

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
General Board Meeting 4/9/2025
MS Teams
Meeting Agenda & Presentation-minutes**

Minutes

Motions

Actions

AGENDA / STRATEGIC PLAN.

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. ODNR Report
5. Trail Condition & Drainage
6. FLMSP Administrative Business
7. Volunteer Management
8. Outreach
9. Beauty
10. Amenities/Convenience
11. Safety
12. Future General Board Meetings

Call to Order: Dick Feldmann

Introduction of Board:

Dick Feldmann	President
Ron Gorley	Vice President
Becky Retzer	Treasurer
Bill Brown	Secretary
Rick Forrester	Member at Large
John Telintelo	Member at Large
Bruce Cortright	Member at Large

Introduction of Members and Guests:

Casey Marcum	ODNR
Tiffany DeChant-Hunt	ODNR
Kris Shellum-Allenson	FLMSP Volunteer Coordinator
Margee Kirkpatrick	FLMSP Trail Mail
Diane Wright	FLMSP Trail Mail

Kris introduced herself as the new FLMSP Board Member.

Approval of Minutes: Bill Brown

- March Board Meeting, distributed March 27, 2025.

MOTION: Bill made a motion to approve Mar. meeting minutes.

Dick seconded.

Motion Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Becky Retzer

FLMSP CASH ON HAND	2/28/25	3/31/25	
Unrestricted	144,706	129,218	-15,488
Restricted	147,880	167,500	19,620
Memorial Benches	0	0	0
Pavement Fund	129,880	149,500	19,620
Grandin Rest & Info Station	10,000	10,000	0
Oregonia Educational Garden	8,000	8,000	0
CD(s)	53,897	53,897	0
Premier Savings	167,155	167,155	0
Receivables	2,628	2,628	0
Total	295,214	299,346	4,132

P&L Comparison	YTD 03/24	YTD 03/25
Revenue	12,565	60,885
Expenses	9,571	18,828
Net Operating Revenue	2,994	42,057

Treasurer Narrative – Becky Retzer

- Financials emailed 04/07/2025
- 04/01 Check for 152,580.00 to ODNR.
- 04/04 per email Motion - cashed in LCNB CD and transferred 40,000 out of checking to deposit in Huntington Premier Savings – \$94,275.76.
- Received an IRS penalty notice for 2,200.00 for filing late. Sent a copy via email to David M. Fermann, CPA. This is due by 4/21/2025.

Becky will send a letter to the IRS asking for them to waive the penalty due to our non-profit status and our CPA situation regarding filing of an extension.

- Motion to pay \$1,245.00 to Smith-Feike-Minton, Inc. for D&O Liability Policy due on 5/14/2025.

MOTION: Becky made a motion to pay \$1,245.00 to Smith-Feike-Minton, Inc. for D&O Liability Policy due on 5/14/2025.

Ron seconded.

Motion Approved.

ODNR, Casey Marcum, Tiffany DeChant-Hunt

Leaning Trees

- Six leaning trees north of Wards Corner will damage neighbor's fence when they come down. One has fallen this past week.
- Bruce submitted quote of \$2,100.00 from Shawnee Tree to take the trees down on an emergency basis.
- Casey confirmed that she needs a bucket truck to take the trees down safely, but doesn't know when she can get ODNR's only bucket truck.
- Motion 2nd: Dick Feldmann
- Approved: Bruce, Dick, Becky, Ron
- **Motion Approved by 6 board members to also include Rick and Bill via email. Work is scheduled for Friday, April 11th**

MOTION: Motion via email: Bruce made a motion to pay \$2,100 to Shawnee Tree Service for removal of these trees.

Dick Seconded

Motion Approved via four board meeting members approval.

Rick Forrester reported on the bicyclist he found who had hit a downed tree on the trail and received a gash on his face. Rick asked Tiffany if there were any reporting requirements. Tiffany directed that if the trail user wants to file a report, to have them contact the park rangers at #ODNR. Otherwise, there are no additional reporting requirements.

Tiffany: Here is a blurb about the ConServe Ohio program, the certificate we earned and our GOLD award!

<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-odnr/division-parks-watercraft/sustainability#:~:text=ConServe%20Ohio%20is%20a%20call%20to%20action%20for%20park%20staff,ohiodnr.gov%2Fconserveohio>

Washout

Morgan Property

- Officially announced: Morgan Canoe Livery and Morgan Campground properties are being acquired by ODNR. Land is currently in Miami Conservancy hands.

Staffing

- Casey Marcum, Maintenance Lead
- Greg, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
- Russ, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Bruce mentioned downed trees at Ernst Concrete and Schoolhouse Restaurant that could use help from Casey with the chipper and truck to help remove them. Casey agreed to address that sometime this year and coordinate with the South Trail Crew.

TRAIL CONDITION & DRAINAGE

Bridge/Culvert Repair 2025 Plan

- MM 6.1 Bridge in Spring Valley at Bellbrook Ave.
- MM 18.7 Culvert before horse farm
- MM 19.6 Culvert at Oregonia
- MM 32.6 Bridge at S. Lebanon

Trail slip at I-71 Jeremiah Morrow Bridge (MM 22.1)

- ODNR Engineering developing a renovation plan.
- Not scheduled. Aiming for the fall.

Trail slip at Glady Run (MM 4.5)

- No change.

Trail slip South of Galbraith Rd (MM 50)

- No change.

Middletown Road area, Rick Forrester

- Part of the trail (north of the intersection about 50 feet) is being undercut by either a collapsed drainage pipe or by groundhogs.

Bill Brown reported that the excavator with the digging hook proved to be very effective for pulling and cutting the roots causing the root bumps on the trail.

FLMSP ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Funding for pavement replacement, Ron Gorley

- Repave between South Lebanon and Morrow.
- Ohio capital budget \$200,000.
- **FLMSP has delivered \$152,580 to ODNR.**
- ODNR will use an existing paving contract through ODOT. If project is 4 days, will be scheduled this summer. If project is longer, will be scheduled after Labor Day.
- S. Lebanon expecting to bid out municipal wastewater upgrade, including repaving 0.9 miles of the trail, spring 2025, with work done later in the year.

Board Succession, Dick Feldmann

- For Annual Membership meeting in May.
- President: Becky Retzer
- Vice President: Dick Feldmann
- Treasurer: Bill Brown
- Secretary: John Telintelo
- Member: Bruce Cortright
- Member: Rick Forrester
- Member: Kris Shellum-Allenson

Annual Meeting, Dick Feldmann

- May 4th, 4:30-6:30,
- Waldschmidt Homestead, 7567 Glendale Milford Road, Camp Dennison, OH
- Schedule
 - 3:30 Get access to room. Setup
 - 4:30 Meet and greet
 - 5:00 Dinner
 - 5:30 Presentation
 - 6:15 Post meeting
 - 6:30 Cleanup
- Dinner
 - Board members provide dishes.

Board members send email to Dick regarding what dish they will bring.

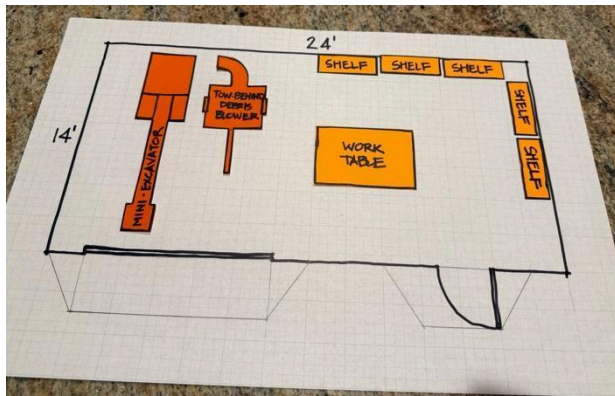
Becky says we will need paper products. She has cups

BBQ was selected as the preferred dinner entree.

- Main course
 - 2023 Barbeque
 - 2024 Subs
 - 2025 ?

FLMSP Large Equipment Storage Facility, Rick Forrester

- Facility Committee: Rick Forrester, John Telintelo, Tony Blizniak, Dick Feldmann.
- Proposing prefab 14' x 24' metal structure dropped on site.
- Location: Foster parking lot just north of existing barn and shed.

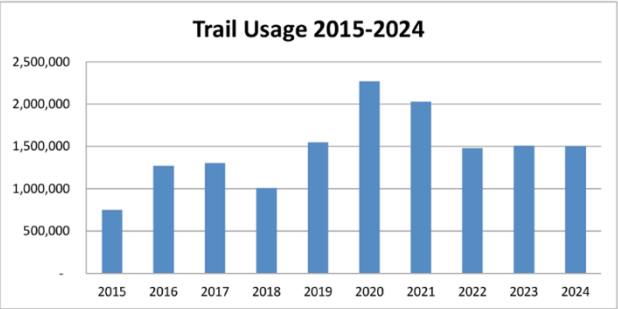
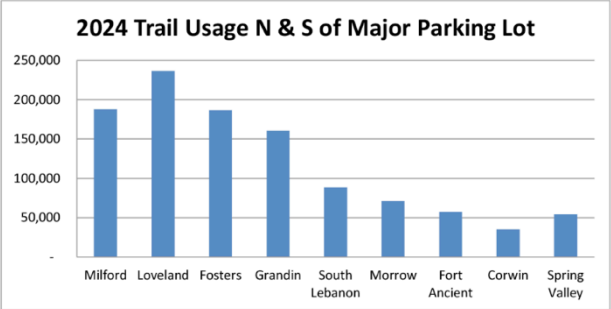
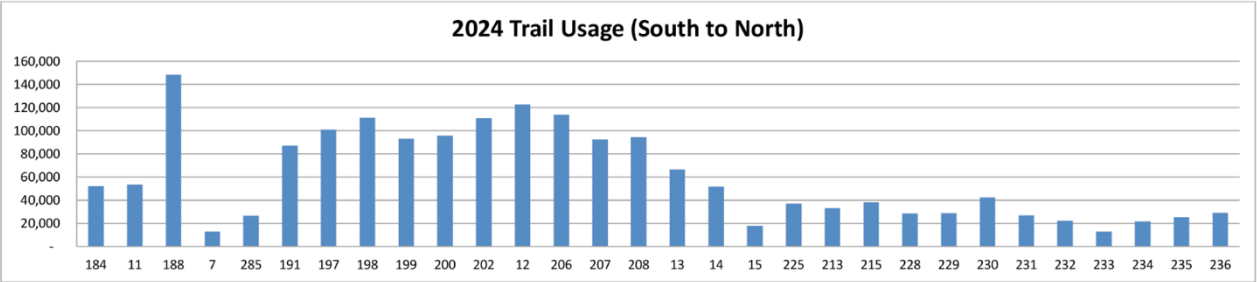


- Cost (still rough estimates)
 - Barn kit with delivery. \$10,500
 - Site Prep. \$200
 - Gravel foundation. \$200
 - Gravel compactor \$200
 - Roof skylights. \$500
 - Solar lighting system \$500
 - Security (locks) & alarm \$200
 - Miscellaneous \$500
 - TOTAL ~\$13,500
- Next Steps
 - Finalize structure design and cost
 - Finalize foundation design
 - Finalize cost
 - Provide written presentation for state review and approval
 - Board approval

Trail Monitoring Program, Ron Gorley

- 2024 Total Little Miami State Park Usage: 1,503,931 (down 0.34% from 2023)
- 2024 Total Little Miami Scenic Trail Usage: 1,797,219 (down 3.62% from 2023)
- 2024 Little Miami Scenic Trail Average Annual Daily Trail Traffic: 164 (down 7.08% from 2023)
- 2024 Little Miami Scenic Trail Trail-Miles Traveled: 3,052,698 (down 5.75% from 2023)

Ron and Dick reported they are studying the possibility of bringing the management of the counters back in-house in 2026 with Dick taking over the every-few-week placement of the counters and recording of data. This would require the purchase of current technology counters.





3080 Exploration Avenue, Suite 640
Cincinnati, OH 45206

513.655.3981
www.tristatetrails.org

INVOICE

April 4, 2025

Bill To:

Friends of Little Miami State Park
9378 Mason Montgomery Rd, Suite 395
Mason, OH 45040-8827

2025 Trail Monitoring Program	
✎ Collect 7-day counts at 26 locations along the LMST from June through July	\$3,960.00
✎ Compile data and prepare trail usage estimates for LMST corridor	
<i>Note: Pricing for short duration counting services is secured at this rate through the 2027 calendar year of trail counting.</i>	
Little Miami Scenic Trail Loveland Counter	
✎ Eco-Counter Automatic Data Transmission Fee (direct cost)	\$540.00
Little Miami Scenic Trail Morrow Counter	
✎ Eco-Counter Automatic Data Transmission Fee (direct cost)	\$540.00
Tri-State Trails 2025 Membership	
✎ Trailblazer Level	In-kind
	TOTAL \$5,040.00
80% Amount Due	\$4,248.00

Please make checks payable to Tri-State Trails, and mail to:

Tri-State Trails
3080 Exploration Ave, Ste 640
Cincinnati, OH 45206

We appreciate your support!

Wade Johnston, AICP
Executive Director
Tri-State Trails

Tri-State Trails is an alliance of community advocates advancing a vision to connect and expand our region's trail network. We connect people and places with walkable and bikeable trails to enhance the vibrancy, equity and health of our communities.

MOTION: Ron made a motion to approve \$5,040 to pay for 2025 trail usage counting.

John Seconded

Motion Approved

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Volunteer database, Becky Retzer

- Kris Allenson (**Kris Shellum-Allenson**) has agreed to be Volgistics/Volunteer Coordinator.

2025 Volunteer Events, Dick Feldmann

- Ideas? Planning? Leadership?

Chainsaw Team Guide, Rick Forrester

- Updated Chainsaw guide written and reviewed. Suggested changes have been incorporated.
- Does anyone else on the board want to review before we publish to web site.
- Casey Marcum confirmed that she had reviewed the guide and had no further changes. No one else asked to further review the guide before publication.

OUTREACH

Warren County Convention and Visitors Bureau 2024 Annual Partner Meeting, Dick Feldmann

- March 14, 2025, Great Wolf Lodge, Dick Attended.
- Little Miami Scenic Trail again “Best Outdoor Adventure 3rd place”.
- Other awards of interest.
 - Best Outdoor Adventure 1st place: Caesar Creek State Park
 - Best Park 2nd place: Caesar Creek State Park
 - Best Historic Attraction 1st place: Fort Ancient
 - Best Bar and Brewery 1st place: Monkey Bar

Miami Valley Regional Active Transportation Committee, Dick Feldmann

- March 17, 2025, 10:00-12:30, Great Council State Park, Dick Attended.
- Trail User Survey, conducted every four years, scheduled for this fall. Discussion on questions to appear on survey.
- Miami Valley Bikeways Map is due for next release Spring 2026. It was decided that current map is still accurate and there is still a ready supply, so the next release will be delayed till 2027.

Warren County Park District Strategic Plan, Dick Feldmann

- Multiple events in different cities. Dick attended. This was a very early event in the development of a strategic plan. Intent was to gather citizen input.

BEAUTY

Pollinator Gardens, Becky Retzer, Rick Forrester

- No change.
- Grant from Appletree Pet Clinic \$10,000.
- MM 19.9 **Oregonia Educational Garden**
 - o Rick and Becky met with Bill Newton (Greenfield Plant Farms) on site on Saturday, March 29th. Rick and Becky marked garden area and sprayed herbicide on April 7th. Bill Newton will go out in 7-10 days to use a large

rototiller. Becky has been in contact with Christopher Todorov to get a schedule in place.

- MM 39.1 under power lines doing well.
- New area at MM 38.5.

AmeriCorps, Becky Retzer

- Abby Rathers from AmeriCorps is working on plans for 2 test plantings between S. Lebanon and Morrow where Thursday crew removed honeysuckle. One area will have a ground cover planted to observe if helps with invasives growing.
- Abby is firming up selection of trees/bushes as well as logistics to get project started and completed by end of May.

South Lebanon Rain Garden, Becky Retzer

- Warren County Soil & Water Conservation \$6,000 grant funds arrived, DONE.
- Need to make small culvert to divert water from the road into garden, DONE.
- Warren County to provide signage to put at the rain garden.

Natorp's Donation for Garden, Becky Retzer

AMENITIES/CONVENIENCE

Information Kiosks, Becky Retzer

- Develop new maps.
- Mount permanent signs on metal backing.
- New map, updated informational poster, History Poster & new posters for 6 panels including Rain Garden, Why Plant Natives, Invasives & Little Miami Watershed sent to Fast Signs. Waiting for an updated quote to make sure within \$3,200 amount set by motion last month.
- New map came in under budget: \$1,680

Park Entry Signs, Dick Feldmann

- No Change (due to winter weather)
- Proposing new signage at all entry points. Trail has
 - o 45 Intersections
 - o 2 Park Boundaries
- Status
 - o 67 of 92 sign trees complete.
 - o 9 out of 18 new or replacement sign posts installed.
- Issue: Sign at south end Oregonia hit and taken down.

Corwin Parking, Dick Feldmann

- Steve Williamson of Red Barn in Corwin has our approval to purchase the material and increase the bike user parking in Corwin.
- Work hasn't started.

Spring Valley

- Bike Pump broke again. Will need to order new hose and valve connection.

Paint Corwin Restrooms, Dick Feldmann

- Awaiting spring

MM39 Prairie Shelter Roof, Rick Forrester

- Needs roof repair.

FLMSP Train Museum, Rick Forrester

- We have the rail, and lots of spikes and plates.

SAFETY

FUTURE GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS

Annual Membership Meeting, May 4th, 4:30-6:30, Waldschmidt Homestead.

May General Board Meeting. Skipping since Annual Meeting on May 4th.

MOTION: Dick made a motion to adjourn

Rick Seconded

Meeting adjourned