



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

**Olentangy Trail Completion
Preferred Alternative
April 2021**

Preferred Alternative Selected for the Olentangy Trail – Clinton-Como to Northmoor Park
PID 112036

A virtual public meeting was held on January 21, 2021 for the Olentangy Trail – Clinton-Como to Northmoor Park Project. More than 200 people attended this live virtual presentation and a total of 440 comments were received during the month long comment period. The interest in the project and feedback that was received was very beneficial to the project team in determining a preferred alternative and areas that require special attention as the project design is further developed.

After reviewing the evaluation of the alternatives and comments received from public, residents, project stakeholders, and other interested parties, Alternative 2 has been selected as the preferred alternative. The selection of this alternative as the preferred alternative was based on:

- **Safety for Trail Users.** This alternative improves safety for all trail users by separating the trail users from vehicle traffic along the existing narrow streets that are along the existing trail route today. Alternative 2 allows better visibility around adjacent buildings than other alternatives, without the additional cost and impact of a larger bridge, spanning the dam that was in Alternative 3.
- **No Impact to Residential Properties.** Alternative 2 would not require easements from residential properties. While easements would be required from adjacent businesses, the impacts would not severely limit the use of these properties.
- **Environmental Impacts.** Alternative 2 provides more than adequate clearance from existing wetlands and would bridge over Slyh Run. The use of clear span bridges will provide no in-stream obstructions to the Olentangy River. This Alternative ties into Clinton-Como Park at the existing dead-end of Como Avenue, thus minimizing impacts to park space. This alignment also follows along land previously disturbed by development, south of North Broadway.
- **Project Cost.** The estimated cost for Alternative 2 is within the budget for the project and the funding commitments made.

Improvements to enhance the safety of the North Broadway crosswalk at Ohio Health Boulevard will be part of the project. The details of the specific treatments to improve the visibility of trail users and motorists, as well as the width of the crossing, will be designed as the project is further developed.

The project website (<https://www.columbus.gov/recreationandparks/trails/Olentangy-Trail/>) has been updated with the public meeting presentation, public comments received and a public comment summary.