

Chardon Maple Highlands Trail Phase II



- **Type** Trail/Shared-Use Path
- **Length** 0.86 Miles
- **Cost** \$2.116M
- **Funding Sources**
- ODNR COTF, NOACA TAP/TASA
- **Date:** January 2017 – November 2020
- **Project Leaders/Managers:**
Randy Sharpe
Paul Hornyak

City: Chardon
County: Geauga

 Environmental
Design Group

 CHARDON
Ohio

Phase II of the Maple Highlands Trail is 0.86 miles long and extends from Water Street down to SR 44. The trail is an ADA compliant, 10' paved trail that meets all DOT/AASHTO standards. It completes the missing section of the 21-mile Maple Highlands Trail network in Lake and Geauga Counties through the City of Chardon. Its main purpose is to provide an alternative transportation and recreational corridor to promote multi-modal and non-motorized activity within the City of Chardon and Geauga County, as well as provide connectivity to the entire Maple Highlands Trail network. The completion of the Maple Highlands Trail was identified as a priority in the 2009 Chardon Bikeway & Pedestrian Trail TLCI Plan and identified by NOACA as a priority project on the NOACA Regional Bicycle Plan.

Phase II boasts a trailhead, plazas and marked trail crossings at each mid-block roadway crossing, an RRFB at the SR 44 crossing, and a newly appointed historic site along the trail alignment at Hanging Rock.

Randy Sharpe, City Manager & Paul Hornyak, Director of Public Service. Environmental Design Group Project Manager: Michelle Johnson

Randy Sharpe was the champion behind both Maple Highlands Trail Phase I & II within the City of Chardon. Environmental Design Group wrote both of the (successful) ODNR COTF and NOACA TAP/TASA funding applications. Environmental Design Group was hired as the designers and engineers for the project. Paul Hornyak was the City's day-to-day project manager for both the design and construction phases of the trail. His prior experience as a private contractor was a great benefit during the ODOT-Let construction process.

Provide contact information in case we need to contact you about this project.

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Chardon Maple Highlands Trail Phase II



The Good Stuff

- **Amenities** trailhead, vehicular parking, bike parking, historic site, seating, people (and pet!) water fountains, restroom, plazas
- **Connections to other non- project assets**
Maple Highlands Trail Phase II completes the final missing 0.86-mile gap of the 21-mile, 2-county Maple Highlands Trail

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Maple Highlands Phase II boasts decorative plazas at each mid-block roadway crossing, an RRFB at the SR 44 crossing, and an amenity-filled trailhead.

The plazas serve as resting areas, traffic calming and streetscape improvements as they are grade separate, but adjacent to the roadways.

The final trail alignment intentionally crossed roadways mid-block in order to avoid additional vehicular conflict points.

The trailhead offers vehicular and bicycle parking, a fully watered, sewer and heated public restroom, drinking fountain that also serves pets, picnic tables, bioretention (that eliminates all gray stormwater infrastructure for the trailhead area), and a plaza leading users from the trail to the trailhead.

This phase completes the final missing 0.86-mile gap of the 21-mile, 2-county (Lake and Geauga) Maple Highlands Trail network!

Chardon Maple Highlands Trail Phase II



Unique!

- **Benefits to the Public**
little reading library,
drinking fountains,
public restrooms
- **Environmental enhancements**
wetland protection,
green infrastructure
throughout project,
sustainable
reuse/upcycle of 100+
sandstone boulders for
trail landscaping

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According to recent NOACA trail counts, trail traffic increased 65% in March/April of 2021 compared to March/April of 2020.

This is directly attributed to the construction of the missing 0.86 miles of trail that the Maple Highlands Trail Phase II completes of the now-finished 21-mile trail network!

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Buzz on the Street

- Tammy C on facebook: "They did a great job with that trail. We parked at Arby's and rode to Middlefield"

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Hanging Rock Marker Text: “Near this location on May 15, 1823, the first murder trial in Geauga County concluded with the public execution of Benjamin Wright, Jr. On February 1, 1823, Wright stabbed Zophar Warner over a financial dispute, wounding him mortally. The following month, a jury found Wright guilty of murder and ordered that “he be hung by the neck until he be dead.” At the time, executions in Ohio were carried out locally and public hangings were seen by some as social events. The “hanging bee” drew more than 4,000 people, some of whom traveled from upwards of 50 miles to witness the spectacle. One witness wrote, “I felt that he deserved to be hung...but it was an awful site I hope to never the like see again.” Wright’s body was taken to nearby LeRoy for burial and the gallows was dismantled.”

The City of Chardon purchased the property from a local developer in 2015 for the purpose of creating a dedicated trail spur and plaza from the Maple Highlands Trail Phase II project to highlight the significance of this site.