

North Shore Trail Phase I



- **Type:** Trail/Shared-Use Path
- **Length:** 5.3 miles
- **Cost:** \$1,240,734 (Design & Construction)
- **Funding Sources:** ODOT TAP/TASA, ODNR COTF, Civic Development Corporation
- **Date:** November 2017 - October 2020
- **Project Leaders/Managers:** Larry Frimerman

County: Ashtabula



Project Partner:
City of Ashtabula, Ohio



The North Shore Trail is a 5.3-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail in the City of Ashtabula, which is the final, northern-most segment of the 27-mile long Western Reserve Greenway and the 100-mile long Great Ohio Lake-to-River Greenway, which upon its completion, will provide a trail connection between the shores of Lake Erie and the Ohio River. The North Shore Trail provides a non-motorized, safe, easy, and convenient transportation linkage to connect students to schools, employees to employers, customers to merchants, and trail users to Ashtabula Harbor and Lake Erie. The majority of the 5.3-mile trail is on-road due to the urban nature the area. The route permits tie-ins and accessibility to a high percentage of Ashtabula County residents for transportation and recreational purposes since the trail is within 1.5 miles of nearly every portion of the city. When bicycle and pedestrian facilities are designed and built to be safe, easy, and convenient enough to attract residents, outside visitors will naturally be attracted to the new trail network and the surrounding area and economic development opportunities will follow.

The trail route is comprised of 10' wide paved off-road shared use path, bike lanes and sharrowed roadways, the design of which follow ADA, ODOT and AASHTO design criteria.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Ashtabula County Metroparks and the City of Ashtabula provides long term access and formalizes the responsibilities of Metroparks as trail and project sponsor and the City of Ashtabula with respect to control, construction and maintenance of the trail.

The trail is designed to be ADA compliant. For the majority of the trail's length where bike lanes or sharrows are located in the roadway, there is an existing, parallel sidewalk that was able to be used by pedestrians, since the project replaced non-ADA-compliant curb ramps at the intersections. However, where sidewalks did not exist and there was insufficient right of way width to install one, pedestrians were directed to walk within the on-road trail. This presented the challenge of delineating the edge of the trail for the visually impaired so they would not mistakenly leave the trail and travel into the vehicular way. Due to snow removal activities, the City did not want a vertical element such as a curb that would impede snow plowing. After discussions with U.S. Access Board staff and researching options, it was decided to install rumble stripes, which are a pattern of grooves cut into the pavement with pavement striping applied to it. The cut-in grooves are detectable by cane and the striping provides visual contrast for those who have low vision.

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The Good Stuff

- **Amenities** Trail identity is delineated via custom North Shore Trail pavement marking painted on the trail pavement.
- **Connections to other non- project assets** Connects to Western Reserve Greenway Trail, Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail, Downtown Ashtabula, Walnut Beach Park

County: Ashtabula

Environmental
Design Group

Project Partner:
City of Ashtabula, Ohio



As an urban transportation resource, North Shore Trail connects numerous destinations and facilities, namely, libraries, museums, small and large employers (e.g. factories), restaurants, a grocery store, several parks, public housing, marinas and residential neighborhoods. As noted on the slide, North Shore Trail connects to the HL Morrison Station Trailhead of the Western Reserve Greenway Trail on the south side of the City of Ashtabula and coincides with the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail for several blocks on the north side of the City. The trail bisects Smith Park, a City of Ashtabula city park with a walking path, baseball diamond, dog park, and picnic shelter, and terminates at Walnut Beach Park, a City of Ashtabula city park on the shore of Lake Erie with a bathhouse, swimming beach, picnic shelters, playground, tennis courts, sand volleyball, skate park, bocce courts and a nature trail.

Since the trail is comprised of a variety of facility types, an on-pavement marking system was developed to seamlessly and intuitively guide users along the on and off-road portions of the route, which also creates an identity for North Shore Trail.

Several local government officials have expressed their support for the project. Stuart Cordell, a board member of the Ashtabula County Civic Development Corporation who has overseen the CDC's work on the project said that "the trail is a key element in the redevelopment of Ashtabula Harbor and the Lift Bridge Community Association's master plan. It will help to bring Ashtabula County and City residents, as well as tourists, to the Harbor and Walnut Beach." Ashtabula County Commissioner J.P. Ducro IV said when the engineering design contract was signed that "It's wonderful news for the city and the county". And Christine Seuffert, the Lift Bridge Community Association president called the start of the design work "very exciting news."

North Shore Trail Phase I



Unique!

Benefits to the Public

Equitable, Non-Motorized Transportation Facility

Environmental enhancements

Access to Lake Erie, Reduced CO2 emissions due to reduced vehicle usage

Social Equity

Connects residents to work centers via a low-cost transportation alternative

County: Ashtabula

 Environmental Design Group

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According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010-14 Housing Characteristics report for Ashtabula City, 59% of households have only one car or no car at all. By comparing this fact with the average size of a household in the city, there are approximately 2,540 adult residents who most likely do not own or have access to a car and would be prime candidates to use the North Shore Trail for non-motorized transportation purposes.

The city of Ashtabula is a poor community of approximately 18,000 residents. A full third of the population lives below the poverty line. Public transportation is minimally offered, and the high school is located outside of the city limits - a quarter mile from the Western Reserve Greenway bike path. The North Shore Trail would serve as a safe, direct and inexpensive transportation route through the heart of the city to schools, parks, places of employment and a Save-A Lot grocery store.

By bringing residents and visitors alike to the shore of Lake Erie, they gain an appreciation for the tremendous asset that Lake Erie is to the region and the state.

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The North Shore Trail is the northern-most segment of the Great Ohio Lake-to-River Greenway that will provide a trail route from the shore of Lake Erie to the Ohio River. Ashtabula County Metroparks will continue to add trail segments to further its mission to “conserve, preserve and to protect Ashtabula County’s natural resources and to provide outdoor recreational experiences to Ashtabula County residents”.