

# Towpath Trail Extension Project



- All-purpose trail for non-motorized use.
- **Length** - 6 miles
- **Cost** - \$48 Million
- **Funding Sources** (see below)
- **Date:** begun in 2004; completion, Fall 2021
- **Project Leaders/Managers:**  
City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Cleveland Metroparks, Canalway Partners

Cuyahoga County:  
(District 7)

Project Support



1. The 1999 vision of the Towpath Trail Extension Project was to weave a ribbon of green space from Canal Basin Park in the Flats to the Canal Reservation at Harvard Avenue. This multipurpose trail would be an extraordinary recreational amenity highlighting Cleveland's industrial river valley and serving its surrounding neighborhoods. It would also be a major environmental reclamation effort capable of stimulating new economic development all along the industrial corridor
2. 10 years later the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Cleveland Metroparks and Canalway Partners signed a contract to collaborate on finishing the northernmost sections of the Towpath, from the Harvard Ave. Trailhead to Canal Basin Park.
3. The Towpath Trail Extension Project is primarily funded through the Federal [Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality \(CMAQ\) Program](#). The CMAQ funds are used for construction and right of way acquisition. The CMAQ funds were awarded to the Towpath Trail Extension Project through the [Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency](#) (NOACA), which provides transportation and environmental planning for greater Cleveland. The Towpath Trail Extension Project has also received Federal funding from House/Senate Priority 1688/4639 and House Project No. 3058. These funds are used for preliminary and final engineering costs. Federal funding requires local match. One way the Towpath Trail Extension Project fulfills this requirement is through competitive grant programs such as the [Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program](#) and the [Clean Ohio Recreational Trails Fund](#). Grants such as these have very specific areas where the funds can be applied within the project. Additional sources of grant funding include the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#), [The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#), the [Ohio Department of Natural Resources](#), the [Ohio & Erie Canalway Association](#), the State of Ohio Cultural Arts Facilities and [the Cleveland Foundation](#). The project was also awarded \$1 million in funds from a Federal judge in a [FENOC settlement](#). The Towpath Trail Extension Project also provides local match to Federal funds through a Steelyard Commons "TIF". The State of Ohio's [Tax Increment Financing](#) (TIF) program "is an economic development mechanism available to local governments in Ohio to finance public infrastructure improvements and, in certain circumstances, residential rehabilitation." Thanks to the generosity of First Interstate Properties, the developer of Steelyard Commons, 70% of non-school TIF funds are held in trust for development of the Towpath Trail.

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

**Name:** Jim Ridge/Jessica French/Sara Maier

**Phone #:**216-496-3763/216-348-3840/

**E-mail address:**

[jridge@canalwaypartners.com](mailto:jridge@canalwaypartners.com)/[jnfrench@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:jnfrench@cuyahogacounty.us)/[sbm@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:sbm@clevelandmetroparks.com)

## Towpath Trail Extension Project



- The Towpath Trail Extension Project provides adjacent Cleveland neighborhoods with seamless off-road connections from downtown and Lake Erie to 23,600 acres in the [Cleveland Metroparks Emerald Necklace](#), and 33,000 acres in the [Cuyahoga Valley National Park](#).

Cuyahoga County:  
(District 7)

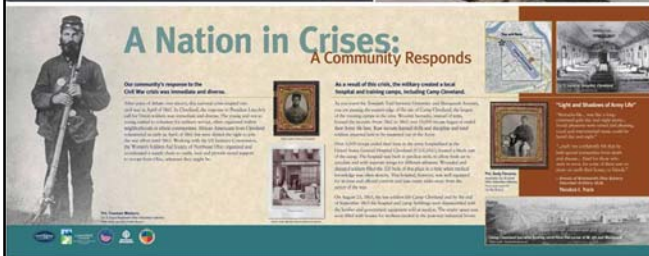
Project Support



The Towpath Trail Extension Project provides adjacent Cleveland neighborhoods with seamless off-road connections from downtown and Lake Erie to 23,600 acres in the [Cleveland Metroparks Emerald Necklace](#), and 33,000 acres in the [Cuyahoga Valley National Park](#) between Cleveland and Akron.

The Towpath Trail connects with the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Lake Link Trail and when Canal Basin Park is completed, will connect to Lake Erie, Wendy Park & Edgewater Park via the Canal Basin Park Connector, Wendy Park Bridge, Cleveland Lakefront Bikeway, and the Whiskey Island Connector.

# Towpath Trail Extension Project



- Camp Cleveland, formerly a low-profile greenspace denoted by historical sign, has been converted into a scenic overlook with picnic benches, grills, 2 large swings and seating areas
- Interpretive signage and a scale model of a civil war cannon will give visitors a nod to Cleveland's history.

Cuyahoga County:  
(District 7)

Project Support



The historic [Camp Cleveland](#) site at West 7th and West 10<sup>th</sup> Streets in Tremont will be a pitstop along the Towpath Trail—providing spectacular views of downtown Cleveland. In 1862, Camp Cleveland was the city's largest of six Civil War training sites.

More than 15,000 troops—5% of Ohio's Civil War troops—trained at the 35.5-acre Camp Cleveland throughout the war, according to [Cleveland Historical](#), and offered a flat location with plenty of drinking water and wooden structures (as opposed to tents).

## Towpath Trail Extension Project



- Near the corner of Literary & University Roads an interactive node with railroad themed artifacts pulls from the local history of a former 19<sup>th</sup> century roundhouse in the Cuyahoga Valley.

Cuyahoga County:  
(District 7)

Project Support



Thanks to a partnership with the [Midwest Railway Preservation Society](#) and a grant from [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](#) and the [Coca-Cola Foundation](#) a unique interpretive space called the Roundhouse Overlook offers panoramic views of Cleveland near the corner of Literary & University Roads.

# Towpath Trail Extension Project



- A former asphalt plant was converted into a new trailhead adjacent to Clark Field with parking and restrooms.
- A winding trail improved connections to the nearby neighborhood.



Cuyahoga County:  
(District 7)

Project Support



## Towpath Trail Extension Project



- Adjacent to the Towpath Trail, Clark Field has undergone a \$5.9M remediation of contaminated soil by United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- The City of Cleveland will soon begin a \$2.7 renovation, adding ball fields, tennis & basketball courts, play areas, & a splash pad

Cuyahoga County:  
(District 7)

Project Support

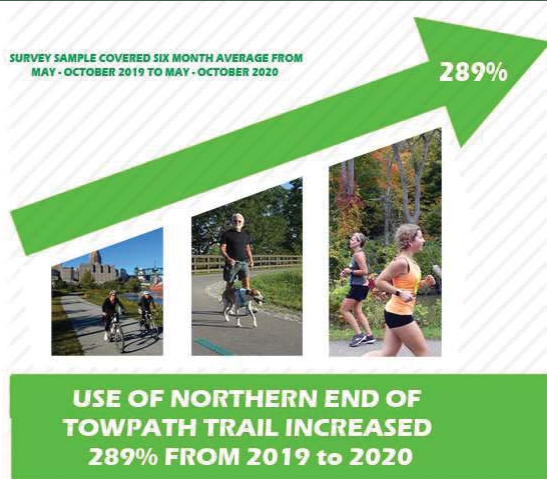


In 2013 and 2014, the City of Cleveland found high concentrations of lead, arsenic and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, in soil at the 41.5 acre public park (built on land acquired from the U.S. government in 1949). Due to the contamination, the city stopped issuing permits for organized recreational activities in the park.

In February 2016, the city requested EPA's assistance to clean up the site. Since then, EPA has removed concrete surfaces and above-ground structures, excavated and re-graded impacted areas, and installed two feet of clean soil as a protective barrier.

Approximately 160,000 cubic yards of clean fill/topsoil were needed to regrade the park. Of that, approximately 35,000 cubic yards was topsoil obtained under an Ohio EPA-permitted program where dredged sediments from the Cuyahoga River and harbor are mixed with organics to create topsoil suitable for unrestricted residential use. Another 95,000 cubic yards of the clean fill came from nearby projects in the city –including the MetroHealth redevelopment project – which helped cut cleanup costs.

# Towpath Trail Extension Project



- During a year when people turned to trails and greenspaces for relaxation and exercise, the Towpath Trail experienced a 289% increase in usage.

Cuyahoga County:  
(District 7)

Project Support



## Towpath Trail Extension Project



- To slow stormwater runoff into the nearby Cuyahoga River, wetlands, bioretention cells, and a retention basin, were installed
- Further down the trail, picnic tables and grilles were installed for use by Tremont Pointe residents.

Cuyahoga County:  
(District 7)

Project Support



Cuyahoga County received a \$250,000 Green Infrastructure Grant from the [Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District \(NEORS D.\)](#) for the creation of wetlands, bioretention cells and a retention basin within 3 acres of [Stage 3 of the Towpath Trail Extension Project](#). These green infrastructure elements removed stormwater from the combined sewer system, treat stormwater drainage and reduce run off pollution to the Cuyahoga River.

Nearby, a communal space with picnic tables and grilles was created for use by residents of the nearby CMHA housing at Tremont Pointe.