



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

**NOTICE OF A MEETING:
CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS STEERING COMMITTEE**

*HYBRID MEETING:
NOVEMBER 12, 2024: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM*

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome & Purpose**
- 2. World River's Cleanup Day 2024**

Staff shared that 3,750 pounds of trash were removed from eight different locations across Central Ohio, and thanks were extended to all volunteers and partners involved in the cleanup.
- 3. Working Group Updates**
 - a. Water Trail Designation
Goals include updating GIS files by May 2025, revising partnership agreements by July 2025, and obtaining State Water Trail designation for Big Walnut Creek by December 2025.
 - b. Environmental Stewardship
Plans to develop an onion bag project pilot program by May 2025, and development of a Native Vegetation Guide by August 2025 and an Invasive Species ID Guide by October 2025.
 - c. User Experience
A hazard removal consortium is to be created by May 2025, a signage plan/package will be completed by October 2025, and an Access Point Sponsorship Program is planned to be created by December 2025.
- 4. 2025 Meeting Dates**
 - a. Q1 – February 12, 2025
 - b. Q2 – May 14, 2025
 - c. Q3 – August 13, 2025
 - d. Q4 – November 12, 2025
- 5. Informational Items**
 - a. Outerspatial Platform
Members and staff discussed adopting the Outerspatial platform for enhanced mapping capabilities. Staff is awaiting cost estimates for the platform.
 - b. River Cleanup 2025
Staff announced plans for a friendly cleanup competition with Licking County for the 30th anniversary of the Licking County River Roundup. Members discussed coordinating the event to maximize volunteer participation and impact.
- 6. Adjourn**

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary



**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Hybrid Meeting**

Blueways Steering Committee Meeting

November 13, 2024

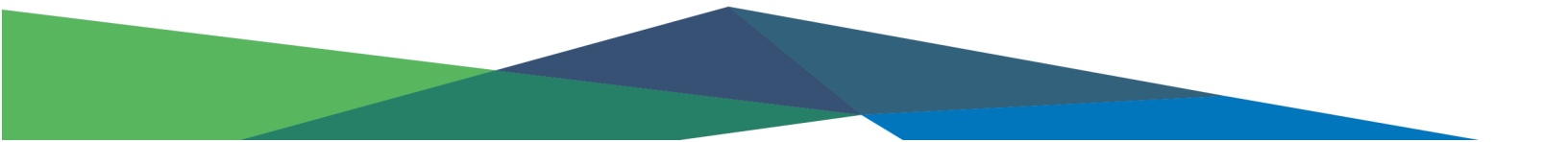
Members Present

- Aryeh Alex, City of Columbus
- Maria Conroy, OSU
- Doug Crandall, Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries
- Joseph Long, City of Whitehall
- Zach Messinger, Preservation Parks
- Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington
- J.M. Rayburn, City of Dublin
- Broc Sehen, Madison Soil & Water Conservation District
- Pamela Steck, City of Columbus
- Jon Tolbert Experience Columbus
- Daniel Weis, T&M Associates

Staff Present

- Lynn Kaufman
- Jonathan Miller
- Melinda Vonstein

Public Present

- Rohn Benedetti
 - Abigail Obert, Franklin County Engineer's Office
- 



CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS

Steering Committee

November 13, 2024



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PLANNING COMMISSION

AGENDA



- **WELCOME & PURPOSE**
- **WORLD RIVER'S DAY CLEANUP 2024**
- **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**
- **2025 MEETING DATES**
- **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
- **ADJOURN**



INTRODUCTIONS



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- **NAME**
- **ORGANIZATION / ROLE**
- **WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN WATERWAYS
(RECREATION, CONSERVATION,
OR PRESERVATION)?**



WORLD RIVER'S DAY CLEANUP 2024



3,750

POUNDS OF TRASH REMOVED



SCIOTO RIVER

GREENLAWN DAM
(BELOW)

SCIOTO GROVE
METRO PARK

OLENTANGY RIVER

Highbanks Metro
Park

TUTTLE PARK

ALUM CREEK

PATHWAYS PARK

SCHNEIDER PARK

BIG WALNUT CREEK

BIG WALNUT PARK

FRIENDSHIP PARK

WORKING GROUP UPDATES



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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GOALS

By May of 2025, develop an Onion Bag Project pilot program and implementation plan for Central Ohio owners and/or operators of public access points to assist in the installation of onion bag dispensers.

By August of 2025, develop a native vegetation guide that identifies the top five (5) to ten (10) trees and/or shrubs that are suitable for residential uses and act as excellent pollutant filtration and/or inhibit invasive species growth.

By October of 2025, develop an invasive species ID guide for users of Central Ohio waterways which identifies the top five (5) to ten (10) invasive species or both flora and fauna in or around Central Ohio waterways.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES



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USER EXPERIENCE GOALS

By May of 2025, create a hazard removal consortium which includes a minimum of ten (10) members from governmental agencies, nonprofits, or advocacy groups with the capacity to contribute financially to the identification and removal of waterway hazards to improve reliable safety and usage of Central Ohio's waterways.

By October of 2025, complete a signage plan/package that has the support of community, nonprofit, and advocacy group stakeholders which communities can use to unify and strengthen the Central Ohio Blueway system and brand by promoting clear and safe access and enhances the trail experience.

By December of 2025, create an Access Point Sponsorship Program the contains draft programmatic details and obtain ten (10) commitments to generate additional funding, ease the maintenance burdens of access point owners/operators, and increase the usage and awareness of waterway access points in Central Ohio.

WORKING GROUP UPDATES



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WATER TRAIL DESIGNATION GOALS

By May of 2025, update and create new GIS files with data related to access point amenities, waterway hazards, portage routes, and private property areas so help inform waterway users of the amenities and areas of caution along Central Ohio's waterways.

By July of 2025, update the draft version of the Partnership Agreements, a requirement for State Water Trail designation, with sections and details that are important for all stakeholders along waterways to be used in the Water Trail designation process.

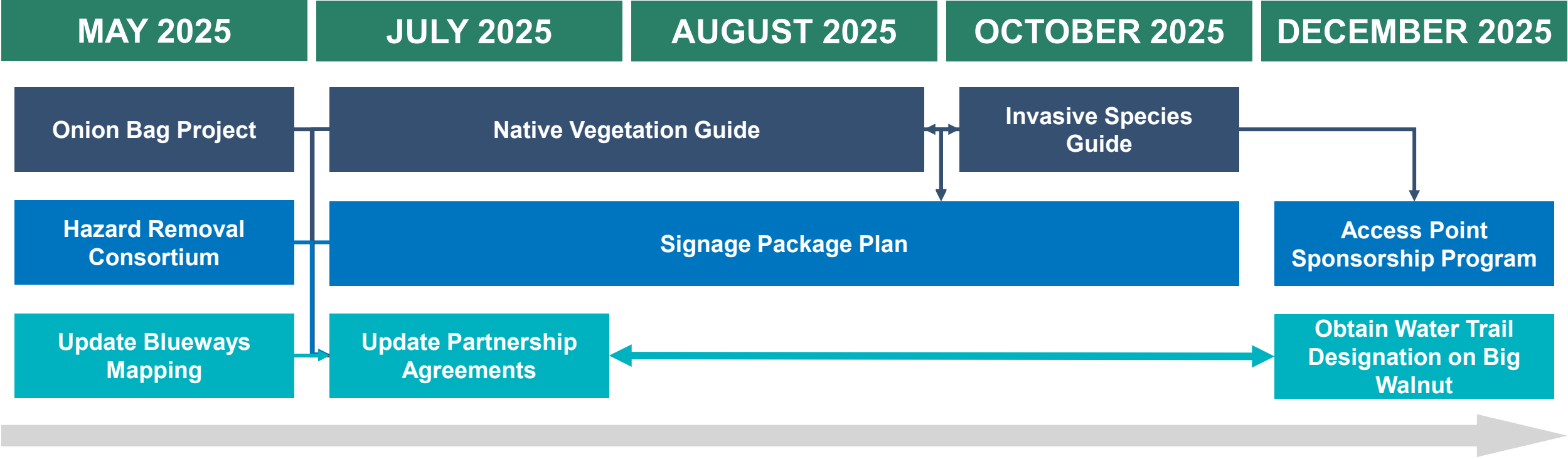
By December of 2025, obtain State Water Trail designation of the Big Walnut Creek through ODNR to increase exposure and promote stewardship of the Creek as a model to pursue State Water Trail designation on other waterways in Central Ohio

WORKING GROUP UPDATES



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BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER



2025 MEETING DATES



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QUARTERLY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Q1 (JANUARY, **FEBRUARY**, MARCH)

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Q2 (APRIL, **MAY**, JUNE)

MAY 14, 2025

Q3 (JULY, **AUGUST**, SEPTEMBER)

AUGUST 13, 2025

Q4 (OCTOBER, **NOVEMBER**, DECEMBER)

NOVEMBER 12, 2025

All proposed Steering Committee Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS



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OUTERSPATIAL PLATFORM

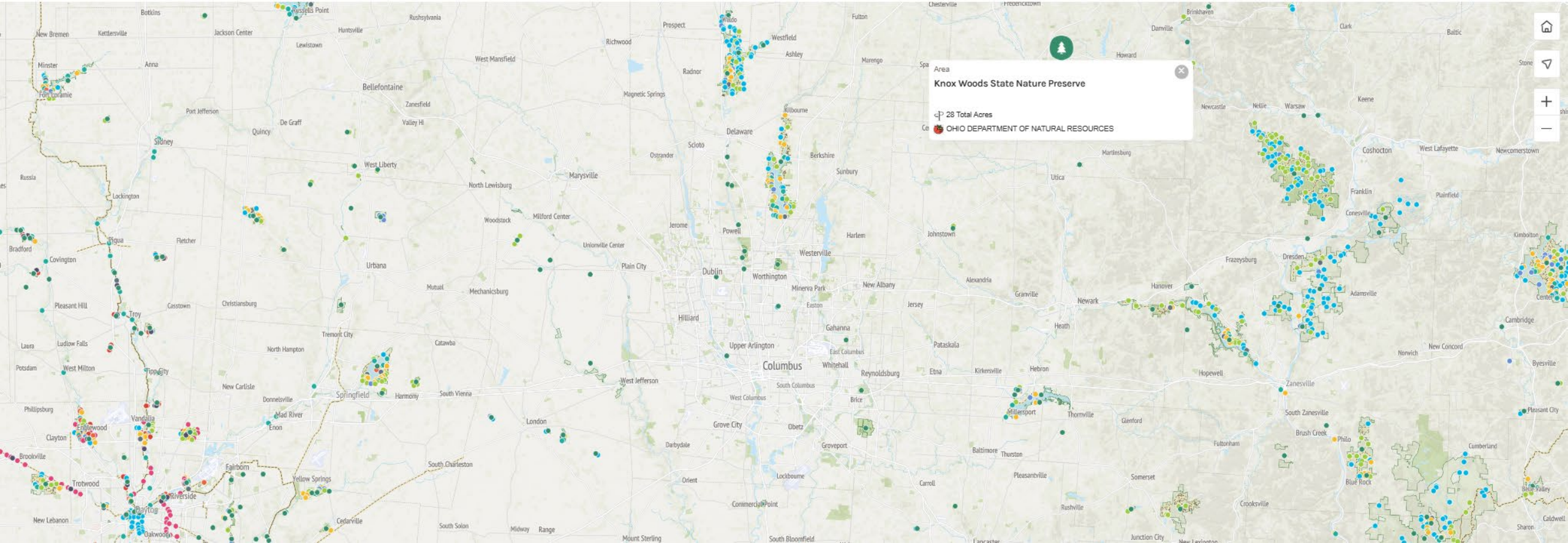
OuterSpatial



OHIO TRAILS + EXPLORE

- Biking
- Camping
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Hunting
- Off-roading

Search the map...



RIVER CLEANUP 2025

FRIENDLY CLEANUP COMPETITION

LICKING COUNTY RIVER ROUNDUP

LICKING COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- 30th Anniversary
 - Began in 1988 (No cleanup between 2003 and 2011)
- Want to go BIG
- Still deciding on a date in September 2025

LICKING COUNTY RIVER ROUNDUP BY THE NUMBERS

- 12 LOCATIONS
- 288 VOLUNTEERS

12,000 POUNDS OF TRASH

124 TIRES

1,420 POUNDS OF SCRAP METAL

Let me know if you're interested in helping plan the 2025 River Cleanup

JONATHAN MILLER, MPA, AICP, GISP

Principal Planner

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