

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 12/3/24 Contact: Jessie Powers, Executive Director, ORCA | jessie@orcaohio.com | 740.677.0113

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY: WILL BRING THE BAILEYS TRAIL SYSTEM TO NEAR-COMPLETION

Using a partial award from the Appalachian Community Grant (ACG) program, the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA) has awarded a roughly 21-24 mile Baileys Trail System trail construction project to <u>Rock Solid Trail Contracting</u> (Rock Solid) in early 2023. Rock Solid, based in Bentonville, Arkansas, also built trails at the Baileys Trail System in 2022 and 2023. Additionally, <u>DirtSculpt, LLC</u> (DirtSculpt) is constructing approximately 4-5 miles of trail at the Baileys Trail System, utilizing ACG funding as well as Recreational Trails Program Grant dollars.

A total of 25-29 miles will be added to the trail system in 2024 and 2025, bringing the trail system to near-completion. Currently 58 miles of trail are open to the public; the planned total trail mileage is 88 miles. Trail construction pricing is highly variable based on the conditions the trailbuilders encounter while building, so the final number of trail miles is difficult to estimate until construction is underway.

DirtSculpt, based out of eastern Pennsylvania, began trail construction in early November 2024 and will continue as weather conditions allow, until project completion, slated for fall of 2025. New trails are not yet open to the public as compaction of the trail surface during dry conditions is essential to breaking in trails properly and ensuring long-term trail sustainability. To help protect these new miles of trail and the ongoing investment in the Baileys Trail System, trail users must respect all Trail Closure signage.

ORCA, a council of governments, was created in 2019 to utilize Appalachian Ohio's plentiful outdoor recreation assets to sustainably diversify rural economies. ORCA staff operate the AWOADC, partners with the Wayne National Forest to plan and implement the Baileys Trail System project, and works on a variety of projects with recreation stakeholders and the regional multi-sector skilled ORCA Advisory Committee. The Baileys Trail System is a planned mountain bike optimized trail system (open to all forms of human powered use) on over 9,000 acres of Ohio's only National Forest. Currently, it is Ohio's largest mountain bike optimized trail system.

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