



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

**CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS BOARD MEETING**  
**HYBRID**  
MICROSOFT TEAMS  
OR  
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
111 LIBERTY ST, SUITE 100  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215

**October 1, 2024**

**1:30 – 3:00**

**AGENDA**

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions:** *Mike Andrako*
- 2) **MORPC Updates** – *MORPC Staff*
- 3) **COG Partner Updates**
  - i. **RAPID 5** – *Luke Messinger*
  - ii. **LinkUS** – *Zach Sunderland*
  - iii. **Blueways** – *Jonathan Miller*
  - iv. **Ohio to Erie Trail** – *Jody Dzurandin*
  - v. **Buckeye Trail Fest** – *Jody Dzurandin*
  - vi. **Others**
- 4) **COG Working Group and Steering Committee Updates -**
  - a. **COG Board Project Updates** – *Melinda Vonstein*
    - i. **COG Mapping Natural Assets**
    - ii. **COG Detours and Reroutes Guidelines**
  - b. **Trail Development Working Group** - *Kelly Scocco*
    1. **Regional Collaboration Meetings**
    2. **Trail Etiquette** – *Laura Ball*
  - c. **Trail Towns Working Group** – *Kari Kaufman*
    1. **Logo and Brand Development**
    2. **Outerspatial** – *Melinda Vonstein*
- 5) **Other Business** – *Board Members*
- 6) **Closing** – *Mike Andrako*

**William Murdock, AICP**  
*Executive Director*

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
*Chair*

**Michelle Crandall**  
*Vice Chair*

**Ben Kessler**  
*Secretary*



# CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS

## Board Meeting

October 1, 2024



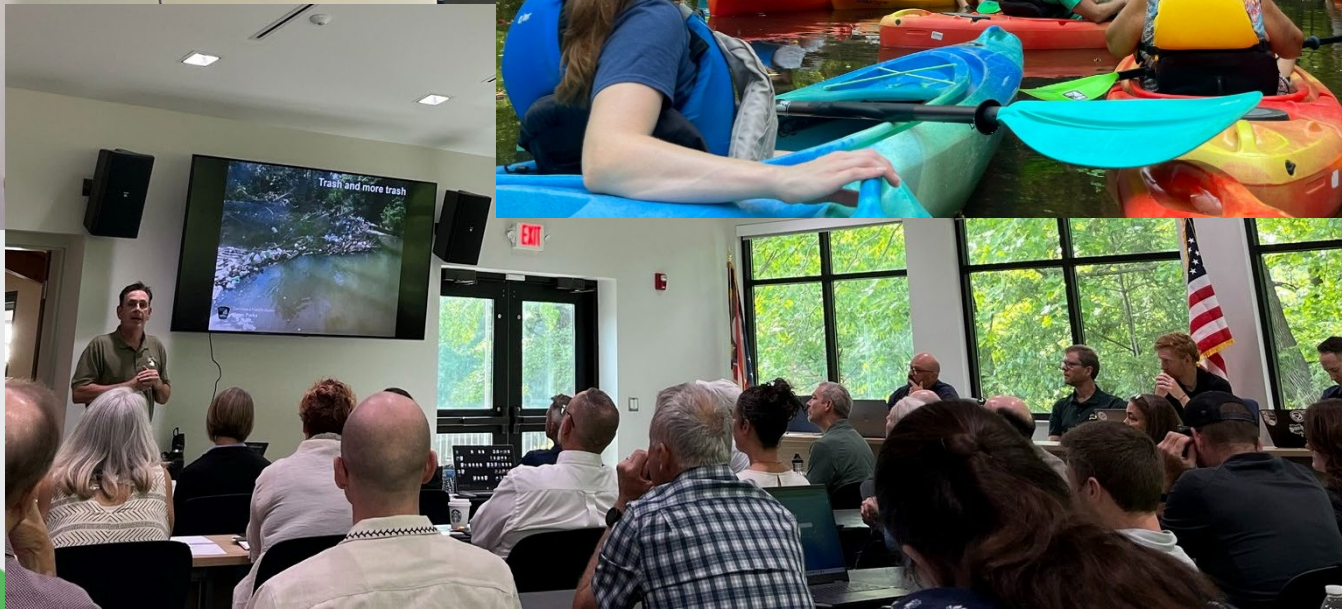
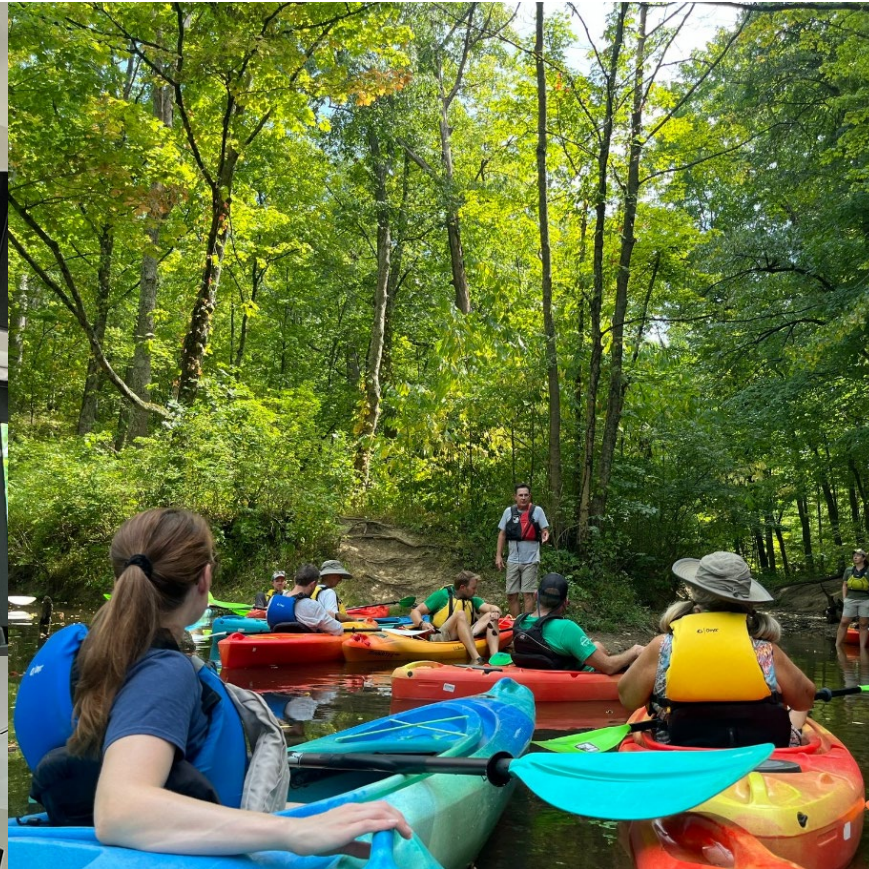
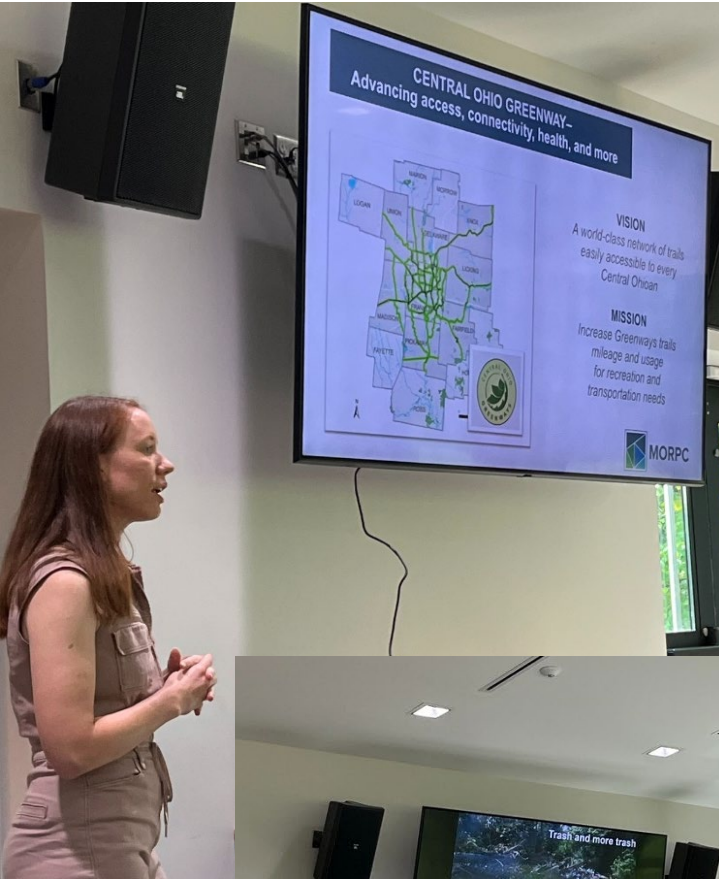
MORPC

# OPENING ACCESS TO THE REGION'S BLUE & GREENWAYS

## Summer COG Forum

Ideas for the Winter COG Forum?

Submit them to Melinda Vonstein by  
October 31, 2024





# **GROWING BETTER TOGETHER**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY**

October 29, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Hilton Columbus Downtown  
401 North High Street | Columbus, OH 43215

# Current Technical Assistance Activities



MORPC

## Active Transportation Planning

Active Transportation Project Prioritization

Complete Streets Policy Development

Transit Supportive Infrastructure Planning

## Central Ohio Greenways Visioning

Central Ohio Greenways Vision Refinement

Trail Access & Connectivity Planning

Trail Town Planning

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

Complete Streets Safety Audit

Systemic Pedestrian Safety Analysis

Safety Action Plan Development

## Land Use Planning

Transit Oriented Development Planning

Conceptual Development Framework

## Other

Write your own Scope of Work

# Important Dates for 2025 Program Cycle



MORPC

July 22, 2024

- 2025 DRAFT Program Guide Posted Online

September 4, 2024

- **CAC/TAC Meetings for Final Approval**

September 16, 2024

- **Call for Applications**

September 18, 2024

- Informational Webinar



October 11, 2024

- **Deadline to Submit Applications**

November 15, 2024

- Awardees Notified

End of Nov

- **Kick-off Meetings with Awardees**

[www.morpc.org/program-service/technical-assistance-program](http://www.morpc.org/program-service/technical-assistance-program)

# Community-Based Planning Assistance



## CONSULTANT SERVICES PROGRAM



Assistance with the RFP and Consultant Procurement Process for Planning & Zoning Related Activities

RFP Clearinghouse for all member community projects

## PLANNER POOL PROGRAM



Assistance with Smaller-Scale Projects and Pre-Planning Activities

Short-term temporary planning staffing assistance

# COG BOARD NOMINATIONS : DUE OCT 31, 2024



MORPC

Private Partners	Non-Profit Partners	Trail User Groups
Suburban Community	Chamber of Commerce	Tourism Partner
Rural Communities	Environmental Partner	BOARD CHAIR



# COG PARTNER UPDATES



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

# PARTNER UPDATE : RAPID 5

5





# MORE COTA, MORE SIDEWALKS, MORE OPPORTUNITY

Central Ohio Greenways  
October 1, 2024

COTA

Franklin County  
BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS

MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
MORPC  
PLANNING COMMISSION

THE CITY OF  
COLUMBUS  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

COLUMBUS  
PARTNERSHIP



Link <sup>us</sup>  
Moving our region. Together.



# LinkUS Town Halls

Heavily promoting town halls, boosting each one on social media and preparing toolkits for each one that includes a social post and template for email marketing for all partners to be able to share out on their channels. Our goal is to drive as many RSVP's as possible so share, share, SHARE!

## Remaining Dates:

~~September 12 – Carriage Place Community Center~~

~~September 23 – CML Northlights~~

October 2 – COTA McKinley Facility – Noon (ADA-focused)

October 3 – COTA McKinley Facility – 6pm (ADA-focused)

October 7 – COTA McKinley Facility – Noon (ADA-focused)

October 12 – Reynoldsburg High School - 6pm

**[www.LinkUScolumbus.com](http://www.LinkUScolumbus.com)**

**MORE COTA**

**MORE SIDEWALKS**

**MORE OPPORTUNITY**

## **MOVING OUR REGION FORWARD, TOGETHER**

- **Faster, more reliable public transportation**

45% more service hours

Creating walkable communities with more access to work, healthcare, home and entertainment

- **Safer and expanded sidewalks, bikeways and trails**

500+ miles

\$60 million invested annually

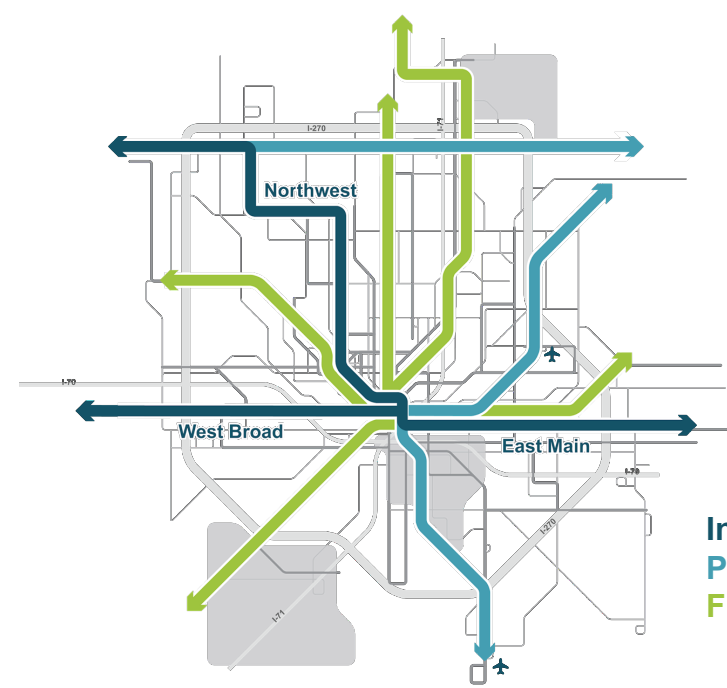
- **More opportunity**

Building the infrastructure to grow our economy

Support existing communities



# 2050 REGIONAL TRANSIT VISION



In Progress  
Planned for Near-term Study  
Future Study

## EXISTING

Transit Service



**8** New  
COTA//Plus  
Zones



**14**  
New or  
Improved  
Transit Lines



**5**  
Rapid  
Transit Lines



**45%**  
More  
Service

# CORRIDOR UPDATES

## West Broad BRT

- 90% Design
- Submitted project to FTA for funding in August 2023

## East Main BRT

- 60% Design
- Submitted project to FTA for Rating Request in August 2023

## Northwest BRT

- Scoping 30%
- Plan to submit to FTA for Project Development in 2024

## East-West Northern Franklin County study

- Scoping for Study with RFP release in Q4 2024



# ETOD ACTION PLAN AT A GLANCE



**Central Ohio is one of the fastest-growing metro areas in the Midwest. We know that sprawling growth isn't sustainable growth, but increasingly, workers can't afford market-rate housing near their jobs.**

With growth comes change – but it shouldn't happen at the expense of Central Ohio's existing residents.

## **Today we have a unique opportunity to:**

- Reimagine our current patterns of growth
- Help correct inequities created by infrastructure investment and design
- Invest in systems that support our region's most vulnerable residents

## **ETOD can help Central Ohio by addressing these problems:**



**45% increase in median home sales prices since 2020**



**\$12,700 on average spent by Central Ohio households on transportation**



**40,000 Franklin County households don't have a car, and many jobs are difficult to reach without one**



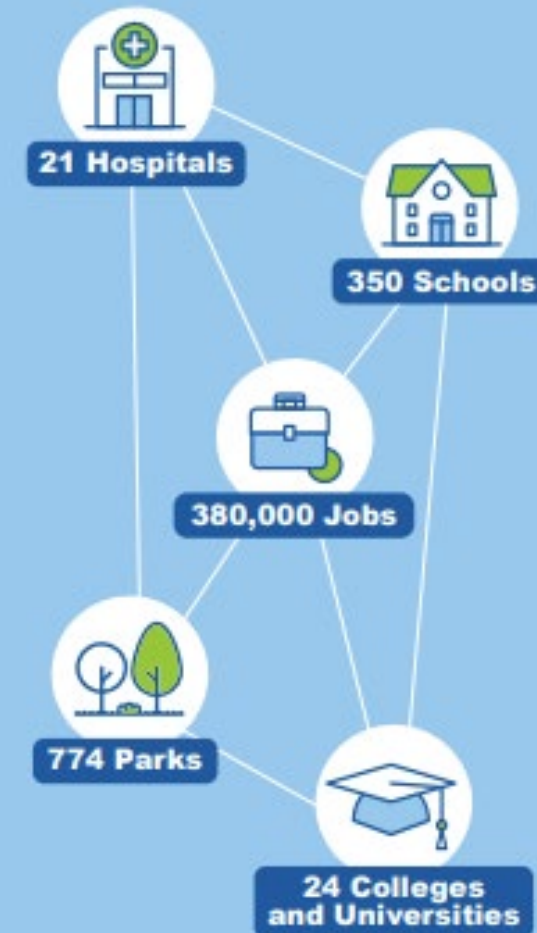
# INITIAL GOALS

We believe we have the opportunity to realize the vision outlined in insight2050 Corridor Concepts to focus a significant portion of our current and future growth along our LinkUS rapid transit corridors.

There is significant opportunity to equitably grow our economy along the three rapid transit corridors in design. By analyzing the potential opportunity at only 15 of the 48 stations, in just the next 10 years we could add:

- **11K new housing units at all sizes and price points**
- **2.4M sf, or 42 football fields, of new commercial and industrial development**

## Connection Opportunities via Transit in Central Ohio



# ETOD CORRIDOR OVERVIEW

## Station Analysis

### Five BRT station locations along each corridor evaluated for:

- Current employment, housing and demographics
- Development potential
- Job growth potential
- Capacity for affordable housing
- Essential services and connections
- Revenue capture and financing tools



### Northwest Corridor Phase I Opportunity Sites

1. Twin Rivers Drive
2. 3<sup>rd</sup>/Fifth Avenue
3. Lennox Town Center
4. Riverview/Kohl's
5. Bethel/Olentangy Plaza

### West Broad Corridor Opportunity Sites

1. Central Avenue
2. Eureka Avenue
3. Wilson Road
4. Phillipi/Georgesville (Westland)
5. Rockbrook Crossing Avenue

### East Main Corridor Opportunity Sites

1. 18<sup>th</sup> Street (Columbus)
2. Alum Creek (Columbus-Hanford Village)
3. James Road (Columbus)
4. Hamilton Road (Whitehall)
5. Davidson Drive / Haft Drive (Reynoldsburg)

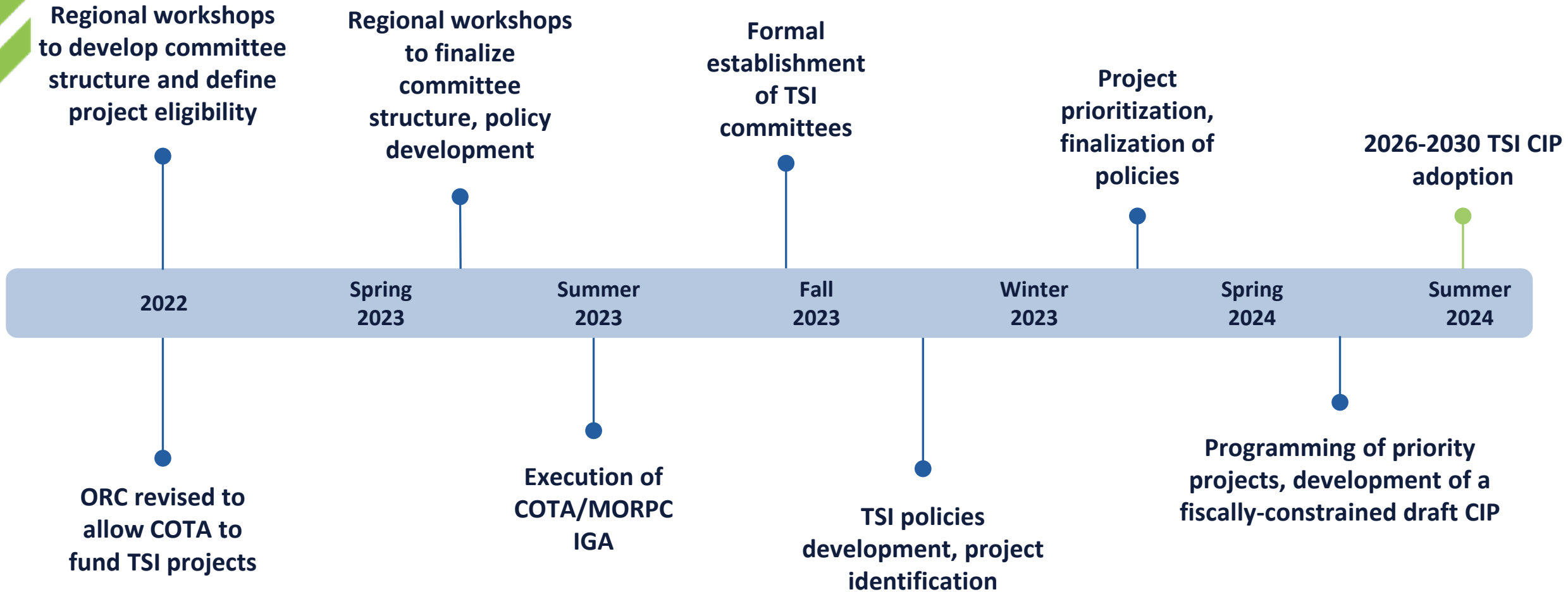


# Survey Says... Central Ohio wants walkable communities!

- **96%** of COTA riders walk to the bus stop (*COTA On-Board Survey 2023*)
- **90%** of local residents support prioritizing development near transit stops (*Zone-In Survey 2023*)
- **79%** of home-buyers want to be within an easy walk to places they need/want, such as schools, shops and parks (*National Association of Realtors Community Preference Survey - 2023*)



# TSI PROGRAM TIMELINE





# COMMITTEE ROLES AND WORK



## Technical Working Groups (TWGs)

- Direct representation for each jurisdiction
- Technical staff (planners, engineers, financial managers)
- Identify and prioritize TSI projects within each geographic quadrant

## Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

- Subset of TWG members
- Build consensus between quadrants and recommend regional CIB/CIP
- Maintain pipeline of projects for future CIP updates

## Leadership Committee (LC)

- Elected/executive level officials
- Approves bylaws, policies, and procedures
- Review and approve recommended TSI CIB/CIP
- Determine overall programmatic strategy with TCC

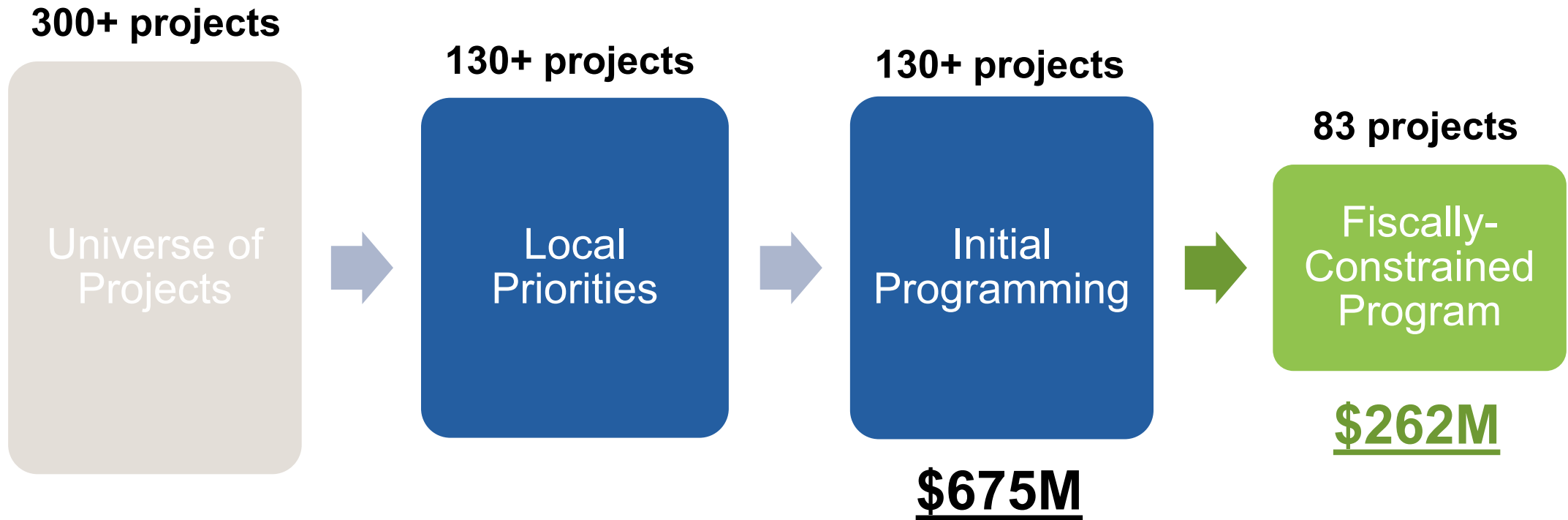


# PROGRAMMING GOALS



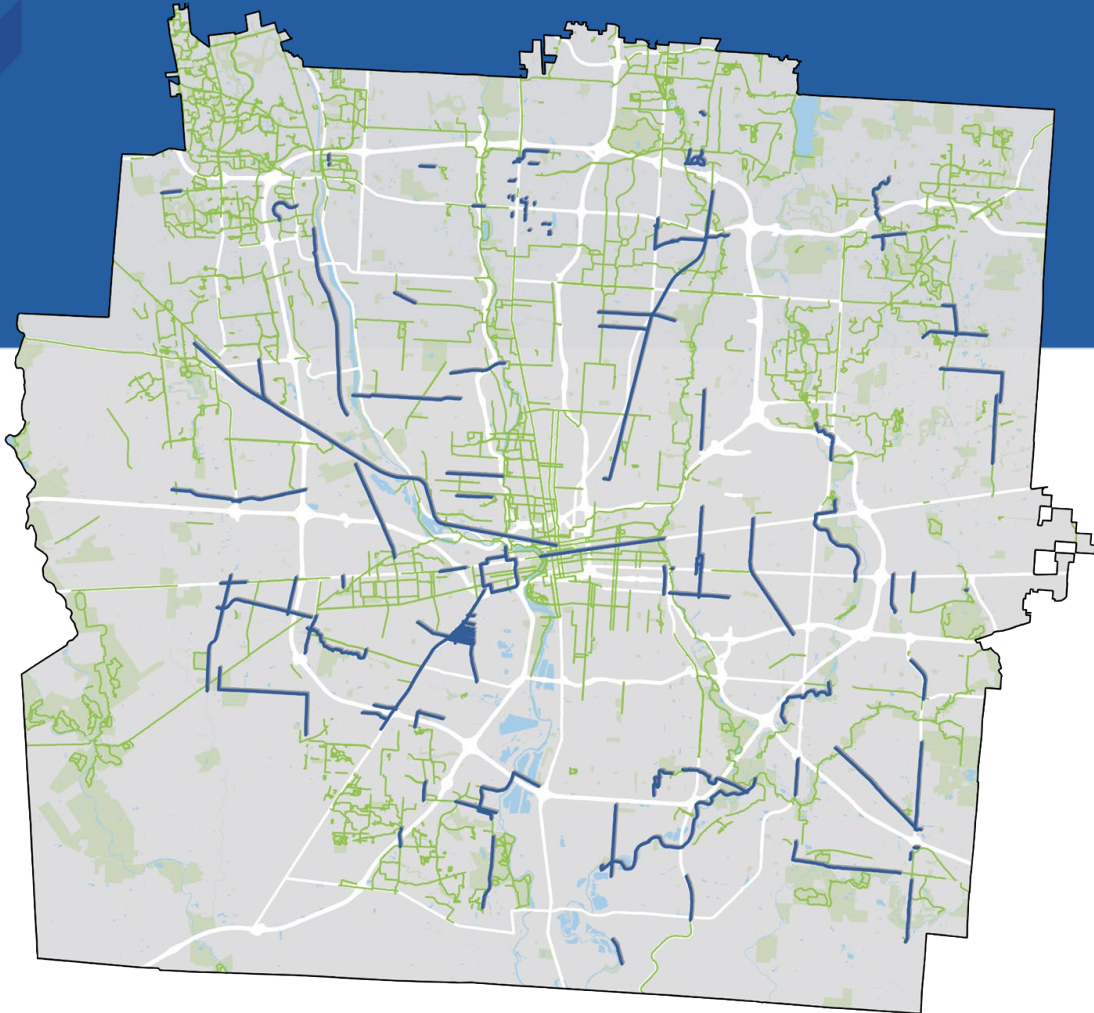
- **Expand access to existing and planned transit services**
- **Ensure everyone benefits**
  - Promoting each jurisdiction's top priority
- **Leverage other funding and maintain program flexibility**
  - Elevating projects that can proceed with partial funding
  - Identifying phases that can be shifted by year
- **Build from local needs in each quadrant**
  - Allow for differences in programmatic strategy between TWGs
  - Technical Coordinating Committee unified all four proposals

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



# BY THE NUMBERS

## DRAFT 2026-2030 PROGRAM



**83 PROJECTS**  
**\$262M (2024 \$)**

**150+**

**MILES OF IMPROVEMENTS**

**35**

**JURISDICTIONS**

**55**

**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PROJECTS**

**65**

**PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION  
BY 2030**

**140,000**

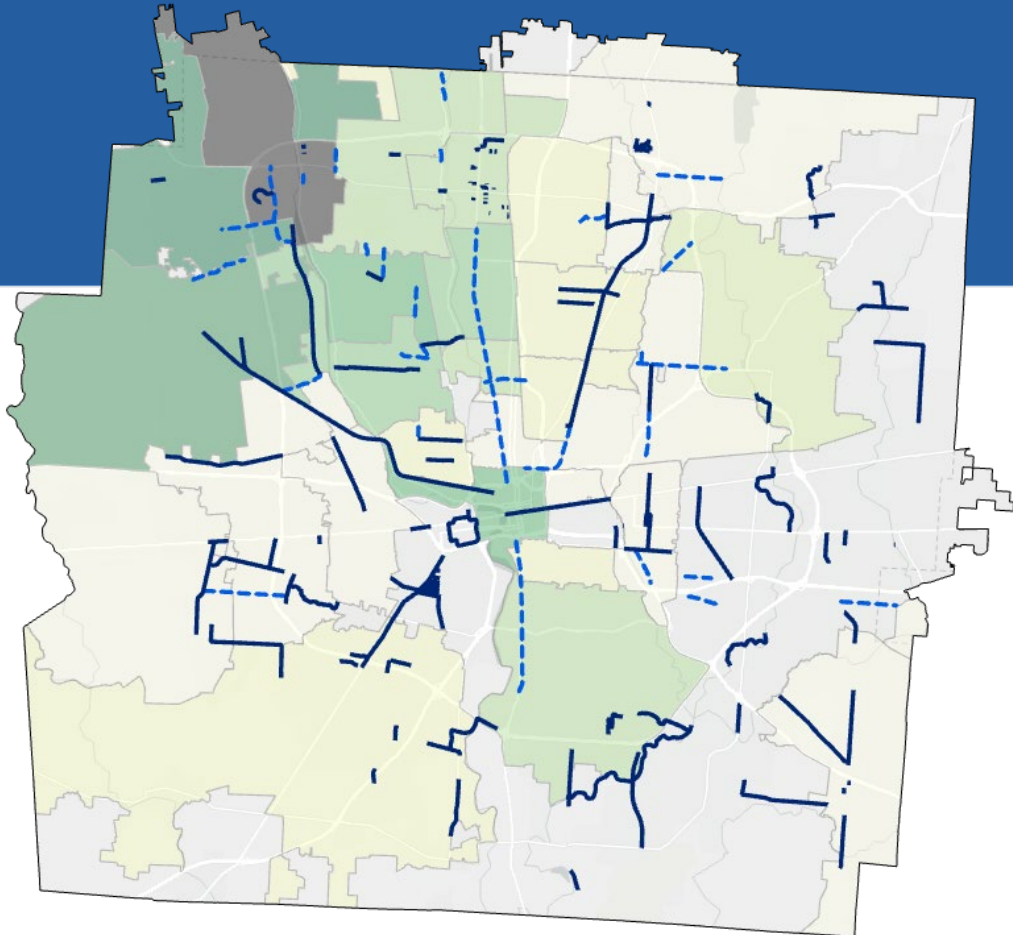
**ADDITIONAL PEOPLE WITHIN A  
10-15 MIN WALK OR BIKE RIDE**

**44,000**

**ADDITIONAL JOBS WITHIN A 10-15  
MIN WALK OR BIKE RIDE**

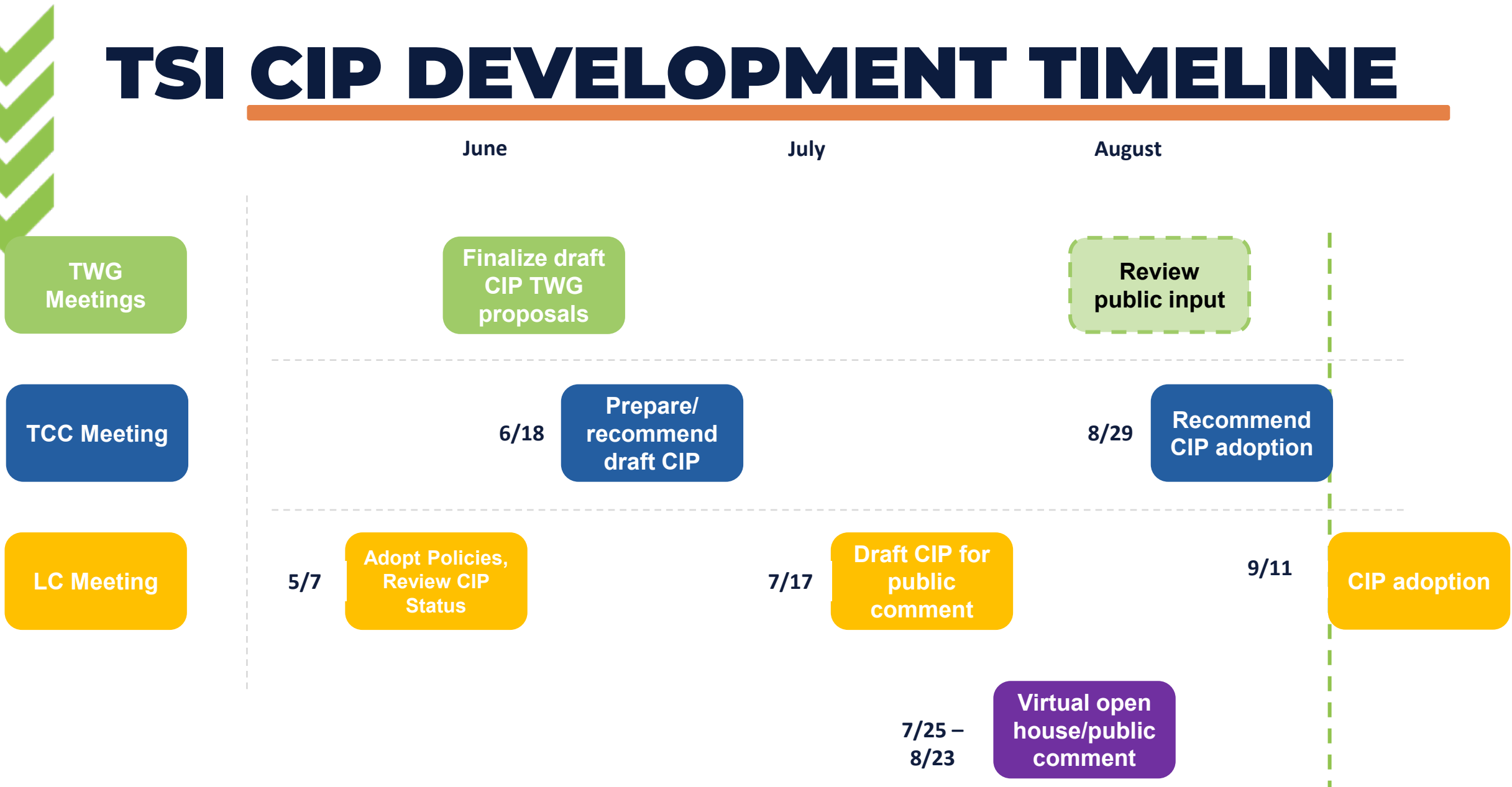


# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



- 216 total comments
  - 192 supportive
  - 15 neutral
  - 10 opposing
- Largely supportive of the program in general or additional projects
  - Connections between projects
  - Sidewalks and greenways
  - Short gaps in existing network
- Higher concentration of comments in NW, but engagement across COTA service area

# TSI CIP DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE





# NEXT STEPS

- Continue engagement of community, government, non-profit and business stakeholders
- Continue corridor design and federal grants process
- November 5 Election

## STAY CONNECTED

- Visit our website at **LinkUSColumbus.com** and sign up for project updates.
- Send us an email at **info@LinkUSColumbus.com** with questions and comments.
- Follow us on social media **@LinkUSColumbus** to keep up with the latest happenings about LinkUS.
- Check out our YouTube channel **@LinkUSColumbus** for program videos and presentations.



# CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS UPDATE

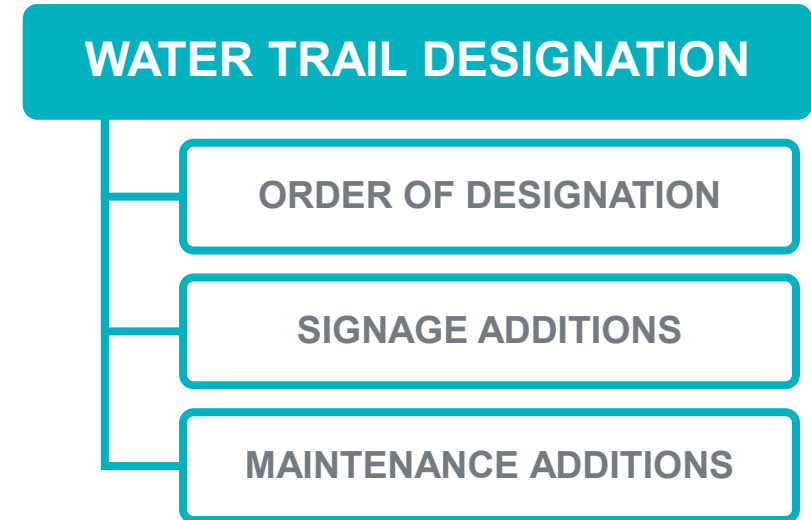
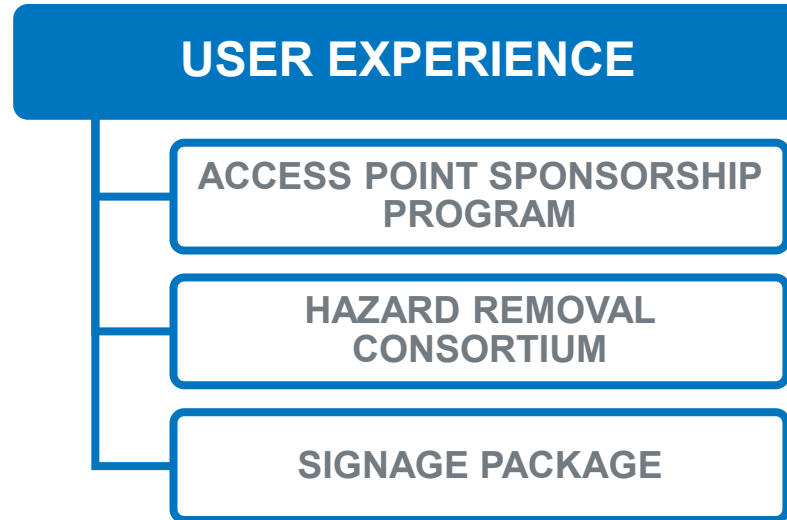
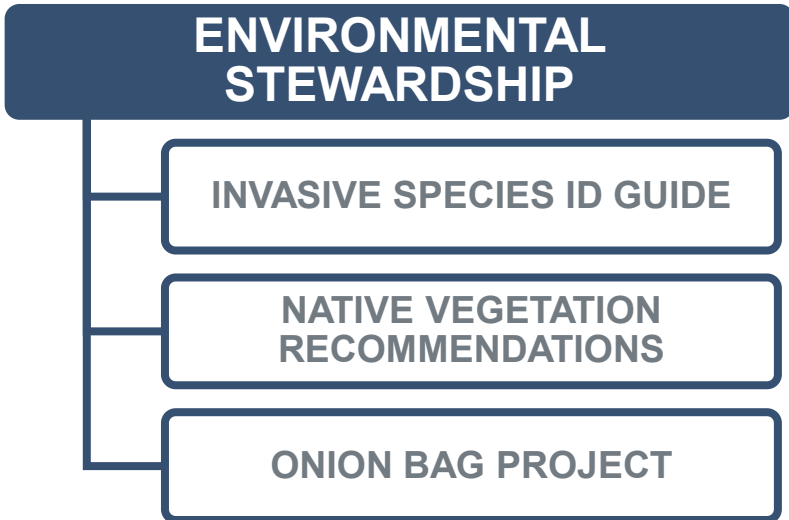


## WORLD RIVERS DAY CLEANUP

- 3,750 POUNDS OF TRASH REMOVED



## WORKING GROUP PROJECTS



# OHIO TO ERIE TRAIL



**Jody Dzurarin,**  
*Executive Director*  
Ohio to Erie Trail

# COG WORKING GROUP & STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATES

## Wayfinding

- Complete
- Available on the COG Website
- COG Staff available to share the results
- MORPC technical assistance available to help implement

## Mapping Natural Assets

- Technical Working Group meeting end of July
- Project completion anticipated in fall 2024

## Detours & Closures

- Committee has meet twice to provide input on detour designs and detour communications
- Communities may request support from COG TD working group to design detours in the future
- Two page guidance anticipated fall 2024

## Trail Development Working Group

- Group is subdivided into rural and urban groups
- Quadrant meetings anticipated in October
- Rural Quadrant Meeting Scheduled for November

## Trail Towns Working Group

- Submitted a Trail Town Ambassador Training Program proposal to ATIIP in partnership with Columbus
- Branding Project Underway
- OuterSpatial



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# TRAIL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

REGIONAL COLLABORATION MEETINGS: SIDEWALKS, BIKEWAYS, AND TRAILS

## NORTHEAST

Monday, Oct 21,  
2024

9:30 - 11:30

Westerville  
Community Center

## NORTHWEST

Tuesday, Oct 22,  
2024

3:00 - 5:00

Dublin Service  
Center

## SOUTHEAST

Wednesday, Oct 23,  
2024

1:00 - 3:00

Wigwam Event  
Center, Pickerington

## SOUTHWEST

Friday Oct 25, 2024

1:00 -3:00

Scioto Grove  
Community Center



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# TRAIL TOWN WORKING GROUP

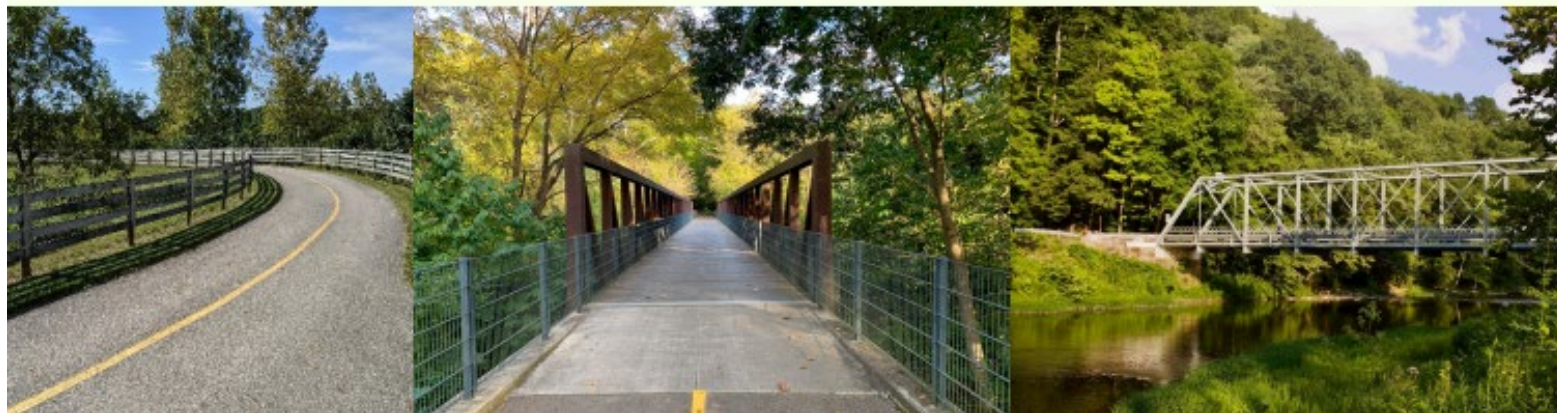
DRAFT BRANDING

## Inspiration

## Similar Logos & Fields of Work



## Ohio Trails



MORPC



# TRAIL TOWN WORKING GROUP: OUTERSPATIAL



OuterSpatial

PROVIDE A HOLISTIC AND INCLUSIVE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

# FOSTERING COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITIES



OuterSpatial bridges the gap between parks and recreation organizations and visitors who want to find new ways to get outside. The result is passionate communities that work together to protect our outdoor resources while having fun outside.



# THE PLATFORM

AVAILABLE FOR VISITORS AT NO COST

FOR ORGANIZATIONS

FOR VISITORS

## Web

A free website visitors can use to discover new experiences and plan their next adventure.

## Mobile

A free app that helps visitors have a great experience while outside.

The image displays two views of the OuterSpatial platform. The left view is a desktop web browser showing the 'Five Rivers MetroParks' organization profile. The right view is a mobile app interface showing a post about safe ways to cool down in MetroParks.

**OuterSpatial**

ORGANIZATIONS

**Five Rivers MetroParks**  
Verified ✓

Share Favorite Social

For more than 60 years, Five Rivers MetroParks has been connecting people with nature. Protecting open space and natural areas is at the heart of the mission of MetroParks, which protects more than 16,000 acres of forests, grasslands, farmlands and wetlands. Conservation efforts focus on river corridors and areas surrounding our parks, preserving habitat on the largest scale possible so that wildlife, flora and fauna have better places to live and thrive, while encouraging

**Mobile App Interface:**

1:04

Five Rivers MetroParks Organization

Information Map Social

Safe ways to cool down in your MetroParks

Written by Five Rivers MetroParks  
61d ago

For more than 50 years, Five Rivers MetroParks has been connecting people with nature. Protecting open space and natural areas is at the heart of the mission of MetroParks, which protects more than 16,000 acres of forests, grasslands, farmlands and wetlands. Conservation efforts focus on river corridors and areas surrounding our parks, preserving habitat

Contact Information

**Address**  
409 East Monument Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45402, United States

**Phone Number**  
937-275-7275



# MAPS

## 01 Seamless & Personalized

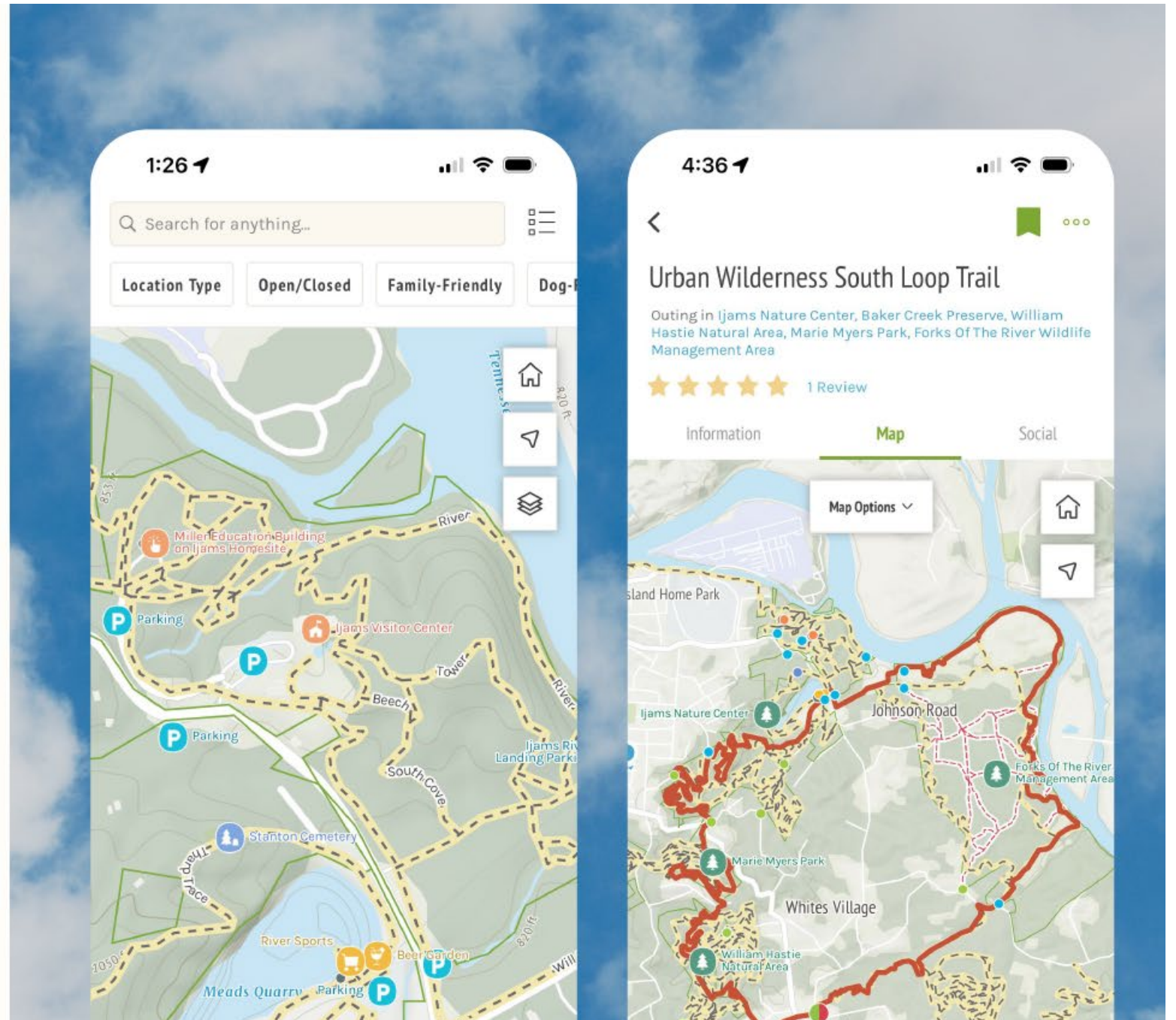
Maps are cross-organization and they adapt to highlight nearby locations related to whatever activities the visitor is interested in.

## 02 Points of Interest

Support for 150+ point of interest types ensures maps cater to all visitors, regardless of their interests, skill, or comfort level.

## 03 Outings

Create curated routes with stops along the way to highlight interpretive walking trails, backpacking loops, ranger-led discovery hikes, and more.





# CLOSURES & ALERTS

## 01 Manage Closures

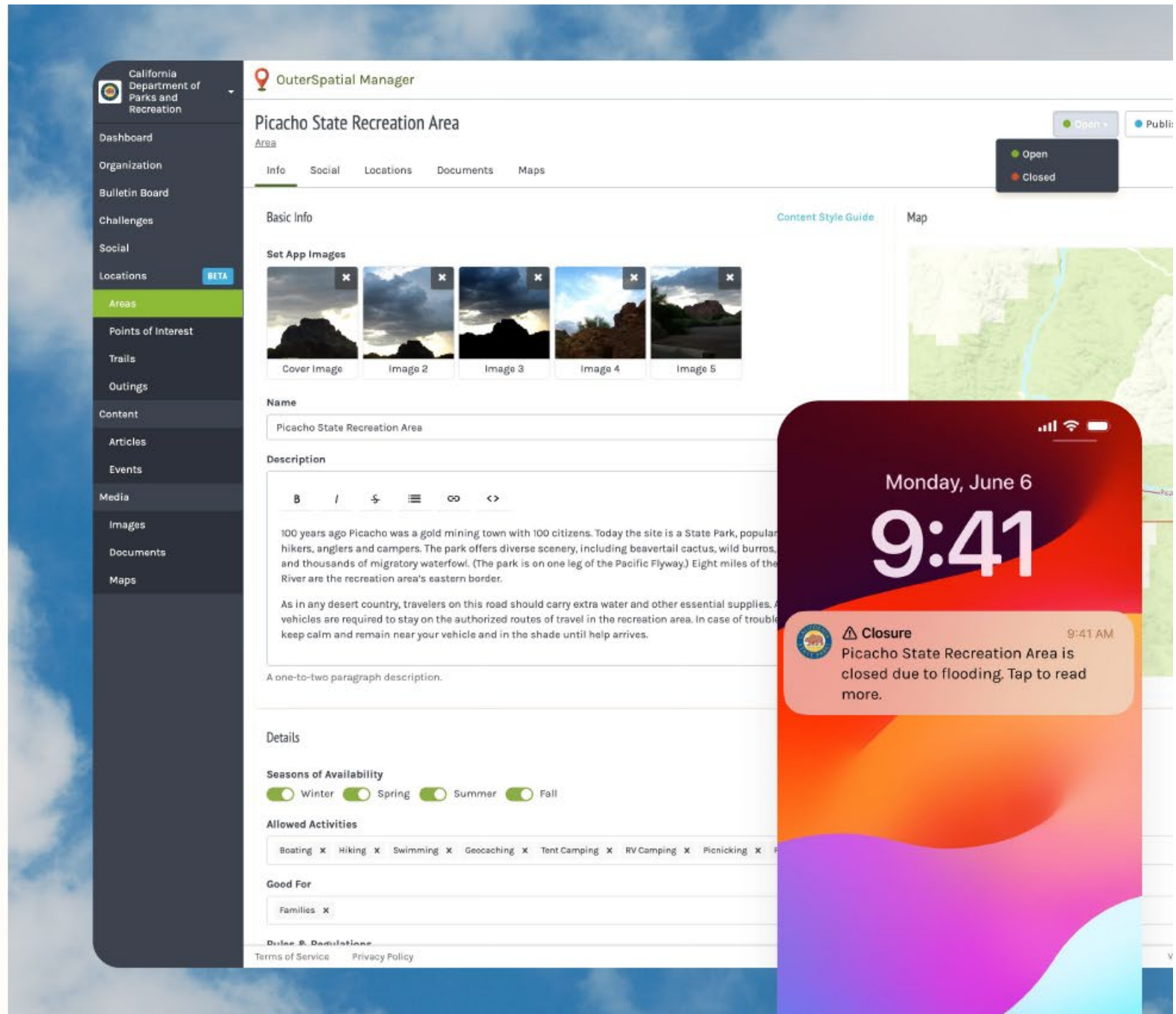
Create ad-hoc or scheduled closures and add context to keep visitors and partner organizations in the loop.

## 02 Highlight Closure Information

Closed badges, cartography, and quick filters clearly show visitors what's open and closed.

## 03 Notify

Send email and push notifications to communicate changes in open/closed status, critical updates, and more.





FEATURE HIGHLIGHT

# CREATE & SOCIAL

## 01 Post and Check In

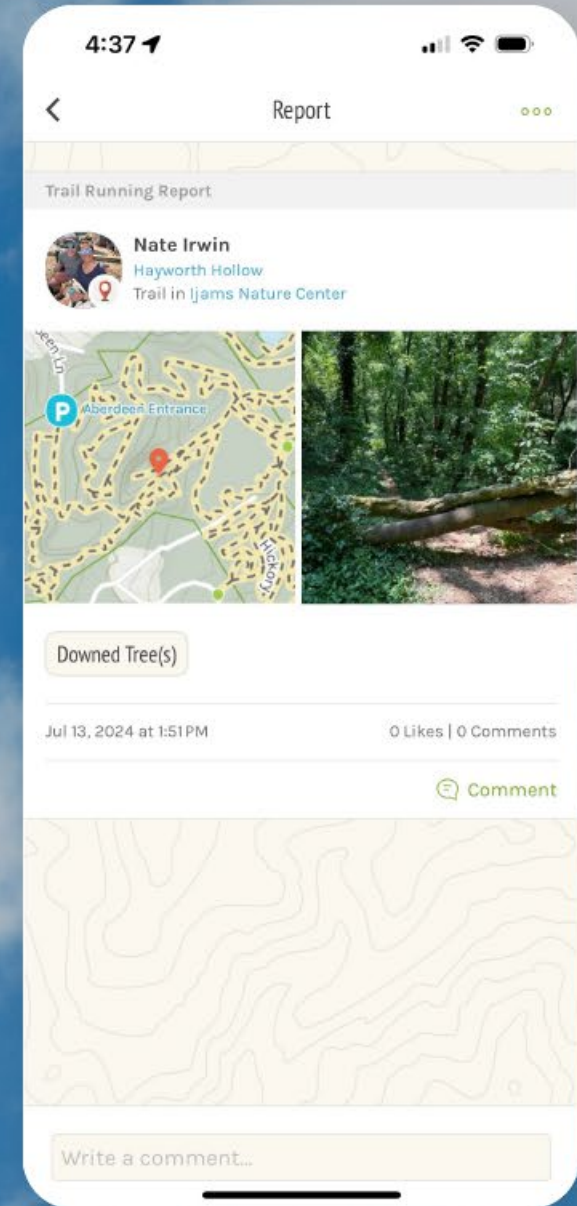
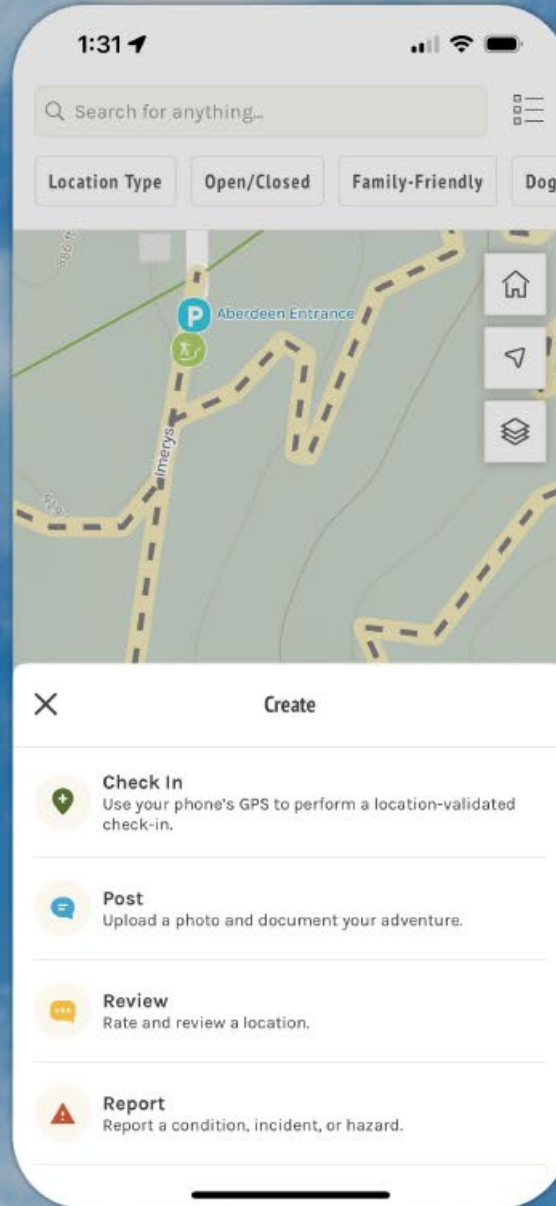
Visitors can create posts with photos, and (optionally) prove they were there with geovalidation.

## 02 Review

Visitors can rate and review locations to provide feedback and share their experience with others.

## 03 Report

Visitors can also report conditions and/or hazards directly, and organizations can use tickets to act on the reports.





# CHALLENGES

## 01 Inspire & Incentivize

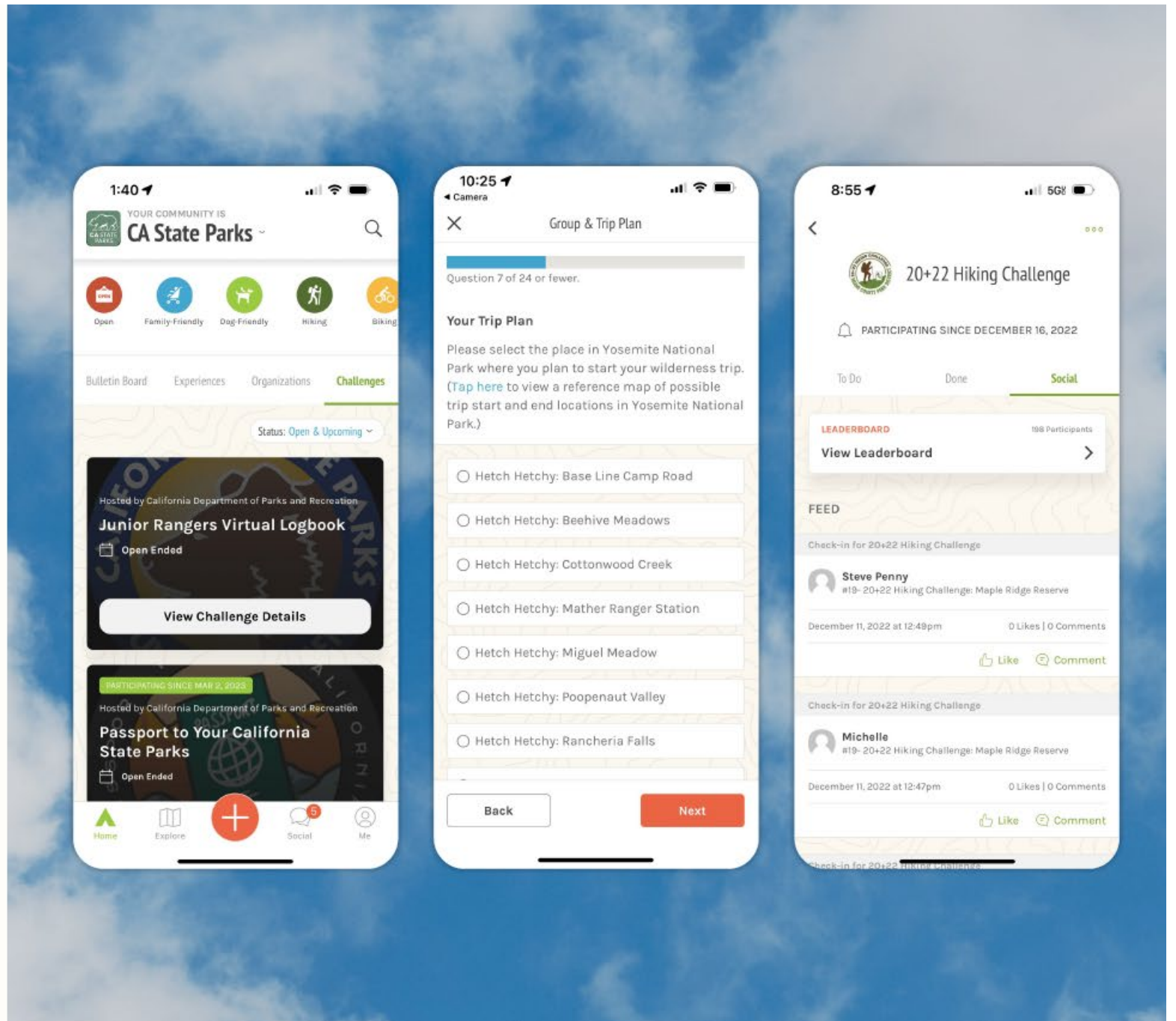
Encourage visitors to explore the outdoors with challenges that highlight locations and tasks. Foster friendly competition with digital badges, gamification features, and awards.

## 02 Crowdsourcing Information

Ask visitors to take photos, respond to surveys, and create reviews/reports tied to locations. Use time-based and geofenced alerts to prompt them.

## 03 Validation

Location and QR code validation ensure the authenticity of each challenge response, providing a secure way for visitors to track their progress.





# ACCESSIBILITY

## 01 Simple & Intuitive

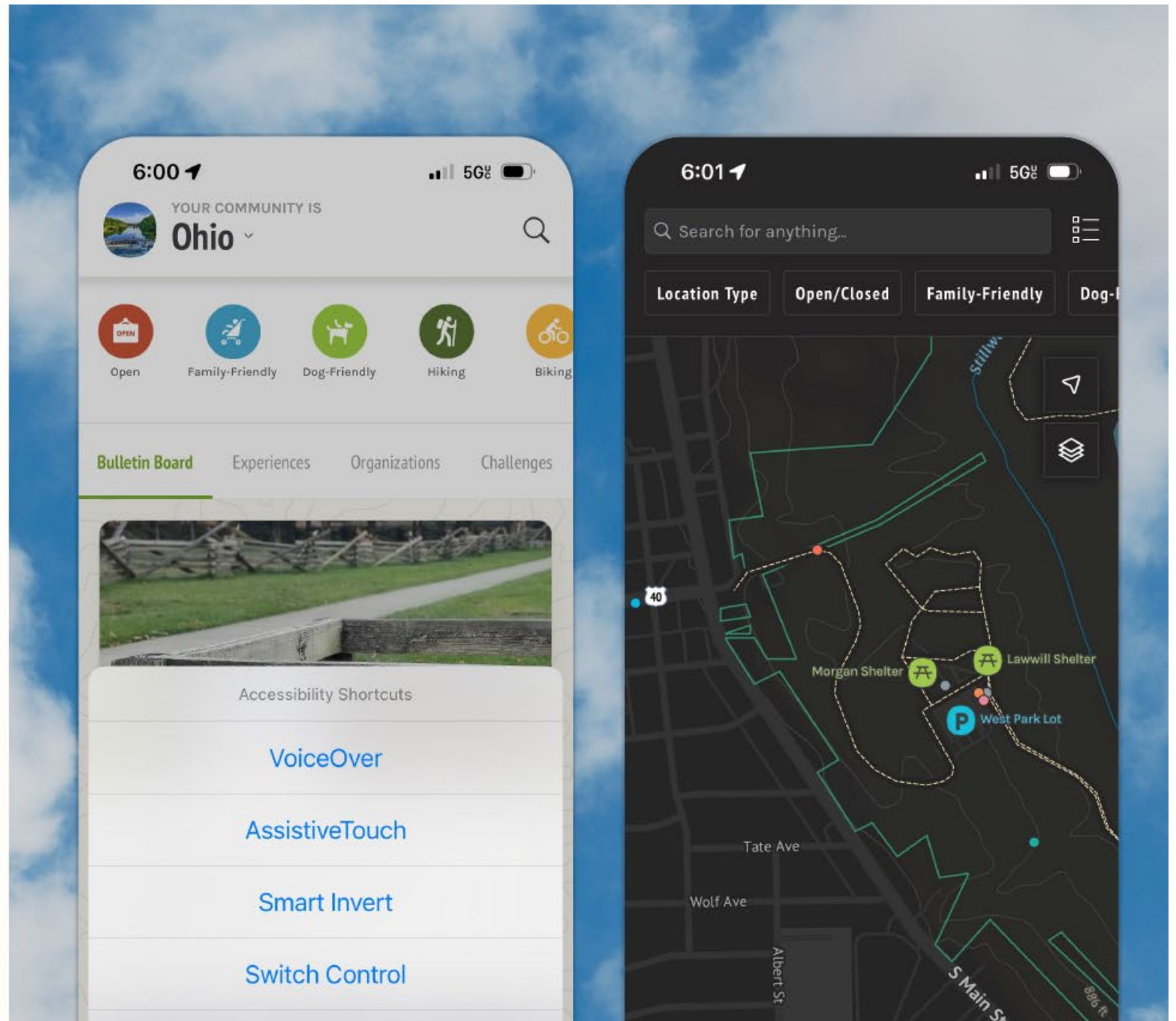
Easy navigation and a predictable interface lower the learning curve, facilitating use with accessibility tools like VoiceOver and TalkBack.

## 02 Clarity

Legible fonts, high contrast, and well-placed interface elements. Maps are designed for outdoor use – even in the dark!

## 03 Inclusive

Improve the on-the-ground experience for visitors with vision, hearing, and mobility impairments. Offer multiple pathways for neurodivergent visitors to complete tasks.





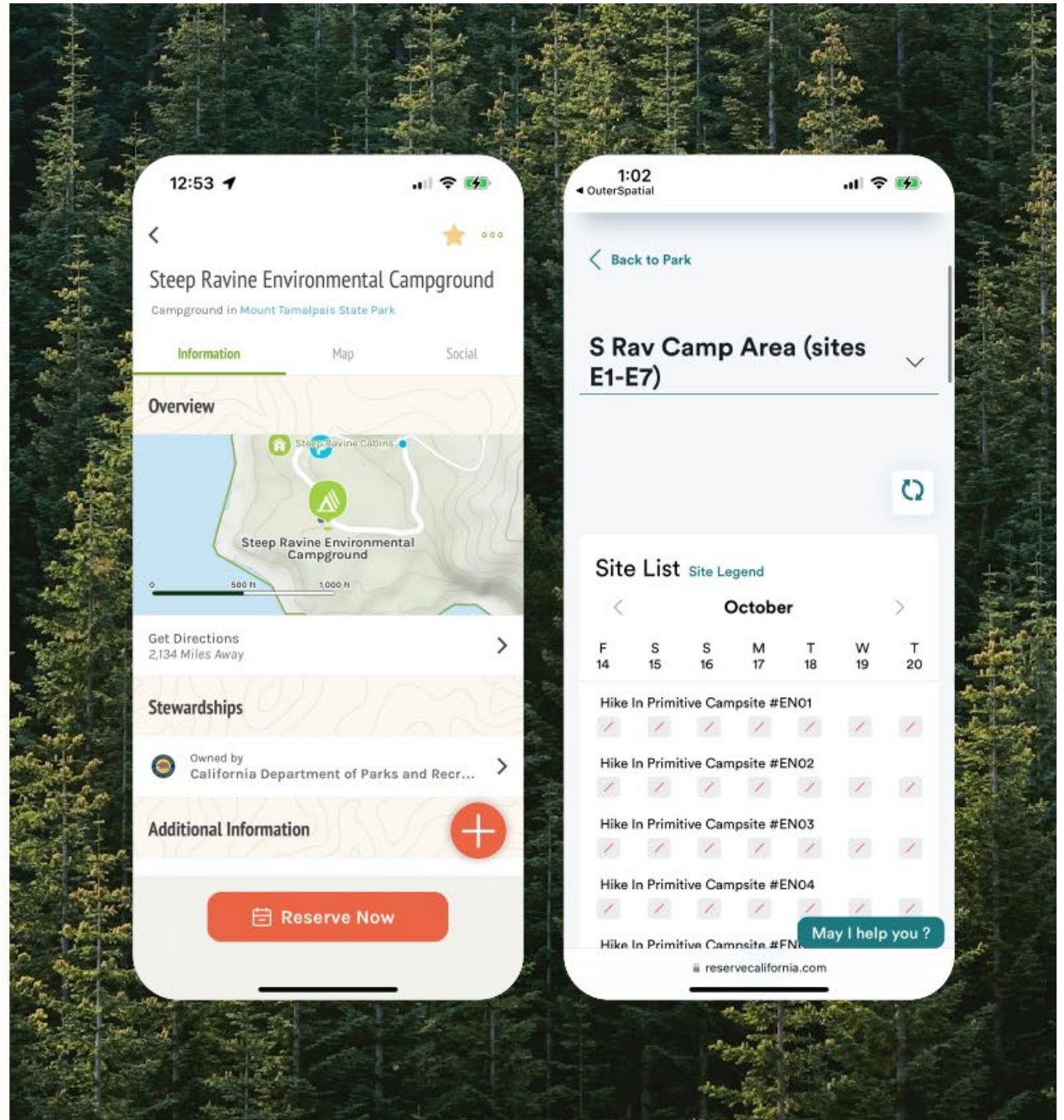


# TYLER TECHNOLOGIES



## Partnership and Integration

Provide a single, integrated experience and a digital wallet for visitors by making passes, reservations, and tickets available in your website and app alongside your outdoor recreation information.



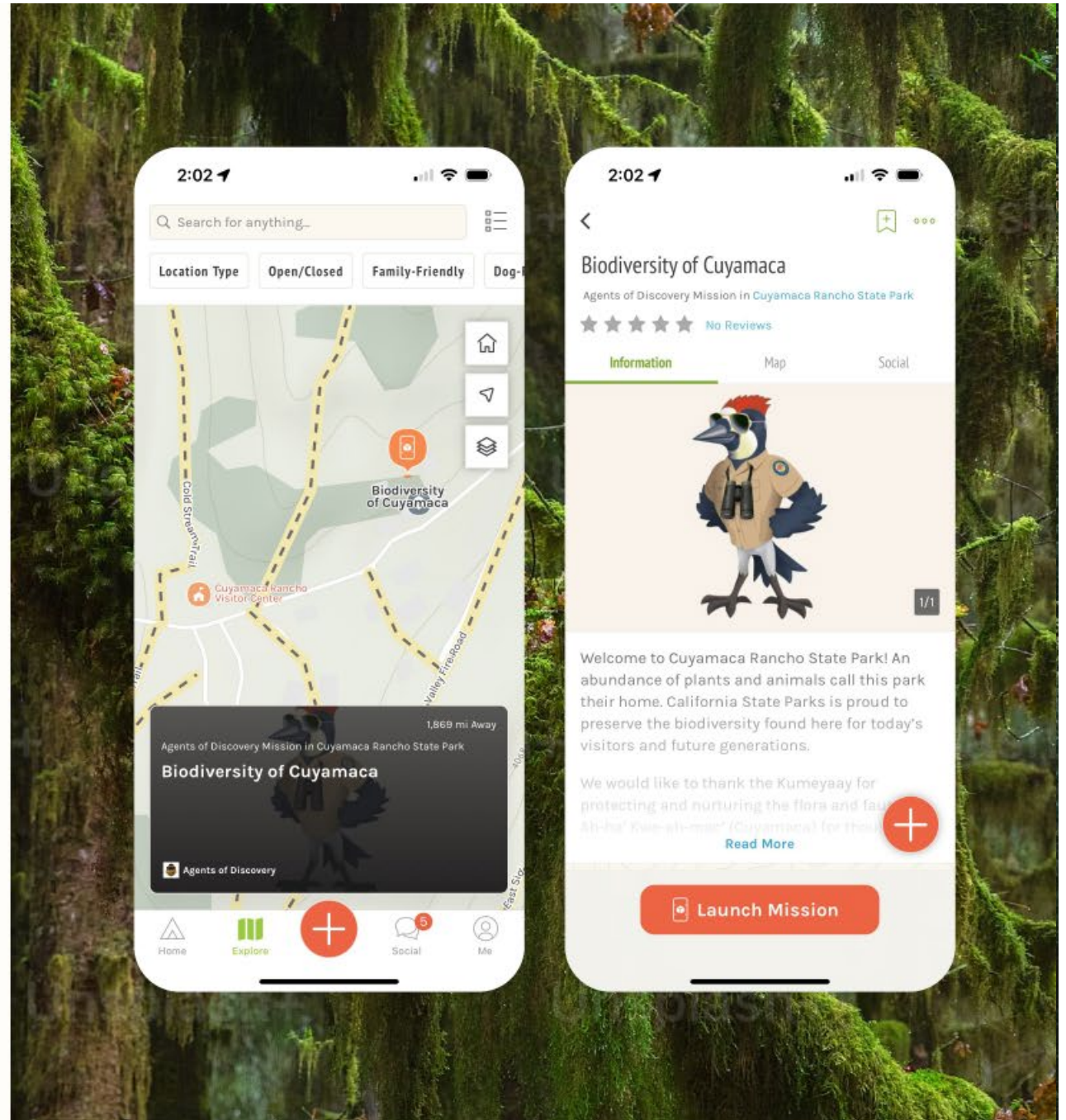


# AGENTS OF DISCOVERY



## Partnership and Integration

Surface Agents of Discovery Missions in OuterSpatial so visitors can more easily discover them alongside your outdoor recreation information. They can then follow a deep link into the Agents of Discovery app to complete their mission.



# ORGANIZATION PARTNERS

859 (and counting!) of the world's most prestigious and cherished outdoor organizations contribute to OuterSpatial.



## MELINDA VONSTEIN, AICP

*Central Ohio Greenways Program Manager*  
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

**T:** 614.233.4222

[mvonstein@morpc.org](mailto:mvonstein@morpc.org)

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, OH 43215



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION



## Mike Andrako, P.E.

*COG Board Chair*  
*Mobility Engineer*  
Franklin County Engineers Office

