

Summer biking opportunities to expand

Park District of Ottawa County awarded \$1.1 million to extend North Coast Inland Trail

The Park District of Ottawa County (PDOC) has been selected to receive \$1,119,000 in federal funding to extend the North Coast Inland Trail (NCIT) from its existing terminus at Washington Street in the Village of Genoa, over Packer Creek, finishing to Ninth Street.

The NCIT Phase 1 Village of Genoa Extension Project was selected for funding in the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

The extension project traverses through Genoa's Main Street Historic District and creates trail access to retail, restaurants, professional/medical offices, government offices and historic sites including the Genoa Town Hall and Civic Theatre, constructed in the 1880s and recognized with an Ohio Historical Marker.

Once completed in its entirety, the NCIT will connect Lorain County, Huron County, Sandusky County, Wood County and Ottawa County with future connections into Lucas County.

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) provides funding for projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on-and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities; infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation; and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, environmental mitigation, recreational trail program projects, and safe routes to school projects, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation website, www.transportation.ohio.gov.

Letters of Interest for



The North Coast Inland Trail extension project will bring the bike trail to Genoa's Main Street Historic District, which includes the Genoa Town Hall and Civic Theatre. (Submitted photo)

TAP were due Oct. 31, 2023, and applications were due by Jan. 31, 2024. A Selection Committee reviewed and scored applications through Feb. and March 2024, and award recipients were notified in the spring. Park District of Ottawa County Executive Director Jannah Wilson received the award letter on May 2.

"Receiving these funds is a huge milestone for the Park District and the Village of Genoa," Wilson said. "Bringing the North Coast Inland Trail through the village will provide additional outdoor recreation opportunities to the surrounding community and Northwest Ohio. The Park District has worked on acquiring funding for this portion of the trail for several years and we are extremely grateful to ODOT for supporting this initiative through the Transportation Alternatives Program. We look forward to getting started with the project."

The Park District of Ottawa County will work with the ODOT District 2 office to complete the project.

"The Park District will continue to work with the

Village of Genoa and the ODOT District 2 office to plan out our next steps with trail engineering and design. ODOT has slated construction for the project to take place during ODOT fiscal year 2027," Wilson said.

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