



Reservoir Nature Walkway

In our changing world, it is becoming more necessary to promote healthy active lifestyles. This has led to an increased interest in recreation facilities that allow for diverse opportunities in our community. To respond to this interest the City of Defiance was awarded a grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation to construct a Walk/Bike trail at the base of the city's reservoir. This asphalt trail is nearing full completion and has already begun to draw people to the site for this wonderful addition.

In an effort to enhance the experience at this location, another possible project has been proposed by city staff. This would involve an approximately 3000' addition to the new walkway that would take the traveler directly through the wooded area located north of the Reservoir. This proposed Nature Trail project will connect to the existing pathway being built at the municipal parking lot on Precision Way and the parking lot at the intersection of Kibble and Winn Roads.

The proposed Reservoir Nature Walkway will be a boardwalk-style trail in the woods (approx. 2500') with asphalt (approx. 500') extending from the parking lot up to the woods. It will be a minimum of 8' wide, creating a multi-use, wheelchair accessible pathway around the north side of the municipal reservoir through the wooded portion of the property. Linking these two trails together will create a non-motorized, wheelchair accessible pathway around the municipal reservoir, connecting to the Buckeye Trail which presently runs along Canal Road.

This walkway would offer opportunities for recreational uses such as bird watching, leaf-peeping, or just enjoying quiet walks. It is intended that habitat improvement projects would be performed all along this walk to increase an already robust wildlife population. Construction of duck boxes and removal of invasive species are examples of tasks that could make this an amazing place for the people of this city and the surrounding area.

It is our intention to pursue a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for construction of the boardwalk. We are currently seeking people who are willing to help us realize this project in several ways. While the grant should cover the cost of the boardwalk construction,

we still need groups or individuals willing to commit to work projects such as habitat improvement. Also, we may need to fund additional amenities along the route (such as a bird watching tower). Financial commitments from some may be necessary to realize the full potential of the walkway and habitat. Most of all we really need support from everyone willing to get involved. Letters of support from organizations cost nothing, but greatly improve our chances of obtaining the grant.

*If you are willing and able to participate, please contact the following:
Rob Cereghin (419-783-4364) or email rcereghin@cityofdefiance.com*

*Or by mail at
Reservoir Nature Trail Project
631 Perry Street
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Imagine what we can do together for this community, if we work together.



Proposed Walkway

