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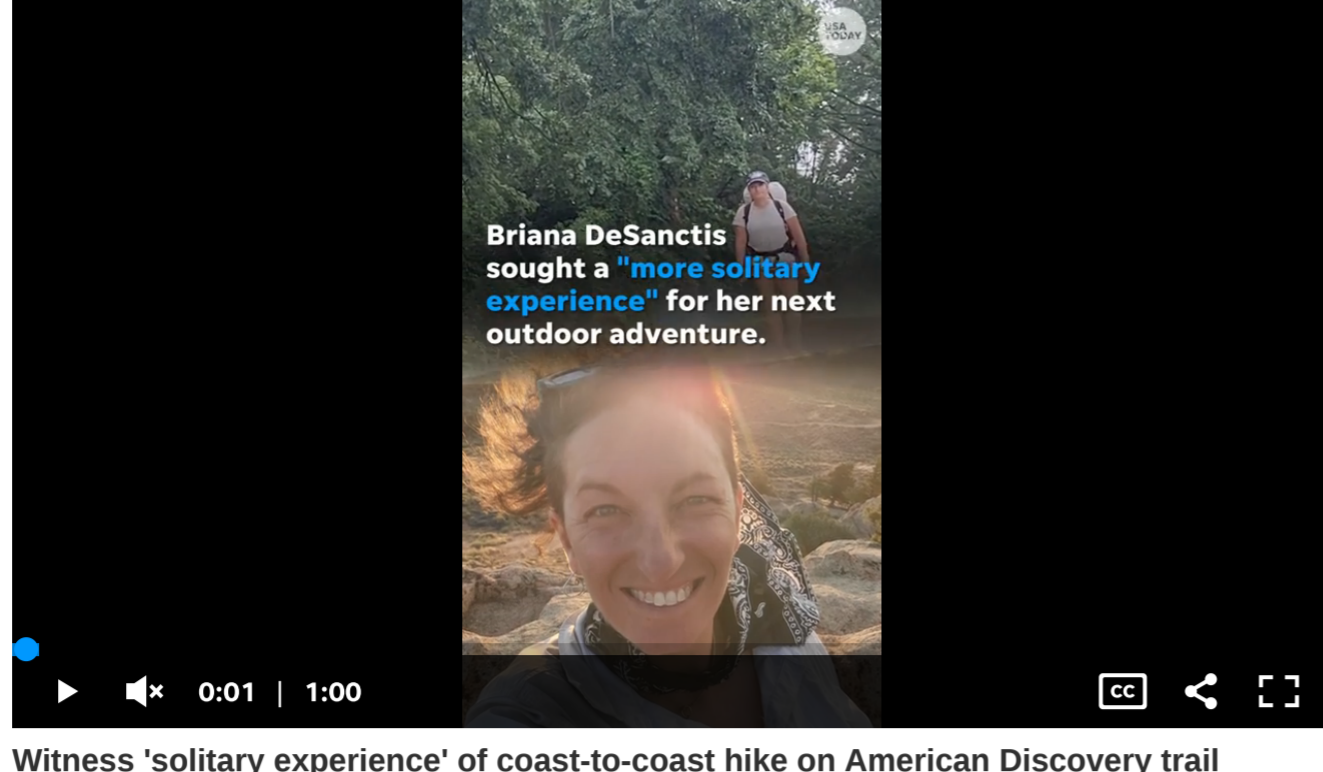
LOCAL

Ottawa County Park District eyes Marblehead Peninsula trail options. Have your say.

New trail to connect areas of interest

Jessica Denton Special to the News Herald
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Meet Briana DeSanctis as she approaches the end of a two-year cross-country hike on the American Discovery Trail.

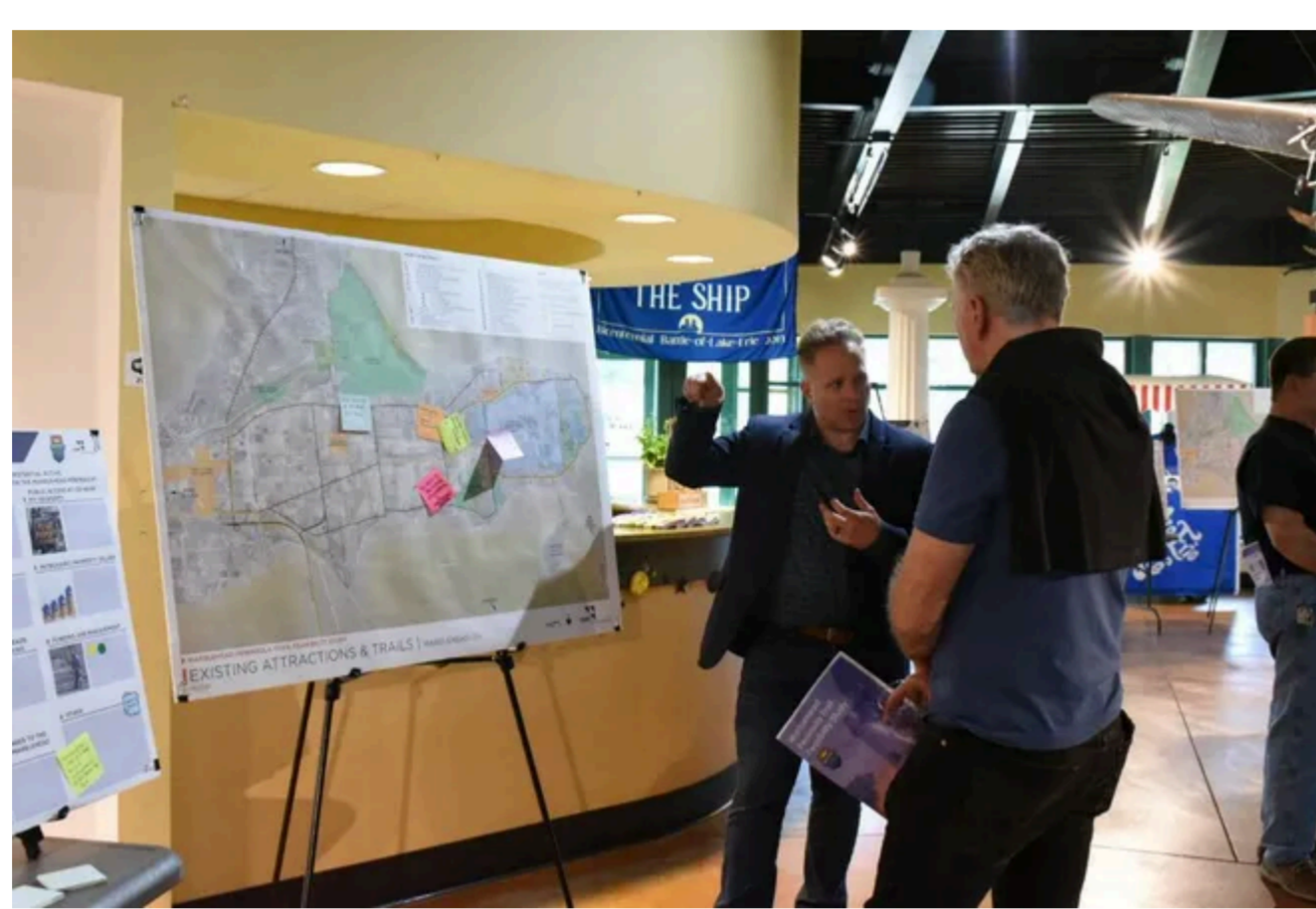
The Park District of Ottawa County wants the public to weigh in through an online survey on the possibility of a multi-use trail on the Marblehead Peninsula.

The park district has [consulted with Cleveland-based architecture, engineering and planning firm OHM Advisors](#) on the Marblehead Peninsula Feasibility Trail Study.

The feasibility study, funded by a Destination Development Grant from Shores and Islands Ohio, will examine various trail route options, assess overall safety, gather public feedback and provide guidance for future trail development.

In an area with vehicular roadways dominating the peninsula, a trail for non-motorized modes of transportation could connect residents and visitors with points of interest. The proposed trail will connect to the Ottawa County Trail network, providing even more access.

We're always working to improve your experience. [Let us know what you think.](#)



Jeremy Hinte, of OHM Advisors, talks to attendees of a public open house hosted by the Park District of Ottawa County about a possible multi-use trail on the Marblehead Peninsula. People can weigh in on the trail in an online survey on OHM's website until May 3. *Jessica Denton/Special To The News Herald*

Shores and Islands host first public open house on trail

The [park district](#) and [OHM Advisors](#) hosted its first public open house Thursday at the Lake Erie Shores and Islands Welcome Center on Ohio 53 in Portage Township.

About 100 people attended to learn about the study, explore trail route options, assess safety data and offer feedback.

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Attendees were asked to place stickers and Post-It notes on lists and maps of areas of interest they visit the most, as well as what they had concerns about with the possibility of a trail.

"This is to get a better grasp on public opinion of a multi-use trail," said [Jannah Wilson](#), executive director of the park district.

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The park district has been pursuing trail networks and the preservation of greenspace around the county, Wilson said. Marblehead was an early mention for a trail network, she said.

Jeremy Hinte, landscape architect and senior project manager at OHM Advisors, said the public feedback Thursday was "very positive."

More: [Black Swamp Conservancy donates 12 acres of land, marsh, shoreline to Ottawa parks](#)

Survey being conducted in Port Clinton

In neighboring Port Clinton, city officials also approved OHM Advisors to conduct a Recreational Amenities Study and Plan to help the city grow its offerings to residents, stakeholders and visitors.

After heavy public input, the park district and OHM will devise a trail network concept, with drafts of a plan, re-engage with the public and host more open houses and more surveys, Hinte said.

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The first survey can be accessed at <https://ohmplanning.typeform.com/Marblehead1>.

The survey will close May 3 at 11 p.m.

Previous park district projects

The 75-mile [North Coast Inland Trail](#) extends from Lorain to Genoa, traversing through four counties — Lorain, Huron, Sandusky, and Ottawa

In Ottawa County, the trail stretches from the Sandusky County line northwest through Elmore to Genoa. The trail converts from a multi-use trail to an on-road route at Martin-Williston Road and carries north to Ohio 51 where a multi-use trail continues the route to its terminus at Veterans Park in Genoa.

The park district is working to develop and provide additional maps and wayfinding features for the trail.

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