



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 04
2088 SOUTH ARLINGTON RD. • AKRON, OH 44306 • 330-786-3100

Environmental Document

for

MAH Mill Cr Hike & Bike Tr Ph 2 PID 112585

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 2/17/2022

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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.

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PID:	112585
Project Sponsor:	Mill Creek Park District
ODOT District:	4
Funding Source:	Federal
Private Funding:	No

Project Description:

The Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District/Mill Creek MetroParks proposes to construct 1,700 feet of 8-foot wide asphalt concrete multi-purpose off-road trail from the existing East Cohasset Hike/Bike Trail southern terminus located at Parkview Avenue/East Park Drive to the existing East Park Hike/Bike Trail (Phase I) northern terminus at the Lanterman's Mill overflow parking lot within Mill Creek Park in the city of Youngstown, Mahoning County. Additional improvements proposed by the project include filling/grading activities to provide appropriate elevations, clearing/grubbing of vegetation along the proposed trail alignment, drainage improvements, sign installation and pavement marking applications. This project will be constructed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The project also proposes to install ADA-compliant curb ramps and crosswalks to connect to the existing trails.

Mapping that depicts the proposed project location on United States Geological Survey 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle Mapping is included in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf.

During project construction, traffic on East Park Drive adjacent to the project shall be maintained at all times utilizing flaggers. No roadway closures shall be required to construct the project. Additionally, access to the Lanterman's Mill overflow parking lot and all other Metroparks facilities shall be maintained at all times throughout project construction with the exception of a portion of the Lanterman's Mill overflow parking lot that will be utilized for the staging and/or storage of construction equipment/materials. Moreover, access to the existing East Cohasset Hike/Bike Trail and the existing East Park Hike/Bike Trail shall be maintained at all times throughout project construction. Construction and lane restriction/reduction information will be posted within the project construction limits prior to the start of project construction. Substantial traffic disruptions are not expected during project construction.

The project is located entirely within Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District lands and will not require new right-of-way acquisition.

Existing utilities within the project study area will not be impacted/relocated to construct the project.

The project is proposed by the Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District, the agency that oversees the park. A records check and literature review was conducted for the project to determine if previously recorded cultural resources are located within the project Area of Potential Effects (APE), the footprint of the project. The records check included a review of electronic data from Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (OSHP) GIS database to identify properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), Ohio Historic Inventory (OHI) buildings and structures, Ohio Archaeological Inventory (OAI), as well as properties that have previously received a Determination of Eligibility (DOE). This search failed to identify any previously recorded archaeological sites within two miles of the project area. Therefore, no previously documented archaeological sites will be affected by the proposed project. ODOT Office of Environmental Services (OES) also completed an archaeological field review for the project on August 4, 2021. The project area follows the sloping Mill Creek Valley wall and is therefore, confined to severely eroded and steeply sloping areas. Based on this information and the disturbances from underground utilities documented in the project vicinity, no important archaeological sites will be affected by the proposed intersection improvement project and no further archaeological investigations are recommended for the project.

Additionally, the proposed project will be constructed within the Mill Creek Park Historic District, NRHP #05000178. Mill Creek Park Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and C, for its importance as part



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of the history of parks and recreation in Ohio and for its landscape design and the architectural design of the many buildings within the park. Construction of the trail will not affect any historic buildings or structures within the park. The proposed project will provide additional opportunities for cyclists and pedestrians and will connect two existing multi-purpose trails within the park. The path will be constructed to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and includes the installation of ADA-compliant ramps and the removal of minor quantities of stone curbing along East Park Drive which currently is a mix of sandstone and concrete curb. The project will also be constructed through a combination of mowed/maintained right-of-way and wooded areas. The project will require the removal of trees, however, tree removal will be kept to a minimum to maintain the character of the park. The project will not adversely affect any character-defining features of the Mill Creek Park Historic District and will retain the parks integrity of setting, feeling, workmanship, materials, design, location, and association. The project is considered to have no adverse effect on the historic district or any other historic resource. No further history/architecture investigations are warranted for the project.

Based on the results of the cultural resources review and the scope of the undertaking, and in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5 (b) and Stipulation V(C)(3) of the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement between FHWA, ODOT, Ohio's SHPO, and ACHP executed on November 8, 2017 (*Agreement No. 193129*), and amended on July 11, 2019, ODOT-OES determined a finding of 'no adverse effect' is applicable to the MAH-Mill Creek Hike and Bike Trail project. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) had no objection to this determination for the project during the 15-day review period. See the cultural resources documentation for the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Project Information subsection and the Cultural Resources Tab.

The project is located within the Mill Creek Park Historic District, NRHP #05000178. The project will not acquire new permanent right-of-way from within any NRHP boundary, and no contributing features of the historic resource will be affected by the undertaking. Pursuant to the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement executed on November 8, 2017 amended July 11, 2019 (*Agreement No. 19319*) and 36 CFR 800.5 (b), ODOT OES determined a finding of 'no adverse effect' is applicable to the undertaking. OSHPO received the Section 106 determination for the project and had no objection to the undertaking. In accordance with 23 CFR Part 774, the undertaking will not result in the use of a Section 4(f) Cultural Resource. See the OES Cultural Resources Section 4(f) documentation for the project in the Project File/Section 4(f)/Coordination subsection.

A Section 4(f)/6(f) Determination Request Form for Recreational Properties (DRF) for the project was submitted to ODOT OES. Based upon review of the DRF, ODOT OES determined the proposed project can be processed as an exception to the requirement for Section 4(f) approval. In accordance with 23 CFR 774.13(g), the proposed project will preserve and/or enhance Mill Creek Park and will not adversely affect the protected recreational activities, features, or attributes. This determination was made based on the proposed scope of work and concurrence received from the Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ). See the Recreational Section 4(f) Transportation Enhancement Exception documentation for the project in the Project File/Section 4(f)/Coordination and Reports subsections.

Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Form completed for the project, further RMR activities or special materials management are not warranted for the project. See the RMR documentation for the project in the Project File/ESA/Reports subsection.

See continuation of the project description in the Project File/General/Project Information subsection as Project Description Continued.pdf.

STIP Reference #:

112585: 21-24 STIP \$170,000.00

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:	Not Present
Will any wetlands be impacted?	No
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	11/22/2021
Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted	
Indiana bat	
Northern long-eared bat	



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Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted:	No
100-Year Floodplain:	No Encroachment Within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)
Section 4(f):	Present; No Programmatic Evaluation or Individual Evaluation Required
Section 4(f) Determination:	
No Use	
Transportation Enhancement Exception - 774.13(g)	
Section 4(f) Determination Date - No Use	12/21/2021
Section 4(f) Determination Date - 774.13(g)	12/17/2021
Section 6(f):	Not present
Cultural Resources:	Present; No Finding of Adverse Effect
Cultural Resources Coordination:	No Adverse Effect
Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO Concurrence Date	10/29/2021
Tribal Consultation Summary/Remarks:	
Based on the Tribes' preferences documented in either EnviroNet or in previous communications, six tribes were interested in and subsequently notified of the MAH-Mill Creek Hike & Bike Trail project. To date, one Tribe responded: the Seneca Nation concurs with the Section 106 determination and wishes to be contacted if the project changes. See the Seneca Nation correspondence, dated November 17, 2021, with its comments on the project in the Project File/Cultural Resources/Coordination subsection.	
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:	
Hazardous Materials - ESA Screening Conducted	Yes
Hazardous Materials - OES Approval Date:	01/07/2022
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



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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

Present; No UPIAR Required, Does Not Exceed UP Guidance Criteria, and No Issues Raised During Public Involvement

Identified Underserved Populations

Census Block Group #	% Minority	% Low Income	% Older Adults	% Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
390998025002	69	60	14	0

Underserved Populations Remarks

The proposed project will have no disproportionately high and adverse effects to minority or low-income populations or disparate impacts to a Title VI population. No concerns related to impacts on Environmental Justice or Title VI populations were raised as a result of public involvement activities conducted as part of the proposed project. Therefore, in accordance with the protections of Executive Order 12898, FHWA Order 6640.23A and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, no further analysis is required. See underserved population documentation for the project in the Project File/Underserved Populations/Project Information subsection.

Public Involvement:

Minimum PI Requirements Met; No Minor Public or Agency Controversy on Environmental Grounds

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Environmental Commitments

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1) The project designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans:

Endangered Species Habitat - Indiana Bat/Northern Long-Eared Bat:

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 at the project location from April 1 through September 30. All necessary tree removal shall occur from October 1 through March 31. The contractor shall demarcate clearing limits in the field to avoid any unauthorized tree clearing. This requirement is necessary to avoid and minimize impacts to these species as required by the Endangered Species Act. For the purposes of this note, a tree is defined as a live, dying, or dead woody plant, with a trunk three inches or greater in diameter at a height of 4.5 feet above the ground surface, and with a minimum height of 13 feet.

2) The project designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans:

Mill Creek Park Facilities: Access to the Lanterman's Mill overflow parking lot and all other Metroparks facilities, including access to the East Cohasset Hike and Bike Trail and the East Park Hike and Bike Trail, shall be maintained at all times during construction activities via flagging operations.

Temporary construction fencing will be installed along the proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities to protect the 4(f) property and the public.

Appropriate signage will be installed to alert users of the Lanterman's Mill overflow parking lot of construction activities, access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points.

Lanterman's Mill overflow parking lot has been designated by Mill Creek Park Metropolitan District as the area to be utilized for the staging and/or storage of construction equipment and materials for the project. No other areas of Mill Creek Park or the construction limits shall be utilized for this purpose.

The Contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with ODOT and Mill Creek Metropolitan Park District prior to the beginning of construction activities.

3) Potential Maternity Roost Trees (PMRTs) located outside of 100 feet from the East Park Drive edge of pavement, and adjacent to the proposed trail construction, have been marked for avoidance on the plans and flagged for avoidance in the field.



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Preparers and Approvals

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Rachel Pohnan

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Edward Deley (PROGRAM ADMIN 3)	2/17/2022



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

Project Description Continued.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

Cultural Resources

Consulting Party Application.pdf

Photographs History Architecture.pdf

SHPO Comments

Transmittal 1 - Effect Determination

Tribal Consultation

Tribal Response - Seneca Nation.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Urbanized Area Map.pdf

Section 4(f)

OES Cultural Resources 4(f) Determination.pdf

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

Underserved Populations

Census Mapping.pdf

Underserved Populations Documentation Form.pdf

Public Involvement

Mill Creek Metroparks Social Media Posting - Public Meeting.pdf

Mill Creek Metroparks Website - Public Meeting.pdf

News Article - WFMJ.pdf

News Article - WKBN.pdf

News Article - Youngstown Vindicator.pdf



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Press Release - Public Meeting.pdf

Public Comments Received - Public Meeting.pdf

Public Meeting Comment Form.pdf

Public Meeting Notification Paid Advertisement.pdf

Public Meeting Presentation - with Narration.mp4

Public Meeting Presentation.pdf

Public Meeting Presentation.pptx

Response to Public Comments - Public Meeting.pdf

Stakeholder Contact List - Public Meeting.pdf

Stakeholder Notification - Public Meeting.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf