

To: Members of Dublin City Council
From: Dana L. McDaniel, City Manager
Date: February 16, 2021
Initiated By: Megan O'Callaghan, Deputy City Manager/Chief Finance and Development Officer
Re: OTHER - RAPID 5 Project Overview

Summary

ULI Columbus, MORPC, and the Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks are teaming up to work with local governments, the business community, and residents to develop the vision for a waterway system consisting of five rivers that span across Franklin County: Big Darby Creek, Scioto River, Olentangy River, Alum Creek, and Big Walnut Creek. The RAPID 5 project is a planning process that will span jurisdictions, neighborhoods, and institutions to build a framework around our waterways to create a vision for one regional park network connecting recreation, energy, and Central Ohio's communities. The vision will lay the foundation for developing one of the largest, if not the largest, inter-connected greenspaces in the country.

Additional information about the RAPID 5 project is attached and a video can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3QYFb-FKzk>.

The RAPID 5 visioning process will kick off this spring and conclude in the summer. The total project cost is estimated to range between \$400,000 and \$500,000. The project's main deliverables will include a booklet that contains each corridor's future visuals, storytelling and messaging, as well as a public roll-out event.

MORPC will serve as the RAPID 5 Project Administrator. As part of the visioning process, the Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) will serve as the Prime Consultant to oversee five architectural firms that will each create appealing and creative visuals of one of the river corridors to demonstrate how these corridors could be transformed into greenspaces and regional connections. The NDC will then use that work to create a public-facing booklet that will be released during a summer roll-out event. The NDC will also manage the communications and outreach efforts.

The RAPID 5 project will help inform the Dublin 2035 Framework Plan. The vision of the interconnectivity of these major waterways and trails within Franklin County will inform the updates to the Community Character and Environment within the existing Community Plan, as well as address additional topics identified as part of the 2035 Framework. Specifically, these topic areas include waterways, watersheds, greenways, trails, and connectivity.

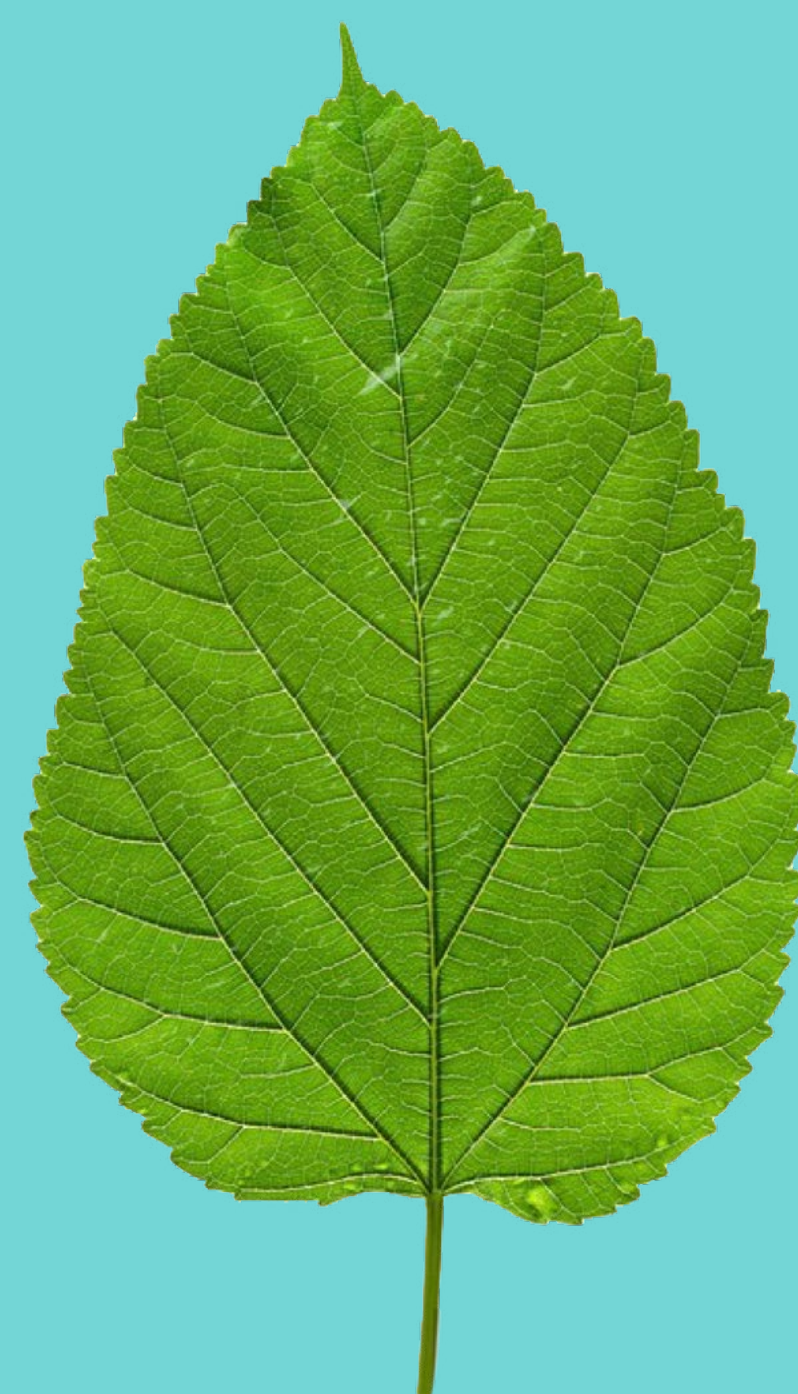
Recommendation

Staff recommends the City of Dublin participate in the visioning process and contribute \$20,000 toward the RAPID 5 project. Dublin will be identified as a project partner and will have a staff member liaison to the project. Dublin's participation in the RAPID 5 initiative ties into the Dublin 2035 Framework Plan.



Redefining Our City

theRAPIDproject.org



INTRODUCTION

Our greenways and waterways are the future of connection between environment, recreation, and Central Ohio's communities. **The RAPID Project aims to create a vision for one regional park network.**



The Building Blocks of Our Open Space System



146 Miles

Blueways and
Riparian Corridors



38,300 Acres

Parks and
Greenspace



143 Miles

Trails and
Connections



315 Miles

On-street Bike/PED
Facilities

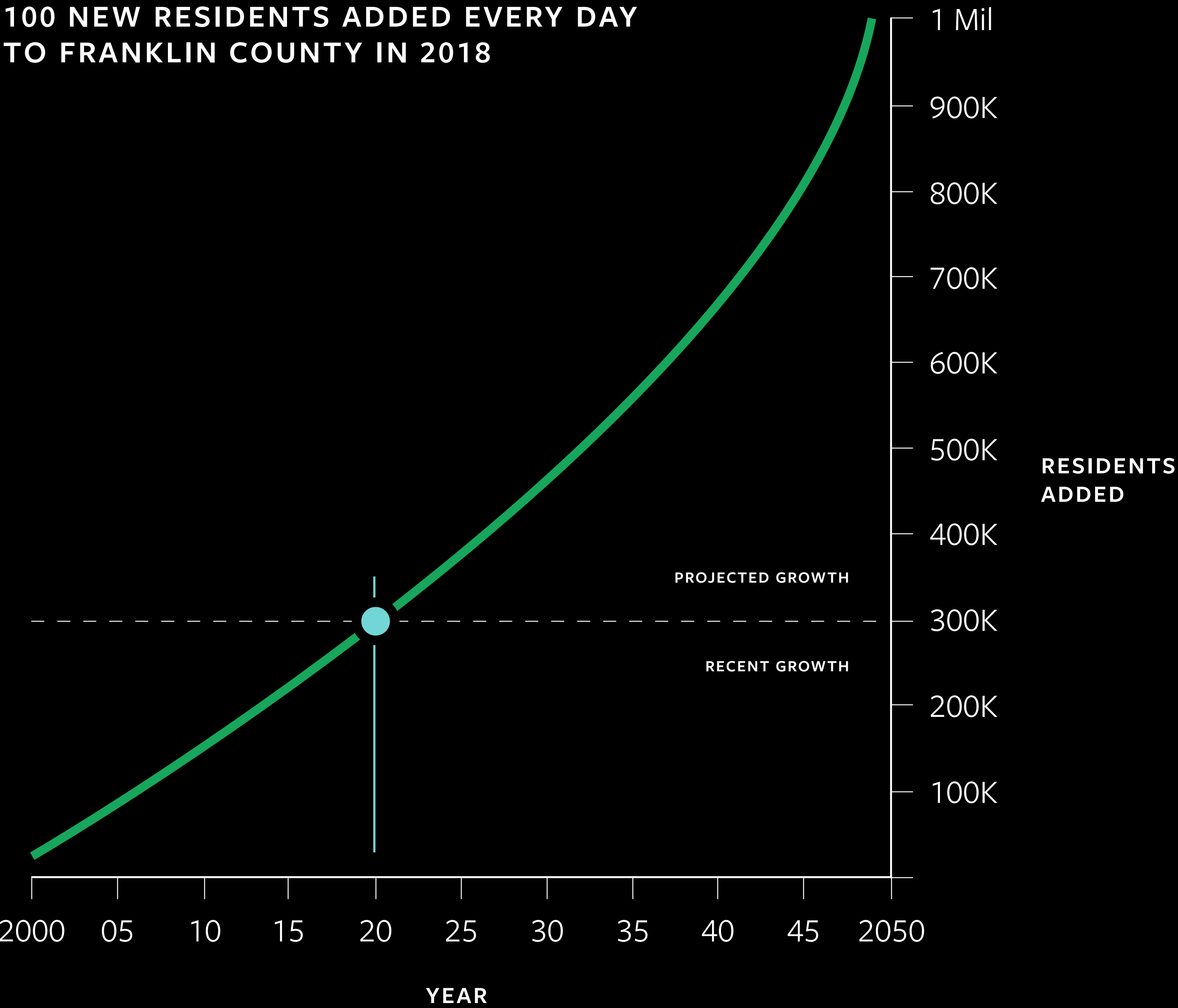
Growth Opportunities in Franklin County

100 New Residents added every day to Franklin County in 2018

30,000 Residents added to Franklin County in 2018 alone

695,000 Additional Residents expected by 2050

100 NEW RESIDENTS ADDED EVERY DAY TO FRANKLIN COUNTY IN 2018



Benefits

Improving Our Community



Health & Wellness



Mobility Choice



**Environmental
Stewardship**



Economic Vitality



Social Equity





People and Places Impacted



Schools & Students



Businesses & Employees



**Residents &
Neighborhoods**

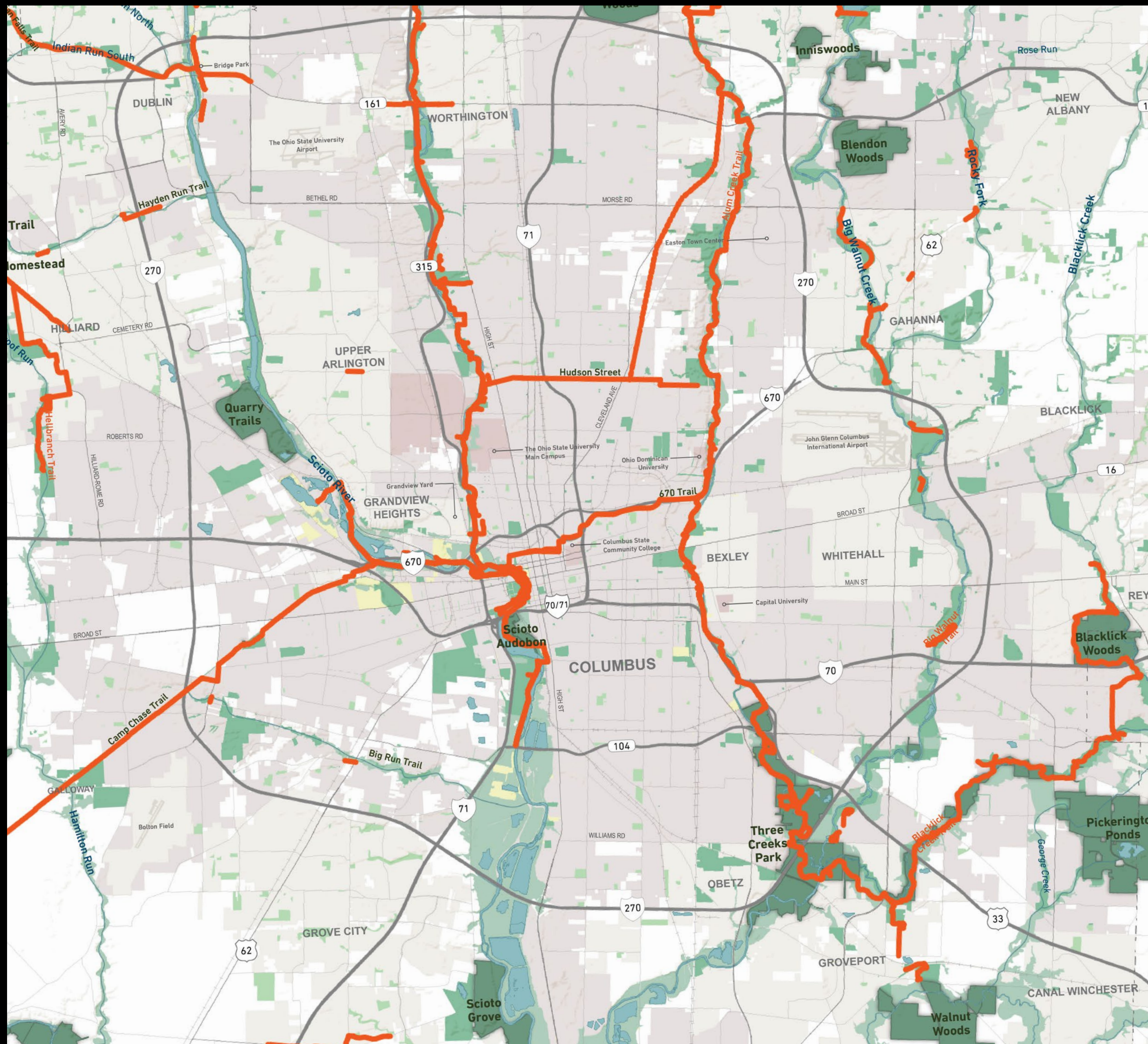


Cultural Institutions



**Marginalized
Communities**

Our System Today



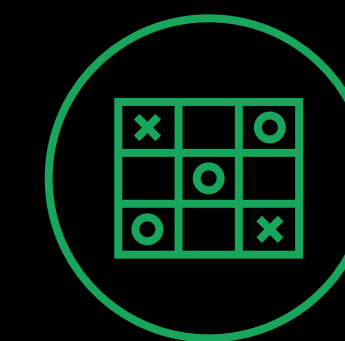
275 schools within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail



524k jobs within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail



840k residents within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail

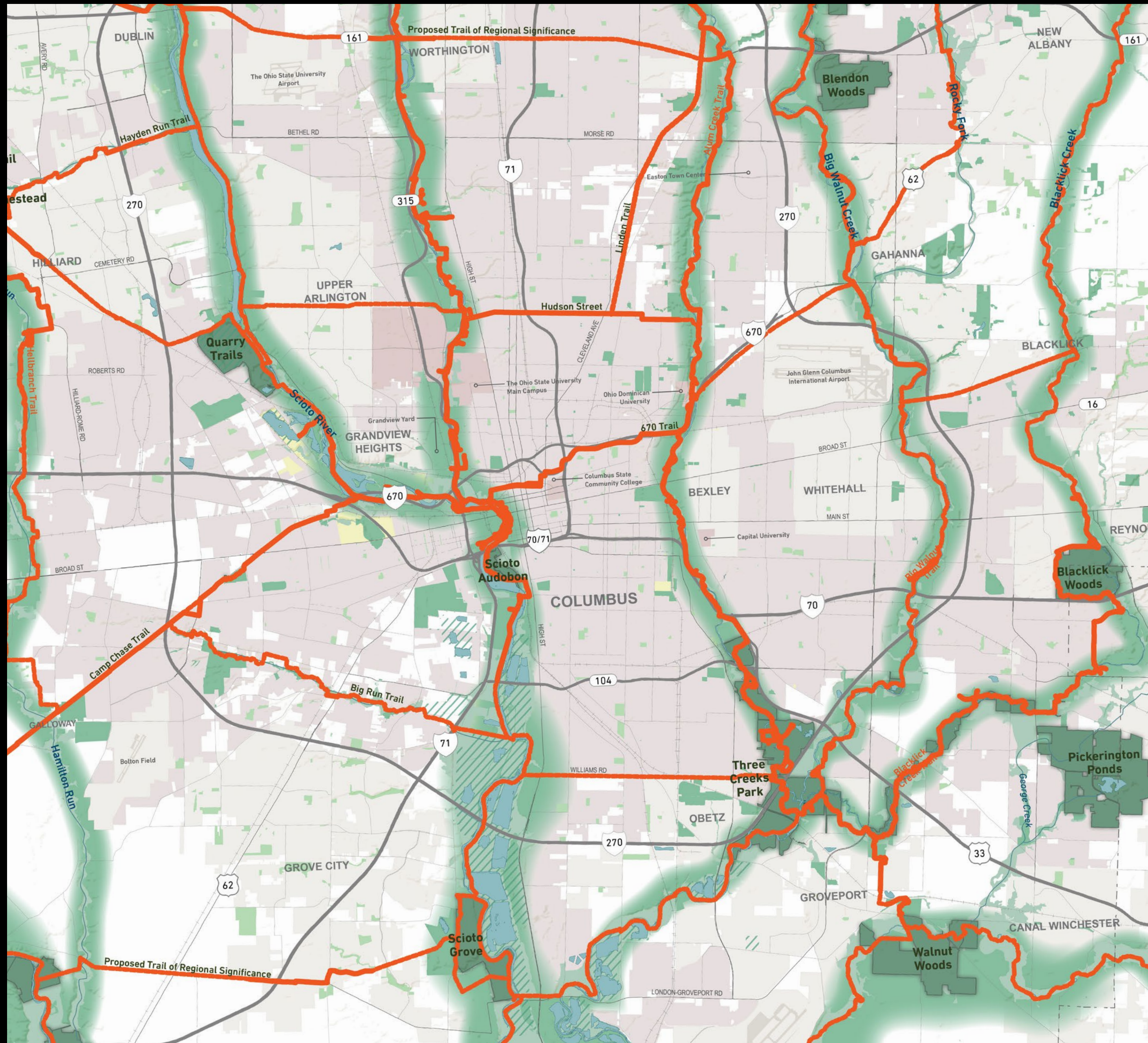


500 activity centers within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail



less than 60% of very low opportunity neighborhoods within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail

Our System Tomorrow



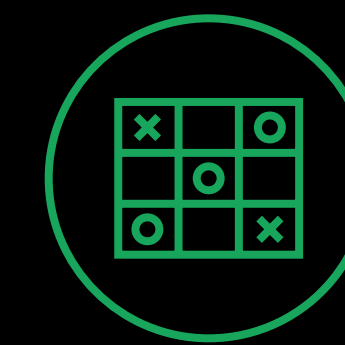
320 Schools within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail
45 (16%) more than today



660k jobs within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail
135k (26%) more than today



1.108m residents within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail
268k (32%) more than today

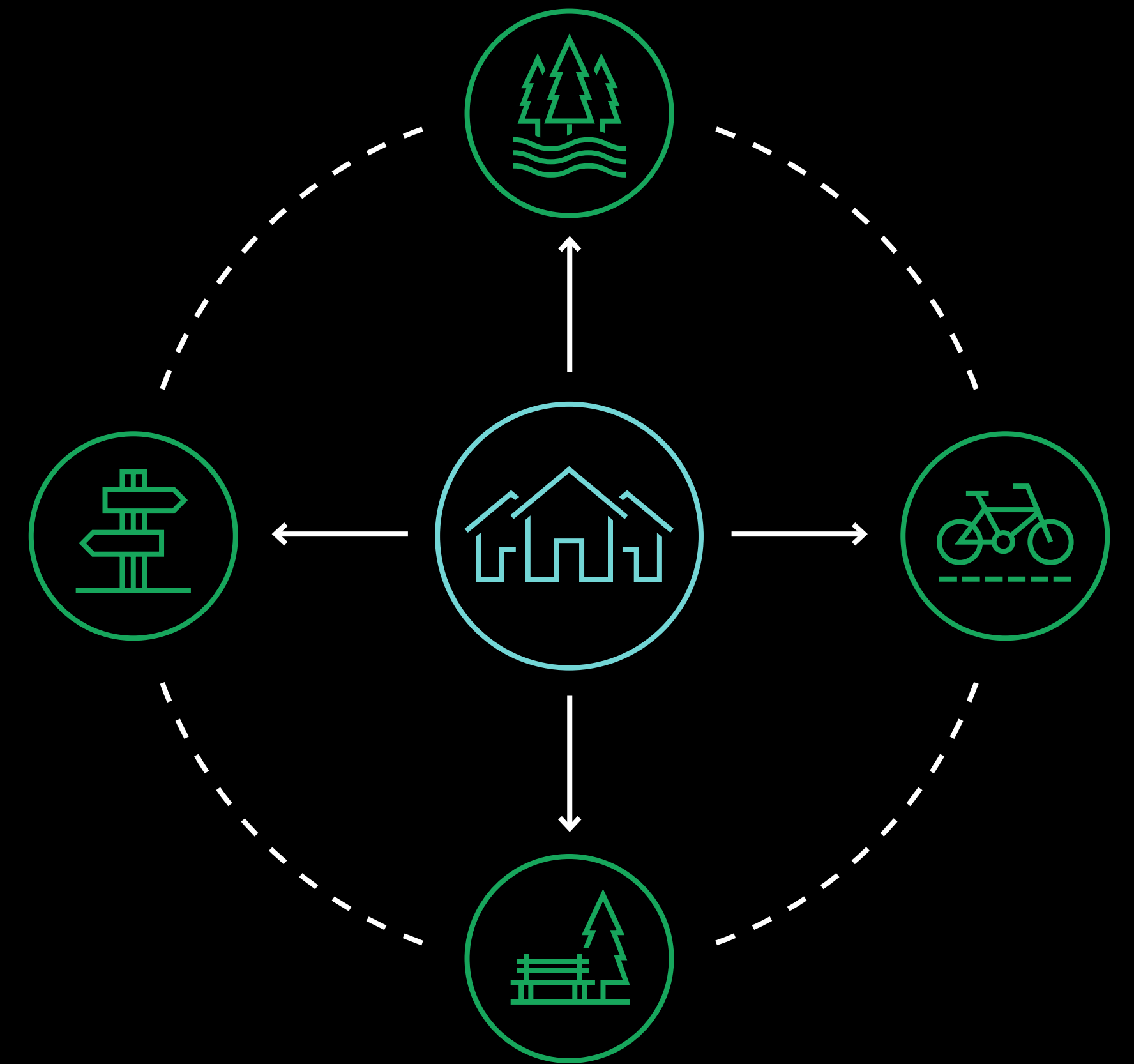


590 activity centers within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail
90 (18%) more than today



more than 77% of very low opportunity neighborhoods within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail
28% more than today

Our System Tomorrow



**Every Franklin County resident
will be within 1.5 miles of a park
or greenway**



PHOTO BY: **FRED MILLER**



PHOTO BY: **K FEASEL**



PHOTO BY: **CB**



PHOTO BY: **AB**



PHOTO BY: **D CRAWFORD**

Where You Come In

In order to realize this unprecedented connection to our natural resources and invest in our public spaces, we need to create a vision to guide that investment. This planning process will span jurisdictions, neighborhoods and institutions to build a framework around our waterways which will define central Ohio in the future. Support for this planning process will be the foundation that allows us to fully take advantage of the unique opportunity that we have in front of us today.



Contact RAPID

305 W Nationwide Blvd, Suite 217
Columbus, OH 43215
info@theRAPIDproject.org



Vision For RAPID 5

RAPID 5 will bring together governments, businesses, neighborhoods, and residents to create a vision for an open space system that spans the region. Central Ohio has an impressive waterway system that has the potential to redefine the region and connect our community with an extensive greenspace system unparalleled anywhere else.

OPPORTUNITY

Central Ohio has a waterway system consisting of five rivers that span across Franklin County: Big Darby Creek, Scioto River, Olentangy River, Alum Creek, and Big Walnut Creek. Historically, the access to these resources has been unevenly distributed, remained disconnected from a larger system, and many waterways have suffered environmental damage. Over the past decade, focused improvements to storm and sanitary sewer systems and concerted efforts of individual jurisdictions, Metro Parks, and Central Ohio Greenways to greatly expand our regional trail system have resulted in dramatic improvements in the water quality along our five major rivers. Corridors, including the Big Darby Creek and the Olentangy trail system, offer benchmarks to base improvements for the other corridors. Central Ohio is now poised to coalesce around a comprehensive vision for these waterways and build on the existing work that has been done over the years. RAPID 5 is a plan to develop a comprehensive vision for these corridors, which has the potential to redefine the region and connect our residents with an extensive greenspace system unparalleled in the nation.

GOAL

Capitalizing on the opportunity, the aspiration is to redefine our region around these corridors and provide access to all our residents. Most critically, the goal is to realize improvements to corridors in our communities that have not had access. The project aims to create and improve connections to our disadvantaged neighborhoods with these amenities and improve quality of life for families in these neighborhoods. The RAPID 5 will connect all residents to the systems, grow corridors for both recreation and transportation, create a cross-jurisdictional network, and redefine the framework of our community around our natural resources. A reimagined greenspace system in Central Ohio will connect

our community to the many beautiful natural resources that spur from our waterways while also serving as the spine of an active transportation network that connects neighborhoods across our region to job centers, commercial districts, cultural amenities, and other resources.

VISION

In 2021 ULI Columbus and MORPC will team up to work with local governments, the business community, and residents to develop the vision for RAPID 5. As with past efforts, like insight2050 and insight2050 Corridor Concepts, the power of this coalition will realize a game-changing vision for Central Ohio. This development of the vision will lay the foundation for developing one of the largest, if not the largest, inter-connected greenspaces in the country. It will reimagine how residents move around the region for commuting, recreation, and other activities by developing a vision for more diverse greenspace activities, equitable connectivity to greenspace, and better linkage from neighborhoods to job centers through greenspace.

RAPID 5 will provide access to recreation, benefit our economy, manage growth, provide educational opportunities, improve health outcomes, preserve natural resources, and enhance overall sustainability. Implementing this vision will benefit communities throughout the region by:

- Attracting jobs;
- Adding to local tax bases; and
- Improving the quality of life for all residents.

We look forward to working together to develop a new vision for our community.

