



## 2017 Greenways Program Scope of Service – Columbus Department of Public Utilities (DPU)

The Greenways Program is managed by MORPC staff. The Program is implemented by MORPC's members and partners, and MORPC staff, through the Sustainability Advisory Committee, Central Ohio Greenways Board, Water Resources Working Group, and Green Pact. Guiding documents include the Regional Sustainability Agenda, Central Ohio Greenways Strategic Plan, and the Water Resources Working Group Action.

The Greenways Program is funded by the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities, Franklin County Engineer's Office, and Metro Parks. Additional local government funders will join in 2017 with the specific objective to advance the Central Ohio Greenways trail initiative.

### I. Advocate and Collaborate

*Be an advocate for the Greenways Partners and collaborate with them and other communities to educate about and work on water resources and trail-related efforts.*

- a) Utilize the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) Agenda to guide advocating and collaborating initiatives.
- b) Implement the Water Resources Working Group's 2016 – 2020 Action Plan (see attached).
- c) Partner with Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District to strengthen and expand advocacy and collaboration on water resources initiatives across Central Ohio to improve water quality.
- d) Serve as a liaison between the Greenways Partners and watershed groups. Update partner staff on pertinent discussions and efforts of the watershed groups.
- e) Advocate for initiatives and projects by member governments and agencies consistent with MORPC's adopted policies and plans when requested by a member government or agency.
- f) Help facilitate discussions and support projects or initiatives that achieve consensus when a project or initiative is multi-jurisdictional in nature.
- g) Promote the protection, improvement, and enjoyment of the region's water resources through multi-media communications to the public and private stakeholders. Examples of this include Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District's *Get Grassy! With Clean Water by the Yard* program and City of Columbus Department of Utilities' *PUP* (Pick up Poop) dog waste disposal awareness program.
- h) Utilize the Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board to advocate and collaborate on initiatives related to trails.
- i) Facilitate and organize 3 Central Ohio Greenways (COG) forums.
- j) Host, promote, and update the COG website, page, and brochure.
- k) Acknowledge the Greenways Partners through incorporating their logos in publications and online media.

### II. Educate through Programs

*Provide education on water resources and trails-related efforts through different programs.*

- a) MORPC Home Weatherization Program: Incorporate installation of low-flow showerheads in homes receiving weatherization services through MORPC's Home Weatherization Program. Include educational materials about the benefits of using a low-flow showerhead.
- b) Educate communities' staff and decision makers about potential impacts to water resources in their vicinity and across Central Ohio by notifying them of:
  - a. Army Corps and Ohio EPA wetland and stream permit applications; and
  - b. Potential state and federal legislative changes.Provide them with the necessary information about the projects and policies in question to be able to make educated comments to Army Corp, Ohio EPA, and state and federal government.
- c) Educate communities' staff and decision makers about funding opportunities related to trails and water resources efforts.

### **III. Educate through Events**

*Provide education on water resources and trails-related efforts through various events and forums.*

- a) Engage professionals and advocates through periodic invitations to working group meetings and fieldtrips.
- b) Engage the public through events on local waterways such as Riverfest. Riverfest 2017 will be in partnership with the Columbus Arts Festival, exposing approximately 500,000 individuals to Central Ohio's water and trail resources. This will include media coverage and requiring participants to sign pledge cards with information on how they can help protect our water resources.
- c) Engage the public, professionals, and advocates through events:
  - a. Host and organize annual Summit on Sustainability; and
  - b. Host local workshop as part of the International Trail Symposium in Dayton, OH.
  - c. Plan and organize the 2018 Mid-America Trails & Greenways Conference to be held in Columbus. 2017 tasks will include fundraising, securing presenters, and event-planning.

### **IV. Storm Water Management**

*Promote knowledge and awareness of best practices for storm water management within Columbus and Central Ohio.*

- a) Assist Columbus Department of Public Utilities (DPU) with updating their Stormwater Design Manual (SWDM) by serving on the SWDM Review Committee and Green Infrastructure Credit Subcommittee.
- b) Consider storm water runoff and other water quality issues during MORPC's Complete Streets reviews of roadway infrastructure plans proposed for jurisdictions within the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) boundaries.
- c) Partner with The Nature Conservancy Ohio to promote their in-lieu fee program for development-related stormwater mitigation, and assist them with identifying sites to implement mitigation projects.
- d) Promote use of MORPC's Green Infrastructure Toolkit by MORPC members and partners.
- e) Investigate developing a regional green infrastructure policy for Central Ohio.

### **V. Watershed Planning**

*Support watershed planning and implementation efforts.*

- a) Partner with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to review local watershed action plans and update them following EPA's Nine Element NPS-IS Plan process in order to implement identified projects that improve water quality.
- b) Support local watershed groups and watershed coordinators in the implementation of Central Ohio watershed action plans through such means as writing letters of support for proposals, promoting their events on our calendar, newsletter, and social media, seeking opportunities to partner on outreach, inviting them to MORPC events, and communicating opportunities for implementation. Furthermore, watershed groups will have a standing agenda item at each Central Ohio Water Resources Working Group meeting to report on their respective activities.

### **VI. Climate Change Adaptation**

*Implement the recommendations of Sustaining Scioto.*

- a) Continue outreach and education of the Adaptive Management Plan.
- b) Utilize the Water Resources Working Group to develop short-term implementation strategies.

## **V. Trail Planning**

*Promote trail development and usage.*

- a) Lead the Central Ohio Greenways Board with their continued efforts to accomplish the work laid out in the 5 -year strategic plan.
- b) Assist with or conduct trail counts using MORPC's pedestrian and bicycle count equipment and volunteers along:
  - a. All regionally significant trails; and
  - b. Community trail connectors.Provide this data to partners to use when applying for funding, and utilize the data in regional trail planning efforts.
- c) Review trail grant applications for local communities and provide feedback and letters of support as necessary.
- d) Continue working with communities and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) on identifying, mapping, and signing water trails and access points to make safe and legal water access readily available to the public.