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GREAT PARKS STARTS CONSTRUCTION ON FINAL PHASE OF COLUMBIA CONNECTOR TRAIL

Great Parks has started construction on the third and final phase of the Columbia Connector Trail, which will link Columbia Township and Mariemont to the Little Miami Scenic Trail along the banks of the Little Miami State and National Scenic River. The 0.7-mile final phase of the Columbia Connector will also become a critical link in the regional Cincinnati Riding or Walking Network (CROWN), and connect to the partially completed Mariemont Connector, Murray Path and Wasson Way.

“This phase of the Columbia Connector will become a vital community resource along the river, while providing a safe transportation route separated from vehicular traffic in a very busy area,” said Todd Palmeter, Great Parks CEO. “With this new link to the regional trails network, we continue to address the public’s top priority for Great Parks - build more trails.”

Phase 3 of the Columbia Connector will start at the terminus of phases 1 & 2, where Walton Creek empties into the river ([see map](#)). It will continue over the creek, behind and through the commercial district, cross U.S. 50/Wooster Pike near Mariemont High School, and end at Pocahontas Avenue. When complete, the full length of the Columbia Connector will continue 1.1 miles from Pocahontas Avenue to the intersection of U.S. 50/Wooster Pike and Newtown Road, where it connects with the Little Miami Scenic Trail.

Trail users will be able to access many area businesses, Mariemont High School and the Mariemont Branch Library, and connect with multiple Metro stops nearby.

The Columbia Connector adds to the 94 miles of trails already available from [Great Parks](#). It also complements Great Parks’ nearby recreational offerings in the Little Miami Scenic Corridor, including Avoca Trailhead, Bass Island and the Little Miami Golf Center.

The project is estimated to be completed in spring 2028.

The current total cost of acquisition and construction is estimated at \$3.1 million. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is leading design of the project with funds from the

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Eastern Corridor Project. Great Parks has secured nearly \$2.5 million in construction funding and extends sincere thanks to the following partner organizations for their support of the project to date:

- The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) for nearly \$1.7 million in federal funding including a \$1 million Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant and \$698,677 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funds.
- The Clean Ohio Trails Fund for \$338,600.
- The Cincinnati Riding or Walking Network (CROWN) for \$300,000 million in private funds.

Great Parks will work with ODOT, Columbia Township and Mariemont to identify additional public and private funding sources.

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