

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## Conclusions and Recommendations

In the Inventory, Analysis and Plan Chapters, the potential sites for trail development were identified, evaluated and prioritized. Over 30 possible trail sites were reviewed from throughout the county, with several hiking, bicycle, canoe and other trail sites rated highly for implementation. The development of trail facilities at these sites would greatly enhance regional recreational linkages and opportunities, as well as improve local trail-based activities. As noted in the plan chapter, these sites appear to be the most feasible for development, but sites not prioritized or not included in this plan at all could still be pursued. However, sites not prioritized in the Plan Chapter may face obstacles to development, such as severe soil limitations, steep slopes for trails or inadequate water flow for canoe trails.

Through the preparation of this Trails System Plan, certain conclusions can be made regarding physical and cultural factors affecting trails development and about the feasibility of establishing such a system. These conclusions are based on the inventory and analysis of the potential sites, and the input received from citizens, leisure-time clubs and local public officials.

The conclusions are general statements of the findings of the study, and therefore, for more details on how the conclusions was arrived at, the related chapters should be reviewed. From the conclusions stated on the next page, recommendations for action and future consideration will be stated.

## Conclusions

1. There are many potential trails sites located throughout Trumbull County, especially along river corridors, abandoned railroad rights of way, local parks and Mosquito Creek Lake.
2. Trails could be established for a variety of uses, including hiking or jogging, bicycling, canoeing, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.
3. Through random sample surveys, it was found that most county residents favor and would use the trails system, and especially prefer hiking, bicycle and canoe trails.
4. The sites most favored by the citizens of the county for trail development are Mosquito Creek Lake, the Mahoning River, abandoned railroad rights of way, Mosquito Creek, state game lands and Harding Park.
5. Through the Site Analysis, it was found that the most feasible areas for hiking trails were the Grand River Wildlife Area, Mosquito Creek Lake, the Mahoning River Corridor in the City of Warren and the Mosquito Creek corridor in the City of Niles.
6. The most feasible canoe trail sites to be developed are the Canoe Trail Park at Pricetown, Canoe City Livery at Leavittsburg, Falls Park in the City of Niles, and Pymatuning Creek at Milligan-East Road.
7. The most likely sites for bicycle trails include Bike Route J, a Class III Bike Route; bikelanes along S. Main Street in the City of Hubbard to Harding Park; and linkages to these bicycle routes, as well as potential Class I paths along the Mahoning River or Class II lanes along Mahoning Avenue in the City of Warren.
8. The central area of the county, centering around Mosquito Creek Lake and the County Fairgrounds, is the most likely site for the other types of trails, including horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.
9. In addition to the sites prioritized for development, there are many alternatives available to local county, state and federal officials for developing trails in their respective open space areas.
10. The alternative sites for trails include hiking trails in local parks, such as Harding Park, Woodland Park, Little Links Park, Willow Park, Clarence Darrow Park and in other public or quasi-public open space areas like the Ohio Water Service Lands and Mill Creek Gorge.

11. Alternative canoe trail sites include areas along the Mahoning River, such as the Newton Falls dam, the confluence with Eagle Creek and Packard Park in Warren, areas along Mosquito Creek like the dam on Mosquito Creek Lake, Howland Township Park and the mouth of the creek, and sites along Pymatuning Creek, including near downtown Kinsman Township, S.R. 88 in Vernon Township and Andy Dorick Park in Orangeville Village.

12. Sites not identified as either high priority for implementation or alternatives, should still be considered for development as proposals are made, although obstacles to trail development should be reviewed for their impact on such projects.

13. Through the establishment and meetings of the Countywide Recreation Council, cooperation and coordination on recreation planning among local units of government and with state and federal officials has improved.

14. While there are continuing differences of opinion on the increased recreational use of state wildlife areas between local township trustees and state wildlife officials, increased communication, through the recreational council, has brought about a greater understanding of each other's needs and responsibilities.

15. The continuation of the Countywide Recreation Council will greatly enhance existing and future recreation planning and the fair and reasonable provision of recreational facilities and services throughout all areas of the county.

16. After research, it could be concluded that railroad rights of way corridors are difficult to implement into trail usage due to financial, legal, ownership and other factors.

## Recommendations

1. Identified high priority trail sites should be implemented as funding becomes available.
2. Alternative trail sites not rated as highly should be considered, as well as sites not included in this study, for possible future development, with the possible restrictions to their development in mind.
3. The county should continue working with local communities and state and federal agencies to improve and increase recreational facilities and opportunities throughout the county.
4. Local clubs, communities and individuals should be encouraged to become involved in planning, fundraising and volunteer labor for trails and other recreation projects as they have been in the past.
5. Alternative financing tools should be sought by local communities, the county, and others in developing trails, including identified recreation grant programs, foundations, land donations, fundraising campaigns and easements.
6. Fragile ecological corridors, such as floodplains, river corridors and wetland areas, should be protected from intensive development to prevent adverse impacts on the environment, wildlife or nearby residents.
7. Passive recreation opportunities that do not greatly disturb the environment in these fragile ecological corridors, such as walking paths, bird watching or nature photography should be encouraged to make good use of these natural, scenic areas.
8. Facilities for trails and other recreational activities at Mosquito Creek Lake State Park should be expanded and improved, as overwhelmingly suggested by citizens through random sample surveys, local public officials and contacts with other interested individuals, clubs and agencies.
9. The Countywide Recreation Council should continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss relevant recreation issues and to assist in efforts by the county, local communities or state and federal governments, to plan for new recreation facilities.
10. The County Recreation Council should act as a forum or go-between to assist the State of Ohio and Trumbull County Townships, containing state lands, in the settlement of their differences.
11. The Recreation Council should be encouraged to expand the scope of its discussions, to include increased communication between local and state officials and between communities to enhance the possibility of joint recreational facilities or programs or other types of cooperative efforts.
12. This Trail Systems Study and Plan should be implemented as soon as it is feasible.

13. The Trumbull County Planning Commission recommends that the Trails System Study and Plan be made part of Trumbull County's Comprehensive Plan.

14. The Trails System Plan, as with the Recovery Action Program report, should be used as a foundation for further recreation planning in Trumbull County, Ohio, such as the Mahoning River Canoe Trail Development and Management Plan.

15. The Trumbull County Planning Commission recommends that recreation and trails studies done in adjacent Ohio and Pennsylvania counties be coordinated with Trumbull County's study into regional linkages and facilities so the residents of the entire region can realize the best, most feasible recreation and trail development and implementation possible.

16. The Trumbull County Planning Commission recommends that Trumbull County continue to cooperate and coordinate recreation and trail facilities with the pertinent local, county, state and federal officials even though the initial Trails Study is complete.

17. The County Metropolitan Park Commission as well as other local park boards, should consider continuing sources of financing recreation programs or facilities, such as tax levies.

## Goals

From the identified conclusions and recommendations, several goals for the future have been developed. These goals can be used as a guide for the county, local communities, and the state and federal agencies involved with the provision of recreational services and facilities in Trumbull County. Through the implementation of the goals, a Countywide Trails System can be established to serve local and regional trail users, providing needed new recreational and economic opportunities.

1. To establish a Countywide Trails System that could be used by all county residents for trail related activities, including hiking, bicycling, canoeing, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, snow-mobiling, jogging or more passive activities like birdwatching or nature photography.
2. To encourage regional use of the county's major recreational trails such as the Mahoning River Canoe Trail, by non residents and residents of the county, to promote tourism and to create new economic opportunities for local communities.
3. To solidify local and regional parks and recreation officials into a cohesive unit, through the continued meeting of the Countywide Recreation Council, to improve coordination of local and regional recreation planning, enhance cooperation between communities and state or federal agencies and keep lines of communication open for a full discussion of all important issues.
4. To promote greater recreational use of existing regional public open space areas, such as the Grand River Wildlife Area, Mosquito Creek Lake State Park, and the Pymatuning Creek Corridor, for hiking, canoeing and other activities.
5. To preserve ecologically-sensitive areas, such as floodplains, wetlands and river corridors and to protect them from intensive development, through encouraging passive recreational uses of these areas.
6. To provide regional recreational linkages between communities, recreation areas, and other destinations, including employment and educational centers, to enhance safety and to provide meaningful recreational experiences.
7. To strive to implement the Trails Plan and its recommendations and findings in a timely manner.

**COUNTYWIDE RECREATION COUNCIL**

## Countywide Recreation Council

The Countywide Recreation Council of Trumbull County, Ohio, was established through the same grant program as the Countywide Trails System Plan. To date, three meetings of the council have been held, in February, May, and August, 1984, to discuss recreation issues and to improve coordination among communities and with state and federal agencies. Articles of Agreement for the council were written by the Planning Commission staff, reviewed by the Bylaws Committee, and passed by the council. Officers have been elected, and the council has evaluated the alternative trail sites identified through the inventory and analysis phases of the study. Minutes of each meeting were taken and are provided on the following pages. While the trails system plan is now complete, the council will continue to meet on a regular basis to keep open lines of communication throughout the county and to enhance cooperation between local communities and other recreation providers and users.

Report on the Countywide Recreation Council  
Organizational Meeting, February 22, 1984

On February 22, 1984, at 7: 00 p.m., an organizational meeting of the Countywide Recreation Council was held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at the Trumbull County Administration Building in Warren, Ohio. The meeting was chaired by Edward Cleckner, board member of the Trumbull County Planning Commission. Staff members of the Planning Commission in attendance were Christine Clementi, Greg Griffith, Alan Knapp, Edward Kutevac, and Ed Landor. Also in attendance were 28 persons representing various parks and recreation departments, boards and commissions, bicycle and canoe clubs, local communities, the media, and interested private citizens. A complete list of these attendees, including addresses and phone numbers, is included on the following page.

The meeting lasted approximately 45 minutes, although much important discussion occurred before and after the meeting. The following is a brief description of the presentations, open discussions and other input received at the meeting. The meeting was opened by Mr. Cleckner at promptly 7: 00 p.m. He thanked everyone for coming, noting their obvious civic pride and concern for recreation planning in the county. He stated that the project was supported by a matching grant from the National Park Service, and included the preparation of a countywide trails system plan that would identify potential sites for canoe, bicycle, hiking and other trails. Mr. Cleckner said that the meeting was being held to introduce the Recreation Council concept and trails system plan to the public, to present and discuss possible bylaws for the council, to describe the council's purpose and responsibilities in county recreation planning and to receive input from the public.

He then introduced Greg Griffith, who discussed the purpose of the Countywide Recreation Council. Mr. Griffith explained that both the council and the trails system were identified as high priorities in the county's recently completed Recovery Action Program for recreation. He stated that the major purpose of the recreation council will be to discuss and coordinate regional recreation activities and facilities in the county, such as the trails system. Related problems, including acquisition techniques, management and maintenance of trails, policing and vandalism, and ownership and responsibilities, could be examined by the Recreation Council.

Mr. Griffith stressed that the Recreation Council would not supersede any existing park or recreation agency, such as the County Metropolitan Park Commission or local parks and recreation departments, boards or committees. The council also would not own, operate or maintain any park property. Rather, the council will be an advisory group to provide public participation opportunities in county recreation planning. He concluded by stating the duties of the council: to identify local and countywide recreation concerns and needs for park and recreation activities and facilities, to evaluate county and local efforts to establish, develop or maintain recreation facilities and activities and to reassess priorities of the County's Recovery Action Program for future recreation grant cycles.

Next, Ed Landor described the possible bylaws for the recreation council to organize. The bylaws were distributed along with the meeting agenda and trails system maps to each attendee prior to the meeting. Mr. Landor stressed that these were only tentative articles of agreement, and that the council would not need to pass them immediately. He also presented some revisions to the bylaws which had been suggested after the handouts were typed and copied.

He stated that membership on the council was open to all, although the ideal number of voting members would be 15. A quorum of members would be five, instead of eight, as would be required by Robert's Rules of Order, in order to facilitate conducting business when needed. Mr. Landor said that the council should be composed of representatives from parks and recreation departments, boards and committees, local bicycle or canoe clubs, and interested private citizens. Another revision identified was that three members of the Citizens and Public Information Committee of the County Planning Commission also be members of the council in order to provide a planning linkage for the council.

He also described the proposed Technical Advisory Subcommittee, composed of council members with more technical knowledge of soils limitations, park and recreation planning, or other skills. This subcommittee would have approximately three members. Mr. Landor then invited discussion from those in attendance, or nominations or volunteers for membership on the council or committees.

At this point, Mr. Cleckner suggested the formation of a five-member Bylaws Committee, to meet and formulate a set of bylaws for the council. The final bylaws would then be presented at the next meeting and passed by the council, if approved. Several volunteers and appointments to this committee were then announced, including the following persons: Larry Wright, Howland Joint Recreation Board; Thomas Barber, President of the Trumbull Canoe Trails Club; Carmen Vivolo, Niles Recreation Director; Joyce Willis, Cortland Park Board; and Richard Lane, Sierra Club. Others expressing interest in joining the council were Charles Dehner and Marty Marina, and representatives of the Trumbull County Cycling Federation (TCCF).

Next, a slide presentation was narrated by Alan Knapp on the county's trails system plan now under preparation. Mr. Knapp stated that the trails plan will identify potential canoe, bicycle, hiking and other trail sites in the county. He reiterated the importance of the trails system plan and recreation council, as evidenced in their high priority rankings in the 1983 Trumbull County Recovery Action Program. He also stated that the trails system and proposed facilities had been an integral part of county recreation planning and grantsmanship over the past decade.

Mr. Knapp then showed slides of the Tri-County Bike Trail, a Class III, signed bike route from the already signed Cardinal Trail in Mahoning County to Lake Erie. He noted that 110 signs would be installed at 55 locations, usually at turns or major intersections. This project, to be completed sometime in 1984, will provide safe and easy transportation opportunities for bicyclists to major regional recreation facilities.

Next, slides of the Pricetown Canoe Trail Park were shown, and Phase I of this project was described. This project involves the acquisition of 3.3 acres of riverfront land near the countyline and construction of an access road, parking lot and canoe launch. Mr. Knapp noted the assistance provided by the Trumbull Canoe Trail Club in raising the necessary local match for this project. Slides of the Mahoning River downstream were also shown, highlighting Eagle Creek; Packard Park; and Canoe City, near Leavittsburg Dam, where a private canoe livery will open this year.

Also described in detail was the Clarence Darrow Park Project in Champion Township. The work completed last year on the access road, parking lot and walking trail was depicted in maps and photos of the parks. Also described were pending and future improvements, including additional land acquisition, extension of the walking trail, and construction of a pavilion and comfort station.

The discussion then turned to other potential trail sites in the county. Slides were shown of Mosquito Creek near Circle Park in Niles, where excellent canoe landing and picnic opportunities exist. Of course, it was mentioned that Mosquito and Pymatuning Creeks were only canoeable at high water, usually in the spring. Other potential trail sites noted were abandoned railroad rights of way, which also present unique problems, such as acquisition and easements and management and maintenance of Class I bike paths or hiking trails. Slides of snowmobile tracks at Mosquito Lake State Park were used to illustrate the potential opportunities, as well as problems, for their kind of recreational activity.

Next, the methodology for the trails system plan was briefly described. Mr. Knapp stated that the staff would be analyzing physical features of the county, such as floodplains, which present opportunities for developing linear recreation facilities. Also identified as factors affecting trails development were traffic volumes along county roadways and regional destinations of trails. He also noted that the Recreation Council would be requested to review the Planning Commission's efforts and to advise this office on their findings. Mr. Knapp said that, with this help, the county would not run into deadends on its trail planning.

Next, an open discussion was held to clarify any remaining questions or other issues raised by those in attendance. Joyce Willis of Cortland asked if Cortland and other areas of the county would be represented as well as Newton Falls seems to be. Mr. Cleckner responded that Mrs. Willis would not only be appointed to the council to represent Cortland, but that she was also the first woman appointed. Incidentally, Mr. Cleckner and Tom Barber of the Canoe Trail Club are also from Cortland, assuring that the city will be properly represented.

Mr. Kutevac asked Alex Bobersky, representing the City of Warren, how he felt about the recreation council concept. Mr. Bobersky stated that he thought that the meeting was a "good start", and that the city was ready, able and willing to cooperate on the Canoe Trail Project, since the upstream terminus is located at Packard Park in the City of Warren. The opinion that this meeting was a good beginning was repeated by several others in attendance after the meeting in informal discussions.

After no further issues were raised in the open discussion, Mr. Cleckner closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming, and invited everyone to volunteer their participation in the council and to attend the next meeting. The meeting officially adjourned at about 7:45 p.m. However, informal discussions between those in attendance and Planning Commission staff continued until about 8:30 p.m. The following is a brief description of some issues raised prior to and following the meeting:

Bill Victor, a councilman from McDonald Village, showed the staff a map prepared for a 1979 LWCF grant application. The proposal includes a hiking or bicycle trail behind Woodland Park, as well as a comfort station in proximity to the ball-fields. The staff instructed Mr. Victor to write a letter to Mr. Kutevac requesting the Planning Commission's assistance on the project, including possible grant application preparation.

Bill Ernest of the Canoe Trail Club suggested that we invite the Buckeye Trail Riders Club, a group of horseback riding enthusiasts, to the next recreation council meeting. He also discussed a meeting of regional boaters held in Edinburg, Ohio, recently, which was moderated by the staff of Division #3, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft, Portage Lakes office. He noted that a nice 10-mile Class I bike path has been constructed between Titusville and Oil City, Pennsylvania, and offered to show us this facility.

Dan Madeline of the Harding Park Board informed the Planning Commission staff that the landscaping project at Harding Park, a result of Planning Commission grantsmanship, was very successful, and had opened their eyes to the potential of landscaping in their park. He requested that the staff keep Harding Park in mind when applying for new grant funds. The staff told Mr. Madeline that Harding Park could be eligible for a 70 percent UPARR grant to dredge the lake, which has serious sedimentation problems.

The President and Vice-President of the Trumbull County Cycling Federation, Dave Ambrose and George Drew, were in attendance and expressed an interest in being represented on the Recreation Council. The bicyclists provided new information on bicycle safety, from the latest issue of Bicycling magazine, which shows that the accident rate for Class I separate bike paths is higher than for Class II or III routes. They provided the staff with copies of their most recent newsletter and invited us to ride bicycles with TCCF.

A staff member also discussed the priorities of the Recovery Action Program with Carmen Vivolo, Recreation Director for the City of Niles. The Niles Swimming Pool project at Waddell Park is the number one priority for recreation rehabilitation in the county's RAP. Mr. Vivolo indicated that the city was definitely interested in resubmitting the proposal to the National Park Service for a 70 percent UPARR grant.

## ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

### Countywide Recreation Council

#### Article I - Name

The organization shall be known as the "Countywide Recreation Council" of Trumbull County and shall be a non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit organization.

#### Article II - Purpose

The purpose of the organization is as follows:

- a. To advise Trumbull County and local communities on issues related to parks and recreation facilities and activities.
- b. To coordinate proposals and projects that have regional recreation implications.
- c. To evaluate alternative choices for action developed to meet goals and objectives of recreation planning for the county.
- d. To reassess priorities of the Recovery Action Program for future recreation funding cycles.
- e. To review recreational matters for consideration of the Planning Commission and to make recommendations through the Citizens and Public Information Committee.

#### Articles III - Membership

Membership on the council will be open to anyone interested in participating. However, voting membership will be limited to 15 members appointed to represent local communities, agencies, and clubs and to the three members of the Citizens and Public Information Committee of the Trumbull County Planning Commission.

The 15 voting members appointed to the council shall be chosen as follows:

- Eight members representing local political subdivisions in Trumbull County.
- Three members representing local recreation- or ecology-related clubs.
- One member representing the County Metropolitan Park Commission.
- One member representing the Soil Conservation Service.
- One member representing Mosquito Creek Lake State Park.
- One member representing the ODNR Division of Wildlife.

The terms of the 15 appointed voting members shall be as follows: Representatives of communities, the Metropolitan Park Commission, Soil Conservation Service, Mosquito Creek Lake State Park, and the Division of Wildlife shall be permanent members of the council, although persons representing these groups may change.

Clubs represented on the council will rotate memberships annually in order to promote the involvement of the largest number of clubs in recreation planning. One term will be for one year, then another recreation or ecology-related club will replace that club for a term of three years. A second club will be represented for two years, then replaced by another club for a three-year term. A third club will serve a three-year term, to be replaced by another club for three years. If an additional club cannot be found to participate in the council, a club whose term has expired may be reappointed by the council.

Any appointed member shall be entitled to vote on all matters including the election of officers. The Countywide Recreation Council shall function for the length of time necessary to implement needed new regional recreation opportunities, or until such time as another organization can continue this function.

If a vacancy should occur on the council, due to the resignation of a member or other reasons, that member shall be replaced by another representative of the same community, agency or club, as designated by the community, agency or club involved. The replacement shall be approved by a simple majority of council members at the meeting following such designation by a club, agency or community.

#### Article IV - Meetings

The meetings of the Countywide Recreation Council shall be held bimonthly at the Trumbull County Commissioners' Hearing Room or at other agreed upon meeting places, at dates and times to be determined by consensus of the council. Eight (8) members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Countywide Recreation Council meetings.

Special meetings may be called by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or a quorum of members as required.

The Recreation Council will follow procedures established by Ohio's Sunshine Law (ORC 121.22) by providing adequate prior notice of meetings, and hold meetings which are open to the public. Notices for upcoming meetings will be mailed to council members and other interested persons and agencies, including the news media, at least four days prior to each meeting. At least 24 hours notice shall be given to the news media prior to holding a special meeting of the council.

#### Article V Committees

##### Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee will be composed of five members of the Recreation Council appointed by the Planning Commission. This committee will meet to review the proposed bylaws, to discuss and revise the bylaws as necessary and to approve the finalized bylaws under which the Recreation Council may organize.

Technical Subcommittee

The Technical Subcommittee will be composed of up to five members of the Recreation Council with technical skills or knowledge that is particularly helpful to recreation planning, including Park and Recreation Directors, city planners, soils experts, and other individuals as needed. This subcommittee will meet as necessary to review detailed activities undertaken during the preparation of county and regional recreation projects and advise the entire Recreation Council on these issues.

Article VI - Procedure

Robert's Rules of Order will be the official source of Parliamentary Procedure.

Article VII - Elections and Appointments

The Chairman shall be elected or re-elected by the members of the Recreation Council at the first meeting of each calendar year and shall hold office until his successor is duly elected.

The same procedure as used for the Chairman shall be used for the election of the Vice Chairman.

Any vacancy in the office of the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the recreation Council shall be filled by members of the Recreation Council at the next regular meeting or at the special meeting called for such purpose.

Article VIII - Amendments

Any member of the Countywide Recreation Council, by presenting a written proposal to the Chairman, may propose an amendment. The Chairman will announce the proposed amendment at one meeting prior to the meeting which the amendment is voted on. The amendment must then be passed by a majority vote of the members of the Countywide Recreation Council present.

These bylaws for the Countywide Recreation adopted on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1984, and in witness thereof, we have hereunder caused our hands to be sent as the originators and founders thereof for the betterment of the community.

Signed,

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Trumbull County Planning Commission  
Citizens and Public Information Committee Meeting  
May 2, 1984

A G E N D A

I. Appointment of Voting Members to the Countywide Recreation Council of Trumbull County, Ohio

As per the Articles of Agreement for the Countywide Recreation Council, 15 voting members will be appointed to the council. The staff has reviewed alternatives for appointing these members, and recommends that they should be appointed by the Trumbull County Planning Commission, upon recommendations made by the Citizens and Public Information Committee.

After reviewing the attendance list for the first council meeting and other known contacts in the parks and recreation field in the county, the staff has suggested the following individuals to represent their respective communities, agencies or clubs:

Representatives of local recreation or ecological clubs:

Richard Lane	Sierra Club
Thomas Barber	Trumbull Canoe Trail Club
David Ambrose	Trumbull County Cycling Federation

Representatives of local communities:

John Foley	City of Warren
Carmen Vivolo	City of Niles
Joyce Willis	City of Cortland
Dan Madeline	Hubbard Township and City
Hans Schlacht	Farmington Township
Larry Wright	Howland Township
George Sharec	Newton Township
Earl Jones	Vernon Township

Representatives of agencies:

Dan Ross	Soil Conservation Service
Don Whipple	ODNR Mosquito Lake State Park
Larry Turner	Trumbull County Metropolitan Park Commission
Steve Ver	ODNR Division of Wildlife

**II. Appointment of Members to the Technical Advisory Subcommittee:**

As per the Articles of Agreement for the Countywide Recreation Council, up to five persons will be appointed to the Technical Advisory Subcommittee. Upon review of the staff's needs for the Trails System Plan and other recreation-related projects, the staff recommends the following individuals to serve on the subcommittee:

<b>Carmen Vivolo</b>	<b>Niles Parks and Recreation Department</b>
<b>Alex Bobersky</b>	<b>Warren Community Development</b>
<b>Norris Williams</b>	<b>ODNR Soils Scientist</b>
<b>Buzz Jamison</b>	<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</b>
<b>Dan Ross</b>	<b>Soil Conservation Service</b>

Trumbull County Planning Commission  
Countywide Recreation Council  
May 9, 1984

The second meeting of the Countywide Recreation Council of Trumbull County, Ohio, was held on Wednesday, May 9, 1984, at the County Administration Building at 7:10 p.m. The following persons were in attendance:

Dave Ambrose	Walter Landor
Alex Bobersky	Richard Lane
Christine Clementi	Jeff Orth
Chuck Dehner	John Pavlic
Greg Griffith	Carmen Vivolo
Mary Herner	Don Whipple
Ralph Jamison	Julius White
Alan Knapp	Norris Williams
Edward Kutevac	Joyce Willis

Larry Wright

At this meeting, Articles of Agreement for the Council were discussed, voted on, and approved by voting members present. Also discussed were the status of the trails system plan, including a slide presentation on potential trail sites, procedures using donated gift land as a local match for recreation grants, using abandoned railroad rights of way for bicycle trails, and producing informational pamphlets showing the locations of and facilities available for various types of trails in the county.

Julius White, member of the Trumbull County Planning Commission's Citizens and Public Information Committee, acted as chairman for this meeting and opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance. After a few brief remarks introducing the evening's agenda and major topics of discussion, he turned the meeting over to Edward Kutevac, Director of the Planning Commission.

Mr. Kutevac discussed several topics with those in attendance, ranging from the Articles of Agreement to voting members appointed to the Council. He noted that finalized Articles of Agreement had been prepared for passage at this meeting. He also identified the 15 voting members of the council appointed earlier that day by the Planning Commission, citing the involvement of many of these individuals in previous recreation planning projects for the county.

Next, a slide presentation, depicting potential trails sites in and near the county was shown to those in attendance. Alan Knapp, staff planner, described these sites and the type of trails that could be developed at each. Slides presented included views of the Grand River Wildlife Area in Farmington Township, the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal bed in Portage County and the City of Warren, hiking trails in Burbank, Packard, Harding, and Howland Township Parks, canoeing facilities on Pymatuning Creek,

hiking and historical sites at Shenango Reservoir, and abandoned railroad rights of way in the county. Mr. Knapp added that the Council would be requested to review, discuss, and prioritize these sites at the next Countywide Recreation Council meeting.

Following the slide presentation, Greg Griffith, staff planner, reviewed the minutes of the Bylaws Committee meeting of March 28, 1984. Mr. Griffith explained that the Bylaws Committee, composed of Larry Wright of the Howland Township Park Board; Carmen Vivolo, Niles Parks and Recreation Director; Richard Lane of the Sierra Club; and Tom Barber of the Trumbull Canoe Trails Club, had discussed the Articles of Agreement prepared by the Planning Commission staff and recommended a few revisions. Among the comments made by committee members were requiring Council approval of replacements for members in the event of a vacancy, including an article in the bylaws stating that the Council would abide by Sunshine Law requirements, transcribing Council meetings via tape recorder or note taking, and increasing the number of members required for a quorum from five to eight.

Mr. Kutevac then asked those in attendance if there were any questions or other comments on the revised Articles of Agreement. Larry Wright made a motion that the Recreation Council approve the Articles of Agreement; seconded by Joyce Willis, representing the City of Cortland. The motion carried unanimously by the eight voting members present.

Mr. Kutevac then requested nominations or volunteers from the voting members for the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Larry Wright nominated Carmen Vivolo for Chairman, which he declined. Likewise, Mr. Vivolo nominated Mr. Wright, which he also declined. Each voting member present was then asked to volunteer for the chairmanship, which all declined except for Mr. White. At this point, Mr. Vivolo made a motion that the election of officers be tabled until the following meeting to permit voting members not present at this meeting to volunteer or be nominated. Motion was seconded by Don Whipple, representing Mosquito Lake State Park, and carried unanimously.

The next order of business was approval of the minutes of the first Recreation Council meeting. Larry Wright moved that the minutes of the February 22, 1984, Recreation Council meeting be approved as presented in the council agenda; seconded by Carmen Vivolo. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kutevac then opened the meeting up for any questions or comments that those in attendance had following a brief description of the county's planning proposal to prepare a Mahoning River Canoe Trail Development and Management Plan. Don Whipple asked how canoe trail projects in the county would get funded. Mr. Kutevac responded that some sites are already

publicly owned or are private sites permitting access, while other sites would require applying for state or federal grants to fund canoe trail projects. He gave as an example the Canoe Trail Park Phase I project at Pricetown, where the county will use the value of the donated land towards the required local matching share.

These remarks spurred a discussion on the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program, one of the most popular for recreation facility development. Ed Landor, of the Planning Commission staff, explained that a 50 percent local match is required for these grants and that the property should not be transferred until after the application is approved and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources approves the transfer. Mr. Vivolo then explained a situation in Niles in 1979 in chronological order when the city was awarded a LWCF grant.

Charles Dehner, who just opened a new bicycle shop in Bristolville, asked if any literature was available on trails in Trumbull County. Mr. Kutevac stated that while there currently was none, the Countywide Trails System Plan being prepared by the Planning Commission would be completed by August, 1984, and would be made available to local communities and Recreation Council members. Mr. Kutevac also commented that pamphlets or other informational materials on the county's trails, perhaps one for each kind of trail, was a good idea, and that possibly the county's Tourism and Convention Bureau could become involved in printing and distributing such information.

Richard Lane then asked if local abandoned railroad rights of way could be used for Class I separate bike paths, such as the one established in Lowellville in Mahoning County that follows an abandoned right of way alongside the Mahoning River. The staff responded that while abandoned railroads were being considered in the trails plan, many of these rights of way in the county had been abandoned long ago, reverted to original property owners, or otherwise been sold, blocked, or used for other land uses, such as roads or gravel excavation.

Mary Herner, from the Agriculture Stabilization Office, stated that another problem with the abandoned railroads in the county was the large number of barriers, such as bridges that were removed and provided obstacles to trail development. Charles Dehner said that he had heard of a Federal statute whereby local clubs could gain control of rights of way provided that they maintain the trail. He stated that when he presented his idea to his respective township trustees, they were concerned about what their liabilities would be in case of accidents where the trail would cross local roads.

Trumbull County Planning Commission  
Countywide Recreation Council Meeting  
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After this discussion, Mr. Vivolo requested that at future meetings each person be asked to stand and state their name and who they represented so that transcribing tape recordings would be facilitated. Mr. Kutevac agreed and requested each person in attendance to do so. Following these introductions, Mr. Vivolo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Whipple. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Signed Julius Kutevac  
Date 8/8/84

AK:ctc

Appointment of Voting Members to the Countywide Recreation Council  
of Trumbull County, Ohio.

Representatives of local recreation or ecological clubs:

Richard Lane	Sierra Club
Thomas Barber	Trumbull Canoe Trail Club
David Ambrose	Trumbull County Cycling Federation

Representatives of local communities:

John Foley	City of Warren
Carmen Vivolo	City of Niles
Joyce Willis	City of Cortland
Dan Madeline	Hubbard Township and City
Hans Schlacht	Farmington Township
Larry Wright	Howland Township
Margaret Emanuel	Braceville Township
Earl Jones	Vernon Township

Representatives of agencies:

George Sharec	Soil Conservation Service
Don Whipple	ODNR Mosquito Lake State Park
Larry Turner	Trumbull County Metropolitan Park Commission
Steve Ver	ODNR Division of Wildlife

Appointment of Members to the Technical Advisory Subcommittee:

Carmen Vivolo	Niles Parks and Recreation Department
Alex Bobersky	Warren Community Development
Norris Williams	ODNR Soils Scientist
Buzz Jamison	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Dan Ross	Soil Conservation Service

Countywide Recreation Council of Trumbull County  
August 15, 1984, 7 P.M.  
County Administration Building  
Warren, Ohio

On August 15, 1984, at 7 p.m. in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room of the County Administration Building in downtown Warren, the third meeting of the Countywide Recreation Council was held. A quorum of voting members was present in addition to other interested individuals, public officials, and representatives of clubs and agencies. A list of those present is attached. Major items on the agenda included the election of officers and the evaluation of potential trail sites for the Countywide Trails System Plan.

The meeting was opened by Acting Chairman Julius White at 7 p.m. The first item of business was the approval of the minutes of the second recreation council meeting on May 9, 1984. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Mayor William Colletta, representing the City of Hubbard, and seconded by Tom Bolchalk. This motion carried unanimously.

The next item of business was the election of officers for the Recreation Council. The election of officers had been tabled at the previous council meeting to provide an opportunity for more members to be present and nominated. The acting Chairman, Julius White, a member of the Trumbull County Planning Commission and the Citizens and Public Information Committee, stated that he wanted to resign as chairman due to his wife's illness.

At this point, Edward Kutevac, Director of the Trumbull County Planning Commission, opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mayor Colletta nominated Dave Ambrose, a representative of the Trumbull County Cycling Federation, for Chairman of the Council. There being no further nominations, Harlan Warren of Greene Township moved that the nominations be closed, which was seconded by Joyce Willis from the City of Cortland. Dave Ambrose was unanimously elected Chairman.

At this point, Mr. Ambrose took over the Chairman's duties and opened nominations for Vice Chairman. Robert Sheridan of Hubbard asked a question regarding the purpose of the Council, which was answered by Mr. Kutevac. Tom Bolchalk asked about voting members and non-voting members of the council. It was explained that only voting members could vote on council business matters, such as approval of minutes and election of officers and could be nominated for or accept positions as council officers. Non-voting members present, however, were, and are, encouraged to participate on all matters discussed by the Recreation Council. A list of voting members and committees, included in the agendas, was referred to for nominations.

Robert Sheridan nominated Dan Madeline, a representative of the Harding Park Borad as Vice-Chairman. There being no further nominations, Julius White moved that nominations be closed, which was seconded by George Sharec of Newton Township. Dan Madeline was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Council.

Following this business, Greg Griffith of the Planning Commission staff gave a progress report on the Countywide Trails System Plan. He noted that much progress had been made since the last recreation council meeting, including the writing of several chapters, drafting of maps, and analysis of potential trail sites. Mr. Griffith explained that each potential trail site had been scrutinized using environmental and other criteria, including soil limitations, accessibility, and compatibility. He said that the council would be requested to comment on the staff's site evaluations following a brief report on the findings.

Following this report, Alan Knapp of the Planning Commission staff gave a brief description of each site and the staff's analysis of each, using a large county map and referring to smaller copies of the map in the agendas. First, Mr. Knapp discussed each potential hiking trail site, including Mill Creek Gorge, the Grand River Wildlife Area, Kinsman Township Park, Mosquito Creek Lake, Ohio Water Service Lands, Howland Township Park, the Mahoning River Corridor in the City of Warren, Little Links Park in Lordstown, Woodland Park in McDonald, the Liberty Lakes Area, Liberty Memorial Park in Girard, the Mud Run corridor through Harding Park and the City of Hubbard, Yankee Creek, Clarence Darrow Park, the historical site of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal, and the Mosquito Creek corridor in the City of Niles. During the report, Mr. Kutevac added a few comments, including the fact that a Piggyback Reservoir has been proposed in the Pymatuning Creek corridor, once scheduled to be inundated as part of the Shenango River Reservoir.

Mr. Knapp summarized the findings for hiking sites by recommending the following sites for implementation: Grand River Wildlife Area, Mosquito Creek Lake, Mahoning River corridor in the City of Warren, the Mud Run corridor through Hubbard, and the Mosquito Creek corridor through the City of Niles.

Next, Mr. Knapp discussed the findings of the analysis of potential canoe trail sites. He noted soil limitations and other considerations for the following sites: the Pymatuning Creek corridor and possible canoe launch/land areas at S.R. 88, Milligan East Road and Orangeville Village, the

mouth of Eagle Creek, Canoe City Livery on the Mahoning River at Leavittsburg, the dam on the East Branch of the Mahoning River in the City of Newton Falls, Falls Park near downtown Niles on Mosquito Creek, and other possible canoe access areas on the creek, including U.S. 422, the Mosquito Creek Lake Dam, and mouths of Mosquito Creek and Meander Creek at the Mahoning River in Niles, the Pymatuning Creek at Kinsman, and Canoe Trail Park at Pricetown.

He stated that based on the evaluation, the staff would recommend for implementation the following sites: Pymatuning Creek at Milligan East Road, Canoe City in Leavittsburg, Falls Park in the City of Niles, and Canoe Trail Park at Pricetown. Mr. Knapp then briefly reviewed potential bicycle routes in the county, including Route J, a Class III signed bicycle route from the Cardinal Trail in Mahoning County to Lake Erie-via Trumbull County. Mayor Colletta of Hubbard informed those in attendance that the Ohio Department of Transportation has also approved a Class II bikelane along both sides of S. Main Street from downtown Hubbard to Harding Park south of the city. Also discussed were possible Class I, separate bike paths along abandoned railroad rights of way or along river corridors.

The meeting was then opened up to a general discussion of these sites, and other potential trail areas in the county. Harlan Warren of Greene Township stated that he favored bikelanes along roads for maximum safety. He also recommended other sites in Greene Township including powerline rights of way for horse trails and possible hiking trails upstream of Mosquito Creek Lake, along the creek from S.R. 87 southward in a wooded area near Durst Colebrook Road. Mr. Kutevac mentioned the Fall Driving Tour sponsored annually by the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Next, Hans Schlacht of Farmington Township discussed the situation in his township, where about 30 percent of the land is owned by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and operated by the Division of Wildlife as a public hunting area. Mr. Schlacht stated that he was opposed to the killing (of animals) that was going on in the wildlife area, and that the land should be opened up for recreation for everybody, not just hunters. He also recommended the development of a Grand River Scenic Trail utilizing the natural beauty of this river corridor.

In response to these remarks, Steve Ver of the ODNR Division of Wildlife, stated that although the Grand River Wildlife Area is primarily used by hunters (because they pay for it through licenses), the area is open to other uses, including hiking, bird watching, canoeing, or nature photography.

He noted that hunters had actually blazed many trails in that area, which could now be used by hikers. However, Mr. Ver did point out that some of the public roads in the Wildlife Area had been washed out and were unpassable at certain times of the year. Mr. Kutevac interjected that the Wildlife Area could feasibly be the site of a brine injection well due to its location and public ownership.

Harlan Warren recommended roads no longer used in some of the rural townships as trails and restated his support for powerline trails. Steve Ver said that there were plans to expand the nesting area for geese in the Mosquito Creek Lake Game Reserve and that other alternatives for trails could be sought. He recommended a cooperative effort between the townships and ODNR to provide parking off of Hoagland Blackstub Road in Greene Township for birdwatchers and other naturalists.

George Sharec, who is on the board of the Soil and Water Conservation District, explained more fully the Fall Foliage Tour, which follows different routes each year. Mr. Sharec said that the Soil and Water Conservation District would appreciate any help the Recreation Council could provide for this year's tour (i.e. advertisement). He also stated that easements may not be suitable for trails since the property owners may plant what they wished to on them.

Next, Mayor Colletta asked if funds were available for dredging lakes or stocking lakes with fish. There currently are proposals to dredge the lake at Harding Park, and the Soil Conservation Service has performed a site study. Also, Steve Ver of ODNR noted that if the lake is made deep enough, ODNR could possibly provide the fish to stock the lake. Mayor Colletta also mentioned the annual tube races on Little Yankee Creek, which is not deep enough for canoes. Tom Barber of the Trumbull Canoe Trails Club, however, said, "Give me six inches and I'll take a canoe on it."

Following this discussion, Alan Knapp gave a brief update on two other countywide recreation projects. Mr. Knapp stated that the Trumbull Canoe Trails Club had recently acquired, then donated the property for the Canoe Trail Park at Pricetown to the County Metropolitan Park Commission. He also stated that the staff would soon begin work on the Mahoning River Canoe Trail Development and Management plan to be completed by August 31, 1985.

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of Trumbull County  
Meeting of August 15, 1984  
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Chairman Ambrose then asked for a motion to accept the staff's report of the site analysis and the recommended sites for implementation. Joyce Willis from Cortland moved to approve the report on the trail sites. Mayor Colletta seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. Other comments received from those in attendance included considering cross-country ski trails at sites where soil limitations were too severe for hiking trails. At 8:20 p.m. after all issues were thoroughly discussed, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned. Those in attendance were reminded that more recreation council meetings would be held in the future and they would be notified.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

AK:ctc

Countywide Recreation Council Meeting - August 15, 1984  
7 P.M. - County Administration Building

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
William Colletta	Hubbard	534-3090
Jim Pitts	Hubbard	534-2981
Tom Bolchalk	Hubbard	534-3886
Robert Sheridan	Hubbard	534-4167
Bill Ernest	Champion	847-0898
Dave Ambrose	T.C. Cycling Federation 628 Kinsman Street, N.W.	399-8605
Alex Bobersky	City of Warren	841-2595
Steve Ver, Game Protector		638-1227
Tom Barber	Canoe Trails	637-5134
Julius White	Planning Commission	372-4463
Harlan Warren	Greene Township	583-3192
Hans Schlacht	Farmington Township	548-8656
Dick Lane	Girard	759-2011
Joyce Willis	Cortland	
George Sharec	Newton Township	
Greg Griffith	Planning Commission	
Edward Kutevac	Planning Commission	
Alan Knapp	Planning Commission	

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION COUNCIL

Julius White . . . . . TCPC Citizens & Public Information Comm.  
Edward Cleckner . . . . . TCPC Citizens & Public Information Comm.  
Anthony A. Latell, Jr. . . . . TCPC Citizens & Public Information Comm.  
Dave Ambrose . . . . . Chairman, Trumbull Co. Cycling Federation  
Dan Madeline . . . . . Vice Chairman, Harding Park Board  
Richard Lane . . . . . Sierra Club  
Thomas Barber . . . . . Trumbull Canoe Trails Club  
John Foley . . . . . City of Warren  
Carmen Vivolo . . . . . City of Niles  
Joyce Willis . . . . . City of Cortland  
Hans Schlacht . . . . . Farmington Township  
Larry Wright . . . . . Howland Township  
Margaret Emanuel . . . . . Braceville Township  
Earl Jones . . . . . Vernon Township  
George Sharec . . . . . Soil Conservation Service  
Don Whipple . . . . . ODNR Mosquito Creek Lake State Park  
Larry Turner . . . . . Trumbull County Metro. Park Commission  
Steve Ver . . . . . ODNR Division of Wildlife