



IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULES

Implementation Strategies • Project Checklists • Timeline Task Charts • Concluding Summary

Implementation Strategies

This section of the plan lays out a checklist of actions that will be required to implement the elements of this plan. The 294 items are broken into phases by parks or project. Trumbull County MetroParks will continually work to accomplish the objectives listed for its own parklands. However, for collaborative projects, such as the development of the Pymatuning Creek Water Trail or the Western Reserve Heritage Trail where involvement from additional agencies and groups is required, the checklists merely serve as a preliminary guide to completing the project. The collaborative projects detailed in this plan are the result of citizen input. Trumbull County MetroParks will provide its support and resources to these projects; however, it is important to note that the park district can not be obligated to solely manage and complete collaborative projects, as in many cases such would be impractical as well as physically and financially impossible.

While the checklists provide detailed directions, the following points are important to consider from the start of the process. In summary, Trumbull County MetroParks will first need to seek the help of volunteers and partnering agencies in order to build the park system.

Marketing

It is imperative that the park district increases its efforts in marketing its resources and services to Trumbull County citizens. Signage, news coverage, and name recognition will alert people to all of the Trumbull County's existing and future MetroParks and nature preserves and may attract more volunteers. Marketing goals include:

- *Improved signage at all parks where appropriate*
- *Strive to enhance press coverage*
- *Stronger presence on the internet*

Networking and Collaboration

In order to achieve its mission, the park district will continue to need the dedication and support of its volunteers. From building walking trails to writing grants and from managing events to constructing kiosks, volunteers have been the creators of Trumbull County MetroParks. The park district will work to continue joining forces with other organizations and groups in the spirit of providing recreation and conservation opportunities for all citizens of every age.

Collaboration for Educational Signage

Educational signage and exhibits are critical elements in making any parkland into a popular destination and are integral to developing the Trumbull County MetroParks' System. Because educational signage will be needed at every park opened to the public, Trumbull County MetroParks will seek the help of qualified academic personnel and volunteers from the start of the development process. Help is needed in conducting



wildlife, forest, and archeological inventories at key park sites and incorporate the data attained into educational signage. The experts needed for such projects include naturalists, scientists, university class groups, and others with applicable training and experience. Additionally, the park district will work to include historical information as well as life science and earth science education exhibits at its parks. Aside from the actual text content, drawings and photographs will be important to enhance certain signs. In most cases, educational signage will be placed along trails, observation points, and at gardens to alert visitors to each park's environmental and physical features. The following is a breakdown of possible educational signage themes that may be considered for each park:

- ***Braceville Nature Preserve***
General educational signage, riparian environments and wildlife, garden areas, healthy lifestyles
- ***Canoe City MetroPark***
Riparian environments and wildlife, green bulkheads, Leavittsburg dams, historical signage
- ***Clarence Darrow***
Natural habitats, wildlife, bird habitats
- ***Elm Road ~ Bazetta Property***
Wetland Environments, bird habitats
- ***Foster Canoe Park***
General education signage, riparian environments, healthy lifestyles
- ***Mesopotamia Nature Preserve***
Wildlife signage, bird habitats, wetland environments
- ***Mosquito Creek Nature Preserve***
Wildlife signage, garden areas, healthy lifestyles, general education signage, arboretum signage
- ***Riverbend Nature Preserve***
Historical Signage, wildlife, physical landscape, general education signage, arboretum signage
- ***Thomas A. Swift MetroPark***
Wildlife, physical environment, historical signage, healthy lifestyles, bird habitats
- ***West Farmington Nature Preserve***
Historical signage, water education spots, wildlife, physical landscape, general education signage, arboretum signage
- ***Western Reserve Greenway***
Historical signage, wildlife, healthy lifestyles, general education signage
- ***Woodview Property***
Wildlife, physical landscape, general education signage



Project Checklists

Contents:

- Parkland Development Checklists
- Trumbull County MetroParks System Checklist
- Collaborative Projects Checklist

The following provides three sets of checklists. The first, the Parkland Development Checklists, focuses on individual parks and properties. These checklists provide specific courses of actions in order to develop the park in question. In many cases, these actions are logically grouped into independent phases. In some cases, phases may run concurrently with one another. The second set of checklists, the Trumbull County MetroParks System Checklist, outlines the tasks necessary to accomplish the park district's management and human resources objectives. These tasks range from enhancing the park district's presence on the Internet to forming a park levy research committee. As mentioned in the corresponding chapters, elements of the Trumbull County MetroParks System Checklist are contingent upon a variety of circumstances and should be viewed as a list of options rather than a set schedule of tasks. The final checklist is the Collaborative Projects Checklist, which itemizes the most basic tasks required in order to complete a project. These are tentative actions in which MetroParks will provide its resources and efforts in collaboration with other agencies and groups. Planning and coordination between project participants will be required to develop the most efficient course of action.

Those tasks which are instrumental to more than one project are listed in bold print in each checklist. For instance, the development of a canoe launch at Braceville Nature Preserve is integral to the development of the park. However, the canoe launch is also vital for the Mahoning River Water Trail. Therefore, the item is displayed in bold to emphasize that it is required for two or more projects.

The checklists are intended to be reviewed on a regular basis. At least once per year, as the comprehensive plan is revisited, every project on the checklists should be reviewed for content and applicability. Throughout the planning process, certain projects were prioritized over others. These prioritized projects are indicated with an asterisk. Any opportunity to advance any project, however, should be taken. Of course, the priority of projects will be based upon the level of interest expressed by citizens and volunteers, with adjustments to be made as appropriate.



Parkland Development Checklists

Tasks listed by phase by parklands ordered in alphabetical order. Bolded text denotes that task is integral to other projects.

BRACEVILLE NATURE PRESERVE

Phase I - Canoe Launch

- Establish park entrance (place temporary conservation area sign in interim)
- Combine lots into one property
- Improve southwest vehicle entrance**
- Develop southwest parking area**
- Create southwest canoe launch**
- Reinforce southwest canoe launch trail**
- Establish picnic area in southwest quadrant of park

Phase II - Trails & Gardens

- Establish trails, connect to existing trails
- Construct passage over tributary
- Conduct tree inventory
- Conduct wildflower inventory
- Establish garden sites
- Establish educational signage
- Create land laboratory area

Phase III - Southeast Access

- Develop southeast parking lot
- Develop southeast picnic area

Phase IV - Northeast

- Establish primitive canoe launch in NE quadrant of park
- Establish primitive camping nearby NE canoe launch outside floodplain
- Install Informational signage at campground and canoe launch

Beyond Phase IV - Acquisition

- Expand Nature Preserve for Conservational Purposes



CANOE CITY METROPARK

Phase I – Basic Enhancements

- Enhance park entrance signage
- Work with ODOT to commence impact studies on the potential removal of the Leavittsburg Dam
- Create 500 foot pathway around the Ohio Edison electrical substation to connect existing trails to the base of the Leavittsburg Dam and establish second canoe launch**
- Install directional and destination signage for canoeists at or near canoe launches**
- Plant vegetation around Ohio Edison electrical substation to shield it from view as best as possible.
- Enhance boathouse structure with a front patio, vegetation, and other exterior elements

Phase II – Marketing

- Improve directional signage from W. Market Avenue and N. Leavitt Road
- Enhance existing park entrance sign with enlarged logo
- Investigate all opportunities to developing livery service at Canoe City, including possible partnerships with local riverfront businesses

Phase III – Educational Signage & Opportunities

- Explore and take inventory of plant-life in thicket near N. Leavitt Road
- Coordinate the construction of a green bulkhead along the Mahoning River with area schools and environmental groups
- Collaborate with Leavittsburg Historical Society and area schools to create and install environmental and historical signage along park trails

Phase IV – Park Expansion & Enhancements

- Investigate the opportunity to expand Canoe City MetroPark by acquiring underutilized riverfront property east of N. Leavitt Road
- Construct waterline from street to boathouse and build exterior water fountain and yard hydrant for visitors
- Investigate feasibility of installing ice-rink near existing horseshoe pits

Beyond Phase IV – Exploration

- Prepare surveys and attain comments from canoeists and bicyclists to determine demand for camping and other desired amenities
- If additional land can be acquired east of N. Leavitt Road, determine the feasibility of building a nature center or museum.
- Determine demand for a children's playground



CLARENCE DARROW METROPARK

Phase I – Dog Park Creation

- Enhance park entrance signage
- Contingent upon funding, install dog park fencing, patio, culvert link to parking lot, running tubes, and pea gravel
- Add potable water to site with water line, water fountain, and yard hydrant
- Adjust affected disc golf tees, or skip to Phase II

Phase II – Disc Golf Course Enhancements

- Confer with adjacent property owners about possible easements of future land acquisition to expand disc golf park
- Hold planning session with disc golf stakeholders to create new course
- Make appropriate reconfigurations and install additional three disc golf holes (18 holes total)

Phase III - Additional Enhancements

- Establish educational signage at disc golf tees and at other points of interest
- Collaborate with Kent State Trumbull Campus and the Trumbull Career and Technical Center to create a link to the Western Reserve Greenway
- Install directional and parking signage at key intersections around park
- Establish potable water along eastern end of park which will also serve as a trailhead for the Western Reserve Greenway
- Consider permanent restrooms if demand warrants
- Consider performing a lot combination to simplify property's tax map

ELM ROAD ~ BAZETTA PROPERTY

Phase I – Signage

- Install parkland signage along western edge of property that identify the land as a conservation area

Phase II – Habitat Creation

- Install bird houses on the property to enhance habitats for native bird species and perform other desired wildlife habitat restorations

Phase III – Public Access

- Construct observation deck to allow public access
- Provide educational signage along any public access where appropriate
- Allow space for a possible extension or westward spur from the existing Howland Boardwalk

Phase II Alternative – No Action

- Allow land to develop naturally



FOSTER CANOE PARK

Phase I – Enhancements

- Inspect existing well to determine if water is potable, in which case, repairs may be conducted to make the well operable
- Repair the shelter over the well, including adding a new roof
- Enhance park entrance signage**
- Improve uneven canoe launch**
- Install directional and destination signage for canoeists at or near canoe launch**
- Replace fire rings with standard park cooking grills

Beyond Phase I – Expansion & Restrooms

- Explore opportunities to expand the park to extend existing walking trails, place signage educational signage, and provide space for field sports and other recreation
- Install composting or vault restroom if warranted by demand

ROLLING MEADOWS PROPERTY

No Further Action Planned

LYNWOOD PROPERTY

Phase I – Mahoning River Water Trail

- Maintain existing canoe launch as emergency-access only**
- Inspect gray-water discharge pipe along the opposite riverbank, take appropriate action**
- Install Emergency Exit Only signage on launch if necessary**

Beyond Phase I – Monitoring

- Monitor annual agreement with North West Neighborhood Association to ensure productive use of the site

MESOPOTAMIA NATURE PRESERVE

Phase I – Signage

- Install prominent parkland signage at site along State Route 87

Phase II – Bird Sanctuary

- Collaborate with the local Audubon Society and other naturalists to install bird houses in appropriate areas

Phase III – Public Access

- Improve entrance and gas well road and establish gravel or other natural parking area
- Install observation deck overlooking water and bird sanctuary area and place signage at park entrance
- Install appropriate educational signage



MOSQUITO CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

Phase I – Park Preparation

- Install parkland signage along State Route 5
- Determine best option (A or B) for parking and site access
- Monitor demand and explore opportunities for establishing dog run area

Phase II – Access

- Implement option A or B or other parking
- Place directional signage from Warren Bypass upon establishment of public access
- Coordinate with volunteers to construct walking trails throughout the park, ideally away from wetland areas
- Establish canoe launch along riverbank**
- Install directional and destination signage for canoeists at or near canoe launch**
- Create picnic area – pavilion permissible
- Provide park benches along trails
- Establish bird houses and bird stations as well as observation points

Phase III – Education Enhancements

- Conduct wildlife inventory along site to provide information for educational signage
- Create wildflower gardens
- Establish educational signage along trails and at key sites
- Build pavilion for land laboratory area

RIVERBEND NATURE PRESERVE

Phase I – Inventory & Create Public Access

- Perform archaeological inventory
- Determine the feasibility of creating a wetland mitigation bank on site
- Conduct a wildlife inventory and tree count
- Seek additional land without restrictions in order to provide improvements such as pavilions and pervious parking

Phase II – Parkland Enhancements

- Provide parking area along western end of property and at other places as appropriate
- Establish picnic area near parking lot with information kiosk, grills, tables, and portable restroom
- Establish mountain bike and nature trails through the property
- Build trails perpendicular to elevation contours in order to create hilly trails for strenuous exercise opportunities
- Place educational signage highlighting parkland's environmental and historical attributes
- Designate portion of riverbank as a primitive canoe launch

Beyond Phase II

- Explore additional opportunities for the site, including gardens, wildlife restoration sites, and other types of land trails (i.e. bridal)



THOMAS A. SWIFT METROPARK

Phase I – Park Necessities

- Establish park signage**
- Establish parking
- Establish directional signage from State Routes 5 and 82
- Install bird houses designed for endangered species
- Create nature trails through meadow

Phase II – Water Trail Necessities

- Develop vehicle-accessible driveway from parking area to canoe launch**
- Install directional and destination signage for canoeists at or near canoe launch**
- Create parking lot near canoe launch for vehicle parking & turn-around
- Construct canoe launch

Phase III – Amenities

- Establish picnic area with tables and grills
- Establish educational signage along nature trails
- Establish signage at canoe launch
- Construct kiosk
- Plant vegetative screening around gas utility
- Investigate easement to Braceville Athletic Club
- Develop connections to Western Reserve Heritage Trail

WEST FARMINGTON NATURE PRESERVE

Phase I – Expansion

- Explore and pursue opportunities to attain access to Girdle Road
- Also explore and pursue opportunities to attain access to Larson Road
- Determine feasibility of attaining additional property (with reasonable opportunities for development) along Richards Way and provide signage at Girdle Road

Phase II – Create Access

- Place directional signage to park accordingly along major corridors
- Repair entrance and provide parking along Curtis-Middlefield road
- Place signage establishing existing Richards Way entrance at cul-de-sac as service access only
- Establish Picnic area at primary parking lot with information kiosk

Phase III – Maple Sugar Shack Rehabilitation

- Inspect integrity of sugar shack structure
- Repair roof and exterior of facility
- Make interior repairs as necessary
- Establish educational signage
- Create convertible classroom area within the facility
- Inspect fireplace, make any appropriate repairs
- Provide fire ring area outside of structure for portable fire rings for use in winter
- Provide picnic area with tables and grills nearby



WEST FARMINGTON NATURE PRESERVE (continued)

Phase IV – Trail Creation

- Coordinate with area groups to develop walking trails
- Establish separate mountain biking trails
- Create bridal trails for horses
- Provide educational and directional signage along trails geared towards appropriate users as well as cross-country skiers, dog sleds, and snow shoe travelers

Phase V – Swine Creek Enhancements

- Designate area along riverbank as primitive canoe launch
- Conduct plantlife inventory of property, display content on educational signage
- Create “water education spots” along swine creek and tributary with educational signage / exhibits
- Place emphasis on hydrologic cycle and aquatic life at water education spots

Phase VI – Swine Creek Trail Connection

- Coordinate with appropriate agencies, including Geauga County MetroParks and the Trumbull County Highway Engineer to establish Curtis-Middlefield Road and Swine Creek Road as a Hike and Bike route between West Farmington Nature Preserve and Geauga County’s Swine Creek Reservation
- Explore opportunities to link to West Farmington Village, establish signage along viable routes (Curtis-Middlefield to Larson to Girdle)
- Collaborate with Geauga County MetroParks in investigating opportunities for establishing a trail along the abandoned Baltimore & Ohio Railroad right of way
- Partner with area property owners to construct trails along property lines or in areas of least impact

Phase VII – Winter Wonderland Area

Additional land without major restrictions required

- Establish electricity at Winter Wonderland Area
- Build warming hut or area with fire rings
- Create connections to existing trail networks
- Provide restrooms during winter
- Establish place for vending or concessions
- Build sledding hill if space permits
- Provide ice-rink and information area
- Establish string lighting along Winter Wonderland walkways and areas of interest
- Place appropriate signage



WESTERN RESERVE GREENWAY

Phase I – Sunside Trailhead

- Expand Sunside Trailhead parking area
- Install electric utility at Sunside Trailhead maintenance building
- Establish vending machine at Sunside Trailhead maintenance building/picnic shelter
- Investigate opportunities to establish solar energy demonstration exhibit
- Explore design opportunities to evoke a historic rail station from existing maintenance building

Phase II – Trail Plans

Phase II and I may run concurrently

- Mark or paint parking areas along State Route 87
- Attain additional parking areas near State Route 87
- Place historical and educational signage
- Procure portable counter system
- Plan and conduct trail user survey

WEATHERSFIELD NATURE PRESERVE

Phase I - Preserve Establishment

- Investigate opportunities for wildlife and forest restoration
- Explore opportunities for establishing a wetland mitigation banking site
- Mark site with appropriate signage

WOODVIEW CIRCLE PROPERTY

Phase I – Park Preparation

- Rename Property from Woodview Circle Canoe Park
- Notify Property Owners of Encroachments & Plans & Encourage Input

Phase II – Park Set-Up

- Plant vegetative screening along property line
- Refine canoe launch**
- Install ‘No Entry’ signage at each end of the existing service road**
- Remove existing debris**
- Construct kiosk / information board**
- Install picnic tables
- Install cooking grills



Trumbull County MetroParks System Checklist

Tasks listed as options only and are to be revisited frequently. Certain tasks are on-going strategies that apply to several individual projects. Many projects may also run concurrently.

Bolded text denotes that task is integral to other projects.

MARKETING

Marketing Tactics – General Items

- Explore option to create attachable Trumbull County MetroParks logo signs for existing and future parkland entrance signage
- Enhance Trumbull County MetroParks parkland signs with more prominent MetroParks symbolism and lettering
- Issue press releases as projects from the 2009 Trumbull County MetroParks Comprehensive Plan begin and end

Marketing Tactics – Congratulations & Advocacy

- Reinstitute Trumbull County MetroParks' award events to acknowledge individuals, groups, and organizations for their important contributions to the park district
- Investigate the development a sign template and process for awarding Trumbull County MetroParks Supporter signs to supporting businesses and organizations
- Reward creative efforts by individuals, businesses, governments, and other organizations that promote recreation and conservation efforts made in new developments

Marketing Tactics – Enhancing Internet Presence

- Collaborate with volunteers and other organizations to produce additional events at existing and future MetroParks and Nature Preserves
- Attain user-friendly website domain name(s)
- Place Trumbull County MetroParks content on collaborative information resources such as Panaramo, Yahoo!, and Google
- Link Trumbull County MetroParks sites, pictures, articles, and park district website link to Google Maps and MSN Maps

MANAGEMENT

Management Tactics – Planning & Coordination

- Review park district's land acquisition practices and determine if policies need to be modified or are acceptable without change
- Explore the option of attaining a park district credit card to simplify business transactions
- Regularly review checklists

Management Tactics – Website Improvements

- Dedicate a webpage exclusively for citizens to submit problem reports, comments, or questions
- Determine if website should provide collaborative user content where visitors can see alerts (such as debris along the Mahoning River Water Trail) and share advice
- Place additional information regarding issues online which range from alternative energy to illegal dumping while also providing links to key government organizations take out advocacy

Management Tactics – Finance

- Investigate the development of a Finance & Policy Committee, Events Committee, and Events & Program Committee, as well as a Real Estate Procurement Committee.
- Prepare annual budget appropriation requests and submit to state and federal representatives



- Provide annual report to local agencies and submit budget appropriation requests
- Continue to coordinate with the Ohio Department of Transportation's MetroPark Program
- Periodically explore opportunities to grow the park district's internal streams of income
- Establish a Park District Levy Feasibility Committee to explore the possibility of placing a Trumbull County MetroParks property tax on ballots for a future election
- Pursue grant opportunities to fund projects and operations
- Seek donations from individuals, organizations, and corporations

Management Tactics – Security

- Place park district notification signage at all park sites with accompanying phone number and website or email contact
- Collaborate with other park districts and appropriate legal counsel to codify existing park rules and guidelines
- Post park district rules at all parks
- Improve coordination with area law enforcement to protect parklands
- Collaborate with law enforcement agencies in Trumbull County to host an ATV enforcement program to discourage inappropriate ATV usage on park district property

PARK DISTRICT EXPANSION

Expansion – General Items

- Collaborate with the Trumbull County Educational Service Center and other educational agencies to expand the Trumbull County MetroParks' role in K through 12 education.
- Work with model airplane flying clubs to establish a model airplane airport park in Trumbull County
- Seek opportunities to provide space and trails to ATV enthusiasts
- Investigate opportunities for paint ball courses
- Work with and provide support to other agencies and groups in searching for ideal sites for Skate Board Park and Playground development
- Seek access to Mosquito Lake in order to provide walking areas, boat access, and other amenities
- Work toward establishing additional winter activities

LONG-TERM GOALS

On-Going Objectives – General Items

- Investigate undeveloped or underutilized lands and search for real estate that permits the physical improvements and construction necessary to support active forms of recreation
- Revisit the 2009 Trumbull County MetroParks Comprehensive Plan no less than once per year and update text as situations change
- Explore options to hire an executive staff person to handle the day-to-day operations of the park district
- Seek opportunities to hire Trumbull County MetroParks employees and interns
- Continually add to the Trumbull County MetroParks Resource Directory
- Continue networking with other park districts
- Investigate Ohio State University's Naturalist training program
- Provide regular press releases on all news-worthy park district decisions and projects
- Develop a Plan Monitoring Committee



Collaborative Projects Checklist

Tasks listed by priority based upon citizen interest. Projects may run concurrently. Bolded text denotes that task is integral to other projects.

MAHONING RIVER WATER TRAIL

Initial Set-Up – Planning & Coordination

- Market trail development with press releases and seek volunteers
- Conduct river surveying event, send out press releases prior to attain volunteers to GPS tree falls and obstructions
- Work with property owners and volunteers to remove obstacles along the course of the river and mark unmovable items as appropriate
- Coordinate with Newton, Braceville, and Warren townships, the City of Warren, and the Village of Newton Falls, to add any additional Mahoning River Water Trail canoe launch points.

Phase I – Thomas A. Swift MetroPark to Canoe City MetroPark

- Install directional and destination signage for canoeists at or near Canoe City MetroPark canoe launches**
- Establish park signage at Thomas A. Swift MetroPark**
- Develop vehicle-accessible driveway at Thomas A. Swift MetroPark from parking area to canoe launch**
- Install directional and destination signage at Thomas A. Swift MetroPark for canoeists at or near canoe launch**
- Refine canoe launch at Woodview Property**
- At Woodview Property, install ‘No Entry’ signage at each end of the existing service road**
- Remove existing debris from Woodview Property**
- Construct kiosk / information board at Woodview Property**
- Place directional signage or markers along Mahoning River Water Trail
- Install Mahoning River Water Trail signage along major intersecting roadways

Phase II – Canoe City MetroPark to Packard Park

- Build portage at Canoe City MetroPark by extending existing walkway 500 feet pathway around the Ohio Edison electrical substation and over to the base of the Leavittsburg Dam and establish second canoe launch**
- Maintain existing canoe launch at Lynwood Property as emergency-access only**
- Install Emergency Exit Only signage on launch if necessary**
- Inspect gray-water discharge pipe along the riverbank opposite of the Lynwood Property and, take appropriate action**
- Collaborate with property owner(s) of water discharge pipe and upstream acid ponds to have hazard signage placed
- Coordinate with the Northwest Neighborhood Association and the City of Warren to establish a canoe launch along the river at Burbank Park
- Place canoe launch signage and information at Burbank Park after launch site established
- Coordinate with the City of Warren and other stakeholders in establishing a canoe launch at Packard Park
- Once canoe launch area is defined, collaborate with the City of Warren to install appropriate informational and directional signage.
- Collaborate with the City of Warren in placing warning buoys and signage warning of Summit Street Dam before final canoe launch
- Place emergency water trail exit site downstream of final canoe launch



Phase III – Thomas A. Swift MetroPark to Braceville Nature Preserve

- Improve Braceville Nature Preserve’s southwest vehicle entrance**
- Develop Braceville Nature Preserve’s southwest parking area**
- Create canoe launch at Braceville Nature Preserve’s southwestern end**
- Establish trail from Braceville Nature Preserve parking area to canoe launch**
- Place directional signage or markers along Mahoning River Water Trail
- Install Mahoning River Trail signage along major intersecting roadways

Phase IV – Braceville Nature Preserve to Newton Falls

- Coordinate with the Village of Newton Falls and the local Rotary Club in establishing canoe launch points and a portage around the Newton Falls Dam
- Collaborate with interested parties in placing appropriate signage warning of dam
- Install directional and destination signage along Newton Falls Dam portage for canoeists
- Place directional signage or markers along Mahoning River Water Trail
- Install Mahoning River Water Trail signage along major intersecting roadways

Phase V – Newton Falls to Foster MetroPark

- Enhance park entrance signage at Foster MetroPark**
- Improve uneven canoe launch at Foster MetroPark**
- Install directional and destination signage for canoeists at or near Foster MetroParks’ canoe launch**
- Place directional signage or markers along Mahoning River Water Trail
- Install Mahoning River Trail signage along major intersecting roadways

PYMATUNING CREEK WATER TRAIL

After Initial Set-Up, all phases may run concurrently. Directions serve as a reference guide only and do not reflect committed actions to be performed by Trumbull County MetroParks alone

Initial Set-Up – Planning & Coordination

- Coordinate public meeting in Kinsman Center to plan route and attain volunteers
- Collaborate with Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Army Corps of Engineers, Shenango Valley River Watchers, Penn Ohio, and other interested parties
- Determine appropriate signage at canoe launch sites
- Place road signage along major corridors, including State Route 7, as trail is developed

Phase I – Orangeville to Mulligan East

- Establish information signage at Orangeville
- Develop portage path around dam at state line
- Place marker signage along route to Mulligan East
- Establish appropriate signage at Mulligan East along with directional information

Phase III – State Route 88 to Kinsman Center East

- Work to establish parking along State Route 88
- Establish canoe launch at State Route 88
- Place informational signage at site
- Continue placing directional markers upstream to Kinsman Center
- Coordinate parking area and canoe launch along Kinsman Nickerson Road east of Kinsman Center and place appropriate signage

Phase IV – Kinsman Center East to Kinsman Center West

- Collaborate with partners to establish parking, signage, and possible picnic area along rail right of way extending south of State Route 87
- Place directional markers from Kinsman Center West to Kinsman Nickerson Road
- Install appropriate signage along State Route 87



MOSQUITO CREEK WATER TRAIL

Initial Set-Up – Planning & Coordination

- Market trail development with press releases and seek volunteers
- Conduct river surveying event, send out press releases prior to attain volunteers to GPS tree falls and obstructions
- Work with property owners and volunteers to remove obstacles along the course of the river and mark unmovable items as appropriate
- Coordinate with canoe launch site property owners, Bazetta and Howland townships as well as the City of Niles and the City of Warren. Determine if any additional canoe launch points are possible along the Mosquito Creek Water Trail canoe launch points.

Phase I – Mosquito Creek Dam to North River Road

- Collaborate with other agencies to establish canoe launch site at the base of the Mosquito Lake Dam (Confirm this step in the Initial Set-Up)
- Establish an area for water trail parking at the Mosquito Lake Dam
- Also at the Mosquito Lake Dam, provide directional and destination signage
- Establish canoe launch along riverbank at Mosquito Creek Nature Preserve**
- Install directional and destination signage for canoeists at or near Mosquito Creek Nature Preserve canoe launch**
- Collaborate with other agencies and property owners to establish a canoe launch site near North River Road (Confirm this step in the Initial Set-Up)
- Provide a small parking area for the North River Road canoe launch
- Establish minimal information signage at North River Road
- Place directional signage or markers along Mosquito Creek Water Trail
- Install Mosquito Creek Water Trail signage along major intersecting roadways

Phase II – North River Road to E. Market Street

- Collaborate with other agencies and property owners to establish a canoe launch site near E. Market Street (Confirm this step in the Initial Set-Up)
- Provide or designate a small parking area for the E. Market Street canoe launch
- Establish minimal information signage at E. Market Street
- Place directional signage or markers along Mosquito Creek Water Trail
- Install Mosquito Creek Water Trail signage at E. Market Street bridge over Mosquito Creek

Phase III – E. Market Street to Youngstown Road

- Collaborate with other agencies and property owners to establish a canoe launch site near E. Market Street (Confirm this step in the Initial Set-Up)
- Provide or designate a small parking area for the E. Market Street canoe launch
- Establish minimal information signage at E. Market Street
- Place directional signage or markers along Mosquito Creek Water Trail
- Install Mosquito Creek Water Trail signage at E. Market Street bridge over Mosquito Creek

Phase IV – Youngstown Road to Robbins Avenue

- Collaborate with other agencies and property owners to establish a canoe launch site near the Youngstown Road (Confirm this step in the Initial Set-Up)
- Provide or designate a small parking area for the Robbins Avenue canoe launch
- Establish minimal information signage at canoe launch site
- Install Mosquito Creek Water Trail signage at major roads crossing Mosquito Creek
- Develop land trail link to the proposed Niles Greenway



LAND TRAIL DEVELOPMENTS

For Trumbull County MetroParks' purposes only, land trail proposal projects are listed as a Priority Projects or a Desired Projects. Priority projects are those projects which the park district feels it should allocate its resources and efforts toward first. Whether or not a land trail proposal project is designated as Priority or Desired, Trumbull County MetroParks will place its resources with those projects having the most citizen involvement.

Priority Project – Pymatuning Creek Corridor

- While pursuing the Pymatuning Creek Water Trail project, collaborate with interested volunteers, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and create a strategy for developing a land trail along the Pymatuning Creek and set appropriate event dates

Priority Project – Village of Newton Falls to Braceville

- Continue to coordinate with Newton Falls Village officials, Portage County MetroParks, Braceville Township, and Newton Township in extending the existing Newton Falls walkway through downtown and to the proposed Western Reserve Heritage Trail

Priority Project – Western Reserve Heritage Trail (Connecting to the Portage County Headwaters Trail)

- Continue to partner with officials from Braceville and Warren township, the City of Warren, the Portage County Park District, the Downtown Leavittsburg Improvement Association, and state representatives in the development of the Western Reserve Heritage Trail

Priority Project – Geauga County - West Farmington - Warren (Connecting to Swine Creek Reservation)

- Collaborate with the Geauga Park District in developing a link between the West Farmington Nature Preserve, West Farmington Village, and Swine Creek Reservation
- Hold appropriate planning and collaboration meeting at site to determine interest and find volunteers
- Utilize existing back roads for trail by establishing directional markers and appropriate road signage
- Explore opportunities to attain the former rail right of way originally belonging to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad which runs between Swine Creek Reservation and through West Farmington Village

Desired Project – Mahoning River Corridor Trail

- Periodically evaluate opportunities to collaborate with area agencies to support the development of the Mahoning River Corridor Trail. Provide park district resources where appropriate.

Desired Project – Masury to Hubbard

- Periodically evaluate opportunities to collaborate with area agencies to support the development of the Masury to Hubbard Trail. Provide park district resources where appropriate.

Desired Project – Orangeville to Cortland (Connecting to the proposed Trout Island Trail)

- Periodically evaluate opportunities to collaborate with area agencies to support the development of the Orangeville to Cortland Trail. Provide park district resources where appropriate.

Desired Project – Mosquito Lake Loop & Connections

- Periodically evaluate opportunities to collaborate with area agencies to support the development of the Mahoning River Corridor Trail. Provide park district resources where appropriate.

Desired Project – Cortland to Warren

- Periodically evaluate opportunities to collaborate with area agencies to support the development of the Cortland to Warren Corridor Trail. Provide park district resources where appropriate.

Desired Project – Warren to Mid-Portage County (Connecting to the Portage Hike and Bike Trail)

- Periodically evaluate opportunities to collaborate with area agencies to support the development of the Warren to Mid-Portage County Trail. Provide park district resources where appropriate.

Desired Project – Mud Run Corridor



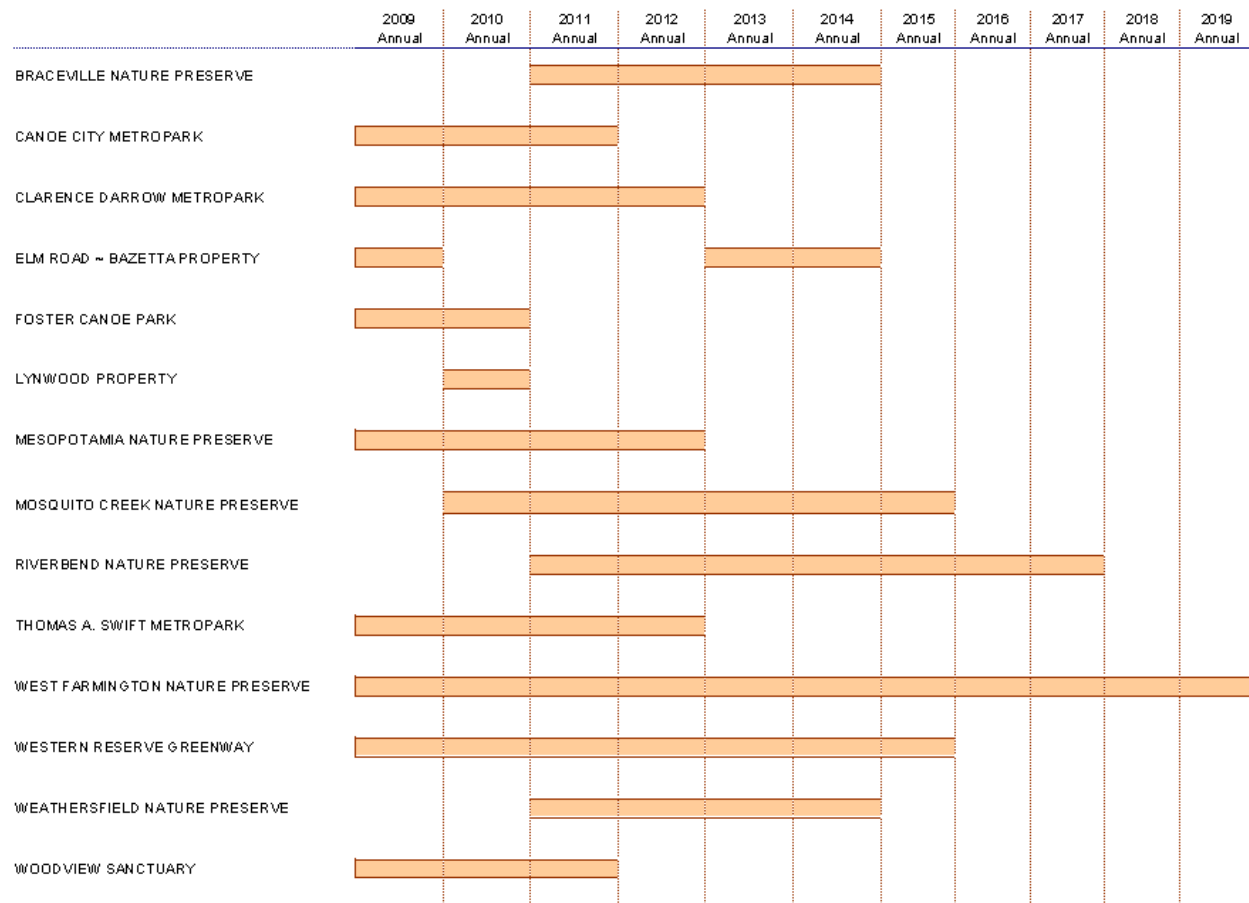
- Periodically evaluate opportunities to collaborate with area agencies to support the development of the Mud Run Corridor Trail. Provide park district resources where appropriate.

Desired Project – Johnston Township to Kinsman

- Periodically evaluate opportunities to collaborate with area agencies to support the development of the Johnston Township to Kinsman Trail. Provide park district resources where appropriate.

2009-2019 Potential Implementation Timeline

The following outlines an implementation chart accompanied by tasks lists for each of the park district’s major future projects, as listed in the individual park chapters. The following serves to provide an ideal course of action with the understanding that situations and priorities may change as new opportunities and ideas present themselves. It is critical to note that this scenario would be the result of full funding and proper staffing. As previously described, MetroParks should review this plan yearly to gauge progress and to adjust the course of action if needed.





Public Comment

Upon completion of the planning process, Trumbull County MetroParks invited the general public to comment on the final plan. Two public comment meetings were hosted at the Trumbull County Planning Commission, on December 15, 2008, and January 15, 2009. Notices were published in the Tribune Chronicle for these events. Copies of the plan were distributed and hosted at the Trumbull County Planning Commission, Warren-Trumbull Public Library – Main Branch, Girard Multi-Generational Center, and the Trumbull County Soil and Water Conservation District Office. Additionally, a copy of the plan was posted to the Trumbull County MetroParks website. The distribution was designed specifically to make the document accessible to as many people as possible.

The December 15, 2008, public comment meeting resulted in two received comments. These comments are summarized below.

- The plan looked fine and the citizen agreed with the proposals laid out.
- A representative from Weathersfield Township was supportive of the plan. The representative further encouraged collaboration between the township and the MetroParks. Mention of future possible expansion projects were made. These expansion and collaboration activities will be researched and considered by the Board at future meetings.

The January 15, 2009, public comment meeting received no public comments.

One comment was collected via email on December 16, 2008. This email made two recommendations. Both suggestions involved changes to two maps in the plan for the purposes of clarity and personal preference.



Concluding Summary

Trumbull County MetroParks has a history of enhancing the quality of life for Trumbull County residents while protecting the environment and encouraging good stewardship of natural areas. From providing opportunities for recreation to preserving critical habitats that bring balance to the regional ecosystem, the park district has strived for excellence in serving the needs and wishes of area citizens. Trumbull County MetroParks, its volunteers, and partners have worked together to grow the park district from fifty acres and three open parks to a dynamic organization featuring one of the state's longest hike and bike trails, several events, and over a thousand acres of parkland brimming with opportunities for recreation, conservation, and learning.

Throughout the next five years, Trumbull County MetroParks plans to develop its newest properties into accessible nature preserves and parks that will feature miles of hiking and walking trails, educational exhibits, canoe launches, picnic areas, wildlife habitat restoration areas, and a variety of gardens. At the same time, the park district will be working to expand its parklands, particularly in those areas underserved by MetroParks. Additionally, the park district will be collaborating with several other agencies and groups in order to promote the construction of new regional trails as well as the establishment of water trails along three major water corridors. These efforts will take a tremendous amount of teamwork, volunteer power, and funding for staff persons to lead park projects. This living plan serves as a guide as to how Trumbull County MetroParks will develop in the years ahead, providing a development plan for the park district's existing parklands as well as laying out a strategy for bringing recreation and conservation opportunities to all citizens. It is with great enthusiasm, ambition, and unwavering commitment that the park district moves forward to serve the needs of Trumbull County.

