

Memorandum of Understanding Tuscarawas River Water Trail Initiative

Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is executed to facilitate the implementation of the Tuscarawas River Water Trail Initiative. The Tuscarawas River Water Trail Initiative began with support from community groups and organizations dedicated to increasing non-motorized educational and recreational opportunities along the Tuscarawas River. This cooperative effort has focused on the greater Tuscarawas River community and targeted those areas that lack recreational opportunities. The vision is to promote the water trail and the importance of water quality concepts, build upon existing stewardship efforts for the Tuscarawas River, connect to the already designated Muskingum River Water Trail, and create a positive paddling experience within the Greater Muskingum Watershed.

Water Trail Definition

A Water Trail is a stretch of river, or other waterway, that has been mapped, and contains facilities that enable access and informational resources, supported by broad-based community partnerships. The intent of a Water Trail is to create educational, scenic, and environmentally rewarding opportunities for canoeists, boaters and kayakers traveling on the waterway.

Parties to the Agreement

The Tuscarawas River Water Trail Partnership, referenced hereinafter as the “Partnership” includes the Sponsoring Partner and access point Land Manager Partners. The Parties are listed on the attached signature page.

Goals for the Tuscarawas River Water Trail

Our goal is to use the collective and cooperative energy of the Partnership to support projects that further our mission. The Partnership is committed to the following objectives, to the best of each member’s ability, dependent upon policies, budgets, capacity, priorities and agency procedures:

- Improve, maintain, and promote river access sites
- Promote the Tuscarawas River Water Trail as a valuable resource for water, non-motorized recreation, education, stewardship, and tourism
- Increase community awareness of the recreational and environmental value of a healthy Tuscarawas River and tributaries
- Encourage safe boating skills, outdoor ethics, and water resource stewardship
- Enhance partnerships among water trail landowners and stakeholders
- Preserve and protect river resources for future generations
- Increase connections between communities, public lands, and land trails
- Secure long-term sustainability of the water trail
- Showcase positive features of the Tuscarawas River, including natural, historical, cultural, environmental, and recreational attributes
- Encourage development of new canoe and kayak launches where gaps exist along the river and at facilities that are slated for significant improvements or renovations

- Inventory existing access and hazard point, as well as natural, cultural, historical and other points of interest
- Provide maps and signage of trail amenities, points of interest and hazards

Responsibilities

The Sponsoring Partner agrees to:

- Submit a Water Trail Designation Application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and enter into a Water Trail Agreement with the Department

The Partners agree to:

- Create and maintain public access and launch site facilities within their jurisdiction, including trash removal, parking areas, and restroom facilities

The Sponsoring Partner and Partners agree to:

- Provide public information on the Tuscarawas River Water Trail through partner websites, promotional and educational materials
- Promote and inform Tuscarawas River Water Trail users regarding the responsible use and respect of private properties, public lands, and all water trail facilities
- Work together to respect and honor private property along the Tuscarawas River Water Trail
- Investigate avenues for increasing funding of conservation, restoration, and non-motorized recreation projects
- Meet at least once a year to offer mutual support and guidance on specific on-going projects along the Tuscarawas River, maintain the water trail through administration changes, and continue the water trail project

Modification, Termination and Other Conditions

This MOU is neither a fiscal nor funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving funds between Partnership members will be made in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and procedures. Such endeavors, if any, will be outlined in separate agreements.

Any Partnership member may propose changes to the MOU. Members should provide copies of proposed changes at least 30 days prior to the scheduled annual meeting of the Partnership. If changes are approved, all agreeing partners will sign the MOU addendum.

Any partner may terminate its involvement in the Partnership at any time by providing written notice to the Sponsoring Partner. At that time, any access points under the withdrawing partner's jurisdiction will be removed from the Tuscarawas River Water Trail with no further obligation.

New members may be added without the then-current Partnership members re-signing the MOU. New members will sign the MOU. The full list of Partners to the MOU will be kept by the Sponsoring Partner.

This MOU becomes effective when signed by the Sponsoring Partner and at least one Partnership member and remains in effect until modified or terminated.

Tuscarawas River Water Trail - Sponsoring Partner

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date

Tuscarawas River Water Trail – Access Point Land Manager Partners

Summit Metro Parks	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date

Stark County Park District	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date

Tuscarawas County Park Department	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date

Lawrence Township	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date

US Army Corps of Engineers	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date

City of Dover	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date

City of New Philadelphia	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date

Village of Tuscarawas	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date

Village of Gnadenhutten	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date

City of Coshocton	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date

River Glenn Estates	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date

ODNR – Division of Wildlife	_____	_____
	Signature/Title	Date