

Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
Environmental Assessment for
Bike & Hike Trail Realignment at
Brandywine Road

Appendix D

Public Scoping and Consultation References and Public Responses

Notes	Double Checked	Title	FirstName	LastName	Job Title	Company	Address1	Address2	City	State	Country	PostalCode	Email
Academic	x	Sr.	Mariellen	Phelps	Outreach Coordinator	Crown Point Ecology Center	P.O. Box 484	3220 Ira Road	Bath	OH		44210-0484	x
Deer EIS Science Team	x		Jeff	Herrick	Tribal Manager	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	912 Portage Lakes Drive		Akron	OH		44319-1539	
Deer EIS Science Team	x		Vern	Harenberg	Executive Director	Cleveland Metroparks	4101 Fulton Parkwa		Columbus	OH		44144-1923	
Deer EIS Science Team	x		David	Scott	Wildlife Research Administrator	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	1300 Dublin Road		Columbus	OH		43215-1010	
Deer EIS Science Team	x	Dr.	Paul D.	Curtis		Cornell University	114 Fernow Hall		Ithaca	NY		14853-3001	
Elected Official	x	The Honorable	Betty	Sutton	U.S. Representative		1655 West Market Street	Room 435	Akron	DC		20515-0001	
Elected Official	x	The Honorable	Timothy	Ryan	U.S. Representative		222 Cannon House Office Building		Washington	OH		44313	
Elected Official	x	The Honorable	Stephanie	Tubbs-Jones	U.S. Representative		1009 Longworth House Office Building		Washington	DC		20515-0001	
Elected Official	x	The Honorable	Sherrrod	Brown	U.S. Senator		600 East Superior	Room 2450	Cleveland	OH		44114	
Elected Official	x	The Honorable	George	Volovich	U.S. Senator		524 Hart Senate Office Building		Washington	DC		20510-0001	
Elected Official	x	The Honorable	Mike	Kaplan	Mayor	Village of Peninsula	P.O. Box 177		Peninsula	OH		44264	
Elected Official	x	The Honorable	Donald H.	Larsen	Mayor	Village of Richfield	4410 W. Steelesboro Rd.		Richfield	OH		44268-0367	
Elected Official	x	The Honorable	Raymond C.	McFall	Mayor	Village of Boston Heights	45 E. Boston Mills Rd.		Hudson	OH		44236-2106	
Elected Official	x		Bela Michael	Goncy	Council, President Pro Tem	Village of Boston Heights	45 E. Boston Mills Rd.		Hudson	OH		44236-2106	
Elected Official	x		H. Michael	Cheung	Council	Village of Boston Heights	45 E. Boston Mills Rd.		Hudson	OH		44236-2106	
Elected Official	x		Jim	Hudson	Council	Village of Boston Heights	45 E. Boston Mills Rd.		Hudson	OH		44236-2106	
Elected Official	x		Teri	Slane	Council	Village of Boston Heights	45 E. Boston Mills Rd.		Hudson	OH		44236-2106	
Elected Official	x		Paul	Palumbo	Council	Village of Boston Heights	45 E. Boston Mills Rd.		Hudson	OH		44236-2106	
Elected Official	x		Janet	Miller	Council	Village of Boston Heights	45 E. Boston Mills Rd.		Hudson	OH		44236-2106	
Elected Official	x	The Honorable	Dorald L.	Plusquellic	Mayor	City of Akron	Suite 200 Municipal	166 South High Street	Akron	OH		44308	Mayori@c.akron.oh.us
Elected Official			Samuel J.	Ciocep	Administrator	Northfield Center Township	9546 Brandywine Rd.		Northfield	OH		44067-2408	
Elected Official	x		Arny Z.	Anderson	Chairperson, Board of Trustees	Boston Township Board of Trustees	P.O. Box 123		Peninsula	OH		44264-0123	
Elected Official	x		Gerald	Ritch	Trustee, Board of Trustees	Boston Township Board of Trustees	P.O. Box 123		Peninsula	OH		44264-0123	
Elected Official	x		Joanne	Noragon	Clerk, Boston Township	Boston Township Clerk's Office	P.O. Box 123		Peninsula	OH		44264-0123	
Elected Official			Randolph	Bergdorf	Trustee, Board of Trustees	Boston Township Board of Trustees	P.O. Box 123		Peninsula	OH		44264-0123	
Elected Official			Robert M.	Speebsbrecher	Chairman, Board of Trustees	Sagamore Hills Township	974 Canal Rd.		Sagamore Hills	OH		44067	
Environmental Group	x		Jim	White	Executive Director	Cuyahoga River RAP	1299 Superior Avenue		Cleveland	OH		44114-3204	
Environmental Group			Jorg	Freiberg	Conservation Chair	Sierra Club - Portage Trail Group	24 Roslyn Avenue		Hudson	OH		44236	x
Environmental Group			Daniel	Rice	Executive Director	Ohio and Erie Canal Corridor Coalition	520 South Main Street, Suite 2452		Akron	OH		44311	
Environmental Group					President	Greater Akron Audubon Society	P.O. Box 80056		Akron	OH		44308	
Environmental Group						The Nature Conservancy	137 Main St.		Chardon	OH		44024	
Environmental Group			Elaine	Marsh		Friends of the Crooked River	2390 Kensington Rd.		Akron	OH		44333	
Gov-County	x		Russell M.	Pry	Executive	Cuyahoga Valley Communities Council	Three Brookville Ct	8221 Brooksville Road	Brooksville	OH		44141-1364	x
Gov-County			Joan	Hug-Anderson		County of Summit County	175 South Main St.		Akron	OH		44308	
Gov-Federal			Mary	Knapp		Summit Soil & Water Conservation Dis	2767 Front St. Suite B		Cuyahoga Falls	OH		44221	
Gov-Federal			Lynn T.	Lutner		U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	6950 Americana Pal Suite H		Reynoldsburg	OH		43068	x
						U.S. EPA	25089 Center Ridge Road		Westlake	OH		44145	x
							1776 Niagara Street		Buffalo	NY		14207-3199	
Gov-Federal			Rich	Ruby		Army Corp of Engineers							
Gov-Federal			Joel	Wagner		NFS-Water Resources Division							
Gov-State			Bob	Davis		Ohio EPA	2110 East Aurora Road		Twinsburg	OH		44087	
Gov-State			Randy	Sanders		Ohio Department of Natural Resources	1952 Belcher Drive Building C4		Columbus	OH		43224-1386	
Gov-Partner			Tim	Donovan	Director	Ohio Canal Corridor	P.O. Box 698420		Cleveland	OH		44109	x
Park Partner			Richard L.	Ellich	Executive Director	Western Reserve Historical Society	10625 East Blvd.		Cleveland	OH		44106	
Tribal Official			Jerry R.	Oliver	Atm: Ms. Roberta A Smith	Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma	R2301 E. Slave Owens Blvd, Box 1283		Miami	OK		74355	
Tribal Official			Ron	Sparkman	Chairman, Shawnee Tribe		P.O. Box 189		Miami	OK		74355	
Tribal Official			Dee	Ketchum	Chief, Delaware Tribe		220 North Virginia		Bartlesville	OK		74003	
Tribal Official			Rhonda	Enyard	Chief, Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma		P.O. Box 825		Anadarko	OK		73005	
Tribal Official			Charles	Leonard	Chief, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma		P.O. Box 350		Seneca	MO		64865	
Tribal Official			Floyd	Beansh	Chief, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma		P.O. Box 1326		Seneca	OK		74355	
Tribal Official			Leonard	Makaseah	Chief, Wyandotte Nation		P.O. Box 250		Wyandotte	OK		74370	
Tribal Official			Jennifer	Mitchell	NAGPRA Coordinator	Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	2025 Gordon Cooper Drive		Shawnee	OK		74601-9381	
Tribal Official			Kathleen	Amelo	Tribal Historic Preservation Office	Seneca Nation	The Seneca-Inhousi 794 Broad Street		Salamanca	NY		14773	
Tribal Official			Janet	Amelo	Chief, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma		P.O. Box 110		Miami	OK		74355-0110	



August 31, 2007

Joel Wagner
NPS-Water Resources Division

Dear

This letter provides you with the opportunity to comment or guide an environmental assessment being undertaken by the Metro Parks, Serving Summit County (Metro Parks) in association with the National Park Service.

Metro Parks manages a 32-mile bike and hike trail across northeast Summit County. Most of the trail is located on converted railroad bed; however, to get across Interstate 271, a difficult one-mile stretch of Brandywine Road must be navigated. Metro Parks is proposing to design and construct a safe trail connection across Interstate 271 (Brandywine Connector).

The Environmental Assessment will identify and analyze potential impacts to the natural and man-made environment resulting from the various considered alternatives. As part of this process, we request your comments on these issues and any other issues that you can identify as pertinent. To assist you in your evaluation of this project, I have enclosed a CD that shows the currently considered alternatives and various ecological and cultural resources.

We look forward to your comments and response to this request. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 330-923-0720. Please return your comments to me by September 21, 2007.

Sincerely,

Mike Johnson
Chief, Natural Resource Management
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, OH 44313
330-923-0720
mjohnson@summitmetroparks.org

975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, Ohio 44313-5898
330-867-5511
fax 330-867-4711
summitmetroparks.org



August 7, 2006

Robert & Jenny Belcher
7860 Brandywine Rd
Hudson, OH 44236

Re: Metro Parks Bike and Hike Trail

Dear Neighbor:

Metro Parks, Serving Summit County is conducting a feasibility study of the popular Bike and Hike Trail in the area of Brandywine Road. A public meeting is scheduled **Tuesday, August 22 at 7 p.m.** at Happy Days Visitor Center, 500 W. Streetsboro Rd., to discuss rerouting a section of the trail.

Currently, users have to ride or walk along Brandywine Road for about a mile. Metro Parks officials have identified several potential new routes that would improve the users' experience and safety.

At the meeting, staff will describe the alternatives being considered, possible impacts and the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process. Attendees are encouraged to comment.

NEPA could affect plans for the trail because all but one of the alternative routes travel through Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

For more information, visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cuva> or call 330-867-5511.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Wilkerson
Construction Supervisor/Civil Engineer

975 Treaty Line Road

Akron, Ohio 44313-5898

330-867-5511

fax 330-867-4711

summitmetroparks.org



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
6950 Americana Parkway, Suite H
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-4127

(614) 469-6923 / (614) 469-6919 FAX
November 23, 2005

Mike Johnson
Chief, Natural Resource Management
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, Ohio 44313

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This is in response to your November 18, 2005 email regarding the proposed improvement of a section of the Metro Parks Hike and Bike Trail near the intersection of Brandywine Road and I-271 in Summit County, Ohio. The proposed project will occur on approximately 100 acres with the majority of the activity actually occurring within the boundaries of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Metro Parks is proposing to improve a section of its Hike and Bike Trail where cyclists are forced off secluded bike trails and onto the side of Brandywine Road.

Metro Parks is proposing several alternative alignments for the proposed project. We are aware that Metro Parks is currently preparing an ecological survey report and have contacted us for early coordination requesting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) comments on the project being designed. It is our understanding that Metro Parks is also coordinating with the National Park Service.

You have noted that wetlands occur on the 100-acre site. The Service recommends that impacts to streams and wetlands be avoided, and buffers surrounding these systems be preserved. Streams and wetlands provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife resources, and the filtering capacity of wetlands helps to improve water quality. Naturally vegetated buffers surrounding these systems are also important in preserving their wildlife-habitat and water quality-enhancement properties. The proposed activities do not constitute a water-dependent activity, as described in the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, 40 CFR 230.10. Therefore, practicable alternatives that do not impact the special aquatic site (i.e., wetlands) are presumed to be available, unless clearly demonstrated otherwise. Therefore, before applying for a Section 404 permit, the client should closely evaluate all project alternatives that do not affect wetlands, and if possible, select an alternative that avoids impacts to the aquatic resource.

Endangered Species Comments: The proposed project lies within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a Federally-listed endangered species. Since first listed as endangered in 1967, their population has declined by nearly 60%. Several factors have contributed to the decline of the Indiana bat, including the loss and degradation of suitable hibernacula, human disturbance during hibernation, pesticides, and the loss and degradation of forested habitat, particularly stands of large, mature trees. Fragmentation of forest habitat may also contribute to declines. Summer habitat requirements for the species are not well defined but the following are considered important:

- (1) dead or live trees and snags with peeling or exfoliating bark, split tree trunk and/or branches, or cavities, which may be used as maternity roost areas;
- (2) live trees (such as shagbark hickory and oaks) which have exfoliating bark;
- (3) stream corridors, riparian areas, and upland woodlots which provide forage sites.

The project lies within approximately 5 miles of Liberty Metropark, an area known to support Indiana bats, and a suspected Indiana bat hibernaculum. In addition, the project lies mostly within Cuyahoga Valley National Park, also known to support Indiana bats. Within a five mile radius of a hibernaculum, data indicate that Indiana bats are present year-round. Suitable habitat (as defined above) within the five-mile radius is especially important for fall swarming and spring staging activities. During swarming, Indiana bats move in and out of hibernacula from dusk to dawn with most continuing to roost in trees during the day. Swarming is a critical time period for Indiana bats for breeding and increasing winter fat storage for hibernation. Spring staging is a stressful period for Indiana bats because their fat reserves are low from their recent hibernation, food resources in the surrounding environment are still scarce, and their upcoming migration to summer habitat may be hazardous. In addition, male Indiana bats often stay near hibernacula throughout the entire summer and can be assumed to be present in small numbers within a 10-mile radius.

Your letter indicates that the site is forested with wetlands and provides abundant and excellent suitable habitat for Indiana bats. Furthermore, it is likely that, due to the site's proximity to the suspected hibernacula and summer captures, and the forest and wetland habitats onsite, Indiana bats use the area for foraging, roosting, swarming and staging during the spring, summer and fall seasons.

In order to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the Indiana bat, we recommend the following for consideration: 1) Choose a trail alternative that avoids fragmenting forested areas on and off site and avoids wetlands; 2) Allow the canopy over the trail to close or remain closed wherever practical to enhance the suitability of the trail to serve as a flight corridor for bats; 3) Design the trail to avoid as many trees as possible; 4) If trees must be removed, avoid removal of trees exhibiting suitable bat roost characteristics; 5) Locate the trail away from any potential primary maternity roost trees (large-diameter, standing dead trees with direct exposure to sunlight); 6) Minimize the width of the trail wherever possible; 7) Prior to any unavoidable tree removal, contact the Service to insure that no adverse effects to the Indiana bats will occur; 8) locate the trail in previously disturbed alignments as much as possible, and 9) Consider incorporating interpretive signage along the trail to educate users about bats and their habitat.

The proposed project also lies within the range of the **bald eagle** and **northern monkshood**, both federally-listed threatened species. Due to the project type, size, and location, this project, as proposed, should not impact these species or their habitat.

In addition, we recommend incorporating activities into the project construction and maintenance that reduce the likelihood of invasive plant spread and encourage native plant colonization. Prevention of non-native, invasive plant establishment is critical in maintaining high quality habitats. All disturbed areas in the project vicinity should be mulched and revegetated with native plant species.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with early technical assistance on this project. If implementation of this project will utilize any federal funding or will require any federal authorizations or permits, Endangered Species Act section 7(a)(2) consultation should be initiated with this office by the lead federal action agency or its non-federal representative.

If you have any questions regarding our response or if you need additional information, please contact Angela Zimmerman of my staff at (614) 469-6923 extension 22

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mary Knapp", written in a cursive style.

Mary Knapp, Ph.D.
Field Supervisor



March 16, 2007

Mike Johnson
MetroParks Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, Ohio 44313-5898

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This is in response to your letter of February 6, 2007 transmitting "Report on the Phase I Archaeological Inventory for the Proposed Bike and Hike Trail Connector on Brandywine Road in the Township of Northfield, Summit County, Ohio" by Linda G. Whitman, Michelle Davis and Robert Williams. You indicate that you are seeking preliminary comments to assist planning for the proposed trail.

The report documents preliminary survey of several alternates that transect the 45-acre Brandywine Mills/Wallace Farm, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The survey focused on subsurface testing of alternatives and resulted in the re-identification of the remains of the George Y. Wallace residence, barn and store, 33 SU 446. Based on the information in the report, we agree with the authors' recommendation for additional archaeological investigation. Although the authors of the report suggest that the site be "considered potentially eligible under Criteria A and B and should be evaluated as a possible contributing resource to the existing NRHP property", I discussed this with Barb Powers, Inventory and Registration Department Head. She indicated that the 33 SU 446 should be considered already listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Brandywine Mills/Wallace Farm property. It has the potential to contribute information about the agriculture and industry of Brandywine. If Alternate D is selected the trail construction may affect this site and mitigation may be required.

We must also consider indirect effects of the construction on the James Wallace House and setting of the property. If Alternates A or C are selected we will need photographs showing the relationship of the proposed trail to the buildings and more details about the construction including the width and surface materials.

As consultation progresses we would appreciate being provided with the comments of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and other consulting parties.

OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

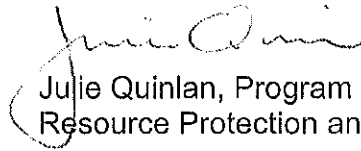
Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 East Hudson Street, Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030 ph: 614.298.2000 fx: 614.298.2037
www.ohiohistory.org

Mr. Johnson
March 16, 2007
Page 2

We look forward to continuing coordination. If you have any questions please contact me at (614) 298-2043 or through e-mail, jquinlan@ohiohistory.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Julie Quinlan", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Julie Quinlan, Program Reviews Manager
Resource Protection and Review

1010960



Department of Classical Studies, Anthropology and Archaeology

Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences
Akron, OH 44325-1910

(330) 972-7875 Office
(330) 972-2338 Fax

April 16, 2007

Michael Johnson
Chief, Natural Resource Management
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, OH 44313-5898

RE: Brandywine Road Connector for the Bike and Hike Trail

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This letter is in response to your request for a more detailed analysis of the cultural landscape significance for each proposed alignments of the Brandywine Connector on the Bike and Hike Trail. A cultural landscape is defined as a natural landscape that has been shaped and modified by human activity. It is a link with our past, and reflects a sense of time and place as well as cultural attitudes toward land and community. The types of cultural landscapes encountered during this project are agricultural landscape, early 19th century urban/industrial landscape and archaeological landscape.

Alternate A – Alternate A is located partially within the Brandywine Mills – Wallace Farm National Register Property and within the greatest extent of the property owned by James W. Wallace circ 1850 to 1869 (See figures 7 and 8 in the report). Impact to these historic agricultural and industrial areas is minimal because the longest portion of the alternative runs along Brandywine Road in areas that have already been impacted by the construction of the road. The smaller A & C portion of this alternative is on gently sloping ground which may have been agricultural fields at one time; hence, there would be impact to historic agricultural landscape of the Brandywine Mills – Wallace Farm National Register Property.

Alternate C – Alternate C is located in an area west of Brandywine Road that contains numerous jurisdictional and NPS wetlands, and within the greatest extent of the property owned by James W. Wallace circ 1850 to 1869. This area was probably in agricultural fields in the past. Constructing the bike & trail along Alternate C would impact the wetlands as well as the former historic agricultural landscape of the Wallace farmstead.

Alternate D – Alternate D is half on a historic railroad grade and half in the Brandywine Mills – Wallace Farm National Register Property and the within the greatest extent of the property owned by James W. Wallace circ 1850 to 1869. Impact to the railroad grade

which can be considered an industrial landscape would be minimal and good reuse of the property. However, locating the bike & trail on the southern portion of this alternate would impact the archaeological site 33 Su 446, the George Y. Wallace farmstead and store and the Brandywine Mills – Wallace Farm National Register Property.

Options 1 and 1 & 4 east - The longest portion of Option 1 and eastern portion of Option 1 & 4 runs along Brandywine Road southeast of I-271. Impacts to this portion would be minimal because the land has been previously disturbed for the construction of the road, I-271 and residential buildings. A small portion of the Carriage Trade Farm would be minimally impacted because the proposed trail is along Brandywine Road. These areas were probably in agricultural fields in the past.

Option 1 & 4 west -- this portion of the trail borders the parking lot, restrooms, access road, and runs down an access road used during the construction of the wooden trail to the falls. It is in the vicinity of architectural property 33 SUM-19-1, Brandywine Creek Falls also known as the Village of Brandywine as well as the remnants of Champion Electric Company (1920-1937). Impact to this area is minimal since the land has been disturbed for construction of the elements listed above.

Option 4 – Runs through the Carriage Trade Farm property which was a historic agricultural landscape containing old farm roads and fields. While this is the most scenic option, it would be the option that would most highly impact the historic agricultural landscape and the Carriage Trade Farm.

Based on this analysis, my recommendation would be to utilize Alternate A and Option 1. This alternate/option would present the least impact to the surrounding historic agricultural, residential and industrial cultural landscapes.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Linda G. Whitman, Director
Community Archaeology program
University of Akron

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

District 4, 2088 South Arlington Road, Akron, Ohio 44306

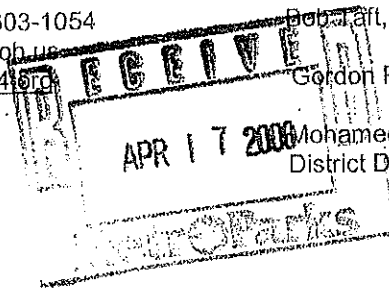


(330) 786-3100 - (800) 603-1054
<http://www.dot.state.oh.us>
www.odotdistrict4.org

Bob Taft, Governor

Gordon Proctor, Director

Mohamed Darwish,
District Deputy Director



April 14, 2006

Keith D. Shy, MetroParks Director-Secretary
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, OH 44313-5898

RE: Metro Parks Bike and Hike Trail - Interstate 271 and Brandywine Road

Dear Mr. Shy:

I am writing in response to your recent inquiry regarding the construction of a bridge over I-271 for the Metro Parks Bike and Hike Trail. The ODOT District 4 Planning Department will initially take the lead in coordinating reviews and approvals. Your initial contact will be Jack Noble, the District 4 Planning and Programs Administrator. All correspondence can be directed to Mr. Noble.

Since the bridge will be constructed over an Interstate highway, ODOT will require a high level of oversight and review. The specifics of oversight will be determined as the project develops, but we will require a full review of all plans and we may require that the actual construction be administered by ODOT. The funding source utilized for the project will likely have an affect on our level of oversight. Some of our initial concerns regarding the project are:

- The location of the bridge should not present any adverse impacts to the Interstate highway.
- All bridge clearances must meet preferred design standards.
- The bridge should be designed in accordance with applicable ODOT and AASHTO standards.
- A written agreement regarding future maintenance of the structure will need to be approved before the construction of the bridge.
- Traffic disruptions on I-271 during construction will be strictly limited.

We are confident that all issues regarding this project can be resolved in a manner acceptable to all parties. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Jack Noble, P.E., District Planning and Programs Administrator at 330-786-4831. We look forward to working with you on this project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mohamed Darwish".

Mohamed Darwish, P.E.
District 4 Deputy Director

Jack Noble w/dot. 330. 786. 4831

c: J. Noble, C. Messenger, file.



11551 Valley View Road
Sagamore Hills, Ohio 44067-1099

NOV 21 2005

(330) 467-0900
(330) 655-7899 Fax

November 16, 2005

Mr. Keith D. Shy, Director-Secretary
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, Oh 44313

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE BIKE & HIKE TRAIL REALIGNMENT AT BRANDYWINE
ROAD

Dear Mr. Shy:

Sagamore Hills Township supports the proposed realignment of the Metro Parks, Serving Summit County Bike & Hike Trail at Brandywine Road. Sagamore Hills Township is a long time advocate of parks, recreational trails and greenways and recognizes the health and economic benefits they provide to our region. Metro Parks, Serving Summit County has a long history of being a leader in providing and maintaining those amenities.

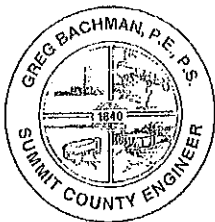
When complete this project will result in a safer alternative route for the Bike & Hike Trail and attract more visitors to our region.

Sincerely,

SAGAMORE HILLS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rose Mary Spell
Rose Mary Spell,
Trustee

cc: Trustees
File



SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER

GREG BACHMAN, P.E., P.S.

538 E. South Street ♦ Akron, OH 44311 ♦ (330) 643-2850 ♦ Fax: (330) 762-7829

NOV 28 2005

November 21, 2005

Mr. Keith D. Shy
Director-Secretary
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, OH 44313

Subject: **Bike & Hike Trail Realignment at Brandywine Creek**

Dear Mr. Shy:

The Summit County Engineer's Office fully supports the realignment of the Bike & Hike Trail off Brandywine Road (County Road 40) in Northfield Center Township and Sagamore Hills Township. The speed of traffic on Brandywine Road, the narrowness of the road and the significant grade of Brandywine Road in this area are not ideal conditions for bicycling or other trail uses. Relocating the trail off Brandywine Road will be a benefit to both trail users and vehicles using Brandywine Road.

Your staff has been working with my office to determine the best alternative route for the trail. I have offered to have the trail cross under the county bridge on Brandywine Road. Please let me know if this route is chosen and my staff can work with you on getting this accomplished. It has been a pleasure to work with your staff over the last year in the planning of this project.

Sincerely,

Greg Bachman, P.E., P.S.
Summit County Engineer

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

JAMES B. MCCARTHY, EXECUTIVE

DEC - 5

December 1, 2005

Mr. Keith Shy, Director-Secretary
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, OH 44313

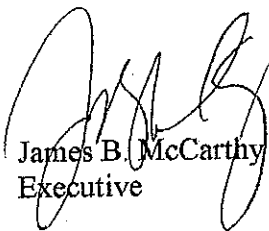
RE: Bike & Hike Trail Realignment at Brandywine Road

Dear Mr. Shy:

The County of Summit supports the proposed realignment of the Metro Parks, Serving Summit County Bike & Hike Trail at Brandywine Road. The County of Summit is a long time advocate of parks, recreational trails and greenways and recognized the health and economic benefits they provide to our region. Metro Parks, Serving Summit County has a long history of being a leader in providing and maintaining those amenities.

When complete, this project will result in a safer alternative route for the Bike & Hike Trail and attract more visitors to our region.

Sincerely,



James B. McCarthy
Executive

JBm/jt

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE

175 S. MAIN STREET • AKRON, OHIO 44308-1308

330.643.2510 • FAX: 330.643.2507

www.co.summit.oh.us

Home of the All-American
Soap Box Derby

 SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO





**Cleveland
Metroparks**

Administrative Offices

4101 Fulton Parkway
Cleveland, Ohio 44144
(216) 351-6300
FAX (216) 635-3286
TTY (216) 351-0808

**Board of Park
Commissioners**

William J. Ryan
President

Fred Rzepka
Vice President

David W. Whitehead
Vice President

**Executive
Director-Secretary**
Vern J. Hartenburg

November 16, 2005

NOV 21 2005

Keith Shy
Director-Secretary
Metro Parks Serving Summit County

Re: Letter of Support
Trail Improvements

Dear Keith:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Cleveland Metroparks for the trail improvements being considered to the Brandywine section of the Bike & Hike Trail.

We look forward to participating in the planning process and collaborating with your partners Sagamore Hills, Northfield Center and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. We agree with your prioritization of this trail section to improve safety and the recreational experience, and appreciate your leadership in providing high quality all purpose trails for our region.

Sincerely,

Patty Stevens
Chief of Park Planning
Cleveland Metroparks

cc: Richard Kerber, Director, Department of Planning Design Natural
Resources, Cleveland Metroparks



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Cuyahoga Valley National Park
15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D46

August 13, 2004

Mr. Paul Wilkerson
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, OH 44313-5898

Re: Bike & Hike Trail Crossing of I-271

Dear Mr. Wilkerson:

We have reviewed the documents for the preliminary design for the proposed Bike & Hike Trail crossing of I-271 as prepared by GPD Group. The preliminary alignments include a number of options which will move the trail off of Brandywine Road, a goal which we strongly favor.

Option 1, alternatives A and C, avoid any at grade crossings of Brandywine Road, which is also desirable. North of I-271, alternative C utilizes a portion of a proposed CVNP hiking trail, the Five Falls Trail. As another alternative, you may want to consider a route on the south side of I-271 that stays on NPS property by running south of the private property in this area. Although all options and alternatives have advantages and disadvantages, from the park service perspective, some alternative of option 1 appears most favorable.

With the exception of option 2, all of the options and alternatives at some point cross NPS land. As such, both NEPA and 106 Compliance will be required.

We look forward to working with you on this important project. If you have any questions, contact Park Engineer Rob Bobel at 440-546-5972.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Bobel, P.E.
Park Engineer

cc: Bill Carroll, CUVA
Dave Humphrey, CUVA



9546 Brandywine Road, Northfield Center Township, Ohio 44067-2408

Phone: (330) 467-7646

Fax: (330) 650-0815

E-mail: northfieldcenter@att.net

Web Site: www.northfieldcenter.com

TRUSTEES

Marc A. Pepera, Chair

Richard H. Reville, Vice-Chair

Mary K. Catalano

CLERK

Monica James

ADMINISTRATOR

Samuel J. Ciocco

December 5, 2005

Mr. Keith D. Shy, Director-Secretary
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, OH 44313

Re: Bike & Hike Trail Realignment at Brandywine Road and I-271

Dear Mr. Shy:

The Board of Trustees of Northfield Center Township supports the proposed realignment of the Summit County Metro Parks Bike & Hike trail at Brandywine Road and the I-271 overpass in Northfield Center. Northfield Center Township is a long time advocate of parks, recreational trails, and greenways and recognizes the health and economic benefits they provide to our region. Metro Parks of Summit County has a long history of being a leader in providing and maintaining these amenities.

As the local provider of safety and emergency services for this area, Northfield Center is well aware of the benefit, and encourages the development, of this improvement as a safer alternative route for the Bike & Hike Trail. Completion of this improvement will attract more visitors to our region, and make the area a more scenic and enjoyable trail segment.

This letter of support is further memorialized as Resolution No. 05/12-05b recorded in the minutes of the December 05, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Township Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

Marc A. Pepera
Trustee/Chair

Richard H. Reville
Trustee/Vice-Chair

Mary K. Catalano
Trustee

TOWNSHIP OF NORTHFIELD CENTER
County of Summit, State of Ohio
Resolution No. 05/12-05b

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE METRO PARKS SERVING SUMMIT COUNTY PROPOSAL TO RE-ALIGN
THE BIKE & HIKE TRAIL AT BRANDYWINE ROAD AND I-271**

Whereas, Metro Parks of Summit County has a long history of being a leader in providing and maintaining amenities such as parks, recreational trails, and greenways in support of the health and economic benefits they provide to our region; and

Whereas, Metro Parks of Summit County has proposed the realignment of the Summit County Metro Parks Bike & Hike trail at Brandywine Road and the I-271 overpass in Northfield Center; and

Whereas, Northfield Center Township also is a long time advocate of parks, recreational trails, and greenways and recognizes the health and economic benefits they provide to our region; and

Whereas, Northfield Center Township agrees that completion of this improvement will attract more visitors to our region, and make the area a more scenic and enjoyable Bike & Hike Trail segment; and

Whereas, Northfield Center Township, as the local provider of safety and emergency services for this area, is well aware that the development of this improvement will benefit users of the Bike & Hike Trail as a safer and more secure alternative route for the Bike & Hike Trail.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Township of Northfield Center, County of Summit and State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: The Board of Trustees of Northfield Center Township encourages and supports the proposed realignment of the Summit County Metro Parks Bike & Hike trail at Brandywine Road and the I-271 overpass in Northfield Center Township.

Section 2: It is found and determined that all formal actions of the Board of Trustees of Northfield Center Township concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board of Trustees, and that all deliberations of this Board of Trustees that resulted in such formal action occurred in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 3: This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

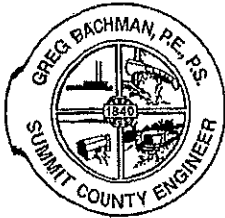
Adopted this day, December 05, 2005

Attest: Monica James
Monica James, Clerk

Marc A. Pepera
Marc A. Pepera, Trustee/Chair

Richard H. Reville
Richard H. Reville, Trustee/Vice-Chair

Mary K. Catalano
Mary K. Catalano, Trustee



GREG BACHMAN P.E., P.S.

SUMMIT COUNTY ENGINEER

*Disputed with
National Park Service
3/26/04*

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Greg Bachman
From: Steve Burgess
cc: Robert Bunnell
Date: 3/26/04
Subject: **Bike and Hike Trail at I-271 and Brandywine Creek- Acquisition Cost**

After review of the drawing provided, it appears that the area in question above (North side) the I-271 Interstate is all owned by the National Park. We should be able to perform all land transfers thru inter-agency agreements with the idea that the Park Service would donate the required R/W needed.

In regards to the South side of I-271, there are 4 parcels with 3 private owners. The National Park has two additional parcels to the south of those, which we would include in any land transfers between agencies. I have listed below the estimated cost of the actual purchase of the necessary R/W and then provided an estimate of Consultant fee's to perform such acquisitions. There may be a question with regard to using Eminent Domain Authority to acquire a Hike & Bike Trail; I have made some calls to clarify. Donation from Private Owners is always a consideration; you just need to offer them an appraisal to determine the value of the donation (which could have favorable tax implications for the property owner).

Parcel #4001907-Craig Skorepa & Margaret Huth

*Estimated cost of R/W land:	\$3,000.00
Estimated cost of R/W Acq. Services:	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
Total:	\$6,000.00

Parcel # 4002247-John Voelker

*Est. cost of R/W land:	\$ 3,900.00
Est. cost of R/W Acq. Services:	<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>
Total:	\$ 6,900.00

Parcel # 4000806- Debra Hummert

*Est. Cost of R/W land:	\$ 9,795.00
Est. Cost of Acq. Services:	<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>
Total:	\$12,795.00

Parcel # 4000805- Debra Hummert

*Est. Cost of R/W land:	\$ 5,115.00
Est. Cost of Acq. Services:	<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>
Total:	\$ 8,115.00

Combined Cost of R/W land & Services: \$ 33,810.00

***Est. Cost of land formula:**

Using recent sales of comparable raw land @ \$ 32,500.00 per acre, the square footage value is .75 cents. This is using a 20' take multiplied by the length of the individual parcel.

Exceptions:

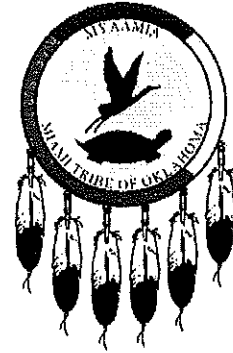
It does not take into consideration any Temporary take's needed for construction purposes due to grade changes or damages (landscaping, trees, signs, or other compensable items) in the take area.



Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 1326 Miami, Oklahoma 74355

Ph: (918) 542-1445 Fax (918) 542-7260



October 16, 2007

Mr. Mike Johnson
Chief, Natural Resource Management
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, Ohio 44313

**Re: Metro Parks is proposing to design and construct a safe trail connecting
Across Interstate 271 (Brandywine Connector)**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Aya, kikwesitoole. My name is Joshua Sutterfield and I am the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Federally Recognized Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. In this capacity I am the Miami Nation's point of contact for all NAGPRA and Section 106 issues.

In reference to the above mentioned construction/project(s), the Miami Nation is not currently aware of existing documentation directly linking specific Miami religious, cultural, or historic sites to the above referenced construction/project site(s). However, as this site(s) is/are within the aboriginal homelands of the Miami Nation, should any Native American cultural items falling under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) be discovered during this or any construction project the Miami Nation requests immediate consultation with the appropriate State Historical Society or related entity.

The Miami Nation offers no objection to the proposed construction/project at this time. Again, should human remains and/or objects be uncovered please contact me at 918-542-1445, or by mail at the address listed above, to initiate consultation.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joshua Sutterfield".

Joshua Sutterfield
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Miami Nation



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
6950 Americana Parkway, Suite H
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-4127

(614) 469-6923
Fax: (614) 469-6919

September 26, 2007

Mr. Mike Johnson
MetroParks Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Rd.
Akron, OH 44313-5898

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This is in response to your August 31, 2007 letter requesting our evaluation of a proposed bike and hike trail to be located in northern Summit County, Ohio near the intersection of Brandywine Road and I-271. Several alternatives were proposed, and maps delineating general impacts to aquatic habitat, potential Indiana bat habitat, and plant communities were provided. Currently, the site is composed of a mix of forested areas, open areas, existing roads, and existing developments.

There are no Federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or designated Critical Habitat within the vicinity of the proposed project. Portions of the project are located within Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP), and MetroParks is working collaboratively with CVNP on this project.

In general, we recommend that an alternative be selected that minimizes impacts to streams, wetlands, upland buffers, forested areas, and other natural areas. Based on the limited information provided, it appears that Alternatives 1, 2, and 4 have more limited impacts than Alternative 3. However Alternative 2 is in close proximity to several potentially threatened plants. If Alternative 2 is selected, the alignment should be designed to avoid impacts to these plants and surrounding habitat.

ENDANGERED SPECIES COMMENTS: The proposed project lies within the range of the **Indiana bat** (*Myotis sodalis*), a Federally-listed endangered species. Since first listed as endangered in 1967, their population has declined by nearly 60%. Several factors have contributed to the decline of the Indiana bat, including the loss and degradation of suitable hibernacula, human disturbance during hibernation, pesticides, and the loss and degradation of forested habitat, particularly stands of large, mature trees. Fragmentation of forest habitat may also contribute to declines. Summer habitat requirements for the species are not well defined but the following are considered important:

1. Dead or live trees and snags with peeling or exfoliating bark, split tree trunk and/or branches, or cavities, which may be used as maternity roost areas.
2. Live trees (such as shagbark hickory and oaks) which have exfoliating bark.
3. Stream corridors, riparian areas, and upland woodlots which provide forage sites.

As noted in your Executive Summary, the Indiana bat is known to occur within the vicinity of the project area year-round. Therefore, further consultation with this office will be necessary, no matter which Alternative is selected. At this time, it appears that Alternatives 4 and 2 result in the least impact to potential Indiana bat habitat. To avoid and minimize impacts to the Indiana bat, we generally recommend preservation of suitable habitat, as described above. Depending on the extent of impacts to suitable habitat, surveys for the bat may be warranted. Any survey should be designed and conducted in

coordination with the Endangered Species Coordinator for this office.

These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended, and are consistent with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mitigation Policy. Please note that consultation under section 7 of the ESA may be warranted for this project since suitable habitat for the Indiana bat may be impacted by this project. This letter provides technical assistance only and does not serve as a completed section 7 consultation document.

If you have questions, or if we may be of further assistance in this matter, please contact Megan Seymour at extension 16 in this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary Knapp", followed by a horizontal line.

Mary Knapp, Ph.D.
Supervisor

cc: ODNR, DOW, SCEA Unit, Columbus, OH



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

SEAN D. LOGAN, DIRECTOR

Division of Wildlife

David M. Graham, Chief
2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. G
Columbus, OH 43229-6693
Phone: (614) 265-6300

September 25, 2007

Mike Johnson
Chief, Natural Resource Management
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, OH 44313

RE: Brandywine Connector

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Your letter to Dave Scott dated August 31, 2007 was forwarded to me for response. The letter included a CD showing the currently considered alternatives and various ecological and cultural resources for the project referenced above. In the letter you also requested comments regarding the project. After reviewing the information provided, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife (DOW) has the following comments.

The DOW recommends using the alternative that will avoid the most impacts to unique wildlife habitat such as streams, wetlands, and woodlots. We recommend sufficient mitigation is provided for unavoidable impacts to streams and wetlands that occur as a result of the project.

As indicated in the information provided, the project is within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state and federally endangered species. The following species of trees have relatively high value as potential Indiana bat roost trees: Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), Shellbark hickory (*Carya laciniosa*), Bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), Black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), White ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Shin gle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*), Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), Slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), Eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), Post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and White oak (*Quercus alba*). Indiana bat habitat consists of suitable trees that include dead and dying trees of the species listed above with exfoliating bark, crevices, or cavities in upland areas or riparian corridors and living trees of the species listed above with exfoliating bark, cavities, or hollow areas formed from broken branches or tops. If suitable trees occur within the project area, these trees must be conserved. If suitable habitat occurs on the project area and trees must be cut, cutting must occur between September 15 and April 14. If suitable trees must be cut during the summer months of April 15 to September 16, a net survey must be conducted in May or June prior to cutting. Net surveys shall incorporate either two net sites per square kilometer of project area with each net site containing a minimum of two nets used for two consecutive nights, or one net site per kilometer of stream within the project limits with each net site containing a minimum of two nets used for two consecutive nights. If no tree removal is proposed, the project is not likely to impact this species.



PAGE TWO
Mike Johnson

The information also indicates the project is within the range of the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); a state endangered and federally threatened species. The location of bald eagle activity frequently changes. Therefore, closer to the actual date of construction, the applicant must obtain an updated status of bald eagle activity in the area. To obtain any changes in status, contact Mark Shieldcastle at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, Crane Creek Wildlife Research Station, for current information on the presence of bald eagles in the area. He can be reached at (419) 898-0960. If a nest is located within ½ mile of the project site, coordination with the DOW is required.

The project is within the range of the elfin skimmer (*Nannothemis bella*), a state endangered dragonfly, the racket-tailed emerald (*Dorocordulia libera*), a state endangered dragonfly, and the chalk-fronted corporal (*Ladona julia*), a state endangered dragonfly. Due to the mobility of these species, the project is not likely to impact these species.

The project is within the range of the black bear (*Ursus americanus*), a state endangered species, and the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), a state endangered species. Due to the mobility of these species, the project is not likely to have an impact on these species.

The project is within the range of the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), a state endangered bird. A statewide survey has not been completed for this species. A lack of records does not indicate the species is absent from the area. Therefore, if riparian corridor, forest, or wetland habitat is near the project area, construction must not occur during the species' nesting period of May 1 to July 31. If this habitat is not located near the project area, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), a state endangered bird. If the project is located in an urban area, construction must not occur during the species' nesting period of March 15 to July 30. If the project is not located in urban habitat, the project is not likely to impact this species.

The project is within the range of the golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), a state endangered bird. A statewide survey has not been completed for this species. A lack of records does not indicate the species is absent from the area. Therefore, construction must not occur during the species' nesting period of May 15 to July 15.

If you have any questions, please contact Becky Jenkins at (614) 265-6631. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



JOHN NAVARRO
Program Administrator

JN/BJ/al



City of Akron, Ohio

DONALD L. PLUSQUELLIC, MAYOR

September 17, 2007

Mike Johnson
Chief, Natural Resource Management
Metro Parks, Service Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, OH 44313

Re: Trail Alignments at Brandywine Area

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I received your letter and information regarding the Brandywine Connector Bike and Hike Trail and forwarded it to our Engineering Bureau for review. As you are aware, the City and Metro Parks are partners in developing trails within the City of Akron. While we appreciate the additional information related to trails being developed in other areas, we have no specific comments on the current Metro Park proposal for the development of the Brandywine Connector. I would however like to commend your efforts in providing and expanding recreational opportunities in Summit County.

We look forward to our continued efforts as a partner to build and maintain trails within the City of Akron.

If you have any further questions regarding the project, please contact Mike Teodecki, P.E., in the Engineering Bureau, at (330) 375-2336.

Sincerely,

DONALD L. PLUSQUELLIC
Mayor

DLP/DJC/mm

c: D. Lieberth, R. Merolla, F. Fusco, M. Madonio, M. Teodecki, Design Division File

2007-09-12 johnson.brandywine.dlp.djc.mm