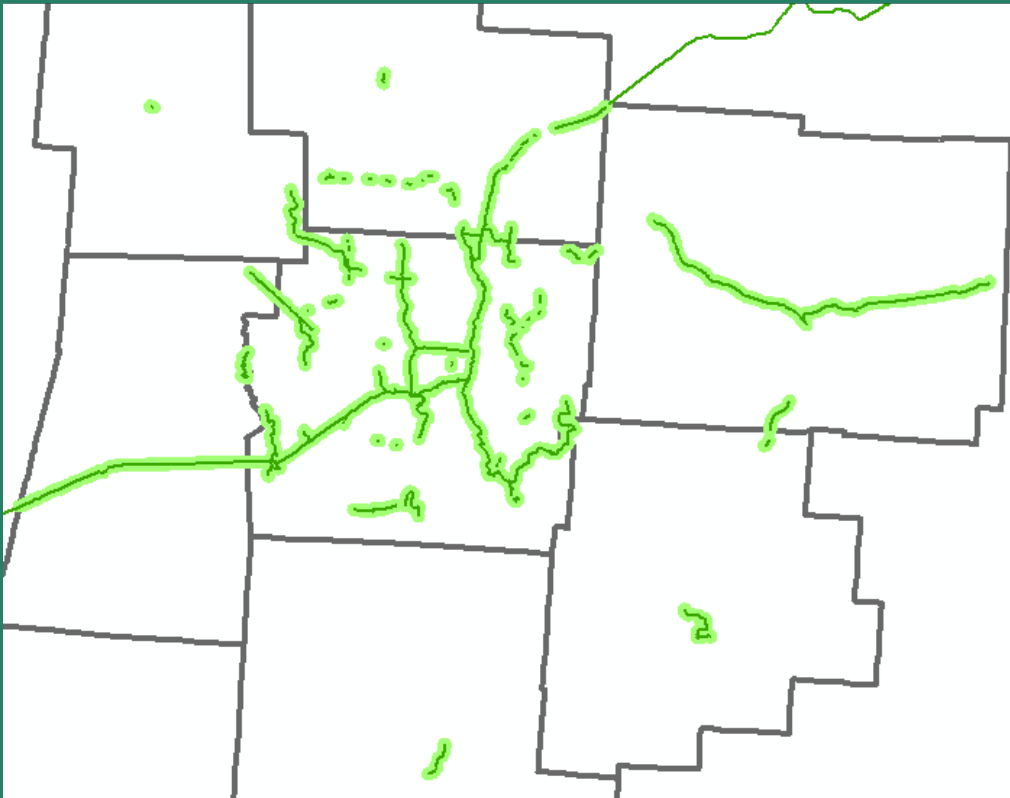


>1,000
Acres of land acquired
(3-year average)

DATA SOURCE:
Clean Ohio Fund

3.3.a Increase proximity* to parks and regional trails

PERCENT OF POPULATION NEAR CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS 7-COUNTY REGION



>30%

Population living near
COG trails by 2025

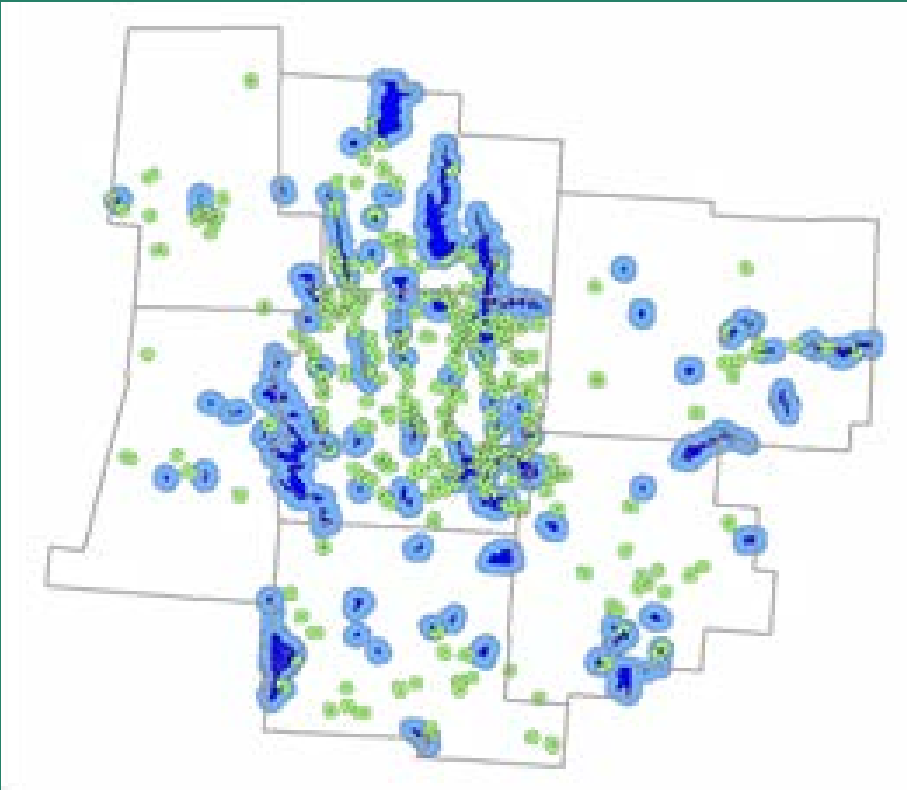
DATA SOURCE:
MORPC

Population Total:	2,060,781
Living within ½ mile of COG Trail:	477,433
Percent living within ½ mile of COG Trail:	23.17%

GOAL 3
IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

3.3.b Increase proximity* to parks and regional trails

PERCENT OF POPULATION NEAR PARKS (20 acres or larger) 7-COUNTY REGION



Population Total: 2,060,781
Population living near Parks: 1,101,430
Percent living near parks: 53.4%



>60%

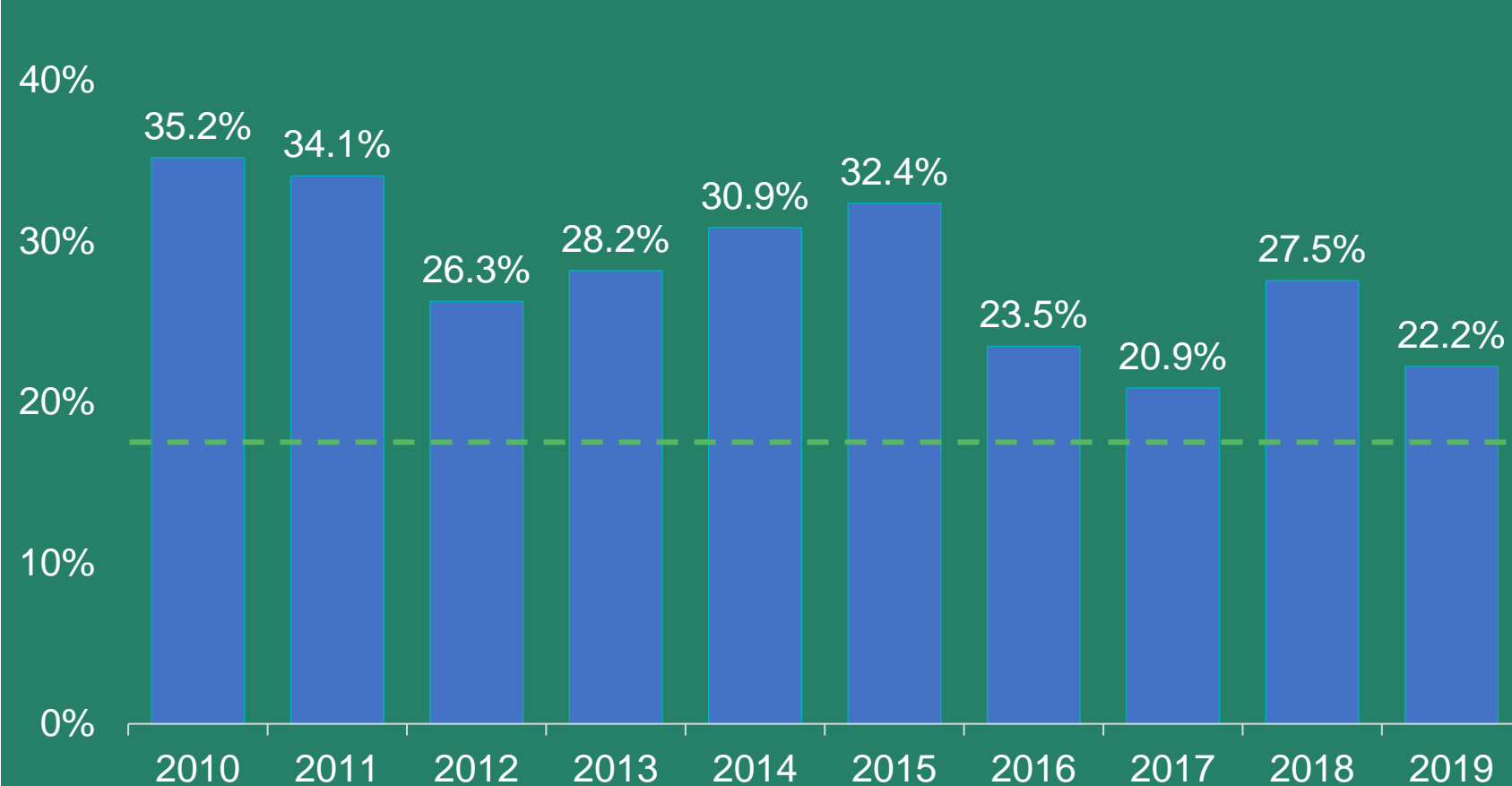
Population living near parks
by 2025

DATA SOURCE:
MORPC

GOAL 3
IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

3.4 Reduce household energy cost burden

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING MORE THAN 5% OF INCOME ON ENERGY COSTS
15-COUNTY REGION



DATA SOURCES:
EIA, Bureau of Labor
Statistics, U.S. Census
Bureau



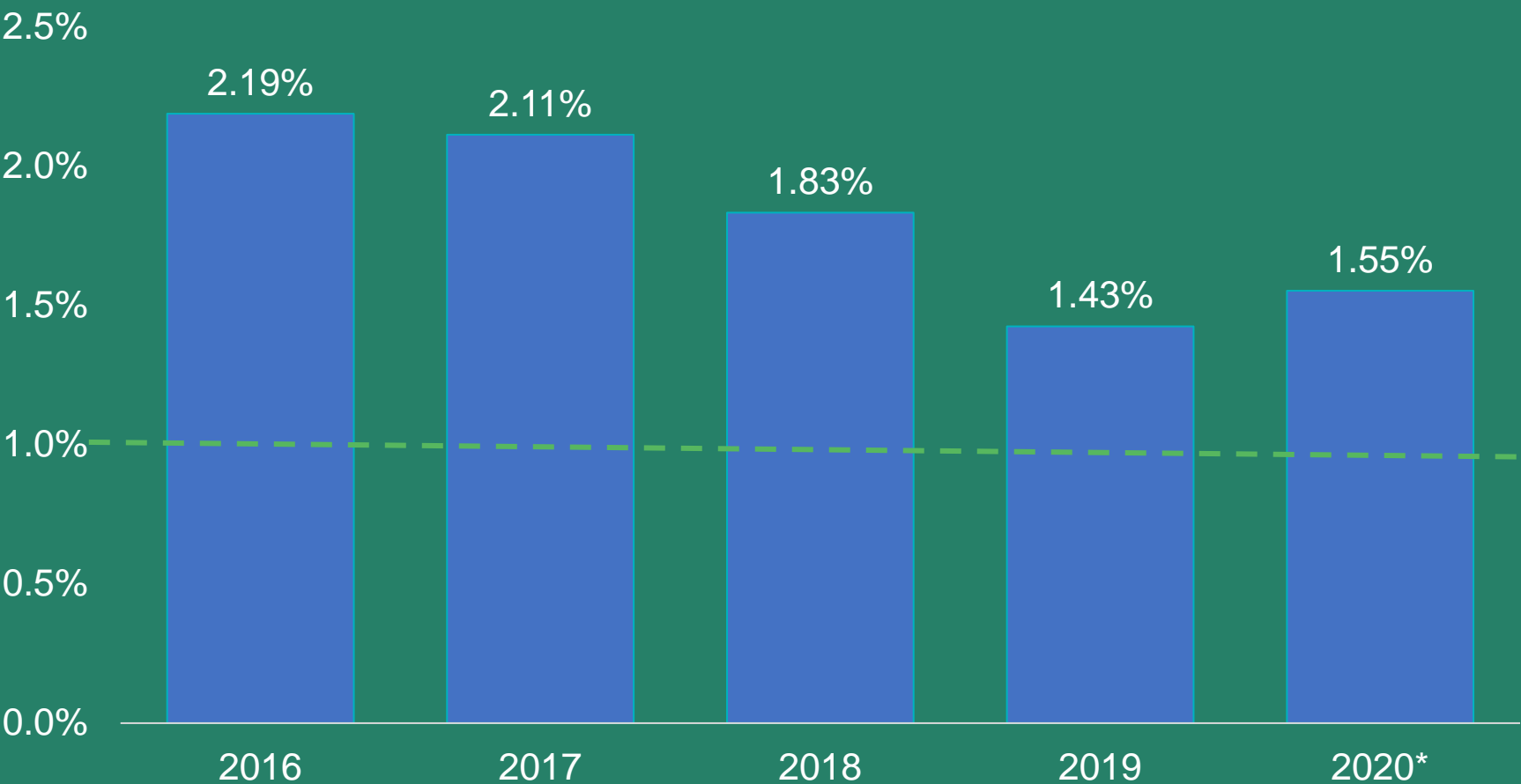
<20%

Energy Cost Burdened
by 2025

GOAL 3
IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

3.5 Reduce the rate of elevated blood lead levels among children

PERCENT OF TESTED KIDS (AGES 0-6) WITH ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVELS
15-COUNTY REGION



DATA SOURCE:
Ohio Department of Health

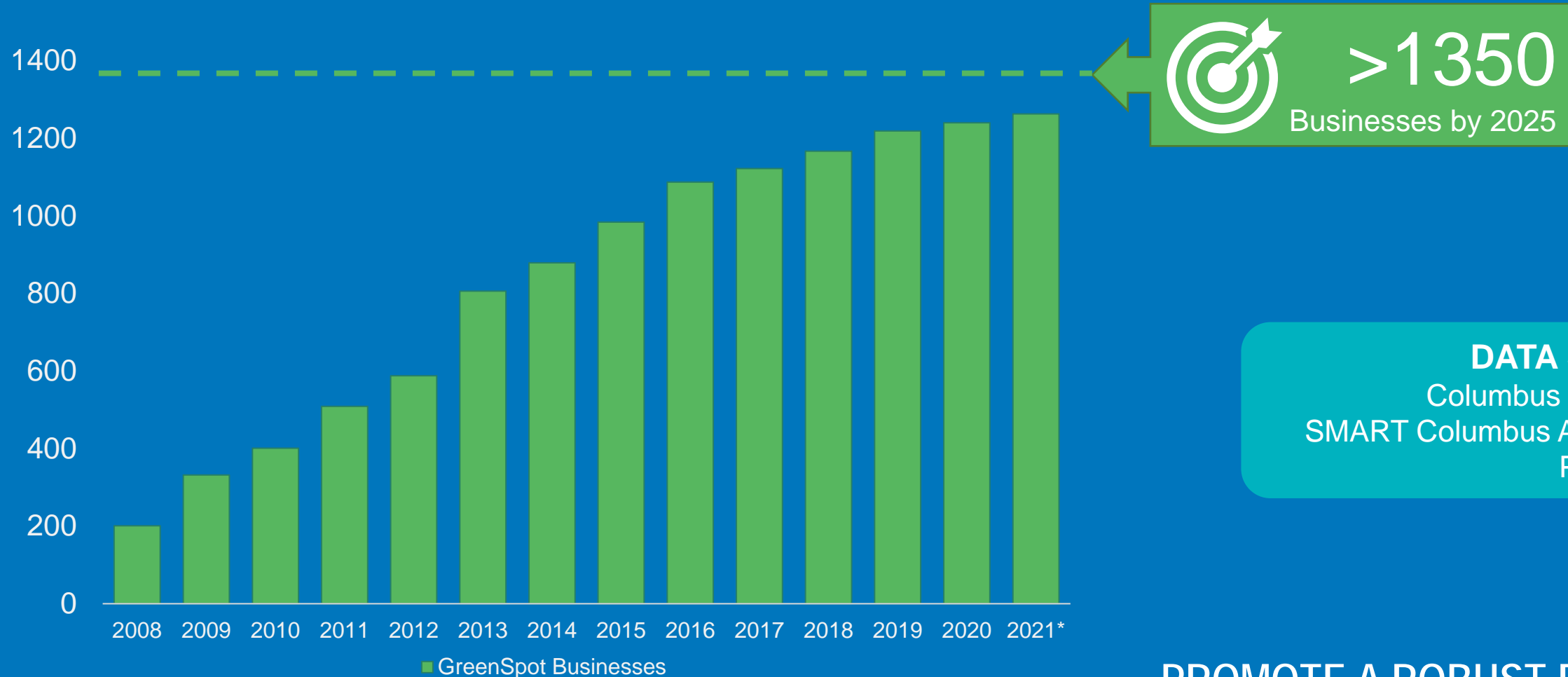


<1%
Elevated Blood
Lead Levels by 2025

GOAL 3
IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

4.1 Increase the number of businesses with established sustainability policies and practices

NUMBER OF BUSINESSES IN GREENSPOT OR SMART COLUMBUS ACCELERATION PARTNERS 2.0 15-COUNTY REGION

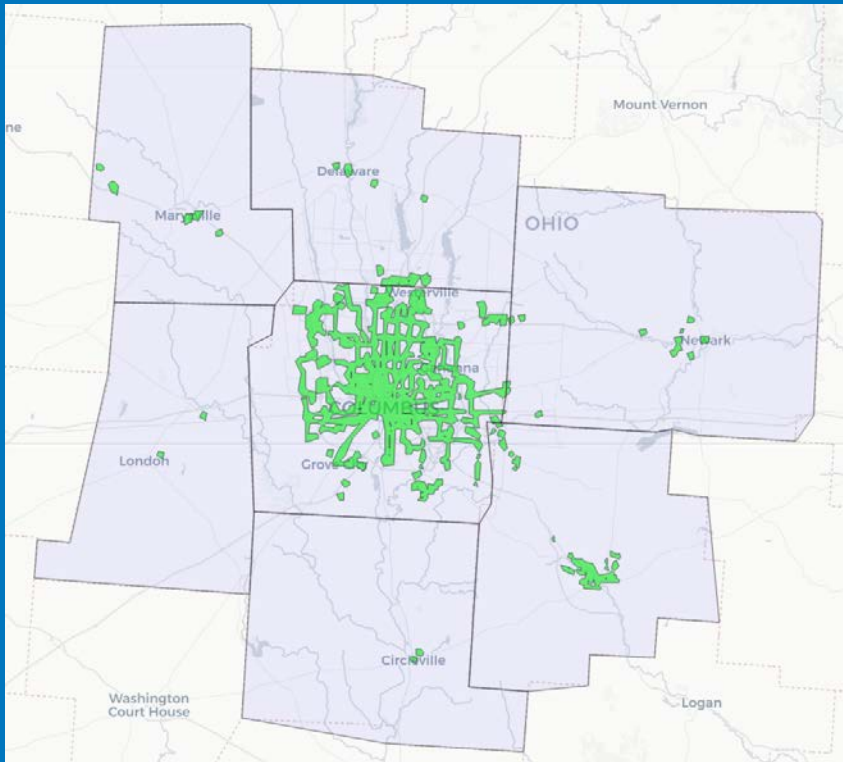


DATA SOURCE:
Columbus GreenSpot,
SMART Columbus Acceleration
Partners 2.0

GOAL 4
PROMOTE A ROBUST ECONOMY

4.3 Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit or job centers

NUMBER OF PLACE-BASED SUBSIDIZED HOUSING UNITS NEAR TRANSIT STOPS OR JOB CENTERS 7-COUNTY REGION



22,000

Units by 2025

DATA SOURCE:

National Housing
Preservation Database,
MORPC

Units within ½ mile of transit stops or areas with
>4 jobs per acre: 20,495

GOAL 4
PROMOTE A ROBUST ECONOMY

2.5 Reduce the conversion rate of farmland

DATA SOURCES EVALUATED:

- American Farmland Trust :
 - lack of certainty around future updates
- Parcel land use data from county auditors' offices
 - intent to measure ag land area is not present in parcel land use



Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Letty Schamp)

Next meeting September 22, 2021

The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board will meet on September 22, 2021. Agenda items will cover the RAPID 5 Visioning effort to reimagine waterfronts in Franklin County, as well as working group activities.

Trail Development Working Group: The Group is exploring new trail count equipment and has developed a pilot program to test new Eco Counter equipment with the City of Columbus. Two new counters will be installed this summer and evaluated over the course of six months. MORPC will work with partners to develop a working agreement for COG trail count partners that addresses data management, equipment installation, and ongoing maintenance.

Additionally, the Group is focused on inventorying trail planning, visioning, and engineering progress in Central Ohio.

Marketing & Communications Working Group: The Group has partnered with Experience Columbus to develop a passport program aimed to encourage use to trails. Incentives will be offered monthly to random participants.

Additionally, the Group will advise MORPC's Trail Town Planning effort, which will provide recommendations to rural towns and communities on how to utilize trail connectivity for economic development, tourism, and quality of life.

Operations & Access Working Group: The Group is focused on developing winter maintenance guidelines and scheduling a regional discussion on the topic.

Partnership Working Group: The Group recently finalized an Impact of Trails Report, which estimates a return on investment for the Regional Trail Vision. The report reveals significant impacts related to quality of life, health, the economy, and the environment.



Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Matt Stephens-Rich)

Next meeting: September 28, 2021

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group met on July 27 with a featured presentation from Tristan Rader of the Solar United Neighbors. He presented on the Ohio Solar United Neighbors programming.

Air Quality Monitoring Subcommittee: PurpleAir particulate matter monitors are being calibrated against Ohio EPA regulatory grade particulate matter data and then installed across the community. Opportunities to site monitors with individuals, businesses, or organizations are still available in the zip codes 43232, 43204, 43123, and 43207.



Sustainable2050

Next meeting: Friday, September 17, 2021

The Q3 membership meeting will be on September 17. Sustainable2050 members will receive updates from the MORPC team on energy program highlights including available SolSmart technical assistance and a Sept. 30 workshop regarding energy aggregation. Members will also hear updates on the draft tier status certification process with the newly adopted Regional Sustainability Agenda. The spotlight topic for this meeting is sustainable mobility, with a presentation on the Active Transportation Plan and regional trails, followed by a roundtable discussion.

If your community or agency is interested in participating in Sustainable2050 or earning its Tier Status, please contact Brandi for more information at bwhetstone@morpc.org.



Sustaining Scioto Board (Chair: Kristen Atha)

Next Meeting: October 27, 2021

The Board met in August with a featured presentation from LuAnn Dahlman of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit. The Board also discussed the BlueWays program, the Clean Ohio Fund, and the Summit on Sustainability. The Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team provided an update on administering a survey and interview with supervisors of the Upper Scioto River Watershed Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team: The Team met in July and featured a presentation from Jedediah Stinner of USDA-ARS Soil Drainage Research Unit. With ongoing support from the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District staff, the Team is wrapping up deployment of the social science survey among the Upper Scioto River watershed counties. The Team will meet on September 16 at 10:00a.m.

RAPID 5

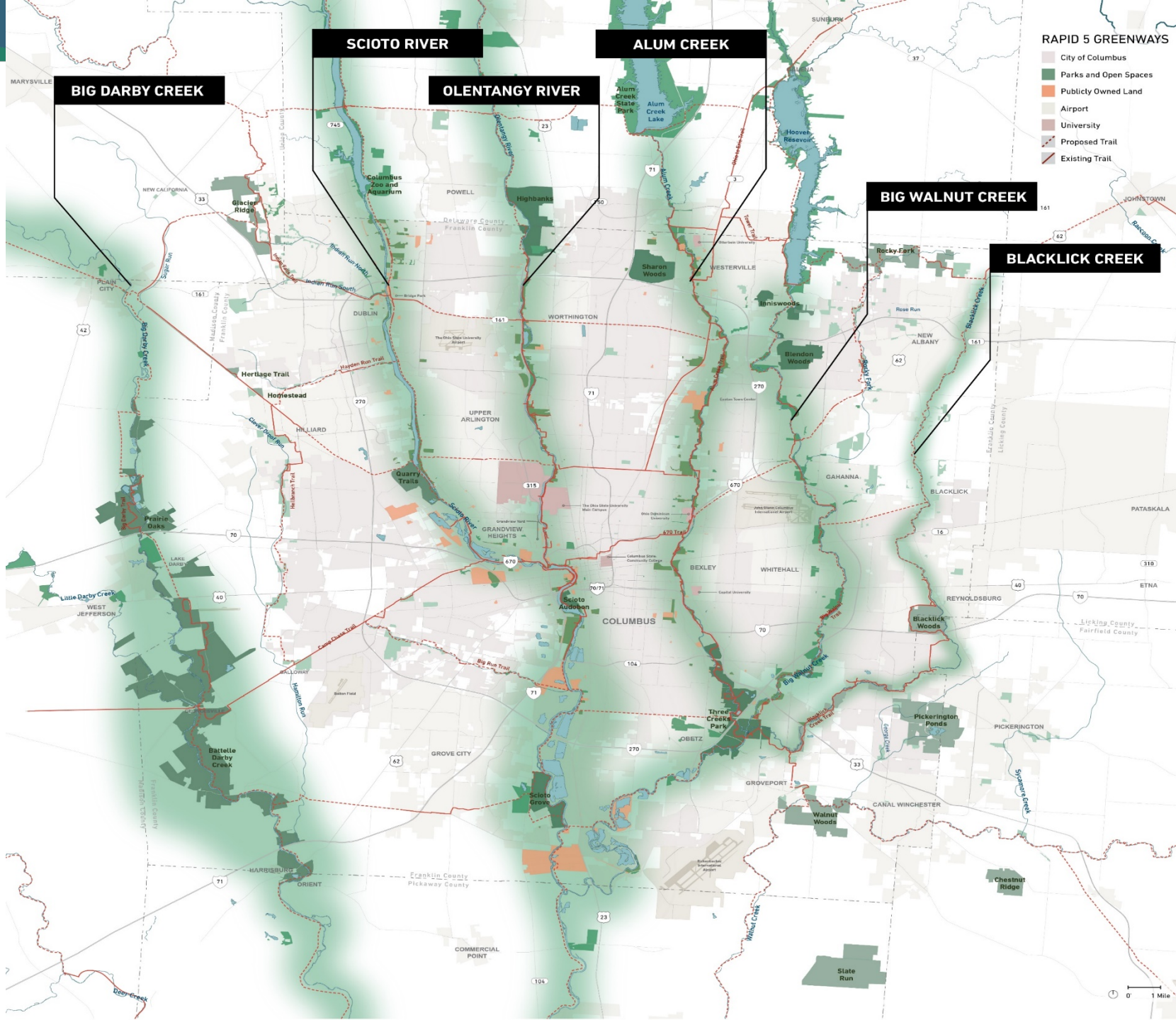
Visioning Summary



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

5

RAPID PROJECT



RAPID 5 Sponsors

PLATINUM

ADS

The Columbus Foundation

Thrive Companies

City of Columbus

The Ohio State University

GOLD

City of Dublin

Columbus Downtown Development
Corporation and Capital South

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

COTA

Columbus and Franklin County Metro
Parks

Nationwide Realty Investors/
Capital South, Ltd

SILVER

CASTO

City of Upper Arlington

M/I Homes

City of Bexley

City of Westerville

One Columbus

City of Gahanna

City of Whitehall

Orange Barrel Media

City of Grandview Heights

City of Worthington

The Pizzuti Companies

City of Grove City

Corna Kokosing

Turner Construction

City of Hilliard

ENGIE

Village of Marble Cliff

City of New Albany

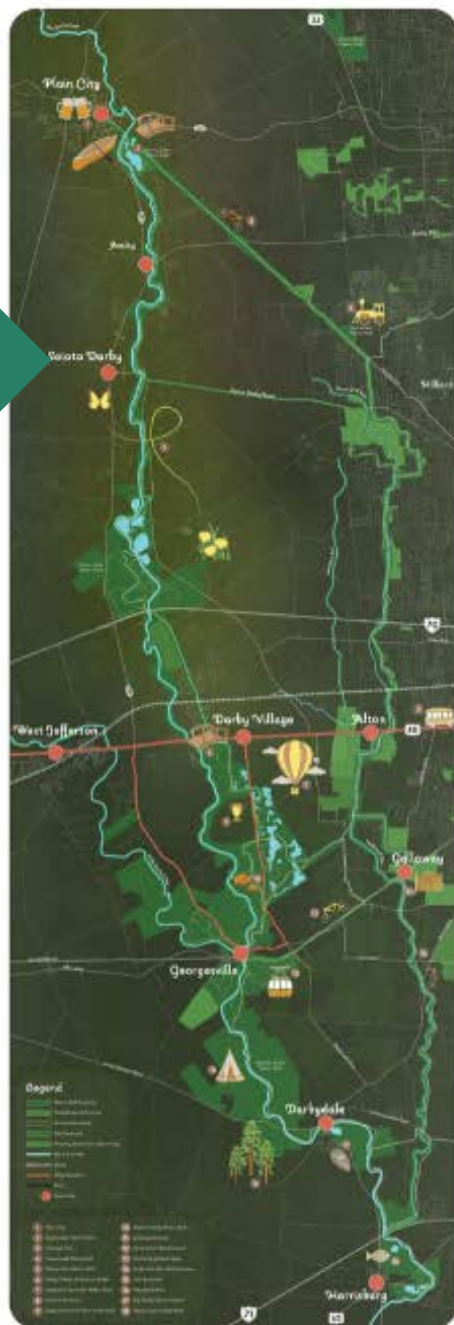
Franklin County Engineer

Village of Obetz

City of Reynoldsburg

Jefferson Township

BIG DARBY



The Darby Creeks Region

Discover the Creeks

The authentic Darby Creeks experience is rooted in its rich history of wildlife preservation and land management. Restored native prairies, pristine woodland edges and ecologically sensitive wildlife provide for the most unique setting in Central Ohio. The "Crown Jewel" of the Metro Parks system presents opportunities for both active and passive recreational activities taking advantage of the breathtaking setting.

THE UPLANDS: The upland prairies and meadows provide for a more active recreational experience. This zone is north of the most preserved wildlife habitat zones, which allow for recreational uses such as canoeing, kayaking and equestrian trails.

NATIONAL ROAD: The Darby Dan farmlands of the central corridor along Route 40, the historic national road, provides for an ideal location for "The Heart" of the region. The proposed "Darby Village" is an idea to create a micro-village serving as a gateway to the region and a critical trail link along the corridor.

THE WOODLANDS: The downstream Woodlands is the home to much of the protected wildlife in the corridor. This area south of the Darby Dan Farm provides for the rich habitat of birds, fish and endangered mussel populations. Opportunities for passive recreation could include yurts, camping and hiking.



A Region of Activities

COME FOR THE DAY, STAY FOR THE WEEKEND



CANOEING

Canoes can be rented in multiple locations providing access to the scenic river.



HOT AIR BALLOON

At Darby Dan Airfield, seasonal opportunities to take a majestic ride over the corridor.



EATERIES

Micro-villages sprinkled throughout the corridor offer opportunities to enjoy local food and drinks.



LODGING

A variety of lodging options are available from the new Darby Dan Inn to remote yurts that immerse you in nature.



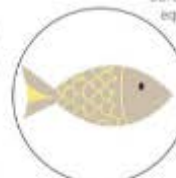
BISON

Located at the Battelle Darby Metro Park, see these grassland animals in open pastures.



GONDOLA

Get above the river and take a quiet gondola ride between Prairie Oaks and Battelle Darby Metro Parks.



FISHING

Enjoy designated fishing spots throughout the region.



WOODLANDS

Immersive wooded areas create beautiful hiking trails throughout the region.



MUSEUM

See historical trophies and memorabilia from Darby Dan Farm and its equestrian heritage.



The Darby Creeks experience allows for some to relax and unplug in quaint historic villages or creates opportunities for those that love the outdoors to take advantage of the untamed river corridor.

FROM THE AIR: Hot Air Balloon Rides along the Stream, Gondola Rides over the river.

ON THE GROUND: Bicycle Rides through the Prairies, Horse Trails through the Farmlands

WITHIN THE CREEKS: Canoeing and kayaking along the river; fishing in designated areas.

The Darby Creeks Tourism Board

Visit the newly formed tourism board's website for more information on seasonal activities and events within the region.



BIG DARBY

Prairie Uplands

Plain City represents the northern terminus of the Greenbelt and serves as the most densely developed city in the region. The new Quarry Lakes Metro Park will allow for the connection of the Heritage trail from Hilliard and parts east to reach Plain City and the Darby Creeks region.

- 1 Plain City Brewing Co. overlooks the Darby
- 2 Restored bridge to complete the Heritage Trail into Plain City
- 3 Cultural Micro-village with brewery
- 4 Heritage Trail connects Plain City to Hilliard
- 5 Restored Prairie Grasslands
- 6 Heritage Trail extended into Plain City



A view of the Cultural Micro-village with overlooks

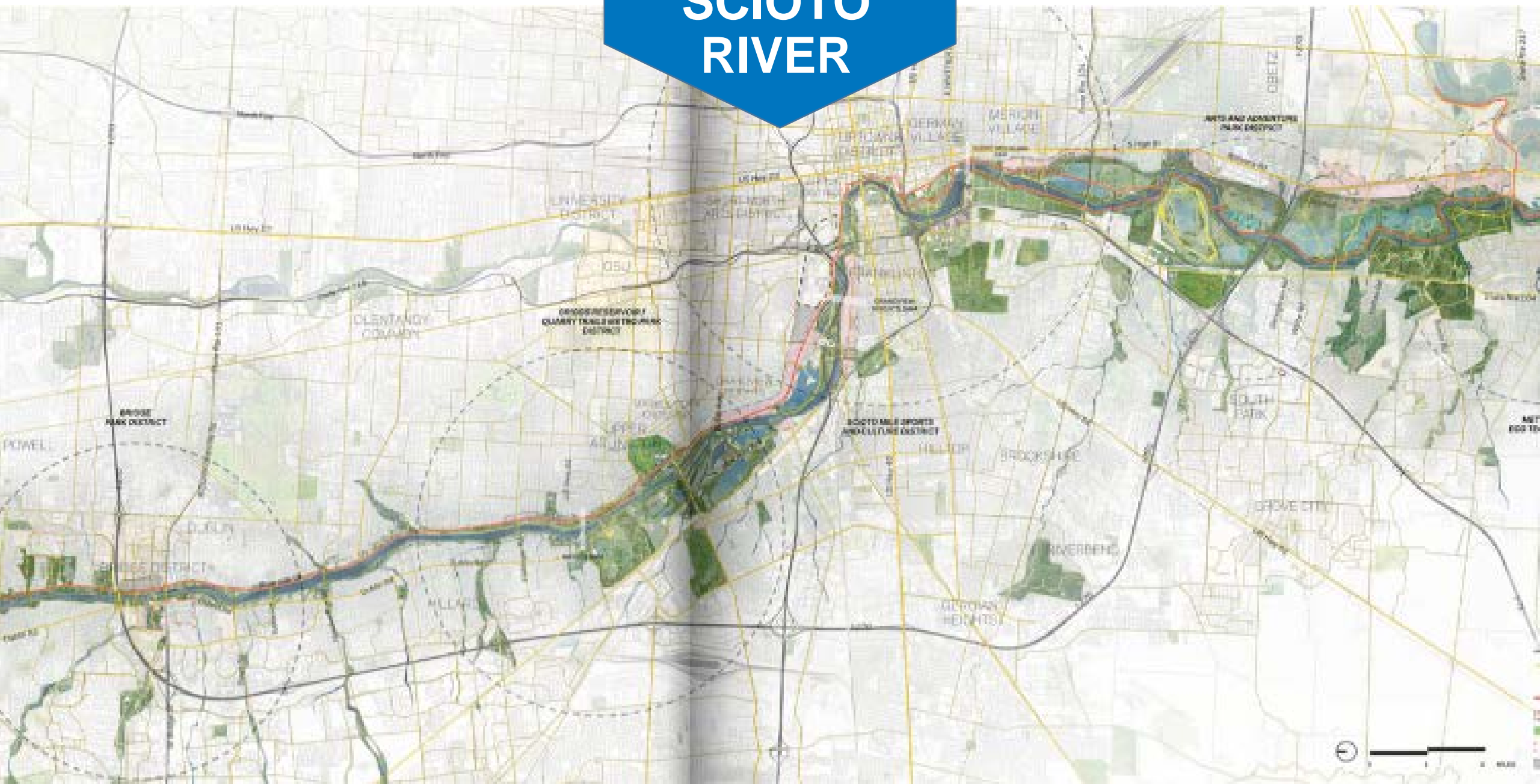


**Darby
Creeks**

a part of the **BIG DARBY WATERSHED**,
located within the **COLUMBUS, OHIO
METROPOLITAN AREA**



SCIOTO RIVER



SCIOTO RIVER

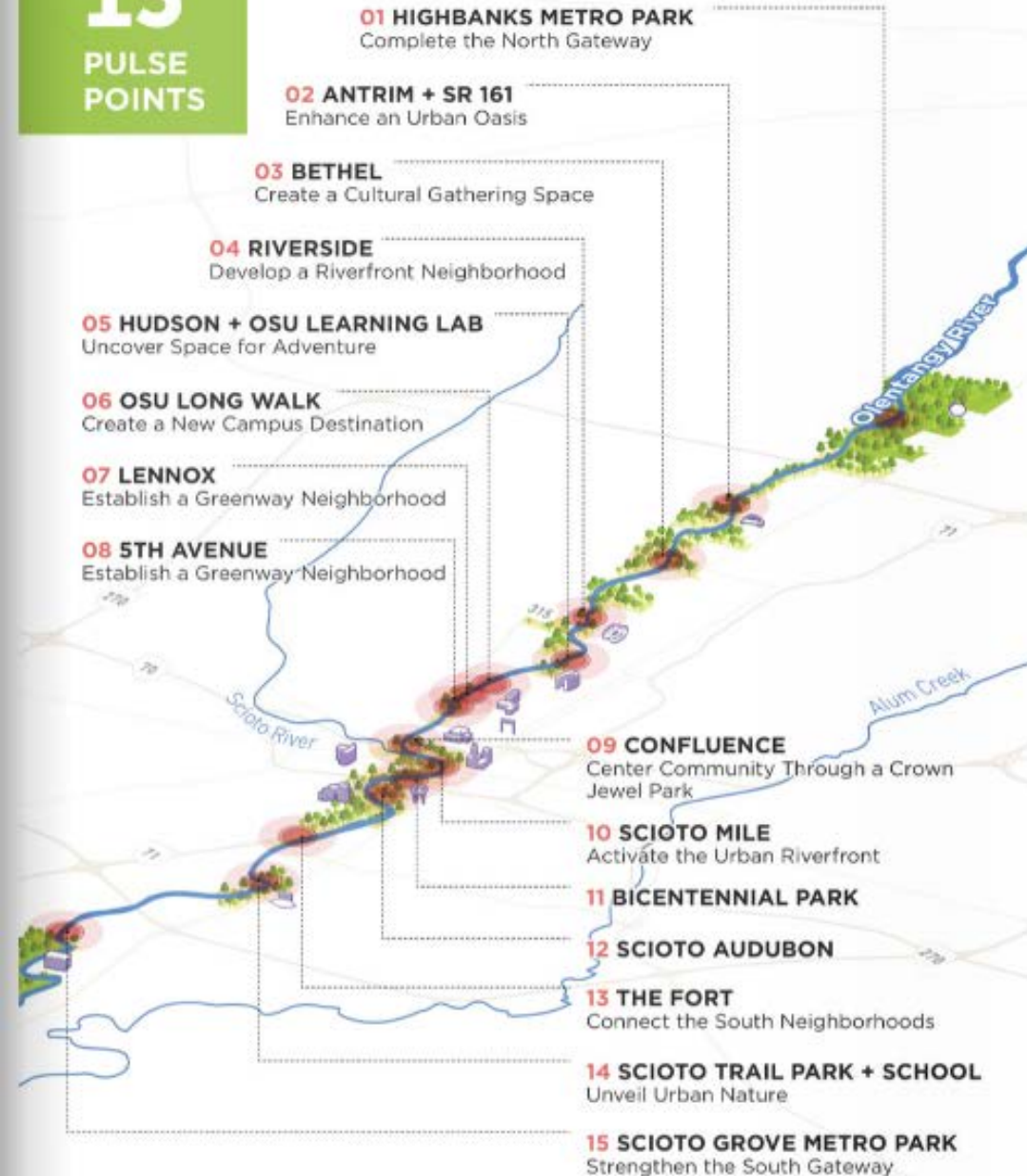
A WHITEWATER ADVENTURE EXPERIENCE GRIGGS RAPIDS COURSEWAY LOOKOUT & LANDING Griggs Dam to Dublin Road Water Treatment Plant Lowhead Dam

With the north side of Griggs Dam focused on flat water rowing and boating activities, the vision plan proposes incorporating a whitewater experience south of the dam, either through manmade and mechanical means, through natural water flow, or both. The experience could start in the expansion of the Quarry Trails Metro Park (proposed Shelly Art Park and Wetland) and the creation of a starting pond that could also be connected to Griggs Reservoir and used as bypass to the dam. The water in the pond could be recirculated and exit to the river through a whitewater rapids course that would merge into river. The river in the area could be enhanced with "riffles" and other whitewater interventions and end at the Dublin Road Water Treatment Plant low head dam, Lower Scioto Greenway trail and boat ferry.



15

PULSE
POINTS



OLENTANGY RIVER

PULSE POINT CASE
STUDY:
CONFLUENCE

**Center Community through a Crown
Jewel Park**

The Franklinton neighborhood currently does not benefit from the nearby greenway trails or the Olentangy and Scioto Rivers because they are blocked off by infrastructure barriers—roads, railways, highways, and the floodwall; they are close in proximity, but lack access. An expanded and enhanced Confluence Park would create a better union between the neighborhood, the new CoverMyMeds headquarters, the new Crew Stadium, redevelopment of the Mount Carmel site, and the high-quality recreational amenities along the river. The new Confluence Park extends south, creating frontage along Broad Street to serve as a neighborhood park and to directly connect Franklinton residents with the riverfront. It would be a hub for youth recreation, with an indoor fieldhouse and outdoor basketball facilities. A sweeping circular pedestrian walkway, the “ONE Columbus” bridge, that spans across the Olentangy and Scioto Rivers, providing spectacular views of Downtown Columbus and Franklinton.



**OLENTANGY
RIVER**



ALUM CREEK

This vision for the Alum Creek corridor was co-created in partnership with dozens of corridor stakeholders who volunteered their time to share ideas that build upon the ambitious efforts already taking place across the region. Throughout the visioning process, there were four themes that resounded with the community and these can serve as the central tenets as the vision continues to evolve:

- Elevate and enhance green and blue assets along Alum Creek to better serve human, animal and plant health.
- Elevate the history of Alum creek, including its role as a significant route to freedom for people escaping slavery.
- Elevate community-serving institutions and enhance the connections between residents and resources, as well as voices of the diverse adjacent communities by proposing authentic opportunities to co-create the future design process.
- Elevate opportunities for local employment and economic mobility while incentivizing development that does not lead to displacement.

BIG WALNUT



BIG WALNUT



NEXT STEPS

www.rapid5.org



Jim Schimmer

Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee

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Ben Kessler

Vice-Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee

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Brandi Whetstone

Sustainability Officer

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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