

Public Involvement Comment Responses

Project Support

Topic / Theme	Comment	Project Team Response
Project Support	Looking forward to updates.	Thank you for your comment.
Project Support	None. Excited to see it!	Thank you for your comment.
Project Support	I think our metro parks are amazing! I visit Blacklick, 3 Creeks, and Walnut Woods very often. I walk the Blacklick Greenways trail daily. I love and support what you are doing	Thank you for your comment.
Project Support	I'm excited for the project. I think it will make my area more visually pleasing and it will cause more people to go out and get some exercise.	Thank you for your comment.
Project Support	Excited to see this come to fruition one day!	Thank you for your comment.
Project Support	I think this is a great start to connecting more of the north-east communities to the greater Columbus trail network.	Thank you for your comment.
Project Support	I just can't wait for the trail to be connected through Whitehall and Airport to Gahanna. In the meantime, can we add a sidepath to Hamilton Rd between 5th Ave and the Big Walnut Trail bridge north of the airport?	Thank you for your comment. Recreation and Parks is currently doing an alignment study for the trail section along Hamilton Road connecting Columbus, Gahanna, and Whitehall.

Project Support	Some great ideas to provide spaces to an underserved area. Is one bridge enough? What is the next step?	Thank you for your comment. For this project, only one bridge crossing is needed. The next steps are detailed design, beginning right of way acquisition (anticipated to start Fall of 2026), and construction (expected to start Summer of 2028). Please refer to the project website for additional information and to stay up to date on project progress.
Project Support	I love running spaces in the area.	Thank you for your comment.
Project Support	Near East Side resident here, and so supportive of this project!! Thank you to everyone who is contributing to making this happen!	Thank you for your comment.
Project Support	The more trails, the better!	Thank you for your comment.
Project Support	I am excited about this project because this is where I walk my baby in his stroller and my 8 year old rides her bike.	Thank you for your comment.
Project Support	This is an awesome project. Trails should be linked N-S & E-W throughout the City making all parts accessible by nature. It gives people options and opportunities. City residents can enjoy the place they live in. All cities that have abundance of parks and trails are known to be the best cities in the country. I used to live on the Olentangy Bike Trail and just moved to this side of town-- I miss it dearly. I have walked, biked, ran, scavenger hunted along OBT for 35 years, almost daily. I will use this new trail on regular basis. I wish it was here already and continued on through to Gahanna.	Thank you for your comment. Columbus is expanding the trail connectivity throughout the City. You can also access an interactive map to see the current bike facilities within Central Ohio View the Central Ohio Bike Map (interactive map)

Project Suggestions

Topic / Theme	Comment	Project Team Response
Project Suggestions	Trash maintenance.	<p>We understand the concern regarding trash and debris along the bike trail. Litter removal is an important consideration for the long-term success of the project.</p> <p>Maintenance responsibilities will be coordinated between CRPD, Metroparks, and local community partners to help support a clean and welcoming trail environment. Together they will develop strategies such as routine inspections and scheduled cleanups.</p> <p>We appreciate you taking the time to share your concern, and it will be considered as the project moves forward.</p>
Project Suggestions	All the trails citywide need lighting. Preferably 7 to 8 ft solar lamps with an unique design of the lamp that represents the Central Ohio region.	Thank you for your comment. We understand the interest in adding lighting to trails to improve visibility and safety. At this time, the project does not include trail lighting. We appreciate your suggestion regarding lighting and will keep it in mind for future planning efforts.
Project Suggestions	Would like to see opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, ice skating, dog stations with poop bags, waste cans	Thank you for your comment. This project will provide access to Big Walnut Creek at the Far East Community Center

RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

<p>Project Suggestions</p>	<p>Concerns about the trail getting washed out when Walnut Creek overflows multiple times a year. That's already a big issue on the trail at Walnut Creek Pike at Shannon and Ebright when that creek overflows. Also concerned about lighting and people using the trails in the evening.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We understand concerns about trail flooding associated with Big Walnut Creek. The project is being designed with consideration of flood-prone conditions, including appropriate materials to reduce potential impacts; however, periodic flooding may still occur in certain areas.</p> <p>Additionally, we understand the interest in adding lighting to trails to improve visibility and safety. At this time, the project does not include trail lighting. We appreciate your suggestion regarding lighting and will keep it in mind for future planning efforts.</p>
<p>Project Suggestions</p>	<p>Preserve as many trees as possible more connected sections mean more users.</p>	<p>Every effort is made within the team to preserve and protect as many trees as we can. Any impacted trees within the right of way and City-owned property will be ID'd, tagged and replaced according to the Columbus Tree Code. The project will replant native hardwood species throughout the trail corridor and nearby park spaces.</p>
<p>Project Suggestions</p>	<p>Please make the trail as wide as possible to accommodate bikes, pedestrians, and wheelchairs, walkers, & other mobility devices. Thank you!</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. The trail is following the current pedestrian bike guides and standards.</p>

<p>Project Suggestions</p>	<p>I attended the Open House in March---thank you. Main concern: existing paved trail through Big Walnut Arboretum MUST be included to receive new pavement throughout. Also two mudpits therein need to be fixed once & for all---one about 100+ paces in from the southernmost Arboretum entrance/to the right of the Arboretum sign; the other at the other nearby entrance (to the left of that same Arboretum entrance sign). These two areas are constantly muddy causing a "detour" whereby cyclists and hikers cannot get through easily. The Big Walnut trail expansion needs to be smooth & welcoming along its entire route. Also, when these two mudpits get really difficult to navigate (after the rains), "Walk with the Doc" groups have to walk through the nearby neighborhood instead of their usual route through the beautiful Arboretum.</p> <p>Conclusion: Please allocate enough funding to newly repave the wonderful Arboretum section of trail so that the ENTIRE Big Walnut expansion project can be the real jewel of a nature trail that it is meant to be. Thank you for this GREAT project!</p>	<p>Thank you for your thoughtful comment about the Big Walnut Arboretum being a 'jewel' of the trail.</p> <p>We share your appreciation and concern about making this unique segment of the city's trail network more accessible and as a learning landscape for trail users. We will be focusing on this as plans develop. Additionally, while CRPD works to maintain the trails to keep them in appropriate condition for users, this portion of the trail is located within the floodplain and is subject to flooding during heavy rainfalls. The Big Walnut Trail expansion is being designed to provide a smooth, safe, and welcoming experience along the entire route for all users, especially local health groups.</p>
<p>Project Suggestions</p>	<p>I think we need activities in each park that would compliment each other and encourage riding</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>

RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

	or walking between the connected parks along the Big Walnut Trail.	
Project Suggestions	A great benefit to Eastland! WORRY: Second warning signal is needed by NASCAR Crossing. Non-seeing curve and Road merges 2 to 1 lane. Would be great to early-start "Friends of Big Walnut Trail" group. Group can keep trail clean also.	Thank you for your comment. This project will provide a RRFB (Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon) at this crossing and pavement markings to alert drivers of an upcoming pedestrian crossing here. RRFB uses high-intensity, rapidly flashing lights to catch a drivers attention to a crossing pedestrian. We highly encourage community partnerships to help maintain the trail. Please send an email to volunteers@columbus.gov to inquire about or suggest volunteer opportunities for keeping the trail beautiful and clean.

Safety

Topic / Theme	Comment	Project Team Response
Safety	Security.	Thank you for your comment. We understand the importance of safety and security for trail users. While certain features such as lighting are not included in this project, the trail is being designed to support safe use, including clear sightlines and appropriate design standards. Additionally, the project will provide access points for safety services at key locations in case of emergencies. Users are encouraged to follow general safety practices.

Safety	My biggest concern is safety	Thank you for your comment. We recognize that safety and security are important considerations for trail users. The trail will incorporate design features intended to support safe use. Trail users are encouraged to follow general safety practices, and coordination with local agencies will continue as appropriate.
Safety	Main concern I have is safety. Nafzger Parks is near sub-par apartments known for housing registered sex offenders. Patrols on bike would help assuage my fears.	Thank you for your comment. We understand your concerns regarding safety and security along the trail. While this project does not include enforcement or patrol services, safety has been considered in the trail's design. Your input will be shared with the appropriate agencies for coordination with local law enforcement regarding patrols and security once this trail is constructed.
Safety	Safety is a big one for me. Knowing that you can easily access and enjoy without feeling phobic about safety.	Thank you for your comment. We understand that feeling safe is essential for enjoying the trail. While this project does not include additional safety measures such as patrols or lighting, the trail design incorporates features to support safe use. Users are encouraged to follow general safety practices, and your feedback will be shared with the appropriate agencies for consideration.

Structure Input

Topic / Theme	Comment	Project Team Response
Structure Input	In photos above, ranking is highest preference (4) because it does not have pillars in the water. It's difficult to know what is least expensive due to material, safest, longest lasting, etc. so more information could be provided.	Thank you for your feedback. The structure for this project will not have any piers in the waterway, the images shown were for aesthetic purposes only for the type of structure to be used. In selecting the preferred alternative, cost of construction and maintenance is a major component considered.
Structure Input	I think the first picture top left is the best trail bridge concept.	Thank you for your comment.
Structure Input	I vote for the least expensive bridge option to free up funding for other projects. Aesthetics don't concern me.	Thank you for your comment.
Structure Input	Proposed crossing at Noe Bixby is at a dangerous location due to curve and lane merge point. Area has a trash problem and additional trash cans are needed on the trail and around Nafzger where people gather not just on the side of the parking lot. People don't walk far to a trash can and just leave the trash.	Thank you for your comment. The crossing of the trail is proposed at Warminster Dr. because it meets sight distance criteria and is before the curve of Noe Bixby. The trail alignment needs to be on the east side of Noe Bixby due to limited space on the west side due to the grading of Big Walnut Creek.
Structure Input	Whatever (bridge) is cheapest and longest lasting, safe routes to school grant Noe Bix by (bagley to brinwood), apartments across creek from far east - buy some of the bad west of Noe Bixby to use for rec area along trail. they arent using it! How to get this? Call me!	Thank you for your comment and for the information.

Requests

Topic / Theme	Comment	Project Team Response
Requests	Could I see a map please? I was not aware that a stream crossing would be needed.	The project website can be found here: https://columbusrecparks.com/connect/about/capital-improvement-projects/big-walnut-nafzger-to-emain/

Project Criticism

Topic / Theme	Comment	Project Team Response
Project Criticism	This will be a nuisance to our neighborhood. It is not wanted by anyone. I'd rather see the city bring the sewer system to our neighborhood!	While we understand that not everyone may feel the need for this trail, it is an important connection of the Big Walnut Creek Corridor that will connect 26 miles from Hoover Reservoir to Three Creeks Park.