

Jefferson County Trail & Greenway Vision

**A Network Initiative
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National Park Service
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Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance (RTCA)

RTCA is a technical assistance program of the NPS. We are invited by communities and organizations to help them to get projects moving or implement for on the ground successes. There are 70 RTCA staff across the country bringing their unique skills to a variety of projects. I am an employee of the MWRO in Omaha but I am located in Cuyahoga Valley National Park between Cleveland and Akron. I provide assistance to communities all over the state of Ohio who submit applications and are selected as projects.

Jefferson County Trail & Greenway Vision

Community Investment Plan- created by community leaders

- Enhance the Quality of Community and Family Life
- Improve and Expand Infrastructure
- Stimulate Workforce and Economic growth

TRAILS AND GREENWAYS CAN ACCOMPLISH ALL 3 GOALS!

A sub committee was formed, RTCA and other partners were called in to look at how trails would help Jefferson County meet their goals. Also considered what could be done differently from previous attempts that were not successful.

Setting up the Structure

Working Group



Crossroads Resource Conservation & Development
Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District
Brooke, Hancock Jefferson Municipal Planning Organization
RTCA
And led by Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce

Created a Mission

To develop trails and protect our greenways while enhancing the quality of life by providing healthy outdoor recreation and economic opportunities linking and strengthening our communities.

And a Steering Committee Of Invested Community Leaders

City, County, Education, Trails, Health, Business, Citizens

Jefferson County Trail & Greenway Vision

Goals

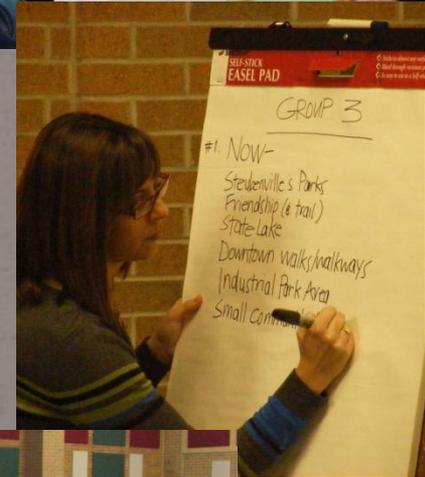
- Enhance the Quality of Community and Family Life
- Improve and Expand Infrastructure
- Stimulate Workforce and Economic Growth
- additional goals made specific to trail development and greenway conservation

Planning Milestones to Meet Goals

Engage the Community
Enhance Communication
Produce a Document
Identify Opportunities

Engaging the Public

- Listed stakeholders
- Inventoried existing facilities
- Held 7 public meetings
 - To present opportunity
 - To collect information
 - To gather support
- Created a Ning site
- Sent a Survey Monkey
- Developed newsletters
- Evaluated information



Formal and Informal Networks

➤ Partners With Assistance Agreements

- RTCA Assistance Agreement
- Jefferson County Community Foundation (fiduciary)

Partners with Volunteers Agreements

- Implementation with community organizations
 - United Way – Day of Caring
 - Eventually Trail Work – Boy Scout /Girl Scouts

Informal Partnerships

- The Working Group
- The Steering Committee
- The Task Force

➤ Expanded Network

- Tri-County
- Tri-State

Potential Partners

- Better representation and input from health , education, elected officials, user groups

Network Geography

Communities of Place, Identity and Interest



Ohio River community, industry leaving, coal mining throughout county, Appalachia

Who benefits from the development of this network?

- The people who have an improved quality of life
- The communities that have the trails
- The county that people visit
- The region that makes connections

Benefits of the Network

Present

Progress is being made

Trails are being planned

Conversations are happening

People are interested and inspired

Diverse interests are being represented



Future

The goals of the Community Investment Plan will be realized

The people of Jefferson County will have a better quality of life

Economic development will result from implementation of trails

Improved health from recreation opportunities

Further connections within county and throughout the region

Where do we go from here?

- RTCA projects – generally 2 years
- Report out progress at 5 years
- What suggestions do you have for how to strike the balance to stay in touch and be available, but not manage or abandon?



Lessons Learned About Network Management

- It is important to share and learn with others to gain perspective. (Action Learning)
- It is becoming increasingly important to network with other agencies and organizations to share resources and not duplicate efforts.
- The essence of RTCA project work is network management.
- But we are not the only game in town!

Lessons learned about network management that changed the way I interact with partners and community representatives:

- Consensus building is possible!
- I can learn from others competencies.
- Cultural awareness of my partners can strengthen the network.

What do I still need to work on? Strategic thinking, setting priorities, accountability