



To: Ohio Department of Natural Resources
From: Cara Tilford, AICP, Assistant Township Administrator of Sugar Creek Township
RE: Bellbrook to Spring Valley Connector Trail
Date: June 11, 2021

Project Description:

The proposed Bellbrook to Spring Valley Connector Trail has been contemplated by community members in Greene County for over two decades. The Little Miami Scenic Trail is both a recreational asset as well as an economic development powerhouse that has remained just out of reach to our communities in southwestern Greene County. The proposed connector trail between Sugar Creek/Bellbrook's Sackett Wright Park and the Little Miami Scenic Trail just outside the small and economically diverse Spring Valley Village would allow pedestrians, bicyclists and other mobility device users of all ages a safe mode of travel between these communities and all they have to offer. Currently, driving between these areas is the most prevalent, with significant risks taken by users of active transportation modes given the speed of traffic and lack of any infrastructure for active transportation users.

Given the objectives of this project, the ideal alignment for the Bellbrook to Spring Valley Connector Trail will follow the path of SR 725 on the north side of the road from Sackett Wright Park in Sugar Creek/Bellbrook to the Little Miami Scenic Trail in Spring Valley with a separated bridge crossing over the Little Miami River. At this point, all major stakeholders, including the Ohio Department of Transportation, have been engaged and fully support moving forward with this project. Resolutions of support from Sugar Creek Township, the City of Bellbrook, Spring Valley Township and Spring Valley Village have been passed with appropriations from Sugar Creek Township to fund preliminary engineering. Additionally, Greene County Parks and Trails, Greene County Regional Planning, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Bellbrook Sugar Creek Park District fully support this initiative. This is a viable project that has been contemplated for many years and we feel a duty to our constituents and our communities. to see it constructed.

Community Benefits:

Overall, there are significant economic, health, safety, recreational and environmental benefits associated with the Bellbrook to Spring Valley Connector including:

- Providing a safe travel route for all ages, abilities and income levels using all transportation modes;
- Supporting economic development by providing increased access to the downtowns of Bellbrook and Spring Valley Village to ensure that our communities thrive;
- Promoting active lifestyles, decreasing such issues as obesity and lowering health care costs;
- Facilitating access to recreational opportunities through increased access to Sackett Park and Morris Reserve;
- Reducing automobile traffic and congestion while promoting health; and
- Helping various entities deliver on their goals, enhancing mental health, economic opportunity and quality of life.

Please contact me – ctilford@sugarcreekoh.us or 937-848-8426 – if you have questions or would like to discuss this project further. Thank you!

Nadine S. Daugherty, Trustee  Fred Cramer, Trustee  Carolyn L. Destefani, Trustee

2090 Ferry Road, Sugar Creek, Ohio 45305-2003  Phone: (937) 848-8426 Fax: (937) 848-7060