

APPENDIX A: OPEN HOUSE MATERIALS

In-Person Open House

Display & Activity Boards

West Region Blueway & Trail System Presentation

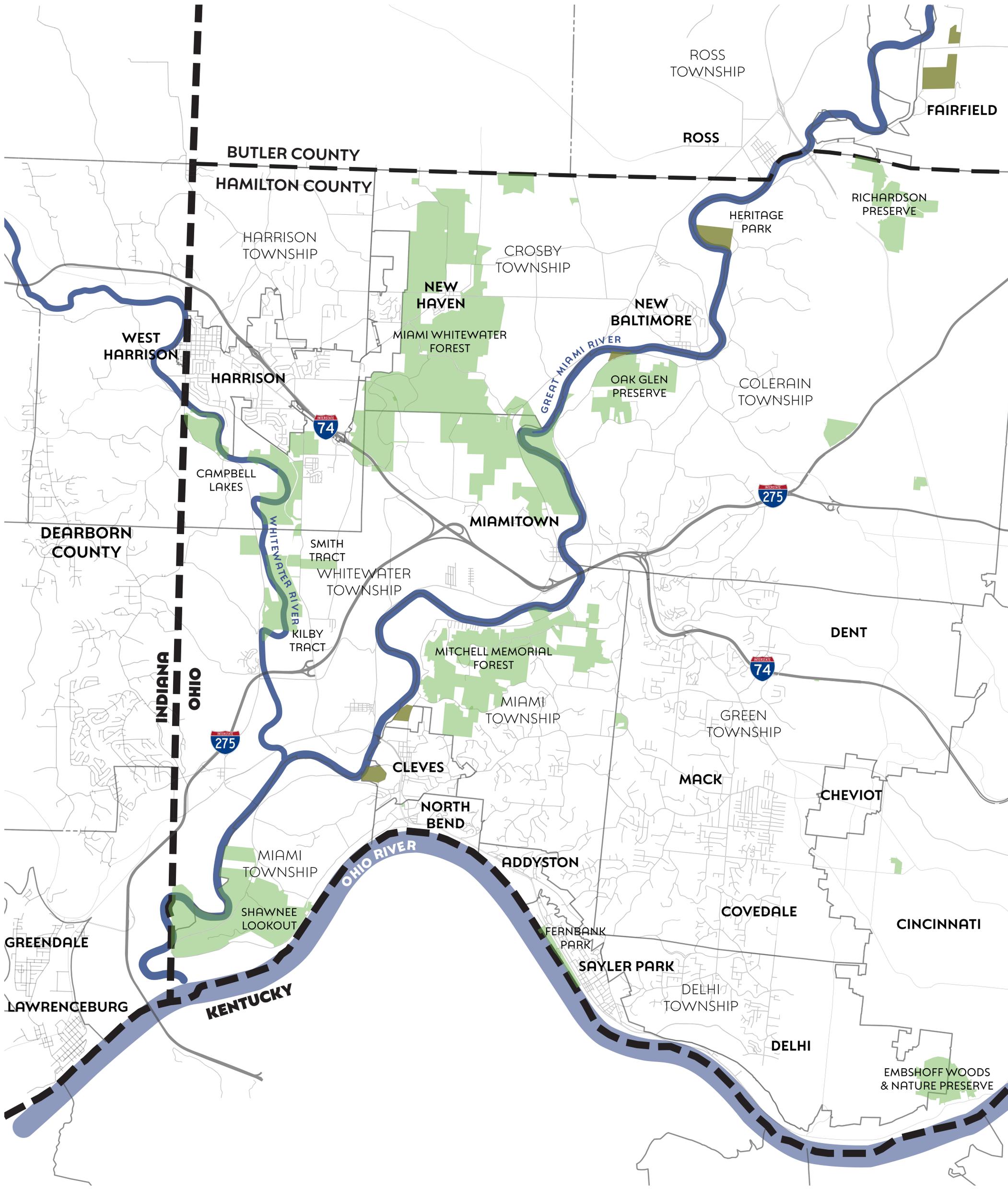
Project Fact Sheet

Printed Surveys

Virtual Open House

Public Input Site Content & Survey

In-Person Open House
Display & Activity Boards



West Region Blueway & Trail System

Great Miami & Whitewater River Corridor
July 13, 2023



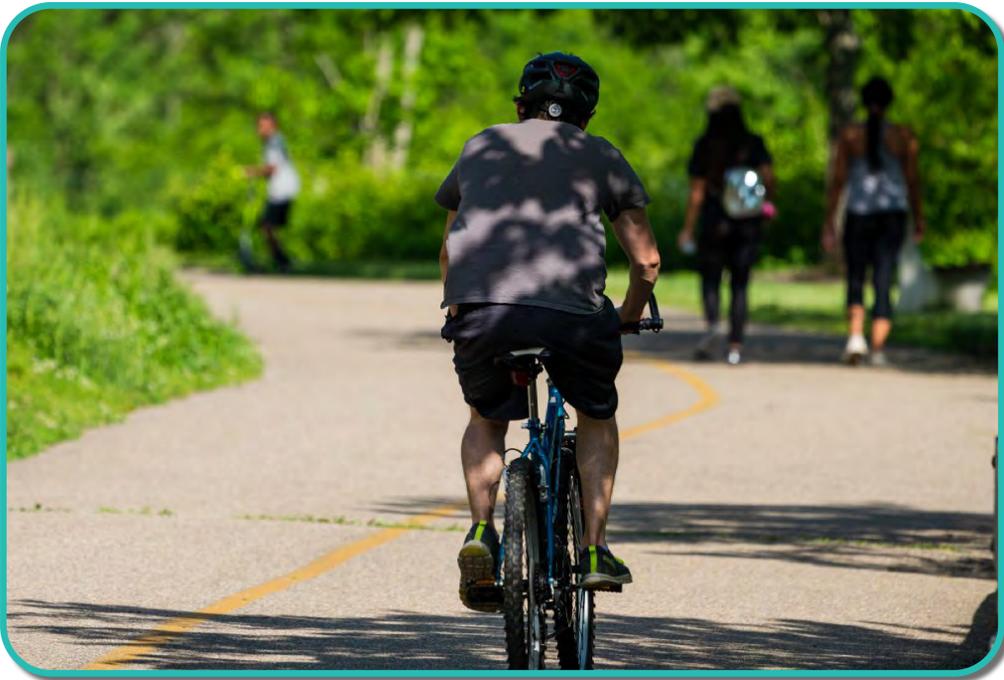
OUR VISION FOR THIS NEW TRAIL SYSTEM INCLUDES:



STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING GREAT PARKS' BLUEWAY IN WESTERN HAMILTON COUNTY



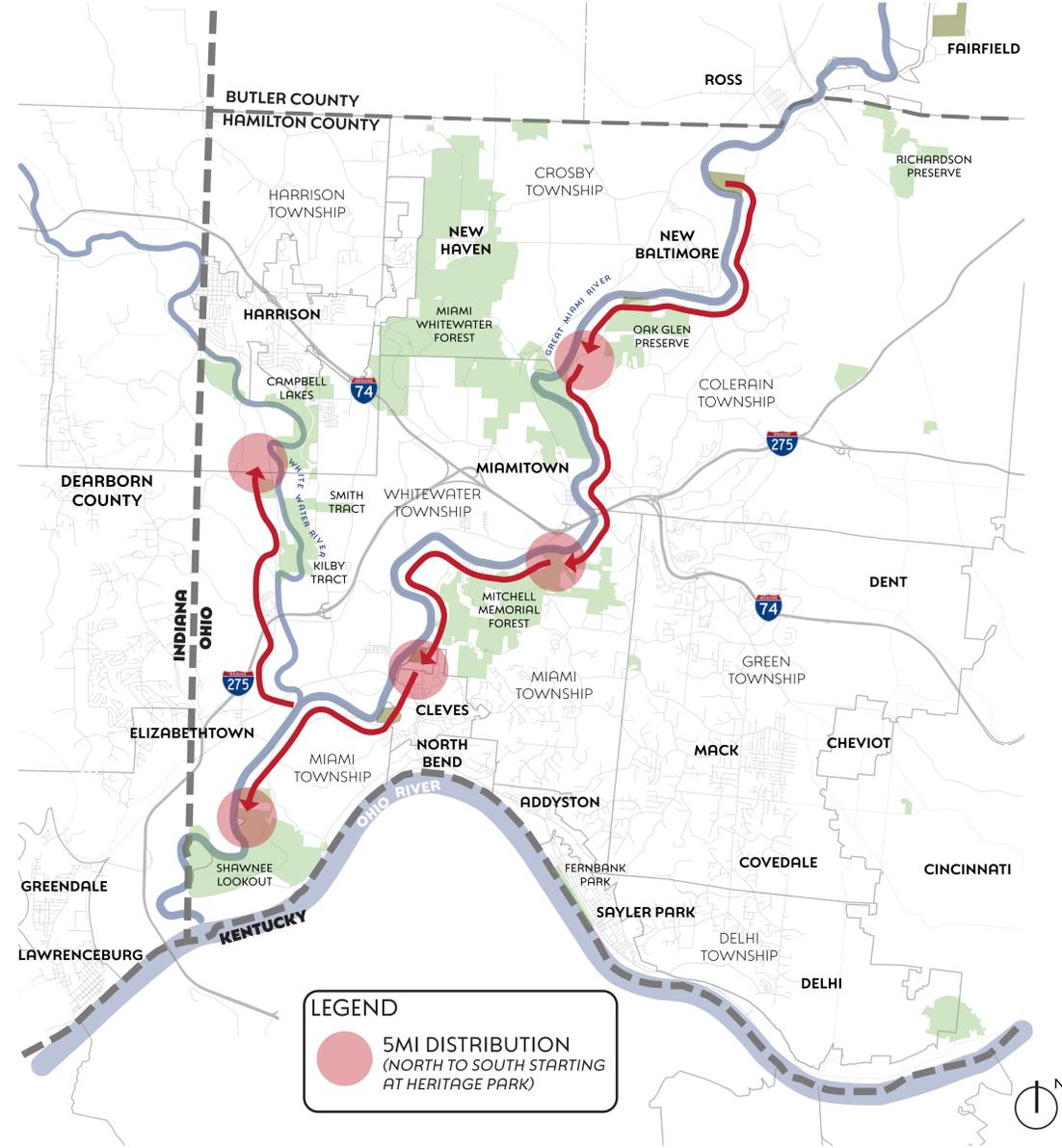
ESTABLISHING FOUR TO FIVE NEW CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH SITES ALONG THE BLUEWAY TRAIL



ESTABLISHING A NEW SHARED-USE TRAIL ALONG THE GREAT MIAMI RIVER CORRIDOR

REGIONAL INVENTORY

5 MILE DISTRIBUTION ZONES



River Corridor Distances:

Great Miami River

- 27.1 miles (from Ohio river to county line)

Whitewater River

- 8.8 miles (from Great Miami to county line)

Distribution Statistics:

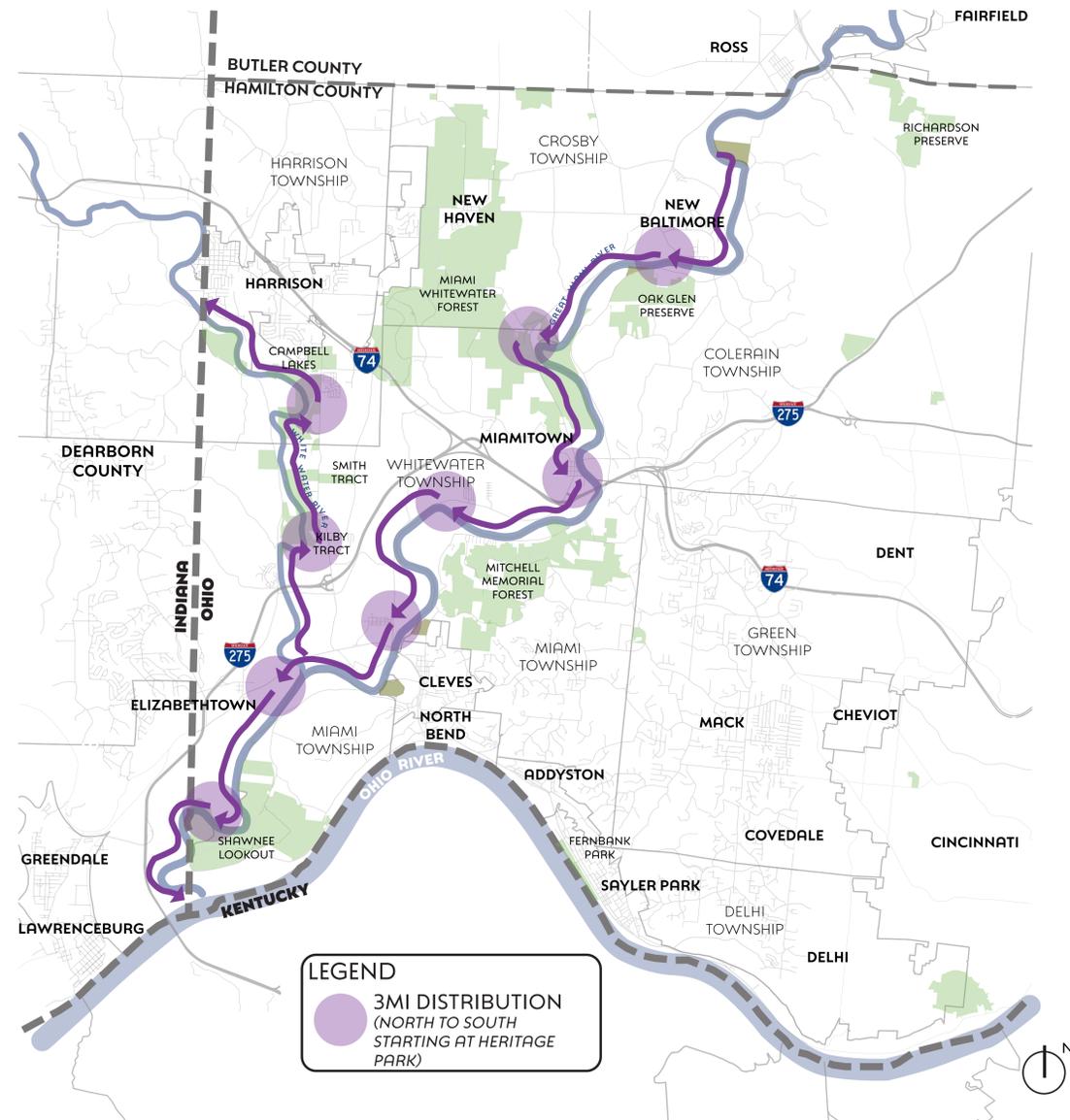
- The average time to paddle 1 mile down river is 30min.

- Blueway planning best practices state that launches should be located within 3 to 5 miles of one another.



REGIONAL INVENTORY

3 MILE DISTRIBUTION ZONES



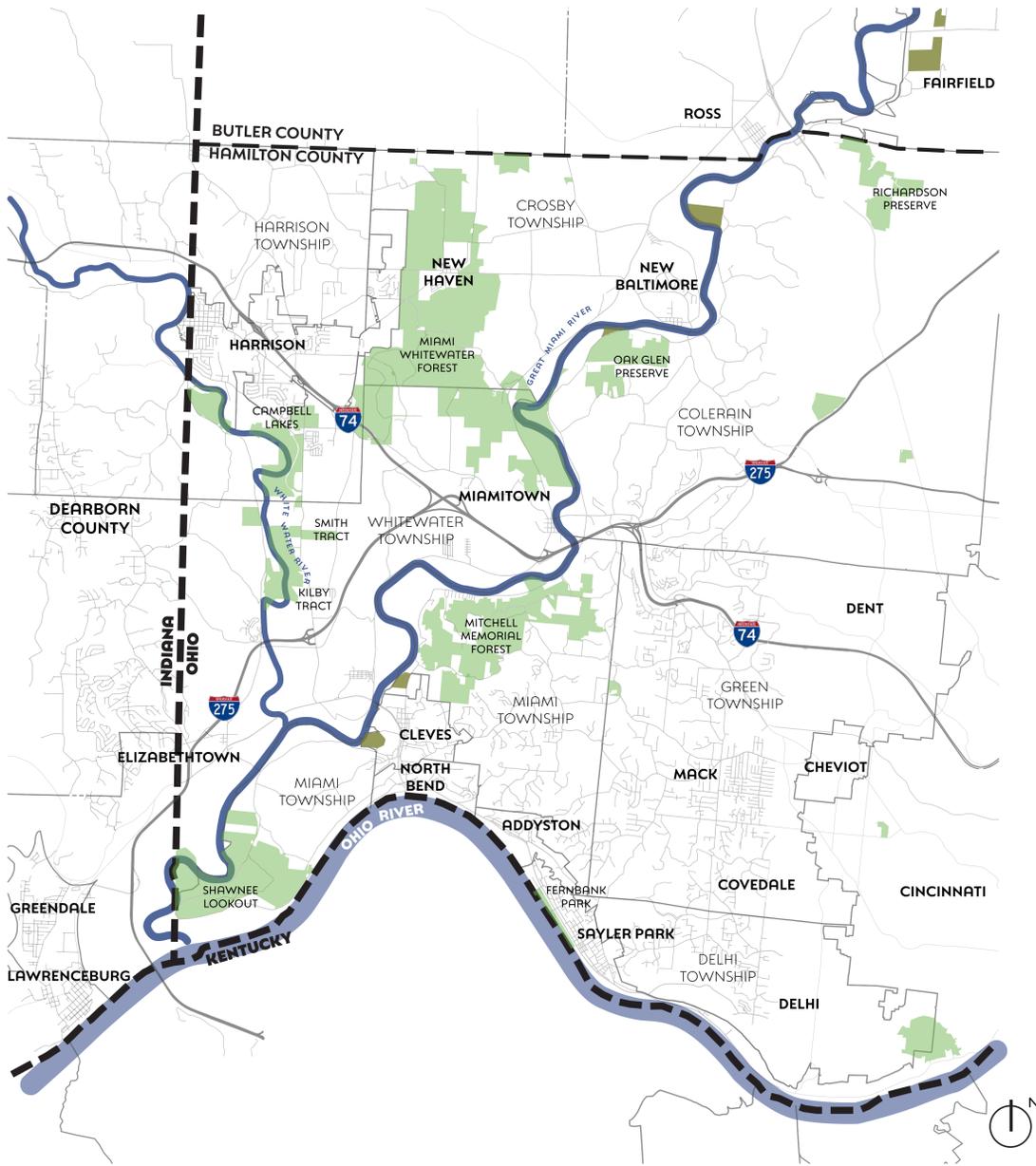
REGIONAL INVENTORY PARKS

Great Parks

- Miami Whitewater Forest (4,670 ac)
- Mitchell Memorial Forest (1,649 ac)
- Campbell Lakes (183 ac)
- Shawnee Lookout (2,017 ac)

Forest Preserves

- Richardson Preserve (483 ac)
- Oak Glen Preserve (609 ac)



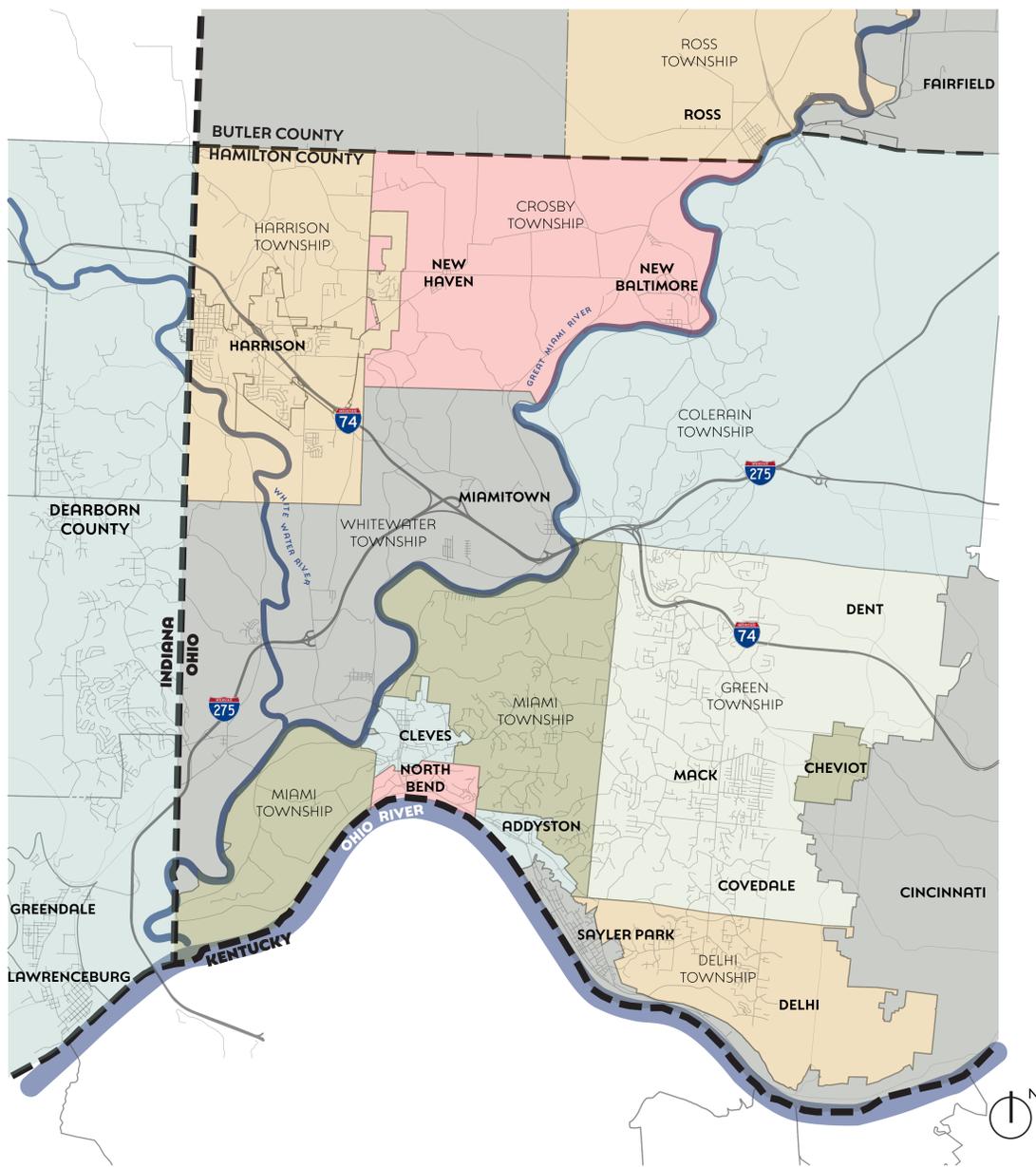
REGIONAL INVENTORY TOWNSHIPS

Townships

- Colerain Township
- Crosby Township
- Harrison Township
- Miami Township
- Whitewater Township
- Ross Township (Butler County)

Communities

- City of Fairfield (Butler County)
- City of Harrison
- Village of Cleves
- Village of North Bend
- Dearborn County, Indiana



NATURAL LAUNCH

(LOW LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL FEATURES FOR ACCESS)



Place a dot on your preferred facility type!



**West Region Blueway
& Trail System**

Blueway Character Images

July 13, 2023

Kimley»Horn



RASOR
COMMUNICATORS, STRATEGISTS, CREATIVES.

RWA
ARCHITECTS

HUMAN NATURE



ENHANCED LAUNCH

(MEDIUM LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT, LOW IMPACT MATERIALS/ELEMENTS)



Place a dot on your preferred facility type!

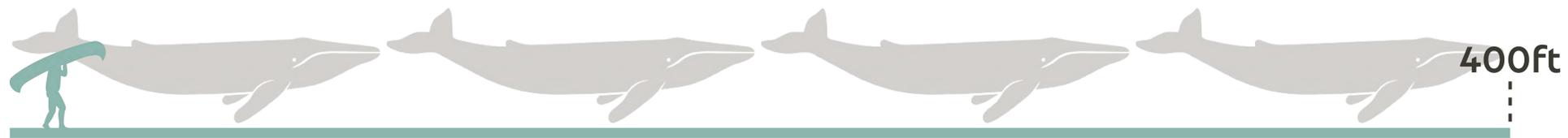
CONSTRUCTED LAUNCH

(HIGHEST LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT, EX: WATER SCHOOL SITE, PAVED LAUNCH)



Place a dot on your preferred facility type!

How far are you willing to carry your boat & gear from the parking lot to the river?





1 HERITAGE PARK



2 DRAVO PARK



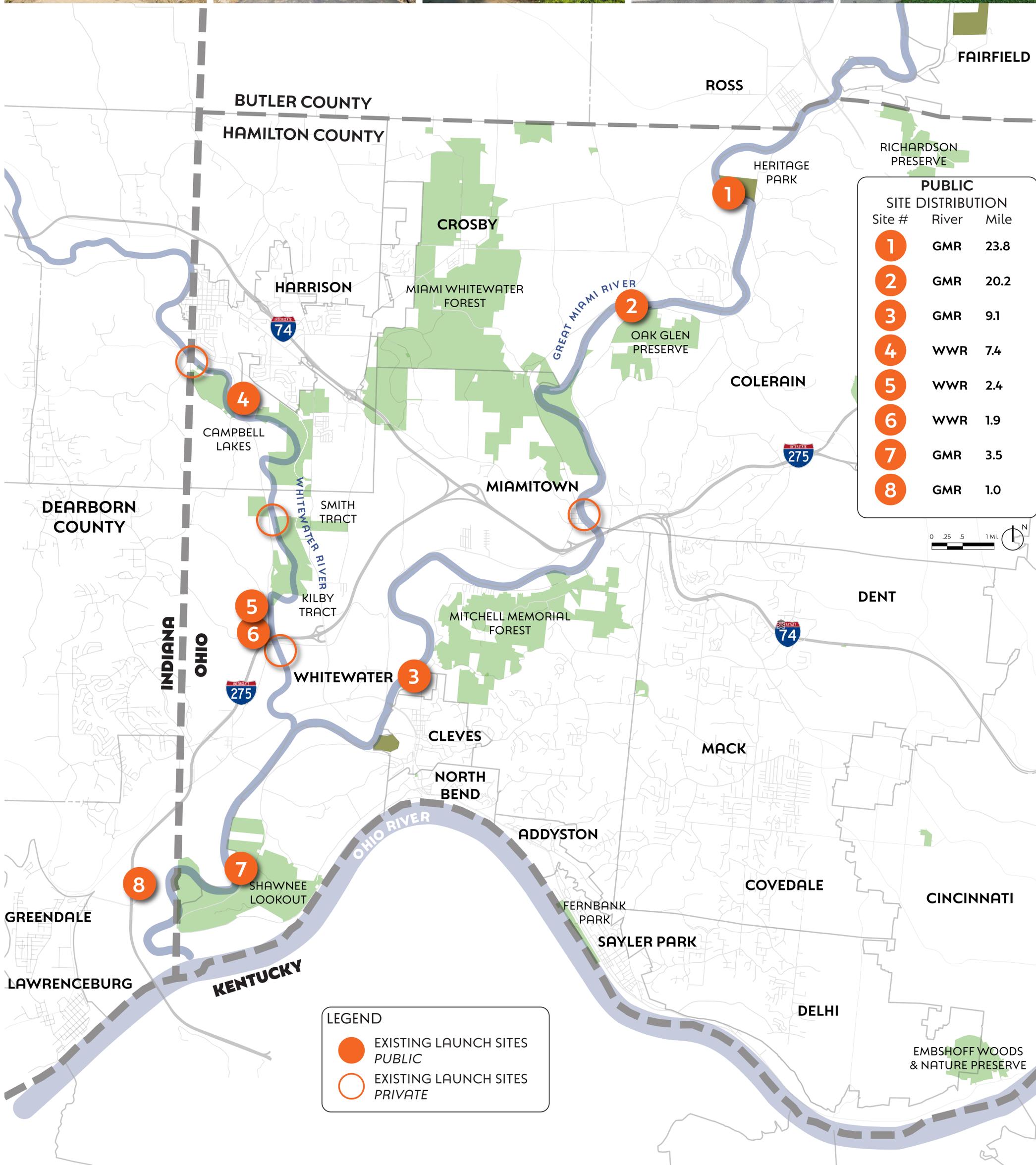
3 MIAMI TOWNSHIP



5 LAWRENCEBURG RD.



6 RIVERVIEW PARK

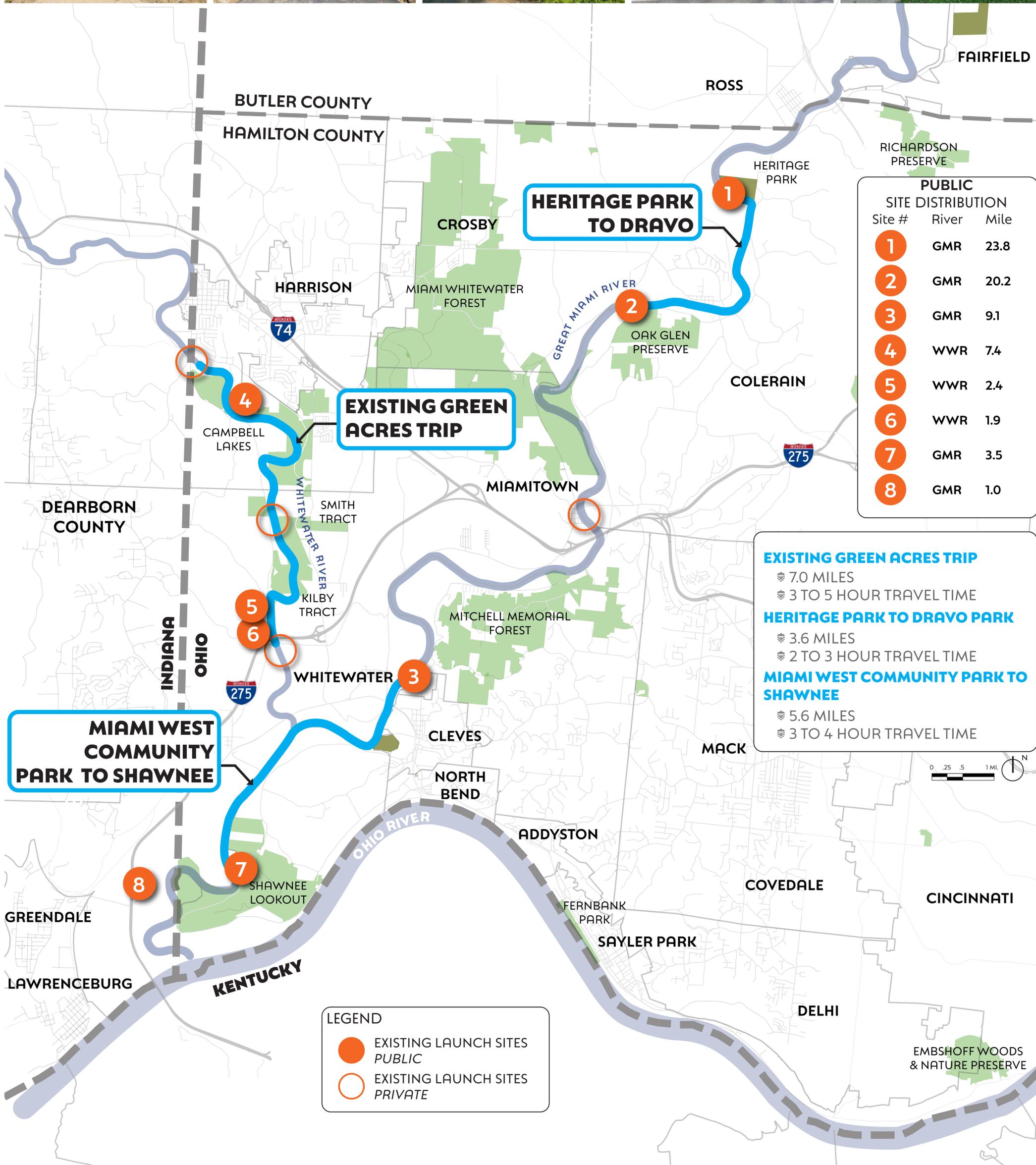


PUBLIC SITE DISTRIBUTION

Site #	River	Mile
1	GMR	23.8
2	GMR	20.2
3	GMR	9.1
4	WWR	7.4
5	WWR	2.4
6	WWR	1.9
7	GMR	3.5
8	GMR	1.0

LEGEND

- EXISTING LAUNCH SITES PUBLIC
- EXISTING LAUNCH SITES PRIVATE



PUBLIC SITE DISTRIBUTION		
Site #	River	Mile
1	GMR	23.8
2	GMR	20.2
3	GMR	9.1
4	WWR	7.4
5	WWR	2.4
6	WWR	1.9
7	GMR	3.5
8	GMR	1.0

EXISTING GREEN ACRES TRIP
 7.0 MILES
 3 TO 5 HOUR TRAVEL TIME

HERITAGE PARK TO DRAVO PARK
 3.6 MILES
 2 TO 3 HOUR TRAVEL TIME

MIAMI WEST COMMUNITY PARK TO SHAWNEE
 5.6 MILES
 3 TO 4 HOUR TRAVEL TIME

LEGEND

- EXISTING LAUNCH SITES PUBLIC
- EXISTING LAUNCH SITES PRIVATE

PLACE A DOT ON THE AMENITIES YOU PREFER THE MOST

Parking

Restrooms

ADA Launch Systems

Dock System

Paddlecraft Dollies

Waterschool

Benches, Tables & Lighting

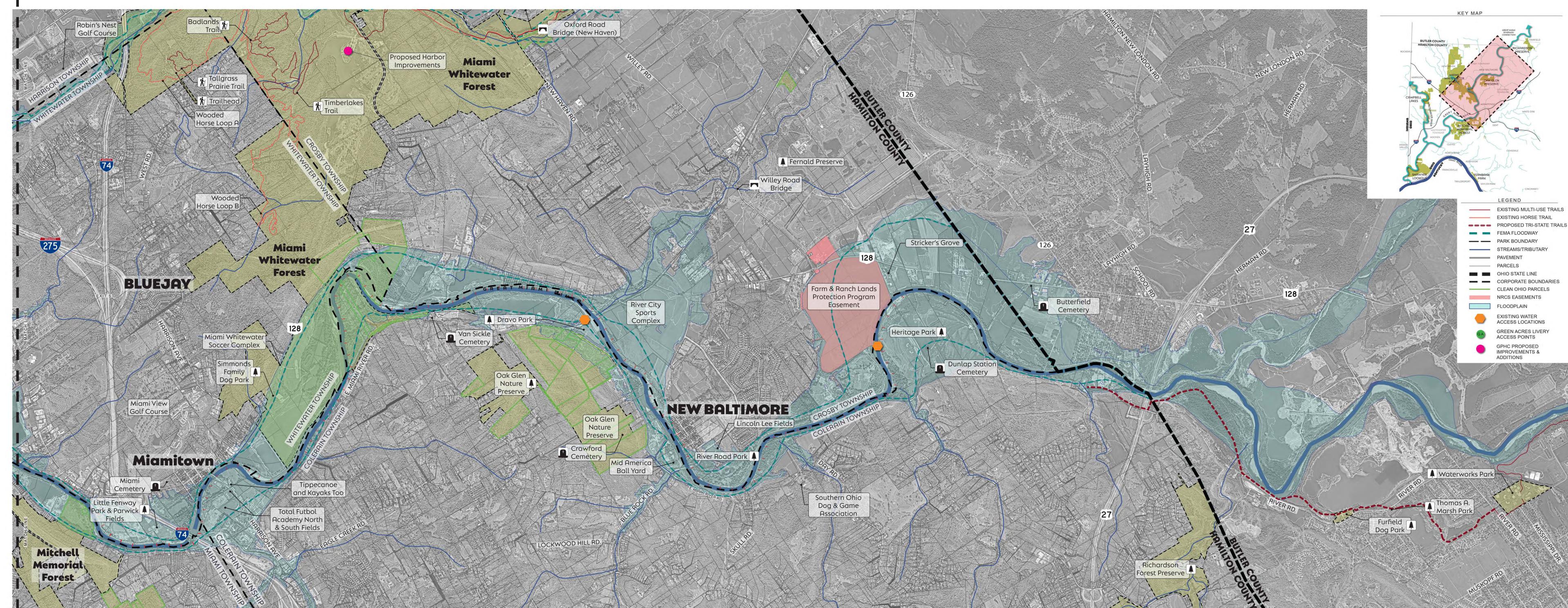
Paddlecraft Storage

Informational Signage

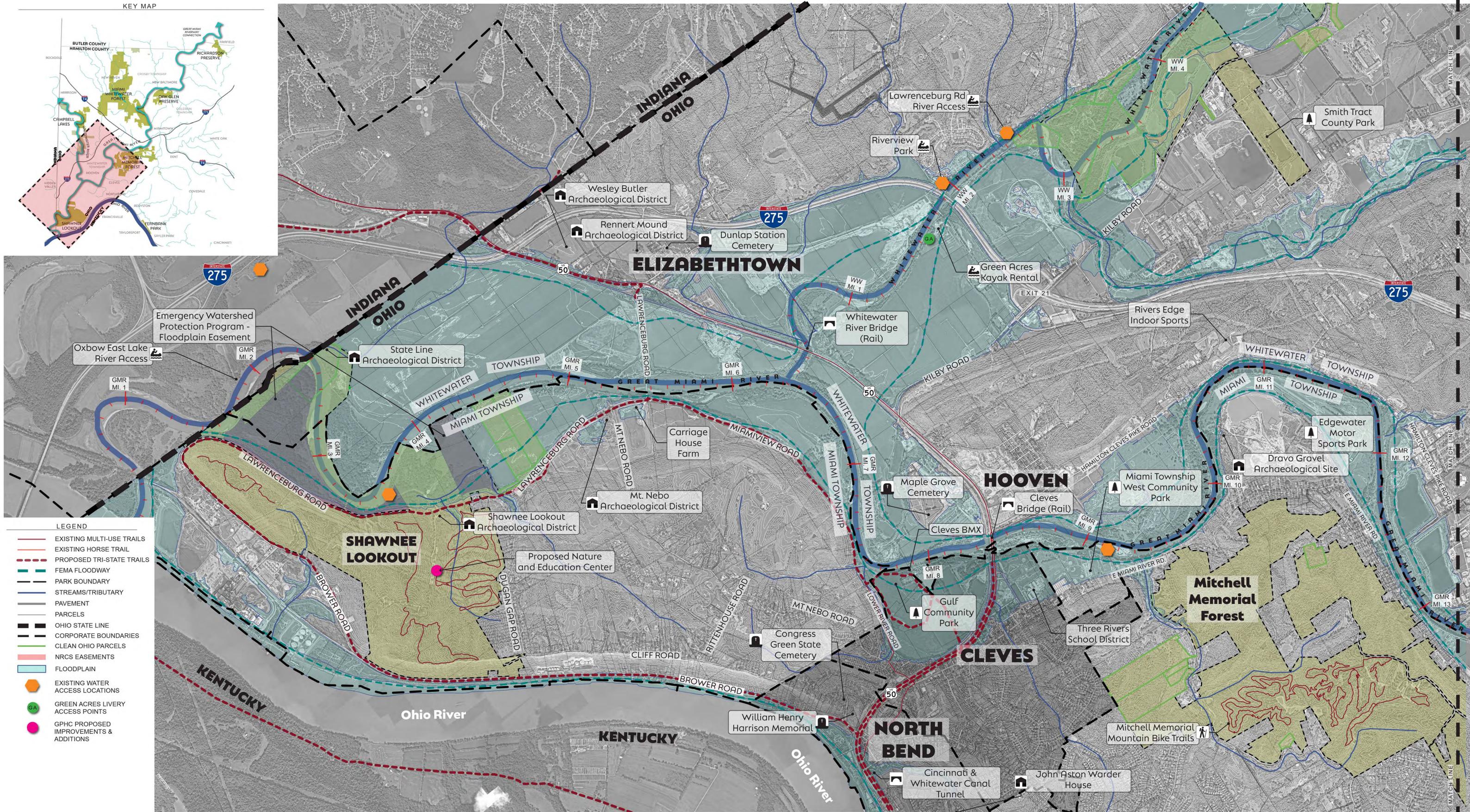
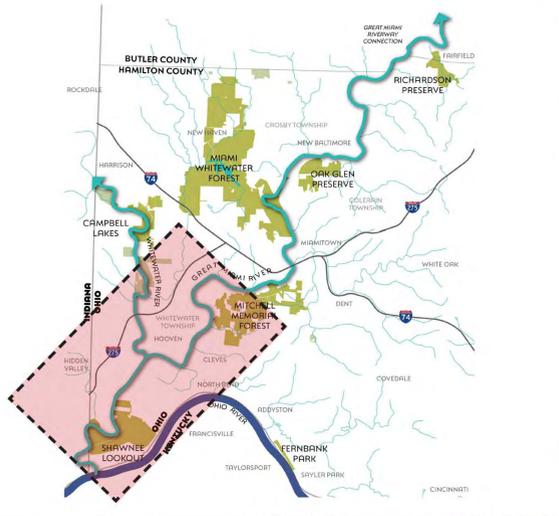
Paddlecraft Slider Rails

Shade Structure

Paved Access



KEY MAP



- LEGEND**
- EXISTING MULTI-USE TRAILS
 - EXISTING HORSE TRAIL
 - - - PROPOSED TRI-STATE TRAILS
 - FEMA FLOODWAY
 - PARK BOUNDARY
 - STREAMS/TRIBUTARY
 - PAVEMENT
 - PARCELS
 - OHIO STATE LINE
 - CORPORATE BOUNDARIES
 - CLEAN OHIO PARCELS
 - NRCS EASEMENTS
 - FLOODPLAIN
 - EXISTING WATER ACCESS LOCATIONS
 - GREEN ACRES LIVELY ACCESS POINTS
 - GPHC PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS & ADDITIONS

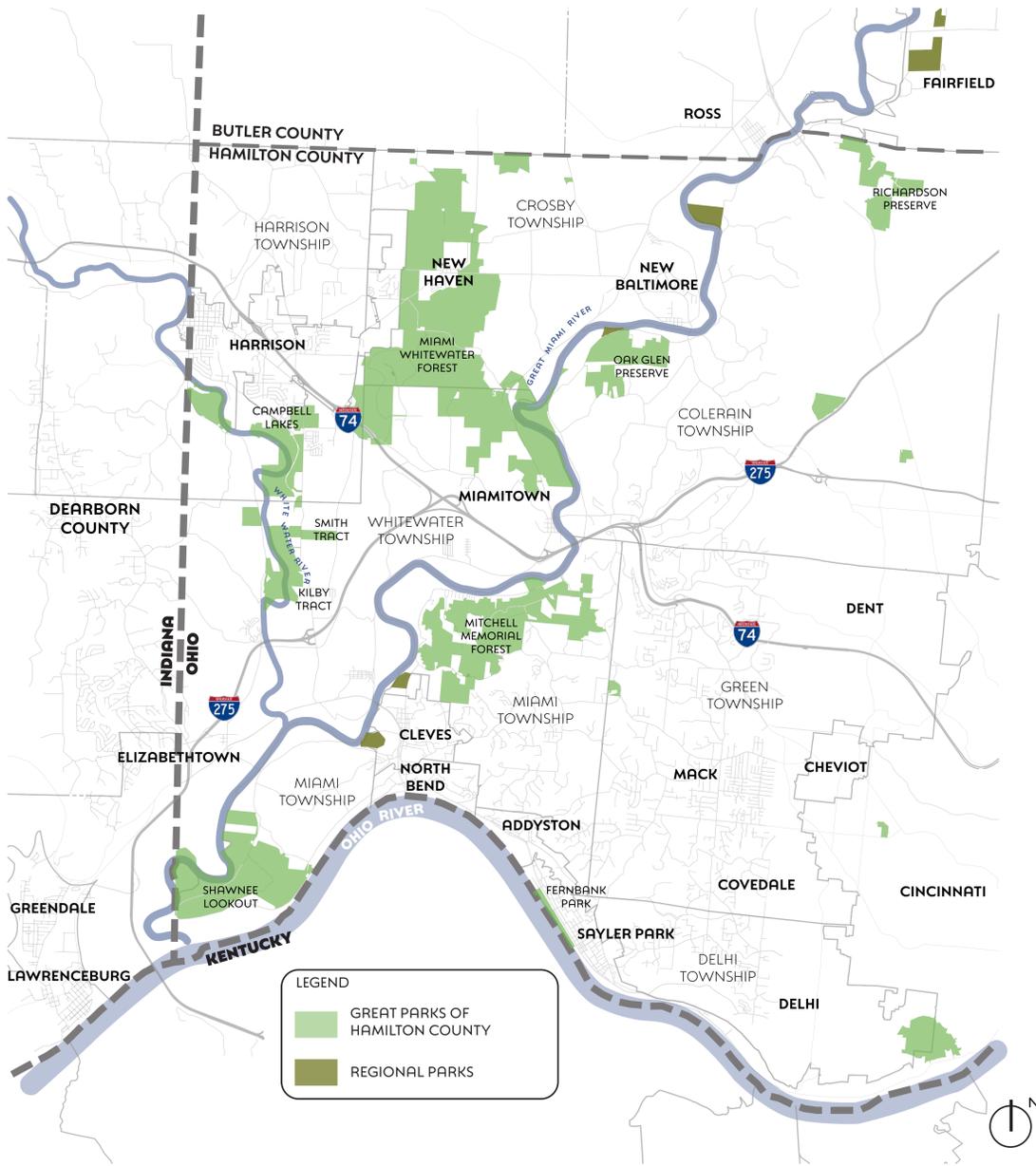


West Region Blueway & Trail System

Great Miami River Corridor - Southwest

July 13th, 2023





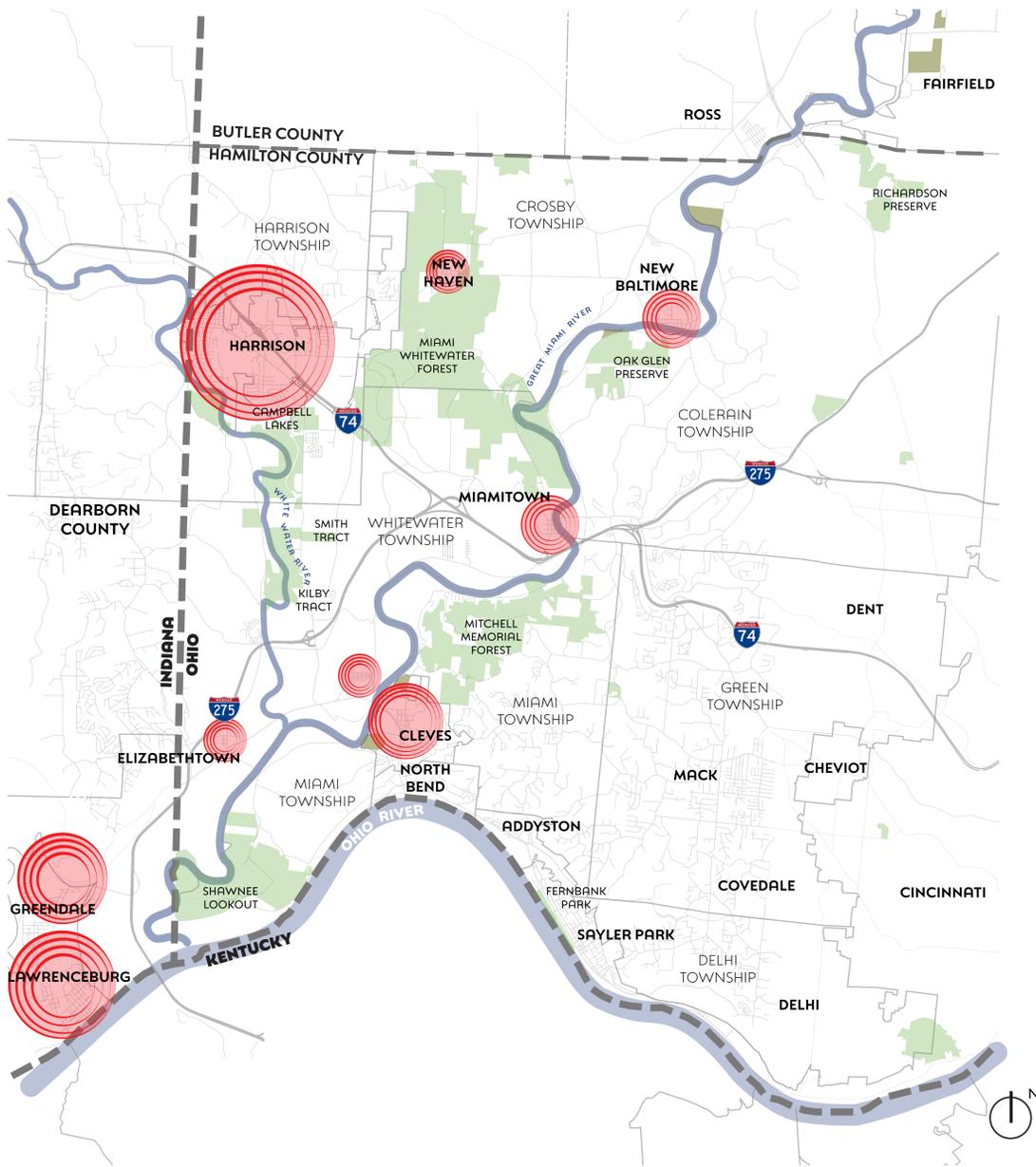
REGIONAL INVENTORY PARKS

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Forest Preserves

- Richardson Preserve (483 ac)
- Oak Glen Preserve (609 ac)



REGIONAL INVENTORY POPULATION CENTERS



W Hamilton Co. Households (2022): 78,344

Hamilton Co. Households (2022): 348,399

MSA Households (2022): 899,321



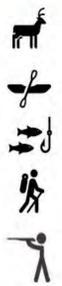
W Hamilton Co. Median Age: 41

Hamilton Co. Median Age: 39

MSA Median Age: 39

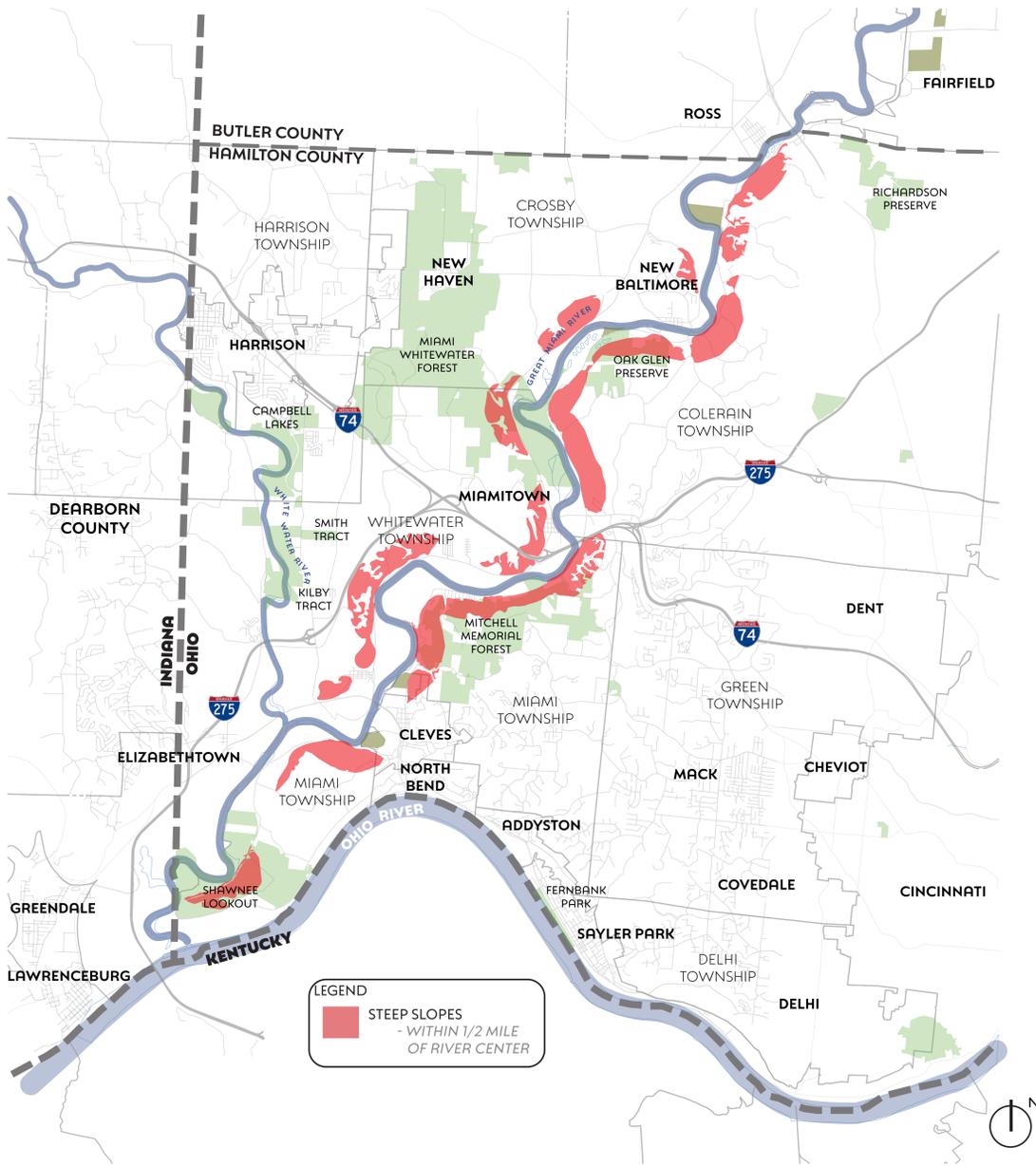
The highest recreational spending per tapestry group:

Rustbelt Traditions Green Acres Comfortable Empty Nesters Midlife Constants Traditional Living



REGIONAL INVENTORY

CHALLENGING TERRAIN



REGIONAL INVENTORY

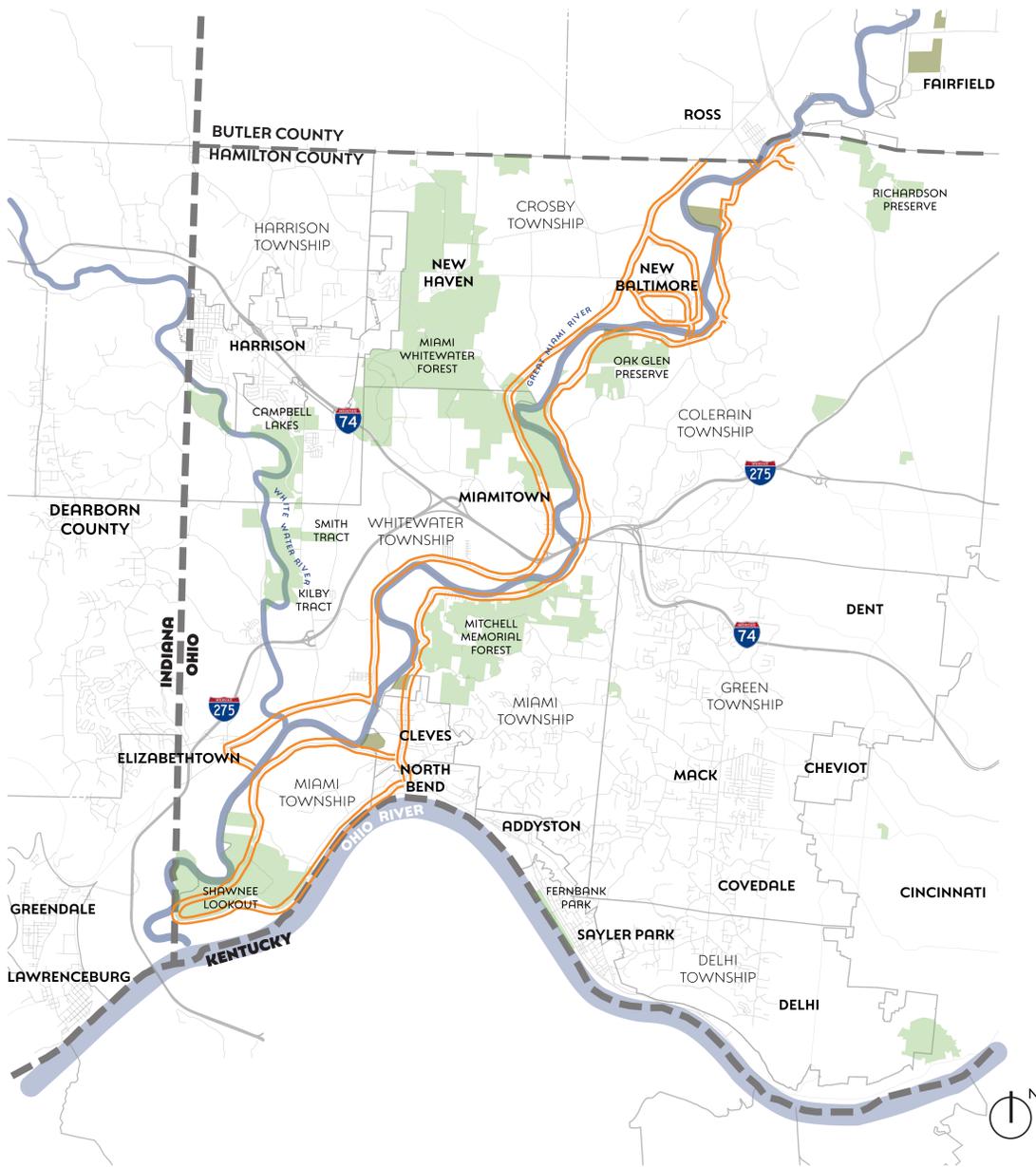
RIGHT-OF-WAYS

East:

- E. Miami River Rd.
- N. Miami Ave.
- Mt. Nebo Rd.
- Lower River Rd.
- Brower Rd.
- Miamiview Dr.

West:

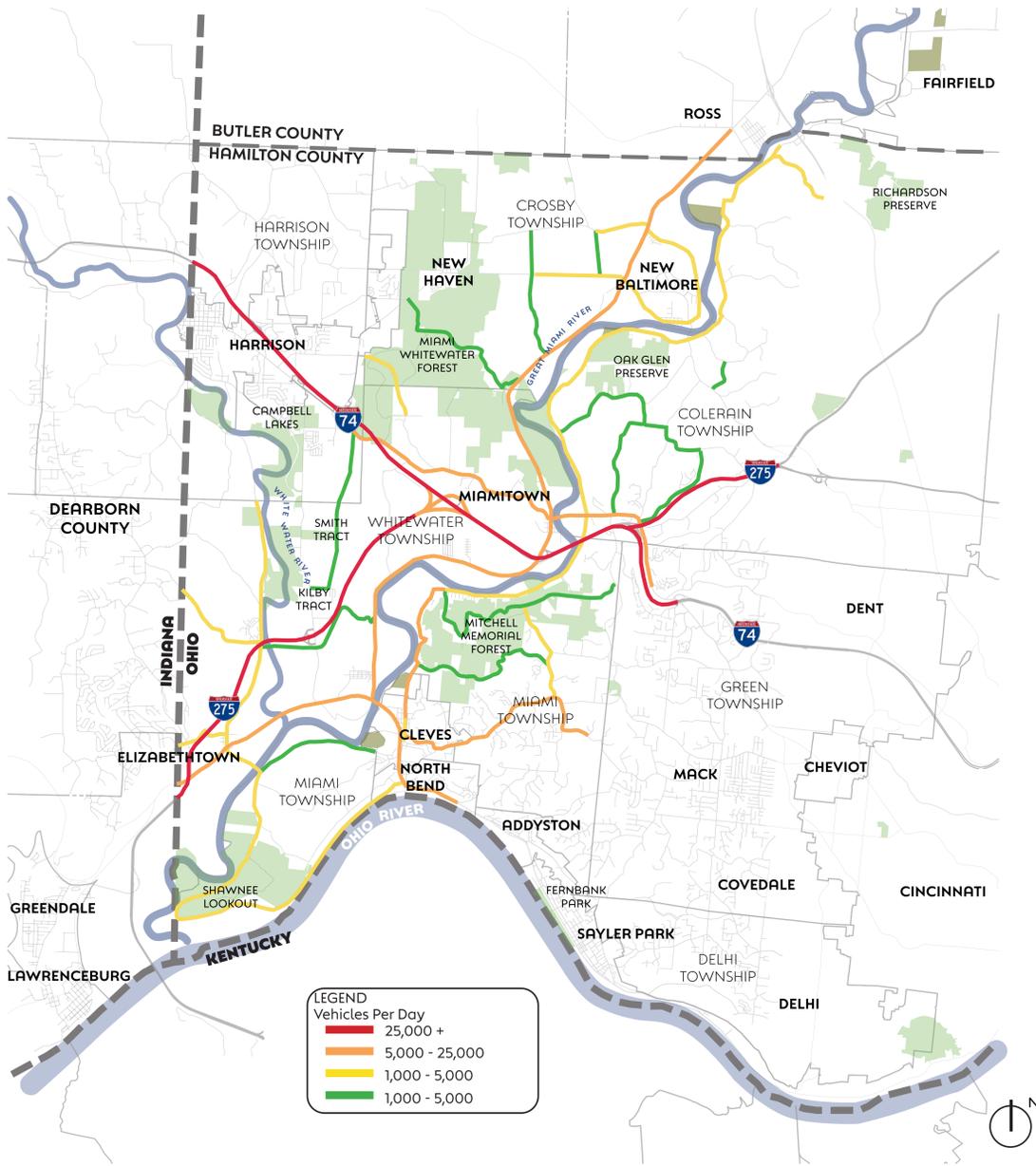
- SR 128 (Hamilton Cleves Pike Rd.)
- River Rd.
- Blue Rock Rd.
- New Haven Rd.
- US 50
- Lawrenceburg Rd.



REGIONAL INVENTORY TRAFFIC COUNTS

Traffic Count Summary (Primary Roads):

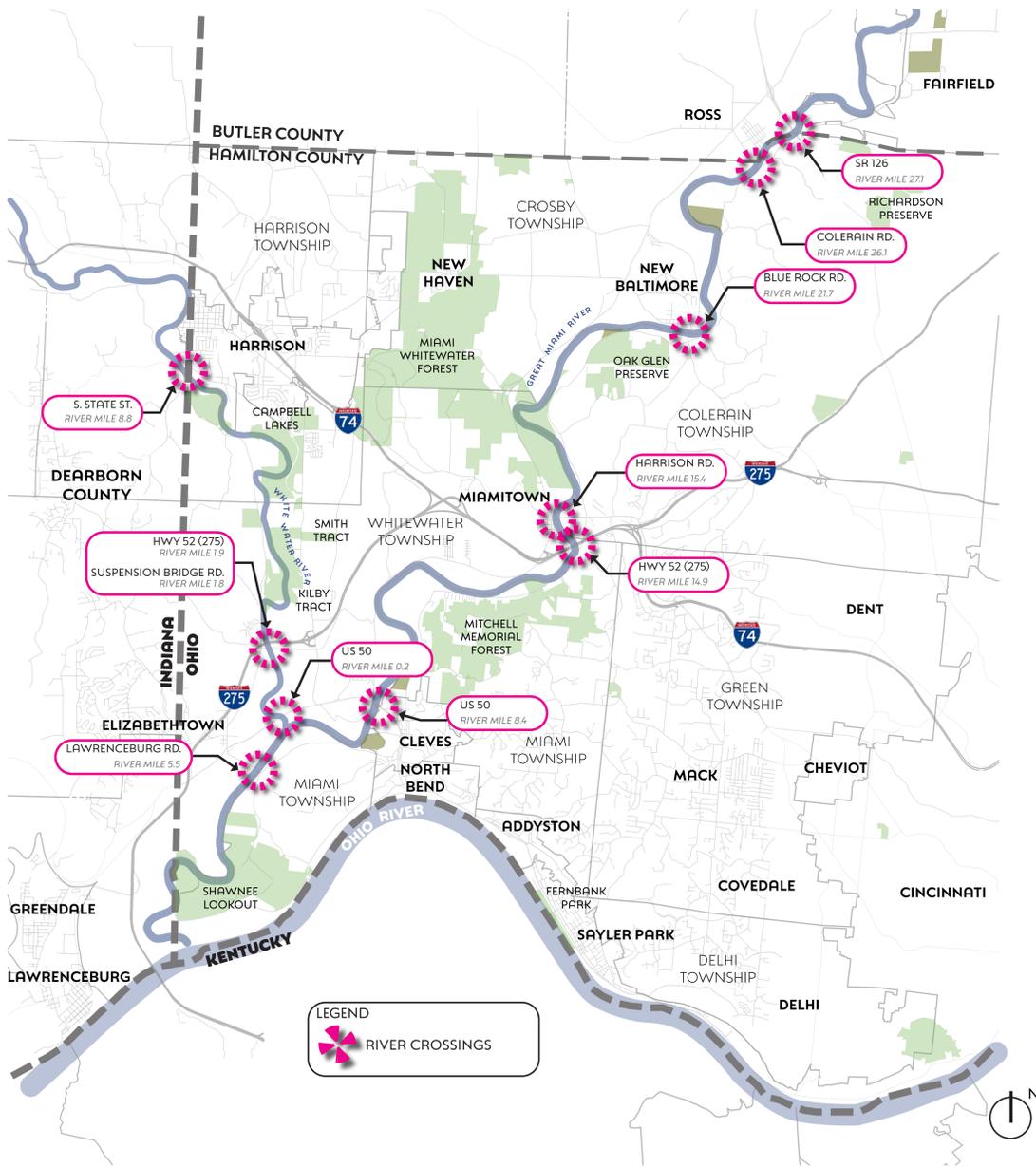
- E. Miami River Rd. = **3,584** average
- SR 128 = **10,587** average
- Lawrenceburg Rd. = **3,733** average
- Brower Rd. = **2,056** average
- US 50 = **14,738** average



REGIONAL INVENTORY RIVER CROSSINGS

Bridge Crossing Summary

- Great Miami River = **7 crossings**
Includes US 52/275 at mile 14.9
- Whitewater River = **4 crossings**
Includes US 52/275 at mile 1.9



3'3" 11'9" 11'9" 3'3"
Colerain Rd

WHAT MAKES A GREAT SHARED-USE TRAIL EXPERIENCE?

Place a dot on the images that best represent the types of trail facilities you would like to see along the Great Miami River!



In-Person Open House
West Region Blueway & Trail System Presentation



West Region Blueway & Trail System

WELCOME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE!

July 13, 2023



Great Parks

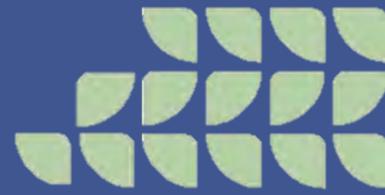
OUR VISION



- ✦ **Expand and strengthen** western Hamilton County's blueway
- ✦ Identify **four to five new access points** along the blueway trail and develop design concepts
- ✦ Prepare plans for a **shared-use trail** along the Great Miami River corridor



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

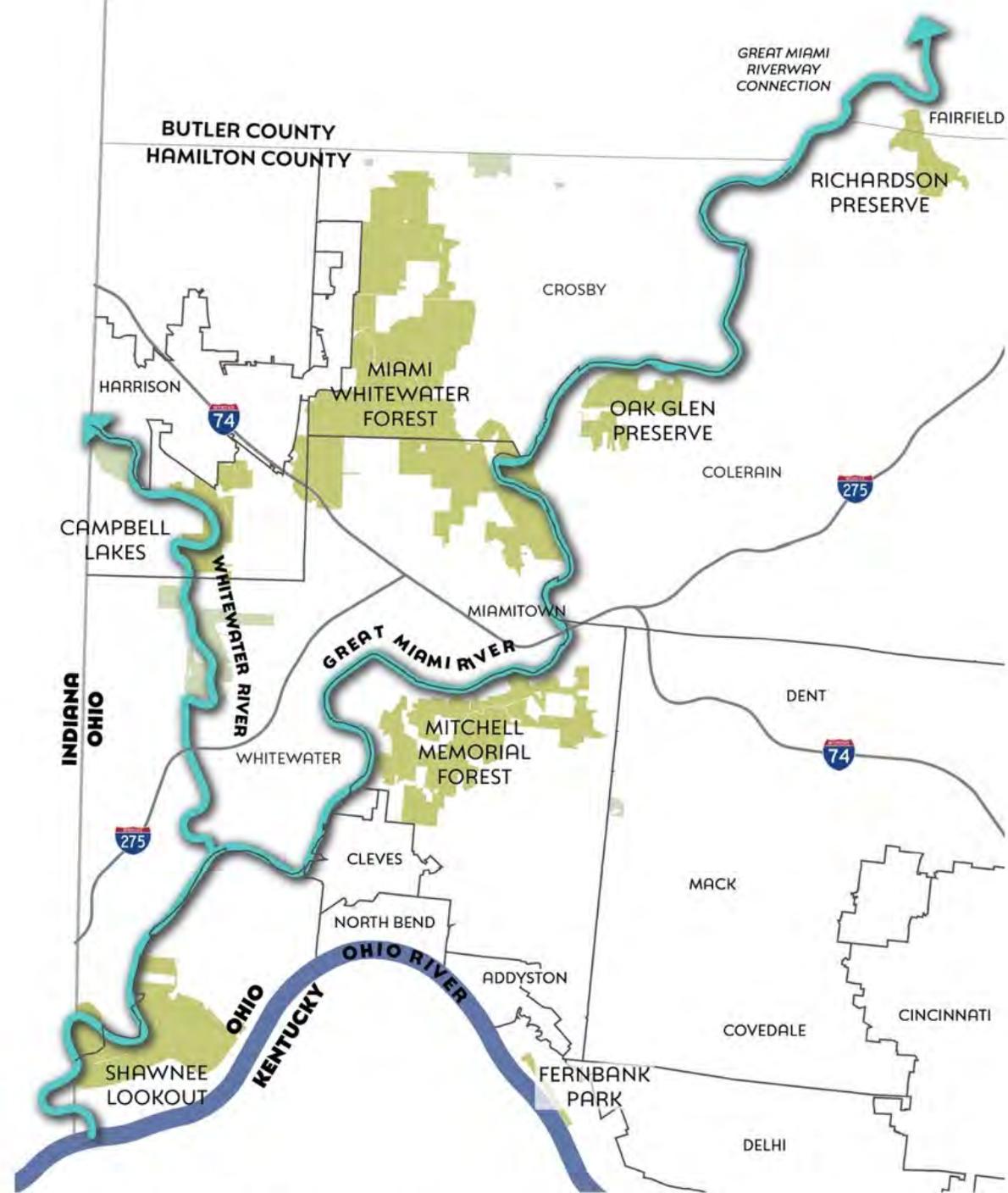


- ✦ Find opportunities to create new indoor and outdoor **educational space**
- ✦ Identify existing **points of interest** and locations for **additional amenities** such as rustic camping
- ✦ Promote the **history and culture** of the corridors
- ✦ Identify possible **habitat restoration** opportunities

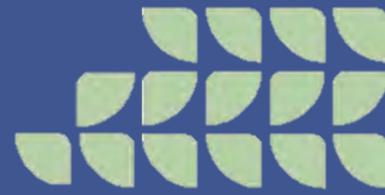


THE STUDY AREA

The West Region Blueway & Trail System will allow you to more easily **experience all the adventures that western Hamilton County has to offer.**



FULFILLING YOUR GOALS



Great Parks' 2019 Comprehensive Master Plan is a driving force behind the West Region Blueway & Trail System. Its priorities are:

Build more trails

**Add programming and events
for diverse audiences**

Provide access to conservation areas

Focus on partnerships

Establish a defined blueway system

**Build ecological resiliency and
sustainability**

Expand access for all users

Plan for the future of every park

FULFILLING YOUR GOALS



The West Region Blueway & Trail System also addresses the main themes in Great Parks' **Park and Facilities Master Plans**:

Add more trails & adventure

Refresh harbors & experiences

**Build new nature, education,
& event centers**

Implement conservation projects

WHAT IS A BLUEWAY?



A blueway, or water trail, is a network of connected waterways featuring managed access points, clear signage, and recreational amenities for canoeists, kayakers, and other paddlers to enjoy.



BLUEWAY ENHANCEMENTS



Blueway enhancements may include:

Paved parking

Restrooms

Refreshments

Paved path to water

Changing areas

Picnic areas

ADA accessibility

Lockers

Shade/shelters

Floating entry points

Kayak share

Route maps/signage

BLUEWAY ENHANCEMENTS



We're also looking for opportunities to:

- ✦ Combine paddling trips with **hiking, biking, and walking**
- ✦ Get out and **explore**
- ✦ Create **multi-day adventures**
- ✦ Participate in outdoor **education classes**



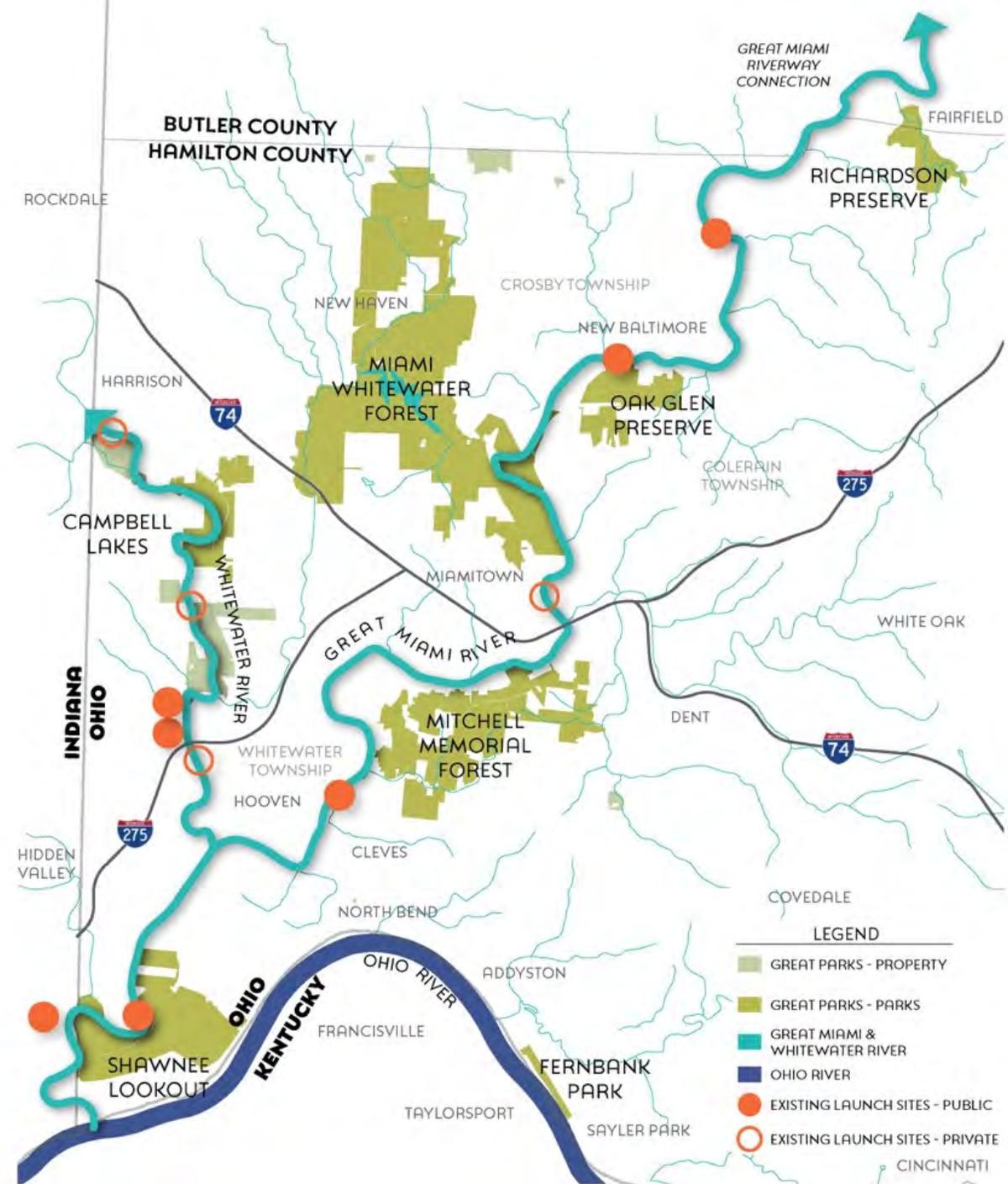
NEW LAUNCH SITES

We're looking to establish **four to five new managed access points** on the blueway.

These would be in addition to the public launch sites that already exist.

We anticipate **opening one new launch site each year**, beginning in fall of 2025.

The orange dots identify existing launch sites.



SHARED-USE TRAIL GOALS



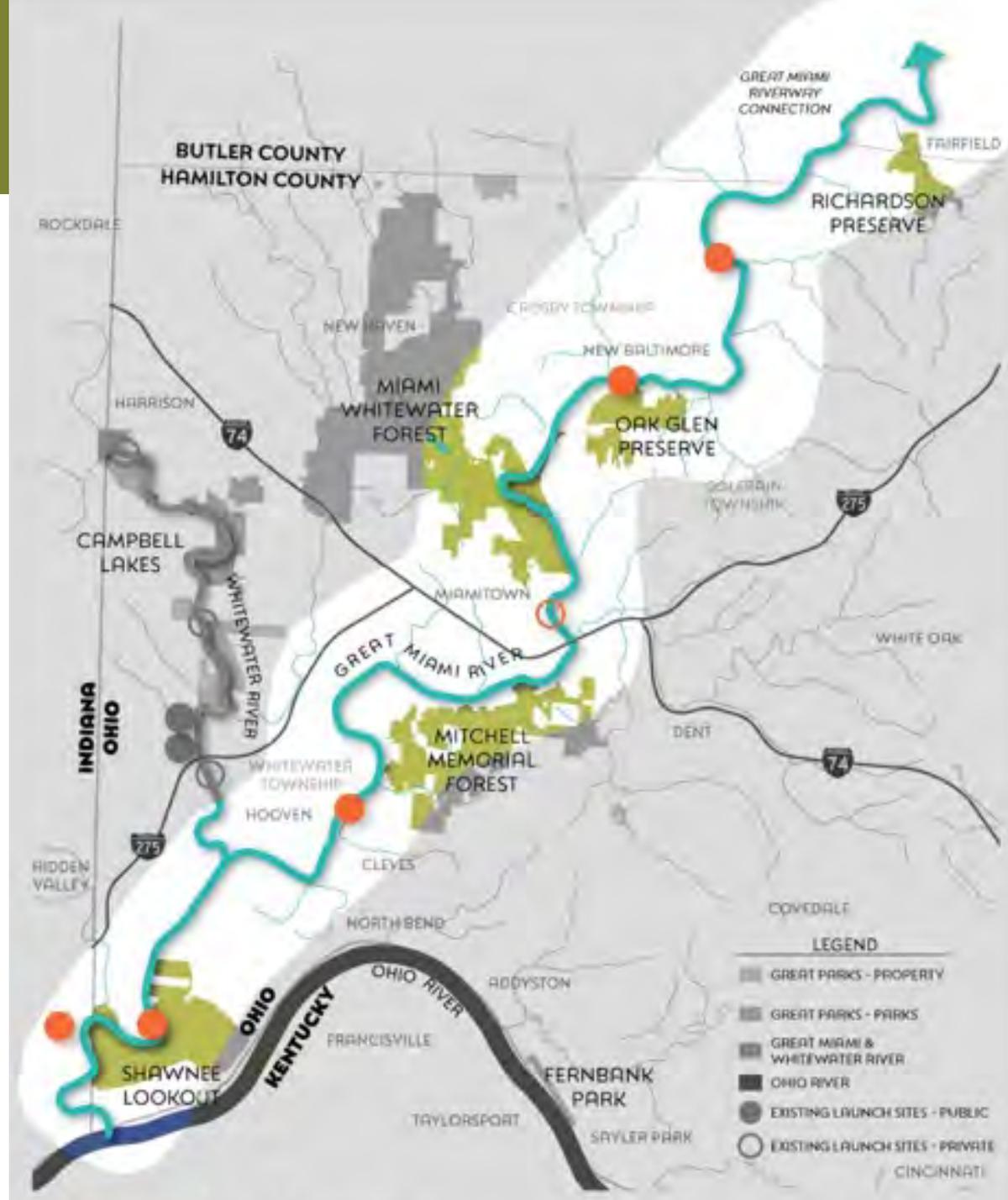
Great Parks

- 🌿 Allow users to **enjoy western Hamilton County** easily and safely
- 🌿 Maximize **accessibility for all** users
- 🌿 **Connect** with
 - Other trail networks
 - Local communities
 - Local points of interest



SHARED-USE TRAIL

- 🌿 Will travel along the **Great Miami River corridor**
- 🌿 Will support **walking, running, bicycling** and other forms of non-motorized recreation
- 🌿 Will be **completed in phases**
- 🌿 Planning will continue through mid-to-late 2024



SHARED-USE TRAIL ENHANCEMENTS



Shared-use trail enhancements may include:

Quick access

Looped routes

Picnic areas

Managed parking

Connections to trails

Access to
lodging/camping

Bike repair stations

Restrooms

Access to
dining/entertainment

Bike racks/storage

Lockers

Connections to
points of interest

Bike rentals

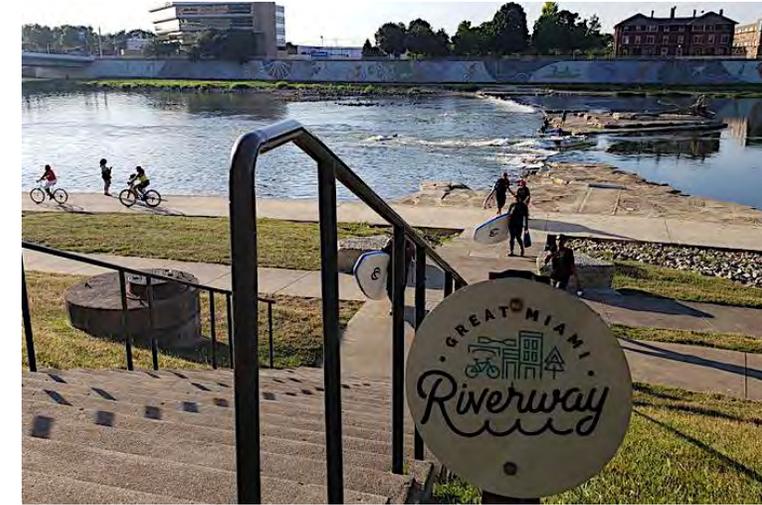
Changing areas

EXTENDING BEYOND HAMILTON COUNTY



The West Region
Blueway & Trail System
will connect to:

- 🚶 **Great Miami Riverway**
- 🚶 **Ohio River Way**
- 🚶 **Ohio River Trail**
- 🚶 **And many trails in between**

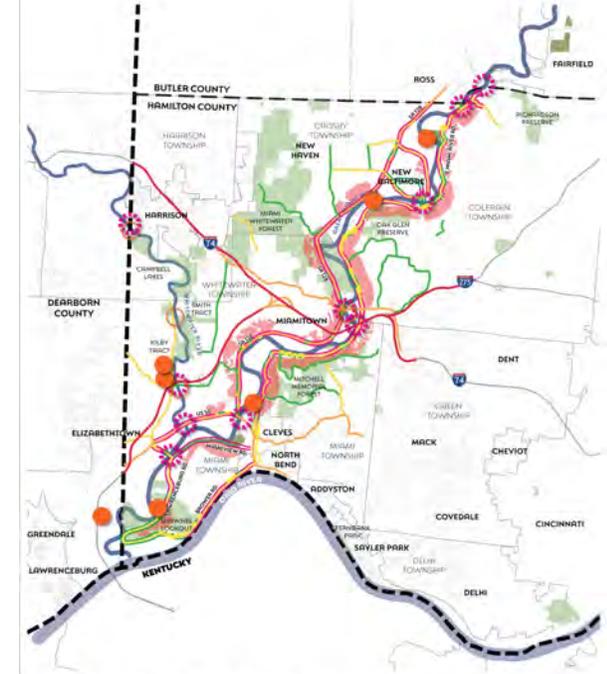


PLANNING PROCESS



Master plan development centers on corridor studies and public input. Tasks include:

- ✿ **Technical studies**
- ✿ **Analyzing existing conditions**
- ✿ **Identifying opportunities**
- ✿ **Listening to the community**

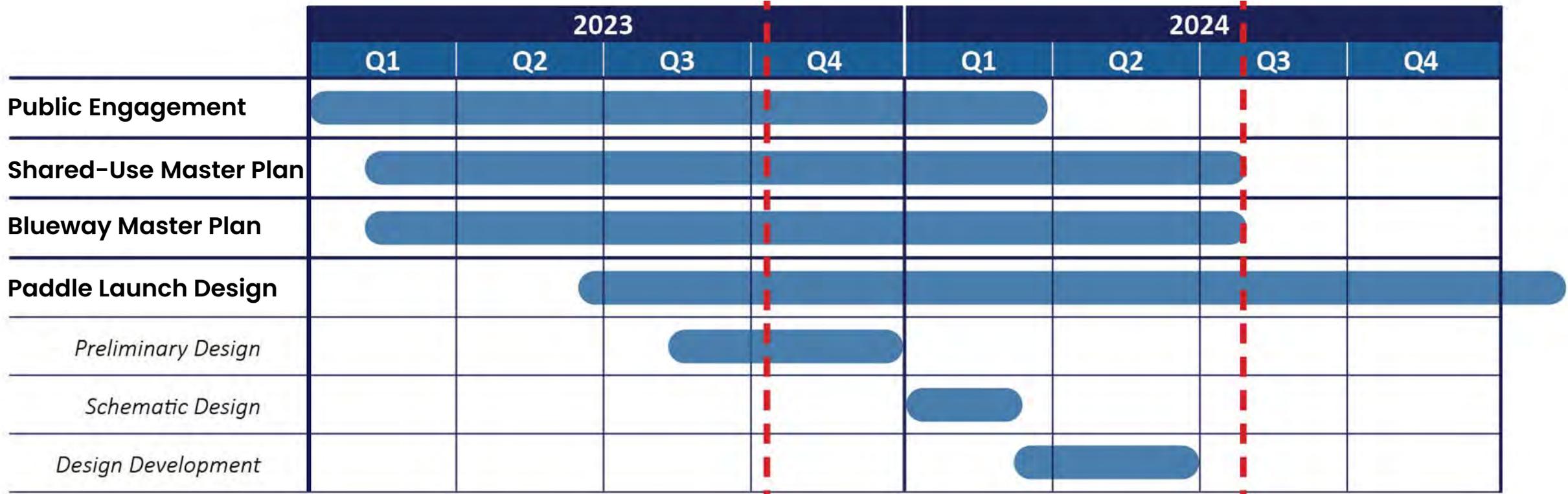


TIMING

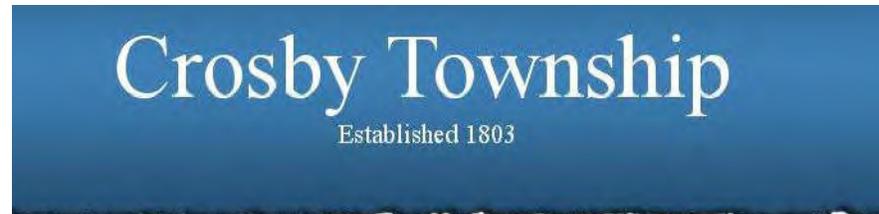
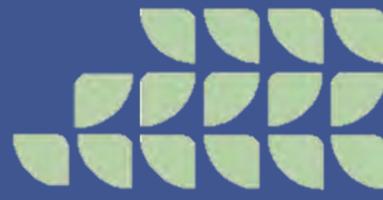


Shared-Use & Blueway Master Plans DRAFT

Shared-Use & Blueway Master Plans FINAL



PARTNERING IS KEY



STAYING ENGAGED



Visit our website:

GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails

Questions and comments can also be shared with our team any time via email, mail or phone. Contact:

Sean Creighton, PLA, LEED AP
West Region Blueway & Trail System Project Manager

Great Parks
10245 Winton Road
Cincinnati, OH 45231

(513) 245-7455

screighton@greatparks.org



In-Person Open House Project Fact Sheet

WEST REGION BLUEWAY & TRAIL SYSTEM MASTER PLAN



Great Parks

Great Parks is leading the development of a master plan for the **West Region Blueway & Trail System** – a new initiative to bring people closer to nature by expanding opportunities for water- and land-based adventure in western Hamilton County.

As part of Great Parks' 2019 Comprehensive Master Plan, the new West Region Blueway & Trail System will also create new connections between the highly popular Great Miami Riverway trail in Montgomery and Butler counties and the Ohio River Trail and Ohio River Way.

The West Region Blueway & Trail System master plan will identify opportunities for a shared-use trail and river access points along the Great Miami and Whitewater rivers and in four of Great Parks' riverfront destinations:

- Campbell Lakes
- Miami Whitewater Forest
- Mitchell Memorial Forest
- Shawnee Lookout

Together, these new resources will allow residents and visitors to *find their wild* by creating their own unique outdoor adventures with trip lengths ranging from a few hours to multiple days.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Great Parks will be partnering with local communities throughout western Hamilton County to develop project ideas and strategies. Input from user groups and the general public will also be key to helping guide development of the master plan and its implementation, as all have a stake in what it will offer and its ultimate success

Development of the West Region Blueway & Trail System master plan will continue through mid-2024.

GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails

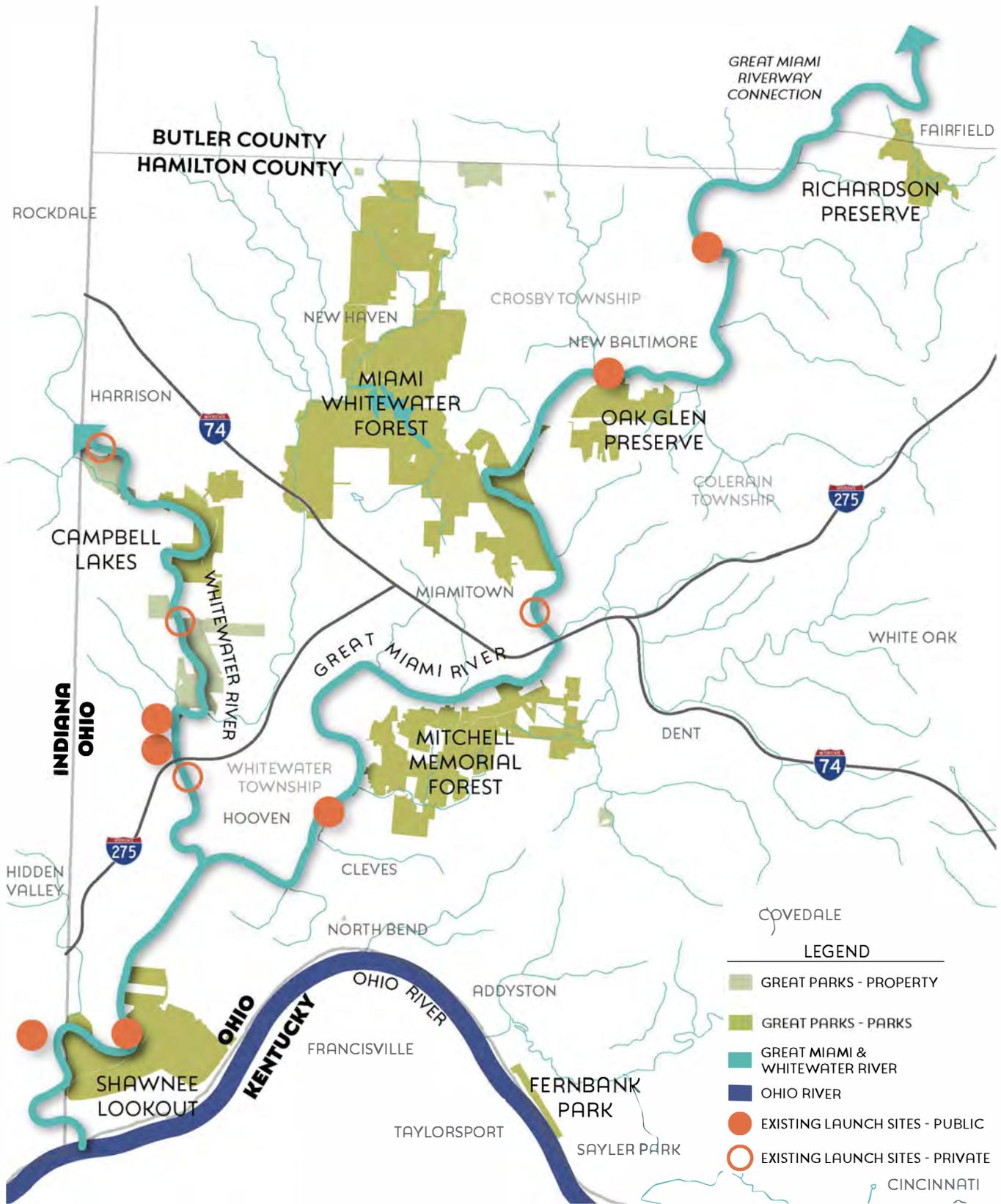
WEST REGION BLUEWAY & TRAIL SYSTEM MASTER PLAN GOALS

- Identify strategies for establishing a blueway trail system for paddlers with put-in and take-out access points on the Great Miami and Whitewater rivers
- Identify access point locations and develop design concepts for four to five canoe/kayak launch sites along the blueway trail
- Prepare a master plan for a shared-use trail system along the Great Miami River



what is a blueway?

A blueway, or water trail, is a connected stretch of waterways, such as rivers, lakes, canals or shorelines, that feature launch points, camping locations and other points of interest to provide recreational opportunities for canoeists, kayakers and other paddlers.



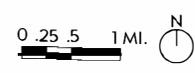
COVEDALE

LEGEND

- GREAT PARKS - PROPERTY
- GREAT PARKS - PARKS
- GREAT MIAMI & WHITEWATER RIVER
- OHIO RIVER
- EXISTING LAUNCH SITES - PUBLIC
- EXISTING LAUNCH SITES - PRIVATE

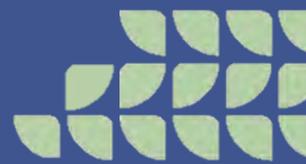
CINCINNATI

West Region Blueway & Trail System Study Area



In-Person Open House
Printed Surveys

GENERAL SURVEY



Great Parks

Please answer the following questions to help us better understand who is participating in today's Open House. Great Parks will maintain your privacy and will not sell, rent or share your information with third parties.

Name (optional):

Where do you live (zip code)?

In general, how often have you visited a Great Parks location/property in the last 12 months?

- Daily or weekly
- Several times a month
- Several times a year
- Just once or twice
- I don't know
- I haven't visited a Great Parks park in the past 12 months

How did you hear about this open house?

- Social media
- Email
- Yard signs
- Word-of-mouth
- Newsletter
- TV/radio/newspaper
- Great Parks websites
- Interest group website
- Other (please explain)

How many people live in your household?

- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 or more

How old are you?

- 18 years old or less
- 18 to 29 years old
- 30 to 44 years old
- 45 - 60 years old
- 60 - 74 years old
- 74 or older

What is your race?

- American Indian or Alaskan native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- I prefer to self-describe

What is the primary language spoken in your home?

- English
- Spanish
- Chinese
- Other

What is your household income?

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,001 - \$49,999
- \$50,00 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 or more

More on back

Please use the space below to share any additional questions or comments you may have regarding the West Region Blueway and/or the new launch sites.

If you would like to receive email updates about the West Region Blueway & Trail System from Great Parks, please provide your email address below.

Great Parks will maintain your privacy and will not sell, rent or share your email address with third parties. Only those who ask to receive updates from us will receive emails. We also offer an "unsubscribe" feature that allows you to discontinue email communications from Great Parks at any time.

To stay up-to-date on the project, please be sure to visit our website at:

GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails

BLUEWAY SURVEY



Please answer the following questions regarding your interest in paddling activities and the blueway enhancements being planned as part of the West Region Blueway & Trail System.

Name (optional):

Where do you live (zip code)?

How often do you go on paddling trips (canoe, kayak, paddleboard, etc.)?

- Daily
- Once or twice a month
- Once or twice a season
- Just once or twice every year or so
- I don't go often, but I'd like to go more
- I don't go on paddling trips

How likely are you to use the West Region Blueway?

- Definitely
- Very likely
- Not sure
- Somewhat unlikely
- Definitely won't use it

When going on a paddling trip, whose paddlecraft (canoe, kayak, paddleboard, etc.) do you use? Check all that apply.

- I rent from a local canoe/kayak business
- I use my own
- I borrow from someone (not a business)
- Other (please explain below)

Have you ever paddled on a blueway before?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

How often do you go on paddling trips (canoe, kayak, paddleboard, etc.)?

- Daily
- Once or twice a month
- Once or twice a season
- Just once or twice every year or so
- I don't go often, but I'd like to go more
- I don't go on paddling trips

When going on a paddle trip, how do you typically get to river access locations?

- A local canoe/kayak business takes me
- I travel with friends or family in our own vehicles
- I usually go by myself in my own vehicle
- Other (please explain)

What would encourage you to go on more paddling trips?

How interested would you be in combining a paddle trip with one or more of the following activities?

	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not Sure	Not Very Interested	Not Interested At All
Exploring nearby natural points of interest and/or historic sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exploring nearby communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taking a paddling class	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taking an outdoor education class	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please use the space below to share any comments you may have regarding the West Region Blueway and/or the new launch sites.

If you would like to receive email updates about the West Region Blueway & Trail System from Great Parks, please provide your email address below.

Great Parks will maintain your privacy and will not sell, rent or share your email address with third parties. Only those who ask to receive updates from us will receive emails. We also offer an "unsubscribe" feature that allows you to discontinue email communications from Great Parks at any time.

SHARED-USE TRAIL SURVEY



Great Parks

Please answer the following questions regarding your interest in new shared-use trail that's being planned as part of the West Region Blueway & Trail System and how you like to use trails.

Name (optional):

Where do you live (zip code)?

How often do you use shared-use trails?

- Daily or weekly
- Several times a month
- Several times a year
- Less than once a year
- I don't know but I'd like to use them more
- I don't use them

Why do you typically use shared-use trails?

- Exercise
- Recreation
- Non-motorized travel
- Exploring new areas
- I don't use them
- Other (please explain)

When using a shared-use trail for biking, how long do you typically like your trips to be?

- Less than an hour
- Between 1 and 3 hours
- Between 3 and 5 hours
- Between 5 and 7 hours
- More than 7 hours
- Depends

When using a shared-use trail, who are you typically with?

- Myself
- Family (including kids 12 and under)
- Family (teens/adults)
- Exercise/exploring group
- A pet
- It varies
- Other (please explain)

How interested are you in a new shared-use trail along the Great Miami River corridor?

- You can't build it soon enough!
- I'm interested
- I'm curious and would like to know more
- Great Idea. I may or may not use it
- I probably won't use it
- I know I won't use it

If you said you may not or won't use it, why not?

More on back

How interested would you be in combining a trip on the shared-use trail with one or more of the following activities?

	Very Interested	Somewhat Interested	Not Sure	Not Very Interested	Not Interested At All
Exploring nearby natural points of interest and/or historic sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exploring nearby communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visiting a restaurant/entertainment venue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canoeing/Kayaking/paddleboarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taking a paddling class	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taking an outdoor education class	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please use the space below to share any comments you may have regarding the West Region Blueway and/or the new shared-use trail.

If you would like to receive email updates about the West Region Blueway & Trail System from Great Parks, please provide your email address below.

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Virtual Open House
Public Input Site Content & Survey

great parks

WEST REGION BLUEWAY & TRAIL SYSTEM

virtual open house and survey



Translate



Thank you for participating in our Virtual Open House and Survey for the West Region Blueway & Trail System!

Our goal for this open house is to share information about the development of this trail system and to give you the opportunity to participate in the planning process. Your input is important and will be used to help shape system features and amenities.

This site is organized as a self-guided tour through a series of tabs (located below this section) that highlight key elements of the West Region Blueway & Trail System. **Survey questions are included at the bottom of each tab. Please use these questions to share your thoughts with us.** The questions will remain open for response through August 7, 2023. Don't worry if you have to leave this site during the middle of your visit - your responses will be stored and can be finished and updated anytime between now and August 7th.

In addition to this virtual experience, we're also hosting an in-person open house; details are below. There, you will be able to meet with members of the project team and participate in some interactive exercises. The information shared at the in-person session will be the same as what you will see on the tabs below.

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

July 13, 2023 | 4 pm - 7 pm

Whitewater Crossing Christian Church

5771 OH-128 | Cleves, OH 45002

Please scroll down to begin. To see larger versions of the graphics, simply click on the image. If you need any language translations, click on the TRANSLATE button located in the image at the top of this page. If you need any other assistance to review these materials and/or provide your thoughts, please contact Sean Creighton at [\(513\) 245-7455](tel:5132457455) or screighton@greatparks.org.

VISION

Great Parks is leading the development of a master plan for the West Region Blueway & Trail System – a new initiative to bring people closer to nature by expanding opportunities for water- and land-based adventure in western Hamilton County.

Our vision for this new trail system includes:



Girl in a canoe paddling on a river

Strengthening and expanding Great Parks' blueway in western Hamilton County.

A blueway, or water trail, is a network of connected waterways that feature managed access points, clear signage and recreational amenities for canoeists, kayakers and other paddlers to enjoy. Access to the blueway in western Hamilton County is currently available in a few locations on the Great Miami River and Whitewater River.



Bicyclist on a shared-use trail

Establishing four to five new canoe/kayak launch sites along the blueway trail.

The new blueway launch sites will be located on the Great Miami River and Whitewater River and will be managed by Great Parks.



Establishing a new shared-use trail along the Great Miami River corridor.

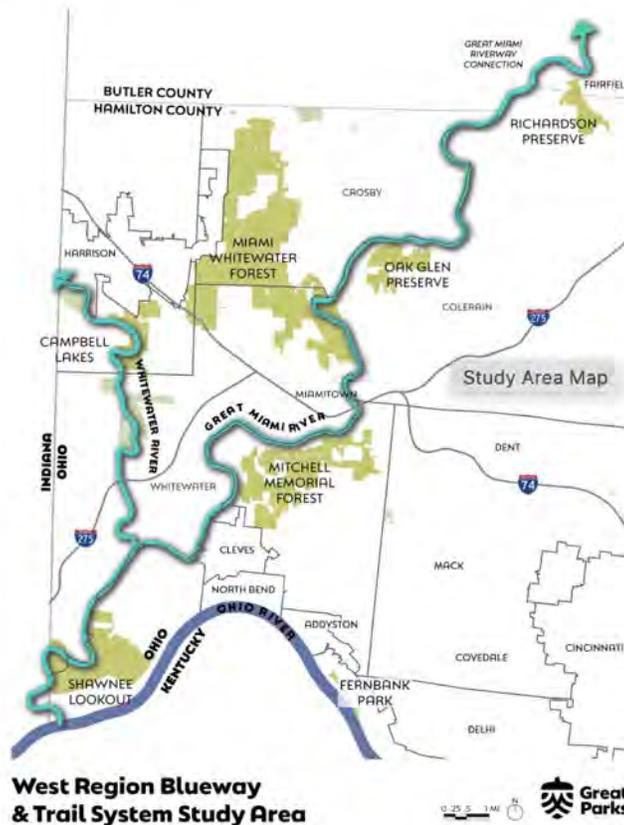
The shared-use trail will travel from the Butler/Hamilton county line to the Ohio River, near Great Parks' Shawnee Lookout. Shared-use trails can be used for walking, running, biking and other forms of non-motorized recreation.

Other opportunities being explored as part of the West Region Blueway & Trail System's master plan development include:

- Finding potential locations for new outdoor nature education space
- Expanding Great Parks' paddling course offerings
- Identifying existing points of interest and locations for additional corridor amenities
- Promoting the history and culture of the corridors
- Identifying possible habitat restoration opportunities

LOCATION

The planned West Region Blueway & Trail System will span western Hamilton County from north to south and encompass two rivers, four Great Parks – Miami Whitewater Forest, Mitchell Memorial Forest, Campbell Lakes and Shawnee Lookout – and many spaces in between. Trails on land and in the water will wind between vibrant communities and spectacular wilderness areas.

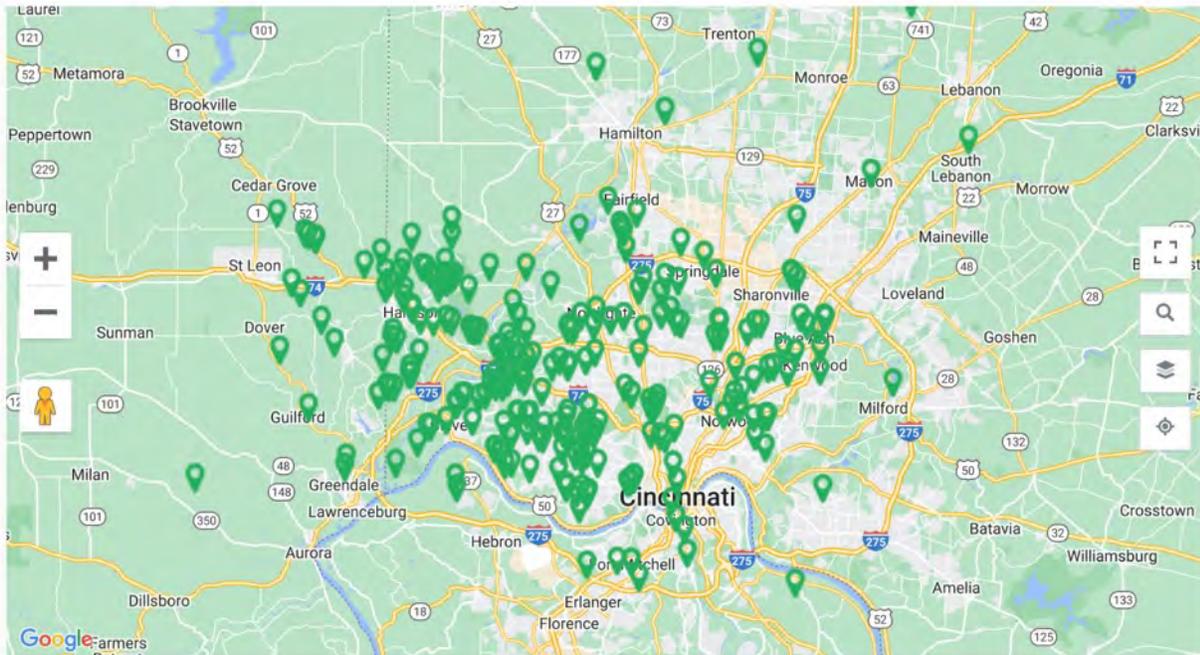


Map of the West Region Blueway & Trail System study area. Click map to enlarge.

QUESTIONS

Where do you live? Drop a point on the map to indicate the general area where you live.

Use the +/- buttons on the left side of the map to zoom in to your desired location(s). Click on the blue Add Point button in the upper right hand corner to drop a point on the map (a + sign will appear when you click on Add Point; move the + to your desired location and click to place your point).



How did you hear about this Virtual Open House? (check all that apply)

Social media	30%	Email	27%
Other	12%	Word-of-Mouth	11%
TV/Radio/Newspaper	10%	Newsletter	8%
Great Parks website	7%	Mailer	5%
Yard signs	2%	Interest group website	1%

Closed to responses | 469 Responses

In general, how often have you visited a Great Parks location/property in the past 12 months?

Several times a month	37%	Daily or weekly	29%
Several times a year	24%	Just once or twice	6%
I haven't visited a Great Parks park in the past 12 months	2%	Not sure	1%

Closed to responses | 471 Responses

[Continue](#)

REGIONAL VALUE

One of the most frequent requests we receive from park guests, residents, visitors and stakeholders is for more trails – in the water for canoeists, kayakers and other paddlers and on land for walkers, hikers, bicyclists and more.

In 2019, we included these requests as priorities in our ten-year [Comprehensive Master Plan](#) as well as in our [Park and Facility Master Plans](#).

As we've explored ways to build more trails and to expand Great Parks' blueway system, we noted that while there are many opportunities for exciting and memorable hiking, biking, walking and paddling adventures in western Hamilton County, most are confined to individual parks and there are few links between them.

The West Region Blueway & Trail System concept was developed to build upon and expand these opportunities and to establish new connections that will link the county from north to south and allow residents and visitors to more easily experience all that the region has to offer.



A view of the Great Miami River covered in fog, taken from Great Parks' Shawnee Lookout park.

EXTENDING BEYOND HAMILTON COUNTY

The West Region Blueway & Trail System offers a unique opportunity to extend the reach of the very popular Great Miami Riverway through Hamilton County and connect with land and water trails along the Ohio River Trail and Ohio River Way. Once completed, visitors will be able to create a broad variety of new adventures lasting from a couple hours to multiple days.

The [Great Miami Riverway](#) is the nation's largest paved trail network trail and Ohio's first National Water Trail. It stretches across 99 miles, from Sidney, Ohio, through Dayton to Middletown and the Hamilton-Fairfield area and has made the Great Miami River a regional and national destination for walkers, hikers, bikers, paddlers, and others. It travels through a variety of landscapes in two Ohio counties (Montgomery and Butler), but currently stops in Fairfield, just north of the Butler/Hamilton county line.



A view of the Great Miami Riverway's blueway and shared-use trails as they pass through downtown Dayton. Photo Courtesy of the Great Miami Riverway.

The [Ohio River Trail](#) and [Ohio River Way](#) connect people and communities to opportunities for fun and exploration along land and water trails that connect the natural riches and vibrant communities of the Ohio River from Portsmouth, Ohio, to West Point, Kentucky.



This map show the 250-mile reach of the Ohio River Way. Photo courtesy of Ohio River Way's (Facebook). Click image to enlarge.

PARTNERING IS KEY

The West Region Blueway & Trail System will extend well beyond the borders of Great Parks' properties. Establishing strong partnerships with local communities, stakeholders and interest groups during the planning and construction process will be key to advancing the much-needed connections between park properties and western Hamilton County communities from concept to reality.

QUESTIONS

Have you ever paddled on a blueway before?

No	46%
Yes	45%
I'm not sure	9%

Closed to responses | 439 Responses

How often have you used a shared-use trail in the past 12 months?

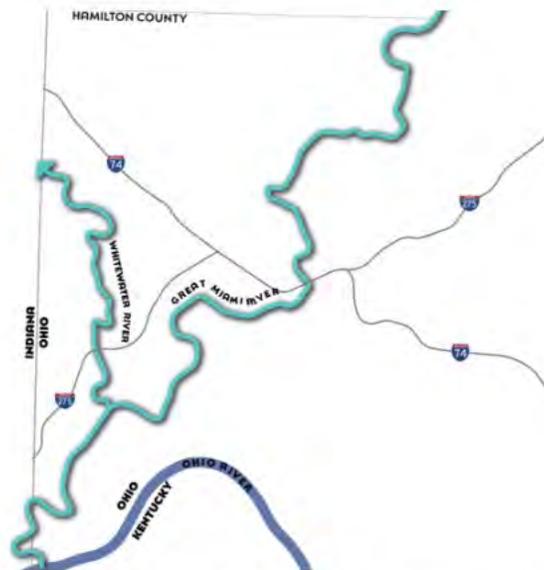
Several times a month	26%	Daily or weekly	22%
Every few months	18%	Once a month	14%
Just once or twice	11%	I haven't used a shared-use trail in the past 12 months	9%

Closed to responses | 418 Responses

[Continue](#)

THE BLUEWAY

The West Region Blueway follows two prominent rivers in southwest Ohio – the Great Miami River and the Whitewater River.



This map highlights the locations of the Great Miami River and Whitewater River as they travel through western Hamilton County and meet the Ohio River. Click image to enlarge.

Blueway enhancements will include four to five new managed access points to make it easier to get to the rivers, put in and take out kayaks, canoes and other paddlecraft, and reach new stretches of the river corridors. Other enhancements may also include added parking, restrooms and clear wayfinding signage to help guide you to the river and points of interest along the way.

We're also considering expanding the blueway experience by providing opportunities to:

- Combine paddling trips with hiking, biking, walking and other non-motorized excursions
- Get out and explore nearby communities, historic sites or other points of interest
- Create multi-day adventures by establishing rustic camping accommodations
- Participate in paddling and/or water safety classes and outdoor nature education classes



QUESTIONS

How often do you go on paddling trips (canoe, kayak, paddleboard, etc.)?

Once or twice a season	23%	I don't go often, but I'd like to go more	23%
Once or twice a month	19%	I don't go on paddling trips	17%
Just once or twice every year or so	14%	Daily or weekly	4%

Closed to responses | 430 Responses

How likely are you to use the West Region Blueway?

I will definitely use it	54%
I'll probably use it	25%
I'm not sure yet	13%
It's unlikely that I will use it	6%
I definitely won't use it	2%

Closed to responses | 430 Responses

When going on a paddling trip, whose paddlecraft (canoe, kayak, paddleboard, etc.) do you use? (check all that apply)

I rent from a local canoe/kayak business	54%
I use my own	44%
I borrow from someone (not a business)	8%
Other (please explain)	4%

Closed to responses | 391 Responses

How interested would you be in combining a paddle trip with one or more of the following activities?

	Very interested	Somewhat interested	Not sure	Not very interested	Not interested at all
Exploring nearby natural points of interest/historic sites	61%	28%	6%	2%	3%
Exploring nearby communities	42%	38%	11%	6%	3%
Hiking	59%	26%	7%	4%	4%
Biking	44%	28%	11%	10%	8%
Walking	56%	34%	5%	3%	3%
Camping	36%	26%	14%	13%	11%
Taking a paddling class (canoe, kayak, or paddle board)	20%	32%	17%	21%	11%
Taking an outdoor nature education class	24%	45%	15%	11%	6%
Other	19%	11%	54%	5%	10%

Exploring nearby natural points of interest/historic sites

410 respondents

If you selected "other" for the question above, please use this space to explain your answer.

Closed for Comments

Being able to paddle one direction and bike back is handy. This plan would allow people to kayak without having to pay a private outfit.

2 months ago

Reply 33 Agree

Being able to connect from the Whitewater River to more public takeouts.

2 months ago

Reply 23 Agree

yes

one month ago 1 Agree

I hope you are making plans for both disabled individuals and people whose mobility is impaired to be able to use the waterway

2 months ago

Reply 15 Agree

Or charging places for battery scooters

2 months ago

3 Agree

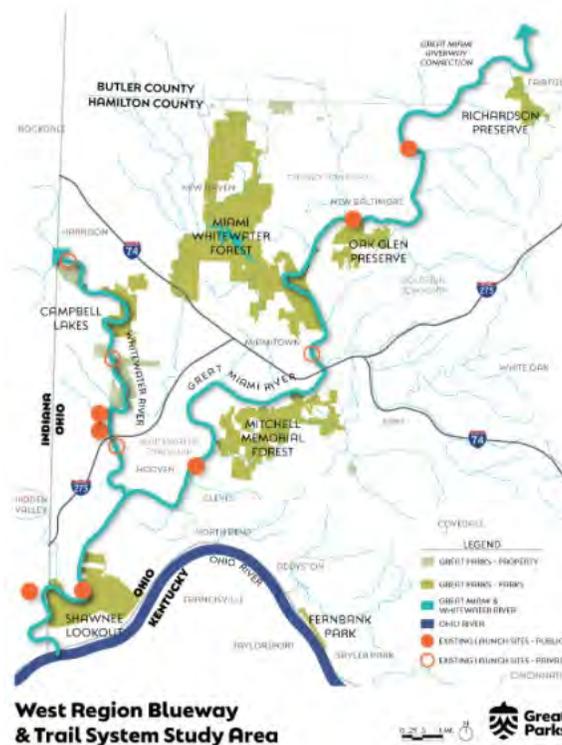
Feedback

Show all comments

Continue

BLUEWAY LAUNCH SITES

It's anticipated that most of the new launch sites we're planning for the West Region Blueway will be distributed among Great Parks' four major parks in western Hamilton County – Miami Whitewater Forest, Mitchell Memorial Forest, Campbell Lakes and Shawnee Lookout – though specific locations have yet to be identified. These locations would be in addition to or improvements to the public launch sites that already exist along the Great Miami and Whitewater rivers.



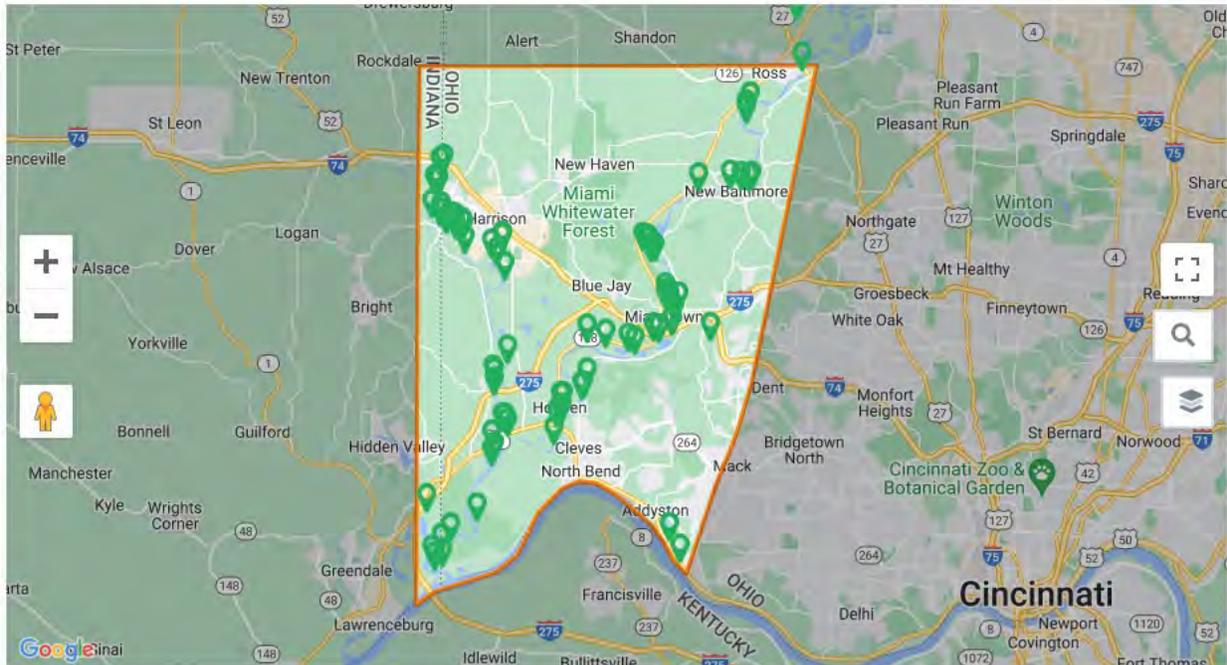
The orange dots on the map identify the locations of existing public launch sites.

The new or improved launch sites will allow paddlers of all ages and abilities to enjoy different trip lengths that can begin and end at a variety of locations. Ideally, we're looking for sites roughly three to five miles apart. At this distance, it would take you two to four hours to paddle from one launch site to the next, depending on how fast you paddle.

QUESTION

If you'd like to suggest a location for a new launch site along the Great Miami or Whitewater rivers, place a point on the map to show us where it is. Points can only be placed in the highlighted study area.

Use the +/- buttons on the left side of the map to zoom in to your desired location(s). Click on the blue Add Point button in the upper right hand corner to drop a point on the map (a + sign will appear when you click on Add Point; move the + to your desired location and click to place your point). Add a brief description of the location and/or any thoughts you have regarding the location and click "Post Comment."



TIMING

Specific timing for implementing the blueway enhancements will be determined as part of the master planning process. However, Great Parks anticipates opening one new launch site each year beginning in fall of 2025.

QUESTIONS

When going on a paddle trip, how do you typically get to river access locations?

A local canoe/kayak business takes me there	44%
I travel with family or friends in our own vehicle(s)	37%
I usually go by myself in my own vehicle	17%
Other (please explain)	3%

Closed to responses | 318 Responses

QUESTIONS

When going on a paddle trip, how do you typically get to river access locations?

A local canoe/kayak business takes me there	44%
I travel with family or friends in our own vehicle(s)	37%
I usually go by myself in my own vehicle	17%
Other (please explain)	3%

Closed to responses | 318 Responses

We'd like to know which potential launch site amenities are of most interest to you. Please drag the options you're most interested in (up to six) above the line and arrange them in order of importance to you.

Restrooms	Avg. Rank: 2.18	76%
Paved path to water	Avg. Rank: 2.26	46%
Paved parking	Avg. Rank: 2.49	51%
Other (please explain)	Avg. Rank: 2.53	8%
Floating entry points (docks that float on the water)	Avg. Rank: 2.87	25%
Kayak share (like bike share)	Avg. Rank: 2.96	29%
Signage/route maps	Avg. Rank: 3.21	57%
ADA access	Avg. Rank: 3.46	15%
Shade/shelters	Avg. Rank: 3.76	37%
Changing area	Avg. Rank: 3.79	15%
Picnic areas	Avg. Rank: 3.92	22%
Lockers	Avg. Rank: 4.22	11%
Refreshments	Avg. Rank: 4.32	15%

Closed to responses | 246 Responses

How far are you willing to carry your boat and gear from the parking lot to get to a launch point at the river?

Up to 200 feet (roughly the length of four semi-truck trailers)	33%	Up to 100 feet (about the length of three school buses)	28%
Up to 300 feet (about the length of a football field)	22%	It depends	14%
Up to 500 feet or more (approximately two city blocks or more)	8%	Up to 400 feet (roughly the distance from home plate to the outfield wall)	5%

Closed to responses | 298 Responses

What would encourage you to go on more paddling trips?

Closed for Comments

A way to return to starting location when just myself.

2 months ago [↩ Reply](#) [⬆ 33 Agree](#)

Parking and ease of entry/exit are primary. I'm not picky. Ability to go alone (ie ability to return to point of origin) would be really great.

2 months ago [↩ Reply](#) [⬆ 11 Agree](#)

A way to return to starting location when just myself.

2 months ago [↩ Reply](#) [⬆ 9 Agree](#)

More take outs that allow for shorter trips. Ability to get back to car on foot or bike without having to compete with cars on the road

one month ago [↩ Reply](#) [⬆ 4 Agree](#)

Knowing if and when blueway routes are safe for paddling.

Show all comments

Please use this space to share any comments you may have regarding the West Region Blueway and/or the new launch sites.

Closed for Comments

I would use a bike trail along the river(s) quite a lot. Why should the east side have all the perks?

2 months ago [↩ Reply](#) [⬆ 17 Agree](#)

Would love more focus going to bike trails which could connect to existing trails and parks as I think it would allow more people to utilize overall

2 months ago [↩ Reply](#) [⬆ 14 Agree](#)

Would love the biking/hiking/running trail. Definitely needed.

2 months ago [↩ Reply](#) [⬆ 9 Agree](#)

Canal history is a big part of this region's history, It would be nice to see a tunnel rebuilt or a lock rebuilt.

2 months ago [↩ Reply](#) [⬆ 8 Agree](#)

would love more access to biking/ mixed use trails between the parks and along the ohio towards downtown and it would be great to connect to the lawrenceburg trail more parkland with access to rivers

Show all comments

Continue

THE SHARED-USE TRAIL

The West Region Blueway & Trail System's shared-use trail will travel along the Great Miami River corridor and extend the Great Miami Riverway south through Hamilton County to the Ohio River. It will be dedicated to walking, running, bicycling and other forms of non-motorized recreation, and will travel from urban communities to rural towns and wilderness areas.



Shared-use trails can be used by bicyclists, walkers, runners, friends and families.

ALIGNMENT

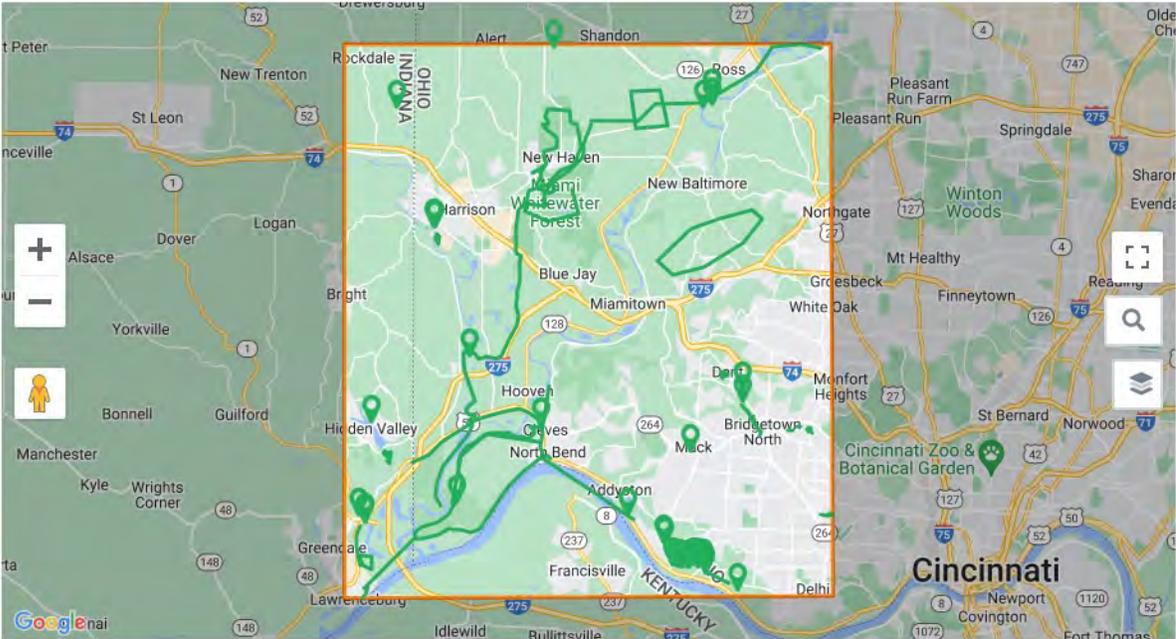
The specific alignment and overall length of this new shared-use trail are not yet known. As part of our current master planning effort, we are studying possible route options. We're looking for alignment alternatives that will:

- Allow users to safely and easily enjoy the changing landscapes of western Hamilton County
- Maximize accessibility for users of all abilities
- Connect with other existing and proposed trail networks throughout the region
- Connect with local points of interest
- Create new connections between Great Parks properties and in the surrounding communities

QUESTIONS

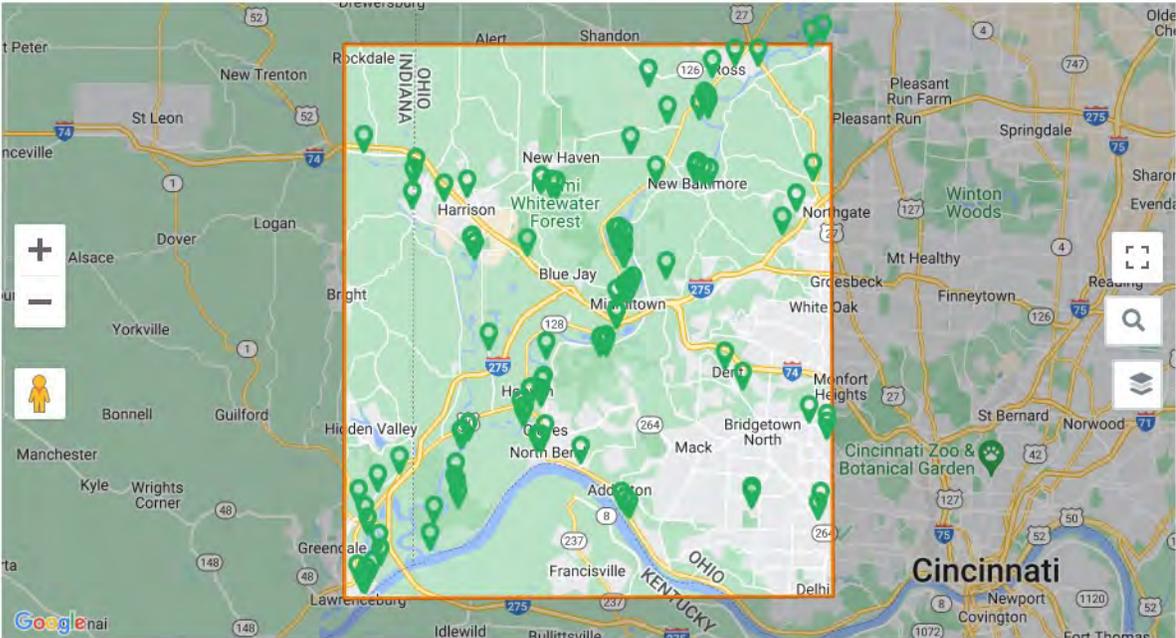
As we develop the master plan for the shared-use trail, we are working to identify other existing or planned shared-use routes in the study area. You can help by using the map below to highlight any trails that you are aware of.

The map below highlights the general study area. You will only be able to place a point in the highlighted area. Use the pop-up box that appears once you place your points to identify the name and/or general location of the trail.



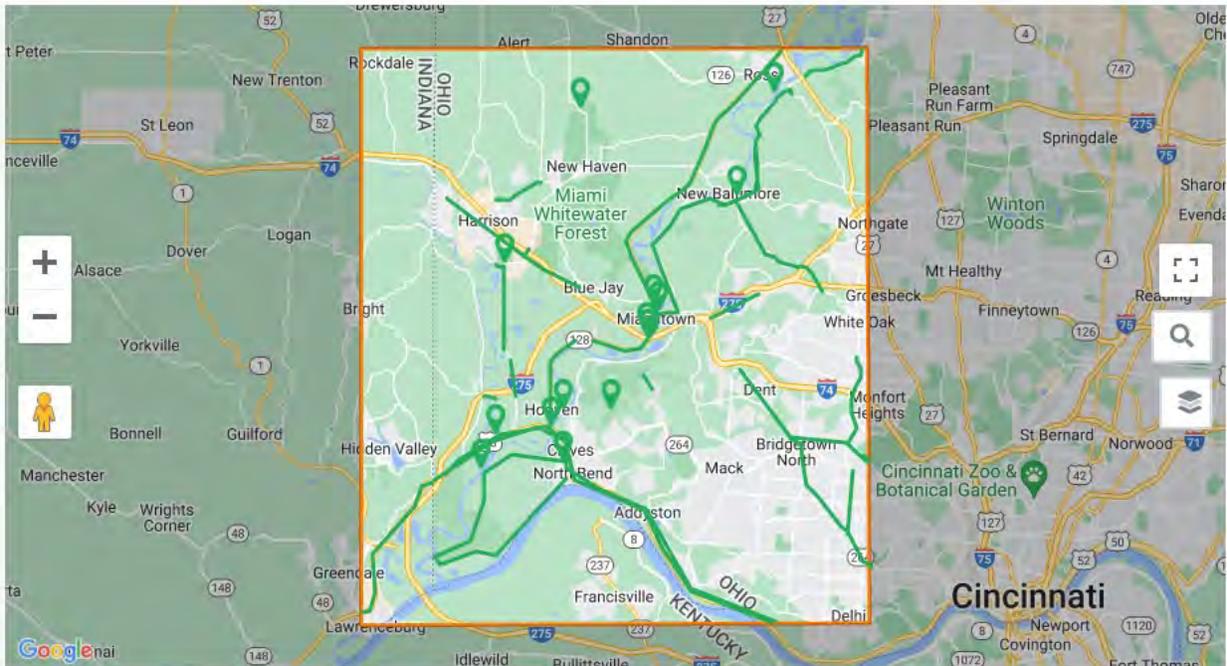
Please use the map below to identify up to five points of interest along or near the Great Miami River Corridor to which you think the shared-use trail should connect.

The map below highlights the general study area. You will only be able to place a point in the highlighted area. Use the pop-up box that appears once you place your points to identify the name and/or general location of the trail.



Please use the map below to identify dangerous stretches of roadway or the locations of dangerous roadway crossings for walkers, runner and/or bicyclists, particularly along or near the Great Miami River corridor.

Use the +/- buttons on the left side of the map to zoom in to your desired location(s). Click on the blue Add Point button in the upper right hand corner to drop a point on the map (a + sign will appear when you click on Add Point; move the + to your desired location and click to place your point). Add a brief description of the location and/or the issue, then click "Post Comment." You will only be able to place points in the highlighted area.



SHARED-USE TRAIL MANAGEMENT

Great Parks will manage the construction and maintenance of the shared-use trail located on park land. However, portions of the trail will also pass through four Hamilton County townships (Crosby, Colerain, Miami and Whitewater) and a number of communities, both large and small. Partnering with these local communities and nearby landowners during the planning process is one of our top priorities for establishing a connected system that benefits all the areas through which it will travel.

TIMING

Initial planning for the West Region shared-use trail will continue through mid- to late summer 2024. At that time, attention will turn towards securing funding and developing construction strategies. The shared-use trail is expected to be completed in phases as funding becomes available.

QUESTIONS

How interested are you in a new shared-use trail along the Great Miami River corridor?

You can't build it soon enough!	68%	I'm interested	24%
I'm curious and would like to know more	3%	Great idea. I may or may not use it	3%
I know I won't use it	1%	I probably won't use it	1%

Closed to responses | 320 Responses

If you said you may not or won't use the shared-use trail, why not?

Closed for Comments

I will use this trail quite a lot. I do ride the 8-mile trail at Miami Whitewater park and would like another option to this trail. I also walk many other trails on the west side and many people would like another trail to walk. West side needs more trails like the east side has.

2 months ago

↩ Reply ⬆ 20 Agree

agree 100% bring a trail out from downtown that could connect to the parks on west side and to the trail in indiana

2 months ago

⬆ 12 Agree

AMEN!!!

2 months ago ⬆ 1 Agree

So excited over the possibility of this. Would love to help in anyway possible! Would love to see the area of Miami town evolve into what Loveland looks like now with trails going through it, access to kayaking and cute restaurants and shops popping up.

2 months ago

↩ Reply ⬆ 10 Agree

Need a long trail option over 8 miles

one month ago ↩ Reply ⬆ 4 Agree

Show all comments

We'd like to know which shared-use trail amenities are of most interest to you. Drag the options you're most interested in (up to six) above the line and arrange them in order of importance to you.

Managed parking lots at trail heads	Avg. Rank: 2.33	59%
Quick access from major roads/highways	Avg. Rank: 2.36	34%
Other (please explain)	Avg. Rank: 2.55	5%
Restrooms	Avg. Rank: 2.58	72%
Connections to other shared-use trails	Avg. Rank: 2.65	63%
Looped routes (routes that follow a circular route, not just a straight line)	Avg. Rank: 2.69	47%
Bike rentals at trail heads	Avg. Rank: 3.03	14%
Bike racks/storage	Avg. Rank: 3.14	13%
Bike repair stations at trail heads	Avg. Rank: 3.64	10%
Access to dining/entertainment	Avg. Rank: 3.94	31%
Connections to local points of interest	Avg. Rank: 4.08	45%
Picnic areas	Avg. Rank: 4.17	18%
Access to lodging/camping	Avg. Rank: 4.22	14%
Changing areas	Avg. Rank: 5.00	2%
Lockers	Avg. Rank: 5.17	3%

Closed to responses | 222 Responses

How interested would you be in combining a trip on the shared-use trail with one or more of the following activities?

	Very interested	Somewhat interested	Not sure	Not very interested	Not interested at all
Exploring nearby natural points of interest and/or historic sites	62%	35%	1%	1%	1%
Exploring nearby communities	41%	41%	10%	6%	1%
Visiting a restaurant/entertainment venue	52%	35%	9%	2%	2%
Hiking	61%	31%	5%	2%	-
Walking	62%	30%	6%	2%	-
Camping	25%	37%	15%	15%	9%
Canoeing/kayaking/paddleboarding	53%	27%	12%	6%	3%
Taking a paddling class	18%	38%	17%	19%	8%
Taking an outdoor education class	23%	39%	22%	15%	2%
Other	28%	5%	59%	8%	-

143 respondents

If you selected "other" for the question above, please use this space to explain your answer.

Closed for Comments

So this is for the priorities question, benches! Benches benches benches. So those who can't walk/ bike long distances in one go can rest

25 days ago

↩ Reply

Taxes for home owners is climbing too high for poor to keep a liveable roof over their head. Can not afford to pay for the general populations entertainment.

28 days ago

↩ Reply

Connect to Ohio to Erie trail

one month ago

↩ Reply

Hiking trails

one month ago

↩ Reply

Want to compare results

Show all comments

When using a shared-use trail for biking, how long do you typically like your bike trips to be?

Between 1 and 3 hours	68%	Between 3 and 5 hours	16%
Less than an hour	8%	Depends	5%
Between 5 and 7 hours	2%	More than 7 hours	0%

Closed to responses | 273 Responses

How often do you use shared-use trails?

Several times a month	32%	Daily or weekly	28%
Several times a year	27%	I don't use them often but would like to use them more	9%
I don't use them	2%	Less than once a year	1%

Closed to responses | 291 Responses

Why do you typically use shared-use trails? (check all that apply)

Exercise	78%	Recreation	75%
Exploring new areas	39%	Non-motorized travel from one place to another	12%
Other (please explain)	4%	I don't use them	2%

Closed to responses | 289 Responses

When using a shared-use path, who are you typically with?

Myself	31%	Family (teens/adults)	27%
Family (including kids 12 and under)	17%	It varies	13%
A pet	6%	Exercise/exploring group	4%
Other (please explain)	2%		

Closed to responses | 288 Responses

Please use this space to share any comments you may have regarding the proposed shared-use trail.

Closed for Comments

Please ensure that there's a significant buffer (ideally protected) between the trail and vehicular traffic. The infrastructure won't get used if it doesn't feel safe. Signage and wayfinding are both incredibly important, as well as connectivity to existing trails!

2 months ago

↩ Reply ⬆ 14 Agree

Connecting trails would be great for longer distance riding, and connecting communities.

one month ago

↩ Reply ⬆ 5 Agree

Safety is a priority. Some areas need to be level for elderly to walk.

2 months ago

↩ Reply ⬆ 5 Agree

Having a path that actually goes somewhere should be high priority. Loops are nice, but I want to be able to safely travel by bicycle.

one month ago

↩ Reply ⬆ 4 Agree

For other, I want the ability to increase mileage without having to ride a park trail in circles. The roads around here are not safe to ride on and there are no designated bike lanes. Having a multi use trail will incorporate communities as well as keeping people safe

Show all comments

Continue

PROCESS

Development of the West Region Blueway & Trail System master plan centers on both corridor studies and public input.

DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Right now, we're focused on developing a draft master plan for the system. This includes conducting technical studies and analyzing the existing conditions of the Whitewater River and Great Miami River corridors to better understand the character, opportunities and challenges of the rivers and surrounding landscapes.

We're also working to engage key stakeholders, interest groups, park users, local residents and visitors in the planning process. We're doing this by:

- Organizing an Advisory Committee comprised of local community and key interest group representatives to provide local insight and help guide development of the master plan
- Holding focus group discussions to dive more into the details of specific project-related topics
- Raising awareness and gathering public input by attending local festivals, fairs, sporting events, etc.
- Hosting open houses to share information about the project and gather public input
- Providing project information and updates through social media and a dedicated project website, GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails

The feedback you're providing in the survey questions included throughout this Virtual Open House is another way we're gathering information that will be used to develop the West Region Blueway & Trail System master plan.



The images above show people participating in the master plan development process.

TIMING

Once the draft master plan is complete later this year, we will share it with the community for review and additional input. We will also work with local communities, jurisdictions, stakeholders and interest groups to begin developing strategies for implementation.

We expect the final master plan to be completed next summer or fall (2024). Implementation will take place over multiple years and will likely be completed in phases, depending on the availability of funding.

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This graphic highlights the general timeline for the development of the West Region Blueway & Trail System Master Plan.

FUNDING

Great Parks will be responsible for funding the construction and management of project components built on Great Parks' properties. Funding for the construction and management of project components located outside of park boundaries will be the responsibility of the jurisdiction in which they are located. Great Parks will work closely with these jurisdictions to help develop funding strategies and identify potential funding sources.

STAYING INVOLVED

You can stay engaged in the process by [signing up for updates](#) and by periodically visiting the [Process](#) and [Participate](#) pages of the project [website](#) to see what's new.

In the meantime, we have a few final questions for you to help us better understand who is participating in this Virtual Open House. We would appreciate it if you would answer these last few questions before you go.

QUESTIONS

How old are you?

60 to 74 years old	35%	45 - 60 years old	32%
30 to 44 years old	22%	18 to 29 years old	6%
74 years or older	4%	18 years old or less	0%

Closed to responses | 294 Responses

What is your race?

White	91%	I prefer to self-describe	6%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%	Black or African American	1%
Asian	0%	Hispanic or Latino	0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%		

Closed to responses | 281 Responses

What is the primary language spoken in your home?

English	99%
Spanish	1%
Chinese	0%
Other	0%

Closed to responses | 285 Responses

How many people live in your household?

1 - 2	63%
3 - 5	34%
6 or more	3%

Closed to responses | 291 Responses

What is your household income?

\$100,000 or more	57%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	18%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	14%
\$20,001 - \$49,999	9%
Less than \$20,000	2%

Closed to responses | 246 Responses

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Please use this space to share any additional questions or comments you have regarding the West Region Blueway & Trail System.

Closed for Comments

The West Side of Cincinnati has been in DIRE need of this sort of initiative for such a long time - thank you for contributing to the growth of our region's trail networks and including this beautiful region of Cincinnati!

2 months ago

Reply 11 Agree

Thank you so much. This is something the west side needs badly and will greatly raise the quality of life on this side of town.

one month ago

Reply 6 Agree

This is SO EXCITING!@!@ If done well, this will be a major regional asset and quality of life enhancement. I can't wait! Partnering with communities along the blue and paved trails should maximize this transformation and benefit everyone. Go BIG! This is exactly what we need... See More

2 months ago

Reply 6 Agree

It would be nice if the plan could connect further east of Miamitown also.

one month ago

Reply 3 Agree

Thank you for being forward thinking and providing early and quality activities to residents.

Show all comments

If you would like to receive email updates about the West Region Blueway & Trail System from Great Parks, please enter your email address below.

(Great Parks will maintain your privacy and will not sell, rent or share your email address with third parties. Only those who ask to receive updates from us will receive emails. We also offer an "unsubscribe" feature that allows you to discontinue email communications from Great Parks at any time.)

Email*

Yes - please send me project updates.

Submit

Continue

ABOUT GREAT PARKS

Great Parks is the leader in conservation and nature-based experiences in southwest Ohio. With over 18,000 acres, 25 miles of river frontage, and 22 parks and conservation areas, our Big Lands offer abundant options for guests to *find their wild*. Great Parks removes barriers to the natural world and offers the opportunity for everyone to experience the power of wild with the promise of well.

FULFILLING YOUR GOALS

Great Parks' [2019 Comprehensive Master Plan](#) and [Park and Facility Master Plans](#) are a driving force behind the development of the West Region Blueway & Trail System. These plans were developed through an inclusive and thorough planning process that included Great Parks staff, stakeholders and the broader community.

2019 COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES



Build more trails

Establish a defined blueway system

Add programming and events
for diverse audiences

Build ecological resiliency and sustainability

Provide access to conservation areas

Expand access for all users

Focus on partnerships

Plan for the future of every park



The West Region Blueway & Trail System satisfies all priorities identified in Great Parks' 2019 Comprehensive Master Plan, with an emphasis on "Build more trails" and "Establish a defined blueway system." These priorities were developed based on feedback gathered from more than 2,000 park users and Hamilton County residents. Click image to enlarge.

PARK AND FACILITY MASTER PLANS – THEMES



ADD MORE TRAILS & ADVENTURE

Hiking/walking trails, mountain biking, regional trails, blueway trails

REFRESH HARBORS & EXPERIENCES

Harbors, playgrounds, camping, disc golf

BUILD NEW NATURE, EDUCATION, & EVENT CENTERS

Education and event centers in each region

IMPLEMENT CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Mature forest management, stream and wetland restoration, golf course restoration, stormwater management



Development of Great Parks' Park and Facility Master Plans identified the four themes listed above which reflect the community's vision for the future of Great Parks. Click image to enlarge.

To view these master plans in more detail, click on the links below:

[Comprehensive Master Plan Executive Summary](#)

[Park and Facility Master Plans Executive Summary](#)



Thank you for participating in this Virtual Open House.

We look forward to welcoming you to the new West Region Blueway & Trail System!