Springfield
TOWNSHIP TRAILS

Enjoying a walk on the Spartan Trail

Our Vision:

To expand Springfield Township's offerings for healthy living by creating a "Walkable" Community. Producing a trail network will provide safe walks to school and recreational opportunities for all residents, link cultural resources within our township and connect to regional trails and resources in adjacent communities. This vision will bring us outdoors, create civic pride and fond memories and add value to our community for future generations.

Grant & Partner Support from the following organizations:

Springfield Women's Club · Akron Center Associates LP · Springfield Local School District · AESCO electronics · Summit Metro Parks · Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition · OhioEdison · CleanOhioFund · Summit County Public Health · The Village of Clarendon · Mayor Ilene Shapiro · Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study · amats · Creating Healthy Communities · National Park Service

Photo courtesy of ImagineThat Advertising & Design

Photo courtesy of Fraley Memory Productions

Photo courtesy of Krista Gall-Away

A "Walkable" Community will provide safe access to our trails for all Springfield Township residents and recreational opportunities for pedestrians, bicyclists and disabled residents.

Photo courtesy of Fraley Memory Productions

Our children should be provided with safe access to school as well as connections to recreational and educational trails. By extending our trails in the township, we will give students a safe route to travel to school instead of walking along busy roads.

The Spartan Trail is recognized as a major component of the township's trail plan. It connects the community to the township's major asset, Springfield Lake, and the community facilities located along the lakefront where many events are held. The Spartan Trail will be expanded in sections as funding becomes available.

Recently received grants and donations have enabled the township to proceed with plans to extend the Spartan Trail.

Ultimately, the trail will be extended an additional 4 miles. Much of the Spartan Trail will be built on the old abandoned trolley car rail bed that brought people to the historic Springfield Lake Park. The Spartan Trail will further connect cultural resources within the community, including the new Springfield Township Library in Lakemore Plaza, Waterworks Park, and Springfield High School and Junior High. The trail plan also seeks to provide connections from neighborhoods to trails, including the Spartan Trail and a proposed trail along the rail tracks traversing the western section of the township.

Trails and recreational amenities are key ingredients to a healthy, vibrant community park system. A water trail system along the Tuscarawas River is also part of the plan, for use by canoers and kayakers. Trailheads are identified on the plan, taking advantage of existing parking facilities where possible, for more immediate parking access for trail users.

This vision will create community pride as the trail plan becomes reality and our goal of a well-connected, **Walkable Community** is achieved.

Photos at top of page courtesy of Dan Holloway

Trail Opportunities

The following criteria were considered in identifying trail opportunities:

- Achieves a system of interconnected trail corridors
- Links schools and neighborhoods to trails
- Builds upon and links trails and parks already successfully underway or implemented within the township, including the Spartan Trail, Lauer Park and Millheim Trail, Springfield Bog Metro Park and the Springfield Community Trail at Springfield Athletic Complex and Schrop School
- Connects to trails and other amenities of regional significance in adjacent communities, including the planned Rubber City Heritage Trail in Akron, and the Buckeye Trail in Portage County
- Highlights unique community cultural and natural resources by providing trail access for residents, and linking them together
- Identifies trail opportunities that are not associated with vehicular roadways to provide a natural experience for multi-purpose use
- Identifies routes along roadways where off-road linkages are not available
- Stimulates economic development and revitalization
- Increases access to trails and recreational amenities to improve health and wellness for the community, and expands recreational opportunities available to township residents
- Fosters civic pride, citizen involvement and value to the community

Benefits of Trails

The benefits that development of trails and greenways provide to Springfield Township and its citizens are numerous. Many are already being realized and have the potential to extend well beyond immediate outcomes to help ensure a bright future for our trails.

Transportation
- Provides an alternative to gasoline powered transportation
- Creates opportunities to tie into other modes of public transportation

Health and Wellness
- Increases opportunities for exercise
- Improves mental health
- Shows measurable positive impacts in disease reduction, including obesity and diabetes, documented by health departments and hospitals

Recreation
Provides increased recreational opportunities such as:
- Hiking, biking, running, walking, paddling and rowing
- Bird and wildlife watching
- Concerts and special events

Photo courtesy of Rob Blair Photography

Community and Social
- Creates programming opportunities
- Promotes a connection with nature
- Creates multi-generational benefits
- Allows diversity in users and motivations for use
- Creates safer neighborhoods. Improves quality of life for residents and visitors, and increases opportunities for neighbors to meet and interact
- Promotes a common positive interest in the welfare of trail travelers
- Provides volunteer opportunities

Education
- Creates interpretive opportunities
- Gives citizens a better opportunity to learn about natural and historical features
- Helps get children outdoors
- Provides areas for enhanced environmental education
- Promotes stewardship for our community resources

Economic Development
- Expenditures by residents stay in community
- Promotes commercial uses
- Enhances tourism and aids in corporate relocation and retention
- Increases property values
- Studies concluded that trails, open space and parks increase value

Green Connections and Greenways
Preservation and enhancement of existing natural areas contribute to water and air quality, habitat, wildlife, open space protection and watersheds.
- A natural connection of people to places
- Offers recreational, ecological and economic benefits
- Preserves important natural habitats, provides wildlife migration routes as well as scenic and aesthetic appeal
- Includes trail opportunities and alternative transportation

Watershed areas include:
- Cuyahoga, Little Cuyahoga, Tuscarawas Rivers and their tributaries

Green Infrastructure
- Uses natural systems to provide services to the community such as flood control and improving air and water quality
- Uses nature's ecosystem services to meet the needs of people and nature

Photo courtesy of Brian Cullen

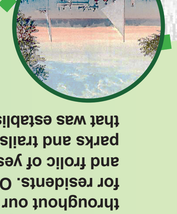
Springfield Township Parks

Our Past:

Springfield Township has a long history for bringing people and nature together. Events around Springfield Lake and throughout our township have created many fond memories for residents. Our township is working hard to recapture the fun and frolic of yesteryears in the continued development of our parks and trails. We look forward to building upon this legacy that was established long ago.

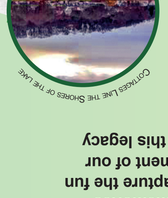
Springfield Township Parks

Barnes at Springfield Lake



1910-1920: Rowing and Sailing on the Lake

Tuscarawas River supplied the water to the lake. Photo by Harry Greenwalt



Courtesy Lake the Shores of the Lake

Springfield Lake and its surroundings are a beautiful, picturesque natural resource. Residents of the township and adjacent communities have enjoyed it as a place of recreation for generations.

Over the years, land parcels have been acquired and developed to offer park and recreational amenities throughout the township, including Springfield Athletic Complex and Millenim Parks. Our history shows Springfield Lake being recognized as a natural asset, encompassing 1,000 acres, almost 3 times larger than its current 350 acre footprint. It was an ideal location for residential cottages and recreational activities. During the rapid growth of the Akron rubber industry, Springfield Lake grew into a summer resort area for boating and bathing on its shores.

Springfield Lake Park was built in the early 1900s and housed a merry-go-round, dodge-em cars, and other amusement rides and attractions, including a wooden roller coaster that extended out over the lake. Patrons came by streetcar from as far away as Cleveland, Canton, Youngstown and Barberton to dance to the headlining big bands in the Pavilion. Picnic goers were brought in by side track along the interurban system. In its heyday, Springfield Lake Park was the largest amusement park in the State of Ohio.

One of the Main Attractions at the Park was the Roller Coaster

Springfield Lake is the Largest Spring-Fed Lake in Ohio

1918: Boaters at the Pavilion

1920: Scenic Railway Roller Coaster

Today, Springfield Lake, and the land surrounding it, are still valued by the community. With many fond memories tied to the lake, the township recognizes the recreational assets the lake still offers.

Programmed Springfield Events

Residents have enjoyed many events such as:
- Rock the Docks
- Concert Series
- Bark in the Park
- Car Cruise In
- Steak on the Lake
- Holiday Lights
- Summit County Master Gardeners Program
- Lakefront Food Truck Festival

With the support of our community – the successes of the constructed section of the Spartan Trail – existing parks and programmed events can be built upon. The Springfield Township Trail Plan can become reality with the goal of contributing to the quality of life for area residents.

Springfield Township in Summit County, Ohio is governed by:

Board of Township Trustees:

- Deborah Davis
- Joe DiLauro
- Dean Young

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Left Flower photo courtesy of Cameron Sabirsky, Roller Coaster photo courtesy of The Akron Beacon Journal. Copyright Beacon Journal Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved.

The Trustees would like to recognize the following individuals for their support of Springfield Township Trails:

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- Kelly Cantner
- Julie Cole
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- George Eley
- Curtis Baker

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- Mock Family
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- Betty Kern
- Kristi Kato
- Sherry Zook

Photo courtesy of the Akron Beacon Journal

The Springfield Township "Parks & Trails Presentation" developed by former Parks Director Doug Foltz can be seen on their website www.springfieldtownship.us. Springfield Parks Department contact: Lakefront Center 330-734-4121 or the Springfield Town Hall 330-794-1739.

Spartan Trail photo courtesy of Dale Dong from South Side News Leader

All photos are courtesy of Springfield Township unless noted.

Springfield Township Parks

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