

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

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MIAMI VALLEY

Regional Planning Commission

Shaping Our Region's Future Together

June 2025

Convening to Develop the Region's Outdoor Economy; the Riverway Summit and the Miami Valley Cycling Summit

The Miami Valley Region has become a destination for outdoor recreation and has become known as “the Adventure Capital of the Midwest”. This did not just happen on its own or overnight. Over the past 15 years or more, community leaders have strategically worked together to leverage our rivers and trail network. Asset based community development focuses on what a community or Region's strengths are and what they have, as opposed to what they don't have or their challenges. With over 300 miles of connected, off-road, paved cycling trails and five rivers, three of which are designated National Park Water Trails with dozens of unique downtowns along them, it was clear the Region had a real opportunity to develop an outdoor economy and last month we convened to continue the work and develop next steps, while also celebrating our success.



Miamisburg hosted the first ever outdoor Riverway Summit at their newly opened Riverfront Park.

On May 2, 2025, Miamisburg hosted the 17th annual Great Miami Riverway Summit. This was a monumental moment for the Riverway and all those who have supported the effort, as it was hosted in a brand new downtown Miamisburg Riverfront Park which was only a dream and vision over 10 years ago. With the Miami Conservancy District's leadership, the Great Miami Riverway and its 17 coalition members committed to a shared mission to increase use of recreational, historical, and cultural assets, attract more visitors, support economic development and strengthen river corridor neighborhoods. This year's event focused highlighted a presentation on the State of Tourism is Ohio, and the importance of connecting communities and children to nature. Miamisburg is a perfect example of how to develop and outdoor economy and revive a historic downtown riverfront community and MVRPC is excited to see what's next for the Great Miami Riverway and how other the communities plan to enhance their riverfronts to support the Regional, shared mission. One project to keep an eye on is West Carrollton's River District and the visionary Western Lakes Master Plan. For more details, click [here](#) to visit the park plans.



For the first-time full-time staff members of both the Great Miami Riverway and the Ohio Riverway, Forest Clevenger and Ginger Clark, meet and attend our Region's Riverway Summit.



In partnership with expert Allison Boot, of Access Center Ohio, MVRPC coordinated a panel to discuss local active transportation planning efforts and strategies for becoming more accessible and age-friendly. The panel included Fairborn, Miamisburg, Dayton and Clayton's ODOT funded active transportation plans.

The following week, on May 9, 2025, Bike Miami Valley convened local leaders, community advocates and cyclists for the 8th bi-annual Miami Valley Cycling Summit in Springfield, Ohio. The focus on this year's summit was "Cycling for All" and featured, the Bicycle Nomad, a nationally re-known cyclist and cycling advocate. Erick Cedeño, the Bicycle Nomad, has been featured in multiple national and local publications, from Outside Magazine to The New York Times and was inducted into the 2022 class of The Explorers Club 50. In 2022, he was globally recognized as one of the year's 50 explorers changing the world. As a man of color, Cedeno has been able to influence and transform the world of cycling, by inspiring people of all backgrounds to "get out and bike". He highlighted, what he says is one of his favorite trails and riding experiences, the Underground Railroad Trail which passes through the Miami Valley Region, acknowledging the history of the Buffalo Soldiers and The Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Wilberforce, Ohio. We are very fortunate to have the nation's largest connected, paved, off-road bike trail network, but there is still work to be done in order to fill some of the gaps and increase access by addressing the "first and last mile" through local active transportation planning. Bike Miami Valley will announce the

location for the 2027 summit in the coming months.

In the meantime, you can get involved by attending MVRPC's next quarterly active transportation meeting on June 13th. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.