

## Atwood Lake North Shore Trail Phase III



- **Type:** Trail/Shared-Use Path
- **Length:** 2,257 LF
- **Cost:** \$415,300
- **Funding Sources:** ODNR RTP & General Funds
- **Date:** August 2018 – March 2021
- **Project Leaders/Managers:** Jeff Yohe

County: Tuscarawas

Environmental  
Design Group

MUSKINGUM  
WATERSHED  
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

The Atwood Lake North Shore Trail is a 0.43 mile long trail/shared-use path, includes 300 linear feet of boardwalk, which preserves a category 3 wetland, and is ADA compliant. The Atwood Lake North Shore Trail provides both a safe pedestrian and bicycle passageway as well as an opportunity to enjoy the natural wonders of the Atwood Lake area.

The new hard surface trail connects an existing hard surface trail to an existing neighborhood of residential homes that are a part of the Atwood Lake Park. Prior to the construction of the trail, residents of the North Shore neighborhood would have to walk along Atwood Lake Road, the main park entrance drive, to visit the Marina, the locally owned Marina restaurant, or to enjoy the extensive trail network that already serves the Park. The narrow roadway, lack of roadway shoulders, and no real convenient place to land an adjacent pathway or sidewalk made the walk/bike ride inherently dangerous. The new trail eliminates the danger and provides safe passage for walkers and bikers to reach the various park amenities that Atwood Lake Park provides.

MWCD Project Manager: Jeff Yohe Environmental Design Group Project Manager: Dave McCallops

**1. REQUIRED:** Provide contact information in case we need to contact you about this project.

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## Atwood Lake North Shore Trail Phase III



### The Good Stuff

- **Amenities:** elevated 300 LF boardwalk structure with lakefront and wetland views
- **Connections to other non- project assets**  
Connects park visitors and residents to a marina, restaurants, other areas of the 4,040 acre park, and the Phase II Atwood Lake Trail

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The new trail hugs the hillside where possible and provides a scenic walkway for the residents of the North Shore neighborhood. Cutting a path through the wooded area, but aligning the path to minimize/eliminate the need to cut down the beautiful trees in the area was a primary objective of the project. There are a number of ephemeral stream crossings and one intermittent spring fed stream crossing due to steep topography of the hillside. Through the use of boardwalks, the trail successfully crosses the ephemeral and intermittent streams, protecting the natural environment while also providing a beauty setting for the trail users.

The trail rises in elevation by approximately 50-feet compared to the roadway below, thus giving users a great overlook out to Atwood Lake itself. Keeping grades to 5%, the hard surface trail provides relatively easy grades to enhance the experience for both walkers and bikers. The trail ends at the North Shores residential neighborhood, but it is at that west end that the trail users have a very unique experience.

## Atwood Lake North Shore Trail Phase III



### Unique!

- **Benefits to the Public**  
Provides public off-road access to the 4,040 acre park, including 28 miles of shoreline and 3 public boat launches
- **Environmental enhancements**  
Preserves and Protects category 3 wetlands

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At the project start, a debate ensued on whether to cross over the existing wetland near North Shores or go around the wetland. Moving pedestrians/bikers off the park roadway entrance to better access amenities in the Park and to improve safety were the primary objectives. To traverse around the wetland would have added about ½ mile to the length of the trail, so there was a concern that many users would continue to use the roadway given the shorter distance involved. We investigated the cost of installing a boardwalk to cross the wetland versus the cost to go around the wetland. The cost was nearly identical, so providing a shorter trail length was decided as the best alternative to encourage use of the new trail.

The existing wetland is connected directly to Atwood Lake. Due to the requirement that all amenities be located above the spillway elevation, the boardwalk was designed to be approximately 11-feet above the surface of the wetland. The height of the boardwalk, and the location of the wetland combine to provide the user with a wonder lookout over Atwood Lake. From the height of the boardwalk the trail user has an unobstructed panoramic view of the lake, the marina the shoreline of the lake; It's actually quite breath-taking for the user.

# Atwood Lake North Shore Trail Phase III

**Atwood Lake Park**  
March 23

The construction work is almost complete on the Atwood Lake North Shore Connector Trail just in time for Spring. The trail adds a .43 mile connector to the existing .82 mile Woodland Trail terminating at the North Shore Collage Area. The trail features an elevated 300' long board walk spanning a portion of wetland. Stay tuned for the official opening date via [www.mwcd.org](http://www.mwcd.org) and MWCD social media!

**Sneak Peek**

**Police K-9 Association**  
May 1 at 4:28 AM

K-9 OTIS and "K-8" OMAR enjoying a weekend at the lake with their humans 🐾

#atwoodlake #PK9A #weareeverywhere #lakedays #CCSO #deputydog #k9

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The Atwood Lake North Shores Trail is a wonderful new amenity that provides scenic views, an ability to connect with nature and a safe route for users of all ages.