



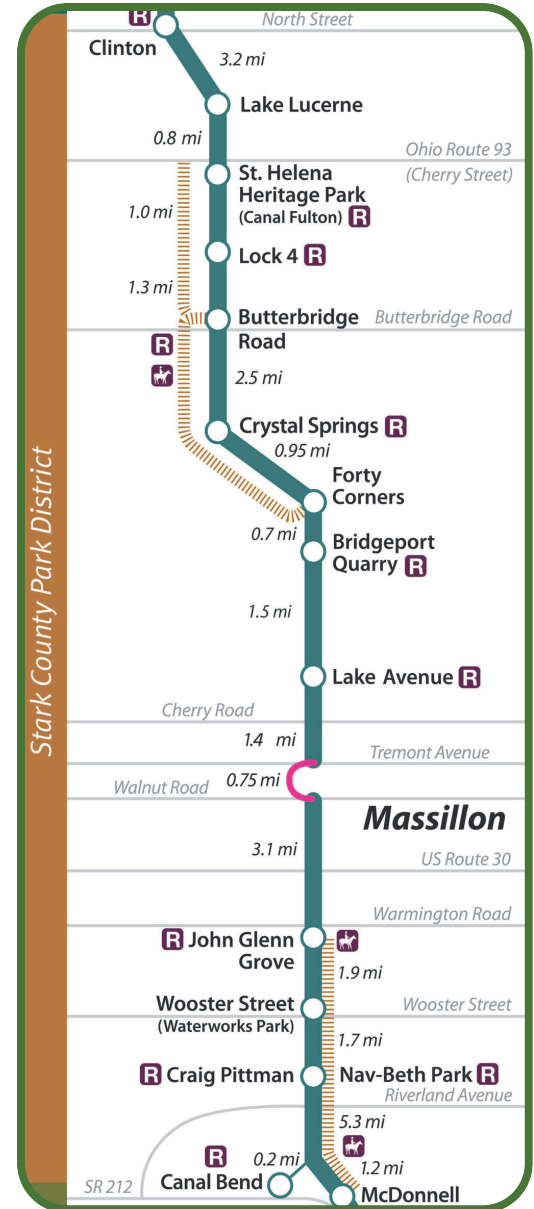
Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail

Trail Information

The Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is 101 miles in length and follows the historic route of the Ohio & Erie Canal. The 26 mile long Stark County section of the Towpath Trail is named in honor of Congressman Ralph Regula and traverses the cities of Canal Fulton, Massillon, and the Village of Navarre. It is part of the 110 mile Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area which was designated in 1996 by Congress. Annually, more than 2.5 million visitors from across the country use the Towpath Trail. A portion of the Towpath Trail overlaps with US Bike Route 1.

Project Information

As part of Stark Parks ongoing effort to upgrade our existing facilities and to improve the overall accessibility for our parks and trails, Stark Parks is planning to pave a portion of the Towpath Trail. The paving project will run from the Lake Ave. Trailhead in Massillon north to Cherry St. in Canal Fulton. It is about an 8 mile stretch of the trail.



Project Funding

In addition to Stark Parks resources, Stark Parks has successfully secured nearly \$3 million in transportation grant funding through the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Stark County Regional Planning/Stark Area Transportation Study. The grant funding is expected to cover at least 90% of the total project costs.

Community Support

Improving this section of trail is an important priority not only for Stark Parks, but for the City of Canal Fulton, the City of Massillon and our nonprofit partner Massillon Area Greenways, Inc. (MAGI). In addition to all the health, recreation, and active transportation benefits of a well maintained trail system, Stark Parks and Visit Canton, a community partner, understand the role these facilities play in supporting the ecotourism industry in our community. With over 1.5 million visits to Stark Park facilities per year Stark Parks is proud of the contributions that we provide to the people of Stark County.

"On behalf of the City of Canal Fulton, I want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the project to improve the city's portion of the Ohio Erie Canal Towpath corridor. We have longed for the trail pavement to be a cleaner surface for our citizens to walk, run and bike on in Canal Fulton." - Joe Schultz, Mayor of Canal Fulton

"As part of a four-county trail system serving millions of users each year, Stark County's segment plays a pivotal role in driving regional visitation and economic activity. This connectivity drives longer stays, increases visitor spending, and strengthens community vitality for Stark County residents." - Tonja Marshall, Chief Marketing Officer, Visit Canton

Project Timeline

2025
grant
submission
and award

2026 - 28
planning
and design

2029
construction



Please contact us to learn more about
the Towpath Trail or to support this
and other park initiatives.

information@starkparks.com or 330-477-3552.

