



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

**NOTICE OF A MEETING
CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS COMBINED
USER EXPERIENCE & WATER TRAIL DESIGNATION WORKING GROUP
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

REMOTE MEETING

March 20, 2025, 11:00 am

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. MORPC Updates

Karina Peggau announced the formation of the combined User Experience Working Group and Water Trail Designation Working Group into one combined "River Ready" Working Group.

3. Review Prior Work

Review of the ODNR requirements to designate Big Walnut Creek as an Ohio Water Trail:

Water Trail Designation Working Group

- Local government entities along Big Walnut Creek have been initially contacted to inform them about the process of designating Big Walnut Creek as a Water Trail. Member Miller reported that preliminary outreach to these entities had begun, ensuring they were aware of the upcoming changes and involvement needed in the water trail designation process. No formal meetings with these entities have occurred yet, but there is a plan to involve them more integrally in future discussions to ensure their community's access points are appropriately incorporated into the water trail plans. Follow-up meetings are anticipated to include these entities more directly, aiming to gather their input and address any concerns they might have regarding the designation and use of the trail.

User Experience Working Group

- The review of previously mapped access points and hazards along Big Walnut Creek was a significant point of discussion. It was noted that although the maps and data had been established, there remained a need for "ground truthing" – a process where the actual conditions on the ground are verified against the data represented on the map. The aim is to confirm the accuracy of listed access points and to validate whether the marked hazards are indeed as treacherous as indicated. This verification is crucial for ensuring the safety and usability of the water trail for the public. Members of the Working Group were tasked with reviewing this information before the next meeting to provide updated and accurate feedback, which will be integral in refining the trail's official documentation and brochures.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

- Members also discussed the development of a comprehensive water trail brochure, aimed at enhancing the user experience and ensuring safety along Big Walnut Creek. The discussion highlighted the inclusion of several key elements within the brochure: emergency contact numbers, descriptions of common hazards, and detailed information about access points. This brochure is intended to serve as an informational guide for trail users, providing them with essential details such as where to enter and exit the creek, points of interest along the trail, and locations of potential hazards they should be cautious of. Moreover, the brochure will outline safety measures and provide emergency contact information to ensure that users can respond effectively in case of incidents. The Group emphasized the importance of this brochure in promoting a safe and enjoyable experience for all users, and they discussed strategies for its distribution and accessibility once completed.

4. Next Steps

- Members agreed to review the example of a successful Water Trail Designation (Olentangy River): [Olentangy River Water Trail.pdf](#), or [Portage River](#).
- Members agreed to review the Blueways Map and contact MORPC staff with any revisions or feedback: [MIDOHIO OPEN DATA \(MOOD\)](#) >> Blueways, specifically checking the validity of hazards and access points, and listing any amenities at access points, such as bathrooms, free parking, picnic tables, etc.
- MORPC staff will schedule another Working Group meeting for approximately one month from today's date to discuss the progress and ensure the involvement of all jurisdictions along Big Walnut Creek. The Working Group Members will establish a meeting cadence and timeline for the project in the next meeting, ensuring regular updates and progress tracking.

5. 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 Combined User Experience & Water Trail Designation
Working Group Meeting Date and Time TBD
This Meeting will be held remotely; details to follow.**

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Remote Meeting

Central Ohio Blueways Combined User Experience
& Water Trail Designation Working Group Meeting


March 20, 2025

Members Present

Maria Conroy, OSU
Catherine Eichel, City of Gahanna
Zac Guthrie, City of Gahanna
Jonathan Miller, Burgess & Niple

Staff Present

Tunazzina Alam
Lynn Kaufman
Jessica Kuenzli
Karina Peggau





Central Ohio Blueways

“River Ready” Working Group



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The “River Ready” Working Group

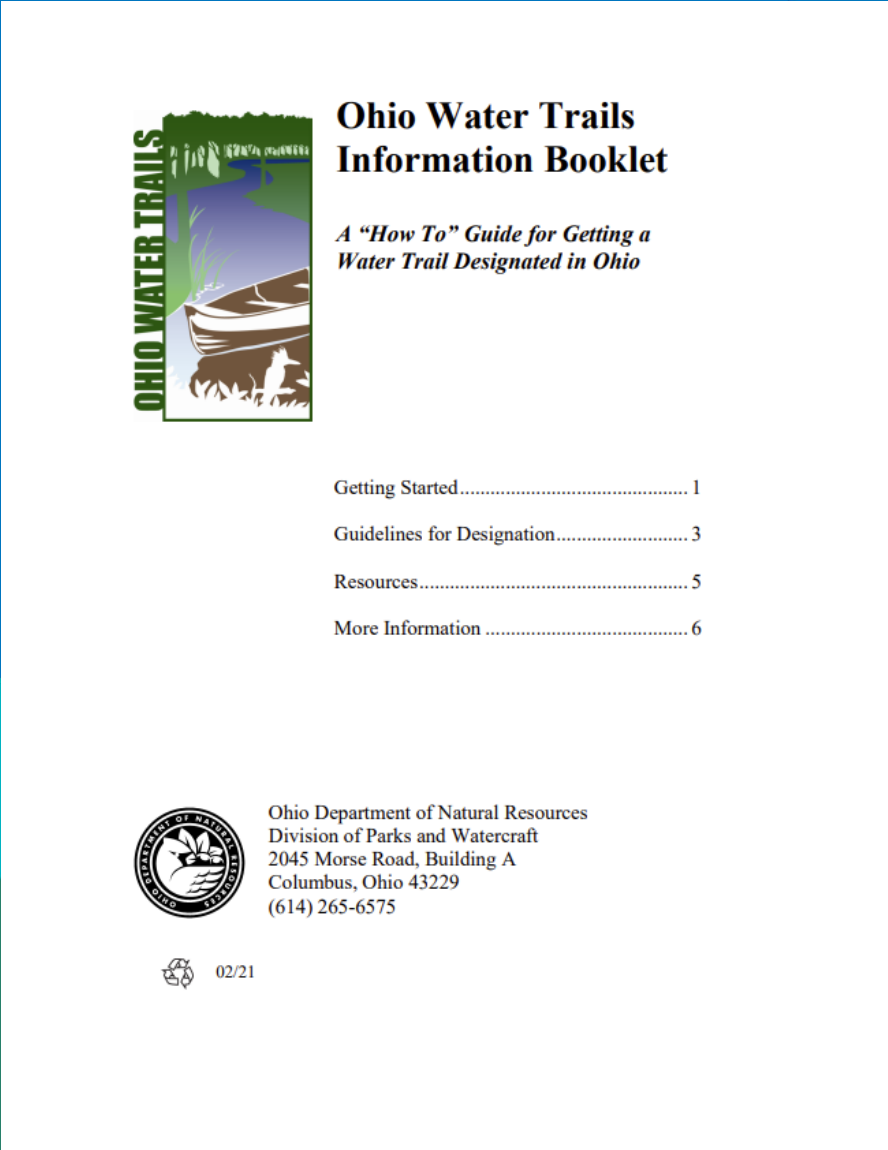
- Combined User Experience and Water Trail Designation Working Group
 - Low attendance at meetings
 - Both groups work towards the same goal
 - Enables more discussion and idea exchange
 - Consolidates workload and meeting schedule



MORPC

GROUP OBJECTIVES

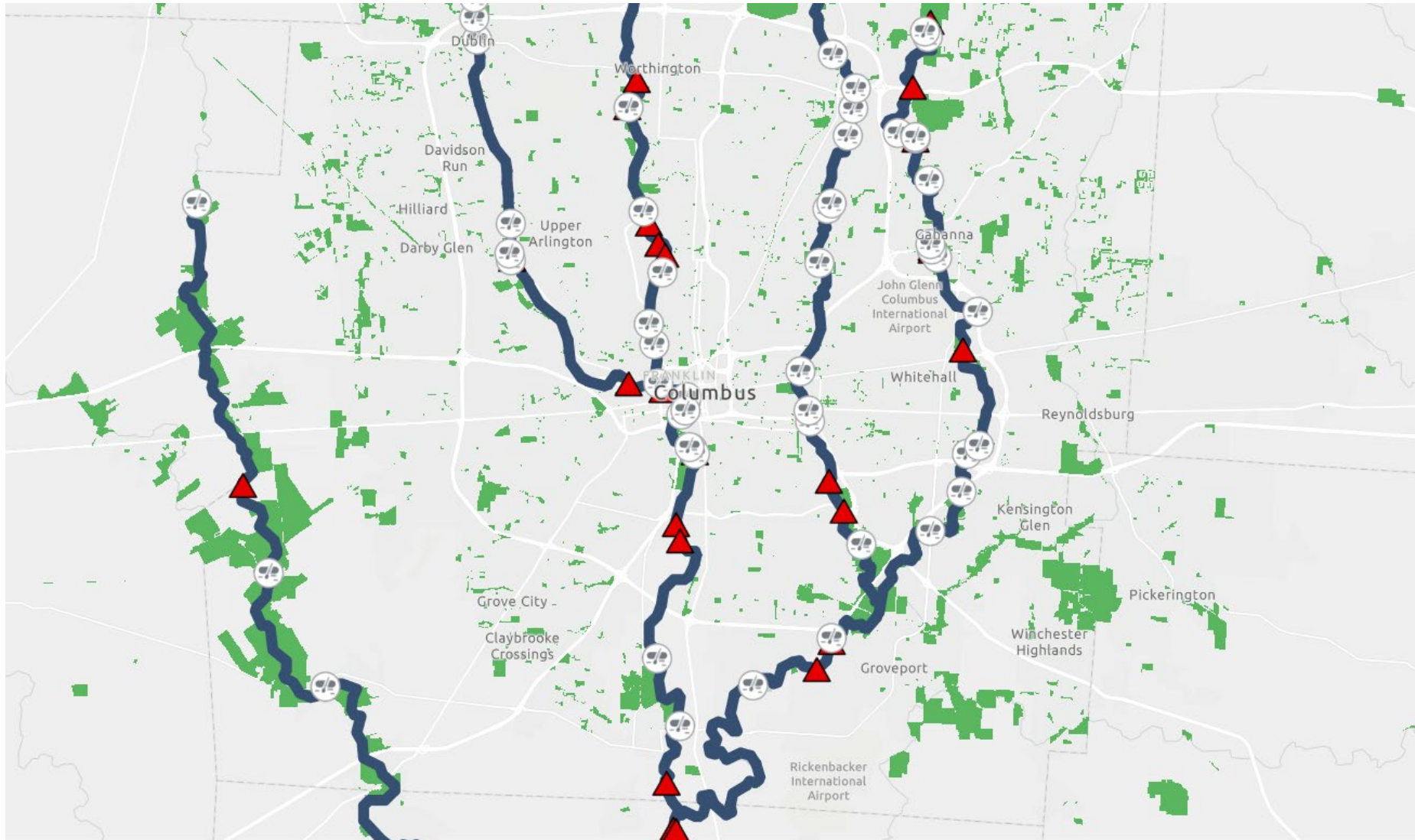
- Designate Big Walnut Creek as a Water Trail
 - Public Planning
 - Local Government Notification
 - Create a Water Trail Logo
 - Mapping and Signage
 - Access Points
 - Management/Stewardship Commitment
 - Safety Information



CURRENT PROGRESS

- Designate Big Walnut Creek as a Water Trail
 - Public Planning
 - **Local Government Notification**
 - Create a Water Trail Logo
 - **Mapping** and Signage
 - **Access Points**, hazards, points of interest and natural, cultural, historical features
 - **Management/Stewardship Commitment**
 - Safety Information

Big Walnut Creek Map



NEXT STEPS

- Review Big Walnut Creek map and hazards
 - Review Olentangy River Water Trail brochure
 - Think through a timeline
 - Water Trail Signage best practices
-
- Meeting Cadence – Monthly? Bimonthly?

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