



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 12
5500 TRANSPORTATION BLVD. • GARFIELD HGTS., OH 44125 • 216-581-2100

Environmental Document

for

CUY Euclid Creek Greenway Ph1 PID 109034

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 11/1/2021

Prepared By: Nicholas Viau

Lawhon & Associates Inc.

Phone: 614-481-8600

E-mail: nviau@lawhon-assoc.com

District Contact: Mark Carpenter

Phone: 216-584-2089

E-mail: Mark.Carpenter@dot.ohio.gov

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ODOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2020, and executed by FHWA and ODOT.

Table of Contents

C2.....	3
Ecological.....	8
Environmental Commitments.....	10
Preparers and Approvals.....	11
Appendix.....	13



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 109034 CUY Euclid Creek Greenway Ph1
Approved: 11/1/2021

C2

PID:	109034
Project Sponsor:	Cleveland Metroparks
ODOT District:	12
Funding Source:	Federal
Private Funding:	No
Project Description:	



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 109034 CUY Euclid Creek Greenway Ph1

Approved: 11/1/2021

Project Summary: The project will build an extension to the existing all purpose trail in the Cleveland Metroparks' Euclid Creek Reservation from its current eastern terminus at Euclid Creek Parkway and Highland Road to the intersection of Euclid Avenue and Chardon Road in the city of Euclid. Additionally, a new traffic signal with pedestrian countdown will be installed at the intersection of Highland Road and Euclid Creek Parkway to enable a safe crossing.

Funding Source: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality improvement program (CMAQ)

Planning and Engineering: Developed in-house by Cleveland Metroparks; Euclid Creek Parkway/Highland Road Traffic Signal Plan by E.L. Robinson Engineering

Right of Way: None

Construction: \$628,500 (\$267,500 CMAQ; \$361,000 local (an additional CMAQ award of \$232,150 (for a total of \$499,650) is set for approval by the Ohio Association of Regional Councils following statewide CMAQ committee recommendations in November 2021 and there is a pending application to the Clean Ohio Trails Fund program for part of local match that is due to be announced in late November 2021).

The project is RMR Exempt and

Section 106 submitted to OES on 9-10-21 and approved on 9-29-21.

Submitted to OES 9-9-21 and approved on 10-27-21; Level 1 Ecological Survey was performed. While the proposed trail crosses Wetland A, the current scope of the project proposes to install a boardwalk over the wetland with two pairs of with supports located at either end outside of the wetland boundary and one pair within the wetland. The two supports will have 0.006 acres of impact to Wetland A.

Required Waterway Permits will be obtained by Cleveland Metroparks prior to the start of construction.

Project History:

The purpose and need and the project history for the Euclid Creek Greenway Phase 1 has been well documented for nearly two decades. The Euclid Creek Greenway will link neighborhoods in the city of Euclid directly to the existing Cleveland Metroparks Euclid Creek Reservation all purpose trail, identified in the 2005 *Trails for Ohioans* plan as regional trail #5080 (see page 53 of the State's plan). The Euclid Creek Greenway is noted as Euclid Creek Trail #5065 in *Trails for Ohioans*.

A conceptual plan for trail alignment and creek restoration, the *Lower Euclid Creek Greenway Plan*, was prepared by the Cuyahoga County Soil & Water Conservation District with URS in 2007. This plan, as well as subsequent route revisions by stakeholders, were used as the basis for the project area alignment.

Purpose Statement/Why this Project is Needed:

The purpose of the project is to provide an all purpose trail in an area of the Euclid Creek Reservation where it does not currently exist in order to build the first phase of the Euclid Creek Greenway that will eventually connect the lower portion of Euclid Creek Reservation to its lakefront portion. The signal installation will also create a safer roadway crossing to continue the trail across Highland Road. The project will promote the use of the trail in lieu of motorized transportation to improve air quality and quality of life for residents and visitors.

Need Element(s):

Phase 1 of the Euclid Creek Greenway will provide a needed extension of the existing all purpose trail in the lower Euclid Creek Reservation. A new traffic signal with pedestrian countdown, removal of the existing slip lane into the park from Highland Road, and high visibility crosswalk markings will enable a safer crossing for trail users across Highland Road to the new trail extension that will run through a segment of the park that is underutilized to Euclid Avenue at Chardon Road. This is a regionally-significant trail, and so the improvements to the intersection and trail extension benefit not just local users but also bicyclists and pedestrians from throughout the county and beyond. The Euclid Creek Greenway is identified as one of 12 critical gaps in the *Cuyahoga Greenways Plan*.

Goals and Objectives:

Promote use of the trail system for transportation and recreation. Making safety improvements to the trail network at major roadways reduces the potential for crashes and encourages the use of the trail facility. Bicycling and walking for transportation or recreation has health benefits for the user and positively impacts air quality and decreases wear and tear on roadways by replacing some vehicular trips.

Summary Statement:

The purpose of the project is to install an extension to the existing all purpose trail to build the first phase of the Euclid Creek Greenway, including a reconfigured intersection and new traffic signal at Euclid Creek Parkway and Highland Road.

Logical Termini:

This is first phase of the Euclid Creek Greenway will connect the existing all purpose trail that ends at the intersection through the portion of the reservation east of Highland Road up to Euclid Avenue at Chardon Road. This project is not dependent on any other future project and, therefore, exhibits independent utility.



STIP Reference #:

109034: 21-24 STIP

Select the appropriate project type:

(26) Modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, adding shoulders, or adding auxiliary lanes (including parking, weaving, turning, and climbing lanes), if the action meets the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section. *Examples include: Joint or limited use of right-of-way where the proposed use would have minimal or no adverse social (including highway safety), economic or environmental impacts; Installation of new noise walls and other new noise mitigation projects; Construction of highway safety and truck escape ramps; Construction of bicycle lanes and pedestrian walkways, sidewalks, shared-use paths, or facilities and trailhead parking that do not otherwise qualify for a C1 designation; Beautification or facility improvement projects (i.e. landscaping, curb and gutter installation and replacement, ADA ramps/curb ramps, installation of park benches, decorative lighting, etc.); Construction of alternative energy facilities (fuel tank farms, wind turbines, etc.)*

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(e), the proposed project cannot be processed as a C2 CE, if it involves -

1. a. Acquisition of more than a minor amount of right-of-way
2. b. Residential or non-residential displacements
3. c. A Coast Guard, Individual Section 404 and/or a Section 10 permit
4. d. A Section 106 finding of *Adverse Effect*
5. e. A Section 4(f) Programmatic or Individual Evaluation
6. f. A finding of *May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect* to Threatened and Endangered Species
7. g. Construction of temporary access, or the closure of existing road, bridge, or ramps, that would result in major traffic disruptions
8. h. Changes in access control
9. i. Floodplain encroachment other than functionally dependent uses (e.g., bridges, wetlands) or actions that facilitate open space use (e.g., recreational trails, bicycle and pedestrian paths)
10. j. Construction activities in, across or adjacent to a river component designated or proposed for inclusion in the National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers
11. k. No minor public or agency controversy on environmental grounds (no opposition from any organized groups or agencies and no unresolved environmental coordination)
12. l. If an EJ Analysis Report is required, the project must be processed as a D-level CE or higher level document

For certification purposes, documentation is required to illustrate no significant impacts will occur to the following environmental resources and that no unusual circumstances exist that would warrant a higher level of NEPA document. Upload all supporting documentation to the project file.

Waterways:

Present; No Coast Guard, Individual 404, and/or Section 10 Permit required

Waterways Permit Type:

Permit Determination and/or Permit Application Approval Pending

Isolated Wetland Permit

No



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 109034 CUY Euclid Creek Greenway Ph1

Approved: 11/1/2021

Will any wetlands be impacted?	Yes
Endangered Species:	Present; No finding of May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect
Endangered Species - Coordination	May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Endangered Species - Coordination Date	10/26/2021
Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted	
Indiana bat	
Northern long-eared bat	
Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:	No
100-Year Floodplain:	Encroachment Within the SFHA is a Functionally Dependent Use
EO 11988/NFIP Coordination and Documentation Completed:	Yes
NFIP Local Floodplain Coordinator Notification Date:	
Section 4(f):	Present; No Programmatic Evaluation or Individual Evaluation Required
Section 4(f) Determination:	
Temporary No Use Exception - 774.13(d)	
Section 4(f) Determination Date - 774.13(d)	10/15/2021
Section 6(f):	Present; No Impacts and/or Access Restrictions
Cultural Resources:	Not Present
Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO Concurrence Date	09/29/2021
Tribal Consultation Summary/Remarks:	
Two parties did not respond within the 30 days and one party, the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum Tribal Historic Preservation Office, provided a 'no effect' determination. SHPO coordination underway, having been submitted to OES on 9-10-21.	
Projects that meet C2 criteria are not anticipated to have impacts to the following environmental resources. If resources are present, documentation is only required if there is a potential for impacts.	
Air Quality:	Studies Not Required
Air Quality - Coordination with OES:	No
Noise:	Studies Not Required
Noise Coordination - OES Approval Date:	10/26/2021



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 109034 CUY Euclid Creek Greenway Ph1
Approved: 11/1/2021

Hazardous Materials - ESA Screening Conducted	Yes
Hazardous Materials - OES Approval Date:	08/03/2021
Phase I ESA Warranted Based on Coordination with OES:	No Further Studies Warranted
Farmland:	Urbanized Area; No Impacts in Accordance With the Farmland MOU and 7 CFR 658
Scenic Rivers	No National Wild and Scenic River Within 1000 Feet of the Proposed Project Area
Projects that meet C2 criteria must be in accordance with ODOT's UP Guidance and activities conducted for Public Involvement are commensurate to the project's type and scope of work.	
Underserved Populations	Does Not Exceed UP Guidance Criteria; No UP Analysis Report Required and No UP Issues Raised During Public Involvement
Public Involvement:	Minimum PI Requirements Met; No Minor Public or Agency Controversy on Environmental Grounds
Environmental Commitments	Yes



Ecological

Wetlands

ESR Name:	Wetland ID:	Hydrologic connection:	Wetland category:	Estimated total size (ac.):	Total estimated impact area by alternative (ac.):
CUY-Euclid Creek Greenway Ph1	Wetland A	Adjacent	Category 1	0.130	0.006

Has an Approved and/or Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination been made by the USACE? No

Total impact to all wetlands (ac.): 0.006

Total acres of non-isolated wetlands impacted: 0.006

Total acres of isolated wetlands impacted: 0

In accordance with Executive Order 11990 - USDOT Order 5660.1A, this Wetland Finding has been prepared to document that wetlands have been avoided to the extent possible to minimize the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands, and to document that there are no practicable alternatives to avoid construction in wetlands.

An analysis of the 'Do Nothing' alternative indicates that it is not practicable because (check all that apply):

It Would Not Correct Existing or Projected Capacity Deficiencies.

An analysis of improvements that avoid all wetland impacts indicates that they are not practicable because (check all that apply):

They Will Not Meet the Identified Needs of the Project.

Include justification supporting the decisions noted above:

Avoidance methods were considered. The No Build alternative would not provide a connection with an existing trail and extend the trail system between Euclid Creek Parkway/Highland Road and Euclid Avenue/Chardon Road or promote the use of the trail system for travel within Cuyahoga County, in lieu of motorized transportation to improve air quality.

All practicable measures have been considered and incorporated into the project design to avoid, minimize, wetland impacts. The wetland impact minimization measures that will be followed for the project are documented in the environmental commitments for the project. Wetland mitigation for unavoidable impacts will be provided if required by the Clean Water Act or Ohio isolated wetland law, as regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA regulations (33 CFR parts 325 and 332 and 40 CFR part 230, and OAC 3745-01-54), and (ORC 6111.027). No practicable alternatives exist for the proposed construction in wetlands, and the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 109034 CUY Euclid Creek Greenway Ph1

Approved: 11/1/2021

harm to the wetlands that may result from such use.

Remarks:

The No Build alternative was dismissed from consideration as it does not meet the purpose and need of the project. The proposed trail is to be built along a little-used meadow area in the Euclid Creek Reservation and has been routed to limit impacts as much as possible throughout the project area. Any necessary mitigation will be addressed as part of the waterway permit process.



Environmental Commitments

C2

- 1) Required Waterway Permits will be obtained by Cleveland Metroparks prior to the start of construction.
- 2) The project is located within the known habitat ranges of the federally listed and protected Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat. No trees shall be removed under this project from April 1 through September 30. All necessary tree removal shall occur from October 1 through March 31. This requirement is necessary to avoid and minimize impacts to these species as required by the Endangered Species Act.
- 3) If Kirtland's Warbler is encountered within the construction limits during construction operations, all construction operation will cease and the USFWS Columbus Field Office will be notified immediately. Activity will not resume until coordination with USFWS has been concluded.
- 4) Per Section 1533.324 of the Ohio Revised Code, all mussels native to the state of Ohio, including Cuyahoga County, are protected, including ten species that are federally protected by the Endangered Species Act. The presence of mussels in any body of water within the limits of the project is not expected; however, impacts to state and federally protected mussels and their habitats should be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable.
- 5) Contractor shall maintain at least one lane of traffic in each direction.
- 6) Appropriate signage will be installed to alert users of construction activities.
- 7) Staging and /or storage of construction equipment will all take place within the proposed construction limits.
- 8) Cleveland Metroparks will coordinate the construction and installation schedule with ODOT.
- 9) The Contractor will advise the project engineer a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the start of construction activities and seven (7) days prior to lane closures and/or shifts in traffic patterns. The project engineer will then notify the public, the local emergency services, affected schools and businesses, and any other impacted local public agency of any of the above mentioned items via media sources.
- 10) Cleveland Metroparks will obtain required floodplain permits from the City of Euclid



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 109034 CUY Euclid Creek Greenway Ph1
Approved: 11/1/2021

Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer: Nicholas Viau
Lawhon & Associates Inc.
1441 King Avenue, Columbus OH 43212
614-481-8600
nviau@lawhon-assoc.com

Supporting Form Preparer(s): John Ballas
Jason Earley
Nicholas Viau
Sara Maier

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Mark Carpenter (TRANS ENGR 3)	11/1/2021



Appendix

General

Project Description.pdf

Project Study Area Map.pdf

Stage 3 Design.pdf

Noise

District Determination - No Noise Analysis Required.pdf

ESA

District Decision Document - NFA.msg

Cultural Resources

SHPO Comments

Section 106 Scoping Request Form.pdf

Transmittal 1 - Effect Determination

Tribal Consultation

Tribal Response - Seneca Nation.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Section 4(f)

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

OWJ Letter.pdf

Section 6(f)

LWCF Grant Listing.xlsx

OES Approval - Maintenance.pdf

Underserved Populations

Census Mapping.pdf

Underserved Populations Documentation Form.pdf

Public Involvement

Public Involvement Summary.pdf

Public Involvement and Meetings Binder.pdf



Environmental Document Level: C2
PID 109034 CUY Euclid Creek Greenway Ph1
Approved: 11/1/2021

Permits

Coordination with Local Floodplain Administrator.pdf

FEMA FIRM.pdf