



January 6, 2022

RE: East Park Hike & Bike Trail Phase II (PID #112585)

Dear Neighbor,

We are writing this letter in follow-up to the public involvement that has occurred for the proposed construction project titled "East Park Hike & Bike Trail Phase II". A virtual public open house was held on the project website ([www.millcreekmetroparks.com/east-park](http://www.millcreekmetroparks.com/east-park)) from September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 through October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – public comments for this phase of the project were accepted during this timeframe.

In total, seven (7) comments were received from five (5) different sources during the design phase of this project. A summary of these comments, as well as a response to each, is included with this letter. A copy of the Public Comments Response Summary document is also available on the project website ([www.millcreekmetroparks.com/east-park](http://www.millcreekmetroparks.com/east-park)) or by going to <http://www.transportation.ohio.gov> and searching the project using the project identification number 112585.

The selected alternative for the project is the build alternative, the alignment was selected based upon existing site conditions, topography, and minimizing potential environmental impacts. The project will ultimately improve safety and connectivity for pedestrian and bicyclist traffic through the East Park Corridor, and the MetroParks as a whole. The East Park Hike & Bike Trail Phase II construction will not require any property acquisition.

The next phase of the project will include the development of detailed engineering plans – the project is expected to go out for bid in the early spring of 2022, with construction to follow in the summer of 2022.

While the deadline has passed for comments to be considered during the design phase of the project, you may continue to submit comments or questions via email, phone, or mail to:

Nick Derico, *Natural Resources Steward*  
Mill Creek MetroParks  
7574 Columbiana Canfield Road  
Canfield Ohio 44406  
Phone: 330.702.3000x136  
Email: [nderico@millcreekmetroparks.org](mailto:nderico@millcreekmetroparks.org)

Thank you for your interest in this project, we sincerely appreciate your involvement!

Respectfully,

Nick Derico  
Natural Resources Steward  
Mill Creek MetroParks





## Public Comment Response Summary

### MAH-East Park Hike & Bike Phase II (PID #112585)

Public Comment	Response
<p><b>Received: 09/16/2021 via Email:</b></p> <p>Hi Nick, as a proud Youngstown resident who uses and enjoys the park in my neighborhood, it's good to hear of this project.</p> <p>I was wondering if the Youngstown Historical Society would be beneficial contributor of ideas as well as the agencies already contacted.</p> <p>Also, I'm not sure if mine shafts are a concern, but I know the Cornersburg area has many.</p> <p>Lastly, it might be nice to have a historical looking building for a bike shop/visitor center sharing the overflow Mill parking area. Similar to Trailside Bike at Kirk Trailhead. May be worth contacting them as well if interested in expanding. Doesn't have to encompass a large footprint.</p> <p>Just some top of my head thoughts. Good luck with this project as the entire park district is our jewel of the city.</p> <p><b>Received 09/15/2021 via Email:</b></p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject project.</p> <p>I fully support the completion of the project.</p> <p>It will relieve me as a hiker and bicyclist from concerns over sharing the roadway with traffic on East Park Drive. As I frequently bicycle from the Ottawa Drive entrance to East Cohasset hike-bike trail south to US224 and back, I found the on-road section along E. Park Drive that this project will replace somewhat dangerous and concerning. I will be glad when it is completed.</p>	<p>Yes, I would absolutely encourage the Youngstown Historical Society to become involved in the project and provide their thoughts. They are welcome to submit public comment through email, phone, or written letter to myself here at Mill Creek Metroparks, or they can reach out to Sean Carpenter, Environmental Specialist for ODOT District 4 at (330) 786-2274 or sean.carpenter@dot.ohio.gov to become a consulting party.</p> <p>To our knowledge there are no mine shafts located within the project area, although that is certainly a valid concern in some areas of the County.</p> <p>At this point in time there are no plans to construct any type of support/rental facility along the project area for cyclists using the bike trail, although that is certainly an idea we can keep in mind for the future.</p> <p>Traffic disruption will certainly be kept to a minimum and I do not anticipate any long-term road closures to be associated with this project.</p>

I hope disruption to traffic entering the Park from Parkview Avenue will be minimized during the construction.	
<p><b>Received 09/27/2021 via Email:</b></p> <p>Thanks for doing that informative spot on Facebook. I know that my family will definitely use that once it is completed. We many times have to walk down/up the side of the road to get to the hiking trails we like to use. I hope this clears up the location for people. It seemed like they weren't sure where it was planned.</p>	<p>Thank you for the kind words of support for our upcoming East Park Hike &amp; Bike Trail Phase II project!</p>
<p><b>Received 09/15/2021 via Email:</b></p> <p>I bike the stretch from Canfield Rd to E. Cohasset often and don't have much concern about the lack of bike path connection. It's such a short stretch. Seems unnecessary to disrupt natural areas for this.</p>	<p>The preservation of natural areas was the utmost priority when choosing the proposed alignment, and we do not anticipate any substantive impacts to the ecological, cultural, or historical resources within the project area.</p>
<p><b>Received via Mail Post Marked 09/08/2021:</b></p> <p>I strongly support this project, the Youngtown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) owns dozens of properties in the adjacent neighborhood, and we believe the project will be beneficial to the neighborhood and its residents, thank you for getting this done.</p>	<p>The MetroParks values all public input, as it is an important component of the overall project design process and your input will be cataloged as part of the project file – we are excited to see this project come to fruition!</p>





East Park Hike & Bike Trail - Phase II (PID #112585)  
Aerial Map  
City of Youngstown  
Mahoning County Ohio