APPENDIX B: NOTIFICATION MATERIALS

News Release

Release
Printed Articles

Social Media

Facebook and Instagram Posts

Mailer

Yard Signs

Sign Design Distribution List

Email Notifications

Dedicated Eblast (June 26, 2023)

Find Your Wild E-Newsletter (July 5, 2023)

Find Your Wild E-Newsletter (July 18, 2023)

Website Postings

GreatParks.org - Calendar Content
GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails - Pop-up boxes
GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails - Participate Page/Upcoming
Opportunities

News Release

Release Printed Articles

PROPOSED BLUEWAY AND SHARED-USE TRAIL SYSTEM TO CONNECT PARKS, RIVERS AND COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN HAMILTON COUNTY

Open House Events Scheduled to Gather Public Input

CINCINNATI, OH (June 26, 2023) – As part of the implementation of its 2019 Comprehensive Master Plan, Great Parks is leading the development of a new initiative: the West Region Blueway & Trail System. The system will include both land and water-based trails along the Great Miami and Whitewater rivers and will link communities and parks extending from the Butler/Hamilton county line to the Ohio River. In-person and virtual open house events have been scheduled to gather public input that will be used to aid planning.

Virtual Open House & Survey

Open now through August 7, 2023 www.GreatParks.org/westregiontrails

In-Person Open House

July 13, 2023 | 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Whitewater Crossing Christian Church
5771 OH-128 | Cleves, OH 45002

"The West Region Blueway & Trail System is about connections," said Sean Creighton, Landscape Architect and Project Manager for Great Parks. "Our goal for the project is to enhance our blueway trails and establish a new shared-use trail to better connect people with the outstanding natural spaces of western Hamilton County, nearby communities and local points of interest."

Creighton noted that 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.

When complete, the West Region Blueway & Trail System will encompass both the Great Miami River, Whitewater River, four of Great Park's most spectacular destinations – Miami Whitewater Forest, Campbell Lakes, Mitchell Memorial Forest

and Shawnee Lookout – and many spaces and communities in between. Goals for the initial phase of development include:

- Identify strategies for strengthening and expanding western Hamilton County's blueway system
- Identify locations and develop design concepts for four to five canoe/kayak access points along the Great Miami River and Whitewater River
- Develop plans for a shared-use trail along the Great Miami River corridor for walkers, runners, bicyclists and others to enjoy

Great Parks is also looking for opportunities to expand its nature education programming and paddling course offerings through this project. These may include new outdoor education space; paddling classes for canoeists, kayakers and paddleboarders; water safety classes; and classes focused on hiking, camping, local flora and fauna and other similar topics.

A Regional Partnership

The West Region Blueway & Trail System will extend well beyond the borders of Great Parks' properties. As such, Great Parks will be working closely with local communities and jurisdictions as well as other stakeholders and interest groups to develop plans for advancing the much-needed connections between park properties and western Hamilton County communities from concept to reality.

Public Input is Needed

As planning begins, Great Parks is seeking public input about what connections and features the community would like included in the trail system. The public open house events are an opportunity to learn more about the project and participate in the planning process.

At the In-Person Open House, visitors will be able to review information highlighting key components of the new trail system and planning process and discuss their comments and questions with project team members. They will also be able to participate in interactive activities designed to gather their input and suggestions. Visitors can stop by at their convenience anytime during the open house hours.

The Virtual Open House & Survey presents the same information shared at the inperson meeting but through a web-based narrative. Participants can share their thoughts by answering interactive survey questions interspersed throughout the material. The Virtual Open House will be open 24/7. Visitors can return as often as

they need using a computer, tablet or smartphone. The Virtual Open House is accessible 24/7 at <u>GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails</u>, now through August 7.

Individuals with disabilities needing reasonable accommodations to participate in the open houses should contact Great Parks by July 6 at (513) 521-7275, Voice/TDD. Comments and questions can also be shared with the project team by email, mail, or phone:

Sean Creighton, West Region Blueway & Trail System Project Manager
Great Parks • 10245 Winton Road • Cincinnati, OH 45231
screighton@greatparks.org
(513) 245-7455

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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. Click here for more information.

About the Great Miami Riverway

The Great Miami Riverway is the nation's largest paved trail network and Ohio's first National Water Trail. It stretches across 99 miles, from Sidney to Middletown to the Hamilton-Fairfield area and has made the Great Miami River a regional and national destination for walkers, hikers, bikers, and paddlers. It travels through a variety of landscapes, from urban skylines and river vistas to parklands and gently rolling hills. For more information, visit the <u>Great Miami Riverway</u> website.

About the Ohio River Way

The Ohio River Way connects people and communities to opportunities for adventure on and along the Ohio River from Portsmouth, Ohio, to West Point, Kentucky. For more information, visit OhioRiverWay.org/.

GREATER CINCINNATI RESTAURANT WEEK RETURNS SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2023

SPORTS & RECREATION

Great Parks' New Proposed Trail System Would Link Hamilton County's Western Parks and Communities

The public's invited to share their input on the new trail system through an online survey or at an in-person open house July 13.

By Katherine Barrier on Tue, Jun 27, 2023 at 12:34 pm

SEND A NEWS TIP





Photo: <u>facebook.com/GreatParksHC</u>

Miami Whitewater Forest

Great Parks is planning big things for its western parks, and it's inviting the public to give their input.

Hamilton County's park system is planning the development of the West Region Blueway & Trail System, a proposed series of blueways, or water trails, and shared-use trails along the Great Miami and Whitewater rivers that would connect parks and communities from the Buter-Hamilton county line to the Ohio River.

"The West Region Blueway & Trail System is about connections," Sean Creighton, landscape architect and project manager for Great Parks, said in a press release. "Our goal for the project is to enhance our blueway trails and establish a new shared-use trail to better connect people with the outstanding natural spaces of western Hamilton County, nearby communities and local points of interest."

TRENDING



<u>TikTok Influencer</u>
<u>Gabbie Egan's New</u>
<u>Store, Dicey Dyes,</u>
<u>Brings Tie-Dye Lover's</u>
<u>Paradise to Covington</u>

By Megan Finke Aug 9, 2023



Pick Your Own Glass
Pumpkin from This
Colorful Pumpkin
Patch in Hocking Hills

By Katherine Barrier Aug 29, 2023

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DAVE'S HOT CHICKEN IS COMING TO GREATER CINCINNATI



Blueways are networks of connected waterways with managed access points, clear signage and recreational amenities for canoeists, kayakers and other paddlers to enjoy. Great Parks says part of the initial stage of development is to identify strategies to strengthen and expand western Hamilton County's blueway system, as well as figure out four or five locations to implement canoe and kayak access points along the Great Miami and Whitewater rivers.

Other goals for the initial development stage include developing plans for a shareduse trail along the Great Miami corridor, as well as expanding its nature education programming and paddling, water safety and other outdoor recreational classes.

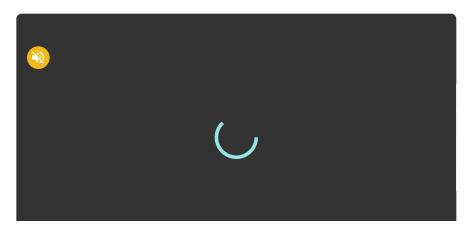
When it's finished, the West Region Blueway & Trail System will encompass four parks – Miami Whitewater Forest, Campbell Lakes, Mitchell Memorial Forest and Shawnee Lookout – and the communities in between.

Related



<u>Great Parks Opens Interactive Music Garden with Giant Instruments in Woodlawn</u>

The park features a treble clef-shaped path with different instrument stations set up along it, as well as plants and flowers with music-themed names.



Share your input

The project will expand beyond Great Parks, so it says it will be working closely with local communities and jurisdictions, stakeholders and interest groups to develop plans. But Great Parks is also asking for the public's input on what connections and features the community wants included in the trail system.

In-person and open-house events have been scheduled to collect that input. From now through Aug. 7, you can attend a virtual open house and fill out a survey <u>here</u>. You can also attend an in-person open house at Whitewater Crossing Christian Church (5771 OH-128, Whitewater Township) on Thursday, July 13 from 4-7 p.m.

More info: mygreatparks.com



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Tags: <u>Great Parks</u>, <u>West Region Blueway & Trail System</u>, <u>western Hamilton County parks</u>, <u>Great Miami River</u>, <u>Whitewater River</u>, <u>Cincinnati blueways</u>, <u>Cincinnati shared-use trails</u>, <u>Cincinnati park development</u>

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Proposed blueway and shared-use trail system to connect parks, rivers and communities

By Information Submitted - newsroom@registerpublications.com on Wednesday, June 28, 2023



Great Parks of Hamilton County is developing plans for a West Region Blueway and Trail System.

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.



The system will include both land- and water-based trails along the Great Miami and Whitewater rivers and will link communities and parks extending from the Butler/Hamilton county line to the Ohio River. In-person and virtual open houses have been scheduled to gather public input that will be used to aid planning.

The virtual open house & survey is open now through Aug. 7 at www.GreatParks.org/westregiontrails.

The in-person open house is from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, July 13, at the Whitewater Crossing Christian Church, 5771 state Route 128 in Whitewater Township.

"The West Region Blueway & Trail System is about connections," said Sean Creighton, landscape architect and project manager for Great Parks. "Our goal for the project is to enhance our blueway trails and establish a new shared-use trail to better connect people with the outstanding natural spaces of western Hamilton County, nearby communities and local points of interest."

When complete, the West Region Blueway and Trail System will encompass the Great Miami River and Whitewater River, four of Great Parks' most spectacular destinations — Miami Whitewater Forest, Campbell Lakes, Mitchell Memorial Forest and Shawnee Lookout — and many spaces and communities in between. Goals for the initial phase of development include:

- Identify strategies for strengthening and expanding western Hamilton County's blueway system;
- Identify locations and develop design concepts for four to five canoe/kayak access points along the Great Miami River and Whitewater River; and
- Develop plans for a shared-use trail along the Great Miami River corridor for walkers, runners, bicyclists and others to enjoy.

Great Parks is also looking for opportunities to expand its nature education programming and paddling course offerings through this project. These may include new outdoor education space; paddling classes for canoeists, kayakers and paddleboarders; water safety classes; and classes focused on hiking, camping, local flora and fauna and other similar topics.

The West Region Blueway and Trail System will extend well beyond the borders of Great Parks' properties. The park district will work closely with local communities and jurisdictions as well as other stakeholders and interest groups to develop plans for advancing the much-needed connections between park properties and western Hamilton County communities from concept to reality.

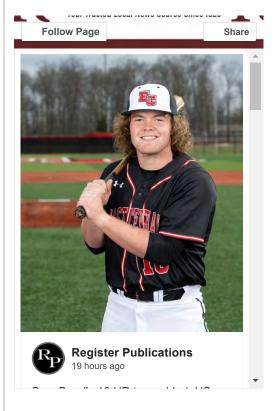
As planning begins, Great Parks is seeking public input about what connections and features the community would like included in the trail system. The public open house events are an opportunity to learn more about the project and participate in the planning process.

At the in-person open house, visitors will be able to review information highlighting key components of the new trail system and planning process and discuss their comments and questions with project team members. They will also be able to participate in interactive activities designed to gather their input and suggestions. Visitors can stop by at their convenience anytime during the open house hours. This will be a family-friendly event, with children's activities that will be supervised by Great Parks staff.

The virtual open house and survey presents the same information shared at the in-person meeting but through a web-based narrative. Participants can share their thoughts by answering interactive survey questions interspersed throughout the material. The virtual open house will be open 24/7. Visitors can return as often as they need using a computer,

FACEBOOK



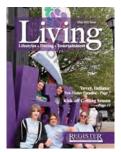


tablet or smartphone. The Virtual Open House is accessible 24/7 at GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails, now through August 7.

Individuals with disabilities needing reasonable accommodations to participate in the open houses should contact Great Parks by July 6 at 513-521-7275, Voice/TDD. Comments and questions can also be shared with the project team by email, mail, or phone to Sean Creighton, West Region Blueway and Trail System project manager, Great Parks, 10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45231; screighton@greatparks.org; 513-245-7455.



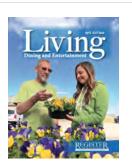
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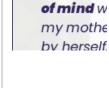
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CLEVES

Blueway and shared-use trail initiative proposed in western Hamilton County

As part of the implementation of its 2019 Comprehensive Master Plan, Great Parks is leading the development of a new initiative: the West Region Blueway & Trail System.

The system will include both land and water-based trails along the Great Miami and Whitewater rivers and will link communities and parks extending from the Butler/Hamilton county line to the Ohio River.

In-person and virtual open house events have been scheduled to gather public input that will be used to aid planning.

Virtual Open House & Survey

- Open now through Aug. 7
- www.GreatParks.org/westregion trails

In-Person Open House

- July 13, 4-7 p.m.
- Whitewater Crossing Christian Church, 5771 OH-128, Cleves

"The West Region Blueway & Trail System is about connections," said Sean Creighton, landscape architect and project manager for Great Parks. "Our goal for the project is to enhance our blueway trails and establish a new shared-use trail to better connect people with the outstanding natural spaces of western Hamilton County, nearby communities and local points of interest."

Creighton noted that 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.

When complete, the West Region Blueway & Trail System will encompass the Great Miami River and Whitewater River, four of Great Parks' most spectacular destinations – Miami Whitewater Forest, Campbell Lakes, Mitchell Memorial Forest and Shawnee Lookout – and many spaces and communities in between.

Goals for the initial phase of development include:

- Identifying strategies for strengthening and expanding western Hamilton County's blueway system.
- Identify locations and develop design concepts for four to five canoe/kayak access points along the Great Miami River and Whitewater River.
- Develop plans for a shared-use trail along the Great Miami River corridor for walkers, runners, bicyclists and others to enjoy.

Great Parks is also looking for opportunities to expand its nature education programming and paddling course offerings through this project. These may include new outdoor education space; paddling classes for canoeists, kayakers and paddleboarders; water safety classes; and classes focused on hiking, camping, local flora and fauna and other similar topics.

The West Region Blueway & Trail System will extend well beyond the borders of Great Parks' properties. As such, Great Parks will be working closely with local communities and jurisdictions as well as other stakeholders and interest groups to develop plans for advancing the muchneeded connections between park properties and western Hamilton County communities from concept to reality.

As planning begins, Great Parks is seeking public input about what connections and features the community would like included in the trail system. The public open house events are an opportunity to learn more about the project and participate in the planning process.

At the in-person open house, visitors will be able to review information highlighting key components of the new trail system and planning process and discuss their comments and questions with project team members.

They will also be able to participate in interactive activities designed to gather

their input and suggestions. Visitors can stop by at their convenience anytime during the open house hours. This will be a family-friendly event, with children's activities that will be supervised by Great Parks staff.

The virtual open house and survey presents the same information shared at the in-person meeting but through a web-based narrative.

Participants can share their thoughts by answering interactive survey questions interspersed throughout the material.

Visitors can return as often as they need using a computer, tablet or smartphone. The virtual open house is accessible 24/7 at GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails, now through August 7.

Comments and questions can be shared with the project team by email, mail, or phone:

Sean Creighton, West Region Blueway & Trail System project manager

Great Parks, 10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati

screighton@greatparks.org (513) 245-7455 Peter Osborne

NORWOOD

Cincinnati Re-Assist founder recognized for Healthcare Innovation Solve at MIT in Boston

RE-Assist founder Ashley Barrow was honored this week at Solve at MIT 2023. She presented at the 2023 Care Economy Brain Trust in Boston.

This annual event brings together the most innovative minds in the world to showcase and solve some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Solve at MIT is an initiative of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that seeks to solve some of the world's biggest challenges by creating a platform for innovators and experts to collaborate and address critical issues in areas such as education, health care, sustainability

Social Media Facebook and Instagram Posts



We are excited to announce the development of the West Region Blueway & Trail System.

The system will include both land and water-based trails along the Great Miami and Whitewater rivers and will link communities and parks extending from the Butler/Hamilton county line to the Ohio River.

The goal of the project is to enhance our blueway trails and establish a new shared-use trail to better connect people with the natural spaces of western Hamilton County, nearby communities and local points of interest.

When complete, the West Region Blueway & Trail System will encompass both the Great Miami River, Whitewater River, four of Great Park's most spectacular destinations – Miami Whitewater Forest, Campbell Lakes, Mitchell Memorial Forest and Shawnee Lookout with many spaces and communities in between.

We want to hear from you! Join us for a virtual open house and survey and in-person open house:

Virtual Open House & Survey Open now through August 6, 2023

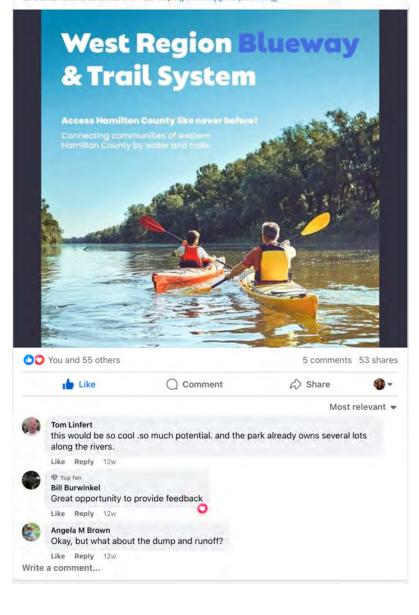
www.GreatParks.org/westregiontrails

In-Person Open House

July 13, 2023 | 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Whitewater Crossing Christian Church 5771 OH-128 | Cleves, OH 45002

Learn more about this project and how we are committed to expanding opportunities for water and land-based adventure for all: https://www.mygreatparks.org/





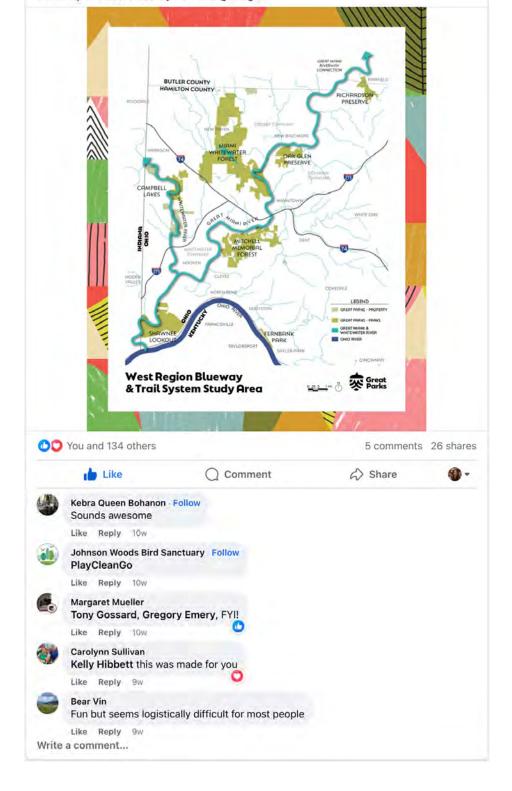
Have you ever thought how fun it would be to go from hiking and biking to paddling a canoe or kayak - all in a single day or two of adventure, right near you?

We did too

And now, we're leading the development of a new blueway and trail system in western Hamilton County that will allow you to do just that.

We want to hear from you! Join us at our July 13 Open House at the Whitewater Crossing Community Church (5771 OH-128, Cleves, OH), 4 pm – 7 pm. We can't wait to talk about this new system with you!

Can't attend in person? Go to www.GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails to participate in our Virtual Open House & Survey now through Aug. 7.





Join us tomorrow to talk about plans for the West Region Blueway & Trail System at the Whitewater Crossing Community Church in Cleves (5771 OH-128).

Come any time between 4pm -7pm. We can't wait to see you!

Can't attend in person? Go to www.GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails to participate in our Virtual Open House & Survey instead. Open now through August 7.

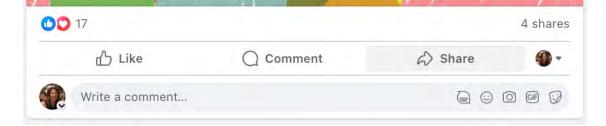
West Region Blueway & Trail System

IN-PERSON

OPEN HOUSE TOMORROW

Thursday, July 13 | 4pm - 7pm Whitewater Crossing Christian Church 5771 OH-128 | Cleves, OH 45002

Come at your convenience!



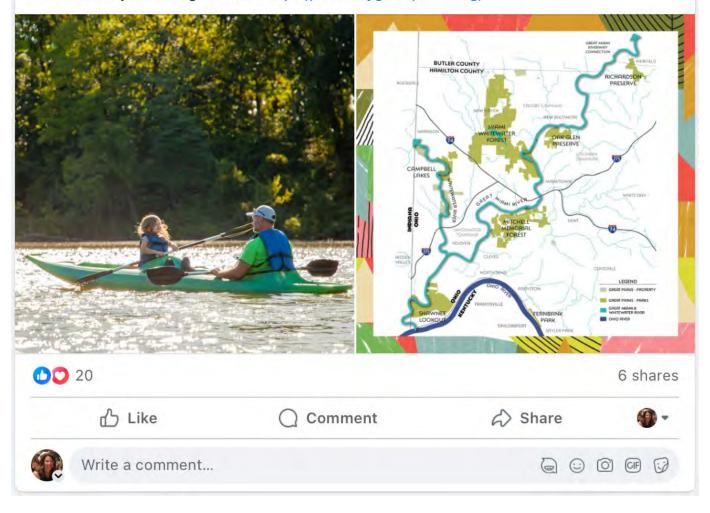


Do you love kayaking or canoeing? Great Parks wants to hear from YOU!

Our Virtual Open House & Survey for the planned West Region Blueway & Trail System is still OPEN!

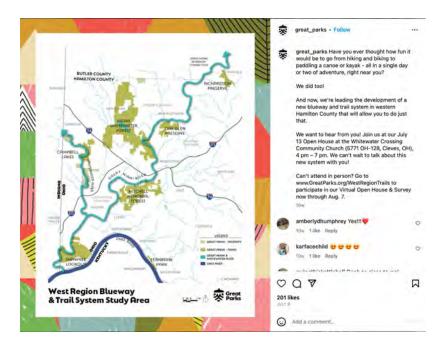
Visit any time between now and August 7 to learn more about this new water and landbased trail system that will encompass two rivers, four Great Parks with many communities in between!

Let us know your thoughts here: https://www.mygreatparks.org/



INSTAGRAM POSTS







Mailer

WEST REGION BLUEWAY & TRAIL SYSTEM



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.

This system will create new connections for paddlers to explore the region by water and establish a new shared-use trail from Fairfield to the Ohio River for walkers, runners, bicyclists, and more!

Visit our open house or one of our other public events to learn more and participate in the planning process.

Individuals with disabilities needing reasonable accommodations to participate should contact Great Parks by July 6 at (513) 521-7275, Voice/TDD.

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

July 13 | 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. Whitewater Crossing Christian Church 5771 OH-128 Cleves, OH 45002

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE & SURVEY

Open now – August 7, 2023 GreatParks.org/ WestRegionTrails



WEST REGION BLUEWAY & TRAIL SYSTEM



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails



Help us plan new adventures in western Hamilton County! LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

Yard Signs

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OPEN HOUSE EVENTS WEST REGION BLUEWAY & TRAIL SYSTEM





is planning a new trail system in western Hamilton County with water trails for paddlers and a shared-use trail for walkers, runners, bicyclists and more! Share your thoughts in person or virtually.



IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

July 13 | 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Whitewater Crossing
Christian Church
5771 OH-128
Cleves, OH 45002

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE & SURVEY

Open now – August 7, 2023 GreatParks.org/ WestRegionTrails



YARD SIGN DISTRIBUTION LIST

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Count	Park	Location	Responsibility	Status
1	CL	Kiosk	Sean	Complete
1	EW	Playground bathrooms	Sean	Complete
1	FP	Playground bathrooms	Sean	Complete
4	MWF	1. Visitor Center	Sean	Complete
		2. Dog Park		Complete
		3. Timberlakes trailhead parking lot		Complete
		4. Shaker Trace Trail trailhead parking lot		Complete
2	SL	1. Blue Jacket trailhead parking lot	Sean	Complete
		2. Boat launch (will need to be moved if floods)		Complete
1	LI	Canoe/Kayak Launch parking lot	Monica R / GE staff	Complete
1	Avoca	Trailhead parking lot	Becky	Complete
1	Bass Island	Trailhead parking lot	Becky	Complete
1	LMST	Columbia Connector behind 50 West	Becky	Complete
1	LMGC	Trailhead	Becky	Complete
1	Rt 32 parking lot	Trailhead	Becky	Complete
3		1. Canoe/Kayak launch	Becky	Complete
		2. Trailhead		Complete
		3. Dog Park		Complete
1	Lunken	Farmer's Market parking lot	Becky	
		Parking lot adjacent to Red Bike Station		Complete
7		1. Dravo Park Marsh Park (Colerain Township)	Becky	Complete - located by kiosk
		2. Heritage Park (Colerain Township)	Becky	Complete - located by river access entrance
		3. Joyce Park (Hamilton Parks Conservancy)	Becky	Complete - located by Tap Water sign (on map as "Great Miami River Trail - Access Point")
		4. Kevin Lodder Park (Neilan Blvd.) (Hamilton Parks		
	GMR Public	Conservancy)	Becky	Complete - located along trail under trees
	Landings	5. Monument Park (Hamilton Parks Conservancy) - swap for		
		Marcum Park?		DID NOT COMPLETE
		6. Combs Park (Hamilton Parks Conservancy)		DID NOT COMPLETE
		7. Rentschler Forest MetroPark (MetroParks of Butler County)		
		7. Refuserior Forest Metror dik (Metror diks of Butler Country)		DID NOT COMPLETE

Email Notifications

Dedicated E-Blast (June 26, 2023)

Find Your Wild E-Newsletter (July 5, 2023)

Find Your Wild E-Newsletter (July 18, 2023)

From: Great Parks no-replygphc@greatparks.org

Subject: Planning begins for new West Region Blueway & Trail System

Date: June 26, 2023 at 12:04 PM **To:** lwhitshop@gmail.com



GREAT PARKS BEGINS PLANNING FOR THE WEST REGION BLUEWAY & SHARED-USE TRAIL SYSTEM

Open House Event Scheduled to Gather Public Input



Great Parks is excited to introduce the West Region Blueway & Trail System!

The **West Region Blueway & Trail System** will span western Hamilton County from north to south and offer new opportunities for land and water-based exploration along the Great Miami River and Whitewater River. It will also encompass four of Great Parks' most spectacular destinations – Miami Whitewater Forest, Campbell Lakes, Mitchell Memorial Forest and Shawnee Lookout – and connect with many communities and points of interest in between. Residents and visitors will be able to *find their wild* by creating new adventures that can include countless combinations of walking, hiking, biking and paddling activities that last from just a few hours to multiple days.

Over the next year, Great Parks will be working with local communities, stakeholders, interest groups and residents to prepare a master plan to guide our efforts to bring this system from concept to reality. Goals for this phase of development include:

- Identify strategies to strengthen and expand western Hamilton County's blueway system
- Identify locations and develop design concepts for four to five new canoe/kayak access points
- Develop plans for a new shared-use trail that will travel along the Great Miami River corridor connecting existing trails and local points of interest

We'll also be looking for opportunities to use this new system to expand our nature programming and paddling school offerings.

Public Input is Needed

As planning begins, Great Parks is seeking input about the connections and features that community members would like included in the West Region Blueway & Trail System. To start these discussions, open house events have been scheduled in the following formats:

In-Person Open House

July 13, 2023 | 4 – 7 p.m.

Whitewater Crossing Christian Church
5771 OH-128 | Cleves, OH 45002

Virtual Open House & Survey

Open now through August 7, 2023 www.publicinput.com/westregiontrails

About the Open House Formats

Visitors can come to the in-person open house at their convenience. Information will be exchanged through a series of information stations and interactive activities staffed by project team representatives.

The virtual open house & survey presents the same information shared at the in-person meeting but through a web-based narrative. Participants can share their thoughts by answering interactive survey questions interspersed throughout the material. The virtual open house will be open 24/7. Visitors can access the site as often as needed using a computer, tablet or smartphone.

Great Parks strives to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to fully engage. The July 13 in-person open house will be ADA-accessible and family-friendly, with adjacent child-friendly activities supervised by Great Parks' staff. Individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate in either open house format, including those related to ADA, language interpretation, or transportation assistance, should contact Great Parks by July 6 at 513-521-7275. Voice/TDD.



What is a blueway?



The West Region Blueway & Trail

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.

System offers a unique opportunity to extend the reach of the popular 99-mile long **Great Miami Riverway** through Hamilton County to connect with land and water trails along the Ohio River Trail and 250-mile long Ohio River Way.

Learn More About the Project











Great Parks | 10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231

Unsubscribe lwhitshop@gmail.com <u>Update Profile</u> | <u>Constant Contact Data Notice</u> Sent by no-replygphc@greatparks.org in collaboration with



From: Great Parks no-replygphc@greatparks.org

Subject: July is Park and Recreation Month!

Date: July 5, 2023 at 12:32 PM **To:** lwhitshop@gmail.com







July is Park and Recreation Month - a time to recognize and celebrate the vital role that park professionals play in bringing people together, providing essential services, and fostering the growth of our communities. From protecting our open spaces and natural resources to facilitating extraordinary educational experiences, Great Parks takes pride in our contributions to building a strong, vibrant, and resilient region.

Our team of *How-To-Be-Outside Guides* is ready to lead you on your next great adventure. Go **fishing** at one of our stocked locations throughout Hamilton County, stop by one of our visitor centers before hitting a **trail**, or **paddle** one of our scenic lakes. Each week, our environmental interpreters lead several free **programs** for children and adults alike. Try something new and *Find Your Wild* with us today!

Vulture Stories

July 7 | 10:30 a.m.

Farbach-Werner | Ellenwood Nature Barn

Trail "Scavenger" Hunt

July 7 & 8 | 11 a.m.

Farbach-Werner | Pin Oak Trail

Farm Babies

July 7 & 14 | Noon July 8 & 15 | 11 a.m.

Winton Woods | Parky's Farm

Burgers & Brews

July 7 | 6 - 9 p.m.

Lake Isabella | Boathouse

NABA Butterfly Count

July 8 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Miami Whitewater Forest | Visitor Center

Meadow Links Free Junior Clinic

July 8 | 1 - 2 p.m.

Meadow Links & Golf Academy

An Island of Snakes

July 9 | 1 p.m. Bass Island

Flower Crowns & Other Natural Art

July 9 | 2 p.m.

Sharon Woods | Sharon Centre

Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo

July 14 | 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Winton Woods Harbor

School's In for Summer (Historic Schoolhouse Tour)

July 16 | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Shawnee Lookout | Cabin View Area

My Great Park in Pictures Photo Walk

July 16 | 3 p.m.

Sharon Woods | Gorge Trail Parking Lot

See Full Details on Website Calendar

Open house scheduled to discuss the development of the new West Region Blueway & Trail System

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 land and water-based adventure in western Hamilton County.

This system will expand and strengthen Great Parks' blueway (or water trail) along the Great Miami River and Whitewater River and create new opportunities for paddlers to explore the



region by water. It will also establish a new shared-use trail along the Great Miami River corridor that extends from the Butler/Hamilton county line to the Ohio River.

Help us develop the master plan by participating in our open house through one of the following formats:

In-Person Open House

When: July 13, 2023 Time: 4 – 7 p.m.

Where: Whitewater Crossing Christian Church | 5771 OH-128 | Cleves, OH 45002

Virtual Open House & Survey

When: Today through August 7, 2023

Time: Open 24/7

Where: publicinput.com/westregiontrails

Great Parks strives to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to fully

engage. The July 13 in-person open house will be ADA-accessible and tamily-triendly, with adjacent child-friendly activities supervised by Great Parks' staff. Individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate in either open house format, including those related to ADA, language interpretation, or transportation assistance, should contact Great Parks by July 6 at 513-521-7275, Voice/TDD.

Learn More About the Project

Kick off the weekend at Burgers & Brews this Friday!





Join us for live music and a grill out on the deck of Lake Isabella's Boathouse!

Enjoy the fun atmosphere, peaceful views of the lake, and live music for free. Burgers, hot dogs, and refreshing beverages will be available for guests to purchase.

When: July 7 (and select Fridays all summer long) | 6 - 9 p.m.

Where: Lake Isabella Boathouse

Cost: Free entry! (food & beverage available for purchase)

Musical Guest: Ed Sax

Learn More

Great Parks surpasses 18,000 acres of protected land





Great Parks has acquired an additional 240 acres of land near Miami Whitewater Forest to expand its total land holdings beyond 18,000 acres, or more than 28 square miles, building on its position as the largest landowner in Hamilton County. Great Parks purchased this property from the James L. Lake and Carolyn H. Lake Trust.

The wooded property is adjacent to Miami Whitewater Forest to the north, east, and west, and lies across state Route 128 from the Miami Whitewater Forest soccer complex and Simmonds Family Dog Park.

Great Parks will focus on restoring the land to its natural state, including reforestation and removing invasive species such as honeysuckle. Great Parks will also evaluate the property for the potential addition of walking or biking trails.

The numbers show just how significant the Big Lands are within Great Parks:

- Great Parks land accounts for one-third of Hamilton County's total open space
- 84 percent of Great Parks land is preserved as natural areas
- 10,000 acres under Great Parks management exists as forests and wetlands

The agency adheres to an 80/20 policy through which 80 percent of total land holdings are maintained in a natural state and managed for ecological benefits.

Great Parks secured all funding for the acquisition, including a \$3 million grant from the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, funds from a private donor, and Great Parks levy funds.

Fairy Tale Festival returns this month

Calling all knights, dragons, elves, unicorns, wizards, and fairies!









Enjoy an afternoon frolicking in the garden as your favorite fairy tales come to life! Create your own magical crafts, strike a bargain at the fairy trading post, enjoy a Madcap Puppets show, and more.

As you wind through Highfield Discovery Garden, stop by vendor booths to purchase your own fairy adornments or grab a bite to eat at a local food truck.

Want to join in on the fun and have your booth at the Fairy Tale Festival? Contact us at 513-521-7275 to apply.

When: July 29 | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: Glenwood Gardens/Highfield Discovery Garden

Cost: \$12/person

Learn More

Get Tickets



Great Parks | 10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231

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Great Parks celebrates its 93rd birthday



On Monday, July 17, Great Parks celebrated 93 years as Southwest Ohio's leader in conservation and nature-based experiences. From our humble beginnings at Sharon Woods in 1930, to where we stand today - with over 18,000 acres, 25 miles of river frontage, and 22 parks and conservation areas - Great Parks has continuously removed barriers to the natural world. Today, tomorrow, and well into the future, we invite you to join us on our Big Lands and experience the power of *wild* with the promise of *well*.

Come see us at the 2023 Outdoors for All Expo!

Celebrate the return of the Ohio River Paddlefest





Get in on the adventure at Adventure Crew's Outdoors for All Expo on Friday, August 4 at Schmidt Recreation Complex! Serving as the pre-party for **Ohio River Paddlefest** on Saturday, August 5, this celebration of all things outdoors will feature 50 exhibits from local parks, outdoor outfitters, adventure experts, and environmentally-minded organizations; as well as live music from Jack Speed & the Freddies, Honey & Houston and Ma Crow & Company; local craft beer; and food trucks.

Whether you're into paddling, hiking, biking, or green living, you'll find lots of exhibitors (including Great Parks) and hands-on activities to enjoy. The event is FREE and open to the public from 4 - 9:30 p.m.

Outdoors for All Expo

When: August 4 | 4 - 9:30 p.m.

Where: Schmidt Recreation Complex | 2944 Humbert Avenue, Cincinnati, OH

What is Paddlefest?

The Ohio River Paddlefest is recognized as the nation's largest paddling celebration, with 2,000 participants traveling up to nine miles through downtown Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky in canoes, kayaks, and other human-powered craft. Established in 2001, the event, which is held the first Saturday in August each year, is a project of Adventure Crew. For more information, visit www.ohioriverpaddlefest.org.

Ohio River Paddlefest

When: August 5 (register by August 4)

Where: Schmidt Recreation Complex | 2944 Humbert Avenue, Cincinnati, OH

\$5 OFF

your Paddlefest registration

Be sure to enter code **ORP23GP** at checkout!

Register Now

Upcoming free programs at Great Parks:

Storytime in the Park: Exploration Time!

July 19 | 10 a.m.

Miami Whitewater Forest | Timberlakes Program Shelter

Urban Farming Series: DIY Mushrooms

July 20 | 7 p.m.

Great Parks Nature Center at the Summit

Burgers & Brews

July 21 | 6 - 9 p.m. Lake Isabella | Boathouse Crazy Creekin'

July 22 & 23 | 1 p.m.

Sharon Woods | Sharon Centre

Caterpillars, Moths & Butterflies, Oh My!

July 23 | 3 p.m.

Woodland Mound | Seasongood Nature Center

Go Bug! Hike: Katydids

July 25 | 7 p.m.

Withrow Nature Preserve | Trout Lily Trail

Out in the Outdoors: American Beavers

July 22 | 9 a.m. (register online by July 20) Winton Woods | Parky's Farm

Off-Trail Exploration: Mitchell Memorial Forest

July 22 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Mitchell Memorial Forest | Stone Memorial Shelter

Colors of the Earth Scavenger Hunt

July 22 | 11 a.m.

Woodland Mound | Seasongood Nature Center

Farm Babies

July 22 & 29 | 11 a.m. Winton Woods | Parky's Farm **Fantastic Fossils**

July 29 | 11 a.m. Sharon Woods | Sharon Centre

Not So Scary Spiders

July 29 | 2 p.m.

Woodland Mound | Seasongood Nature Center

Flower Crowns & Natural Art

July 30 | 2 p.m.

Woodland Mound | Seasongood Nature Center

See Full Details on Website Calendar

Adventure Running Team gears up for East Fork 5.6-Mile Race Fall series registration now open!



Since early June, members of Great Parks' Adventure Running Team have trained together twice per week in preparation for the East Fork State Park Trail Race on July 30. In that span of time, runners have logged 30 miles across 6 of Great Parks' east-side locations.

As the summer series comes to a close, registration has opened for more interested trail runners to join this team in the fall! The fall session will follow a similar structure of 16 training sessions over the course of 8 weeks, beginning on August 22. However, this series will now feature some of Hamilton County's best *west-side* locations - including Mitchell Memorial Forest, Fernbank Park, Embshoff Woods, Winton Woods, Shawnee Lookout, and Miami Whitewater Forest - and will culminate in running the West Side Best Side 5K as a team.

Fall series registration closes on August 18 and spots are limited, so secure yours today!

Learn More & Register

Great Parks seeks public input for the development of the new West Region Blueway & Trail System

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 land and water-based adventure in western Hamilton County.

This system will expand and strengthen Great Parks' blueway (or water trail) along the Great Miami River and Whitewater River and create new opportunities for paddlers to explore the



region by water. It will also establish a new shared-use trail along the Great Miami River corridor that extends from the Butler/Hamilton county line to the Ohio River.

Help us develop the master plan by participating in our virtual open house:

Virtual Open House & Survey

When: Today through August 7, 2023

Time: Open 24/7

Where: publicinput.com/westregiontrails

Learn More About the Project

Kick off the weekend at Burgers & Brews this Friday!





Join us for live music and a grill out on the deck of Lake Isabella's Boathouse!

Enjoy the fun atmosphere, peaceful views of the lake, and live music for free. Burgers, hot dogs, and refreshing beverages will be available for guests to purchase.

When: July 21 (and select Fridays all summer long) | 6 - 9 p.m.

Where: Lake Isabella Boathouse

Cost: Free entry! (food & beverage available for purchase)

Musical Guest: Charlie Millikin

Learn More









Great Parks | 10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231

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Website Postings GreatParks.org – Calendar Content GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails - Pop-up boxes GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails - Participate Page/Upcoming Opportunities

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

Thursday, July 13, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

What to Know:

Date: July 13 **Time:** 4 - 7 p.m.

Location: Whitewater Crossing Christian Church

5771 OH-128 | Cleves OH 45002

Planning has begun for the West Region Blueway & Trail System! Spanning western Hamilton County from north to south, the system will offer new opportunities to explore the Great Miami River and Whitewater River corridors on foot, by bicycle or from the water. It will pass through four of Great Parks' most spectacular destinations – Miami Whitewater Forest, Campbell Lakes, Mitchell Memorial Forest and Shawnee Lookout – and connect with many communities and points of interest in between. Residents and visitors will be able to find their wild by creating new adventures that can include countless combinations of walking, biking, paddling activities and more that last from just a few hours to multiple days. Stop by our open house to learn more about the project and participate in the planning process.

Great Parks strives to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to fully engage. This event will be ADA accessible and include adjacent child-friendly activities supervised by Great Parks' staff. Individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate, including those related to ADA, language interpretation or transportation assistance, should contact Great Parks by July 6 at 513-521-7275, Voice/TDD.

To learn more, visit http://www.greatparks.org/westregiontrails

Virtual Open House & Survey – West Region Blueway & Trail System

Open now - August 7, 2023

What to Know:

Date: Today – August 7 **Time:** Open 24/7

Location: <u>www.GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails</u>

Planning has begun for the <u>West Region Blueway & Trail System!</u> Spanning western Hamilton County from north to south, the system will offer new opportunities to explore the Great Miami River and Whitewater River corridors on foot, by bicycle or from the water. It will pass through four of Great Parks' most spectacular destinations – Miami Whitewater Forest, Campbell Lakes, Mitchell Memorial Forest and Shawnee Lookout – and connect with many communities and points of interest in between. Residents and visitors will be able to find their wild by creating new adventures that can include countless combinations of walking, biking, paddling activities and more that last from just a few hours to multiple days.

Stop by our Virtual Open House & Survey to learn more about the project and participate in the planning process by answering the interactive survey questions included throughout the material. The Virtual Open House is accessible by computer, tablet or smartphone.

Great Parks strives to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to fully engage. Individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate, including those related to ADA or language interpretation assistance, should contact Great Parks by July 6 at 513-521-7275, Voice/TDD.

To learn more, visit http://www.greatparks.org/westregiontrails

Home About Process Materials Participate Contact Us

JOIN US AT AN OPEN HOUSE EVENT

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, July 13, 2023 | 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Whitewater Crossing Christian Church
5771 OH-128 | Cleves, OH 45002

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE & SURVEY

Open now through August 7, 2023

Click the button below to go to the Virtual Open House and to take our survey

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Take Our Survey

Close

LEARN MORE, SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AT OUR

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE & SURVEY

Open now through August 7, 2023

Click the button below to visit the Virtual Open House and to take the survey

Take Our Survey

Close

Upcoming Opportunities

Information about current and upcoming public input opportunities is posted below. Be sure to check back often as new opportunities will be posted as they are scheduled.

Option 1

Virtual Open House & Survey Open now - August 7, 2023 Stop by any time!

Click here to go to the Virtual Open House and take our survey!

Option 2

In-Person Open House July 13, 2023 4:00 pm - 7:00 p.m.

Whitewater Crossing Christian Church 5771 OH-128 Cleves, OH 45002

About the Open House Events

Visitors can come to the In-Person Open House at their convenience. Information will be exchanged through a series of information stations and interactive activities staffed by project team representatives.

The Virtual Open House & Survey presents the same information shared at the in-person meeting but through a web-based narrative. Participants can share their thoughts by answering interactive survey questions interspersed throughout the material. The Virtual Open House will be open 24/7. Visitors can visit the site as often as they need using a computer, tablet or smartphone.

Great Parks strives to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to fully engage. The July 13 In-Person Open House will be ADA-accessible and include adjacent child-friendly activities supervised by Great Parks' staff.Individuals needing reasonable accommodations to participate in either Open House, including those related to ADA, language interpretation, or transportation assistance, should contact Great Parks by July 6 at (513) 521–7275, Voice/TDD.