

Central Ohio Greenways

Detours & Closures Best Practices

Encouraging development of the Central Ohio Greenways Regional Trail Network with safe, accessible, and welcoming detours & closures best practices



- Detour Planning Checklist**
- 1. Assess
 - 2. Report
 - 3. Design Detour
 - 4. Implementation
 - 5. Trail Re-opening

STEP 1: ASSESS THE DURATION & IMPACT

Consider the following when assessing the closure:

trail use; duration; availability of surrounding walking & biking infrastructure; and nearby destinations

Sample assessment: *The six-month closure of “Green Trail” will impact a significant number of commuters. There is a parallel protected bike lane on “Blue Blvd” that that is a ½ mile from the trail that could be used by many trail users to access the major job center. Coordination with our neighboring jurisdiction, “Yellow Town” will be needed as the protected bike lane is partially in their jurisdiction. This is expected to be a long-term, high-impact closure.*

STEP 2: REPORT CLOSURE

Short-term Closures (7+ days notice)

Hourly, and Low Impact Closures (24+ hours notice)

- Make a post on your local social media accounts
- Contact Franklin County Metro Parks (for Metro Parks maintained trails) to submit a text alert.

Long-Term and High Impact Closures (30+ days notice)

- Email COG@morpc.org to request a post on CentralOhioGreenways.com/alerts
- Contact known impacted partners
- Consider submitting updates to Google Maps (Refer to the COG Wayfinding Strategy, page 192)

CLOSURE DEFINITIONS

Long-Term: Those lasting more than one month.

Short-Term: Those lasting more than 24 hours, but less than one month.

Hourly: Those lasting less than 24 hours and have minimal impact on trail users.

High-Impact: Those lasting a short period of time but impacting a large number of people. e.g. Alum Creek, Olentangy

HOW DO TRAIL USERS ACCESS THE MOST UP TO DATE TRAIL ALERTS?

- CentralOhioGreenways.com/alerts
- To sign-up to get text alerts on your cell phone text “Greenways” to [1-781-728-9542](tel:1-781-728-9542) (for metro parks-maintained trails only)
- Follow local trail manager, park district, and trail user group social media accounts.

STEP 3: DESIGN THE DETOUR

Detours should provide a similar level of comfort to the trail that is being closed. Sometimes this may require:

- a temporary on road closure; or
- routing onto a sidewalk.

If a similar level of comfort may not be provided, share safety concerns with cautionary signage and digital communications.

DETOUR DESIGN & PLANNING ASSISTANCE

For long-term and high-impact closures, MORPC staff and the COG Trail Development Working Group may be engaged to provide detour planning assistance and facilitate collaboration with relevant partners.

This may include, when relevant:

- A meeting with impacted jurisdictions
- Maintenance of Traffic recommendations that follow MUTCD requirements and "COG Wayfinding Strategy"
- Temporary infrastructure recommendations such as protected bike lanes and barricades
- Communications tools, such as a public facing detour map, social media post, and post on the CentralOhioGreenways.com "Alerts" page

To request assistance at least 30 days in advance, email an assessment from Step 1 to COG@morpc.org.

STEP 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF DETOUR

Local jurisdictions are responsible for implementing the detour. This may include setting barricades, signage, and pavement markings.

MORPC staff can support communication efforts on social media and CentralOhioGreenways.com.

STEP 5: TRAIL RE-OPENING

Once the trail is open and the detour is no longer needed, alert users, COG staff, and adjacent jurisdictions to the reopening.

- Alert stakeholders including, COG@morpc.org, trail users through relevant social media accounts, and other stakeholders
- Update permanent signage, if necessary

BEST PRACTICE

A long-term trail detour at The Ohio State University was signed with trail stickers and a green dashed line that made following the route a seamless experience.



For more information, visit:

www.centralohiogreenways.com

 Central Ohio Greenways

 @centralohiogreenways

Melinda Vonstein, AICP

Central Ohio Greenways Studio Lead

mvonstein@morpc.org



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