

Ohio River Trail Mega-Greenway Proposal

Tri-State Greenway - PA, OH & WV

In addition, the ORT will be an important link in a proposed "Tri-State Greenway". A trail user may begin in Pennsylvania at mile marker zero on the ORT and travel through Glasgow, Ohioville, Midland, Industry, Vanport, Beaver, Bridgewater, Rochester, Monaca, Center Township, Aliquippa, Hopewell Township, South Heights, Crescent Township, Moon Township and Coraopolis near Groveton, and then continue traveling on the Montour Trail towards McDonald, Pa. The Montour Trail intersects with the Panhandle Trail at McDonald, Pa. From McDonald the Panhandle Trail continues to Weirton, WV, where the proposed Great Ohio Lake-to-River Greenway extension would return the trail user to East Liverpool, OH and complete the trip to the Point of the Beginning or the ORT mile marker zero. The circuitous route is approximately 100 miles long, which would be very popular tour with century riders.

A shorter circuitous greenway opportunity is to start at the "Point of Beginning" and travel along the ORT North Shore Trail to Midland, Pa and cross the Ohio River on the Shippingport Bridge and merge with a proposed trail constructed on the abandoned Cumberland & Chester Railroad Right of Way from Shippingport, Pa to Georgetown, Pa in Greene Township (Beaver County, Pa) and Chester, WV. The trail would continue to Chester WV and cross the Chester - East Liverpool Bridge and continue to the "Point of Beginning" along the Ohio River. In addition, in Georgetown, the trail would also link to the proposed Raccoon Creek Greenway (RCG). The RCG travels to Raccoon Creek Park (PA), Tomlinson Run State Park (WV), Hillman State Park (PA) and the Montour Trail near the Pittsburgh International Airport.

Ohio River Trail & Greenway - Pittsburgh, Pa to Cairo, Illinois

Finally, the ORTC can envision an Ohio River Trail & Greenway that would extend approximately one-thousand miles from Pittsburgh, Pa to the Mississippi River at Cairo, Illinois. This trail would encompass the states of PA, OH, WV, KY, IN and IL. In Illinois, the River to River Trail is 150 mile trail beginning in Elizabethtown (Battery Rock) and ending in Grand Tower on the Mississippi River. The trail is open to hikers, backpackers and equestrians. In Indiana, the Ohio River Greenway and the Aurora-Lawrenceburgh Trail are located in Southern Indiana along the Ohio River. The Ohio River Greenway links the Communities of Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and New Albany in Indiana.

In Kentucky, the Ohio River Trail exists as a wildlife trail. The trail is suited for hiking, nature study and bird watching. In addition to the Uniontown Trail and the Louisville Riverwalk/Ohio River Levee Trail in in Kentucky the Newport-Southbank Bridge will connect proposed Ohio River Trail in Cincinnati and proposed River Path in KY. Presently the Ohio River Way is constructing the Ohio River Trail from Cincinnati, Ohio to Maysville, OH. In addition, the Ohio River Trail in Wheeling WV is part of the Wheeling Heritage Trails. The trail runs north-south starting at the city line in South Wheeling and reaches the Pike Island Dam where the trail continues into Brooke County. The Brooks Pioneer Trail connects the The Wheeling Heritage Trail to the Wellsburg Yankee Trail.

The Great Ohio Lake-to-River has proposed an extension along the Ohio River from the Point of Beginning to Wellsburg, WV. An intermediate goal is to construct the proposed Ohio River Trail & Greenway from Pittsburgh, Pa to Marietta, OH or Williamstown, WV which lies at the confluence of the Muskingum River and the Ohio River in south-eastern Ohio. At this location, Washington County, Ohio a connection to the proposed Muskingum Rail Trail and the existing North Country Trail can be realized. The establishment of a proposed "Ohio River Trails & Greenways Alliance" would facilitate the Ohio River Mega-Greenway in becoming a reality.

This proposal was initiated and authored by Dr. Vincent Troia, January 2009.

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