

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

July 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order by: Carrie Milroy, at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: J.R. Rausch, Bob Berbee, Emma Romine, Betty Brewer, Larry Amrine and Carrie Milroy.

Others Present: Jeremy Hoyt, Amanda Morris, Scott Hamilton, Eric Phillips

Approval of Minutes: The following changes were made to the minutes from June 17, 2014, Mr. Berbee said that on page three under Old Business, where it states that Carrie and J.R. meet this morning about what they would like, it should say Carrie and Bob. It should also state that the meeting was called to order by J.R. Rausch. J.R. Rausch made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Mr. Berbee seconded. Ms. Milroy stated accepted.

Report of Public Service Director: Jeremy Hoyt spoke on behalf of Mike Andrako.

Partners' Park update: Project seems to be on schedule for mid to late October finish. The splash park, some of the parts will be delivered next week and will be starting mid-July finished late August. The Gazebo will be delivered next week and this is another project that will start mid-July and finish late August. The Friendship Garden work starts in late July and finish in early September. The restrooms which you see going up now, there is still some work to be done on them but they should be completed early August. The pavilion is getting the bricks and stone around the columns and the roof should be completed in early September.

Mr. Rausch asked with the splash pad being completed, will it be open next year? Mr. Hoyt stated he sees it being available for use in spring of next year. The splash pad will operate just like the pool Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Paving Work: The preconstruction meeting was a couple of weeks ago. They are starting to do the some of the roads around town; the park related stuff will be a month behind. Lewis Park, they are working on paving the parking lot, Mill Creek Park will be expanding the parking lot, and they are paving a portion of Jim Simmons Trail.

Mr. Rausch stated that there is a detour on the Jim Simmons Trail; Mr. Hoyt stated that is because of the paving. Ms. Milroy asked if they are extending that trail? Mr. Hoyt said that he thinks they are just paving over the stones and there was no new bike path.

Ms. Milroy stated that at the beginning of the trail where the pond is there was a large piece that is damaged. Is that something that could be fixed with the paving? Mr. Hoyt stated that it is a lot easier to fix once they get the contractor onsite, he will check to see if it is on their list to fix and if not they will add that.

Parks and Grounds Superintendent: Interviews are currently underway, and by the time of the next meeting, hopefully, they will have hired someone. They have narrowed it down to three candidates.

Dog Park Update: It is in front of Council right now. The new Parks and Grounds Superintendent will play a major role in this. The attachment that was handed out to everyone and attached will explain the dog park tentative plans. There are some normal dog ordinances in place that we can add to as needed for the park.

Mr. Berbee stated that just to confirm that they are able to use the City's parking lot for overflow parking. Mr. Hoyt stated that was the intent. Mr. Berbee asked if everything goes smoothly will we be planting grass seed by fall? Mr. Hoyt said if the parking lot goes smoothly we will add it to the paving and maintenance program that is going on. He is unsure of the fence.

Report of Recreation/Event Coordinator: Mrs. Morris reported the following:

-This weekend we had an Uptown Friday Night event and the Day in the Park; both events were extremely well attended.

-The Run for Kids 5k there was over 200 participants and started at HondaMarysville and ended uptown at the Friday Night's Uptown Event. HondaMarysville was extremely appreciative for all the support they received from the City as well as the County for assistance the day before and up to the race.

For the Day in the Park event, we went through 600 hotdogs, 500 waters, and 515 ice cream scoops, and there were 615 visitors at the pool. The event was supposed to be noon to 3:30 but we ran out of items by 2:30pm. We were very pleased with the results.

Recreation:

This Saturday will be the Session I co-ed volleyball playoff tournament, and we will start the second session of Volleyball the weekend of August 13th.

Next week, the City will have a booth at the fair and Parks & Rec. information will be available.

Mr. Scott Hamilton stated that Mrs. Morris asked him to attend the committee to look at the ordinance regarding pool rates for next year. The rates have been the same for a while (Mr. Hamilton did a little research). The family pass is a family, no matter how many are in the family. We have had 12 people come in on family pass to 3 people come in on family pass. A lot of the larger cities, like Gahanna and Dublin break down the rates to: family of 3, family of 4, and family of 5, just to make it more equal for the families coming in.

Also we would like to consider a "sitters rate". A lot of the pools are going to having a sitters/nanny add on. That would have to go into the ordinance. The sitter would have to come into the pool with the children listed on that pass. That would save the families money because they are now buying an individual pass on top of the family pass for the nanny/sitter. This does deter some people.

We would also like to raise the cost of daily admissions. We have had through July 16, 2014, almost 7800 people go through on the daily fee. We had just under the 5400 with memberships signing in. Those are good numbers; the daily rates are increasing. One change would be increasing the daily family max, and set a limit. Raise it from \$15.00 to \$20.00 for a family of 4, and \$3.00 for every person after. It would still be a savings.

Mrs. Morris stated they would like to hold a meeting maybe with Finance Committee and Parks and Rec. to get a better understanding of why the rates are what they are and if they can be changed.

Commissioner's report on Individual Parks:

J.R. Rausch- Mill Valley Central looks great. Mill Valley South the men's urinal is not flushing, and the blow dryer in the men's restroom isn't working. The water fountain is about to fall off the building. The rest of the maintenance was great.

Emma Romine- All three of the parks look good, except for Trinity and the sign is leaning.

Carrie Milroy- Eljer Park: Mrs. Morris were the new boards ordered? Mrs. Morris answered yes, they contacted the company, and they were ordered to the best of her knowledge. Ms. Milroy asked about the support rails. The sign out there in the Skate Park area, needs addressed. Playground area the weeds are starting to come up through the mulch. Is the new mulch put out yearly or is that on a schedule? Mrs. Morris stated she was unsure. Ms. Milroy requested that this is something that needs looked at for next year. The shelter by the playground, the electrical box that is down low and does not have the switches on it does not have a cover, but one that is up high has wires coming out and has no cover it has been like that for a while. It has always concerned her that it is not covered. The flower bed over on Walnut who maintains that? It looks very good. The prior course the signing on number 5 was flapping, it needs some bolts. Dead tree down by the soccer field maybe six feet, it needs removed. The dugouts at Eljer need repainted.

McCarthy Park: Playground looks good, shelter area looks like they spread the picnic tables out. The concern there is the steps. Reading the minutes from last month, I do not know if those are going to be changed to ADA regulations. The wood that is there cannot be safe.

Betty Brewer: Lewis Park: The gravel that was just put down for the running track has a lot of grass coming up; we need that taken care of. McCloud Park: there is a memorial

tree (Crabapple), the master gardener's maintain the park but do they if that tree needs taken down, is that their responsibility or is that the City's?

Larry Amrine: Aldersgate Park: The railing, treehouse, steps and the benches need a coat of paint. The playground equipment in the mulch looked good. Jim Simmons Trail looked pretty good, but after the paving project, it will look great.

Bob Berbee: Schwartzkopf Park: The park looks good, the pits are emptied from the clay except a couple of them, so it is only a matter of time until they are demolished. Mill Creek, the batting cages and the new mats for batters look good. The only problem that he is noticing is something over where the pitchers are a,t is starting to get worn. Need a rubber mat, it is muddy and the grass is growing up.

Citizen's Comments Non-Agenda Items:

Brodie Rockenbaugh, President of Marysville Junior Baseball and Softball Association. He came to say thank you to the Parks and Rec. Commission for making some improvements that they have seen. We had over 800 registrations this year. We just finished up a softball tournament this weekend and received a lot of compliments on how the parks looked that we played at Eljer and Mill Creek. The batting cages have been a huge hit. To the City, thank you for the maintenance of the fields.

Old Business: 5-year Capital Improvement Plan it was discussed at last months meeting. If no one has any changes then we will vote on approving the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan. Larry Amrine made the motion to approve, and J.R. Rausch seconded.

J.R. Rausch YES; Emma Romine YES; Carrie Milroy YES; Betty Brewer YES; Larry Amrine YES; Bob Berbee YES;

New Business: Eric Phillips spoke about the Union County Trail and Greenway Master Plan which impacts all of us. It is a bike map that connects all the parks. The committee meets on a quarterly basis. They had ODNR coming and start discussing how to get grant money. We need to have an overall plan. We started raising funds, over the last three years we have raised around \$32,000.00. The funds have come from the City, County, and many other entities. We hired a consultant to develop our first ever greenway trail and master plan for the entire county. The plans should be complete by the fall. Everything is proposed (see attachment). We would like to connect to the C3 bike path. (Urbana to Dayton, Dayton to Cincinnati). We would like to thank all the companies that have helped fund the project. There are policies and procedures that foster the bikeway plan. Greenways are not cheap, they cost between \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 per mile, per year. There is a lot of money that needs to be invested in the bikeway plan.

Darby Creek is one focus for this bikeway, and the Jim Simmons Trail is another focus point. We could also build a bridge to connect Mill Creek. We would like to get close to Raymond and Ostrander. When we look at the railroads, we looked at the one in North

Lewisburg that went to Richwood is vacated. We really wanted to focus on connecting Honda to Scotts down to the business parkway. At Scotts, there are about 20 people who bike to work from Columbus. We wanted to look at road routes. Looked at what the cyclist are using today. Goal is connecting everyone into a system where we can get on a bike, run or walk, anywhere you want to go. They are looking at a potential water trail in the Darby and Liberty. We have found that the County really supports this. The businesses on Industrial Parkway are going to be required to put in a bike trail. The next step is to incorporate the results from our survey into our plan. Adopt a plan, determine what the league entity will be, educate the public to encourage about this project. There will be a public meeting.

Comments of Citizens- Agenda Items: N/A

Comments of Individual Commissioners: Mr. Rausch thanked Brodie Rockenbaugh for coming to the meeting, we appreciated comments. We are updating our Capital Improvement Plan for next year and our Master Plan, Mrs. Morris will be talking with you. Mr. Rausch stated that he (Mr. Rockenbaugh) knows that the numbers have changed with the MJBSA, and we will be talking to you about what you see coming, with numbers of children playing.

Ms. Milroy asked if there has been anymore discussion with filling the vacancy. Mr. Rausch stated hopefully by next council meeting.

This evening we have had two requests, 1. For someone to help out with the pool and AD HOC meeting, and 2. The bikeway trail. Is there any interest for that? Mr. Berbee stated that he will help out with the bike trail. Ms. Milroy will help out with the AD HOC meeting for the pool.

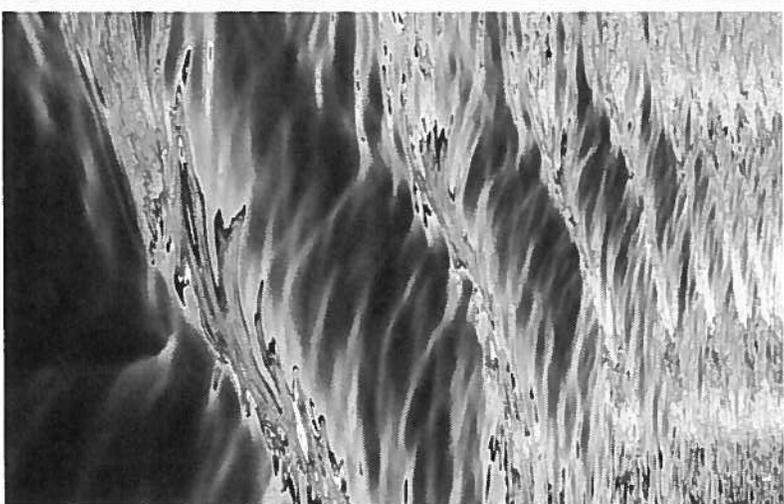
Mrs. Brewer stated she checked on the Paintball Park. There are several in the State of Ohio, and most of them privately owned. She questioned do we have enough acres? One park she looked at was 42 acres, and another was 100 acres.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



Union County
**Trail
& Greenway
Master Plan**

July 2014



History & Overview

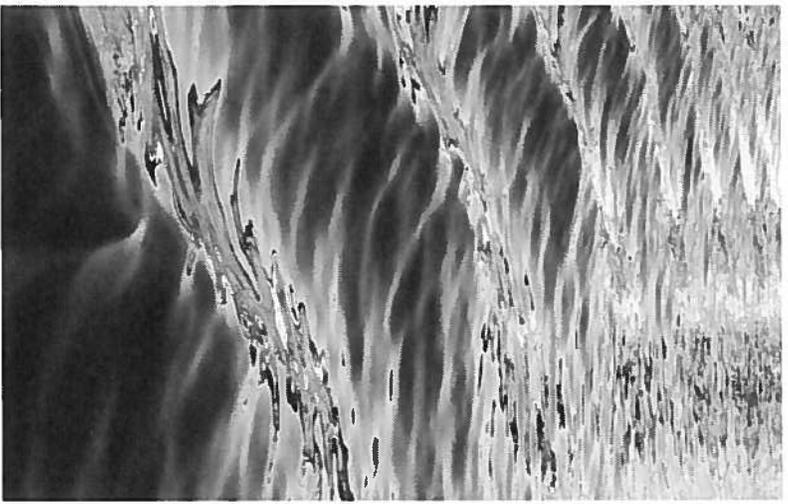
- In 2006, the Economic Development Partnership (EDP) enlisted the assistance of MORPC and community leaders to research possible bicycle routes throughout Union County. A draft route map was produced.
- In an effort to move the project forward, in 2008 the EDP created a Bikeway Committee consisting of local governments, planning organizations, developers, private interest groups, and the public.
- The Committee recognized the need to draft an official Master Plan, and began raising funds to hire a consultant in 2010.
- In late 2013, CT Consultants was hired to develop the Plan.
- The consultant conducted a series of committee meetings, public outreach efforts, and a community survey, to develop a **bold vision** for future trail development and greenway preservation in Union County.
- The Trail & Greenway Master Plan will be complete this Autumn.

Funding Partners

- Union County Port Authority
- Union County Economic Development Partnership
- Union County Commissioners
- City of Marysville
- Village of Plain City
- Nationwide Realty (Jerome Village)
- Jerome Township
- Millcreek Township
- Joseph & Janet Mitchell



Goals



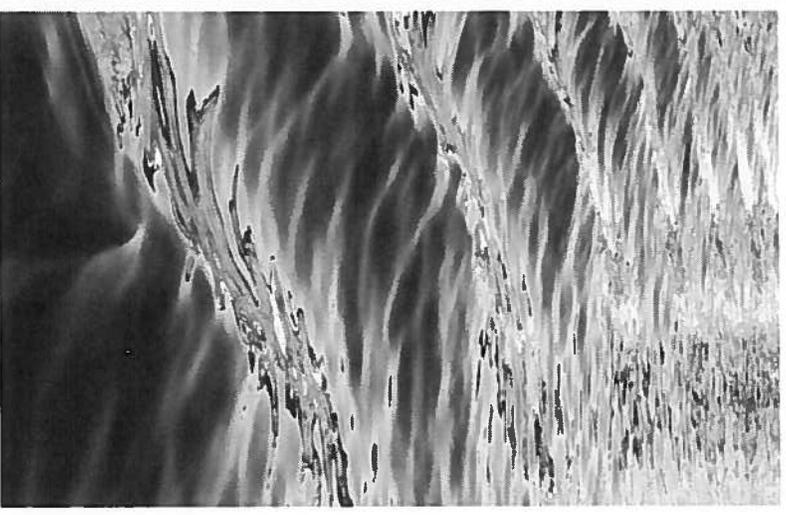
The Goals of the Master Plan

- Showcase natural, cultural, and recreational assets
- Illustrate how a trail system can improve quality of life for residents and grow the economy
- Identify possible trail types and themes
- Suggest possible routes to connect communities and neighborhoods to each other and the regional system
- Recommend policies and procedures that fosters trail development
- Identify early “action projects” that will spur additional trail development





Greenway Themes



The Darby Heritage Trail

- Celebrates Union County's railroad heritage
- Highlights the diverse eco-system along the Big Darby Creek & Big Darby Scenic By-Way
- Showcases the historic Covered Bridges
- Connects Plain City, Unionville Center, and Milford Center
- Potential connection to Marysville via DP&L easement
- Connects Union County to Champaign County (Urbana), and the Simon Kenton Trail.
- Will eventually connect Union County to Dayton/Cincinnati, and points beyond via the Miami Valley Trail System.



The Mill Creek Greenway

- Highlights the scenic Mill Creek as it meanders through Union County
- Celebrates the diverse eco-system of the Mill Creek Floodplain, including forests, wetlands, and abundant wildlife
- Bisects the city of Marysville, utilizing the existing Jim Simmons Trail and park system. Also connects the Uptown District to the rest of the City
- Connects Raymond, Marysville, and Ostrander
- Additional “spur” trails would connect Marysville to Millcreek & Jerome Townships; Glacier Ridge, and Dublin



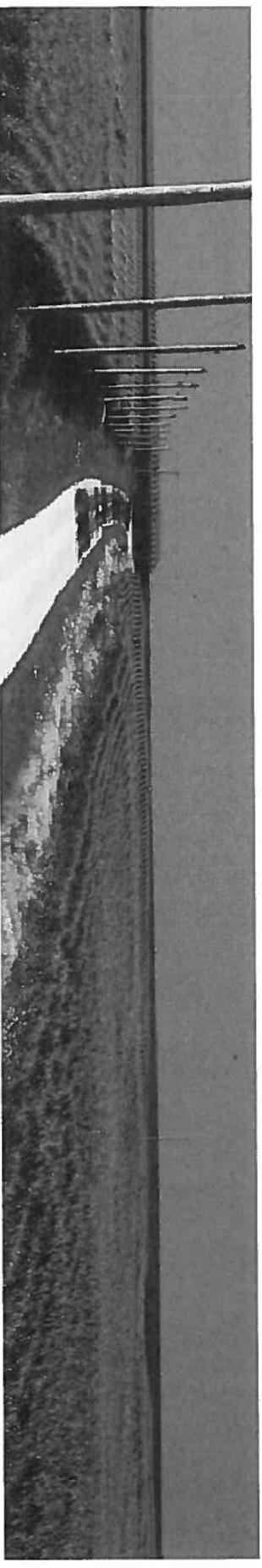
The Innovation Trail

- Celebrates Union County's "Giants of Industry"
- Connects major employers such as Honda of America Mfg. and Scotts Miracle-Gro with the county's residential areas; and Dublin (Columbus Metro)
- Promotes commuting via bicycling (healthy lifestyles)
- Utilizes a mix of off-road trails and bike lanes primarily along Industrial & Northwest Parkways

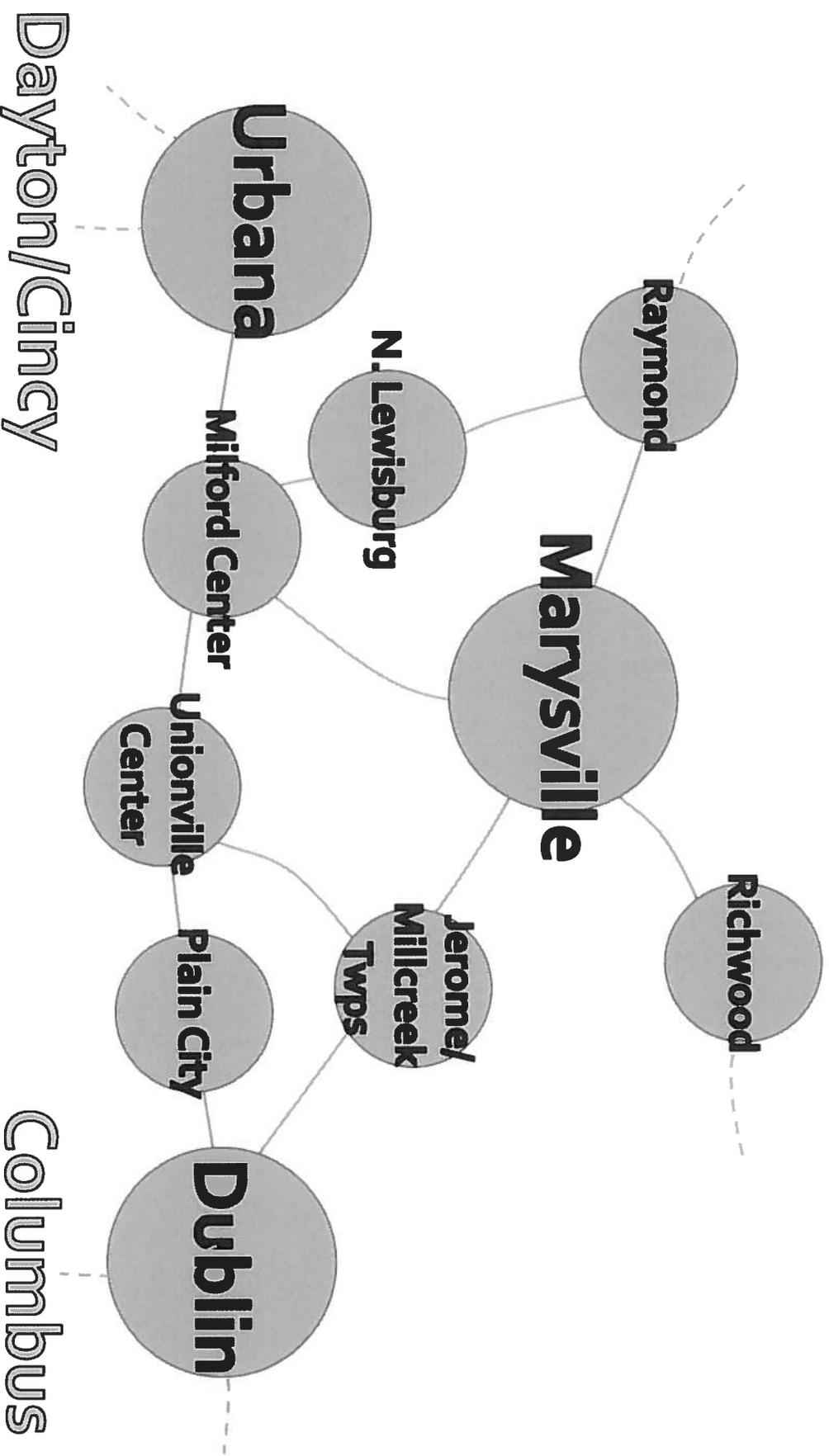


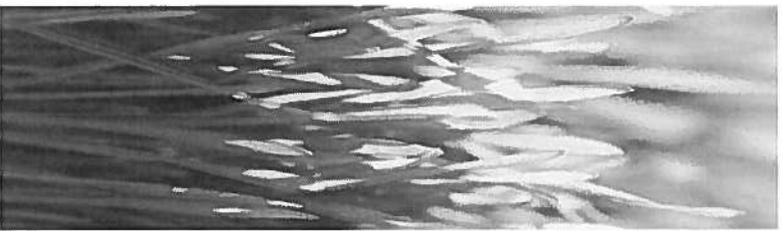
Scenic Road Routes

- Showcases Union County's rich agricultural and farming heritage
- Highlights the many historic farmsteads, scenic vistas, small towns, and slow-paced lifestyle of the Midwest
- Utilizes rural township and county roads, primarily north and south of the US 33 Corridor
- Links numerous small communities and neighborhoods

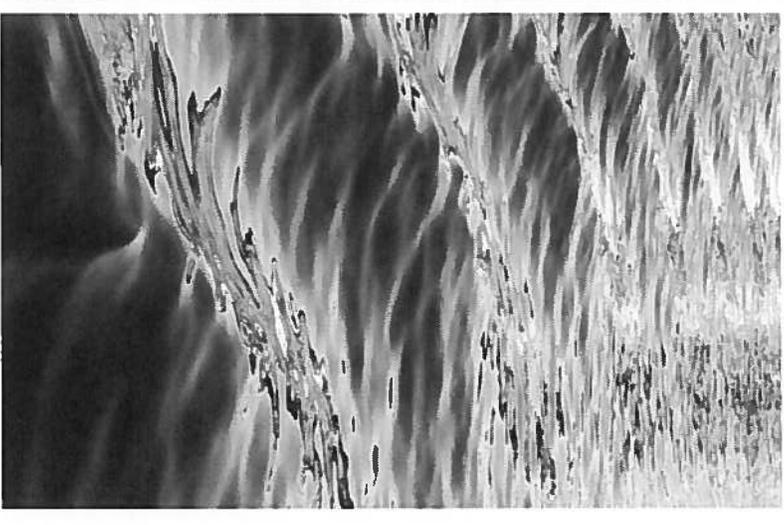


Connecting Our Communities





Plan Suggestions



Survey Summary

- A survey was distributed in June 2014, with over 360 responses
- Support and demand for Bicycle Trails, Walking Paths & Greenways is very strong
- There is a particular demand for Multi-use Trails and Exercise/Fitness Trails
- Survey respondents overwhelmingly desire dedicated trails/paths versus on-street lanes
- Connecting Marysville with other communities within Union County (as well as the Regional System) is very important
- A majority of respondents want local gov't to take a more active role in providing recreational amenities



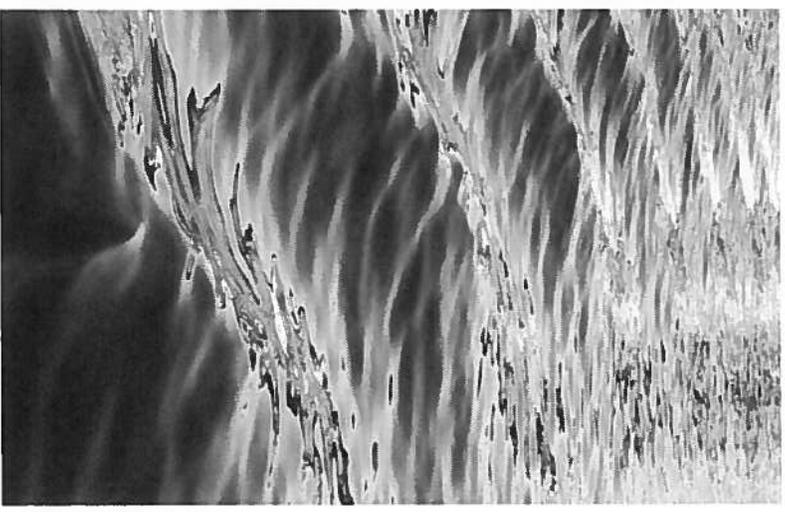
Early Recommendations

- Adopt an open space policy that requires setbacks and/or easements for trail development
- Require developers to include access points and construct trails that link parks, schools, and other neighborhoods
- Modify streets to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists; include lane markings and signage
- Discuss Plan with property owners to acquire land or easements
- Install bike parking facilities at key destinations





Next Steps



Immediate Next Steps

- Incorporate results from June 2014 survey into the Plan
- Identify early “action projects” for each community
- Conduct final public outreach meeting (Aug/Sept)
- Adopt the Plan
- Determine the lead entity
- Educate the public and build excitement!





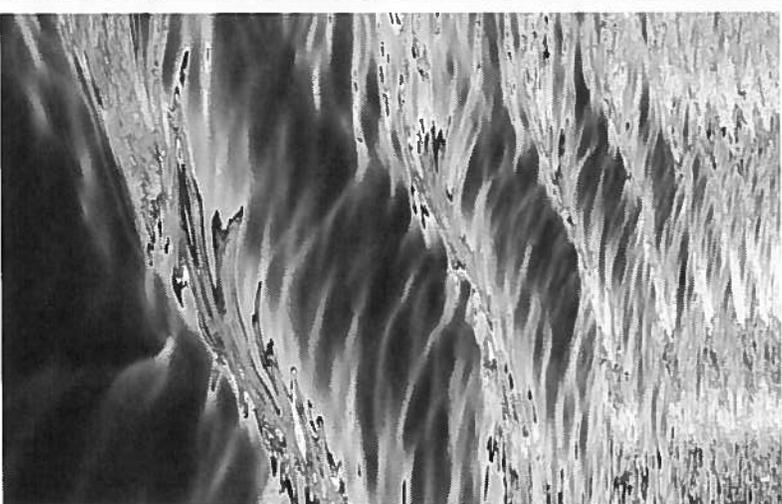
Questions?

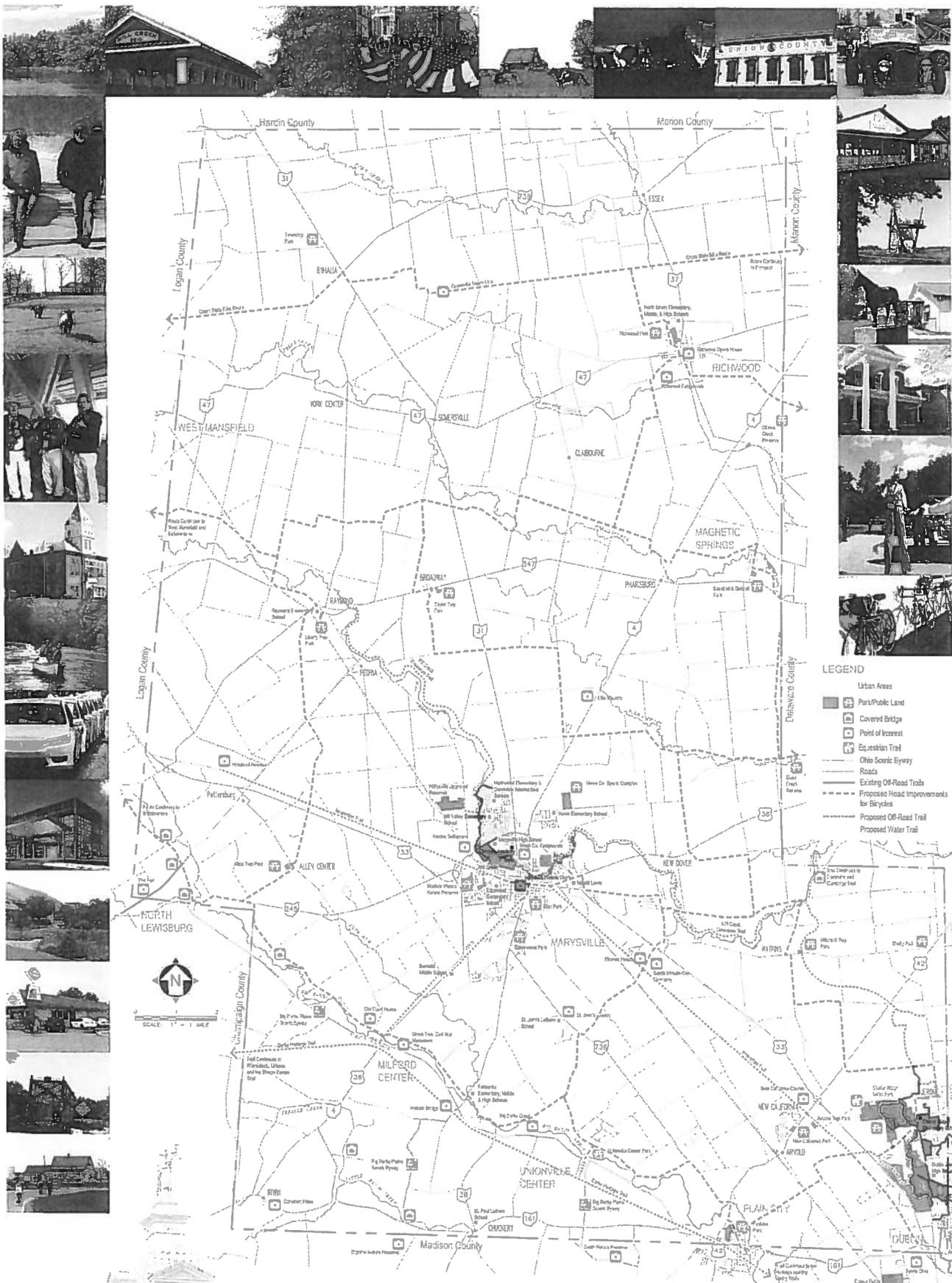
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Union County

Trail & Greenway Master Plan

