

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADAPTIVE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT CONCLUDES AT THE BAILEYS TRAIL SYSTEM; 5 MILES OF TRAIL ARE NOW ADAPTIVE MOUNTAIN BIKE FRIENDLY

Wednesday, August 14th, 2024 marked the final day of construction at the Baileys Trail System for the trail widening and enhancements project on Coal Train, Gob Pile, and Bullfrog Loop Trails. The three trails, totaling over five miles in length, now meet minimum width specifications required for adaptive mountain bikes. Adaptive mountain bikes allow individuals living with mobility impairments to enjoy the sport of mountain biking.

The project enables the Baileys Trail System to meet some of its founding goals, providing mountain biking opportunities to a wide range of riders. The widened trails not only allow adaptive athletes an opportunity to mountain bike in southeast Ohio, but also offer easier access to new mountain bikers, who will find that a widened trail tread allows for an easier introduction to the sport. In addition to widening tread and broadening turns for adaptive mountain bikers, the project scope also repaired many trail drainage issues which had been causing erosion and impacting user experiences.



An adaptive mountain biker and other riders enjoy Coal Train Trail.

Staff of the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA) hosted several volunteer events to involve the community in the trail enhancement project to celebrate shared stewardship and share trail skills with volunteers. 16 volunteers contributed 76 hours to the project at three events in July, working on widening the trail corridor by brushing overgrown vegetation and finishing tread work with trail tools. One volunteer event included volunteers on a study abroad trip at Ohio University from Ecuador as part of the Summer Training on Applied Research and Service-Learning (STARS) exchange program (<https://www.ohio.edu/medicine/itdi/education/stars>).



Students from the STARS program at Ohio University prepare to volunteer on Coal Train Trail led by ORCA staff as part of the adaptive mountain bike trail access project on July 29, 2024.

The project was made possible through a grant from the National Forest Foundation (NFF). The Athens-Wayne Outdoor Asset Development Corporation (AWOADC), nonprofit partner organization of ORCA, received funding in 2023 totaling \$48,701.00 from the NFF's Matching Awards Program. The AWOADC contracted a professional trail building company, DirtSculpt, LLC based out of Pennsylvania to complete trail projects. The grant funding was used to support contract services, a purchase of stone for rock armoring project components, a volunteer appreciation event, and staff management of the grant award.

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, partner with the Wayne National Forest to plan and implement the Baileys Trail System project, and work on a variety of projects with recreation stakeholders and the regional

multi-sector skilled ORCA Advisory Committee. The Baileys Trail System is a planned 88-mile mountain bike optimized trail system (open to all forms of human powered use) on over 9,000 acres of Ohio's only national forest. Upon completion, The Baileys will be the longest trail systems of its kind in the East. Currently, with 58-miles of trail complete it is Ohio's largest mountain bike optimized trail system.

LEARN MORE: <https://baileystrailsystem.org/>; <https://www.orcaohio.com/>

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