

Mission Statement

“To develop trails and protect our greenways while enhancing the quality of life by providing healthy outdoor recreation and economic opportunities linking and strengthening our communities”

Jefferson County Trails & Greenways

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Creating a Vision

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The Jefferson County Trails & Greenways Vision will be a direct outcome of the *Jefferson County Community Investment Plan – A Partnership for Growth* (CIP) completed in 2008. The CIP identified three major goals to move Jefferson County into the future:

- Enhance the Quality of Community and Family Life
- Improve and Expand Infrastructure
- Stimulate Workforce and Economic Growth

One key outcome identified was to “Improve the Overall Health of Jefferson County Citizens” and a long-term

strategy to accomplish that outcome was to “Create trails (biking, walking, running) linking communities”.

Realistically, creating trails for recreation and conserving greenspace could satisfy all of the three major goals and many of the key outcomes of the CIP. It could also provide many additional benefits to the community including recreational opportunities, improved health, economic development, social interaction, creating and connecting Points of Pride, corridors for green infrastructure, and preserving natural resources.

The Vision will identify improvements necessary to

help local communities become more bicycle and walking friendly and guide Jefferson County as a whole to be a “more livable” community. The opportunities will be identified for connecting communities within Jefferson County, as well as for making connections to adjacent counties and states as part of a regional network. The Vision will give the county a way to effectively communicate the values of trails and greenways, develop partnerships for implementation and be proactive and strategic in planning for the future.

Public Meetings

The Trails and Greenways Vision Working Group visited six sites in Jefferson County (Steubenville, Toronto, Bloomingdale, Berg-holz, Adena and Dillonvale) seeking public input to help guide the vision process. Over 100 people participated in helping to cast the vision for trails in Jefferson County.

The presentations consisted of an overview of the inception of the Vision project by Chamber President, Sue Hershey, the benefits of initiating Trails and Greenways in our communities and beyond by Andrea Irland from the National Park Service, and an explanation of the outcome of the process, by Irene Moore from the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Wendee Zadanski, also from the Jefferson SWCD, conducted a brief survey, while Sandy Chenal from Crossroads RC&D facilitated the public input process and Mike Paprocki, from Brooke, Hancock and Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission, worked with residents to put their ideas on a map.

The meeting participants were asked about existing trails and where they might want to see trails and greenways in their community, as well as any concerns or opportunities and benefits they might see if Trails and Greenways were to be initiated in their communities.

The public meetings were well attended and the information, enthusiasm and support for the Trails and Greenways Vision was evident.

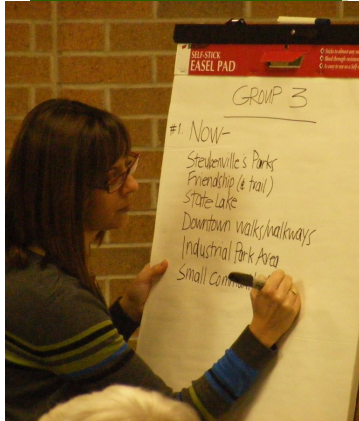


The Ohio River—A beautiful resource



First public meeting at Eastern Gateway Community College

Wendee Zadanski takes notes during a brainstorming session



Brainstorming

Summary of Public Meeting Brainstorming Sessions

As a result of the input from the participation during the six public meetings, Jefferson County residents created a vision of networks of environmental, cultural, recreational, scenic, and historical resources. Each community linked neighborhoods to towns and extended linkages throughout the County and beyond.

Visions of trails along the Ohio River, the inclusion of existing community and county park trails, and the connection to established trails in West Virginia and Pennsylvania was the recurrent identification of opportunities echoed by the participants.

The residents identified natural areas for environmental protection, conser-

vation and restoration and highlighted historic landscapes that will focus attention on the unique features of the area. They recognized and discussed the concerns and opportunities significant to the creation of a trails and greenways vision and established that the positive benefits well outranked the negatives.

Surveys

Interest Survey Helps Gauge Support of Trails and Greenways in Jefferson County

To gain a better understanding of the level of public support for trail development in Jefferson County and driving forces behind the public interest, a Trails and Greenways Interest Survey was developed by the Steering Committee. The survey was publicized via newspaper, the internet and through the public meetings. There were 152 Jefferson County residents responded to the survey.



Trail enthusiasts at the public meeting in Bergholz

- 93% of respondents were very interested or interested in development of Jefferson County trails, ranking health and recreation as the most important reasons for development, followed by quality of life, environment, economic development and transportation.
- 82% of those who responded indicated that they participate in some form of physical activity such as walking or biking at least weekly, with 62% traveling outside of Jefferson County to visit other trails.
- The most popular trail surface was asphalt or other hard surface at 65%, followed closely by packed or crushed limestone at 38%. 15% favored existing roads and streets.
- When asked what length of route they preferred, 35% of respondents said 'any', and 51% preferred a trail length 4 to 10 miles or greater. "Less than one mile" was the least favored response, at only 1%.
- In response to how each planned to support trail development and maintenance in Jefferson County, 64% indicated that they would support trail efforts through donations; 62% hoped to support the effort through volunteering; 44% would support a levy; and 26% were in support of fees.
- 53% of those who responded were ages 35 to 59; 29% of respondents were 60 and older.

There were nearly an equal number of responses from male and female residents.

First Funding from Rotary!!

Sue Hershey of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce made a request of a challenge grant from the Steubenville Rotary for \$1000 for the Jefferson County Trail and Greenway Vision. At the May meeting of the Steering Committee, she was pleased to announce that our request had been accepted! The money will be placed in the Community Foundation of Jefferson County special



account and will be used towards the production of our map brochure. Since we requested it as a challenge grant, it is now our task to raise matching funds. We have set our goal to triple that amount to raise the full amount for the project. Just 4 \$500 donations would reach that goal. Members of the steering committee were informed that their \$500 donation would also secure space on the brochure for a

logo. The survey also discovered that people would be willing to give donations towards a trails and greenways effort. Now you have the opportunity to do so! Marty Hauser of Hauser Furniture in Steubenville and Jim Emmerling of EM Media in Steubenville are the first to step up to help meet the Rotary Challenge by donating \$250 each to the Trails and Greenways Vision.

“We are well on our way to meeting our challenge goal“

-Sue Hershey, Chamber President

Benefits of Trails and Greenways

Health and Wellness

- Opportunities for exercise
- Reduction in disease obesity, diabetes, heart disease
- Mental health
- Health department and hospital partnerships

Recreation

- Hiking/Walking
- Biking
- Birdwatching
- Horseback Riding
- Special Events

Community/Social

- Multi-generational users
- Diversity in motivations
- Everyone is welcome
- Safer neighborhoods
- More neighbor interactions
- Common positive interest in welfare of trail
- Opportunity to volunteer

Education

- Interpretive opportunities
- Learn about natural or historical features
- Reconnect children with nature

Green

Infrastructure

- Natural systems to meet the needs of people and nature

Flood control, water quality

Economic Development

- Expenditures by residents remain in region
- Commercial Uses
- Tourism
- Corporate relocation and retention
- Intrinsic value



“Trails lead to ice cream stands...now that's economic development!“

Wendee Zadanski.

Photo Contest

The Trails and Greenways Working Group invites all amateur photographers to submit your photos in a contest for inclusion in the final brochure of the Jefferson County Trail and Greenway Vision. We're looking for great shots of nature-based recreation, wildlife and the scenic beauty of Jefferson County. So send in your photos. The deadline for entries to the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce is **September 1, 2010**. For details and an entry form, please visit the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Website at www.jeffersoncountychamber.com. Or call the chamber at 740.282.6226. We look forward to seeing your beautiful shots of Jefferson County.



Old Route 7 north of Toronto. A bike trail someday?

For more information please contact the
 Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
 Phone: 740.282.6226
 E-mail: president@jeffersoncountychamber.com
<http://jeffcotrails.ning.com/>

Remaining Timeline

- July—present criteria results to Steering Committee
- August—write the draft of the plan
- September—present draft of summary document and map to the public and seek endorsements from community leaders
- October—make changes and go to print
- November—debut plan



Working Group

Sandy Chenal	Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Council
Sue Hershey	Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
Andrea Irland	National Park Service—Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance
Irene Moore	Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District
Michael Paprocki	Brooke, Hancock, Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission
Wendee Zadanski	Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District

These are the primary organizations developing the Trails and Greenways Vision for Jefferson County.



Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson
 Metropolitan Planning Commission
 Steubenville, OH - Weirton, WV



Jefferson Soil & Water Conservation District

Steering Committee

Jeremy Bernhart	DeNoon Lumber	Jason Mayberry	Herald-Star
Jim Branagan	County Engineer	Laura Meeks	Eastern Gateway Community College
John Cucarese	New York Life	Becky Howell	Jefferson County Health Department
Terry DeHamer	Christian Connection	Domenick Mucci	Jefferson County Regional Planning
Paula Donohue	Franciscan University	Sevey Petras	Lamp Light Communities
Ruby Greathouse	Brooke Pioneer Trail Advocate	Patti Reda	Steubenville Health Commissioner
Tracey Joltes	Eastern Gateway Community College	Rory Robinson	National Park Service
George Komar	Toronto Coalition for Revitalization	Beth Wood	Steubenville Convention & Visitor Bureau
Donna Hrzero	Progress Alliance	Janine Yeske	OSU Extension - 4H
Dave Maple	County Commissioner		
Tricia Maple	Inn at Brandywine		