# Status Report on Trails and Greenways in the OKI Region

## April, 2003

- **Ohio River Trail - New Richmond to Cincinnati (Lunken Airport)**
  
  A feasibility study was completed and published in April, 2000 which identified a feasible route for a 16 mile shared use path at a cost of around $7 million. The multi-jurisdiction Ohio River Trail Planning Committee is still active and, in 2002, commissioned a follow-up study for supplemental planning and engineering. This will provide additional information for grant applications and include meetings with stakeholders and property owners along the route. Several alternatives to the recommended feasible route have been proposed by the communities. The City of Cincinnati has prepared engineering plans for inclusion of the trail on the Kellogg Ave. bridge at the Little Miami River to connect the Lunken Bike Path to Magrish Preserve.

  **Action Needed:** Re-affirmation of a preferred trail route. Continuing planning and advocacy by the Ohio River Trail Planning Committee; continuing financial and political support for trail development from the corridor communities, park districts, private interests, trail users, and state and federal governments.

  **Contacts:** John Heilman (jheilman@oki.org) or Don Burrell (dburrell@oki.org), OKI Regional Council of Governments, 801-B West Eighth Street, Suite 400, Cincinnati, OH 45203; Phone: 513-621-6300; Website: [www.oki.org](http://www.oki.org).

- **Ohio River Trail – Cincinnati (Lunken Airport to Downtown)**
  
  There are two possible trail routes in this six mile corridor. The Oasis rail line still carries freight and is in public ownership for the potential of rail transit service. If this comes to be, construction plans will consider the possibility of rails-with-trails. Otherwise, if rail use is abandoned, the right-of-way could be used for a trail from downtown to Lunken. In the meantime, the City of Cincinnati is pursuing an alternative trail route along the riverside. Council passed a motion in 2001 to open a trail along this route between Lunken and downtown by 2007. Planning, engineering and property discussions are underway. Construction funding from the Clean Ohio Trails fund has been allocated for one mile between Corbin St. and Stanley Ave. A second one mile segment has opened through the International Friendship Park. A trail connection across the Ohio River to Newport is now open over the old L&N bridge. Plans for the redevelopment of the central riverfront include a park along the river between the new stadiums. Given the competition for various activities and limited space, it is important for trail advocates to keep decision-makers aware of the need to continue this trail into the heart of the city with the potential for future extension along the western riverfront. This trail will also be part of the Ohio to Erie Trail connecting Cincinnati and Cleveland.
**Action Needed:** Continued advocacy by interested trail groups, Cincinnati Bicycle / Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the East End and Columbia-Tusculum neighborhoods. Continued budgetary support by the City for trail development and applications for construction funding from state and federal sources.

**Contact:** Jim Coppock (jim.coppock@cincinnati-oh.gov); Cincinnati Department of Transportation and Engineering, 801 Plum St., Cincinnati, OH 45202; Phone: 513-352-5305; Website: [http://www.rcc.org/transeng/bikes.html](http://www.rcc.org/transeng/bikes.html)

- **Little Miami Scenic Trail (Southern Extension)**
  The Little Miami Scenic Trail is complete for 90 miles from Milford to Buck Creek State Park (Clark Co.). A recent study of the Little Miami Scenic Trail between Loveland and Corwin (in Warren County) reported 150,000 to 175,000 trail users annually in this 27 mile section of the trail. The Hamilton County Park District, Anderson Parks, and the City of Cincinnati are working on a section of this very popular trail south from Avoca Park through land owned by the Hamilton County Park District, across the river adjacent to the Newtown Bridge, through the Hamilton County Parks Golf Center and Anderson Township’s Clear Creek Park to connect with the bike path circling Lunken Airport. Construction of the bridge crossing the Little Miami River at Newtown Road has recently begun and will be followed by trail construction to connect Avoca Park and the Golf Center in 2004. At Lunken, the Little Miami Scenic Trail will connect with the Ohio River Trail east to New Richmond and west to the Cincinnati Central Riverfront (described above). Development of the remaining two mile section of state-owned trail between Milford and Avoca Park is subject to an agreement between Terrace Park and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

  **Action Needed:** Support and advocacy from public and private decision-makers; continuing advocacy by the Cincinnati Cycle Club, Bike/PAC and OKI; financial and political support for trail development from corridor communities, park districts, private interests, trail users, and state and federal governments.

  **Contacts:**
  Jim Coppock (jim.coppock@cincinnati-oh.gov); Cincinnati Department of Transportation and Engineering, 801 Plum St., Cincinnati, OH 45202; Phone: 513-352-5305; Website: [http://www.rcc.org/transeng/bikes.html](http://www.rcc.org/transeng/bikes.html)
  Ross Hamre (rhamre@greatparks.org), Hamilton County Park District, 10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231; Phone: 513-728-3555, Ext. 256.
  Molly McClure (mmclure@andersonparks.com), Anderson Park District, 8249 Clough Pike, Anderson Township, Ohio 45255; Phone: 513-474-0003 Ext. 3005.

- **Great Miami River Recreation Trail (The Great Connection)**
  The Great Miami Recreation Trail, as proposed, extends more than 70 miles from Fairfield north through Hamilton and Middletown (Butler County), Franklin (Warren County), Dayton (Montgomery County), and Troy and Piqua (Miami County). The
completed portions include 3.6 miles in Hamilton (the southern end) and 25 miles in Dayton (the northern end) with connections to Xenia and the Little Miami Scenic Trail. In the unincorporated areas and portions of Middletown, most of the right-of-way is owned by MetroParks of Butler County or the Miami Conservancy District.

From the Warren-Montgomery County line south to Hamilton, the trail is being implemented in four segments:

**Segment 1** – 5 miles from the Montgomery County line through Franklin, to Baxter Drive. Work is being coordinated by the Miami Conservancy District with construction planned for 2004.

**Segment 2** – 10 miles through Middletown along the Miami and Erie Canal and Great Miami River greenway on property owned by the Miami Conservancy District. This will be constructed in four parts, the first being from Bicentennial Commons north to SR 4, the second from Bicentennial Commons south to SR 73 with possible funding from the Clean Ohio Trails Fund. The third and fourth parts will connect SR 4 to Baxter Drive in Franklin (Segment 1, above).

**Segment 3** – 8 miles from SR 73 to Rentschler Forest through Fairfield, Liberty and Lemon Townships and Monroe. Preliminary design and environmental studies have been done, but no funding for engineering or construction has been determined.

**Segment 4** – 5 miles from Rentschler Forest through Fairfield Township and Hamilton, connecting with the north end of the existing trail. Construction funding has been secured through a grant from the Hamilton Community Foundation and construction could be started in 2003.

Transportation Enhancement construction funding has been allocated to Fairfield for a 1.7 mile section extending the Hamilton trail south from Joyce Park in 2003.

The park district and communities have formed an “Extend the Trail Committee”--led by the Miami Conservancy District--to oversee the preparation of necessary environmental and preliminary engineering studies.

**Action Needed:** Continuing planning and advocacy by the Extend the Trail Committee; financial and political support for trail development from the corridor communities, private interests, trail users, and state and federal governments.

**Contacts:** Hans Landefeld ([hlandefeld@conservancy.com](mailto:hlandefeld@conservancy.com)) Miami Conservancy District, 38 East Monument Avenue, Dayton, OH 45402; Phone 937-223-1278.
Website: [http://www.miamiconservancy.org/Bike_Trails&_Recreation/Bike_Trails/](http://www.miamiconservancy.org/Bike_Trails&_Recreation/Bike_Trails/)
Mike Muska ([muskamj@butlercountyohio.org](mailto:muskamj@butlercountyohio.org)) MetroParks of Butler County, 2051 Timberman Road, Hamilton, OH 45013; Phone: 513-867-5853

- **Miami 2 Miami Connection**
The Miami 2 Miami Coalition was formed in 2001 to coordinate several independent trail projects in southeast Butler and southwest Warren Counties. A common goal was trail access to both the Great Miami River Trail and the Little Miami Scenic Trail. The Coalition planning committee was assembled with representatives from twenty private advocacy groups and local government departments. A feasibility study was completed in October, 2002 which recommends two route alignments to connect the Great Miami Trail at Hamilton with the Little Miami Trail at Kings Mill. Both routes are recommended for implementation and will include shared roads, bike lanes and separate shared use paths. The northern route passes through Liberty and Deerfield Townships and the City of Mason. Around 2 miles of completed trail is available connecting Reserves and Wetland Parks in Liberty Township and an additional mile is under construction from Wetland Park to Maud-Hughes Road. The southern route goes through Hamilton, Fairfield, Mason and West Chester and Deerfield Townships. Clean Ohio Trails funding has been allocated for a 1.6 mile segment of this route in Fairfield which uses the Miami and Erie Canal right-of-way. Both routes join to cross the Little Miami River on an abandoned railroad bridge included for rehabilitation in the funded 7.9 mile Lebanon Connector project.

**Action Needed:** Continuing planning and advocacy by the Miami 2 Miami Coalition; continuing financial and political support for trail development from the corridor communities, park districts, private interests including land developers, trail users, and state and federal governments.

**Contacts:** John Heilman (jheilman@oki.org) or Don Burrell (dburrell@oki.org), OKI Regional Council of Governments, 801-B West Eighth Street, Suite 400, Cincinnati, OH 45203; Phone: 513-621-6300.

### Millcreek Greenway

The Millcreek Restoration Project—with the assistance of an advisory committee and a team of consultants—have prepared a *Mill Creek Watershed Greenway Master Plan*. The master plan outlines a number of different projects, including trails, which are seeking funding from various city, county, state, and federal sources. Two miles of trail are completed in Reading. Funding has been allocated for a 1.5 mile segment between Caldwell and Seymour Parks in Cincinnati. Subsequent phases include a 0.5 mile connection along Dan’s Creek from Mill Creek into Seymour Park and a one mile connection between Mitchell Ave. and Salway Park.

**Action Needed:** Continuing advocacy by the Millcreek Restoration Committee, the Millcreek Watershed Council, and the Millcreek Valley Conservancy District for implementation of the recommendations in the *Mill Creek Watershed Greenway Master Plan*; continuing financial and political support for trail and greenway development from the corridor communities, private interests, trail users, and state and federal governments.

**Contact:** Robin Corathers (robin@millcreekrestoration.net), Millcreek Restoration
- **West Fork - Millcreek Greenway**
  The West Fork of the Mill Creek originates in Colerain Twp., flows east through Winton Woods Lake, then south to its confluence with the main stem of the Mill Creek in Arlington Heights. The West Fork Mill Creek Task Force is coordinating the greenway designation and, ultimately, trail development. There is one mile of existing trail through Woodlawn connecting to Glenwood Gardens Park. Wyoming has plans to continue the trail south from Woodlawn. There is potential to also extend the trail upstream to connect with the trail system in Winton Woods.

**Action Needed:** Continuing advocacy by the West Fork Mill Creek Task Force, the Mill Creek Watershed Council, Cities of Woodlawn and Wyoming and Lockland, Hamilton County Park District; continuing financial and political support for trail and greenway development from the corridor communities, private interests, trail users, and state and federal governments.

**Contact:** Marjie Dogan, Recreation Director, Village of Woodlawn, 10120 Woodlawn Blvd. Woodlawn, OH 45215, Phone: 513-771-5745
Alan Weiner, Anchor Brothers Properties, Ltd.; 9909A Springfield Pk., Cincinnati, OH 45215; Phone: 513-595-8673

- **Kentucky Route 8 Riverpath**
  The Kentucky Route 8 Riverpath is a proposal of Forward Quest, a Northern Kentucky business alliance for economic and cultural promotion. The route extends 45 miles along the Ohio River from the Campbell - Pendleton County line to Route 8’s end in northern Boone County. The route would connect 32 parks and pass through Newport and Covington. The Riverpath Committee functions through separate sub-committees for the Boone, Campbell and Kenton County route segments. A one-mile loop trail has been built in Campbell County’s Pendery Park. Funding has been allocated for a two mile connection from Pendery Park west through the City of Melbourne. Funding is being sought for 2 more miles to connect Melbourne and Silver Grove. The proposed route for the trail can be followed with a map in the promotional brochure.

**Action Needed:** Continuing planning and advocacy by the Kentucky Route 8 Riverpath Committee; financial and political support for trail development from Boone, Campbell and Kenton Counties and the corridor communities, trail users, private interests, and state and federal governments; research into alternative funding resources.

**Contact:** John Vissman, (jvissman@forwardquest.org) Forward Quest, 50 E. River Center Blvd., Suite 400, Covington, KY 41011; Phone: 859-291-2020.

- **Aurora – Lawrenceburg Trail**
In Dearborn County, Indiana, the communities of Aurora, Greendale and Lawrenceburg are developing a trail system along the Ohio River to connect the three cities. The one mile Lawrenceburg Riverwalk portion has been completed along the top of the floodwall. Greendale recently completed a one mile trail atop the levee parallel to US 50. Both of these segments end at the Argosy Casino and a connection is being negotiated. The two mile connection to Aurora has been funded and will be built along an unused rail corridor probably in 2004.

**Action Needed:** Continuing planning and advocacy by the ALT Trails Committee; financial and political support for trail development from the corridor communities, trail users, private interests, and state and federal governments. Promotion of the facilities is encouraged to maximize their use by local residents and tourists visiting the casinos. When the Aurora connection is complete, the existing route of the coast-to-coast American Discovery Trail along US 50 should be moved to the new trail facilities.

**Contact:** Judy Ostendorf, (mainstaur@seidata.com) ALT Trails, Main Street Aurora, 404 Fourth St., Aurora, IN 47001; Phone: 812-926-1100.

**Ohio River Way**

This project proposes a greenway with trail along both sides of the Ohio River between Maysville Ky. and Madison In. (around 120 miles), thus encompassing the portion of the Ohio River within the OKI planning area. It will include the Ohio River Trail, the Aurora-Lawrenceburg Trail and Kentucky River Path projects described above. Additional greenway preservation and trail development will be advocated for other local governments in the corridor. The project is coordinated by The Ohio River Way, Inc. which includes other cultural, educational and economic enhancements of the corridor based on the river theme. (This project also coordinates activities with the state and national Ohio River Scenic Byway designated in 1998 for the north shore of the Ohio River through Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.)

**Action Needed:** Continuing planning and advocacy by the Ohio River Way planning committees; financial and political support for trail development from the corridor communities, trail users, private interests, and state and federal governments; research into alternative funding resources.

**Contact:** Pat Timm, (pztimm@ohioriverway.org) Ohio River Way, Inc., 2055 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45202; Phone: 513-723-1916