



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

**NOTICE OF A MEETING
CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS TRAIL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

REMOTE MEETING

January 7, 2025, 2:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome

The Regional Trail Vision was initially adopted in 2018, including over 500 miles of proposed trails. The Central Ohio Greenways Board has expanded the vision to 15 counties, prompting outreach to additional counties. The annual update process allows the Trail Development Working Group to recommend new Trails of Regional Significance

2. Regional Trail Vision Updates Recommendations

Southeast Area Updates

- Hocking Adena Trail (20 miles proposed)
- Buckeye Lake & Lancaster (OU-L) Connection (6 miles proposed, 4 miles existing)
- Buckeye Lake Loop to Pickerington (30 miles proposed, 5 miles existing)
- Scioto Trail Realignment to Commercial Point (3.5 miles proposed)

The Working Group agreed to recommend all these projects for inclusion in the vision.

Northeast Area Updates

- Johnstown-Sunbury-Centerburg Triangle (Silicon Heartland Trails) (21 miles proposed)
- Delaware Run and Berlin Connector (24 miles proposed)
Discussed feasibility, including necessary bridge improvements.
- Further input from local townships was recommended.
- Alum Creek Trail Realignment
- Delaware State Park Connections (17 miles proposed)
- Owl Creek Trail Extension (13 miles proposed, 2.25 miles existing)
- Newark & Heath to Buckeye Lake (2 miles proposed, 5.5 miles existing)

All projects were recommended for inclusion, with further review on some details.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

Southwest Area Updates

- Scioto Trail Extension to Chillicothe (15 miles proposed)
 - Paint Creek Recreational Trail (30 miles existing)
 - Darby Creek Realignment
Discussion on feasibility concerns due to environmental restrictions. Section 1, Section 2, and the Darby Creek Connector were approved for recommendation, with further study needed on the middle section.
- The Working Group approved the Scioto Trail Extension, Paint Creek Trail, and a portion of the Darby Creek Realignment for inclusion.

Northwest Area Updates

- Innovation Route (20 miles proposed)
 - Indian Lake to Marysville (25 miles proposed)
Further discussion needed to ensure alignment with local plans.
 - Indian Lake Loop (17 miles proposed, 3 miles existing)
Discussion with Logan County stakeholders required before inclusion.
 - Sugar Run Trail (4.5 miles proposed, 0.5 miles existing)
Additional coordination with stakeholders needed before inclusion.
 - Simon Kenton Trail Extension (8 miles proposed)
 - Cardinal Trail (18 miles proposed)
Discussion indicated it was misclassified and should not be included.
- The Working Group approved the Innovation Route, while other northwest area trails will undergo further discussions before being added.

Marion County Updates

- Tall Grass Trail Extension (2.5 miles proposed)
 - Marion Trails (3.5 miles proposed, 0.5 miles existing)
- Both Marion County projects were recommended for inclusion.

3. Other Business

Updates to the public GIS map will be made available after COG Board adoption.

4. 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 Central Ohio Greenways Trail Development Working Group Meeting will be
January 23, 2025, 9:30 am.**

This Meeting will be held remotely; details to follow.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Remote Meeting

Central Ohio Greenways Trail Development Working Group Meeting

January 07, 2025

Members Present

Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's
Office
Brad Bodenmiller, Logan Union Champaign
Regional Planning Commission
Jody Dzurarin, Ohio to Erie Trail
Bertie Fields, Black Girls do Bike
Terry Fischer, Bike Buckeye Lake
Beth Hugh, Korda Nemeth Engineering
Michael Lentz, City of Hilliard
Jimmy Little
Co-Chair Tamisha Matus, Union County Health
Department
Andrew Overbeck, MKSK
J.M Rayburn, City of Dublin
Tami Ruhl, Knox Public Health
Co-Chair Kelly Scocco, City of Columbus
Steve Studenmund, MetroParks
James Walker, Marion County Regional
Planning Commission
Brad Westall, City of Columbus Recreation &
Parks

Staff Present

Morgan Fuller
Lynn Kaufman
Sam Smith
Melinda Vonstein

Public Present

Mike Bodine, City of Marion
Catherine Eichel, City of Gahanna
Zoe Kauble



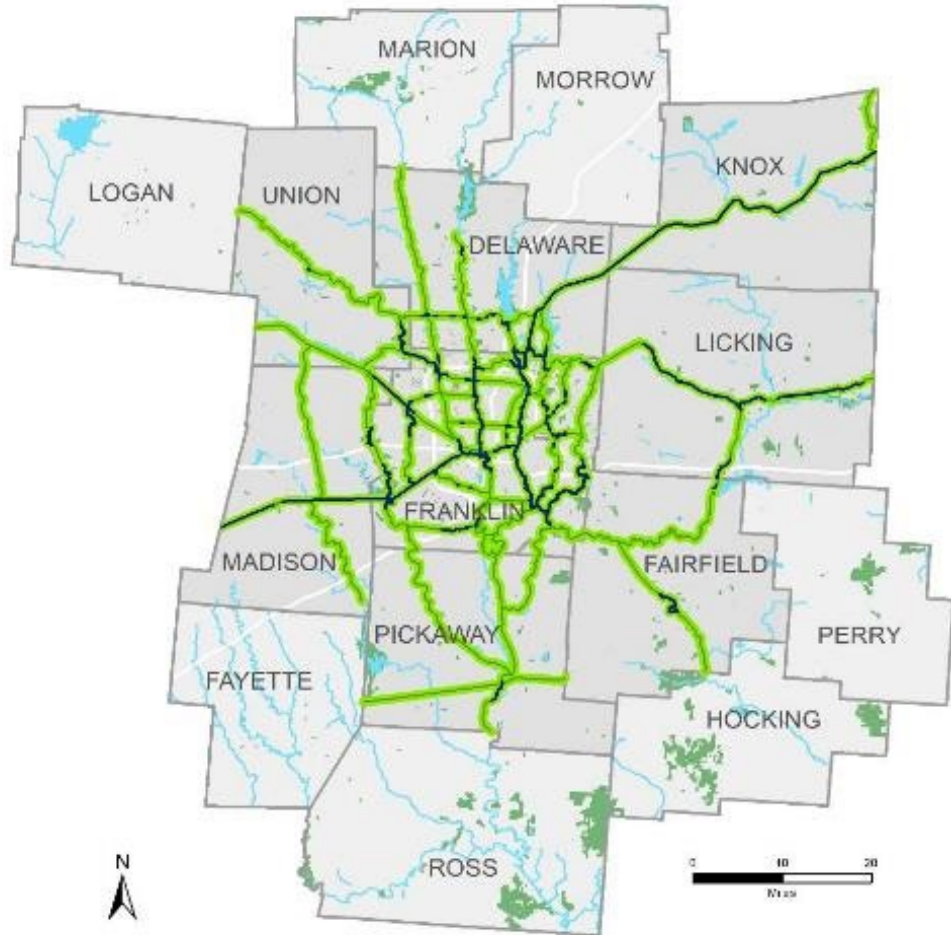
Central Ohio Greenways

Trail Development Meeting
January 7, 2025



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CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAY— REGIONAL TRAIL VISION



VISION

*A world-class network of trails
easily accessible to every
Central Ohioan*

MISSION

*Increase Greenways trails
mileage and usage
for recreation and
transportation needs*



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REGIONAL TRAIL VISION UPDATES



- The **Regional Trail Vision Map** is a network of 700+ existing and proposed Trails of Regional Significance that spans 7 counties in Central Ohio. The Regional Trail Vision Map was originally adopted in 2018 by the COG Board and MORPC's commission.
 - **The Regional Trail Vision Map may be updated annually. Candidate Trails of Regional Significance must be recommended to the board by the COG Trail Development Working Group during a COG Board Meeting. The COG Board may choose to adopt an updated Regional Trail Vision Map if the adopted update adheres to the definitions as described in this document.**



CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

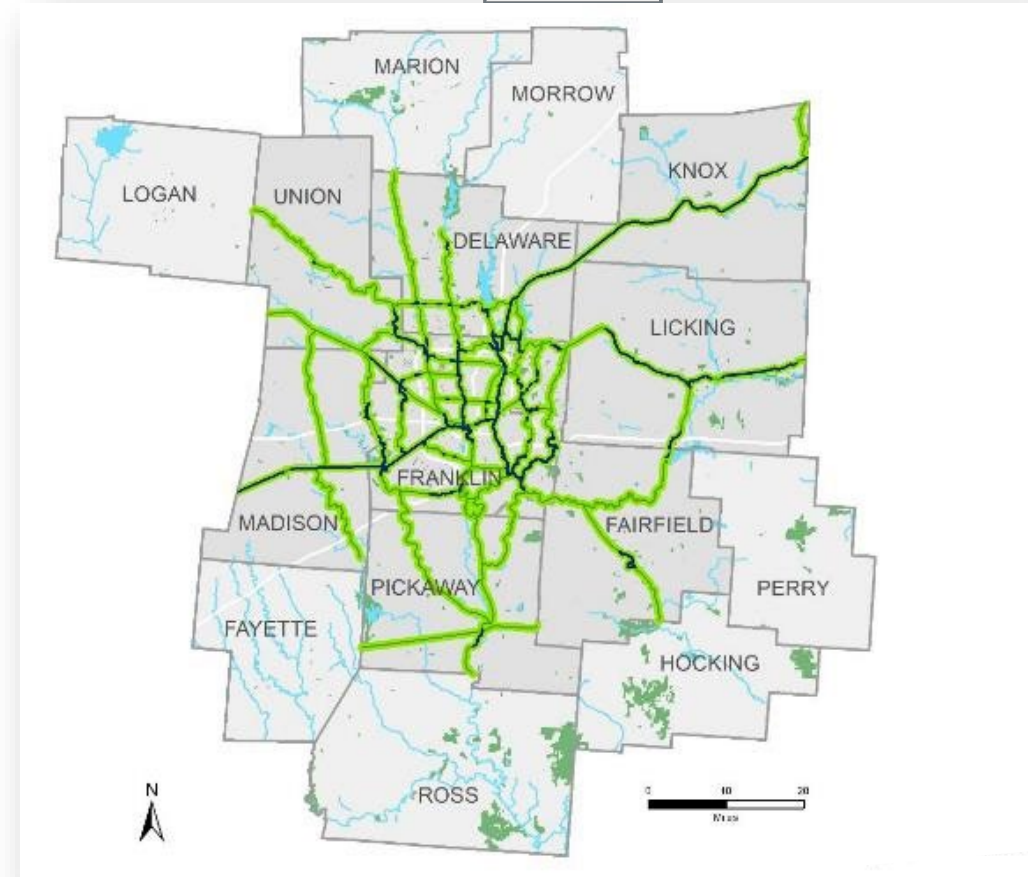
TRAIL OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE



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- A Trail of Regional Significance is a primary trail, predominantly off-street, multi-jurisdictional, and connects people to major destination points.

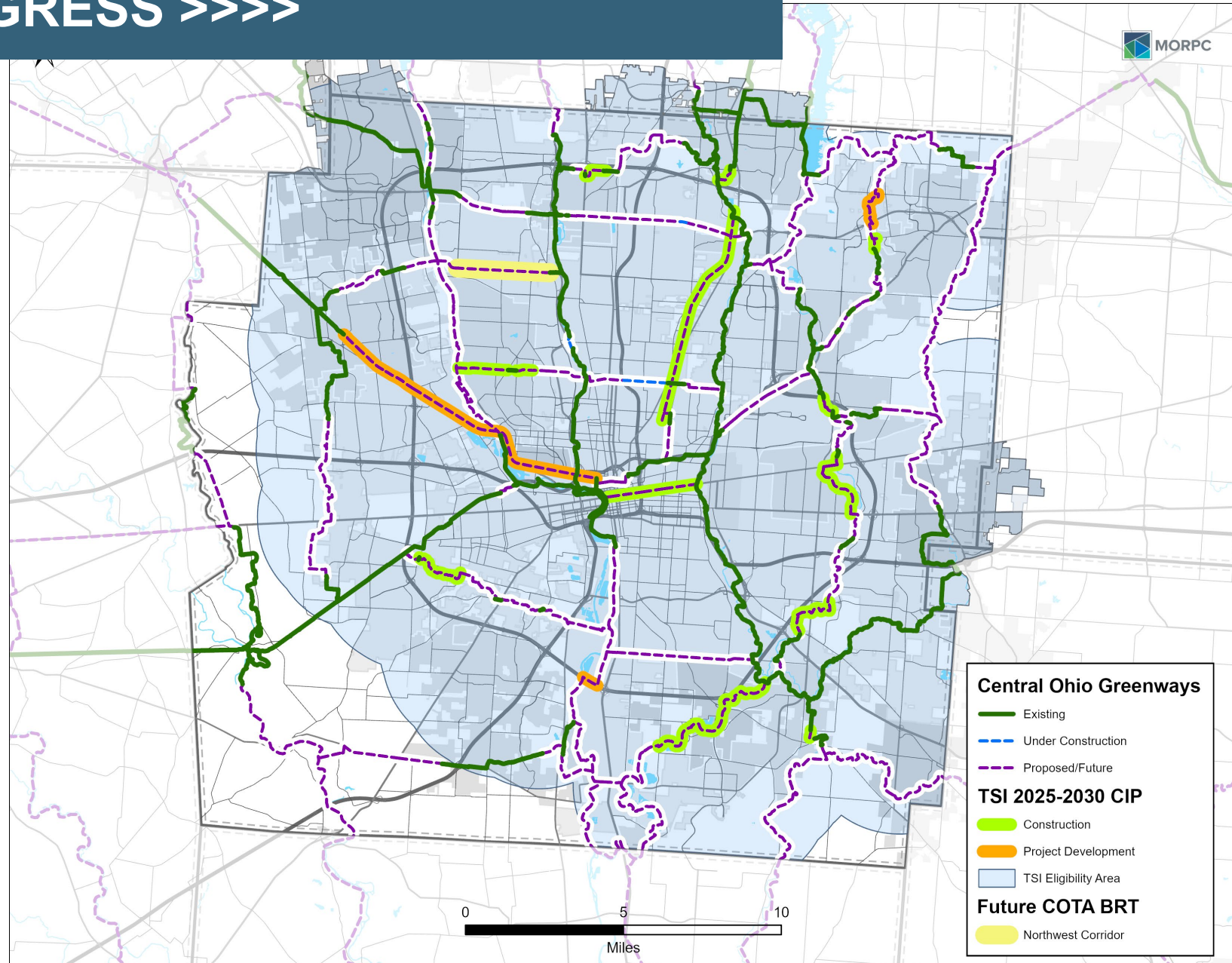
These trails have a well maintained, improved surface and should prioritize comfort and safety for trail users. In locations where Trails of Regional Significance intersect or conflict with vehicular traffic, the trail should be emphasized as highly as practicable. Landscaping and buffering should be incorporated into the design of these trails. Access to amenities, such as restrooms, drinking fountains, and parking should be provided periodically. Wayfinding, snow & ice removal, maintenance, and 24/7 access of Trails of Regional Significance are critical to ensure that reliable and equitable access is provided to all users



REGIONAL TRAIL VISION PROGRESS >>>>

LINKUS advances COG

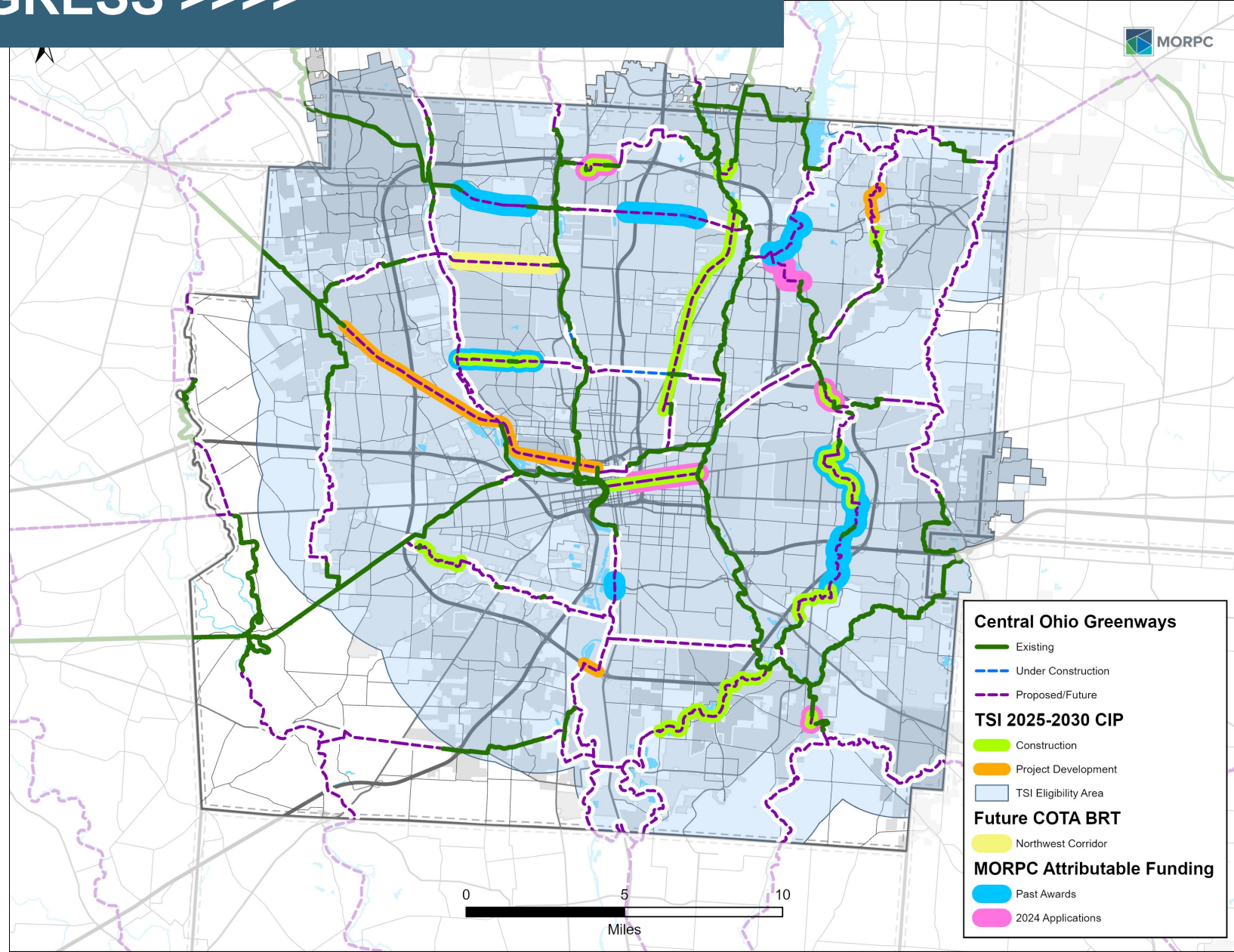
- 189 miles of proposed COG trails in the COTA Service Area (CSA)
- 175 of these are eligible for TSI funding (i.e., within 3-miles of a fixed-route transit stop)
- 37 miles (**20%**) are in the 2025-2030 TSI CIP
 - 27 (**15%**) of these are slated for construction by 2030
 - 10 (5%) of these (mostly Heritage Trail) have project development funding



REGIONAL TRAIL VISION PROGRESS >>>>

MORPC Attributable Funds advances COG

- 15 miles (8%) have received 2020 or 2022 Attributable Funding awards
 - 5 of these are also in the TSI CIP
- 5.3 miles are in outstanding 2024 applications (*3.7-mi. overlap w/TSI*)
- TSI and past AF awards have funded **50 miles, or 26%**, of the COG vision in the CSA for construction or project development by 2030.
 - 40 miles, or 21%, are specifically slated for construction by 2030



CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

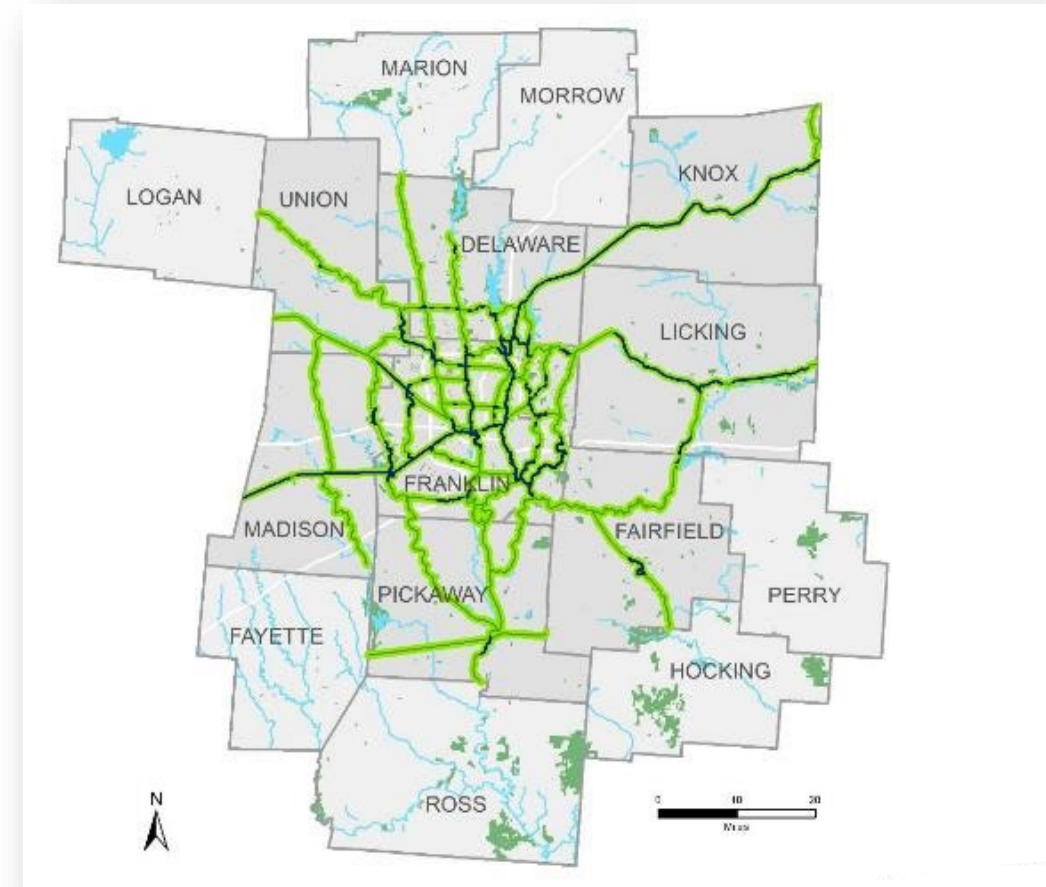
GATEWAY OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE



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Trailheads are the backbone of any trail wayfinding system. As Gateways to both trails and the places they run through, trailheads have extraordinary capacity to influence trail users' wayfinding experience – and thereby their overall experience of the trails.

A Gateway of Regional Significance is a premier trailhead located along a Trail of Regional Significance that provides and/or connects trail users to amenities, services, and information necessary to navigate the trail system.



PREMIER TRAILHEADS | COMMUNITY GATEWAY



MORPC

Trailheads are the backbone of any trail wayfinding system. As gateways to both trails and the places they run through, trailheads have extraordinary capacity to influence trail users' wayfinding experience — and thereby their overall experience of trails. This chapter reviews the current state of wayfinding support offered via trailheads along the Ohio to Erie Trail in Central Ohio and provides recommendations for optimizing these spaces to better serve trail users with the information and amenities they need.

FEATURE REQUIREMENTS	ACCESS POINTS	TRAILHEAD LEVELS		
		BASIC	ENHANCED	PREMIER
Access to Streets & Roadways	✓	✓	✓	✓
Information Kiosk/Map		✓	✓	✓
Bike Parking		✓	✓	✓
Seating		✓	✓	✓
Transit Access*			✓	✓
Sidewalk Access			✓	✓
Restrooms			✓	✓
Water Access			✓	✓
Placemaking Elements				✓
Shelter(s)				✓
Facilities Staff				✓
Unique Design				✓

*Where applicable; rural areas may not have transit.

PREMIER TRAILHEADS | COMMUNITY GATEWAY



Westerville

Hanby Park Westerville,
OH



Howard

Rotary Park, Howard OH



London

Prairie Grass Trailhead



Dublin

Riverside Crossing Park

DISCUSSION: Should the COG Board adopt COG Gateways (existing & proposed) on the COG Regional Trail Vision Map?



Regional Trail Vision Update Recommendations

COG Trail Development Working Group
December 13, 2023



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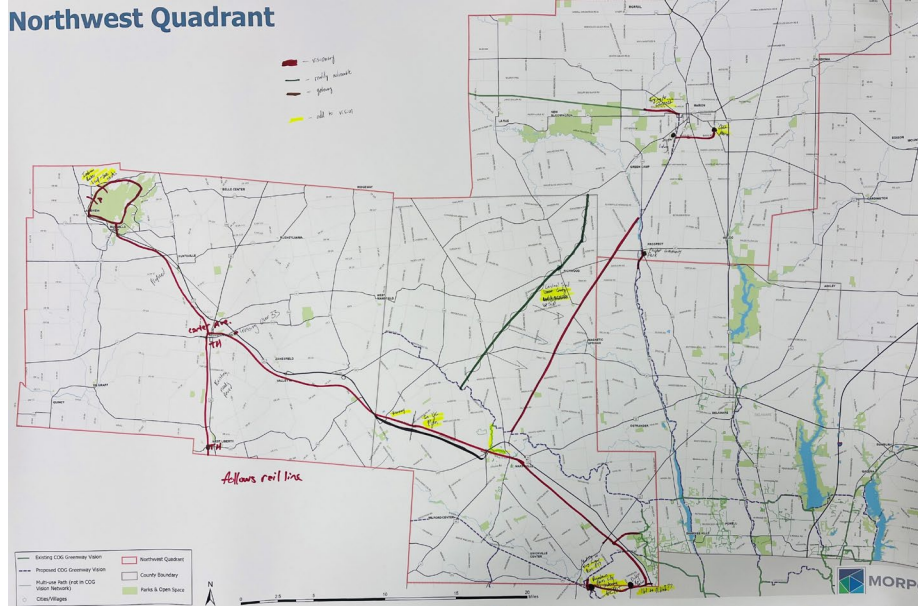
REGIONAL QUADRANT MEETINGS

&

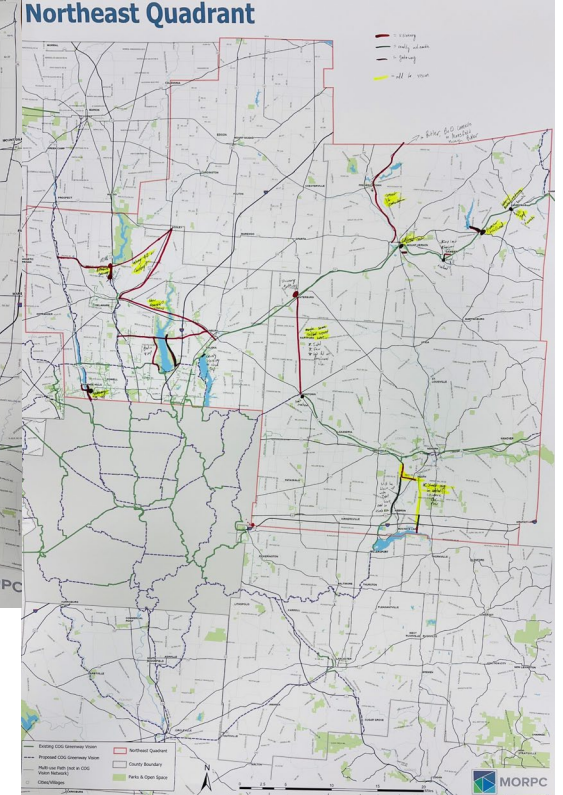
GREENWAY PLANNING STUDIO WORKSHOPS



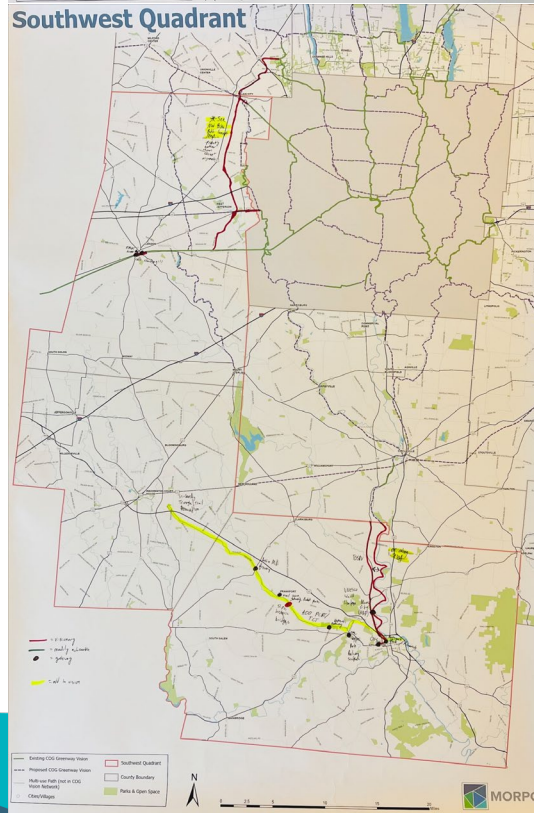
Northwest Quadrant



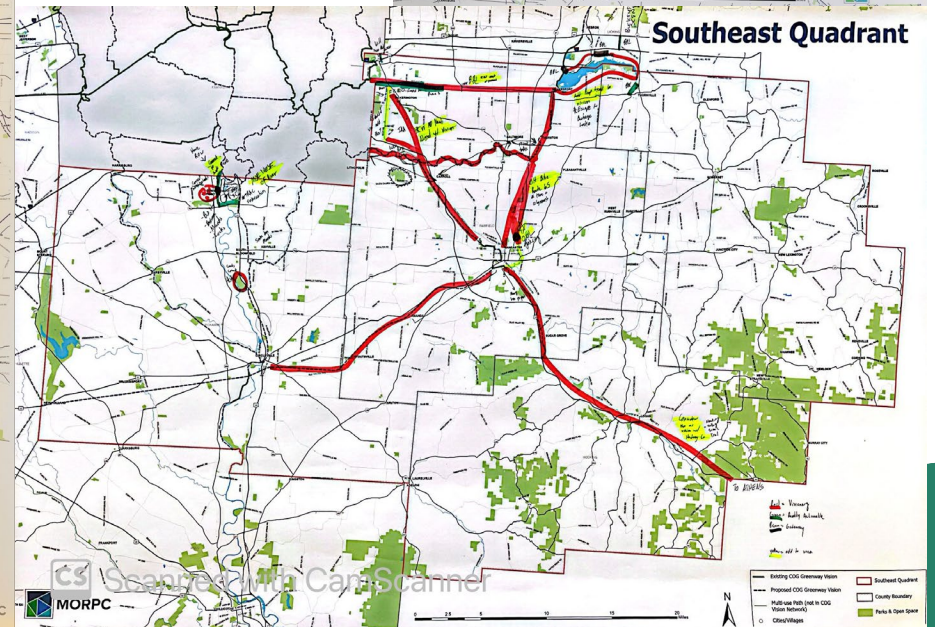
Northeast Quadrant



Southwest Quadrant



Southeast Quadrant





Southeast Area Updates

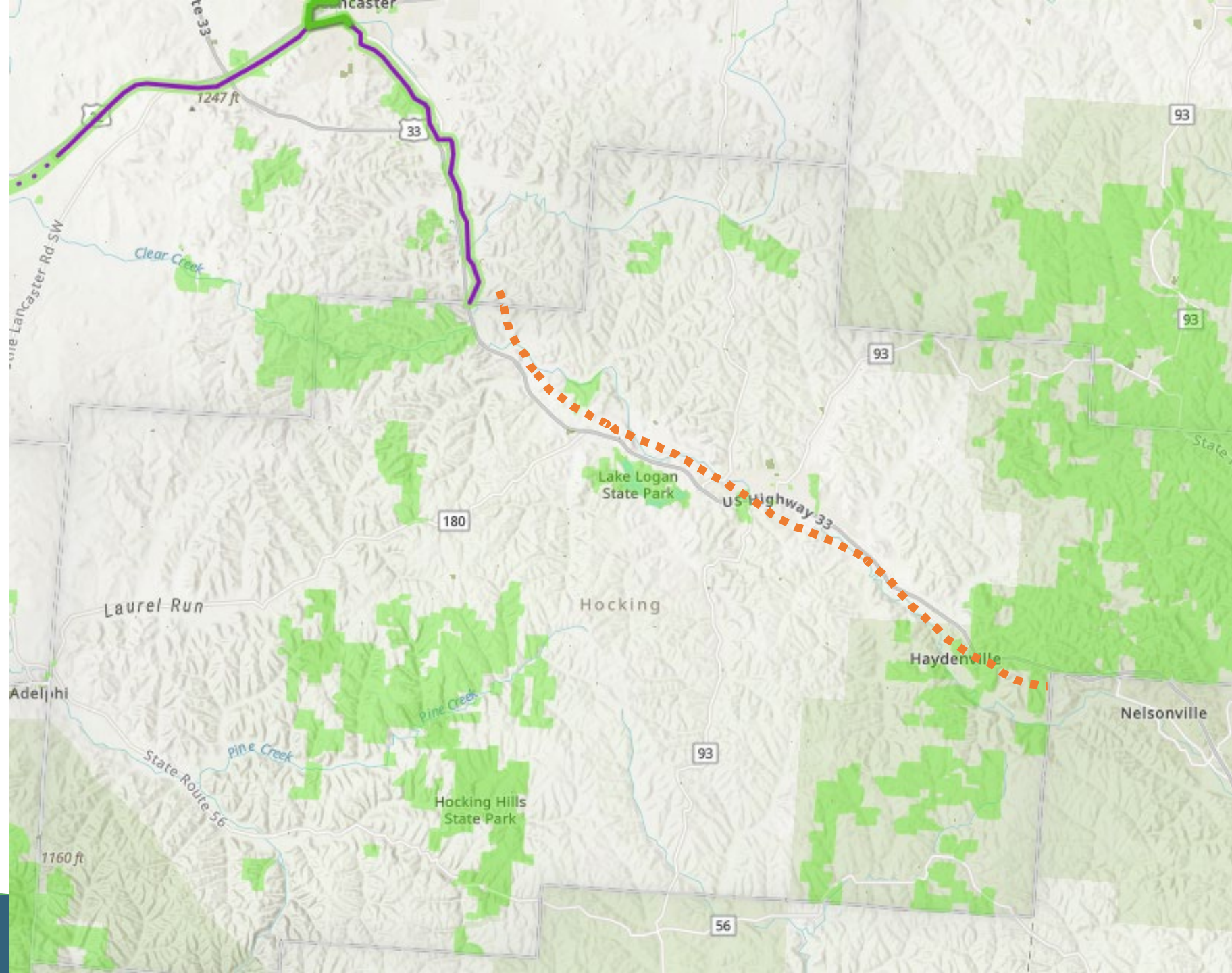
Fairfield, Hocking, Perry, & Pickaway
Counties



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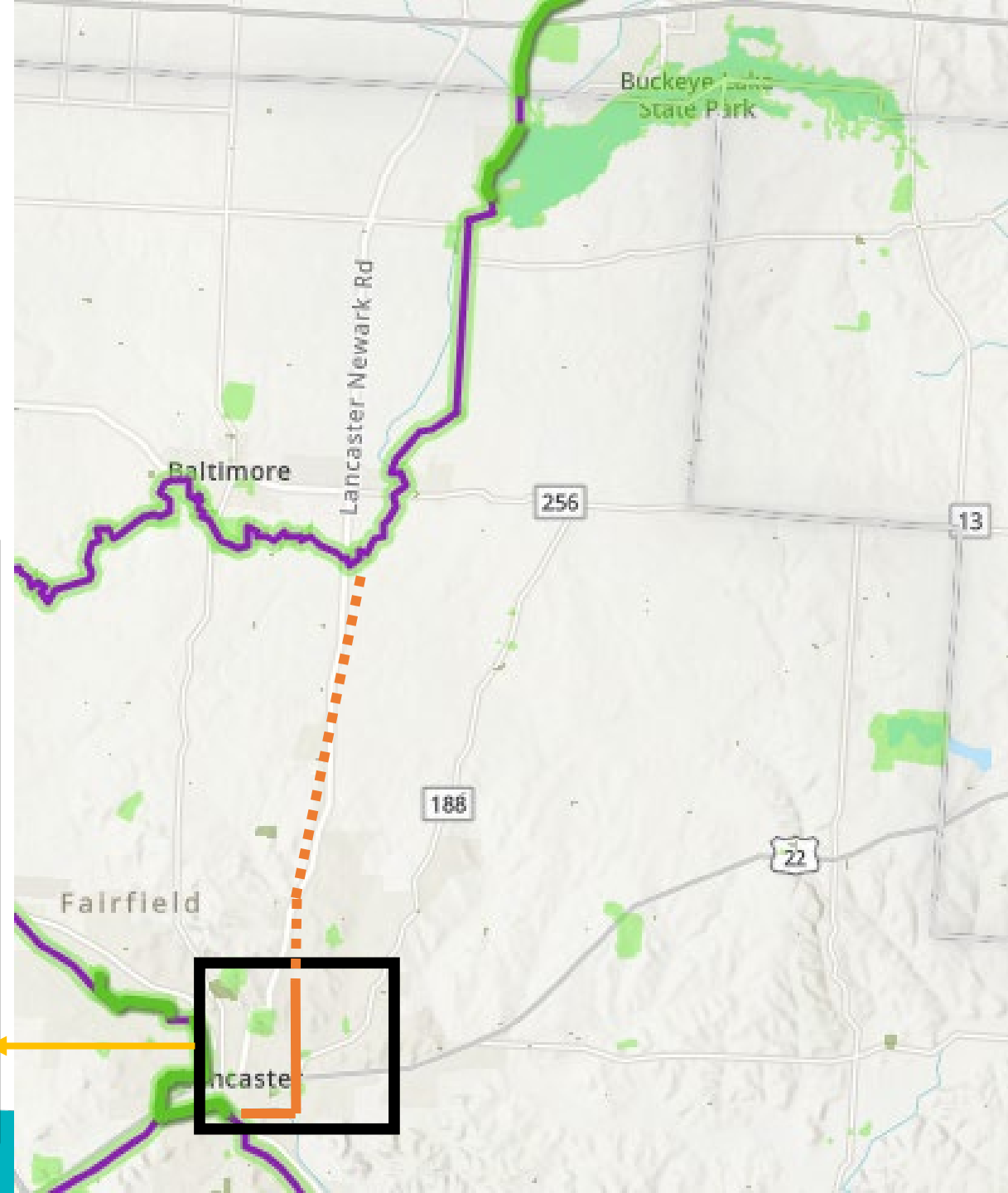
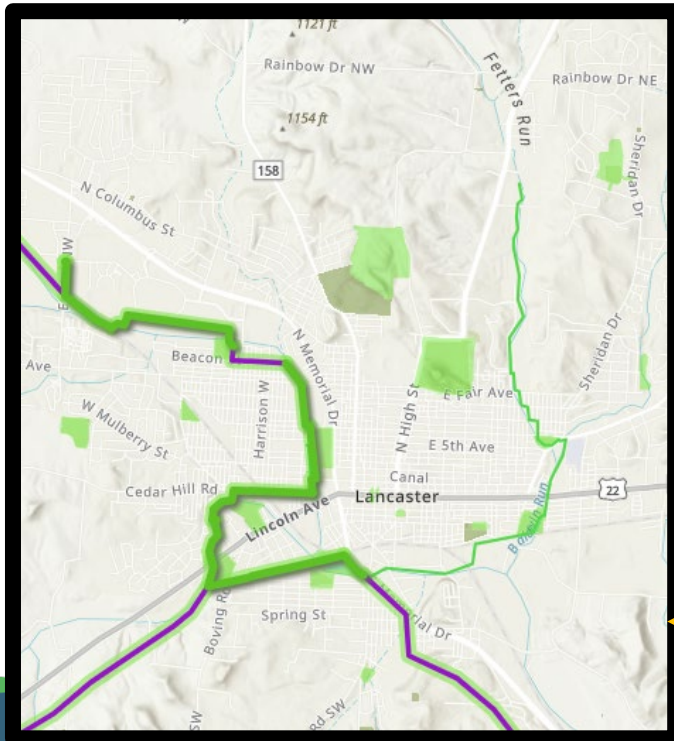
Hocking Adena Trail

- Extend vision for southeast connection parallel to US RT 33.
- Potential to connect to Hocking Hills State Park and Athens.
- No specific ROW identified.
- Approximately 20 miles of proposed trail.
- Recommended by: ODOT /Toole Design Hocking Adena Trail Extension...



Buckeye Lake & Lancaster (OU-L)

- North-south connection along SR 37.
- Ends at OU-Lancaster, which currently has an SUP connecting to the rest of Lancaster.
 - This SUP is not on the COG Vision.
- Approximately 6 miles of proposed trail and 4 miles of existing trail.
- Recommended by: Fairfield County & Bike Buckeye Lake
- Informed by: Fairfield County Active Transportation Plan

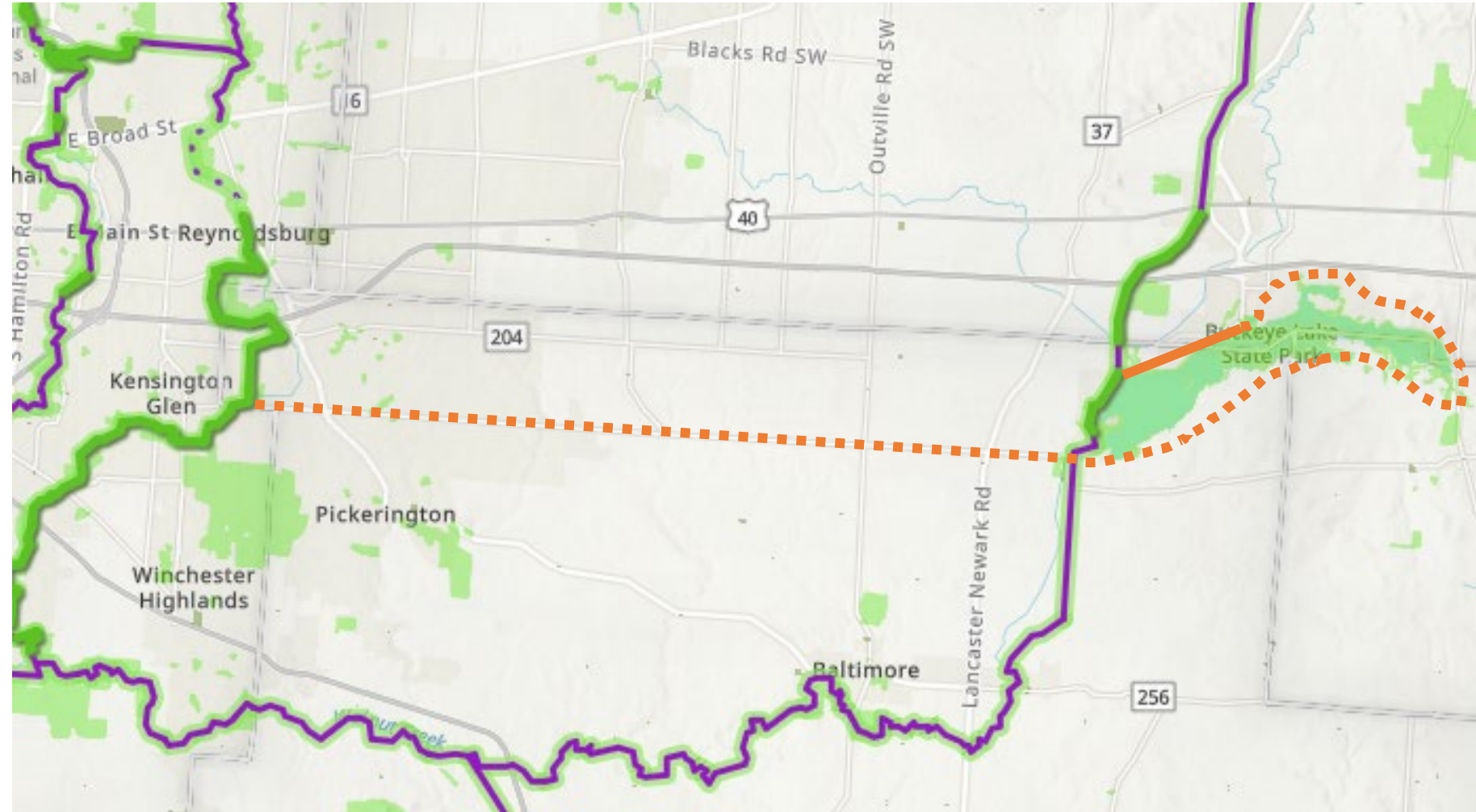


Buckeye Lake Loop to Pickerington (Terry's Dream)



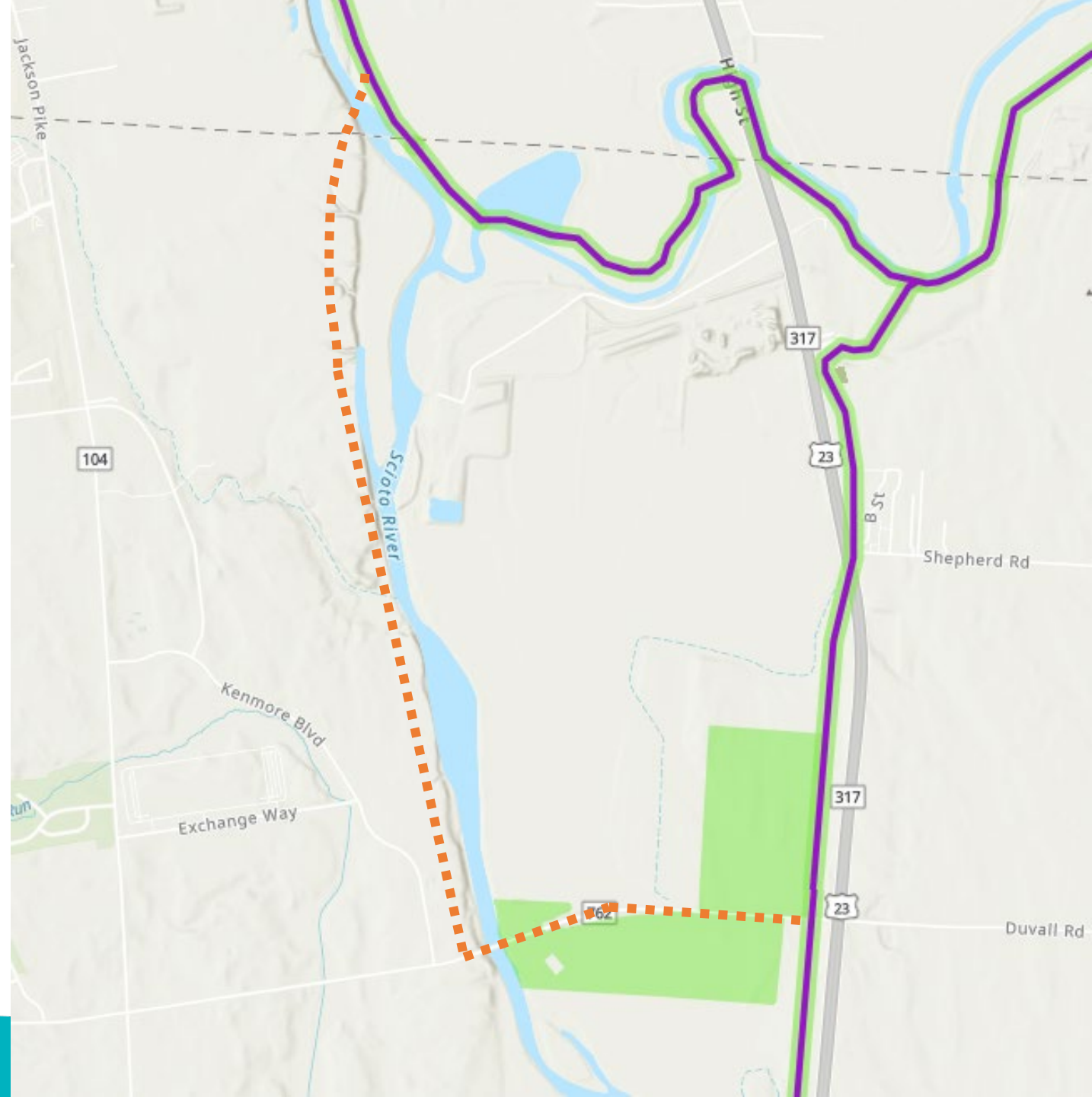
MORPC

- This trail would connect Buckeye Lake to Pickerington and the Columbus area.
- It would also create a loop around Buckeye Lake.
- Some segments of the Loop are already complete.
- Approximately 30 miles of proposed trail and 5 miles of existing trail.
- Recommended by : Bike Buckeye Lake, Fairfield County

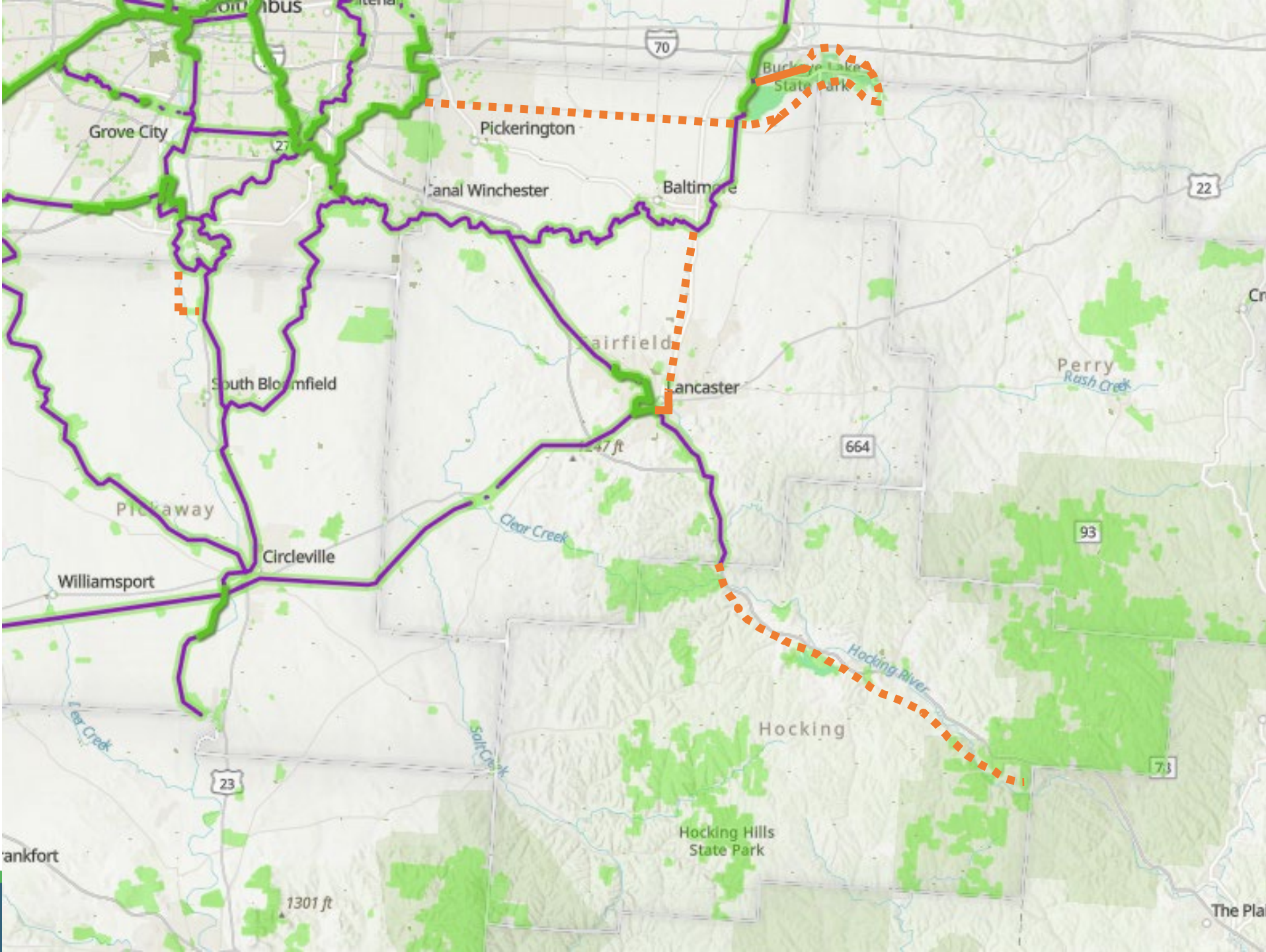


Scioto Trail Realignment to Commercial Point

- The Village of Commercial Point has some ROW/easement on the west side of the Scioto.
- A portion of the trail will be built as part of a new industrial development in a flood.
- ODOT projects along SR 762 could facilitate trail.
- Approximately 3.5 miles of proposed trail.
- Recommended by: Commercial Point



SE AREA



Northeast Area Updates

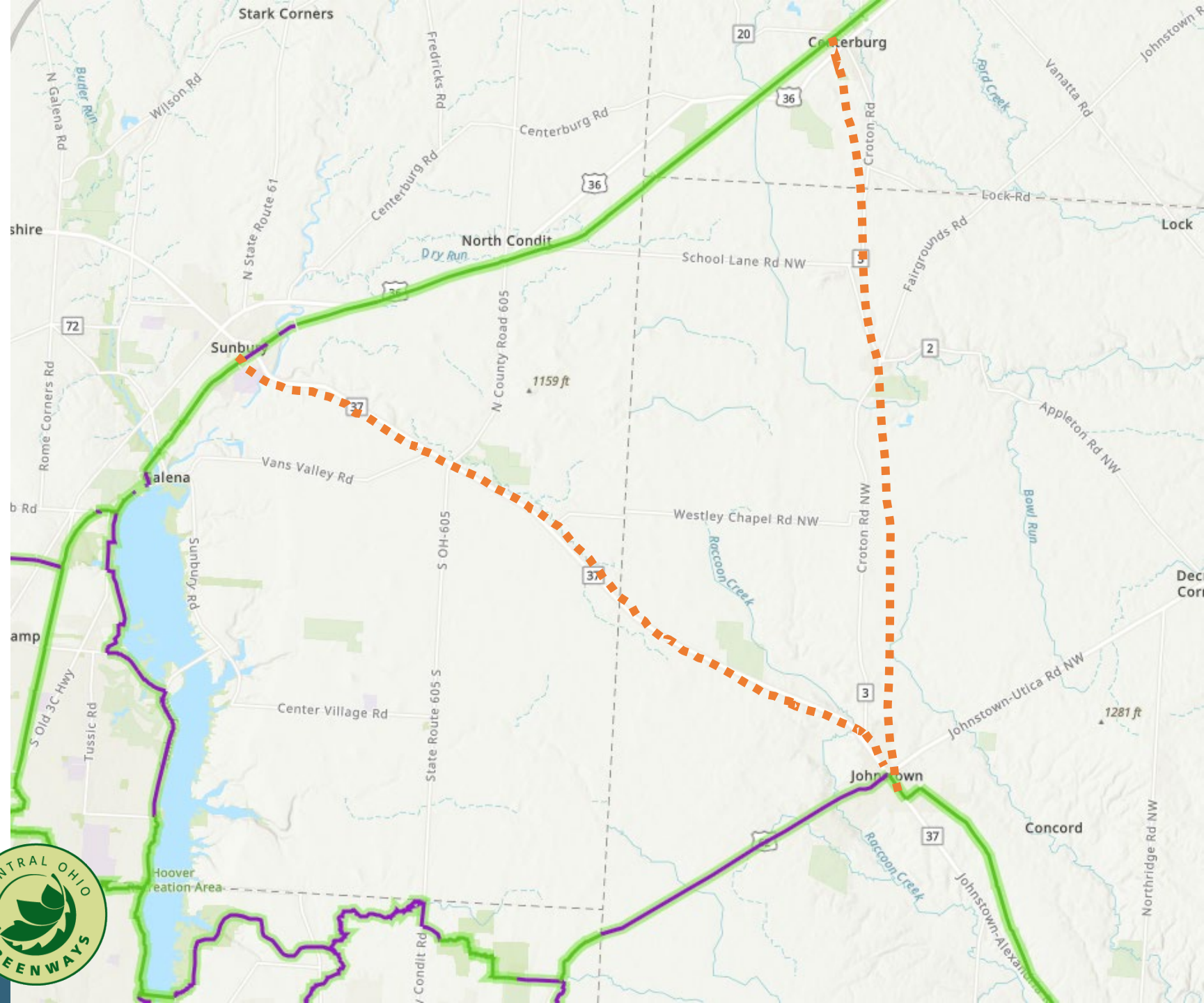
Delaware, Knox, Licking, & Morrow Counties



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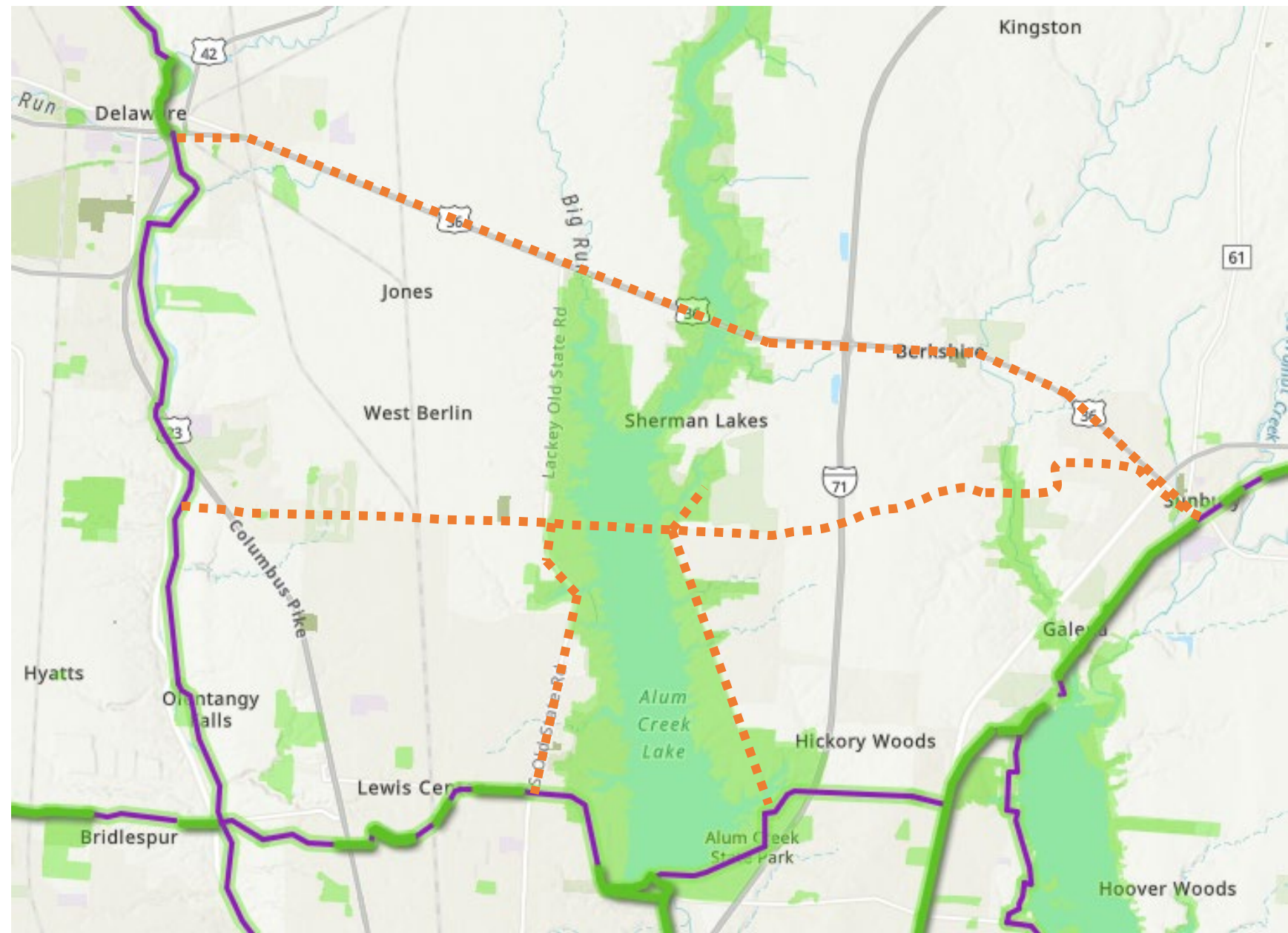
Johnstown-Sunbury-Centerburg Triangle (Silicon Heartland Trails)

- Potential rail-trail between Centerburg and Johnstown – connect through Hartford.
- Centerburg-Johnstown
 - Approximately 10 miles of proposed trail.
- Sunbury-Johnstown
 - Approximately 11 miles of proposed trail.
- Recommended by: “Trails in the Intel Region” meeting, Trail Town Working Group, Delaware County



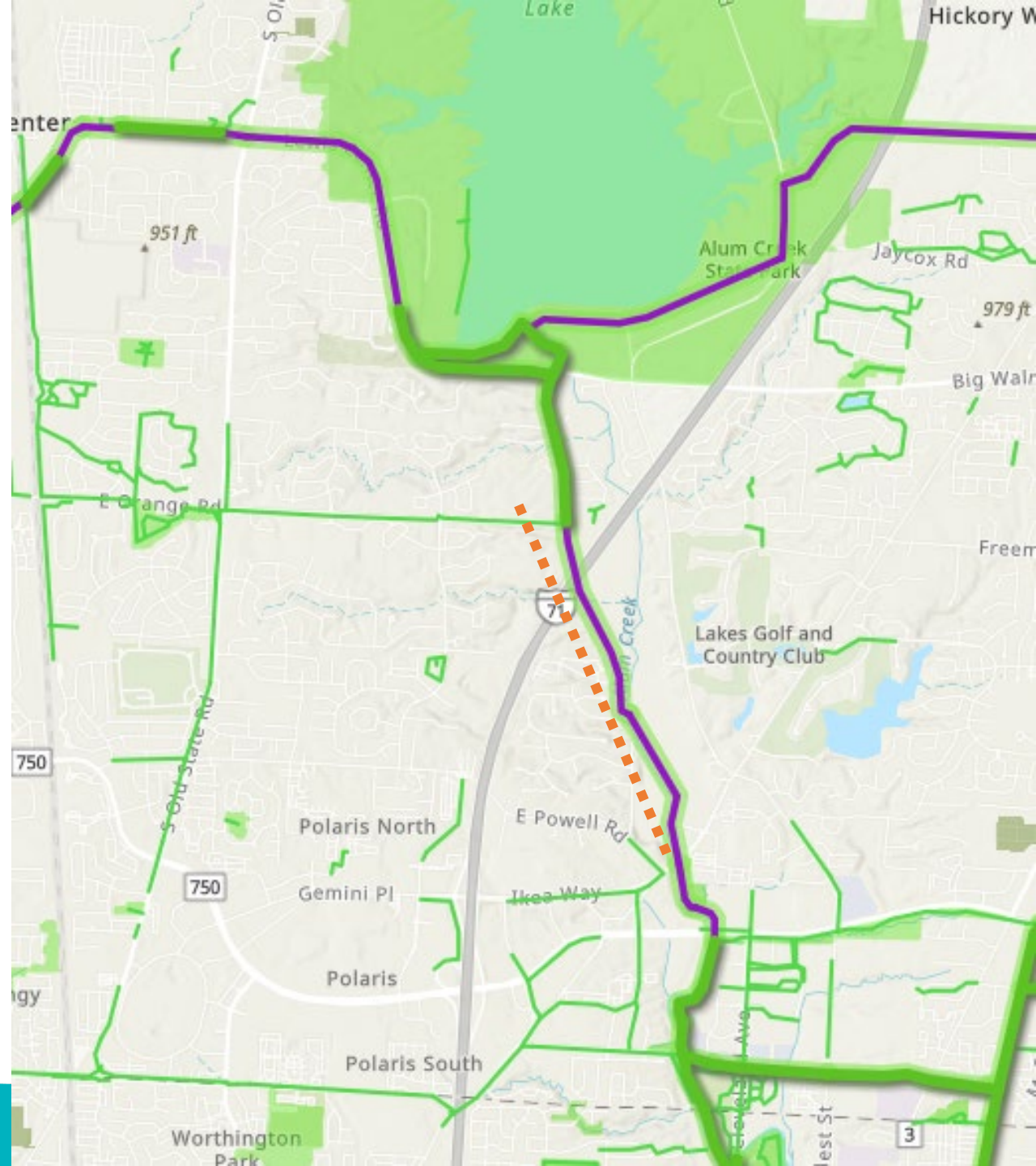
Delaware Run and/or Berlin Connector

- Could extend beyond Scioto Trail and O2E into neighboring counties/communities
- ODNR trail project in Alum Creek State Park
- Delaware Run
 - Approximately 12 miles of proposed trail
- Berlin Connector
 - Approximately 12 miles of proposed trail
- Alum Creek legs
 - Approximately 7 miles of proposed trail
- Recommended by: MORPC TA Program services with Berlin Township and City of Delaware.
- Is one connection preferred?



Alum Creek Realignment

- Trail along Bale Kenyon has seen completion of the first phase, which goes under 71.
- Approximately 1.5 miles of trail
- Recommended by: Orange Township and DCEO
- Does this need any realignments?
 - Maybe a more feasible but less pretty alternative to current gap in Alum Creek Trail.

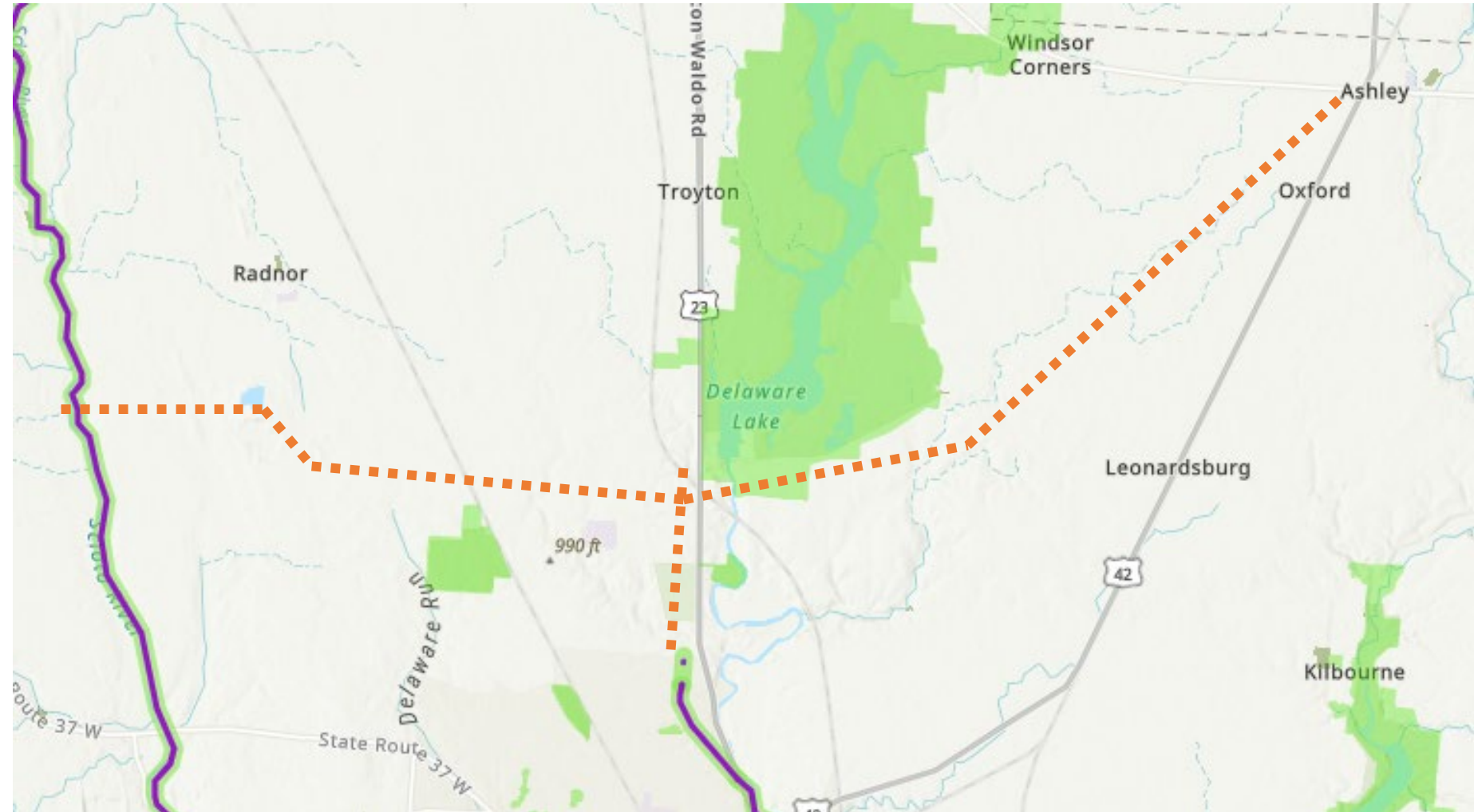


Delaware State Park Connections



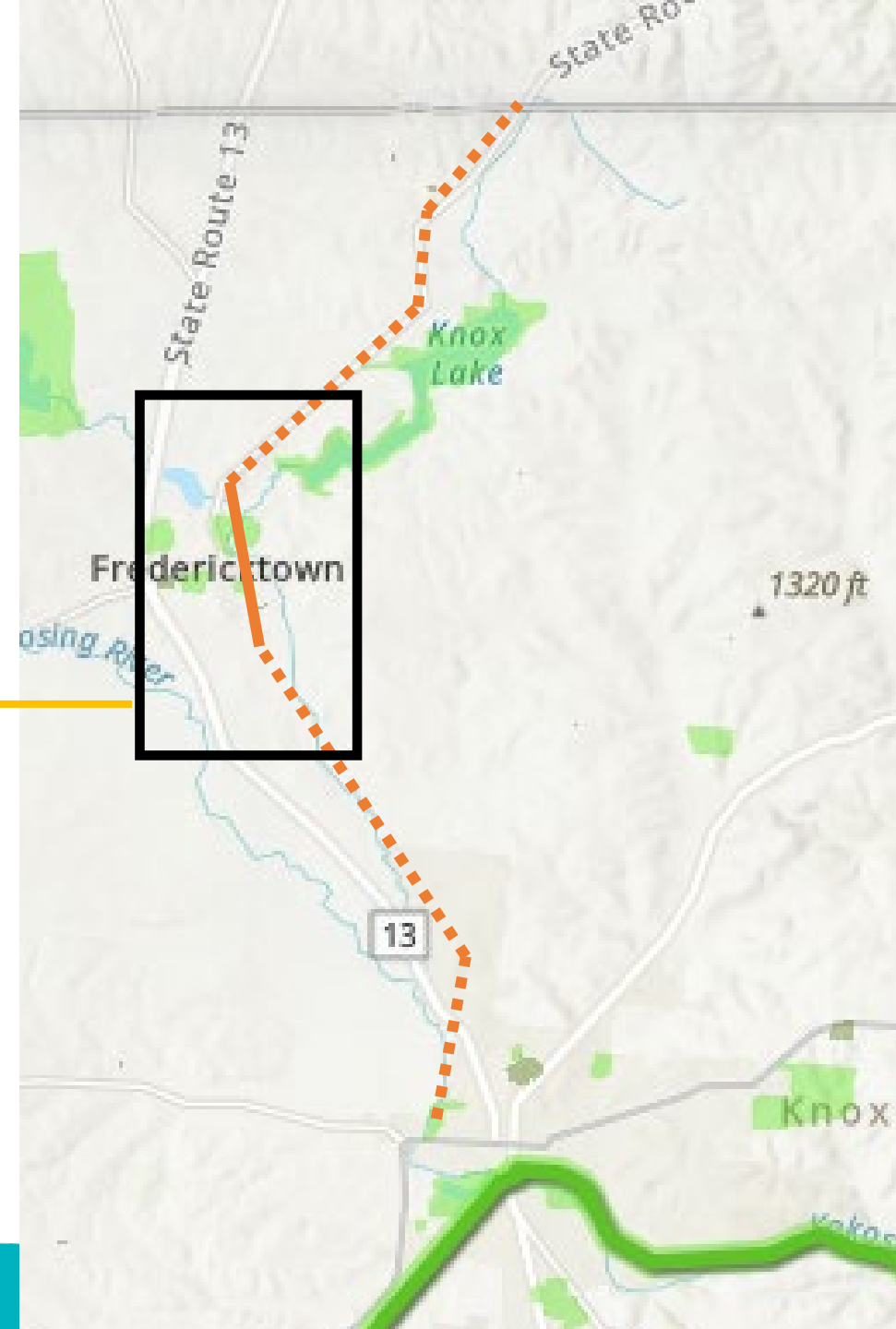
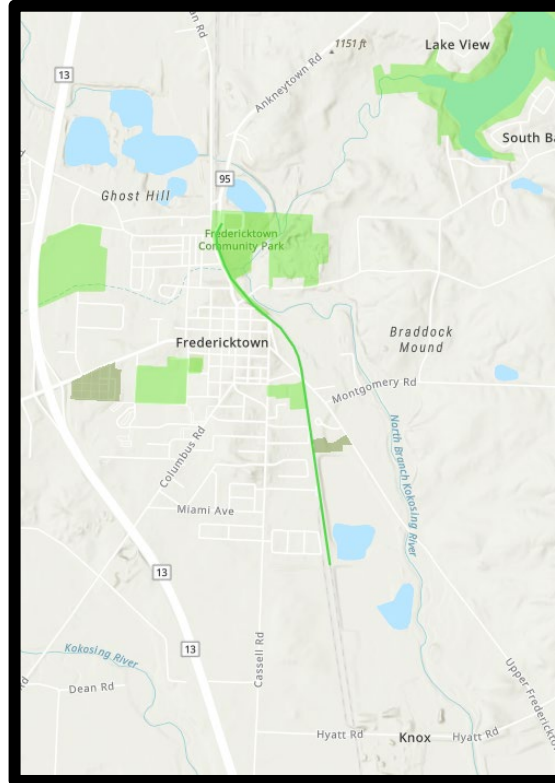
MORPC

- East-west connection.
- Could extend the Olentangy Trail north to Delaware State Park – ODNR involvement.
- School connection.
- Scioto Trail-Ashley
 - Approximately 15 miles of proposed trail.
- Olentangy Trail Extension
 - Approximately 2 miles of proposed trail.
- Recommended by: Delaware County Planning Commission



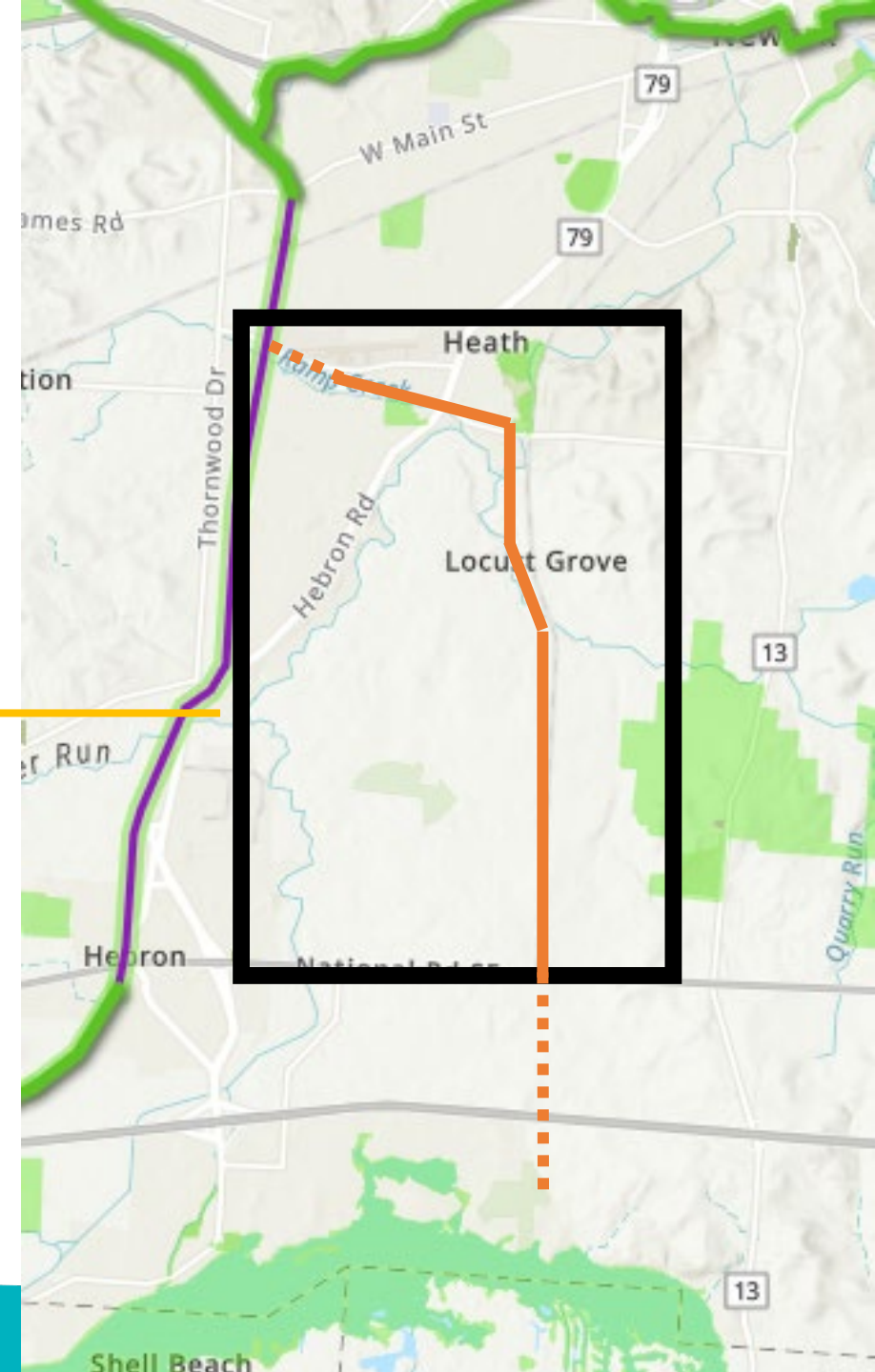
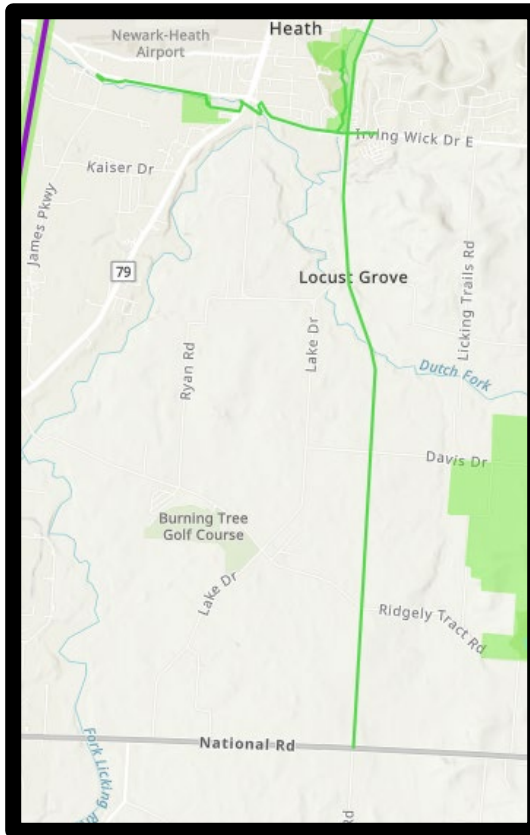
Owl Creek Trail Extension

- Potential new connection to OTET.
- Approximately 11 miles of proposed trail and 2.25 miles of existing trail.
- Recommended by: Mt Vernon and Knox County.

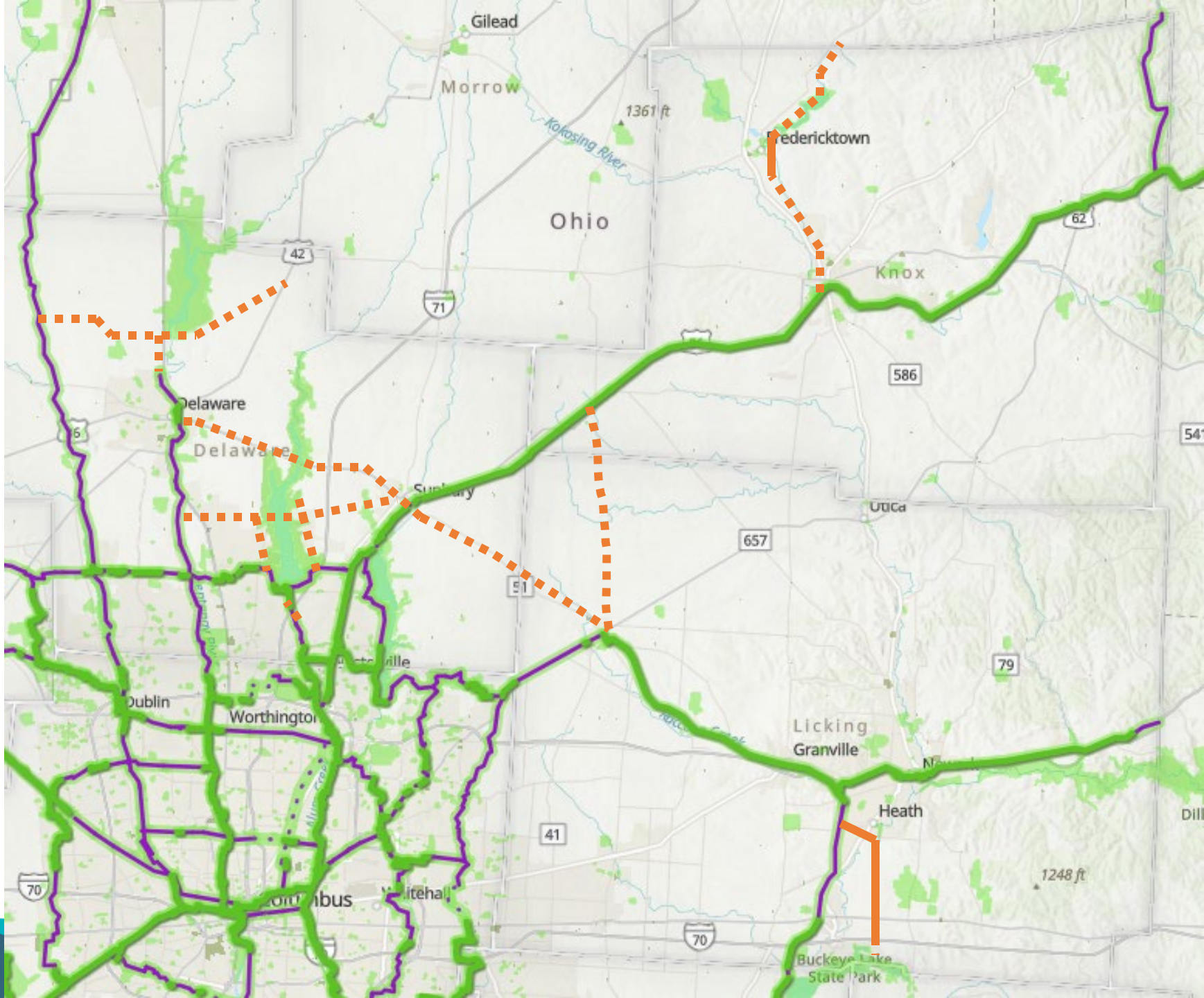


Newark & Heath to Buckeye Lake

- New north-south connection from Newark/Heath to Buckeye Lake.
- Existing MUPs along much of route.
- Approximately 2 miles of proposed trail and 5.5 miles of existing trail (Buckeye Scenic Trail).



NE AREA



Southwest Area Updates

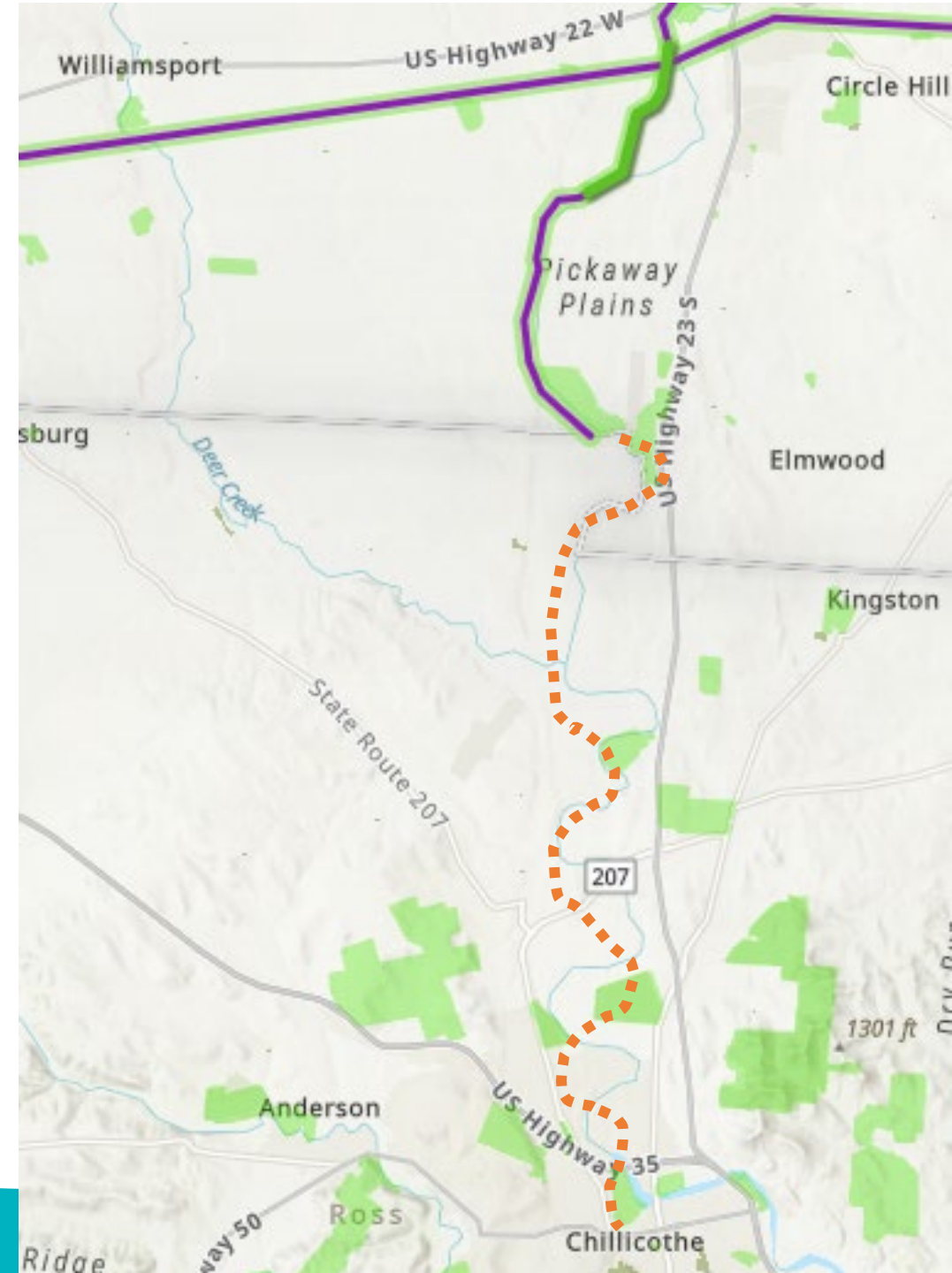
Fayette, Madison, & Ross Counties



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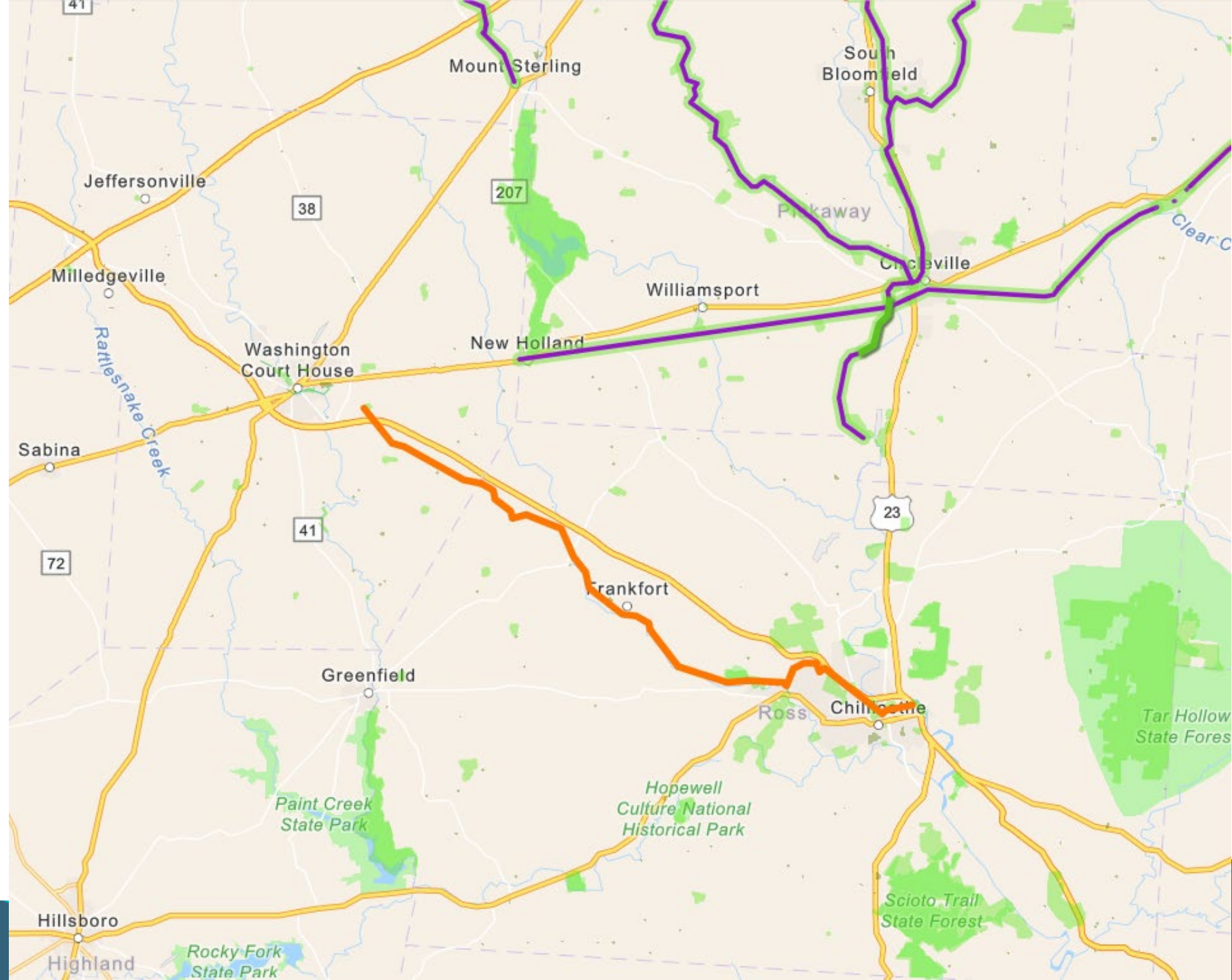
Scioto Trail Extension to Chillicothe

- Chillicothe has new UNESCO World Heritage site.
- TOSRV bike tour follows this route.
- Approximately 15 miles of proposed trail.
- Visionary Connection. Need a project sponsor. Consideration for future addition



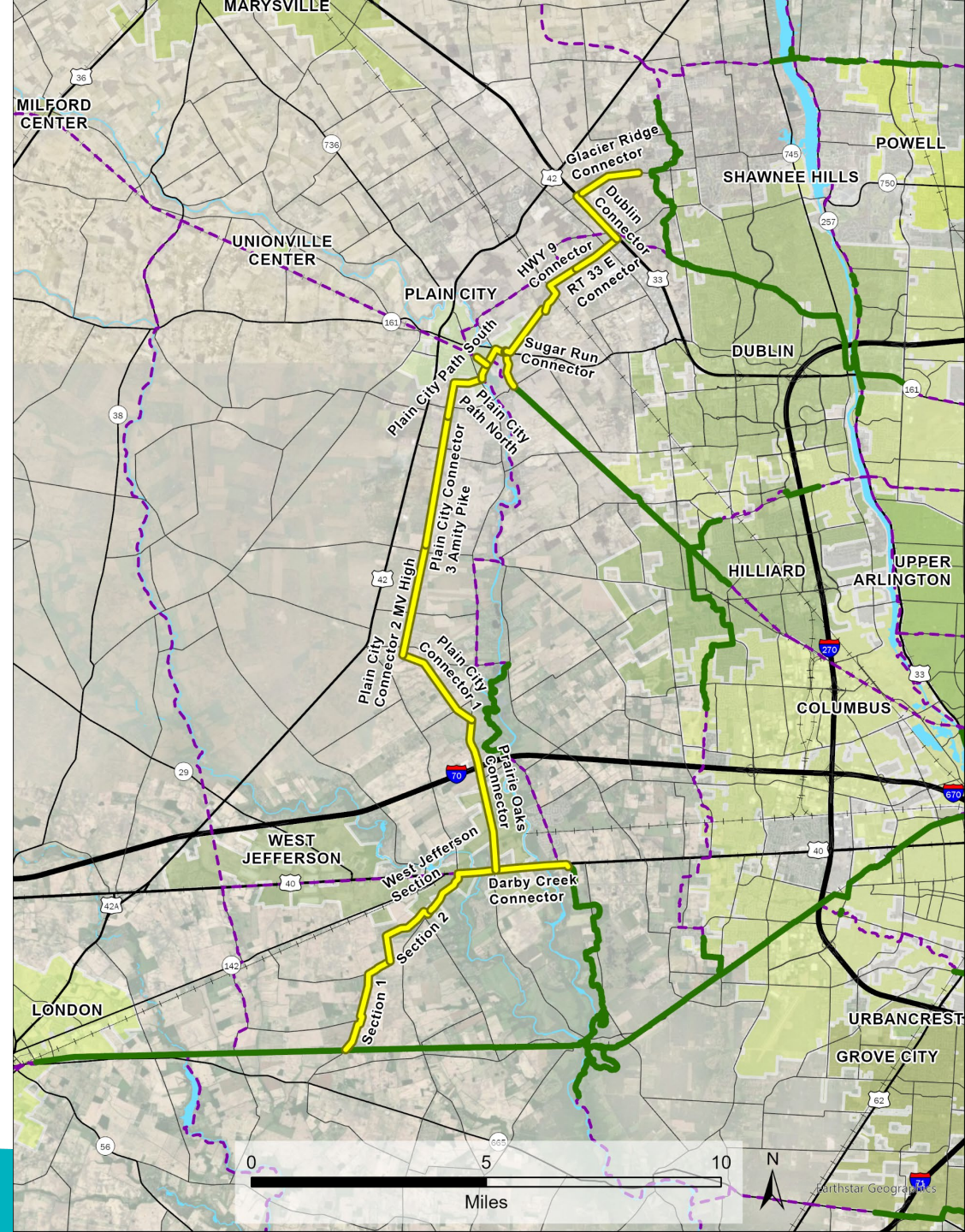
Paint Creek Recreational Trail

- ~30-mile existing MUP connecting Chillicothe and Washington Courthouse.
- Access to numerous cultural amenities, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Approximately 30 miles of existing trail.
- Recommended by: Ross County Parks District

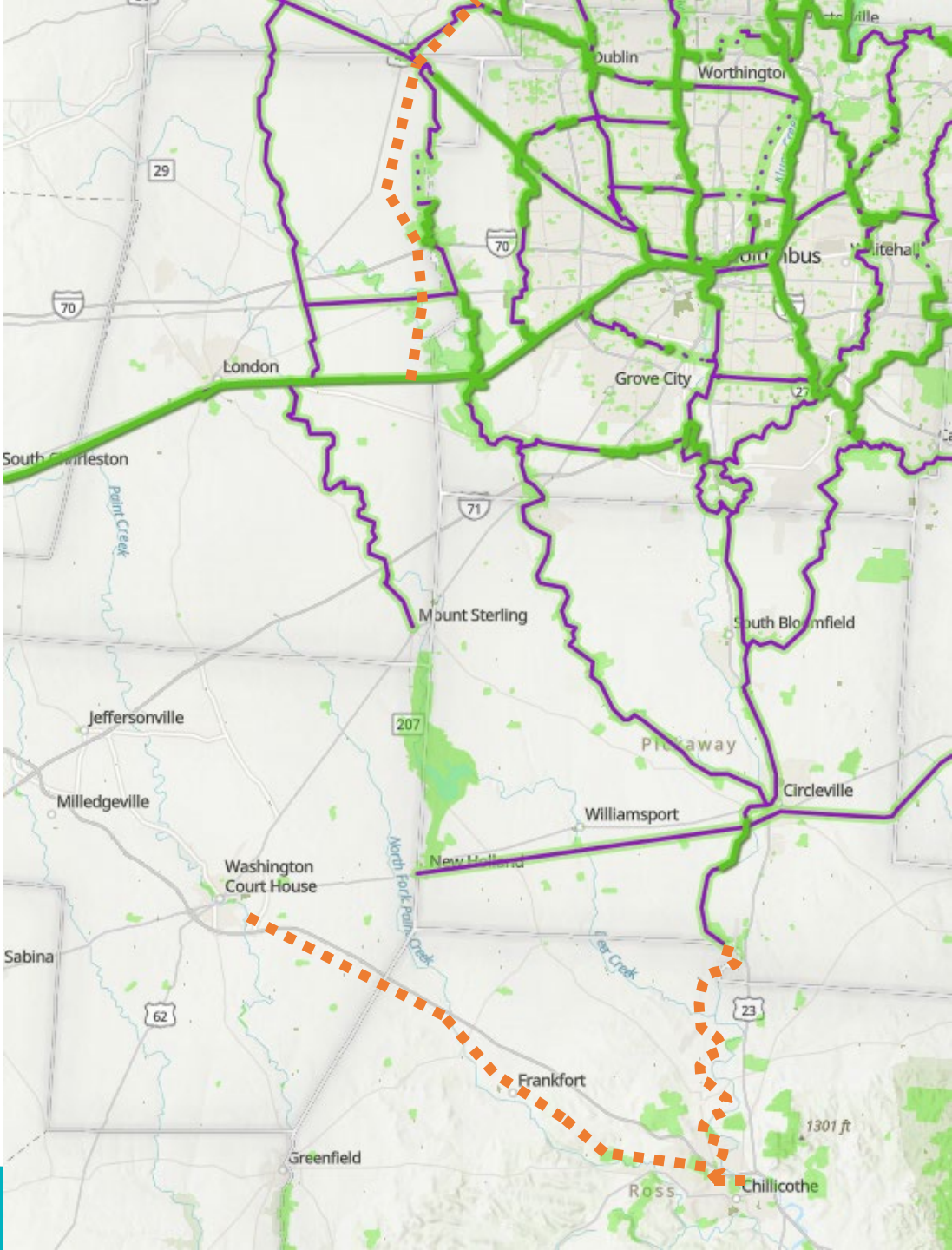


Darby Creek Realignment

- Proposed north-south alignment connecting OTET with NW Columbus area.
- Likely more feasible than current parallel vision given environmental and ROW concerns.
- Approximately 30 miles of proposed trail.
- Should this alignment be modified?



SW AREA



Northwest Area Updates

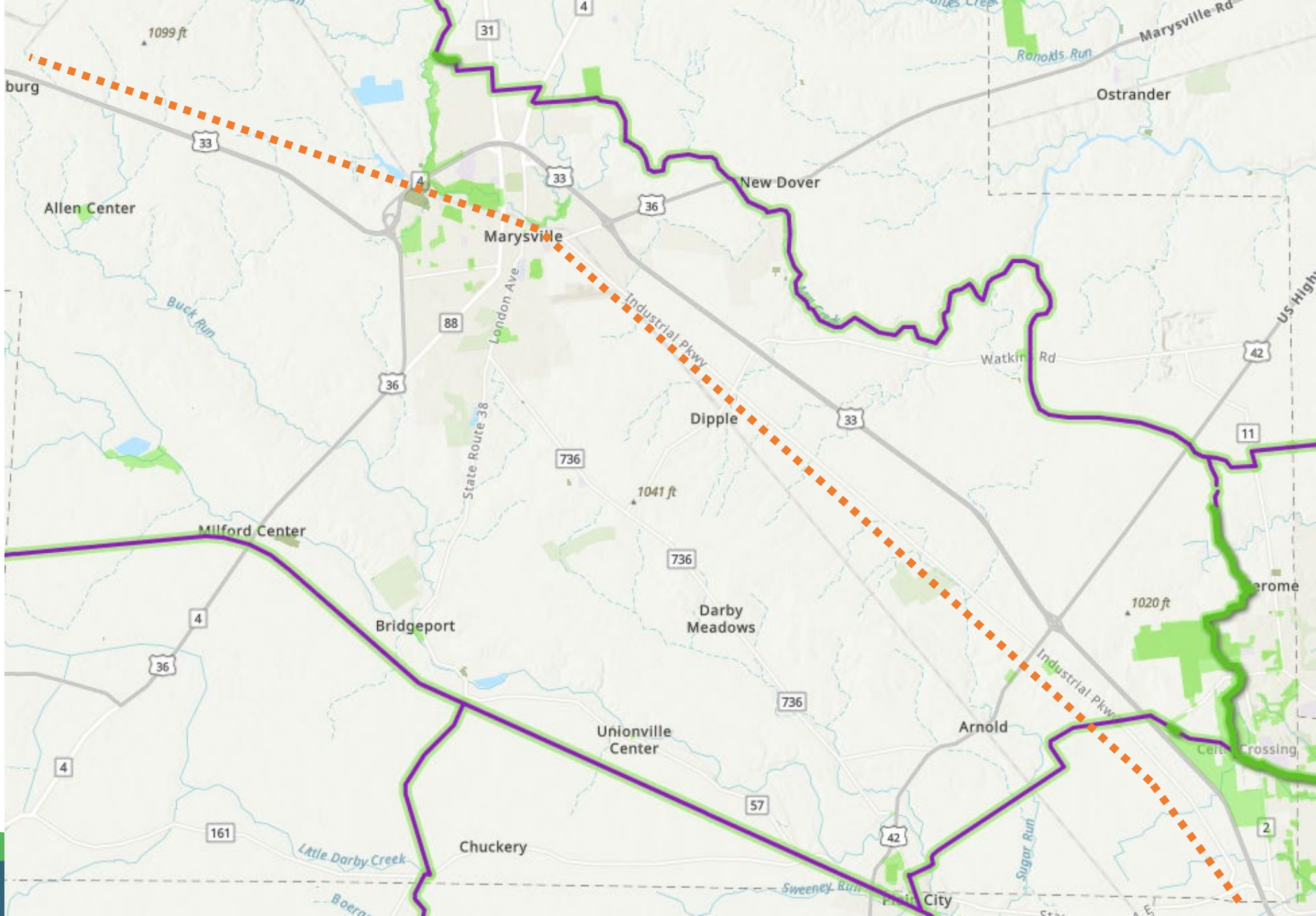
Logan, Marion, & Union Counties



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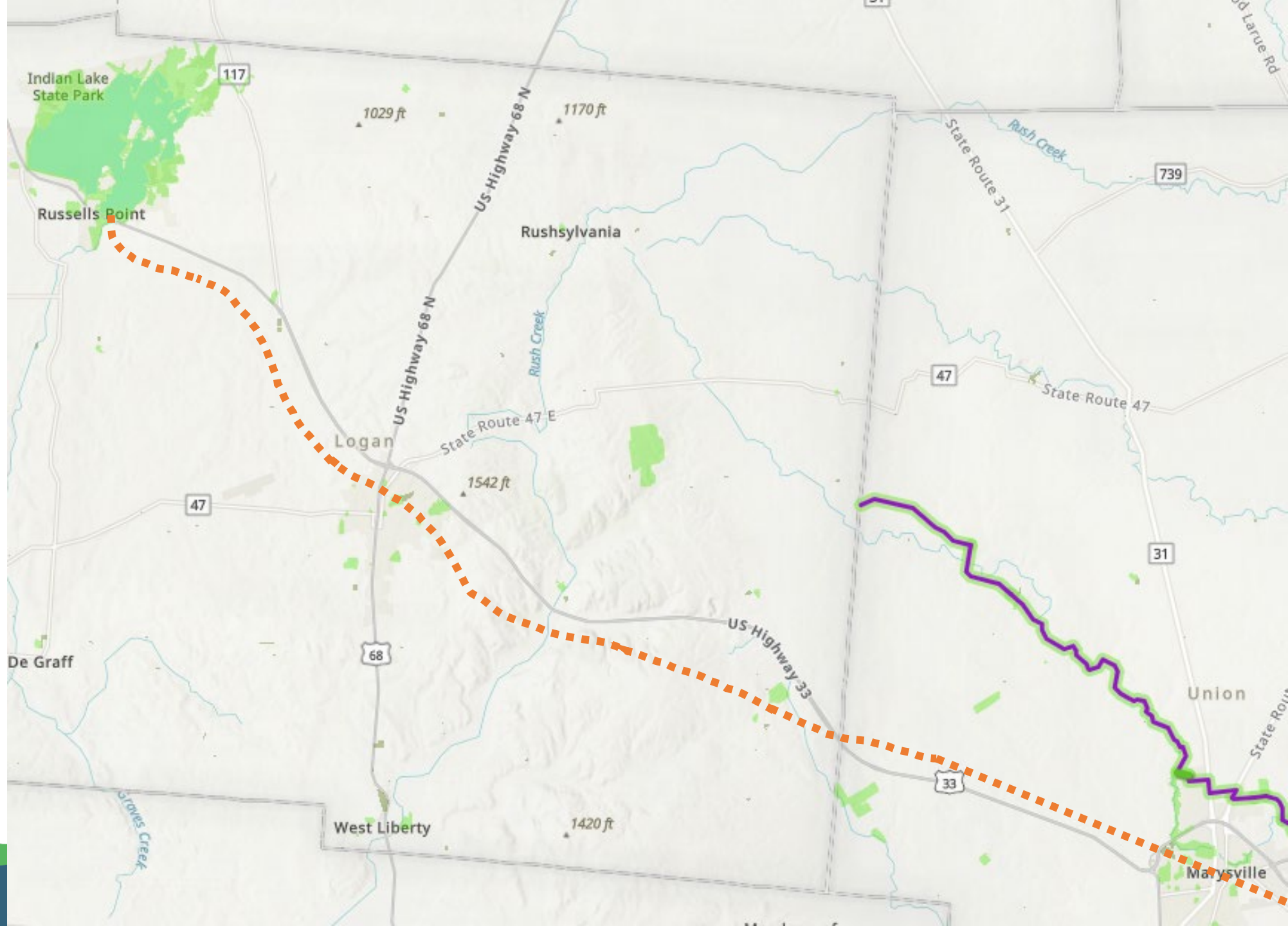
Innovation Route

- Following alignment of Industrial Parkway and Northwest Parkway, connecting Marysville and Honda.
- Approximately 20 miles of proposed trail.
- Recommended by: Union County Trails Plan



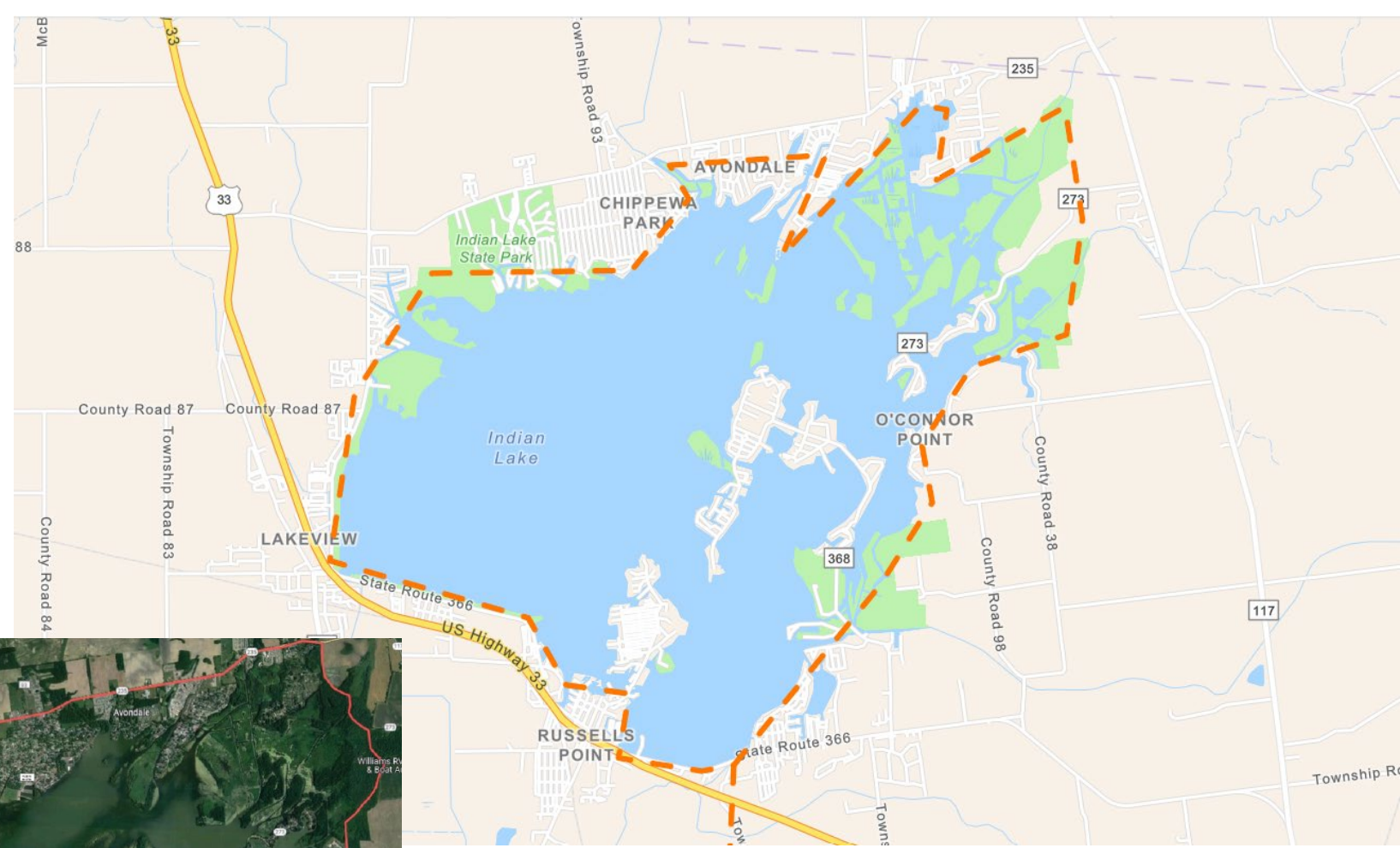
Indian Lake to Marysville

- Connection from Indian Lake Loop through Bellefontaine.
- Would connect with other proposed trail along Northwest Parkway in Union County.
- Approximately 25 miles of proposed trail.
- Recommended by:
LUC



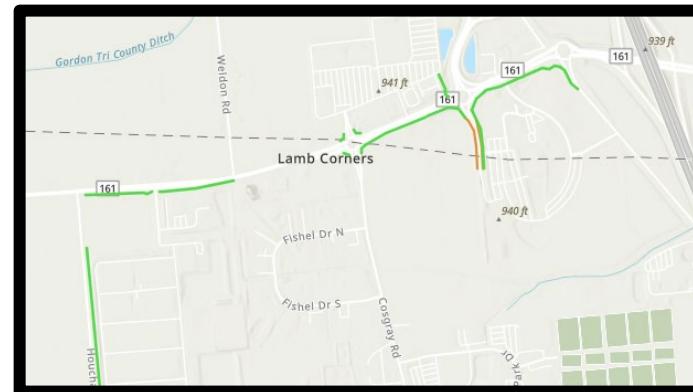
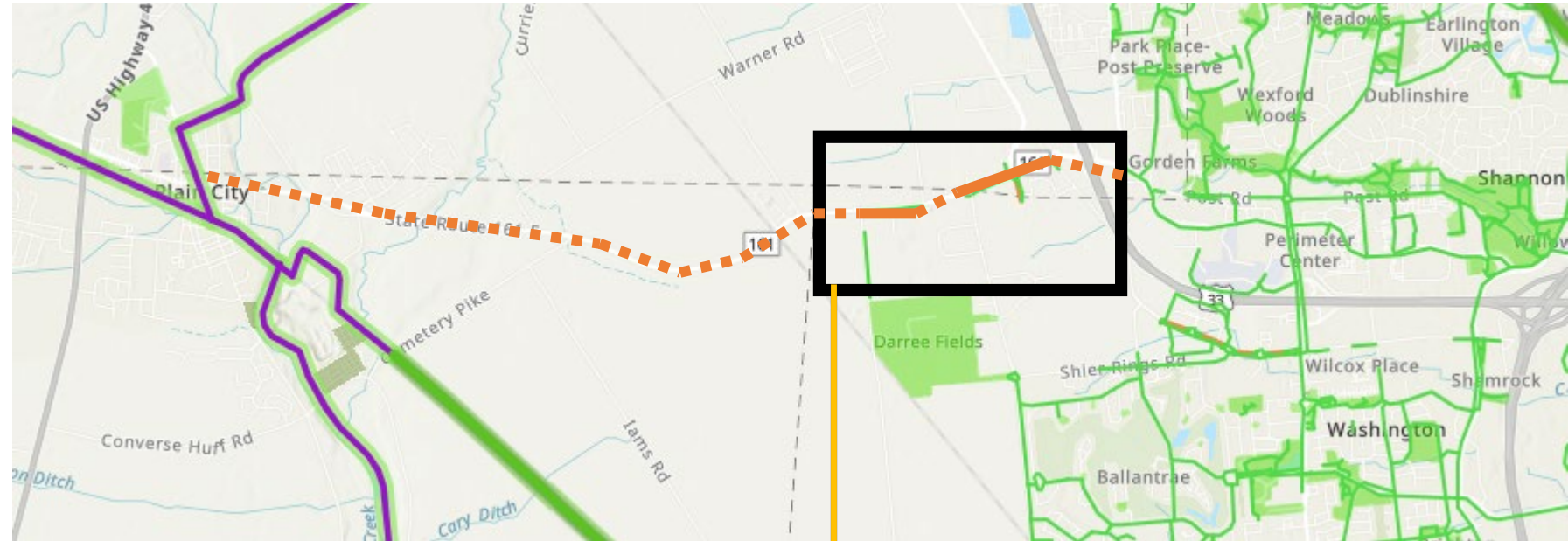
Indian Lake Loop

- Some existing trail, remains to be filled in.
- Approximately 17 miles of proposed trail and 3 miles of existing trail.
- Recommended by: LUC



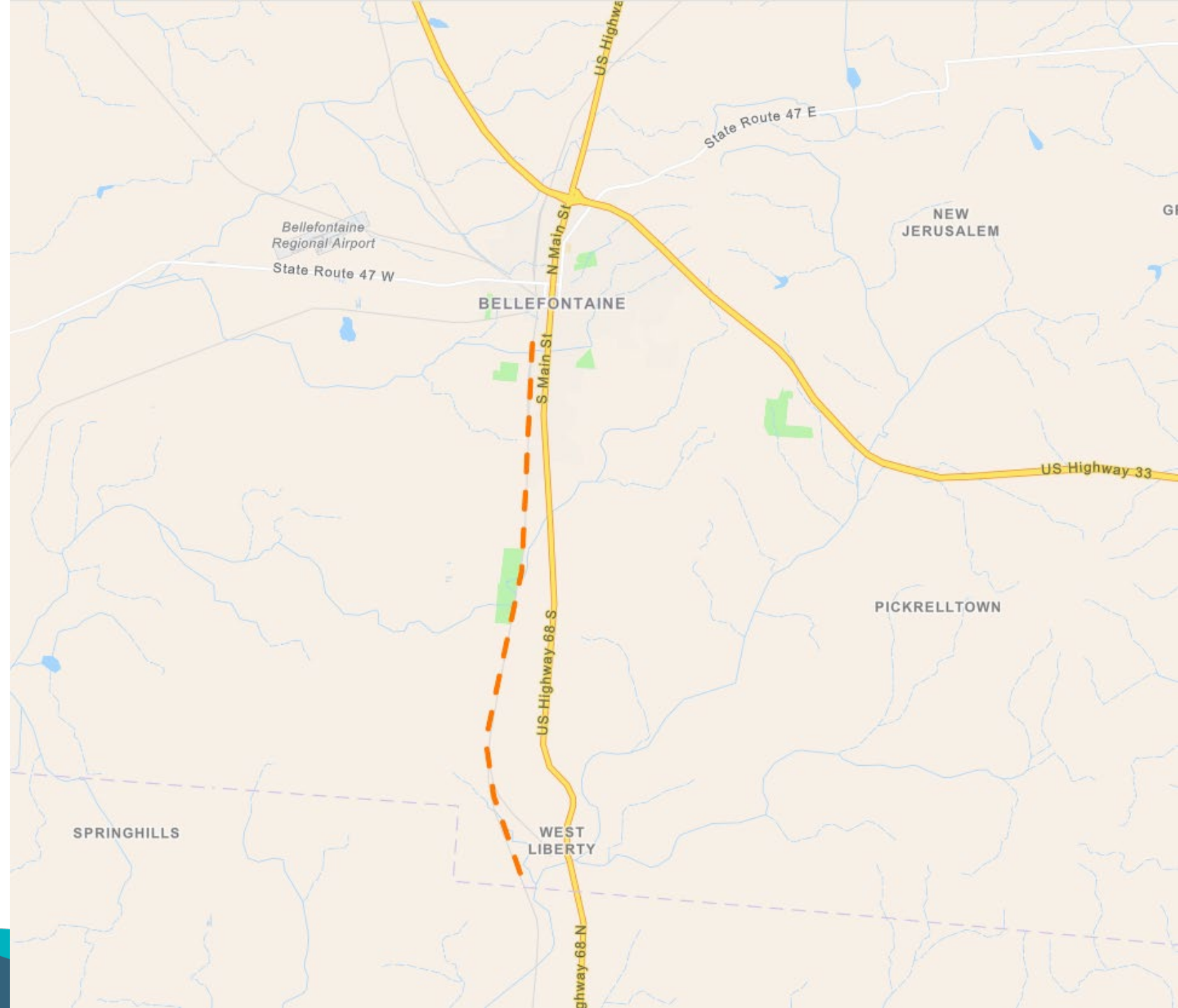
Sugar Run Trail

- Parallel to SR 161.
- Along 161
 - Approximately 4.5 miles of proposed trail and 0.5 miles of existing trail.
- Recommended by: Plain City, City of Dublin.
- Which alignment should be included in the vision?



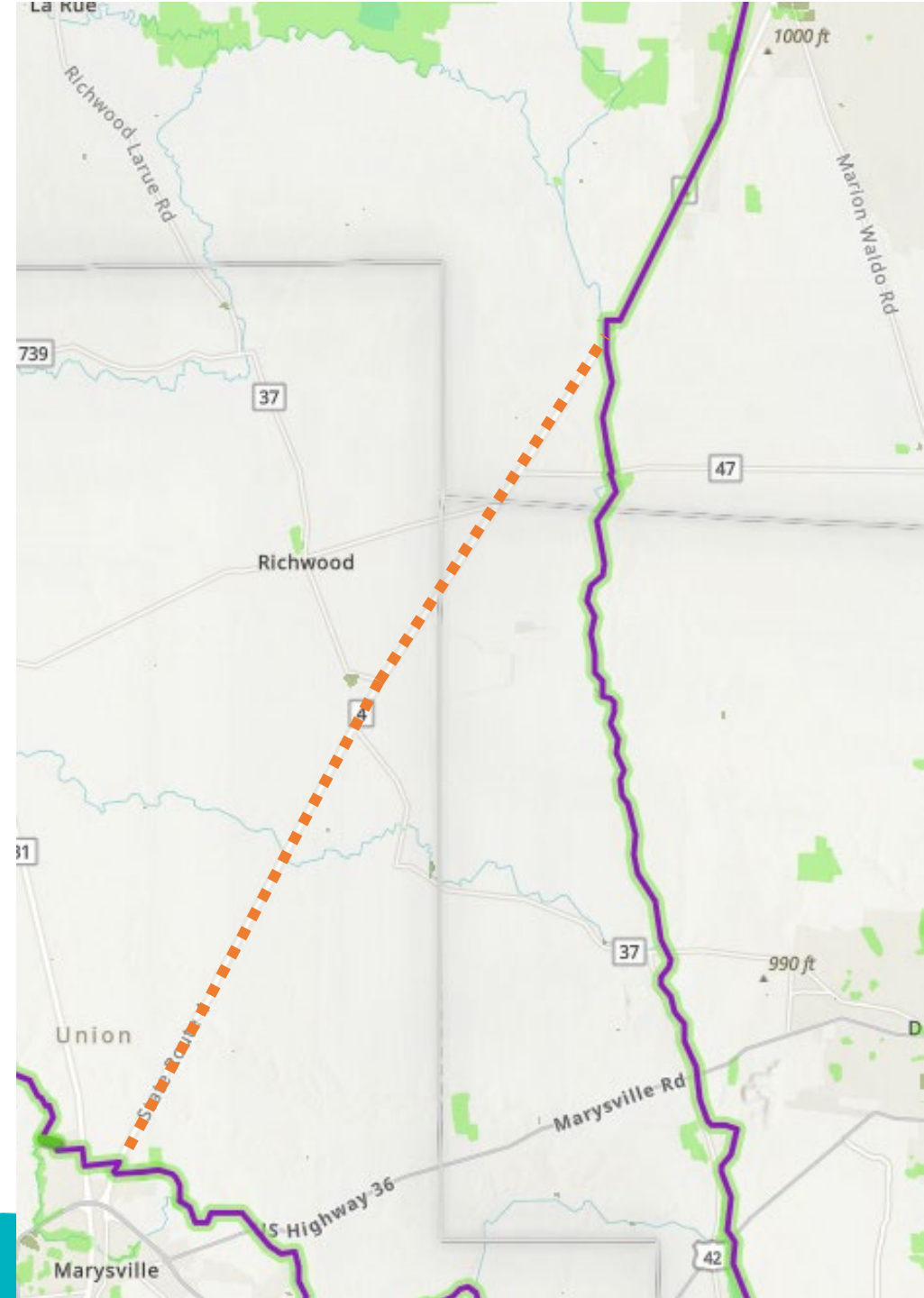
Simon Kenton Trail

- Existing path soon to be paved (possibly through ODOT Active Transportation Special Solicitation).
- Connects to Cincinnati.
- Approximately 8 miles of trail
- Recommended by: LUC



Cardinal Trail

- Proposed north-south alignment along SR 4.
- Approximately 18 miles of proposed trail.
- Recommended by: Union County Trails Master Plan.

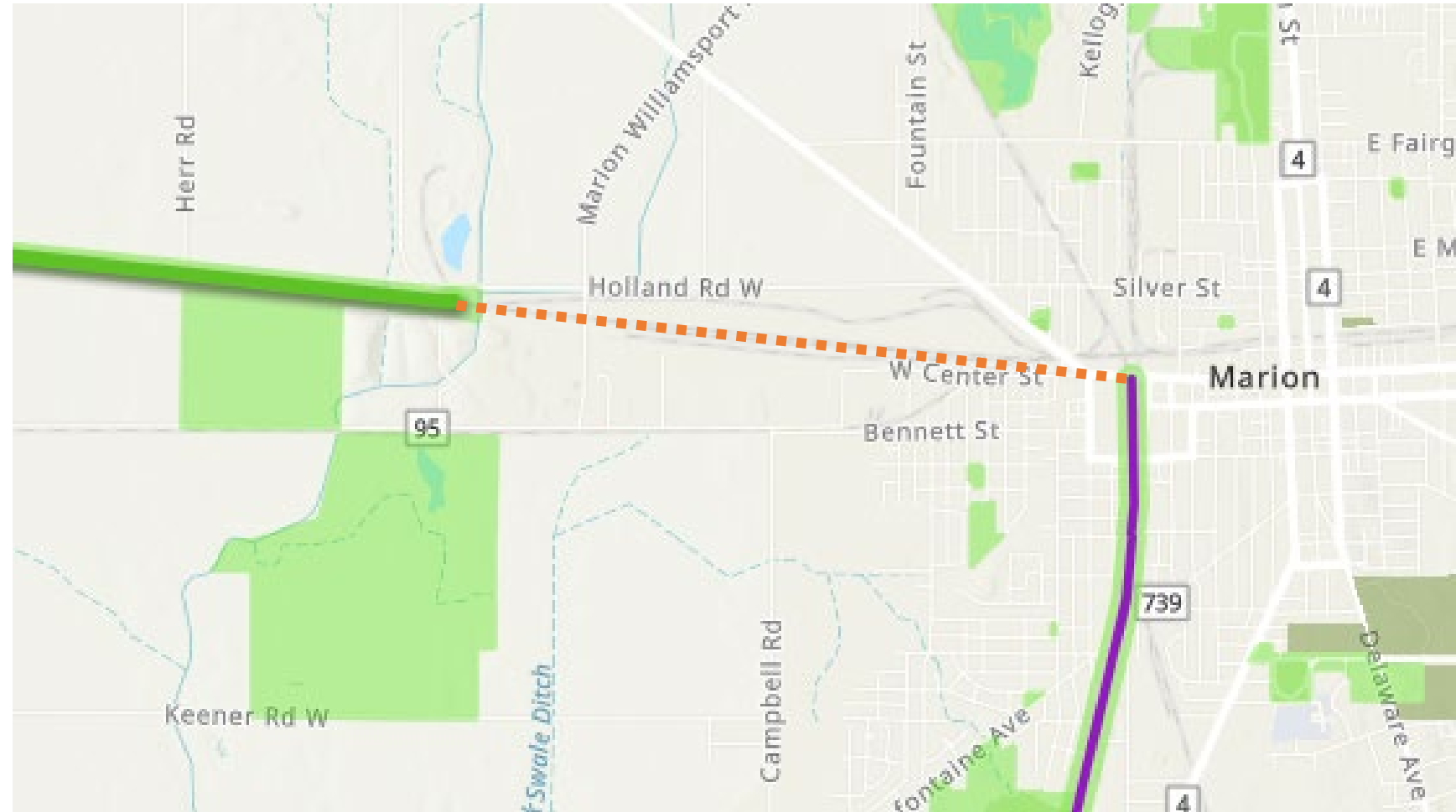


Tall Grass Trail Extension



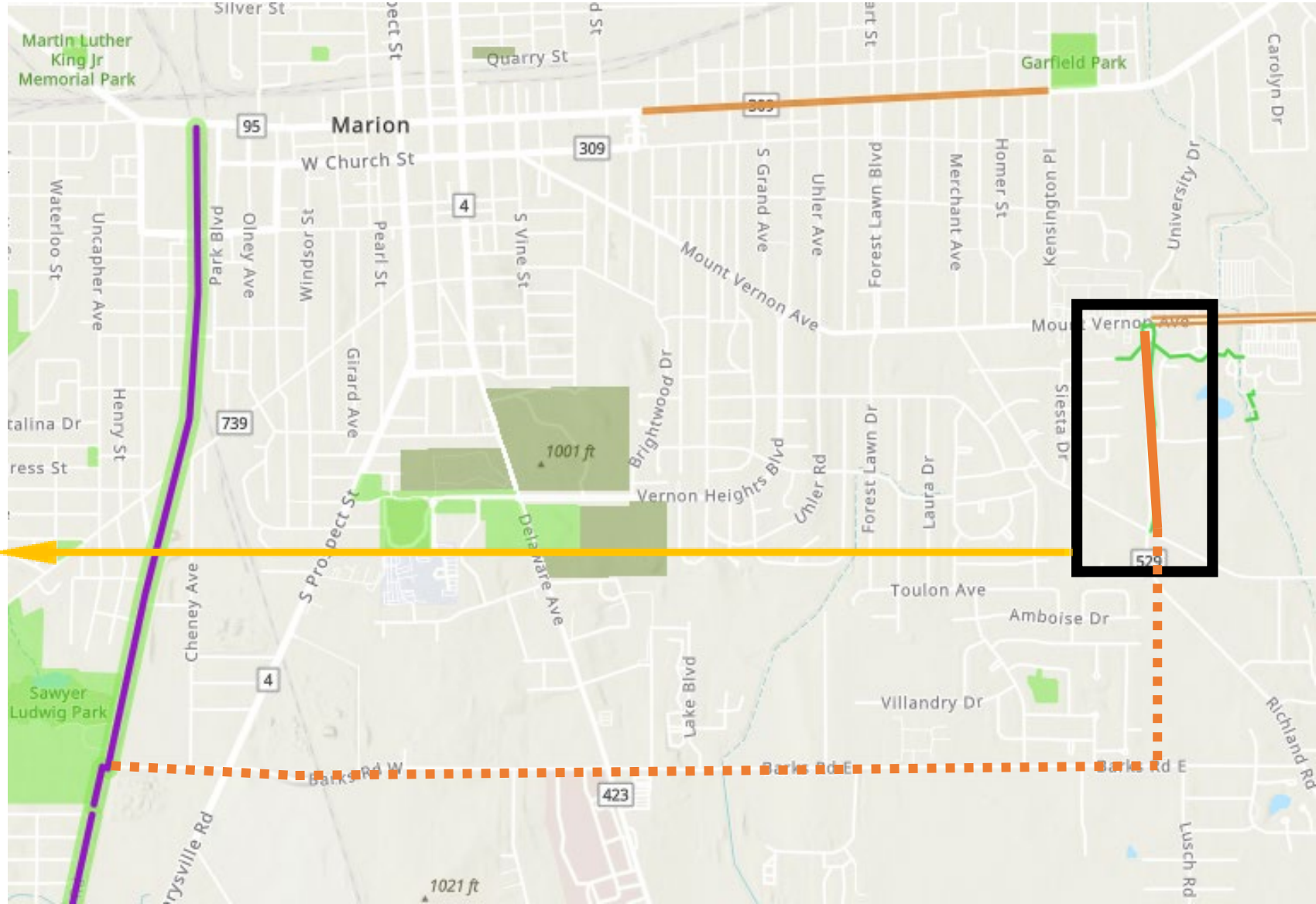
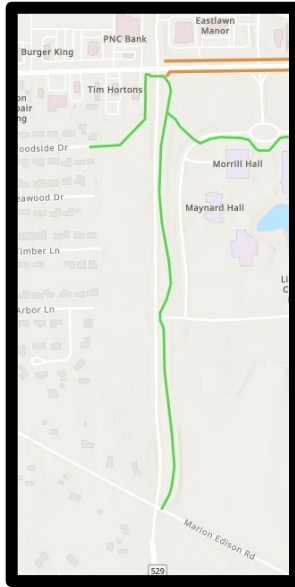
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- Would link Tall Grass Trail to rest of network.
- Approximately 2.5 miles of proposed trail.
- Recommended by: Marion County

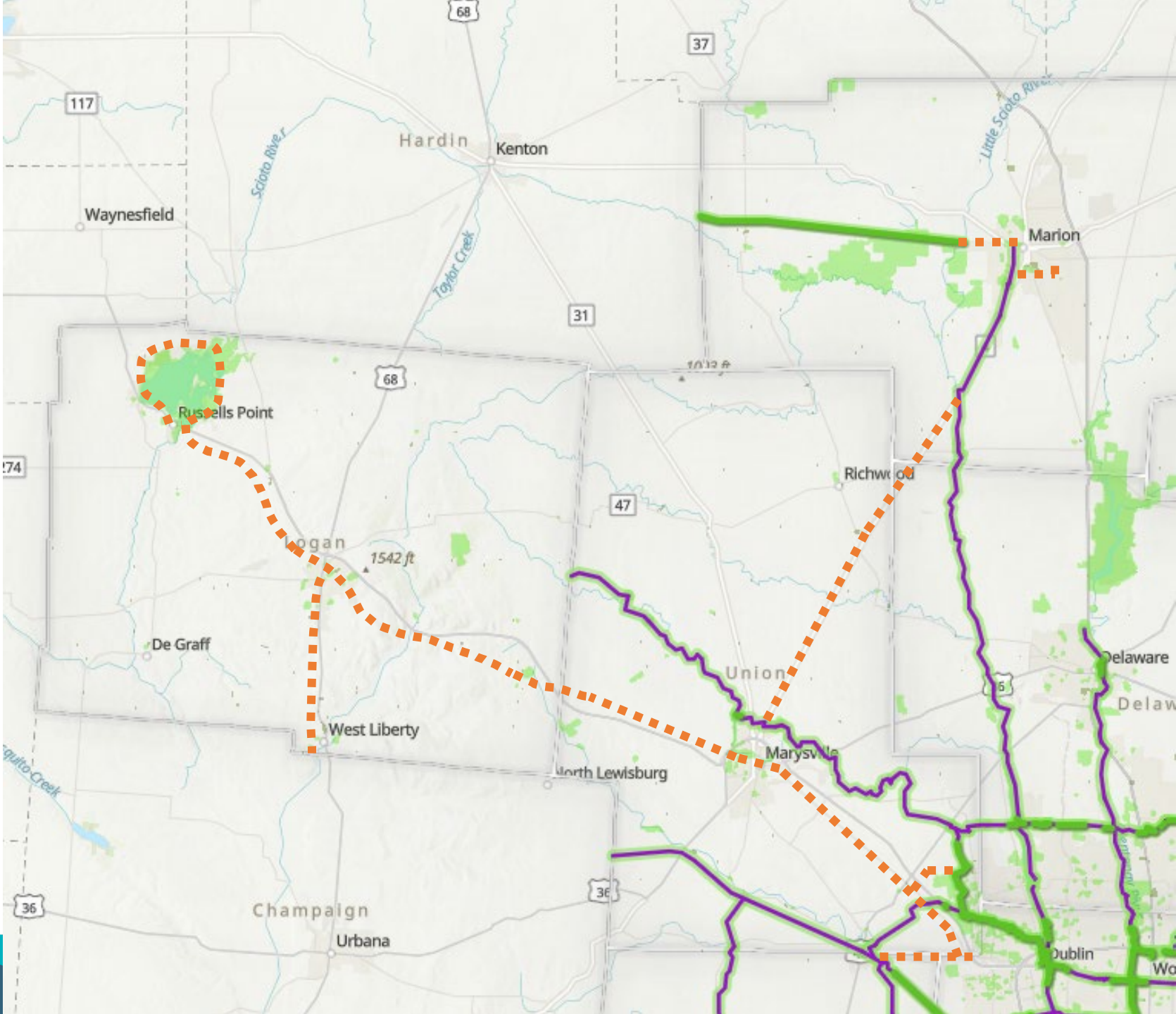


Marion Trails

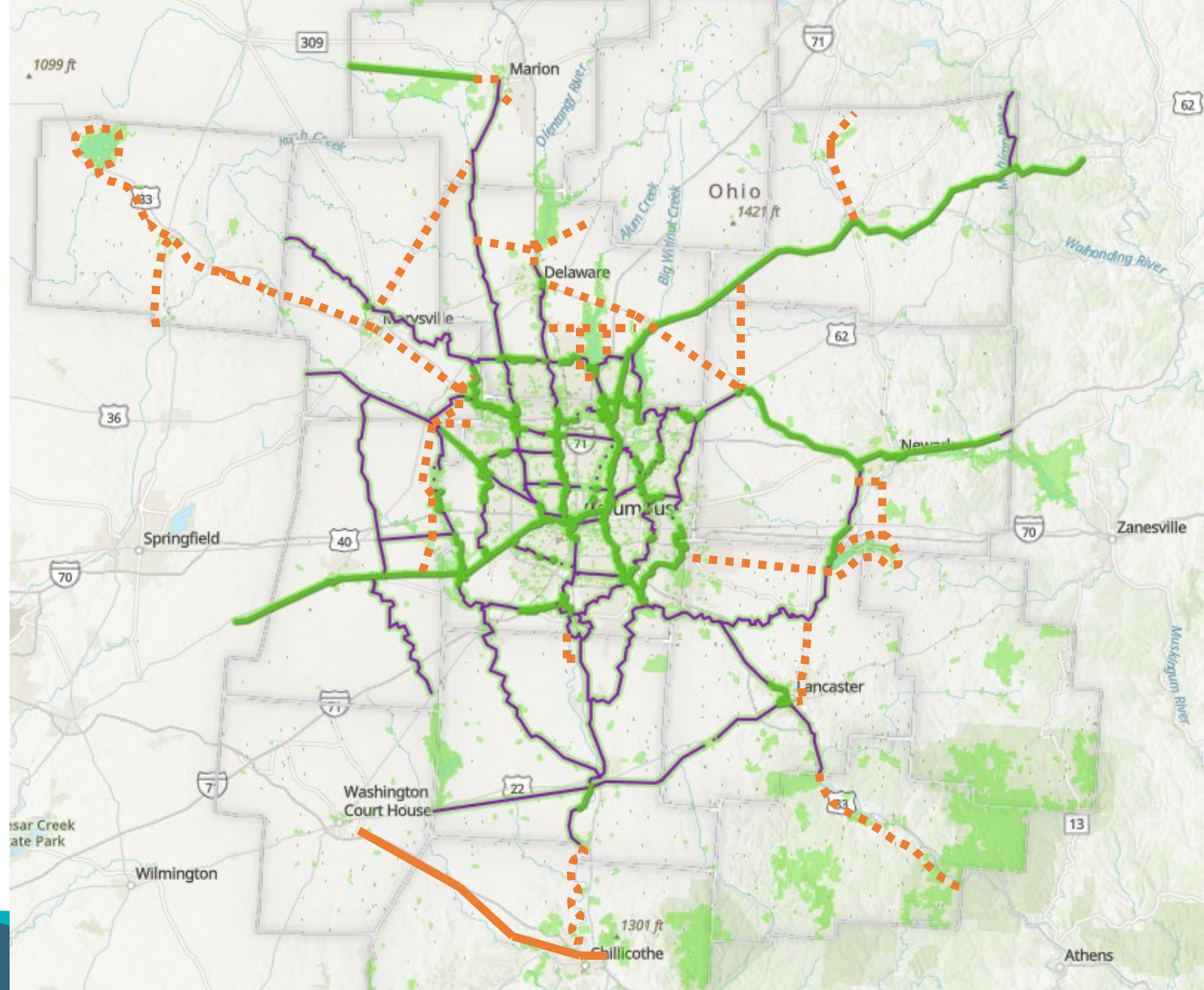
- Some existing trail at OSU-M, which could be a gateway.
- Approximately 3.5 miles of proposed trail and 0.5 miles of existing trail.
- Should this be a Marion Loop?
- Is Marion a Trail Town?



NW AREA



ALL PROPOSED UPDATES



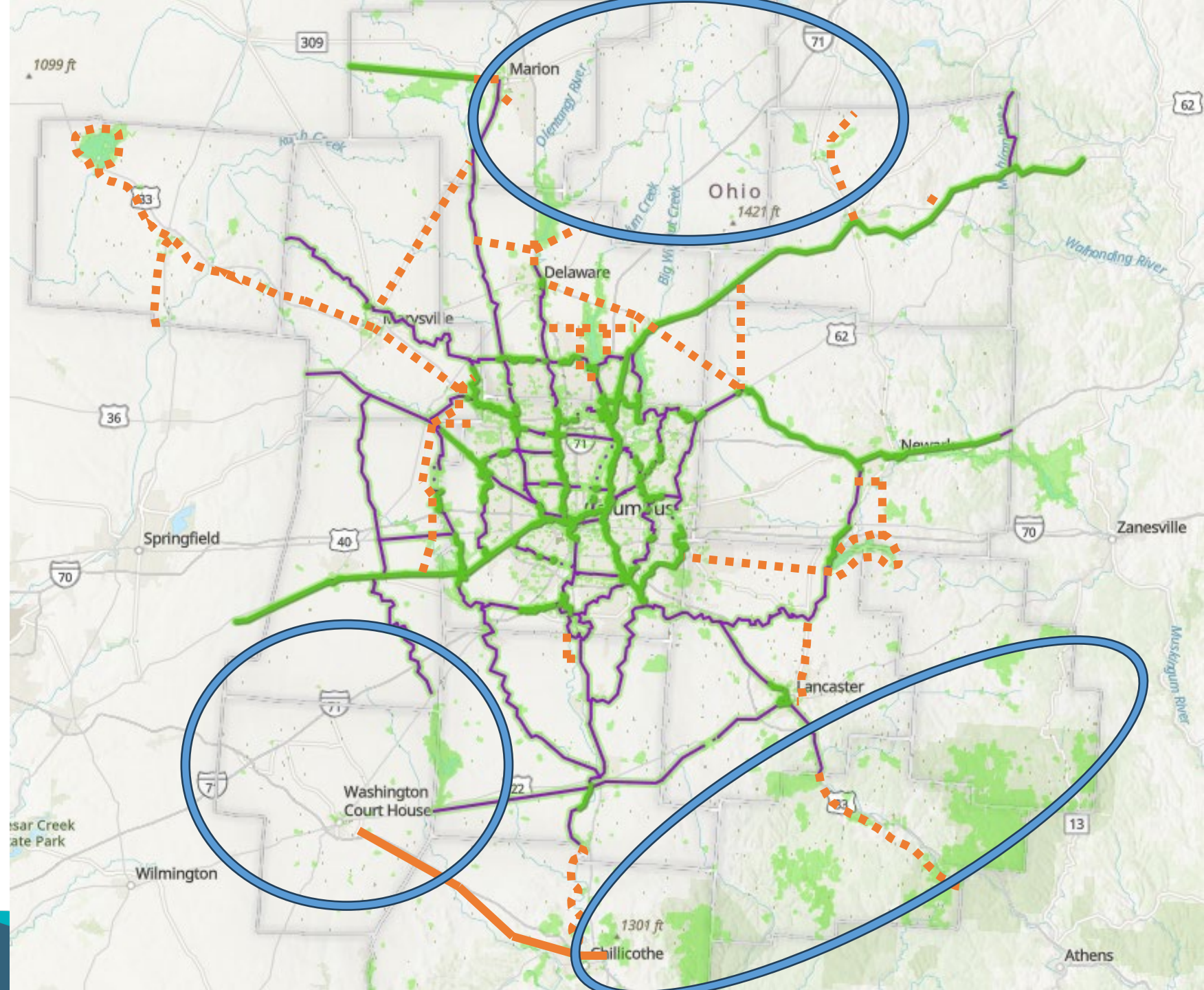
**To consider
later...**



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Opportunities for 2025 GPS Workshops

- Connectivity in all directions in far NE Area.
- Connections between natural and cultural amenities of far SE Area.
- Connectivity between trails that end in SW Area.

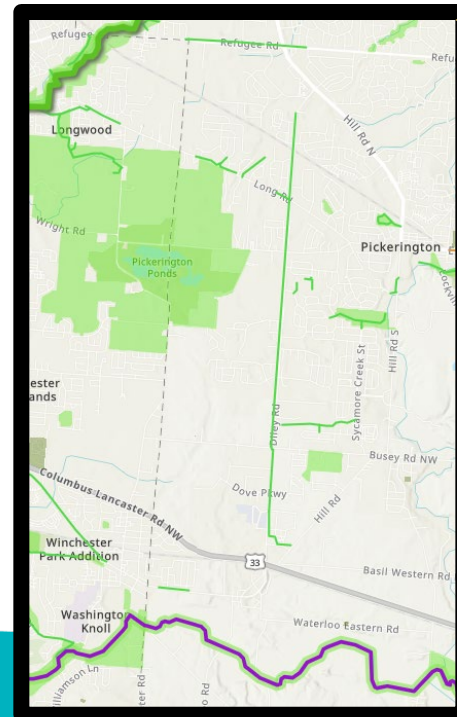
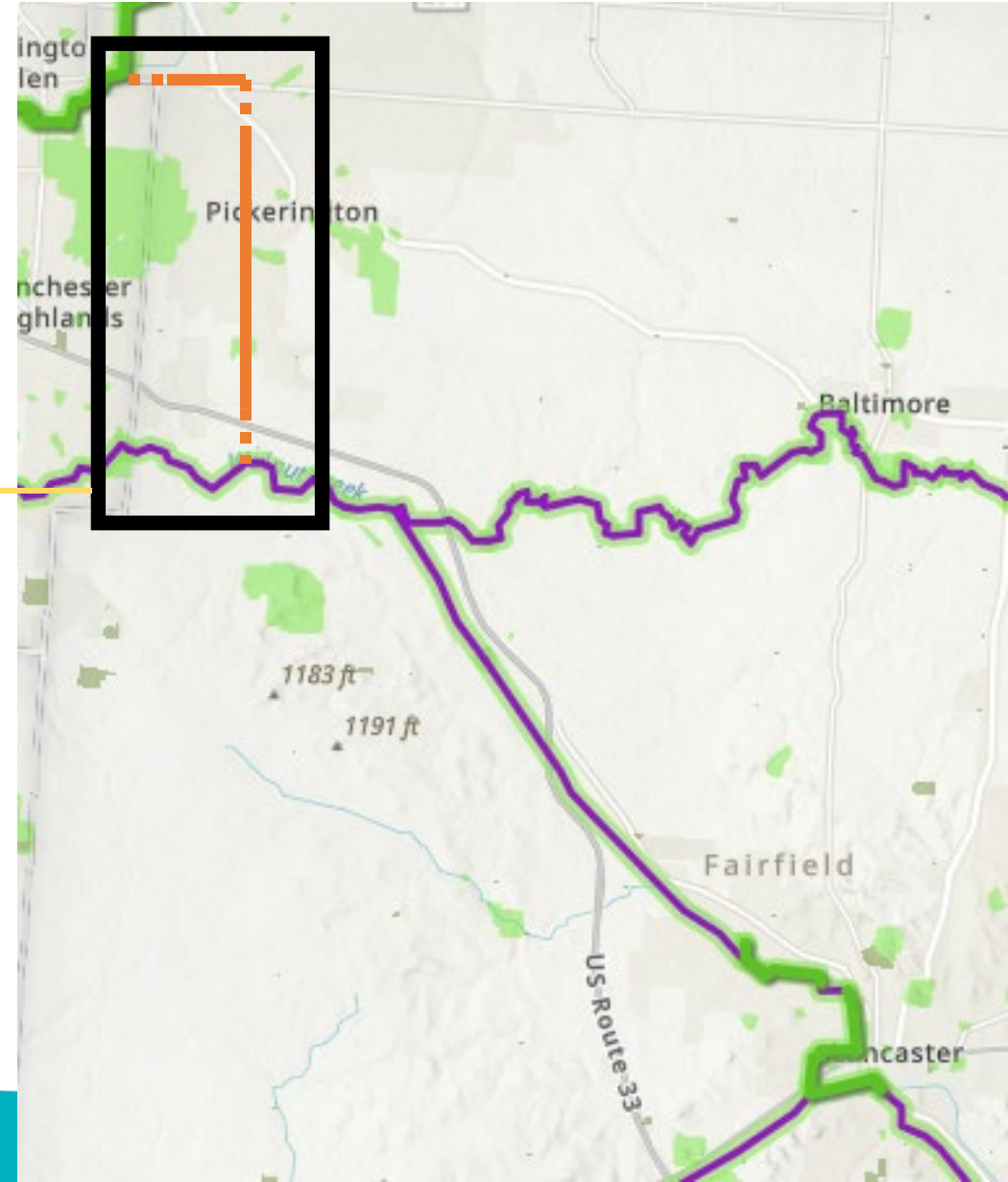


Fairfield County North-South Connectivity



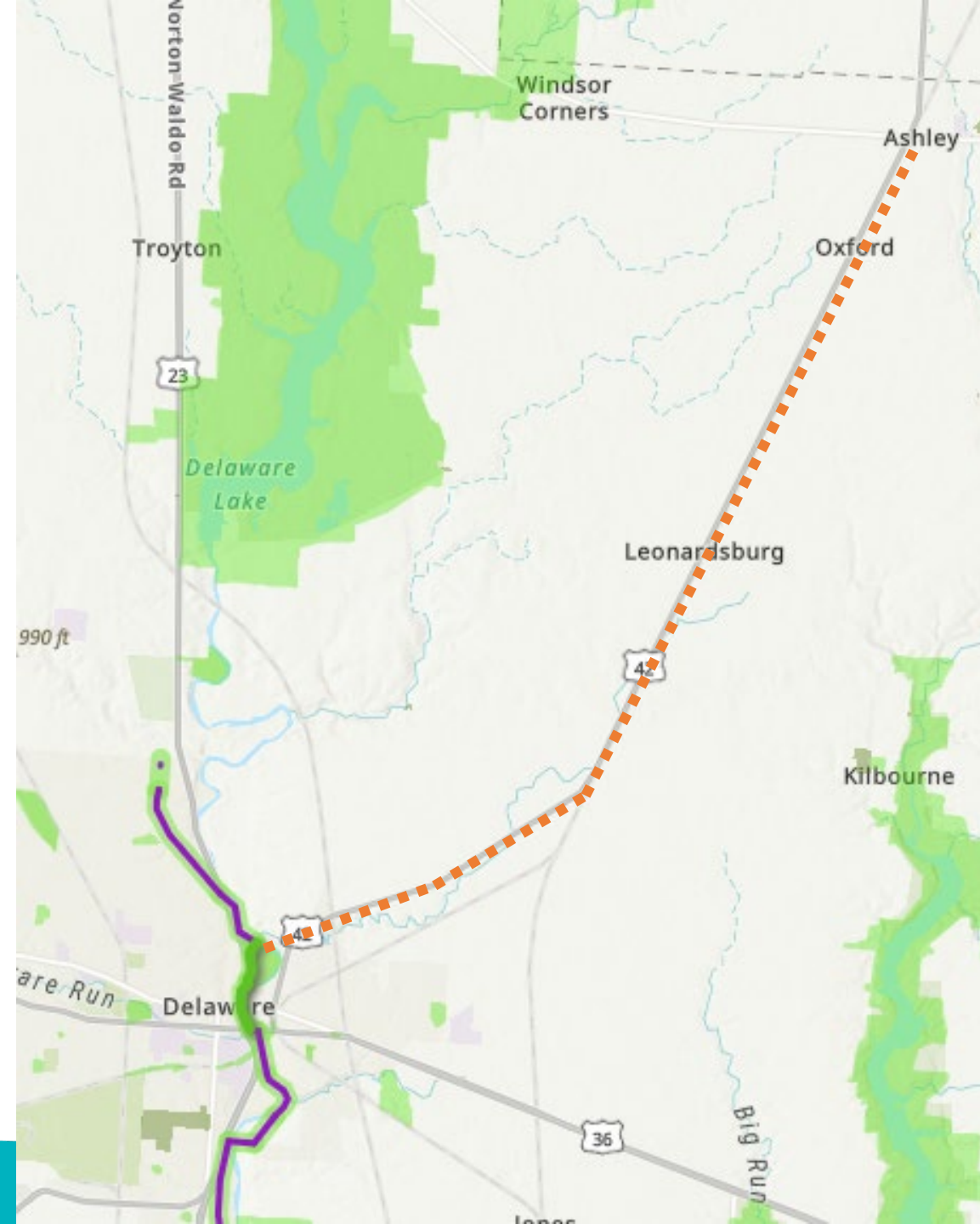
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- Enhance north-south connectivity between Columbus (and suburbs), Pickerington, and Lancaster.
- Mostly Existing SUP. Is this a Trail?
- There are existing MUPs along much of Diley Road and Some of Refugee Road that are not currently in the COG Vision.
- Recommended by: Fairfield County & Pickerington



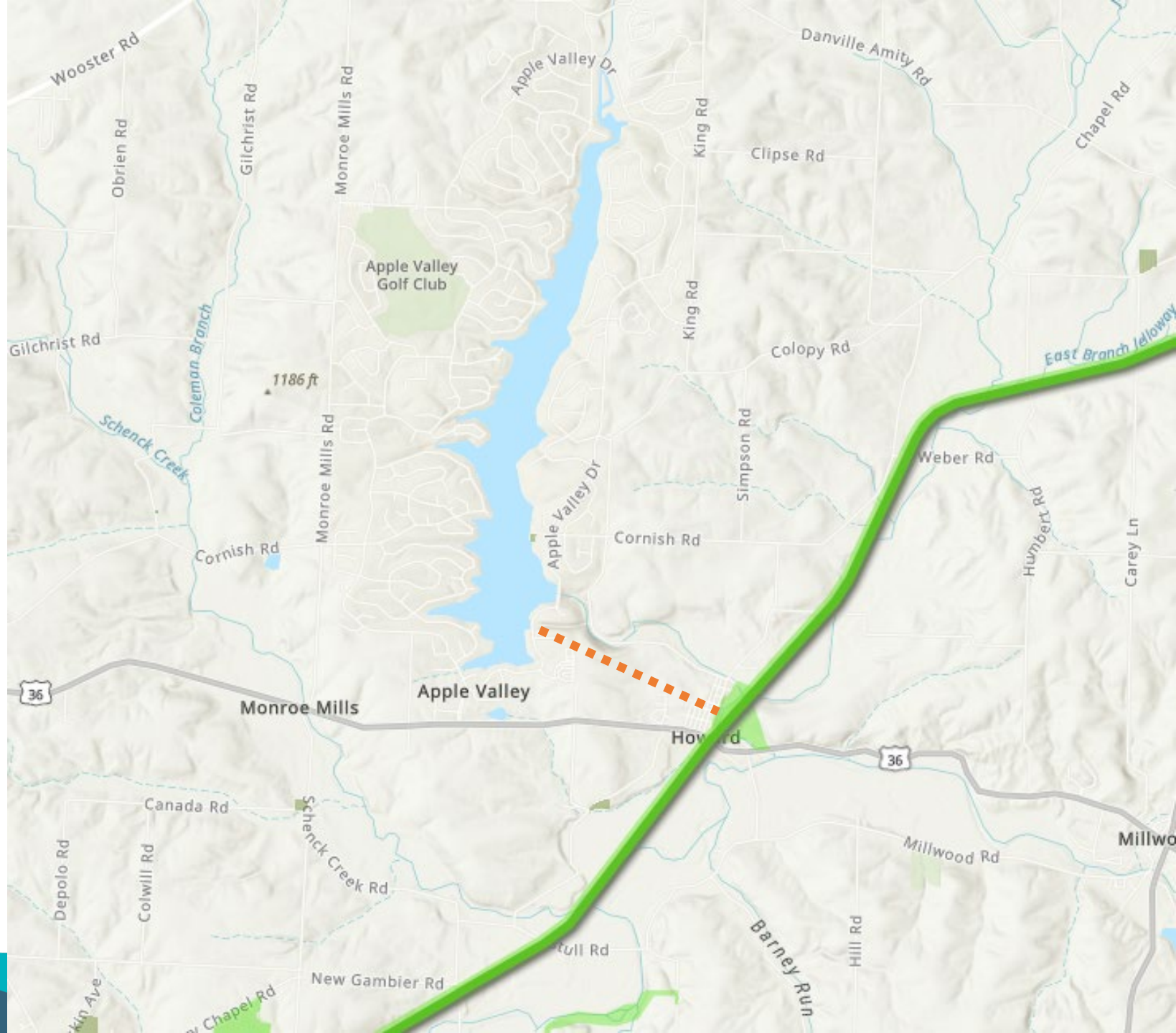
Delaware-Ashley Connection

- Potential north-south connection for currently disconnected village.



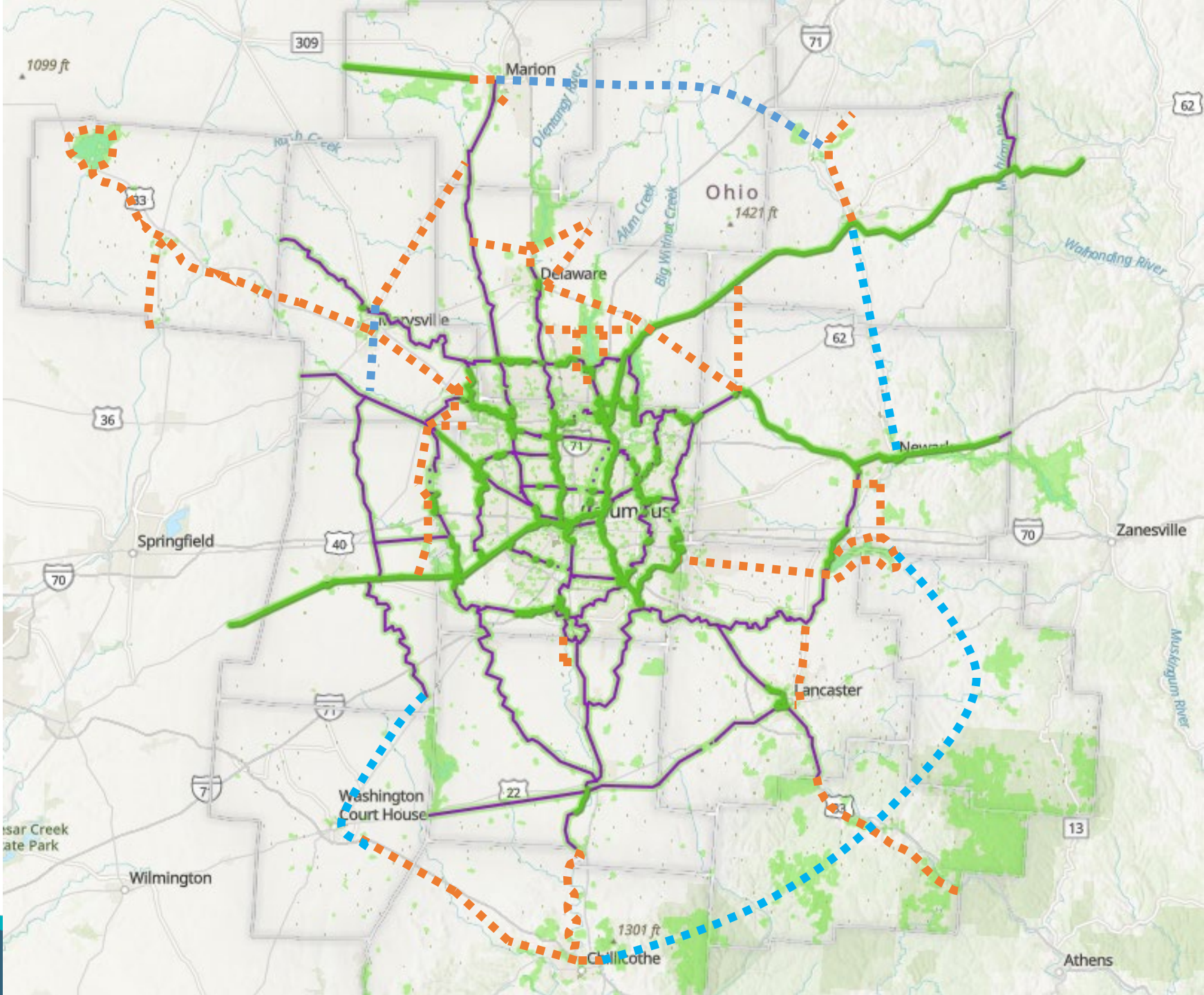
Connecting Apple Valley Lake to the OTET

- Apple Valley Lake is tourist destination.
- Potential new connection to OTET.
- Recommended by: Kokosing Gap Trail.



Regional Trail “Outer Belt”

Food for thought...



Thank You!

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She/Her

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