

Ohio Trail Connections Summit Conference Agenda

START TIME	TRAIL TOWNS Memorial Ballroom	CONNECTIONS Veterans Hall	TRAIL TALK Dining Room
8:00 am	Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Networking		
9:00 am	Summit Welcome Tom Bilcze - Ohio to Erie Trail Conference Chair, Brian Housh - Midwest Policy Manager, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy		
9:15 am	State of the Ohio to Erie Trail Mike Groeber - President, Ohio to Erie Trail The Ohio to Erie Trail is nearing completion. Traffic on the trail is increasing. A large portion of the trail is an important link in the Great American Rail -Trail. Mr. Groeber shares the latest news and a future vision for the trail.		
9:45 am	Break		
10:00 am	Morning Keynote: The Power of Trail Towns , Amy Camp - Owner and Trail & Tourism Consultant, Cycle Forward Ms. Camp helped to launch the nationally-recognized Trail Town Program® on the Great Allegheny Passage. She managed that program leading economic impact studies, the program's marketing efforts, and on-the-ground improvement projects before starting her own consulting practice. She shares how trail communities around the U.S. benefit from connecting to their trails and how Ohio rail-trails and trail networks might see similar results.		
10:45 am	Break		
11:00 am	Envisioning Trail Towns in Ohio Amy Camp, Jody Dzurainin Get down for some hands-on work with the trail town approach to community development. Participants are coached and guided through this interactive workshop to create a foundation and vision of how a trail town might look on an Ohio rail-trail.	Looking at Spines and Networks Brian Housh - Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Melinda Vonstein – MORPC/Central Ohio Greenways The interconnectivity of trails and trail networks is important in building seamless transportation, recreational, and tourism networks. Participants learn the basics of spines and networks and how the Rails to Trails Conservancy is working to build a seamless trail across the United States.	Happy Trails, Happy Volunteers Kokosing Gap Trail, Friends of Madison County, Rails to Trails of Wayne County Engaging volunteers is key to the success of maintaining a rail-trail. A panel of trail friends group veterans shares their best practices and insights to recruit, keep and reward volunteers.
11:45 am	Break		
12:00 pm	Lunch and table talks What do you want to talk about and learn more? There are table topics in the centerpiece. Choose a topic, take a seat, and join in the conversation while enjoying your lunch.		

Ohio Trail Connections Summit Conference Agenda

12:45 pm	<p>Food for thought</p> <p>Tom Arbour - ODNR Trails Coordinator, Melinda Vonstein - Central Ohio Greenways Coordinator, Mid-Ohio Reginal Planning Commission</p> <p>Mr. Arbour will present an overview of the Ohio Trails Plan, a vision of providing sustainable trails for all users, offering an extraordinary network of world-class recreation and transportation opportunities linking communities, people and places while stimulating economic and social vitality.</p> <p>Ms. Vonstein will present the Central Ohio Greenways regional trail vision to add 500 miles of trails spanning 7 counties to its existing to the existing 230-mile network. This vision seeks to connect neighborhoods and create a truly interconnected network of trails useful for both transportation and recreation.</p>		
1:15 pm	Break		
1:30 pm	<p>Afternoon Keynote: The Great Miami Riverway, Dan Foley – Coordinator, Great Miami Riverway</p> <p>Mr. Foley shares how 19 southwestern Ohio communities united to develop and implement the marketing, planning, and programming of their recreational, historical, and cultural assets. Their initiative seeks to attract more visitors, support economic development, and strengthen neighborhoods.</p>		
2:15 pm	Cookies and Conversation		
2:30 pm	<p>Trail Funding: Where do the \$\$'s come from?</p> <p>Brian Housh - Rails-to-Trails Conservancy D’Juan Hammonds – ODNR</p> <p>Participants explore the opportunities available for trail funding. You will learn about federal and state funding outside of the typical grant programs like the capitol budget and alternative ODOT funds.</p>	<p>Your Trail’s Story on Social Media</p> <p>Suzanne Matyas, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy</p> <p>Your social media presence is the front door of your trail for many trail users. Learn the tools and techniques needed to build, grow, and maintain an engaging social media presence for your trail.</p>	<p>Getting Down to {Trail} Business</p> <p>Collins Family Greenhouse, Ernie’s Bicycle Shops, Ohio Trail Shuttle</p> <p>Statewide Business owners on the Ohio to Erie Trail share stories on how reaching out to trail visitors helped them grow their businesses.</p>
3:15 pm	Break		
3:30 pm	<p>enLightning Talks: Ohio Trail Stories</p> <p>Members of the Ohio trail community share interesting and unique things to spark your imagination and give you a push to start a project of your own.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Friends of Madison County Parks and Trails: Primitive Campground/Shower Campground ● Heart of Ohio Trail Friends: Eagle Scout Projects Community Engagement ● Holmes County Rails to Trails Coalition: Annual Benefit Auction Fundraising ● Massillon Area Greenways, Inc. (MAGI) Bicycle Trail Poker Rides ● Knox County Park District: Geocaching New Ways to Discover the Trail ● Bike Springfield: Changing Gears Trail Bike Rides for Seniors 		
4:15 pm	<p>Conference Closing Remarks</p> <p>Mike Groeber - President, Ohio to Erie Trail</p>		
4:30 pm	<p>Conference Happy Hour - Head on over to Stein Brewing Company for craft beer and conversation</p>		