



SoIN: Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and New Albany River Town Review

Fresh Eyes on Enhancing Tourism & Outdoor Recreation in your Community



Round 1, Fall 2020

Ohio River Recreation Trail Team



NPS RTCA
RIVERS, TRAILS & CONSERVATION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
www.nps.gov/rtca



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Executive Summary:

SoIN Tourism and the three rivertowns of Jeffersonville, Clarksville and New Albany have built and maintained the Ohio River Greenway that successfully focuses the communities towards the beautiful Ohio River. The Falls of the Ohio State Park, the Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife area managed by the U.S. Army Corps, Riverfront *Park* on Water Street, and the Wetland Loop in New Albany Big Four Station Park, Riverstage and Duffy's Landing in Jefferson are all connected by The Ohio River Greenway! The work that has been accomplished in the past months since our rivertown review builds upon the already incredible infrastructure. The development of ORIGIN Park by the River Heritage Conservancy and the 63 acres of former industrial property that will become River Recreation Park by the end of the year supported by Mayor Jeff Gahan is ongoing evidence of the community's commitment to outdoor recreation and the Ohio River.

In 2020, SoIN applied to the Ohio River Recreation Trail and the National Park Service to participate in the [Rivertown Review](#) Program. Over the summer and fall of 2020, NPS staff, ORRT leadership and community members along with University of Louisville (U of L) Honors students conducted desktop reviews, site visits, held community meetings and wrote overviews of each rivertown with a focus on outdoor recreation infrastructure and opportunities along the Ohio River. The work culminated in the exhibit: "[River of Life: Cities and Towns Along the Mighty Ohio](#)" at the Louisville Free Public Library. The exhibit will be open till midsummer 2021.

The review committee was incredibly impressed with trails, the parks, the programs and the access to the river that is in place. After review of the data and input from the community meeting several recommendations are offered in the Rivertown Review Report for consideration. Several of the highlights are:

- Reaching out to the young people living in the region and beyond to share southern Indiana's story and the existing outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Continue to develop collaborative initiatives between the Rivertowns and supporting organizations to plan new parks, trails, and land stewardship.
- Support the regional trail vision being developed by the Align Southern Indiana's Trails Team that will create a stronger network of parks and trails that will enhance "quality of place" in our five-county region of Southern Indiana.
- Actively promote a recreational future for the upcoming open spaces resulting from the closing of the Gallagher electrical plant in New Albany and Jeffboat in Jeffersonville. Specifically, we recommend connecting the Howard Steam Boat Museum with the Ohio River and the Duke Power Co. land to the Ohio River Greenway.
- Support the enhancement of Silver Creek, Lancassange Creek, Six Mile Island and Sand Island as paddlesport destinations.
- Work with the U.S. Army Corps to implement the Falls of the Ohio as a National Wildlife Conservation Area (NWCA) master plan which would increase support for interpretation, research, and work to reduce Ohio River erosion.
- Work with the National Park Service to explore the feasibility of developing a museum for the eastern legacy of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

We look forward to working with SoIN, Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and New Albany to further enhance Outdoor Recreation in the region.

Introduction

Ohio River Recreation Trail (ORRT)

The vision of the volunteer-led Ohio River Recreation Trail steering committee is to create a 274-mile land and waterway self-guided adventure trail that connects people to opportunities for outdoor adventure, recreation and discovery on and along the Ohio River from Portsmouth, Ohio to West Point, Kentucky. It will serve to promote tourism and economic development; facilitate education about the valley’s unique history, culture, and beauty; promote environmental awareness and safety; and enhance appreciation of the river’s lands and waters.



River Town Review (RTR)

A team of professional planners from the National Park Service - Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA), leaders from the ORRT, the Lewis and Clark Geotourism project, and volunteers from outdoor recreation user groups work with engaged leaders to capture the benefits of outdoor recreation and tourism along the Ohio River. Their combined experience and skills provide a holistic assessment of the community recreation resources, facilitate a community input process, and prepare a summary of their findings for the community. The RTR helps communities see the possibilities and identify potential actions they can pursue to add sustainable recreational opportunities to their communities.

SoIN: Jeffersonville/Clarksville and New Albany River Town Review RTR Planning Process (see Appendix A)

The SoIN: Jeffersonville/Clarksville and New Albany River Town Review requested a River Town Review by the ORRT Team to provide “Fresh Eyes on Enhancing Tourism & Outdoor Recreation in their Community.” The request was approved for the first round of RTRs in the fall of 2020. The RTR Team reviewed materials provided by the community contact and conducted a desktop review of the community’s internet presence. This review was different from the other three Rivertowns of Round 1, as U of L students conducted the desktop reviews and site visits. The team hosted a virtual community input workshop on November 24, 2020, that included a SWOT analysis and brainstorming of ideas for enhancing outdoor recreation in Southern Indiana. The participants were asked to help prioritize the ideas generated into short-term and long-term goals for the community to pursue. The RTR Team reviewed and analyzed the community input to create recommendations for this report.

Desktop Reviews

The detailed results of Desk Top Reviews can be found in each of the student’s final reports attached in the appendixes.

The students spent about one hour each on-line to see what they could find out about Southern Indiana - Jeffersonville/Clarksville and New Albany as if they were thinking of visiting for a day or overnight. They looked at outdoor recreation opportunities, lodging, restaurants, breweries/wineries, historical sites, attractions, and events.

Recommendations:

- More information should be provided on river access and biking opportunities
- The restaurant list should identify which ones are downtown or on the water
- Add more photos of the area to the websites
- Keep on-line websites up to date

Walkability & Bikeability Scores

Walk Score & Bike Score measure the walkability/bikeability of any address using a patented system which analyzes hundreds of walking and biking routes to nearby amenities. Points are awarded based on the distance to amenities in each category.

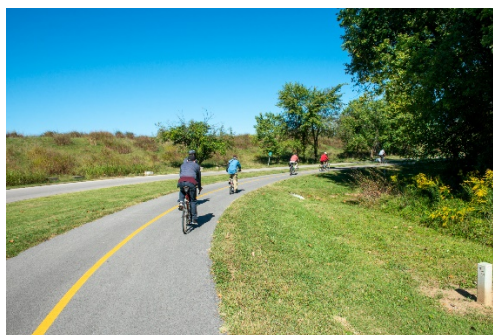
Walk Score
90-100 Walkers Paradise
70 -89 Very Walkable
50 -69 Somewhat Walkable
25 -49 Mostly Car Dependent
0 – 24 Car Dependent

- Walkability Score for Jeffersonville – **23 – Car Dependent**
- Walkability Score for downtown Jeffersonville – **69 – very walkable**
- Bikeability Score for Jeffersonville – **64 - Bikeable**

- Walkability Score for Clarksville – **30 – Mostly Car Dependent**
- Bikeability Score for Clarksville – **58 – Bikeable**
-
- Walkability Score for New Albany – **36 – Mostly Car Dependent**
- Bikeability Score for New Albany – **41 – Somewhat Bikeable**

Bike Score
90-100 Bikers Paradise
70 -89 Very Bikeable
50 -69 Bikeable
0 - 49 Somewhat Bikeable

Visit www.walkscore.com for more information.





Community Visit

Community Visit details are in each of the student papers in the appendix.

Community Experiences

Several members of RTR Team visited New Albany, Clarksville and Jeffersonville on different days to experience the community. We paddled on the Ohio, Silver Creek, Lancassange Creek and bicycled on Ohio River Greenway to experience the local recreation resources. Read the student papers to get the full account of the community visits.

Some of the key things that the RTR Team **liked** about their community experience in the three towns were:

- Small town feeling and calm pace of life as compared to Louisville.
- Walkable business district, historic buildings and great viewshed of the Ohio River
- The Ohio River Greenway
- The Falls of the Ohio State Park
- River recreation access point for the Ohio River and the tributaries.
- Historical points of interest

Some of the key things that the RTR Team **would encourage the community to improve** are:

- Bike and pedestrian link from the historic downtown riverfront and the Greenway to other parts of the community.
- Develop Silver Creek, Six-mile Island and Sand Island as paddlesport destinations. Protect the riparian area of Silver Creek.
- Work with the U.S. Army Corps to increase access to the Falls of the Ohio as a National Wildlife Conservation Area (NWCA)
- Marked bicycle routes in the region and bike racks downtown

Virtual Workshop

The RTR Team hosted and facilitated a virtual workshop comprised of a SWOT analysis and brainstorming for the SoIN Tourism and Convention Commission on November 24, 2020. Twenty-two local community members, including elected officials and 12 U of L students participated in the workshop via Zoom. The Desktop Review and Community Visit findings were shared by the RTR Team for discussion. The participants were asked to share their thoughts by entering their ideas in the chat box during the virtual workshop and then prioritizing those ideas. Also, they were invited to describe their favorite places to take visitors and their perfect day spent in the community. This virtual workshop assisted the RTR Team to better understand what is important to the community and where the special places are in the Carrollton area.

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) Analysis

The workshop participants identified the following as the primary considerations for each of the categories of SWOT Analysis for the area. The list identifies the higher priority items selected from all of the ideas generated during the SWOT Analysis for all four categories. Please refer to Appendix B – SWOT analysis to review all of the ideas generated from the SWOT Analysis.

STRENGTHS

- The Ohio Rivers
- The Ohio River Greenway
- The Falls of the Ohio State Park
- Origin Park
- Big Four Bridge
- Located on the opposite side of the River from Louisville.
- Great Restaurants
- great local and relevant history

WEAKNESSES

- Supposed division across river and across county/city lines
- Unified marketing strategy and collaborative community initiatives
- Need more retail & restaurants in the historic district
- Community wide vision for the future
- The schools and community in southern Indiana are not tied to the Ohio River Greenway
- Marina & fuel station

OPPORTUNITIES

- The Ohio River Greenway
- Origin Park
- Duke Energy closing the power plant in New Albany.
- Jeff Boat closing
- Developing Silver Creek into a paddling destination
- Two natural areas - The Falls of the Ohio Wildlife Refuge and the Six Mile Island, Kentucky's State Nature Preserve

THREATS

- Reluctance of cities to collaborate
- Not enough federal or state support for tourism development
- Failure to fully utilize technology and marketing initiatives to promote the community offerings and market the strengths of the area
- Riverbank erosion

Brainstorming Ideas

The participants were led through an exercise to identify ideas for the New Albany, Clarksville, and Jeffersonville to consider pursuing to improve or create recreation assets and tourism opportunities. The following lists identify some short-term and long-term priority items selected from all the ideas generated during the brainstorming exercise. These lists also include ideas to consider from the workshop participants Homework exercise.

SHORT TERM IDEAS

- Online marketing! We have to let people know what we offer. Train employees of tourist infrastructure on local recreational opportunities.
- Improved signage throughout the community and the parks.
- Overnight tent campsites and possible tiny house lodgings for cyclist and paddlers. Restrooms!
- Develop a marketing initiative to support positive public perception of outdoor recreation on and along the river.
- Create a campaign for the Ohio River....water is life (With regular updates on river water quality to improve perceptions of the river).

LONG TERM IDEAS

- Trail improvements and connections throughout the region – connect every school, park and community to the Greenway.
- Connect Ohio River Greenway all the way to wildlife area at Duke Energy and across the K and I bridge to Louisville.
- Outdoor recreation opportunities at the old site of Jeffboat. Create riverfront access for Howard Steam Boat Museum.
- Headquarters for the eastern legacy of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

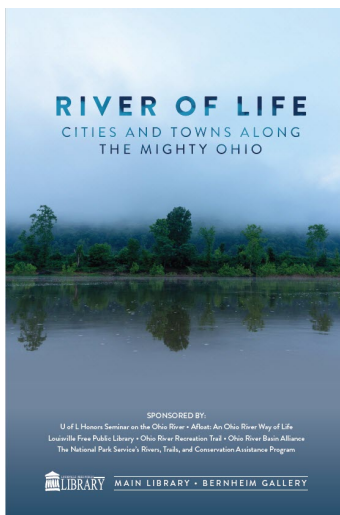


A perfect day for a visitor in Southern Indiana is....

Below are three perfect days to explore the three rivertowns. For other stories refer to the student papers in the appendix.

- a. Jeffersonville - A perfect day in Jeffersonville would be biking across the Big 4 Bridge into Louisville and back. From there I would walk, shop and eat at a restaurant downtown such as Red Yeti or Portage House. At night it would be hitting one of the local bars such as The Alcove, Cigar Bar or Harry's Taphouse & Kitchen.
- b. Clarksville – A perfect day in Clarksville would be going to Falls of the Ohio, hiking the fossil beds and walking the Ohio River Greenway taking in the riverside. From there I would take a nice drive to Bubba's 33 a nice local restaurant. At night I would catch a show at the famous Derby Dinner Playhouse.
- c. New Albany – A perfect day in New Albany would be walking around the super walkable downtown. While walking downtown I'd want to see the history side of things such as visit the Culbertson Mansion and the Carnegie Center for Art & History. After taking those tours I'd grab lunch at The Exchange and then shoot some clay pigeons at The Sporting Club at the Farm. At night I'd love to see some sort of entertainment at the New Albany Riverfront Amphitheatre.

A Culminating Exhibit: River of Life



The U of L Honors Class on the Ohio River co-developed the “River of Life: Cities and Towns along the Mighty Ohio” exhibit at the Louisville Free Public Library. The exhibit features Ohio River 1893 photos from Ruben Gold Thwaites, current photos by the U of L Students, John Nation, Joe Wolek and Pam Spaulding. The exhibit will be open till mid-summer 2021. [Here is a virtual preview of the exhibit.](#)



Classic Trip Opportunities

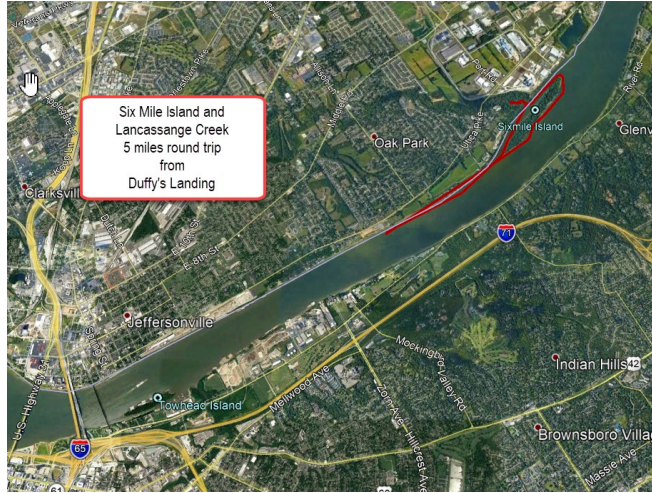
Silver Creek Canoe Trip



Silver Creek is a tributary of the Ohio River that forms the border of Clarksville and New Albany. The confluence is in the middle of the Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife Refuge. Silver Creek travels through the center of the new ORIGIN park that is being developed by the River Heritage Conservancy. One puts in at Blackiston Mill Road and paddles 4 ½ miles through an uninhabited stream corridor with tall cliffs and beautiful wildlife. This trip can only be run when the Ohio River is 2 feet above normal pool, this covers the low head dam upstream of the loop wetlands. At lower Ohio River levels, normal summer pool the low head dam is dangerous, avoid it. A beautiful side trip is to explore Sand Island, be careful of the currents crossing the river.



Six Mile Island and Lancassange Creek



About 1 mile upstream on the Ohio River from Duffy's Landing is Six-Mile Island Kentucky State Nature Preserve. The island is open for exploration from dawn to dusk and is a pristine example of an Ohio River island. Lots of places to land and explore. Then circumnavigating Six-Mile island one can gain access to Lancassange Creek, a small tributary that allows access to a beautiful, wooded section of the community.



The Ohio River Greenway - A bike or walking trip.



The Ohio River Greenway is a collaborative effort between the communities of Jeffersonville, Clarksville and New Albany, Indiana to develop an integrated recreational corridor along a 7.5 mile stretch of the Ohio River. If one starts in Louisville going across the Big Four Bridge, it is a 16 mile round trip that takes between 2 and 4 hours. It is one of the classic rides in the region.



River Town Review Recommendations

The following specific recommendations are based on all information gathered by the RTR Team.

SoIN Future Objectives

We present the following objectives for SoIN are based on what the RTR Team observed and learned from the community.

1. Work with Origin Park to fully integrate the park plans into both the each rivertown and county government plans to create destination Bike Trails, canoe trails, and other recreation features.
2. Work on developing collaborative land and trail management strategies that could be adopted and implemented by the three Rivertowns, ORIGIN Park and the Falls of the Ohio State Park and the US Army Corp of Engineers – Seamless planning and maintenance.
3. Plan and develop safe bicycle linkages from The Ohio River Greenway to all schools and neighborhoods.
4. Consider tent camping, restrooms/showers and secure equipment storage for paddlers and bicyclists at the waterfront parks.
5. Continue to create memorable places for civic events, attracting visitors, residents, businesses, and tourists and enhancing the business district along the riverfronts.

Short Term Ideas to Pursue (1 to 3 years)

- Reach out to young people in the region to share Southern Indiana’s outdoor recreational opportunities. It was the first time experience the Ohio River Greenway for all the 12 U of L students participating in the Honors Seminar.
- Create a training program for employees of tourism facilities (hotels, restaurants, retail establishments catering to tourists) on recreational opportunities in the region. UofL students asking for information about recreational opportunities in the 3 Indiana river towns were directed to opportunities in Louisville and distant locations in Indiana.
- Promote opportunities for new restaurants, brewery, and retail in the historic downtown buildings. Consider a farmer’s market, food carts and vendors at the park on Saturday mornings during the summer season. Become a destination for people to stop at whether they are on the river, biking or driving.
- Continue to explore options to expand the online marketing of the recreation assets in the region. Promote more about the water related recreation opportunities, add more photos on your website.
- Louisville, Jeffersonville, New Albany, and Clarksville should work together to create a comprehensive guide to the outdoors of Kentuckianna.
- Create a bike race from Louisville to Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and New Albany. Partner with Tour de Lou to do this.
- Add bike racks near service facilities to welcome the cycling community. Consider installing charging stations for electric bikes in the downtown area and at the riverfront parks.
- Get the Ohio River Greenway and other nearby trails in SoIN on outdoor recreation apps that have a searchable map (RideSpot, Trail Forks, MTBProject, RidewithGPS, AllTrails, etc.) in order to capitalize on folks traveling through the area via I-64/65/71, who might want to stop and “stretch their legs” on a short hike or bike ride.
- Encourage land managers from all the parks and protected areas to meet and identify common concerns.

Long Term Ideas to Pursue (3 to 10 years)

- Create lockable storage facilities for the bicycles, boats, kayaks, and canoes while visitors shop and eat!
- Connect pedestrian & bicycle linkages from the riverfront to all schools and neighborhoods.
- Explore new US Bike Route opportunities in the region to connect with the existing US Bike Routes in Indiana and Kentucky
- Acquire land on either side of Silver Creek to protect the riparian area of the creek. At a minimum acquire land halfway down the creek to allow an opportunity to get out and explore.
- Develop a great, outdoor, active event or race that showcases SoIN outdoor resources, local food, and craft beer/ bourbon.
- Jeffersonville: Develop Jeffboat into public park, expand trail access throughout Southern Indiana, and connect to Louisville Loop.
- Continue to push for the K and I bridge to allow the development of a walking and bike path on the bridge there by developing a loop using the big four bridge and the K and I bridge to cross the river.
- Our region should be the headquarters for the eastern legacy of Lewis and Clark national historic trail
- Remove low-head dam on Silver Creek and improve paddling access to the stream. This is a safety concern.

Additional Ideas to Consider:

- Collaborate with others, share ideas, and engage the region in setting a course of action to capitalize on the recreation resources and establish a vision for the future.
- Tell Your Story – Every community has a unique history. Explore ways to create memorable experiences in your community and on the trails that link to your community.

Immediate Action Items (Low Hanging Fruit):

- Update ORRT Digital Guide with local businesses/services
<https://www.ohioriverrecreationtrail.org/digital-guide>
- Partner with the ORRT organization:
<https://www.ohioriverrecreationtrail.org/become-a-partner>
- Enroll in the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Community Partner Program
<https://lewisandclark.travel/partner-community-program/>
- Internal newsletter or group chat among all business owners to ensure everyone stays in the loop.

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Appendix A

River Town Review Virtual Planning Process

The following steps outline the Ohio River Recreation Trail River Town Review planning process with a virtual community input workshop.

The Request

- **River Town Review Request** – A river town community submits a letter requesting a River Town Review to the Ohio River Recreation Trail Team. Details about requesting assistance can be found at [Ohio River Recreation Trail](#). The river town communities are selected based on meeting the criteria identified on the website.
- **Community Participation Requirements** – If selected, the community agrees to provide a contact person, list of key community members to participate in the RTR workshop, list of community assets, map identifying the location of the recreation facilities, host a tour of the community with the RTR Team and promote/encourage participation in the virtual community input workshop.
- **The ORRT River Town Review Team selects** communities, notifies them, schedules the River Town Review Workshop, and engages the community contact in the pre-workshop planning process.

Pre-Workshop Tasks

- **Desk Top Review** - The River Town Review Team will explore the internet presence of the community through a desk top review by several volunteers. They will be exploring the community assets, determining if they have the information necessary to plan an outdoor recreation adventure in the community (Recreation activities, lodging, restaurants, entertainment, etc.) and preparing a summary of their findings.
- **Community Visit & Assessment** – RTR Team members and outdoor recreation volunteers visit the community, explore the recreation assets, participate in a tour with local officials, interview people about the community recreation facilities and prepare a summary of their findings.
- **Prepare RTR Working Agenda & Presentations** – RTR Team identifies presenters and prepares information for the workshop.
- **RTR team and community leads** meet for a pre-workshop confirmation review and recruit people for participation in the workshop.

Workshop Tasks

- **Virtual Community Input Workshop** – (COVID Travel Restrictions) The RTR Team facilitates a virtual meeting to share what the fresh eyes have seen and hear from the community. The Team presents opportunities for the community partner with Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail and increase their local businesses exposure on the ORRT Digital Guide. The team gathers community input/ideas through a SWOT Analysis, participants prioritize SWOT ideas, & participants Brainstorm ideas to enhance recreation and tourism in the community. After the workshop the RTR Team collects and distributes the prioritized SWOT Analysis Ideas, the Brainstorming ideas captured during the virtual meeting and sends

the data to the meeting participants. The virtual meeting includes power point presentations and interactive online polling.

➤ **Workshop Participants Homework** – The workshop participants are asked to review the prioritized SWOT ideas and the list of brainstorming ideas generated during the workshop. They are asked to identify their top three short-term and long-term ideas to pursue from the lists, visit websites and describe a what a perfect day for a visitor in my community is. This information is returned to the RTR Team to be reviewed and analyzed as additional input to consider for recommendations.

Post Workshop Tasks

- **Report Out** – The RTR Team assembles all of the information collected from the desktop reviews, site visits, and community input to prepare a summary of recommendations. The collected data and a List of Resources for Communities are included as appendix items with the summary.
- **RTR Team and all RTR communities** convene for a River Town Review Summit to share challenges, successes, and ideas for future collaboration.

Templates have been created to help record the information, document the procedures, and guide the River Town Review process.

SoIN Tourism – River Town Review Workshop

November 24, 2020

The following lists are from SWOT Analysis exercise during the workshop that were recorded in the Chat Box. Please review the list and highlight your top three choices for each of the four categories.

STRENGTHS

- Ohio River
- Towns with access
- Amenities
- Neighborhoods close to the river
- Access to River
- The nature and historical context
- The Lewis and Clark historical sites
- Easy access to the river, biking paths along river, less crowded than Louisville side. You can bike to Louisville to and from New Albany. Charming small-town vibe in New Albany.
- Big Four Bridge, Ohio River Greenway
- Amenities near river (parks, restaurants, lodging, shopping, work, residential)
- For Jeffersonville: access to outdoor recreation and the river, specifically the beginning of the Ohio River Greenway and the Big Four Bridge, a major tourist attraction in the area
- The history of the three communities was shaped by the river - lots of stories
- Museums walkable from river front
- Falls of the Ohio, Loop Island Wetlands, and Ohio River access
- Location, location, location! Confluence of 3 major Interstates makes SoIn easy to travel to. Also, consider the number of mid-size cities that are within a 5-6-hour drive of SoIn.
- New Albany-Riverfront Park, Loop Wetlands, Ohio River Greenway, and boat ramp to the Ohio River
- Louisville Loop shared use path with 25 miles contiguous from Big 4 Bridge to southwest Louisville
- The Howard steamboat museum and the history of the river
- Metro area with over a million people who can access our amenities
- All the wonderful festivals - from Thunder to small community events
- Crossroad of major interstate highway systems
- Big 4 bridge, Louisville waterfront park
- Metro area close to very natural areas!
- River access, history, intersection of major roadways
- For Jeffersonville, Fisherman's Wharf and Big Four Bridge
- Waterfront Botanical Garden in Louisville
- The new origin park
- The Falls of the Ohio State Park and Origin Park provide opportunities for birding, hiking, biking (noninvasive activities)
- Deep historical connection to Lewis & Clark
- Restaurants have great views of the river and bring people to the downtowns
- Great restaurants along the river
- Small town feel in southern IN compared to Louisville
- Historical areas & Informative panels in the cities
- Great parks and trails for biking, paddling, and walking. Along with other unique features (falls of Ohio, loop island wetlands, etc.)
- In New Albany we have great local and relevant history. A realization that the river finally matters...now a strength. Strong sense of community. Cooperation between various communities on both side of the river. Great natural beauty. Still low cost of living. Numerous higher education venues.
- The architecture
- Rich history

- So IN's proximity to Louisville is a selling point. As is the LOW COST OF LIVING (~60% of the national average). Very appealing access to a city and the outdoors, without breaking the bank.
- Multiple marinas on the river
- well-developed tourism infrastructure (hotels, restaurants, attractions)
- Parks! Hays Kennedy, Caperton Swamp, Cox, Eva Bandman, Champions, Waterfront, Lannan, Portland Wharf, Shawnee, Chickadee, Kulmer Reserve are all adjacent to the Ohio River.
- Boat ramps both in the upper and lower pool
- Boat ramps everywhere in the area
- Bike routes, the connection to other communities

WEAKNESSES

- Public perception that the Ohio River is polluted
- Stigma of "Southern Indiana"
- Marina in New Albany waterfront
- Working together to support ORIGIN park
- Small town politics
- Aging population
- Social media presence
- Supposed division across river and across county/city lines
- Communities competing versus working as a cohesive region
- Lack of digital resources to educate communities about the outdoor recreation opportunities available
- Perception that Indiana lacks opportunities
- More tourism from Louisville side to downtown New Albany
- Lack of funds
- Non-local chains hurting the character of communities - the strip malls, Marriott's, and McDonalds
- Online presence
- Inconsistent to declining funding for existing public park resources and lack of a singular regional approach for systemic waterfront landscapes
- Lack of natural hiking in southern Indiana
- Overcoming problems with multiple parties or organizations involved
- Still somewhat provincial in outlook
- Low walkability/bike score, as well as lack of a "natural park area" (focuses mostly on urban trails such as big four bridge)
- Environmental justice enclaves along the river are underfunded for recreation
- The schools in southern Indiana are not tied to the Ohio River Greenway
- Social media presence and marketing, share info with the public not just locals
- Underutilization of existing assets by local community
- Economic uncertainty because of the pandemic
- Lack of knowledge of immediate surrounding area by chain hotels in terms of recommendations
- The Ohio River by way is dangerous to ride bikes on
- Water levels in Falls of the Ohio
- Still frequently dominated by Louisville
- Primacy of industrial use and commercial navigation for use of public waters on the Ohio.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Closing of Jeffboat and the repurpose of the land
- Origin Park!
- River Ridge's growth brings influx of people
- Connecting to other communities with bike trails
- Silver Creek access for paddling in New Albany.
- Larger airport with more incoming/outgoing destinations
- K & I Bridge
- Large tracts of publicly owned properties
- What can be done to the Jeffboat property in the future with regards to outdoor recreation
- Creating more bikable and walkable communities
- Origin park
- Connect to regional land trail network
- The 10th street park, greenspace at the end of the Ohio River Greenway
- K&I Bridge
- More Civic events to promote New Albany - Concerts, fairs, etc.
- Finishing the Louisville Loop to allow transportation between Louisville and SoIN that doesn't require a vehicle
- 10-15 miles of “urban” mountain bike trails connecting Jeff, C’ville and NA.
- Develop connections from The Falls of the Ohio Park and The Ohio River Greenway to the surrounding neighborhoods
- White water rafting
- Figure out how to market to Louisville folks
- Stable pools of water in the river for recreation
- Support for local businesses in every community
- Educating frontline employees in the tourism sector
- Paddle Tourism business in New Albany
- Natural amenities like the bird habitats next to river and woods/natural resources surrounding it
- More bike rental opportunities across SOIN
- White water kayaking below the dam, when levels allow.
- Utilize islands
- Ohio River Greenway, historic tourism, quality of life
- Population growth
- Social Media and Marketing for Outdoor Recreation, these are often unknown gems
- Location on migratory routes
- Greater focus on bicycle trails
- Rail trail
- Having a predictable water levels at the falls of the Ohio River.
- Paddling in Ohio River tributaries
- Light rail system
- Location within large regional population
- An up to date map of the greenway
- Affordable housing within reach of greenspace
- Utilize abandoned railroad beds for Rails to Trails (paved or gravel). Easily connects Jeff Boat, 8th St, 10th St, downtown Jeffersonville and Clarksville
- Collaborative interpretive projects, art projects, tours etc.
- The K and I bridge - making it a bike and walking bridge
- Jeff’s waterfront is an urban mountain bike fun park
- 6-mile island,
- Atepark which has been a big hit and has a river-themed design.

THREATS

- Lack of appreciation/embracing of the Underground Railroad bike route (through SoIN)
- Inability of cities to collaborate
- Threats...Climate change
- Water Pollution
- Rising river levels and more frequent flooding
- Economic decline due to COVID
- Jeff Boat property being developed with no greenspace
- Environmental justice issues - sewage treatment
- Flooding! development of greenspaces could help mitigate this
- Allocation of resources to more “important” projects
- Lack of political cohesion
- Depopulation
- Urban sprawl of metropolitan areas converting natural areas
- Private ownership of riverfront
- Uncooperative land abusers
- Land speculators
- Flooding
- Region should work to balance both business concern as well as natural resources
- Droughts
- Climate change
- Perception that the Ohio River is an industrial river and not a recreational venue
- Economic uncertainty
- Vagrant/homeless population (perhaps a weakness)
- Wealth inequality
- Nature deficit disorder
- Lack of communication between officials
- Public safety (expectation and general community consensus about the lack of on the river)
- Lack of access for lower-income families, since it relies on car transportation
- Public needs to see the benefits... need a public relations push
- Love the K&I walking bridge idea! Long time coming

Grouped Brainstorming Ideas

Marketing & Outreach

- A. Develop a marketing initiative to support positive public perception of outdoor recreation on and along the river
- B. Create a campaign for the Ohio River....water is life (With regular updates on river water quality)
- C. Visible progress is always interesting to see. We could put regular updates on the river water quality.
- D. Explore other models for this kind of river-oriented river connection efforts that have worked? Chesapeake Bay? Hudson River? Columbia River?
- E. Louisville, Jeffersonville, new Albany and Clarksville should work together to create a comprehensive
- F. guide to the outdoors of kentuckyianna
- G. Work on the social media websites so the cities can get more exposure to their recreation assets and events
- H. Recruit assistance from the UofL community to spread awareness about outdoor recreation in SoIN on the Campus Facebook
- I. Set up a well-funded organization that is solely responsible for promoting all parks and natural amenities within our area. Each of the communities within Clark and Floyd counties would have an incentive to work with this group and would see the value to participating.
- J. Many students at UofL are unaware of recreation opportunities in Indiana
- K. Encourage people of color to recreate on and along the river
- L. Get the Ohio River Greenway and other nearby trails in SoIN on outdoor recreation apps that have a searchable map (RideSpot, Trail Forks, MTBProject, RidewithGPS, AllTrails, etc.) in order to capitalize on folks traveling through the area via I-64/65/71, who might want to stop and “stretch their legs” on a short hike or bike ride.

Organized Events

- M. Create an overarching Ohio River Festival that connects these communities in a shared event
- N. Create a bike race from Louisville to Jeffersonville, Clarksville and New Albany (Let’s link our communities together. Partner with Tour de Lou to do this.)
- O. Kite-flying and drone photography classes, educational workshops, etc. on the riverfront

Linkage Recommendations

- P. Connect the Ohio River Greenway to the local schools (Help address the Healthy Outdoors and Nature Deficit Disorder needs)
- Q. Connect Ohio River Greenway all the way to wildlife area at Duke Energy
- R. Reconnect New Albany with Silver Creek through Loop Island/ORIGIN Park and the Ohio River Greenway
- S. Develop system of trails (for mountain biking and hiking) that connects Jeff/C’ville/NA. Potential exists for 10-15 miles of trails that somewhat parallel the Greenway.
- T. Connect the parks to West Louisville (maybe another walking bridge)! Make it accessible to these lower income
- U. communities, support health & fitness

- V. Jeffersonville: Develop JeffBoat into public park, expand trail access throughout Southern Indiana, and connect to Louisville Loop
- W. Rails to Trails with existing, abandoned RR tracks

Riverfront & Waterways

- X. More access to the river (continuation of the greenway throughout the 3 towns,)
- Y. Outdoor recreation opportunities at the old site of Jeffboat
- Z. Remove low-head dam on Silver Creek and improve paddling access to the stream
- AA. Lewis & Clark Historic Trail
- BB. Our region should be the headquarters for the eastern legacy of Lewis and Clark national historic trail
- CC. Seek a funding source for the Lewis and Clark historical trail

Wayfinding

- DD. More signs in the city or maps directing to different areas

Other Ideas

- EE. National Park City Concept Built Around the River
- FF. All 3 communities should commit to becoming a Bicycle Friendly Community
- GG. Lack of a clear definition between where Clarksville begins and Jeffersonville ends. (Second Street Bridge could be
a
- HH. focal point with the tourism center becoming a place where programming happens.)

Alexandra Brooks, Forest Clevenger, Catie Hofmeister, and Stevana Schauer

Dr. David Wicks and Russell Barnett

HON 351

23 November 2020

Clarksville River Town Review

The Rivertown of Clarksville, Indiana is a small city with a rich history and beautiful landscape. Clarksville has a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities to offer for locals and tourists. While downtown Clarksville is located inland away from the riverfront, the uncommercialized, natural environment along the banks of the Ohio River provides the public with access to cycling, boating, kayaking, hiking, and fishing along the river. The Ohio River Greenway, the Falls of the Ohio State Park, Origin Park, connecting trails, and conservation land along the riverbanks are key attractions in the Clarksville community. In addition to providing the public with healthy and engaging outdoor recreational activities, Clarksville’s maintenance and preservation of the parks and trails is vital to wildlife conservation, flood prevention, and historical education and preservation. In this report, we first summarize Clarksville’s historical and cultural significance. Next, we identify and assess the key attractions, amenities, and features of the town. Finally, we suggest some short-term and long-term recommendations to improve the overall experience on Clarksville’s riverfront.

Desktop Review

Historical and Cultural Background

Clarksville is a small city with a long history. The area was originally inhabited by Native American tribes that took advantage of the shallow waters of the Falls of the Ohio. After the Revolutionary War in 1783, General George Rogers Clark obtained 1000 acres of land that would later take his name: *Clarksville*. Clarksville remained a very small town initially because it frequently flooded and was bypassed by ferries further west. However, it was a popular dueling ground since dueling was

illegal in Kentucky. One famous duel took place here in 1809 between two famous politicians, Henry Clay and Humphrey Marshall. It left both men slightly wounded and resulted in a draw.

In 1845 the state prison moved to Clarksville and a women's prison was later built in 1873. This brought more people and work to the city. The 14th Street Bridge also known as the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge was first completed in 1870, which was vital to the growth towns along the Ohio River west of Cincinnati. This bridge marks the eastern boundary of the Falls of the Ohio State Park and is at the head of the canal that leads to McAlpine Locks and Dam. At the time it was built, there were no bridges across the Ohio River in Cincinnati or anywhere west including Louisville. This was also the longest iron bridge in America at the time spanning about a mile long. A citywide fire in 1918 destroyed a large portion of the city as well as the state prison. The Colgate Company bought the vacant prison property in 1921 and operated there until 2009. This is where the famous Colgate Clock resides. The 14th Street Bridge was renovated and enforced with stronger steel structures in 1919 around the same time as the Colgate Company's arrival, and investments like these led to a large increase in the population of Clarksville. The city boomed through the 1920s because of the ability to gamble in the city, though its growth was hindered by the flood of 1937. The population was only 2,400 in 1940 but has reached 21,670 in 2020.

Reviews

Clarksville Parks and Recreation offers a variety of activities, classes, and special events that engage the community with nature and the parks of Clarksville. According to reviews on TripAdvisor.com, Clarksville has made large efforts to expand and maintain its local parks such as Cline Park with hiking trails, gardens, and playgrounds. The town of Clarksville has implemented the state mandate requiring all people over eight-years-old to wear a mask in public places. Restaurants, bars, and small businesses are still open and allowing people in person.

Attractions and Amenities

When looking at the Ohio River Recreational Guide, Clarksville has only four points of interest. A star marks the entrance to Silver Creek and gives a little information about the creek and how long and accessible it is. Two boat ramps are marked. One of these tags marks the Falls of the Ohio State Park with its boat ramp, restrooms, parking, and Devonian fossil beds. The other boat ramp tag is for George Rogers Clark Homestead and Boat Ramp. These tags all have addresses, websites, and phone numbers available for more information. The last tag is a “River Community” tag but when you click on it it has no information or name or anything else helpful, only a picture presumably of Clarksville’s downtown. Information for this tag needs to be added to be complete. Another opportunity that could help promote tourism is the new Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail eastern legacy website (<https://lewisandclark.travel/>). An interesting omission on the Lewis and Clark travel website is the Clark homesite.

Clarksville harbors a variety of outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities; however, these activities were not found all in one website and took research to compile. The most common attraction to show up when searching Clarksville is the Falls of the Ohio State Park. The park has hiking trails, picnic areas, and opportunities for fishing. The George Rogers Clark Homestead is an attraction that can be found in close proximity to the river. Clarksville has a variety of parks that were listed together on the Clarksville Parks and Recreation website. One notable park is Ashland Park which provides an amazing view of downtown Louisville and is close to the Ohio River Greenway. The Ohio River Greenway runs through Clarksville and is a great trail for biking or walking that runs along the river. Also close to the greenway is the Widow’s Walk Ice Creamery and Bicycle Rentals. The Colgate Clock can be viewed near the river as well. During the search, paddling opportunities were not found or mentioned despite the Ohio River and Silver Creek being a part of the Clarksville community.

Walkability and Bike Ability

On the Walk Score Website, Clarksville has a walk score of 30 and is considered to be a car-dependent city. The city itself does not have a bike score but reports that there are not a lot of bike lanes. When the location is switched to Ashland Park the walk score increases to 33 and the bike score is 58. The bike score is most likely due to the Ohio River Greenway which makes the area near the river bikeable.

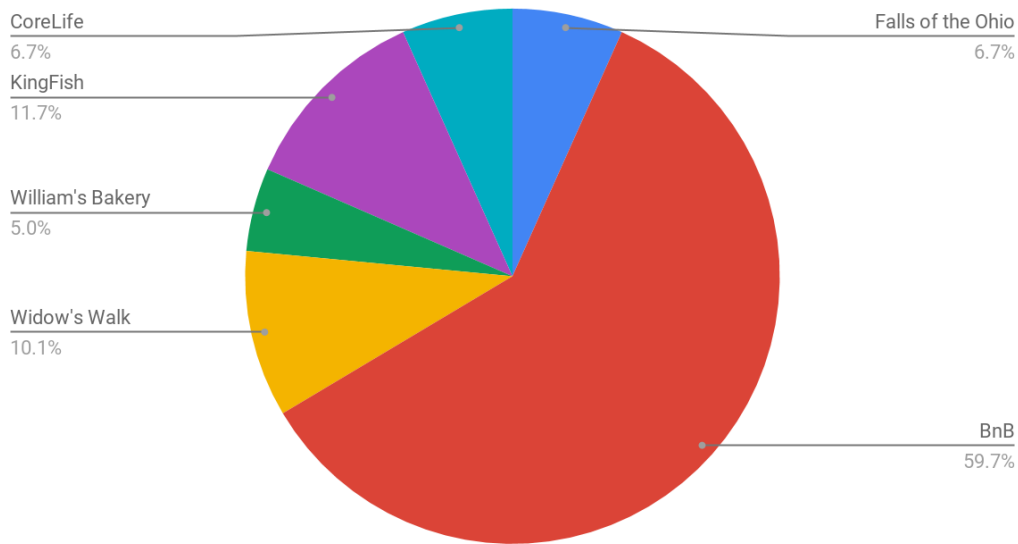
River Access

One river access point, George Rogers Clark Boat Ramp, was located on the GoPaddling app. GoPaddling is an app that is commonly used by paddlers to find access points and details. However, according to the Falls of the Ohio website, that boat ramp has been recently renovated as it was closed for several years due to damage. We witnessed the adjacent road damage as well near the boat ramp making the park a bit more difficult to access. The river can also be accessed by foot from the Falls of the Ohio State Park.

One possible two-person, two-night stay in Clarksville:

- Stay at Cottage AirBnB beside the levee (\$178)
- Go to Falls of the Ohio (\$20)
- Have plenty of good food
 - William's Bakery (\$15)
 - Widow's Walk (\$30)
 - KingFish (\$30)
 - CoreLife Eatery (\$20)
- Enjoy the parks and views (priceless)

Two-Day Budget



Online Presence

Clarksville has an online presence, but it's not as strong as it could be. On both Facebook and Twitter, Clarksville posts announcements and records of the government's meetings. However, the posts do not generate many engagements - if any at all. New records of meetings should instead go on the town's website and content should be refocused to engage the community. This is critical on Facebook in particular. The town wholly lacks an Instagram account and one *needs* to be created. Currently, the town's only presence on Instagram is a profane parody account of Clarksville that makes fun of the town and does not paint it in a good light.

Clarksville has a professional website and clearly indicated section to Explore Clarksville. However, this section primarily has links to third party resources - gosoin.com, visitindiana.com, clarkvilleparks.com, and fallsoftheohio.org. Instead of having these subsections native on Clarksville's website, potential visitors are redirected to other websites. Sections for outdoor & recreation, restaurants, hotels, and shopping should be directly on Clarksville's website. Redirecting people off the website to Indiana tourism in general also introduces them to competing amenities in other towns. These

subsections should not be listed in the existing scrolling section where only some of them are visible at a time.

Clarksville tourism outreach and coordination is handled by SoIN, www.gosoin.com/ a multi county tourism board that provides links to things to do and to restaurants and lodging.

Outdoor Recreation Social Groups and Organizations

Finding social groups and organizations was a difficult task as most opportunities were based out of Louisville or other states containing a city of Clarksville. The Clarksville Historical Society had a Facebook page and seems to focus mainly on preserving history. The Southern Indiana Wheelman Association, Inc. is a bicycle club that includes Clarksville residents. The town seems to have room for improvement when it comes to groups that support outdoor recreation. A lot of programs and classes were found on the Parks and Recreation website. Other groups, like the Wheelman Association, exist for Southern Indiana in general.

The Viking Canoe Club schedules trips to the Falls of the Ohio to kayak surf in the waves created by the Dam and Power plan. Here is a neat [video of a recent trip](#).

Visitor's Assessment

River Connections

The Ohio River Greenway area was welcoming and clean. The Falls of the Ohio State Park had trash and debris, but not an unwelcoming amount. Though, as we saw firsthand, this gives artist Albertus Gorman the chance to pick up that trash and make art out of it. He then displays the art in natural settings along the river, public for anyone to see.

The Ohio River Greenway and Falls of the Ohio Park Trails have plenty of scenic overlook points. Picnic tables, benches, grills, and bathrooms are also visible and accessible. The closest riverfront restaurants are in Jeffersonville, as Clarksville's stretch of the greenway is more park-like

focused on wildlife and conservation. Downtown Clarksville is distanced from the waterfront and may be difficult for tourists to locate from the waterfront parks and the Ohio River Greenway. These two parts of Clarksville feel very separate, but social media and marketing efforts could help.

River Access

The Ohio River Greenway provides plenty of parking spaces and accessible bathrooms; however, signage is needed to access the Greenway. From the Big Four Bridge it was unclear on how to get on the Greenway. A sign that indicates you are entering Clarksville and signs that point to schools, hotels, downtown Clarksville, and other places that visitors would like to know about would also be beneficial. From the Greenway trailheads for the Falls of the Ohio State Park are easy-enough to find. Access to kayaking, boating, hiking, and fishing is less obvious. While the greenway is paved, if you want to get close to the river you may be following an unofficial path. Many hikers and fishers use unmaintained trails to access the fossil beds and sandy beaches. A perfect example of one such hike is exemplified in this video we made about a hike through the Falls of the Ohio State Park (<https://youtu.be/aWXlpCZBWvo>). There is a public boat ramp called the George Rogers Clark Homesite Boat Ramp that provides access to the falls for boaters and kayakers. Signs are posted along the shoreline noting potential currents and flooding.

Bicycle Opportunities

Bike racks are visible and accessible along the Ohio River Greenway and near restaurants in Jeffersonville. Folks can rent bicycles at the Widow's Walk Ice Creamery near the Ohio River Greenway. The trails would benefit from more rental options like 'LouVelo' in Louisville which could be placed by the parks and trails. Many trail users could then access nearby restaurants and shops. Some families in the surrounding towns who visit the Falls of the Ohio and trails looking for an adventure, but do not own their own equipment. Creative bike racks could be a great addition to the waterfront as well.

Pedestrian

The sidewalks and paved greenway feel even and safe. The greenway is new, so it feels very clean. There could be better signage in general, such as signs directing pedestrians to downtown, providing mileage and times along the walks, and guiding people to other trails.

Trails

The Ohio River Greenway is the perfect connector between bridges, parks, and surrounding trails. This results in a connection between Louisville, Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and New Albany. Trails and parks have the potential to provide physical, emotional, and environmental health opportunities for communities. To reap these benefits for community members and visitors, easy access and maintenance of trails is critical.

In September 2020 Clarksville dedicated a new trail connecting the Ohio River Greenway with several neighborhoods. According the [trail's website](#): “The Discovery Trail is newly constructed two-mile-long bike, pedestrian and ADA accessible trail that merges with the Ohio River Greenway. Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb created the Next Level Trails program which helped the Town fund the trail. The Town of Clarksville was among those recipients, receiving a grant for \$840,800 for the Discovery trail development.”



SoIN Tourism Director Jim Epperson said: “These types of projects will reap awards and benefits for years to come,” he said. “You have already seen and you will start to see more and more usage, and people who maybe didn’t have quite an understanding of what this kind of investment can mean will start to see how popular it is and what it does for the quality of life in Clarksville.”

Other Amenities and Impressions

Clarksville lacks supplemental amenities, like hotels and restaurants, that are local and integrated with the Greenway. Outdoor recreation, trails, and parks including the Falls of the Ohio are the most popular and attractive features. Not only are the parks and trails great for recreation, but urban planners and park developers are utilizing this space between the river and town to prevent flooding and support ecology. Luckily, restaurants and small businesses are still accessible to trail users in nearby Louisville, Jeffersonville, and New Albany. Visiting this town feels like going back in time, from the fossil beds to George Rogers Clark Cabin. There is a lot of nature and history to preserve here.

Future Plans

In a five-year development plan, Clarksville suggested small changes to 12 local parks. Most of these changes were additional tables and benches, modifying existing courts for other sports (i.e. tennis court to racquetball court), adding bathrooms, and improving pathways. The biggest plan for Clarksville is the addition of Origin Park. Origin Park is an ambitious project that aims to preserve and restore natural landscape while also opening it up for outdoor recreation. One feature of the park is its “amphibian” quality. It will be built to be able to accommodate flooding and remain usable for outdoor recreation. This will be accomplished by the elevated trail called Infinity Loop. This loop will be 2.8 miles long and is intended to be used in any season in any weather. The creators of Origin Park are also working with historians to present an accurate history of the area, one that will include Native American history as well as more modern history. They do not plan to add signs but rather have the tours be conducted online so that you can follow with a smartphone.

Origin Park does face some challenges. It may not be able to reach its full potential if seasonal homes, a junk yard, and other buildings are not removed from the area which it will be located.

Clarksville needs to take action to ensure the removal of these obstacles. It could also be of interest to

connect this park to the many other parks in the city. A network of trails would increase the walking score of the town and the outdoor recreation opportunities.

Another future project that may be of interest would be to beautify the levee portion of the Greenway. When our class went on a bike ride we rode along the levee and could see directly into the backyards of locals. It would be more visually appealing to have trees planted along the lines of the backyards so the area would feel more natural and the residents would have more privacy. This same issue is encountered when the trail goes past a junkyard. These issues could possibly be resolved by a volunteer project for the locals and especially for those homeowners who live along the Greenway. Many people would likely appreciate more privacy for their homes or more natural scenery along the Greenway so the project would likely be well received. Another option would be to include a local organization like Louisville Grows which is a nonprofit organization that works on improving the health and wellness of Louisville areas through planting trees.

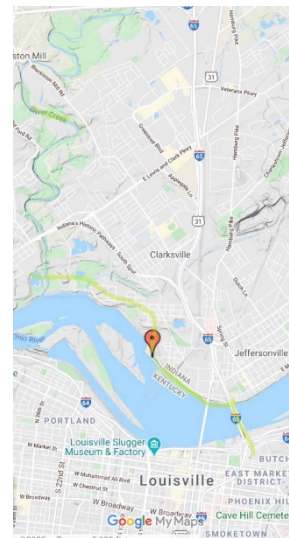


An image of the proposed Origin Park

Site Visits

Bike Ride from Louisville to Silver Creek (Catie, Stevie, Lexie and Forest on 9/19/2020 for 2 Hours)

The ability to bike from the Louisville Community Boathouse over the Big Four Bridge and then through Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and New Albany was an awesome experience that should be promoted to more residents of Louisville. On this trip I enjoyed passing by Ashland Park and the Widow’s Walk Ice Creamery and Bicycle Rentals. I thought the Ohio River Greenway sign is an awesome addition, but there should also be signage indicating the entrance into Clarksville. There was a great view of the Falls of the Ohio State Park on the greenway. The town of Clarksville has a great appeal from the perspective of the greenway. The prospect of connecting the greenway to Origin Park would be a great way to extend this adventure into a full day of recreation.



On the left is a picture of the Ohio River Greenway, and on the right is a rough sketch of the route taken along the greenway on a map.

Hike at the Falls of the Ohio (Catie, Stevie, Lexie and Forest on 10/16/2020 for 1.5 Hours)

To explore the Falls of the Ohio State Park we took a path near the Ohio Falls Bridge, and it felt as if the path was made from visitors rather than purposely made from the park. This was an interesting aesthetic that I enjoyed, but I worry about the safety of a path like this and believe it needs to be evaluated if it has not been already. There were several families out and about exploring the park as well as fisherman fishing off the shore. One family stopped us and asked for directions on the easiest way to return to the Visitor’s Center. This brought up the issue of how to give more direction in the park; however, I enjoyed the untouched feeling of the park and would recommend virtual options for navigating the park rather than placing signs or handing out maps. The beaches along the Falls of the Ohio were littered with trash. It would be really great to see this get cleaned up some.



The image on the left depicts people enjoying the trails at the Falls of the Ohio, and the one on the right is a man fishing at the Falls.

Hiking the Trail (Stevie on 10/23/2020 for 1 Hour)

I went for a solo trip to the Falls of the Ohio to take videos for our hiking video. Like we realized with our last trip, there were no direct paths or trails to follow on this side of the Interpretive Center so you had to make your own way. This was exciting but potentially dangerous and very inaccessible to

many people, so I recommend those that feel unsafe to use the steps on the Western side which provides easy and safe access. At the Falls I saw lots of people out fishing and looking through the fossil beds. I saw a couple of interesting water birds as well. I ran into a few locals that told me they go to the parks around Clarksville often and their biggest complaint is how the bathrooms are typically locked and at times the parks look very dirty with trash. They said they love to bike in the area and they feel it is very biker friendly near the Ohio River Greenway.



A sign that can be found in the Falls of the Ohio State Park.

Recommendations

Short-Term

Social Media Presence and Marketing: In addition to working towards more engaging content with organic reach, investing in sponsored posts on Facebook, Instagram, and maybe Twitter is worthwhile. In addition to spreading information about Clarksville and its brand, bringing people into Clarksville's social media can connect them with details on how to make the most of experiencing the community. Hopefully, these sponsored posts will reach populations such as University of Louisville students who are unaware of what Clarksville has to offer.

Local Parks: When talking to some locals, they mentioned the bathrooms at the parks are sometimes locked and the area is poorly kept. Having volunteers help keep the park pristine and for the

city to unlock and take care of the bathrooms would help promote recreation. It is also very important for Clarksville to promote Origin Park. Origin Park has the potential to be a major regional destination as a park but also for other major outdoor recreation activities. The top outdoor recreation activity is birdwatching and in the fall around 400,000 birds stop in this area of Origin Park nightly. This park could be the highlight of the town if the buildings preventing its creation are removed.

Long-Term

Improve the Experience: Promote bicycle, fishing, kayaking, and boating rental options along the Ohio River Greenway and waterfront parks in Clarksville. With the Falls of the Ohio being its largest attraction, Clarksville should improve public access to equipment and education for the outdoor recreation it offers. It would be great to see canoe launching ramps added. Silver Creek is one of the best access points to the Ohio in Clarksville and its usage could be increased if the low head dam were removed. Additionally, many families show up unsure how to use the parks and trails around the Falls of the Ohio. There would be a great benefit of an up to date Ohio river Greenway map and or app that would help with way finding.

Increase Inclusivity: Reaching the river is sometimes a challenge for an able-bodied person, let alone people with disabilities. Ensuring outdoor recreational opportunities are afforded to them is critical. Additionally, the narrative of the native peoples of the area should be more abundant because there is a significant exhibit in the Falls of the Ohio Museum regarding Native histories but it is not seen much throughout the town or the parks. Origin Park will greatly improve this issue with its virtual tour.

Increase Connectivity: It could be very beneficial to increase multipurpose hiking and biking trail connections with all of the neighborhoods of Clarksville. The city is very disconnected yet has a great amount of potential to be a very walkable and bikeable city.

Conclusion

Clarksville could be at a turning point. Currently, the town is in a prime location directly across Louisville. With a quieter and cheaper environment, still within distance of the resources of a larger city, and with excellent access to the Ohio River and its Greenway, Clarksville is in a unique position. The development of Origin Park, in particular, could serve to change everything. In addition to being an attraction for people outside of Clarksville, the park would be able to serve members of the community on a daily basis - changing what it means to live in Clarksville. To help build upon this future, Clarksville can continue prioritizing its green spaces and recreation, build upon its online engagement, and help support the growth of more local and more greenway-accessible supporting amenities.

Helpful Websites

<http://www.clarksvilleparks.com/>

<https://visitindiana.com/things-to-do?cat=61%2c62%2c63%2c64>

<https://www.gosoin.com/>

<https://www.riverheritageconservancy.org/about-us>

<https://www.falloftheohio.org/>

<http://www.clarksvilleparks.com/assets/masterplan2018.pdf>

<https://paddling.com/paddle/trips/falls-of-the-ohiodiana/>

<https://co.clark.in.us/index.php/about-clark-county-indiana/clark-county-indiana-history>

<http://ohiorivergreenway.org/>

Jeffersonville, Indiana

Collin N., Luke M., Luke S., and Sean W.

Desktop Review

a. *Prior to visiting a River Town, review the application submitted for a River Town Review and make notes of any important information*

The Rivertown Review Application was presented by Andrea Ireland and Russ Clark, who both noted key details in the application submitted by Ohio River cities. The review application consists of 4 parts: Pre-Visit, Day 1, Day 2, and Post-Visit. The Pre-Visit component includes a survey of the land, looking at such aspects as wayfinding and the walkability score. Other aspects in the Pre-Visit included interviews with local people in the cities, as well as the social media presence in the community. Day 1 focuses on experiencing the community, including such examples as introduction to the application team, visit to outdoor recreation facilities, and digital guide locations. Day 2's mission is rooted in discussion and actions of the community. This day includes a team intro, discussion over projects, paddling/boating opportunities, and a final afternoon discussion for funding and final report. The post-visit is focused on three aspects: data compilation, strategies, and resources. Any questions, as well as actions related to assistance and responsibilities, should be directed to Andrea or Russ.

b. *Historical and Cultural events/stories/geographic sites relating to the river – Use at least five sources from <https://library.louisville.edu/ekstrom/hon351> , ProQuest, or sources that you find. Include several historical photos that feature outdoor recreation. Share with us new resources that could be included in the class research website.*

In 1768, Fort Finney was created to protect the area from Native Americans around the now-known area of Jeffersonville, supposedly named after Thomas Jefferson when he became the President of the United States in 1802. The city grid was supposedly designed by Jefferson in 1802 for the foundation of the city.

Howard Steamboat Museum (1): A late Victorian mansion suited for showing models and artifacts of the Howard Shipyards. The yard housed the City of Louisville and the Indiana, two popular steamboats.

Ohio River Greenway (2): A renovated multi-use trail that stretches for around seven miles. The trail begins on the East side next to Jeffboat in Jeffersonville. It is a project that multiple communities worked on to make a recreational outlet along the river.

Grisamore House (3): A house built in 1837 that stands to this day and is still used by influential families in the Jeffersonville area. William Henry Harrison gave a notable speech here in 1840 while campaigning for the Presidency.



<https://www.jeffmainstreet.org/business/howard-steamboat-museum/>

<http://ohiorivergreenway.org/>

<https://www.jeffmainstreet.org/business/ohio-river-greenway/>

<https://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/search/collection/howard> <http://ohiorivergreenway.org/>

c. Find one positive story from a news source (newspaper, tv, magazine, blog, etc) Find one story about Covid impacts and how it is affecting the town. Look at crowdsourced site for reviews (trip advisor, yelp, etc.) What is consistently reviewed well or makes the top ten list?

The bonds that connect those with a similar past run deep. The people of Jeffersonville are brought together by their community whether they know it or not, and it is amazing so see people appreciate the roots they share. Some bonds are lost but not forgotten. Recently, nine army veterans saw each other for the first time in 45 years. They have been sharing the same water and living space for all that time and had no idea until this meet up. https://www.newsandtribune.com/news/group-of-veterans-reunites-in-jeffersonville/article_b880b2e0-f9f7-11ea-a25a-d734ce17855f.html

In May, the mayor of Jeffersonville announced measures that would be taken due to covid-19 in order to save money in the budget. These actions included closing pools, cancelling outdoor events and pausing construction on some city improvements.

Yelp declares the best restaurants to be Portage House, The Red Yeti, and Union Restaurant and Gameyard. Tripadvisor recommends the Big Four Bridge, Howard Steamboat Museum and Mansion, and the Perrin Family Park. All data was collected from user reviews

d. Inventory of outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities relating to the river—Bike and walking trails; paddling, power, or sail boats; marinas and boat ramps. Tourist attractions are located immediately adjacent to the river—Historic structures, lock and dams, locations of significant historic events. Request digital versions of hard copy brochures, relevant pieces of existing tourism and community plans from river town contact.

The riverside activities vary by location. They are at their highest close to the Big Four Bridge. Moving out, the amount of activities for outdoor recreation decreases, especially moving east towards Jeffboat. The trail along the Ohio River Greenway provides the most outdoor-friendly environment for tourists. The closure and future of JeffBoat property remains uncertain, as the company as well as the community is trying to decide what should happen to the 65-acre river-front in the future. While residential, commercial, and industrial development have been proposed, the use that may have the highest potential is waterfront park development and outdoor recreation. Kadie Engstrom of the Howard Steamboat Museum believes that the area would be best suited as a large public park that features

artwork and signage that pay homage to the Howard Family and the rich steamboat history of Jeffersonville. The Howard Steamboat Museum would greatly benefit if their campus could be directly connected to the Ohio River Shore line and the future possibility of having a set of docks for historic boats. The land spans over 80 acres of waterfront parallel to the Ohio River, so there is plenty of space and development potential for the site, pending necessary environmental cleanup.

In the image below, we have a sample of a few hard copy brochures pertaining to local tourism. A more comprehensive guide to tourism in the Jeffersonville area can be found at <https://www.gosoin.com/>. Recreational green space is preferable here, highlighting community access to the river, a physical link to museums (such as Howard Steamboat) to the river, a continuation of the Ohio River Greenway, cheaper infrastructure costs, and increasing property value and tax revenue from nearby properties. Outdoor recreation and tourism is less of an investment, as levee systems require additional infrastructure costs such as utilities and roads.



e. Governmental, nonprofit groups, or foundation plans for outdoor recreation and or park development

The city of Jeffersonville contributes to outdoor recreation and park development, and their progress is highlighted at jeffpark.org. The City of Jeffersonville has a Parks Department with the mission of providing high-quality parks and recreation services for their community. The city’s website displays a great lineup of programs/activities for all ages. The biggest attraction promoted is the RiverStage, a concert venue hosting local bands and free entertainment for families, as it is the biggest non profit in the city. The website (jeffpark.org) lists the city’s parks in alphabetical order, along with the address, hours, and contact information of the park coordinator as well as the city council person in the respective district. A governmental hierarchy exists in Jeffersonville, as Paul Northam is the Director of Parks and Recreation and Amber Ridings is the Assistant Director. Jeffersonville also has a Parks Authority Board that meets on the Third Thursday of each month in Park Facilities Maintenance Buildings. Foundation partners of the park system are supported by city partners, such as Duke Energy, Norton Healthcare, and Republic Bank. The Parks Department also has an Instagram page: <http://www.instagram.com/p/CBix0hfHJol/>

f. Walkability/bike ability or river access studies

On the Walk Score website Jeffersonville has a walkability score of 23. This score is quite low considering its access to recreational areas close to the river. The inner portion of Jeffersonville features few biking lanes and a lack of options for getting around town without a car. This score is an average, however, and varies depending on location. Close to the Abraham Lincoln bridge, the walking score reaches a high of 80. This is around where the Greenway begins (where we began our biking trip on 9/19/2020). It seems that this area in particular has many walking/biking efforts implemented by the city, but it is largely limited to this area and along 10th St in particular. Recently, the City of Jeffersonville has been discussing the addition of pedestrian-only streets in its Historic Downtown district, which would greatly improve “Walkability”, “Bikeability”, and the overall pedestrian experience in the city. They have already begun experimenting with pedestrian only streets on specific weekends to support socially-distanced downtown outings for families and tourists alike: <https://wfpl.org/jeffersonville-to-test-pedestrian-only-streets-in-downtown/>.

g. Visit the Ohio River Digital Guide and the Lewis and Clark Experience maps to assess what is present in your rivertown.

The Ohio River Digital Guide primarily highlights restaurants, including the Portage House, Cluckers, Flat12 Bierwerks, Kingfish, and Buckhead Mountain grill. The map also includes the Howard Steamboat Museum and Riverstage, a stage space on the Ohio River where festivals and presentations can be held. It normally hosts a summer series with local bands and food vendors. The Howard Steamboat Museum and Mansion includes the history of the Howard family and their steamboat building operations, as well as a Carriage House for wedding & event hosting. The restaurants and lodging have not been highlighted or promoted on the new Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail travel website: <https://lewisandclark.travel/>

h. Tourism and hospitality of the town – connection to the river? Create a two- night budget for visiting the town with lodging, restaurants, and sites.

Accommodations are somewhat lacking in Jeffersonville due to its relative size and proximity to Louisville. That being said, there are several national chain hotels, including Sheraton (the only hotel with a river view,) Fairfield Inn & Suites, and Days Inn, as well as Market Street Inn Bed & Breakfast, a local establishment. Most accommodations in Jeffersonville are near the river or Downtown Jeffersonville, especially near Interstate 65 on the West End of town. Listed below is a sample two-night budget for two people staying in Jeffersonville:

Day One:

Arrive at Market Street Inn Bed & Breakfast (\$159/night)

Walk through Big Four Station Park and Big Four Walking Bridge

Lunch at Buckhead Mountain Grill (\$20/person)

Visit Howard Steamboat Museum (\$10/person)

Dinner at Portage House (\$20/person)

Waterfront and Concert at RiverStage

Day Two:

Morning Bike down Waterfront to Lewis & Clark Bridge and Back

Stop by Perrin Park

Lunch at Red Yeti (\$15/person)

Visit Schimpff's Confectionery

Dinner at Kingfish (\$25/person)

Walk Van Dyke Park on Waterfront at night

Grand Total: \$498 for 2 people

i. Look at one social media site: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter. How many followers? What is the most recent post? How often updated? Are there photos? Any events?

The City of Jeffersonville has an active social media presence on Facebook, as it is listed as a governmental organization on the platform, along with their YouTube page and a link to their website (cityofjeff.net) and phone number (812-285-6400.) The Facebook page has approximately 15,000 followers and is updated almost every day. The page has a variety of photos on their posts (ribbon openings, Zoom meetings, neighborhood gatherings, etc.) They also pose a "Question of the Week" to their followers. The Events tab is not as active, however, as the last event posted was the Mayor's Swearing-In Ceremony on December 23, 2019. Numerous events are posted in the feed instead: <https://www.facebook.com/jeffersonville.indiana/>.

j. Does the town have adequate hotels, restaurants, attractions to support tourism?

We found that Jeffersonville was lacking in terms of accessible hotels close to the river. In terms of restaurants, it has a fair number of options ranging from Portage House, Cluckers, Flat12 Bierwerks, Kingfish, and Buckhead Mountain grill in addition to other more local options like Lighthouse Restaurant and Lounge or Cast Iron Steakhouse near Jeffboat. The Big Four Bridge and Big Four Station are, in our opinion, the biggest attraction in the area. The Ohio River Greenway is a great attraction especially for cyclists and does a great job connecting the three cities of Jeffersonville, Clarksville and New Albany. Fisherman's Wharf provides utility to paddlers and pedestrians alike. The docks could be in such a way to make them more accessible for paddlers. Currently, it can be difficult to access but remains an option.

The Jeffersonville Tree Walk is a very interesting concept that offers lots of potential in addition to the tourist opportunities already present in Jeffersonville. The Tree trail is 1.5 Miles long with 140 trees with 70+ Species.

k. Social groups and organizations supporting outdoor recreation or tourism. Historic societies; boating, fishing, bicycling, hiking, and recreational clubs; tourism groups.

There are several key local groups that support outdoor recreation and tourism in Jeffersonville. The Jeffersonville TNT is a bass fishing group that has regular tournaments in areas like Duffy's Landing. KISHAW (Kentucky and Indiana Single Hikers and Walkers) and the South Indiana hiking group are both hiking organizations that involve frequent hikes in the area. The Fraternal Order of Eagles has a presence in Jeffersonville as well. They are an organization that promotes liberty, truth and justice while lessening the ills of life. The Clark County Casting and Conservation Club has active outdoor adventures in the Jeffersonville area. Garden clubs like the Sunnyside Master Gardeners and the Garden Club of Indiana are also present in the city. The Southern Indiana Wheelman Association is a prominent cycling organization.

l. Outdoor recreation and tourism organizations

The Jeffersonville Parks Department is the governmental organization in charge of local parks. These parks include Warder Park or Perrin Family Park. Warder Park houses the Carnegie Library, a statue of Thomas Jefferson, and a gazebo that hosts music events. Perrin Family Park is another location that contains educational and recreational opportunities. The park features a 1.25 mile paved walking trail. The trail passes by a lake and a waterfowl feeding station before moving through trees to more open areas. A picnic area with shaded tables, grills, and two shelter houses are also present here. A full acre of playground equipment and sandboxes appeal to a younger crowd. Catherine's Teddy Bear Place is home to more than 650 teddy bears that both children and adults can enjoy. In addition, the SoIN Tourism board has provided funds to local southern Indiana organizations to help them further extend their tourism goals. SoIn is a multi-county tourism board that supports and coordinates tourism in Jeffersonville. The SoIN website has a comprehensive listing of outdoor recreation highlights: <https://www.gosoin.com/things-to-do/recreation/>

m. Water Quality and Environmental Justice

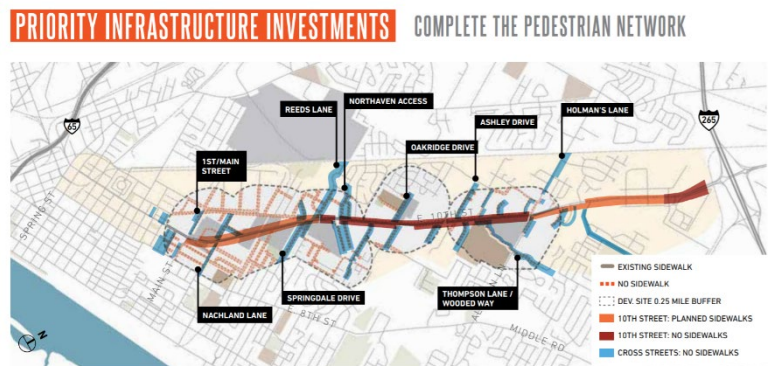
Jeffersonville has had several environmental justice issues in the past along with plans to rectify them. In September 2009, the city made an argument to make numerous improvements in the sewer system that would ultimately reduce the amount of sewage waste dumped into the nearby Ohio River. The background information is rooted in the Comprehensive Plan to reduce sewage waste as well as specific criteria to improve capacity, management, operation, and management of sanitary sewer systems. This also included eliminating all discharge points. Jeffersonville agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$49,500 as well as \$8,250 to the state of Indiana. This agreement was also noted to include that a \$240,000 environmental project would be enacted to improve water quality. https://archive.epa.gov/epapages/newsroom_archive/newsreleases/4d1810b1eb8e6bde85257634006bc02c.html

The city page shows that Jeffersonville is suffering from combined sewer overflows (a known violation of the Clean Water Act.) Jeffersonville has enacted the Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan (under review by EPA, requires spending between 90-120 million through 2020-2025 to reduce sewer outflows into Ohio River and other local waterways. <https://cityofjeff.net/combined-sewer-overflos/>

It is also important to note that these sewer systems in question may be placed in lower-income areas, especially near the river. The total price tag of the work to eliminate the overflows will cost the city approximately \$100 to \$150 million. A new sewer plan was proposed and improved in 2020. The new plan gets rid of the expenses of the proposed downtown canal and will also help reduce street flooding during storms.

An Environmental Justice issue is the EPA Brownfields Program in 2018. The EPA selected Jeffersonville, Indiana to receive an assessment grant of \$300,000 (\$150,000 for hazardous substances and \$150,000 for petroleum) The City of Jeffersonville has received two brownfields assessment grants with the goals of updating/maintaining an inventory of the brownfield sites, developing cleanup plans, and participating in community outreach (specifically on the 10th street corridor, an area where residents are deprived of outdoor recreation.) The EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team is responsible for this grant.

By exposing the 10th street corridor to nature and outdoor recreation, the residents of Jeffersonville will be happier, healthier, and more creative. The pedestrian access along the 19th street corridor with significantly increase the connection of the Ohio River Greenway with Jeffersonville’s neighborhoods. A similar construction is occurring with Scott Martin and Origin Park, as well as the River Heritage Conservancy.



Describe your impression of the town from viewing the online material, e.g. does the town’s web presence create an irresistible urge to visit the town and if so why or why not?

Jeffersonville does a good job of showcasing their community on the internet, especially when viewing their Facebook pages, government websites, and Department of Parks & Recreation website. Jeffersonville’s presence online has likely improved its appeal to individuals throughout the region, greatly improving their base for tourism. That being said, the city of Jeffersonville could push for a few key improvements to boost its online presence. In addition to Facebook, we’d like to see Jeffersonville maintain a stronger presence on both Twitter and Instagram via Verified Accounts. Further, social media accounts should come up with and utilize several hashtags that users could include in their own posts. In addition, Jeffersonville should consider posting events more frequently on these social media platforms, especially when the pandemic has significantly subsided and larger gatherings are safer. Overall, Jeffersonville’s online presence is good, but could be even better by making some of these small improvements.

River Town Review for Jeffersonville, Indiana

Team: Luke Schroeder, Luke McFarland, Collin Noud, and Sean Woods

Date: September 29th, October 25th, October 31st, and November 7th

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm, 1:00 pm - 3:45 pm, 3:00 pm - 4:45 pm

Weather – Ranged from cloudy to sunny depending on the day. Weather was around 60-70 degrees in September and October, going down to about 40 in November.

River Connections & Access

Jeffersonville is a beautiful historic river town. Sitting due north of Louisville, KY across the Ohio River, Jeffersonville boasts a picturesque waterfront, a quaint downtown historic district, and several parks on and near the riverfront. Known for its past strengths in shipbuilding, rail transportation, and river industry, Jeffersonville has a rich history and heritage that are evident throughout their downtown and riverfront, but also maintains a sort of modern charm that gives it a true American small-town feel. Jeffersonville has a strong connection with the Ohio River, as the river has shaped its entire history, from its origins through its modern day, and many of its most popular attractions showcase the river as their centerpiece. It is connected to Louisville by the Big Four Bridge, a former railroad truss that has since been converted to a pedestrian bridge. The city also boasts RiverStage, a concert venue facing the riverfront that hosts numerous bands, speakers, and other acts throughout the year.

From the trips taken during the Fall months, the introduction to Jeffersonville from the Big Four Bridge was homey and welcoming to all, but especially to adults. Many shops and restaurants, bars, and outdoor eateries are near the exit ramp of the bridge, along with open access to Fisherman's Wharf. The area is not necessarily as inviting to children, and is lacking in activity spaces such as playgrounds. The riverfront is a simple area with stone pavement that is lined with benches, trash cans, and a long parallel row of streetlights. Many of the sidewalks are lined with signs of individual pieces of history describing the area. The views on sunny days are absolutely stunning for a metropolitan area. The sun sets on the west side leading towards the Big Four Bridge when viewed from Fisherman's Wharf, giving beautiful reflections visible in the water and colorful sky views.

To get access to the river, several signs exist between some streets in Jeffersonville. Fisherman's Wharf does not provide an outlet for going out onto the river. Duffy's Landing and other outlet areas are several miles east of the Big Four Bridge rather than within walking distance of downtown.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Access

The Big Four Bridge is the biggest pedestrian and bicycle attraction for the city. During all of our visits, it was very populated with people of all ages making their way across the bridge moving between the two cities. At the base of the bridge on the Indiana side, visitors arrive at the Big Four Station where they are able to enter downtown Jeffersonville, the Ohio River Greenway, or go down by the river and visit Fisherman's Wharf. All of these locations are accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.

Fisherman’s Wharf is a perfect location for pedestrians and visitors to spend time viewing the river. Multiple benches and trash cans make for a clean, inviting area. The Wharf and surrounding park contain maps guiding visitors in addition to support stations for bikes and hand sanitization machines for pedestrians.

Downtown Jeffersonville is very inviting as well. There are many eating options in addition to small shops that pedestrians can assess as they see fit. In addition to the shops, historic downtown Jeffersonville contains many plaques and photos that are viewable on the side of buildings that describe the history of the buildings themselves and the city. The downtown area has decorated bike racks, various outdoor seating options and multiple trees that combine to create a very calm environment around the slow traffic moving along the streets. Besides the bike racks, there were not many other bike support stations in the downtown area.

Signage, Wayfinding and Site Amenities

Signage in Jeffersonville is helpful, highlighting major attractions within their historic district, as well as typical road signs and directions to major interstates. However, more could be done, especially within the downtown historic district, to showcase more important sites and buildings throughout the area. Jeffersonville could also benefit from adding more signs and maps that highlight biking paths throughout downtown, as well as connections to larger routes (i.e. the Ohio River Greenway and the Louisville Loop) and local parks and greenspaces.

Most of the street infrastructure in the downtown area and riverfront were new and well-maintained. There was some construction going on in various areas near downtown, but it didn’t appear to have a huge impact on the heart of the historic district. Once construction is finished, downtown infrastructure shouldn’t require too many major cosmetic improvements in the near future. Jeffersonville is starting to put an even stronger emphasis on its shipbuilding history when improving its signage and infrastructure, including references to steamboats on major signs & plaques, as well as several sculptures depicting steamboat wheels. This particular emphasis on shipbuilding should continue, as Jeffersonville played a huge part in the industrial shipping age of our nation.

Parking

There is ample parking in the downtown area, including off-street parking. Main Street offers many options for on-street parking, and public parking lots are located at Spring & Chestnut Street, Spring & Market Street, the 100 Block of E. Chestnut Street, and Preservation Station. However, the Preservation Station alley may be removed in favor of a new entertainment venue, cutting off parking access to areas such as the Big Four Bridge.

Overall Observations and Recommendations

Jeffersonville should be proud of their town, especially their historic downtown district and its waterfront. Its numerous shops and sites are charming, and provide an excellent breadth of small business that give Jeffersonville its authentic feel. Some improvements that Jeffersonville could consider to improve the short-term would include the following:

1. Experiment with pedestrian-only regions in the historic downtown waterfront in order to improve the “walkability” of the city. Not only would this make the historic district easier to access for both families and individuals alike; it would transform the downtown district into an experience as well as a place instead of a simple location or collection of streets and buildings.
2. Update old/faded signs in parks and add more signs directing to tourist locations in the downtown area or along the riverfront. Signage should continue to point out areas of interest, especially historic businesses, landmarks, streets, and access to outdoor recreation opportunities. An updated Ohio River Greenway map and an app is needed.
3. Increase Jeffersonville’s online presence and appeal to a wide range of age groups, especially younger adults and families. Many individuals will spend hours researching a place online before they travel there, so by expanding outreach on both websites and social media platforms, Jeffersonville can reach a wider audience of people and bring in significantly more tourists. Duffy’s Landing, on observation, could use help renewing the area to better suit visitors for paddling and boating activities, such as a small public plaza with a playground for children and restrooms for visitors.

More long-term goals that Jeffersonville should consider moving forward include:

1. Work on developing JeffBoat site into a public park with a focus on outdoor recreation, universal public access, sustainability measures, flooding considerations, and historic references to the history & heritage of Jeffersonville as a historic river town. JeffBoat occupies a prime location on the waterfront, and we believe it would best serve the public if utilized in this way. It would be great to connect the Howard Steamboat Museum campus with the Ohio River then seek Ohio River Historic Boats that could dock and be shown to the public by the Museum.
2. Expand pedestrian and bike access to existing greenway space and river front areas. Jeffersonville has an opportunity to greatly improve its walkability rankings, making the area much easier to access. Jeffersonville also occupies a strategic location being close to the Big Four Bridge and could cooperate to create a larger bicycle loop that combines an expanded Ohio River Greenway with the larger Louisville Loop, attracting even more biking enthusiasts from the larger area. A major linkage would involve the Big Four Bridge, East End Bridge, and K&I Railroad Bridge. By connecting these bridges via an expanded Ohio River Greenway, it provides an essential greenway link around the greater Louisville area on both sides of the Ohio River. Specific examples for greenway links include 10th street at Jeffersonville High School. Links to schools are vital due to location and population, including Bridgeport Elementary, Ewing Lane Elementary, Sacred Heart, and Parkview Middle.
3. Add more natural trails if possible, to attract hikers and mountain biking enthusiasts. This would be more of a collaborative approach with the other Southern Indiana towns, but by increasing outdoor trails, the entire region could see an even more substantial boom in outdoor recreation and economic growth. A perfect example of a needed trail is to connect the Ohio River Greenway with the Riverside Elementary along the western banks of Lancassange Creek. Specific examples for natural trails would include a trail along the Lancassange Creek to

Riverside Elementary School. Even if based in the city, Memorial Park may provide opportunities for natural trails. Another way to expand the natural trail theory would be to look at area on the Kentucky side: 6-Mile Island State Nature Preserve. This forested island with coveted greenspace offers a pristine landscape that the city of Jeffersonville could use to highlight a natural path in an industrial space.

In conclusion, Jeffersonville has much to be proud of. Its rich history and deep connections to the Ohio River are on full display throughout the community, and we believe that is a tremendous thing to celebrate. We'd like to thank the city of Jeffersonville for being so welcoming and for sharing the heritage of their community with us. We've thoroughly enjoyed our time working with the city, and hopefully our work and recommendations will leave some impact on the city moving forward. We hope that Jeffersonville will continue to grow and share its wonderful city with the rest of the world, never losing sight of its incredible history as a storied American river town.

For access to our photo collection from our various trips to Jeffersonville, check out this link:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/wXNwhSGoVZLu49EN7>.

To access our Spark Video on the Big Four Bridge, check out this link:

<https://spark.adobe.com/video/bUcZvfJplo1mh>

New Albany, IN

Julia Mathew, Vinh Pham, Mohammad Haq, Zach McConnell

Dr. Wicks and Mr. Barnett

HON 341/351

19 November, 2020

River History

Although New Albany seems small, it has a rich history. One of the most consistent traditions of the town is the Harvest Homecoming parade that has been held since the middle of the 20th century. Every October, the town holds the parade and associated events and activities in the downtown area for an entire weekend. Of course, the floats cross in front of historic houses from the 19th century, which make the event that much more unique (19). Another similar event that happened in the past was the Sesquicentennial parade of 1963, which celebrated the 115th anniversary (14). Parts of the Harvest Homecoming parade seemed to take inspiration from this as well (20).

The Town Clock Church, as we will hear more about later, was a very significant cultural and political symbol. It not only served as a checkpoint for the Underground Railroad used by slaves escaping the south, but also as a beacon of hope for a new life (13). Essentially, once slaves crossed this point in the Ohio River, they faced a decreased risk of being sent back to their owners since they entered northern territory. During the Civil War, this became a point of contention for the northern and southern states. The North boycotted New Albany because they seemed to be too friendly with the South, and the South boycotted them because they were officially part of the Union (19 and 22). After all, Union soldiers were treated here and many of the buildings were commandeered for medical usage during the war. As a result, New Albany's economy took a major hit, and in 1860 Indianapolis took New Albany's place as Indiana's most populated city (19). It's often overlooked that New Albany was an economic powerhouse that developed factories that manufactured steamboats, glass, and furniture. The area was also very rich in lumber (21 and 22).

Finally, the flood of 1937 was widely recognized as the most devastating event that New Albany had faced. A few of the pictures included show the extent of flooding. Many parts of the town were rendered useless as the river rose 61 feet. This left areas of town under almost 11 feet of water, and flooding went on for weeks (19). Survivors faced immense property damage and struggled to receive aid, but one source illustrates a different side of the flood: extreme flooding was compounded with dangerous winds, sleet, and snow that made life unimaginably difficult. After the area lost power, people struggled to keep themselves warm and began lighting fires, which brought additional problems for the local fire department (23). Despite all this, New Albany was the first town in the local region to begin addressing future flooding concerns. They erected a flood wall and levee system that was used as an example for Louisville and Clarksville when they began constructing theirs (19).

One website that has been very helpful in our search for credible and relevant information has been the Floyd County Library. Here is a link to its website: <http://floydlibrary.org>. Below are some of the interesting pictures found on the website.

In the News

A positive news source comes from WDRB. It covers Heart 2 Heart Wellness' plan to offer outdoor yoga to New Albany residents. Participants will be able to "enjoy a scenic view

from the New Albany Riverfront Amphitheater and, on Wednesdays, New Albany's Bicentennial Park” (2). A news source that discusses COVID-19’s impact comes from News and Tribune. It covers summer activities during the pandemic, including opportunities for fishing, hiking, walking, and bicycling (1). After a review of both Yelp and TripAdvisor, multiple outdoor recreation opportunities consistently make the tops of the lists. Sam Peden Community Park, the Riverfront Amphitheater, and Silver Street Park are all popular choices (3 and 4). Updated regulations can be found on the city’s webpage. Two other recent news articles highlight the focus on New Albany’s outdoor recreation plans: [New Albany to Use \\$5M Gift For Revitalization Efforts](#) and [New Albany Officials Look To Amplify Natural Amenities With Trail Projects](#) .

Places You Don’t Want to Miss

New Albany contains several historic sites that are within walking or biking distance from the Ohio River Greenway. First is the Floyd County Historical Society Padgett Museum. Situated in a house built in 1837, the museum contains unique items related to New Albany, such as the chain used to measure the original streets, and hosts varying exhibits throughout the year. Next is the Town Clock Church that is on the edge of town closest to the river. Built in 1852 as the Second Presbyterian Church, now the Second Baptist Church, the church was a stop on the Underground Railroad with its 160-foot high tower that could be seen by those crossing the river. Third is the Carnegie Center for Art and History. Situated only 3 blocks off of the Greenway, the Carnegie Center is located in the old city library building that has been renovated since its construction in 1904. Dedicated to Andrew Carnegie, a literacy advocate of the late 19th century, the Center promotes the appreciation for visual arts and local history. Finally, New Albany contains the Culbertson Mansion. Built in 1867, this was the home of William Culbertson. A self-made businessman who would have been worth around \$61 million today, Culbertson invested a significant amount of time and money into New Albany. His most significant contribution was the construction of the Cornelia Memorial Orphans Home which operated from 1881 to 1938. The 20,000 sq ft mansion contains 25 rooms and is a testament to the lifestyle and architecture of the wealthy class during the Victorian era.

Recreation Development Plans

The City of New Albany publicly releases each fiscal year’s development plans. The most recent plan, “Fiscal Year 2019: Community Development Block Grant One-Year Action Plan,” includes multiple efforts to develop parks and outdoor recreation opportunities. For instance, the city is dedicating over \$215,000 to improving Parks facilities in low-income census tracts. There is also a plan called “NA Parks Youth Enrichment Program,” which intends to improve social skills and behavior through field trips and recreational and educational opportunities (6). In addition to the City of New Albany’s plans, Floyd County, of which New Albany is a part, also periodically releases a master plan. The most recent version of the 2019-2023 master plan includes plans to improve multiple parks, including New Albany’s Sam Peden Community Park. Hopeful improvements include expansion of the walking trail, a tree planting program, relocation of a special needs facility, and control of the goose population (7).

Outdoor Recreation

The entirety of New Albany has a walk score of 36 and a bike score of 41. This qualifies the town as car-dependent and somewhat bikeable. Downtown New Albany, which is more pertinent to people interested in the river, has a walk score of 66 and a bike score of 66. These

scores classify Downtown as somewhat walkable and bikeable. New Albany has few defined bike lanes but its major one is the Ohio River Greenway which follows the Ohio River from the Sherman-Minton Bridge in the west to the Loop Island Wetlands in the East. The Loop Island Wetlands is a 50-acre park with 8 nature trails. A video of a classic hike there can be seen at this link: <https://spark.adobe.com/video/Y1C7fAfjKLFm8> . This Greenway also continues to follow the river through Clarksville until the Falls of the Ohio. This makes exploring New Albany, Clarksville, and the Falls of the Ohio possible with only the use of the bike. New Albany currently has plans to create a multimodal path that will connect the northern parts of the city and IUS to historic downtown and the Ohio River Greenway that is mentioned above. For river access, New Albany currently only has one boat ramp on the Ohio River about a quarter mile upriver from the Sherman-Minton Bridge. The city recently added a kayak access point on Silver Creek about ¾ of a mile upstream off of the river. Unfortunately, the city does not possess a marina or boat rental service.

Two long range plans of New Albany that deserve attention are described in the recent [WFPL article](#) .

- The proposed park at the southern terminus of the Ohio River Greenway near 10th street. The property was recently acquired by New Albany. This proposal calls for a campground and marina, as well as green space. Building a marina and docks might be difficult given the Ohio River currents and the variability of river levels. Also, the proposed campground is very close to the wastewater treatment plant. However, having a natural area/green space that might one day connect to the Gallagher Power Plant’s wildlife area is a very positive development.

- The development of a 63-mile rails to trails hiking and biking trail that connects the Ohio River Greenway with Bloomington, Indiana. Mayor Gahan writes: “What’s marvelous about it is the path on the CSX trail covers a lot of beautiful land, and it crosses some waterways, then ultimately connects to the Ohio River,” Gahan said. “The portions that are most exciting to me in the grand scheme of this is connecting people back to not just each other, but the land.”

Abandoned CSX Railroad

- Another effort of New Albany to connect the city with the River and the Greenway is the development of a walking and biking path from Slate Run Road and Beharrell Avenue. The trail would follow the western edge of Silver Creek. According to the New Albany Parks director in a recent [news article](#) “ The trail will connect with areas that previously had no access to the Greenway, thus allowing people to walk to the Ohio River without having to cross busy roads in the city.”

Ohio River Digital Guide/Lewis and Clark Experience

New Albany appears not to have taken advantage of the Lewis and Clark Travel Website (<https://lewisandclark.travel>), a National Park Service initiative to promote tourism on the Eastern segment of the National Lewis and Clark Trail, which leaves room for potential growth and improvement. New Albany currently has a few notable points of interest on the Ohio River Digital Guide: Silver creek represents the eastern border of the county, which is part of the new Origin park project. It provides citizens with a beautiful paddling experience, while hikers and bikers also benefit from a great view. The K&I Railroad and the I-64 Sherman Minton Bridge connect New Albany with West Louisville. This is another huge potential for growth, as the development of a walking bridge here would potentially create an influx similar to the Big Four Bridge.

The only listed river access point in New Albany on the Digital Guide is the Jaycees Boat Ramp, which means another area for potential improvement is adding more access points to

encourage people to enjoy the river. The Duke Energy Gallagher Power Plant burns cleaner coal and features a wildlife habitat. New Albany also boasts many beautiful houses, some of which were built in the late 1800's.

Social Media

The City of New Albany Parks and Recreation Facebook page has 5,786 likes. It is the official page of the New Albany Parks Department, and as of the time of writing, posted only 23 hours ago. It is a "Weekend Family Activity," one of many to get families involved with one another. This post is accompanied by many others; the New Albany Parks Department posts often about opportunities to get involved with both outdoor and indoor recreation. There are over 2,000 photos on the page, many of which include either digital event flyers or pictures from different parks events. Although there are no upcoming events, there are many past events. In addition, the frequency of Parks events is most likely affected by the presence of COVID-19 (5).

Tourism Infrastructure

New Albany is a river town and county seat of Floyd County in Southern Indiana with a population of 36,372 people. New Albany is part of the Kentuckiana Metropolitan Area, which also includes Jeffersonville, Clarksville, and the Louisville metro area. In collaboration with Clarksville and Jeffersonville, New Albany helps coordinate tourism-related endeavors for Southern Indiana such as maintaining the official tourism website of the Clark-Floyd Counties Convention Tourism Bureau and designing brochures and pamphlets for distribution. Although the three cities actively promote both themselves and other cities in the Kentuckiana region in order to bring people in, this report will focus on the tourism infrastructure within city limits only. This will help give us a better understanding of how the city is supporting the tourism industry and determine if the city is also effectively using the Ohio River itself as another draw into the city and the region as a whole.

Within city limits, there are currently four hotels, three of which are part of different chains and one is a bed and breakfast. Combined, they offer 292 rooms for guests. Interestingly, although the hotels are located in New Albany, only the Holiday Inn Express and Fairfield Inn and Suites mention New Albany attractions on the website, and the three chain hotels use Louisville as their focus. The BnB markets itself as its own destination in addition to New Albany and the surrounding area, with a focus on weddings. Only the BnB mentions what I call "greenspace" attractions in its website, albeit vaguely by redirecting web visitors to official city park websites. There is no mention of the Loop Island Wetlands or the Falls of the Ohio State Park anywhere on the websites. Only Fairfield mentions its collaboration with SOIN Tourism, but otherwise, Louisville gets the spotlight with insufficient mention of surrounding Southern Indiana attractions. Although New Albany has a fair amount of rooms with good amenities, I believe that in order to bring in more hotels into the area the city should continue to invest in its involvement with SOIN Tourism and work on developing new attractions such as recreational opportunities tied with the Ohio River and the surrounding greenspace.

If there is one area where New Albany is doing well, it would be the foodie scene. The city supports a large number of restaurants to satisfy a variety of budgets and cuisines. Some of the most popular cuisines include pizzas, Mexican, Italian, and Asian. Thanks to its location on the riverfront, the city also supports a number of restaurants with good views of the river and the Louisville skyline. The bars are also pretty popular. Unsurprisingly, many of the restaurants are located in the downtown area and are in close proximity to many New Albany attractions. In my

opinion, New Albany's restaurant scene is more than sufficient to support its tourism efforts. New Albany has a good number of attractions, many of them historical. In addition, the nearby Falls of the Ohio State Park and George Rogers Clark Homesite are popular destinations in the Southern Indiana region. Local attractions include the Loop Island Wetlands, Silver Creek, and Culbertson Mansion State Historic Park. Recreational opportunities are also possible, but not fully advertised. The Ohio River Greenway currently extends from the New Albany Riverfront Park to River Stage Park in Jeffersonville, for a total of 6.4 miles, making it possible for bikers to reach Louisville in under 40 minutes. It was also possible for boaters to launch onto the Ohio River from the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Park, however, as of now, the boat ramp is closed. The shopping scene is somewhat popular, as evident by a good number of thrift and wellness stores. The SOIN Tourism website does a good job of highlighting the many attractions in the area. If the city wants to grow, it should invest in projects like the Origin Park and the Ohio River Greenway to expand recreational opportunities. The attractions are somewhat sufficient to support tourism but I believe that the city should invest more in greenspace attractions if it wants to be on par with Clarksville and Jeffersonville.

Social Groups/Organizations

New Albany doesn't seem to have many social groups or organizations geared towards outdoor recreation, but it does have quite a bit of history which invites tourism. I would imagine that local outdoor recreational social groups can be found through word of mouth or by joining Facebook groups dedicated to such activities.

An organization that encourages tourists to visit Southern Indiana called SOIN. Their website was well developed and showed great restaurants to eat at, historic or unique sites to visit, and outdoor recreational activities that all could enjoy. While the website was great for advertising tourism in Southern Indiana as a whole, it seemed to lack activities or places to go in New Albany. Most of what it featured there was the history present, and outdoor recreation was almost completely absent (25).

Another organization called New Albany Historic Preservation Commission is completely devoted to preserving the history of New Albany, however, it doesn't seem to advertise itself for tourists. Instead, it can help you find interesting sites to tour or visit yourself in the area. Some highlights are the Culbertson Mansion State Historic Site and the Howard Steamboat Museum. Both are great attractions for visitors, but due to the pandemic their programming schedules aren't available (24).

Outdoor Recreation Organizations

There do not appear to be any outdoor recreation groups in New Albany other than the city's own parks and recreation department, which is very robust. If these groups do exist, they do not have a significant digital footprint through any websites or Facebook groups. New Albany is the home of the Floyd County Historical Society. Founded in 1923, the group promotes the preservation and education of Southern Indiana, especially through its Padgett Museum. In 1976, the Society planned a hike along the Buffalo Trace route but it was rained out. If this idea for a hike along the old buffalo trail were revitalized, it would be a great opportunity for New Albany to bring in tourists and promote its history.

Site Visits Summary

Julia visited Loop Island Wetlands in late October. She hiked the loop, which is about one mile long. It is a beautiful area and a lovely place for a hiking trail, but the middle section of the trail was confusing and needed maintenance. It is located next to the Ohio River Greenway, which means bikers, walkers, and runners can access the trail from the Greenway. Julia also took many pictures! Here are just a few of them:

Vinh visited the New Albany Riverfront Park and Downtown New Albany in late October. His overall goal was to assess both the riverfront recreational opportunities and the riverfront accessibility to attractions in the downtown area. He parked at the Riverfront, walked along the Ohio River Greenway, then walked into the downtown area and assessed what activities a person could do and where someone would be able to visit. He took pictures of some attractions and interesting places to visit. Despite the historical charm of the area and a newly renovated Market Street to make the area more inviting, it feels like the city can definitely do more to highlight their biggest attractions and put a lot of focus on giving both visitors and residents more outdoor recreational opportunities such as offering kayaking rentals, extending the Ohio River Greenway, connecting the Greenway to the more inland parks, and provide more brochures on what to do in New Albany.

Zach visited Silver Creek along the eastern edge of New Albany in late October. He hoped to see the current access points, the amount of visitors, and the current condition of Silver Creek itself. The accessibility of Silver Creek from Spring Street was not very inclusive as it included a walk down a steep slope with no properly cut path/trail. This makes access difficult/impossible for those with physical ailments or disabilities. In addition, there was what appeared to be recent dumping/littering under the bridge. At this access point, Silver Creek is impossible to paddle with the presence of the low-head dam as it makes the water too shallow downstream and one must drag their kayak/canoe until they find a suitable depth. Even with these negatives however, there were still several visitors, such as fisherman and hikers.

Reconnecting with Silver Creek and tying it into the Loop Island Wetlands or the Ohio River Greenway is one of the best outdoor recreation opportunities for New Albany.

Mohammad visited hotels in New Albany, Main street, and the Ohio River Greenway. At the Greenway, he still saw a handful of people although it was a cold, gloomy Sunday afternoon. He noticed that many of the people on the Greenway appeared to treat it as a park, with little or no interaction with the river. At times, the river was not completely visible and appeared to be distant. There were very few paths down to the river, and those that were present were polluted and could be improved upon. However, accessing the Greenway via bike or simply on foot was relatively easy and very enjoyable, which is something the city should certainly advertise more. Finally, Mohammad stopped by hotels in the area to see what activities the frontline workers would encourage tourists to see. Unfortunately, the larger hotels (Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn) pointed tourists out of the county for entertainment, explicitly citing that there was little to do in the area. Instead, they suggested visiting Marengo Cave or activities up to an hour away. Their brochure rack did not advertise a single activity exclusive to New Albany. After Mohammad repeatedly asked what recreational opportunities were available in the area, they finally directed him to the Greenway and amphitheater, but told him shows were cancelled due to the Coronavirus. By educating frontline workers about all that New Albany has to offer, the city can provide tourists and families with amazing outdoor recreational activities while showcasing their historic side.

Suggestions for New Albany

New Albany is a beautiful historic rivertown with a vibrant food scene and miles of greenways and riverfront views. To further take advantage of the outdoor recreation economy and enhance access consider the following ideas.

- Continue building connecting trails from the river to neighborhoods, the rest of Indiana and rivertowns up and down the Ohio River.
- Raise awareness about what New Albany has to offer
- Educate “frontline” workers
- Consolidate activities on a brochure or flyer
- Emphasize historical, dining, and outdoor recreational activities in the area
- Increase river access points
- Improve ease of access to Silver Creek
- Continue with the city’s plan to develop a Silver Creek Greenway
- Walking bridge to Kentucky using the K&I Railroad Bridge
- Improvements to existing walking/hiking trails
- Sam Peden Community Park
- Loop Island Wetlands

THE OHIO RIVER

Class Number: 7651 Catalog number 341/351 Section: 06

August 17 to December 9, 2020

Tuesday and Thursday 09:30am-10:45am Ekstrom Library, Room EL254

Instructors: (Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:45 to 12 noon and or by Appointment)

Dr. David Wicks

502-671-3595

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Mr. Russell Barnett

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The Ohio River: An Exploration of Ecotourism in the Ohio River Valley.

Imagine nationally recognized water trail on 250 miles of the Ohio River from Portsmouth (OH) to Louisville (KY). After investigating the history, economic impact and best management practices of Eco-tourism students/teams of the class will make site visits to rivertowns and conduct independent research projects on the cultural, natural, economic and historical aspects of the Ohio River. The projects will be incorporated into the National Park Service initiative to develop a [The Ohio River Recreation Trail](#). The class will take a series four weekend Voyageur Canoe day trips on the Ohio River to document historical, cultural and environmental aspects of our River.

Class final presentations will be at the downtown [Louisville Free Public Library Bernheim Gallery](#). The community will be invited to the event. Student work (recommendations to support ecotourism, photos, maps, poster presentations) from the class along with historic photos from the Twaites Collection (1894) will be hung in the Bernheim Gallery for the month of December celebrating “Life on the Ohio River”.

Objectives:

1. Eco and Sustainable Tourism: Understand and use the best managment practices of sustainable outdoor tourism to analze Rivertown economic opportunities. Meet the people who are transforming the Ohio River into a recreational venue.
2. Rivertown Economy: Documenting the potential impact of adventure tourism/eco-tourism on the rebuilding of the tourist economy of participating River Towns.
3. Explore Ohio River history through 200 years of river expeditions.
4. Investigate the Ohio River Environment – Hydrology, geology, water quality and biodiversity
5. Personal Adventure: Explore the 50 miles of Metro Louisville’s Ohio River region from Westport to West Point using 30-foot-long Voyageur Canoes. Developing the paddlesport and river navigation skills to ensure safe outings.
6. Create artistic works portraying the beauty and challenges of the river, its rivertowns and life on the river.

Course Requirements: All Assignments are to be submitted on Blackboard

10%	1) Two Short descriptive and reaction papers – on speakers, field trips or discussions. (One page): These descriptions will be posted on the classes’s Blackboard Wiki to share with the rest of the class and then moderate the discussions and addition to class report.	The class after the speaker or field trip.
10%	2) Quizzes on assigned readings	See reading list
10%	3) Choose an existing Greenway described in Mr. Flink’s, “The Greenway Imperative”, one of National River Trails or one of the 64 Water trails in the Ohio River Basin and write an background report on the trail, and develop a multimedia project that will be shared with the class. Students to select trail from class list to avoid duplication.	September 24
10 %	4) State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans: Choose a state in the Ohio River Basin and review the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and write an overview of the plan and the impact on Nature Based Recreation. Describe three to five outdoor recreation programs in the state that could serve as a model of best management practicies in sustainable tourism. Students to select trail from class list to avoid duplication.	Sept 29
10%	5) Thoughts on The Greenway Imperative and the National Greenway Strategy and rivertown sustainability – (two page critical review)	October 8
10%	6) In a group develop using Adobe Spark a 2 to 5 minute video on a classic hike, bike ride, paddlesport trip or fishing adventure near an Ohio River rivertown.	Nov. 5
25%	7) Ohio Rivertowns and the Ohio River Eco Tourism. Each team shall choose one rivertown and explore the present and possible initiatives to enhance their rivertown’s eco tourism initiatives and greenway/trails. There is an opportunity to partner with the National Park Service in Rivertown Assistance project. The final project will be provided to the rivertown and the NPS staff in one of the Adobe Spark formats Or Student/student team may propose an intendisciplinary research and projects on ecotourim on the Ohio River.	Group formation and focus - Sept 3. Report: Nov 15 Presentation Nov. 24
10 %	8) Participation in-person or virtually in a public gallery exhibition of “Life on the Ohio”. Using Mr. Thwaites journal, photos as inspiration, each student/student team create an image, artifact, or other creative project that tells a current Ohio River story.	Piece due – October 15. Nov. 24. Louisville Free Public Library – Bernheim Gallery
5%	9) Canoe skills and ACA course or a paper on Ohio River Recreation.	
100%	Total	
Extra Credit	* River Reading (5%) - Book Report and Presentation - See list of books or choose one of your own. * Volunteer with the Ohio River Confernce Sept 30-Oct 2 (5%)	

Required Texts:

Flink, Charles A., *The Greenway Imperative: Connecting Communities and Landscapes for a Sustainable Future*, 2020.

Supplemental required readings

8/25/2020	The National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program
8/27/2020	Introduction to Canoe - The ACA class
9/3/2020	Plan for the Ohio River Basin —2020 – 2025 , U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Ohio River Basin Alliance. (free PDF)
9/8/2020	Thwaites, Reuben Gold, On the storied Ohio; an historical pilgrimage of a thousand miles in a skiff, from Redstone to Cairo , 1903 (choose the section that you wish to read) HISTORICAL ESSAY: Afloat on the Ohio - Image Gallery Essay: Reuben Gold Thwaites Photographs The Original Boatload of Knowledge Down the Ohio River:
9/10/2020	Justice and Equity - Global Park Experiences - Lessons of Reconciliation in Public Spaces & Places
9/17/2020	Climate Change Hasn't Stopped for a Pandemic - Adapting Parks for Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Fire - starts at min. 49
10/8/2020	Flink, Charles A., <i>The Greenway Imperative: Connecting Communities and Landscapes for a Sustainable Future</i> , 2020.
10/13/2020	History of Ohio River Basin Navigation – 1983 Whats-A-River-Worth-A-Valuation-Survey-Of-The-Ohio-River-Cooridor , 1994

Course Schedule: The instructors reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives, to compensate for missed classes, or for similar reasons. Changes will also be made to accommodate the schedule of Guest Lectures. If required, all classes can be virtual.

Field trips are listed in red, all field trips are voluntary, if you can not participate in one of the trips, meet with the instructors to develop an alternative investigation.

Week			Guest Lecturer	Required Reading	
1	8/18 Tue	Introduction. Class outline and expectations, individual/group research, presentations, art exhibit, Ohio River Digital Guide.			In person
	8/20 Thur	Overview of the Ohio River Watershed: Geology, Hydrology and Geography.			In person
2	8/25 Tue	Recreational Trails. Discussion of purpose, existing trails, benefits. Introduction to the Rivertown Assistance initiative—US National Park Service	Russ Clark, Andrea Irland	The National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program	Virtual
	8/27 Thu	NPS Guidance for the Rivertown assessments Introduction to Canoe - The ACA class	Russ Clark, Andrea Ireland	Introduction to Canoe - The ACA class	Virtual
	8/30 Sun	Sunday, August 30: 9 to 4 pm Field Trip # 1 - canoe trip on Beargrass Creek and the Ohio River Introduction to Canoeing	Louisville - Community boat house		In person
3	9/1 Tue	Choosing River towns, class roles in the NPS project. Interview techniques, introduction to Preimer rush and adobe spark – a focus on design, story boards, visually image.	Jason Zahmdt		In person
	9/3 Thu	A comprehensive plan for the Ohio River - ORBA and the US Army Corps of Engineers	Harry Stone Laura Mattingly	The Ohio River Basin Plan 2020 – 2025	Virtual
4	9/8 Tue	Discussion of two expeditions: Reuben Gold Thwaites 1893 and the boatload of knowledge in 1826	John Begley	Thwaites, Reuben Gold, On the storied Ohio; an historical pilgrimage of a thousand miles in a skiff, from Redstone to Cairo HISTORICAL ESSAY: Afloat on the Ohio - Image Gallery Essay: Reuben Gold Thwaites Photographs The Original Boatload of Knowledge Down the Ohio River:	Virtual
	9/10 Thu	Environmental Justice and the River		Justice and Equity - Global Park Experiences - Lessons of Reconciliation in Public Spaces & Places	Virtual
	9/12 or 13 Sat/Sun	Field Trip # 2: West Point and the Salt River 1 to 5 pm	West Point Park		In person
5	9/15 Tue	Class discussion and reflection activity			In person
	9/17 Thur	Park planning, public access and engagement - case study of the River Heritage Conservancy	Scott Martin	Climate Change Hasn't Stopped for a Pandemic - Adapting Parks for Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Fire - starts at min. 49	In person
	9/19 Sat	Field Trip # 3 - Falls of the Ohio and Silver Creek - River Heritage Conservancy	Falls of the Ohio.		In person
6	9/22	Sustainable Tourism: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.—US National Park Service	Derek Schimmel,		Virtual
	9/24 Thu	Water Trails/Greenway presentations.	Student presentations		In person
7	9/29 Tue	State support for outdoor recreation, adventure tourism, Kentucky SCORP, and Kentucky trail towns	Seth Wheat	Kentucky Trail Town booklet SCORP	Virtual
	9/30-10/2	Ohio River Basin Research and Education Conference conference key note speaker			virtual
8	10/6	Fall Break			

	10/8	Discussion with Chuck Flink – The Greenway Imperative	Chuck Flink	The Greenway Imperative: Connecting Communities and Landscapes for a Sustainable Future,	In person
	10/11 Sun	Field Trip # 4 - 9 am to 3 pm - 14-mile Creek State Park, Rose Island Amusement Park and 12 mile island	Charleston State Park		In person
9	10/13 Tue	History of Settlement in the Ohio River basin and Archeological resources.	Jared Barrett	History of Ohio River Basin Navigation – 1983 Whats-A-River-Worth-A-Valuation-Survey-Of-The-Ohio-River-Corridor , 1994	In person
	10/15 Thu	Research proposal discussion small group – library/photo archives	Photo archives		In person
10	10/20 Tue	Research Proposals Due - class presentation of research ideas. photo exhibits due			In person
	10/22 Thu	Recreation Economics			In person
11	10/27 Tue	Group Research small group discussions - 2 groups			In person - group
	10/29 Thu	Underground Railroad on the Ohio River	Nancy Theiss		virtual
12	11/3 Tue	Group Research small group discussions – 2 groups			In person - group
	11/5 Thu	Classic hike bike or paddle routes	Student videos		In person
13	11/10 Tue	Group Research small group discussions – 2 groups			In person - group
	11/12 Thu	Presentation development			optional
14	11/17 Tue	Presentation development			optional
	11/19 Thu	Practice presentations			In person
15	11/24 Tue	Research Project Presentations at Louisville Free Public Library 5 to 8 pm			In person celebration

Field Trips: All field trips are optional, if you can not participate in the field trip, it is expected that you in a small group or by your self, do an equivalent amount of community investigation time at one of the Ohio River Towns in person or virtually.

Ohio River

- [The Ohio River Basin Plan 2020 – 2025](#)
- [Ohio River Recreation Trail](#)
- [Ohio River Digital Guide](#) –
- [Watershed Master Plan - Louisville MSD](#)
- [whats-a-river-worth-a-valuation-survey-of-the-ohio-river-cooridor](#)
- [1996 Ohio River Corridor Master Plan](#) – Metro Louisville
- [ORSANCO](#)
- [Ohio River Facts • Education • Ohio River Foundation](#)

Ohio River History

- [Anglo-American Expeditions to the Ohio Valley: 1753-1754](#)
- [Lewis and Clark on the Ohio River](#)
- [Lewis and Clark in Kentucky](#)
- [History of Ohio River Basin Navitgation](#) – 1983
- [1826 Slave Revolt on Ohio River](#)
- [The Original Boatload of Knowledge Down the Ohio River: William Maclure's and Robert Owen's Transfer of Science and Education to the Midwest, 1825-1826](#)
- [Four Months in a Sneak-box: A Boat Voyage of 2600 Miles Down - 1879](#)
- [Thwaites – Afloat on the Ohio River - 1894](#)

National River Trails:

- [The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program](#)
- [National Water Trails System - National Trails System](#)
- [River Management Asociation - Water Trails](#)
- [Making an Economic Argument for Watertrails](#) report.
- The [video presentation](#) summarizing the review of economic studies conducted for watertrails.
- [National Water Trails System Toolbox | American Rivers](#)
- [Kentucky Blue Water Trails – Ky Fish and Wildlife](#)

The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP)

- [Kentucky Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2025](#)
- [SCORP - WV Department of Commerce - WV.gov](#)
- [Indiana DNR: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan](#)
- [Tennessee 2020 Plan - TN.gov](#)
- [Illinois SCORP \(2015, 10.2 MB\)](#)
- [Ohio SCORP \(2018\)](#)
- Here is the [webpage](#) for the Society for Outdoor Recreation Professionals - list of all SCORP documents for all 50 states.
- [Principles of Recreation Resource Planning](#) by the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals.
- [Webinars](#) by the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals.

Economic Development of Rivertowns on the Ohio River

- a. A description of Gene Krebs' recent book: Bridges across every divide.
<https://www.ahaprocess.com/product/bridges-across-every-divide-book/>
- b. Ilana Preuss TEDx talk: [The Economic Power of Great Places](#)
- c. Frances K. Mennone two articles: [Re-Opening the Economy and the Complexities of Downtowns](#) and [Needed: Main Street Regenerators](#)
- d. The Outdoor Alliance's recent article: [SIX WAYS OUTDOOR RECREATION CAN BE A PART OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY](#)

Ohio River Bibliography - Optional books to enhance your projects

Bishop, Nathaniel H., [Four Months in a Sneak-Box; A BOAT VOYAGE OF 2600 MILES DOWN THE OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI RIVERS](#), 1879

Chambers, T. (2018). *Rose island : an almost accurate account of days gone by* (First). Amber Light Publishing.

Dumont, J. L., & Parker, S. (2000). *Tecumseh and other stories of the Ohio River valley*. Bowling Green State University Popular Press.

Eckert, A. W. (1995). *That dark and bloody river : chronicles of the Ohio River valley*. Bantam

Harper, R. (2018). *Unsettling the west : violence and state building in the ohio valley* (Ser. Early american studies). University of Pennsylvania Press.

Holling C. Holling, Minn of the Mississippi , 1951

Hubbard, Harlan, Pyane Hollow, Life on the fringe of society, Thomas Y. Crowell Compancy, NY, 1974

Johnson, L. R., Parrish, C. E., & United States. Army. Corps of Engineers. Louisville District. (2007). [Triumph at the falls : the louisville and portland canal](#). Louisville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Kohn, R. T., & Hanover College. Rivers Institute. (2011). Full steam ahead : reflections on the impact of the first steamboat on the ohio river, 1811-2011. Indiana Historical Society Press.

Limeberry, J. (2019). *The boom project: voices of a generation: ohio river valley edition*. (K. G. Crum & B. O. Johnson, Eds.). Butler Books.

McCullough, D. G. (2019). *The pioneers : the heroic story of the settlers who brought the American ideal west* (First Simon & Schuster hardcover). Simon & Schuster.

Pearce, John Ed, [The Ohio River](#), Richard Nugent, 1989|

Potts, G. T., & University Press of Kentucky. (2020). *George Rogers Clark and William Croghan : a story of the revolution, settlement, and early life at locust grove*. University Press of Kentucky.

Reid, Robert L.(editor), Always a River: The Ohio River and the American Experience Paperback – May 1, 1991

Reid, Robert, Pilgrims on the Ohio: The River Journey and Photographs of Reuben Gold Thwaites, 1894, Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1997. 105 pp [Amazon listing](#)

Rhodes, Rick, The Ohio River "Voyaging on Today' River: A boating Guide, Heron Island Guides, 2010

River Education: Life on the Mississippi: A new Century. Living Lands and Waters,

Rivers of America, Paul Vasey, Gallery books,NY, NY, 1990

Schrage, R., & Clare, D. (2006). Along the Ohio river : Cincinnati to Louisville (Ser. Postcard history series). Arcadia Pub.

Theiss, Nancy, A Tour on the Underground Railroad along the Ohio River (History & Guide), 2020.

Thwaites, Reuben Gold, Afloat on the Ohio: An Historical Pilgrimage of a Thousand Miles in a Skiff, 1894, (Shawnee Classics) Paperback – April 21, 1999. [Amazon listing](#)

Thwaites, Reuben Gold, Reid, Robert, Pilgrims on the Ohio: The River Journey & Photographs of Reuben Gold Thwaites, 1894 Paperback – October 1, 1997

Trotter, J. W. (1998). *River jordan : African American urban life in the ohio valley* (Ser. Ohio river valley series). University Press of Kentucky.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Region 5. (2001). Ohio river islands national wildlife refuge: comprehensive conservation plan. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Regional Office.

Weibe, Dalla (editor) Down the River: A collection of Ohio Valley Fisdiction and Poetry. Cincinnati Landing of Always a River, Inc. Cincinnati Ohio, 1991

Articles:

[The Original Boatload of Knowledge Down the Ohio River](#). Donald E. Pitzer, Department of History, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, IN

Guest Speakers list”

Dr. Nancy Theiss, Oldham County History Center	<i>A Tour on the Underground Railroad along the Ohio River</i> (502) 558-0421
John Begley Afloat: An Ohio River Way of Life	John Begley <jpbegley@bellsouth.net>
Harry Stone Ohio River Basin Alliance	Ohio River Basin Alliance Steering Committee HStone@ORSANCO.org OhioRiverBasinAlliance.com
Laura L. Mattingly, Community Planner, USACE, Louisville District	Laura.L.Mattingly@usace.army.mil Office: (502) 315-6170, Cell: (502)260-1708
Scott Martin, Executive DirectorRiver Heritage Conservance	812-463-3553 (O) 812-786-3420 (C) smartin@riverheritageconservancy.org www.riverheritageconservancy.org
Russell Clark, RLA, Kentucky Field Office, National Park Service, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program	Russell_Clark@nps.gov 270-758-2191
Andrea Ireland, National Park Service, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program	andrea_irland@nps.gov 440-717-3775 Peninsula, OH
Derek Schimmel, Project & Communications Manager, Solimar International, The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and Sustainable Tourism	d.schimmel@solimarinternational.com +1 202-802-9565 www.solimarinternational.com
Seth Wheat, Kentucky Department of Tourism; Kentucky Trail Towns and Adventure Tourism	seth.wheat@ky.gov Phone: 502-892-3223 Cell: 502-330-5114
Lisa Freeman, USACE, Louisville District Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife Conservation Area , Louisville District Locks & Dams Project	Natural Resources Specialist (502) 315-6714 Cell: (502) 902-1846 lisa.a.freeman@usace.army.mil
Chuck Flink, Greenways Inc.	chuck.flink@greenways.com 919-349-7665
Jared Barrett, MA, RPA Archaeologist, Planning Section, Civil Works, Planning, Programs and Project Mgmt Branch Louisville District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Office Phone 502.315.6480 Office Fax 502.315.6864 Email: Jared.L.Barrett@usace.army.mil http://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/



Ohio River Recreation Trail – River Town Review

Fresh Eyes on Enhancing Tourism & Outdoor Recreation in your Community

List of Resources for Communities

As communities explore new opportunities to enhance outdoor recreation and tourism, the following list provides assessment tools, recommendations, guidelines and funding sources. This list of resources is the beginning of a journey to seek more information and it is not to be considered an all-encompassing list.

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	River Safety	
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I. Outdoor Recreation & Adventure Tourism

Trail Town & River Town Resources

Trail Town Program: [Certified Network - Trail Town Program \(trailtowns.org\)](http://trailtowns.org) and [Trail Town Guide](#)

Outdoor Towns: [Toolkit](#) and [Resource Library \(townsandtrailstoolkit.com\)](http://townsandtrailstoolkit.com)

[Trail Towns - Northern Forest Canoe Trail](#)

[Trail Towns - Huron River National Water Trail \(huronriverwatertrail.org\)](http://huronriverwatertrail.org)

[Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails Paddle Routes - Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails](#)

[Pennsylvania Environmental Council’s River Town Program](#)

[Monongahela River Towns](#)

[River Towns Program | Susquehanna Greenway](#)

[RiverTowns Program — Tennessee RiverLine \(tnriverline.org\)](http://tnriverline.org)

[Resources - River Network](#)



Trail Town & River Town Resources ... continued

Kentucky Trail Towns Guide & Workbook

[Kentucky Trail Towns v1.0 \(kentuckytourism.com\)](#)

[Kentucky Trail Town Program Workbook \(kentuckytourism.com\)](#)

Destinations International – Variables Workbook

[DNEXT Online Diagnostic Tool Workbook 2017](#)

Community Walkability & Bikeability

Walkability Score [Get Your Walk Score](#)

Bikeability Score [Bike Score Methodology \(walkscore.com\)](#)

Walkability & Bikeability Assessment Tools

National Walkability Index [Smart Location Mapping | Smart Growth | US EPA](#)

[Healthy Communities: The Walkability Assessment Tool \(udel.edu\)](#)

[Walkability Assessment Tool | Planning for Complete Communities in Delaware \(completecommunitiesde.org\)](#)

Bikeability Checklist [bikechecklist1.ai \(epa.gov\)](#)

Departments of Transportation Bike & Pedestrian Planning

Indiana [INDOT: Bicycle & Pedestrian Program](#)

Kentucky [Bike Walk Kentucky | KYTC](#)

Ohio [Bike & Walk | Ohio Department of Transportation](#)

Public Bike Repair Station (Examples)

[Public Bike Repair Stand | Bicycle Repair Station | CycleSafe](#)

[Bike Repair Stations and Bike Pump Stations | Duo-Gard \(duo-gard.com\)](#)

Bike Rack (Examples)

[Bollard Post Bike Racks - Park Warehouse](#)

[Racer Bike Rack - The Park Catalog](#)

Mountain Biking

International Mountain Bicycling Association [Trail Accelerator Grants | IMBA](#)

Bicycle Touring

US Bike Route System [U.S. Bicycle Route System \(USBRS\) | Adventure Cycling Association](#)

Indiana Bicycle Suitability Map [LRP BicycleSuitabilityMap.pdf](#)

Kentucky Bike Routes [On Road Bicycle Routes and Events | KYTC](#)

Ohio US Bike Routes [Create A Map | ODOT TIMS \(state.oh.us\)](#)

Long Distance Cycling Routes: Economic Impacts, Best Practices, and Marketing Strategies [\(usu.edu\)](#)

Warm Showers [Home | Warmshowers.org](#)

Heat Maps (Data Analysis Tools for Outdoor Recreation)

STRAVA Heat Maps [Strava Global Heatmap](#)

Map Line Heat Maps [Create a Heat Map in Seconds | Mapline Mapping Solutions](#)



Padding

Ohio River Recreation Trail [Ohio River Digital Guide](#)
National Park Service [River Access Planning Guide](#)
[Images of Public Kayak Lockers](#)

River Safety

Ohio River Recreation Trail [Safety Tips — Ohio River Recreation Trail](#)
Ohio River Recreation Trail [On-Water Safety Guide](#)
US Coast Guard Float Plan Checklist [USCG Float Plan \(cgaux.org\)](#)
USGS Real time water data [USGS Current Water Data for the Nation](#) (waterdata.usgs.gov)
USGS Real time water data mobile version [USGS Mobile Water Data](#) (m.waterdata.usgs.gov)
Weekly Ohio River Water Quality Report [orsanco.org/weekly-ohio-river-water-quality-report](#)
NOAA Live River Forecast Center [NOAA - National Weather Service - Water](#)

II. Sustainable Tourism

USDA: Enhancing Sustainable Communities with Green Infrastructure
[Recreation Economy at USDA Economic Development Resources for Rural Communities](#)
[Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Rural Economic Development Toolkit
[Rural Development Toolkit – Outdoor Recreation Roundtable](#)

Solimar International [Solimar International | Tourism Marketing & Sustainable Tourism Consulting - Home](#)

Global Sustainable Tourism Council [Criteria, Standards, Certifications \(gstcouncil.org\)](#)

Adventure Travel Trade Association (This may be a great resource for river-based product development)
[Global Network of Adventure Travel Tour Operators, Destinations, and Industry Partners](#)

United Nations World Travel Organization [Sustainable development | UNWTO](#)

The Travel Foundation [Home Page - Travel Foundation \(thetravelfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

Invisible Burden [Destinations at Risk: The Invisible Burden of Tourism - Travel Foundation](#)

World Travel and Tourism Council [\(WTTC\) | Travel & Tourism Representative Council](#)

Destinations International (A resource for DMOs and Chambers of Commerce) [destinationsinternational.org](#)

Destination Development Association [Destination Assessment Program \(destinationdevelopment.org\)](#)

National Recreation & Park Association Agency Performance Review [nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf](#)

NRPA 2020 Engagement with Parks Report [2020-engagement-report.pdf \(nrpa.org\)](#)

Headwaters Economics [Home - Headwaters Economics](#)

Sample Survey from Township of Chatsworth, Ontario [Community Recreation Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)



Additional Reports/Studies

[Innovative and Promising Practices in Sustainable Tourism](#) (viu.ca)

[Ten Principles for Responsible Tourism](#) (Urban Land 2015)

[Tools and Resources for Nature-Based Tourism](#) (worldbank.org)

COVID Management Tools

[Pandemic Toolkit](#) (PlaceMakers.com)

[Arts-and-Transportation-Rapid-Response.pdf](#) (smartgrowthamerica.org)

(Summary of creative solutions to COVID-related transportation challenges)

[How Can Destinations Resume Tourism After the Pandemic While Ensuring Sustainability?](#) (PlaceBrandObserver.com)

III. Maintaining Small Town Character

Smart Growth Principles

[Smart Growth Principles - Smart Growth Online](#)

[Smart Growth Principles – Vermont Natural Resources Council](#) (vnrc.org)

[Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities | Smart Growth | US EPA](#)

[Framework for Creating a Smart Growth Economic Development Strategy: A Tool for Small Cities & Towns](#)

[National Main Street Program](#) (mainstreet.org)

[Kentucky Main Street Program - Kentucky Heritage Council](#) (heritage.ky.gov)

[Streetscape Design Guidelines for Historic Commercial Districts](#) (heritage.ky.gov)

[Walkable Communities Library](#) (walkable.org)

[New Designs for Growth Development Guidebook](#) (newdesignsforgrowth.com)

[Downtown Revitalization in Small and Midsized Cities](#) (planning.org)

[A Handbook for Improved Neighborhoods](#) (aarp.org)

[Citizens' Institute on Rural Design](#) (rural-design.org)

Additional Items to Consider

[Project for Public Spaces](#) [The Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper Transformation of Public Spaces](#) (pps.org)

[Creative Exchange for the Arts](#) [Toolkits for Change Archives - Creative Exchange](#) (springboardexchange.org)

[Finding Nature News, Nature Blog | Children and Nature Network](#) (childrenandnature.org)

[Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights](#) bring leaders, residents together - Children and Nature Network

[Waste in Our Waters: A Community Toolkit for Aquatic Litter Removal](#) (rivernetwork.org)



IV. Grants & Funding Opportunities

[Home | GRANTS.GOV](#)

[Economic Development Integration | U.S. Economic Development Administration \(eda.gov\)](#)

[View EDA-HDQ-OIE-2020-2006705 | GRANTS.GOV](#) FY2020 SPRINT Challenge Grant

[Grassroots Grantmakers](#)

[U.S. Department of Transportation Transit, Highway, and Safety Funds - Funding - Bicycle and Pedestrian Program - Environment - FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#)

[The Grant Plant, Inc. New Mexico \(thegrantplantnm.com\)](#)

[Office of Small Business Development Centers Resources \(sba.gov\)](#)

[Community Restoration & Resiliency Fund \(kab.org\)](#) Keep America Beautiful

[The Home Depot | The Home Depot Foundation - Team Depot Community](#)

[Shade Structure Program \(aad.org\)](#)

[Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)

[Community Impact | Waste Management \(wm.com\)](#)

[Online Funding Tool | Play and Recreation Funds | PlayCore](#)

[Grant Opportunities, Fundraising Resources, Funding | National Recreation and Park Association \(nrpa.org\)](#)

[Recreational Trails Program Project Database \(recreationaltrailsinfo.org\)](#)

[Thrive Outside - Outdoor Industry Association](#)

[Bicycles and Pedestrians | US Department of Transportation](#)

[How to Apply \(rural-design.org\)](#) Citizens Institute on Rural Design

[Save America's Treasures \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

[Equitable Funding Hub | City Parks Alliance](#)

[Funding Parks and Trails Through Land Trust Partnerships | City Parks Alliance](#)

[Community Change Grants | AmericaWalks.org](#)

[Mini-grants | Celebrate Urban Birds](#)

[Community-Based Participatory Research Technical Assistance Grants - River Network](#)

[Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities 2020 Request for Letters of Interest | Smart Growth | US EPA](#)

[Six Unique Trail Funding Solutions - American Trails](#)

[Q Community Grant | Quality Bicycle Products \(qbp.com\)](#)

[Six Grants for Trails and Greenway Funding \(permatrak.com\)](#)



[State and Local Grant Funding - Land and Water Conservation Fund \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Indiana [DNR: Land and Water Conservation Fund \(in.gov\)](#)

Kentucky [Kentucky DLG - LWCF Grants](#)

Ohio [Land and Water Conservation Fund | Ohio Department of Natural Resources \(ohiodnr.gov\)](#)

V. Organizations

Adventure Cycling Association [Discover What Awaits | AdventureCycling.org](#)

American Trails [AmericanTrails.org](#)

American Rivers [Rivers Connect Us](#) (americanrivers.org)

American Canoe Association [ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue \(americancanoe.org\)](#)

City Parks Alliance [About Us | City Parks Alliance](#)

International Journal of Wilderness [Foundation and Future of Long Distance Trails | IJW.org](#)

National Recreation and Parks Association [\(nrpa.org\)](#)

[Partnership for the National Trails System \(pnts.org\)](#)

People for Bikes [PeopleForBikes | Every ride. Every rider. Join us. \(peopleforbikes.org\)](#)

River Management Society [\(river-management.org\)](#)

River Network [Mission, Vision, Values - River Network](#) (rivernetwork.org)

Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals [Technical Resources \(recpro.org\)](#)



VI. Community Assistance Programs

National Park Service

[Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program \(RTCA\)](#)

- A national network of conservation and recreation planning professionals that partner with community groups, nonprofits, tribes, and state and local governments to design trails and parks, to serve and improve access to rivers, protect special places, and create outdoor recreation opportunities
- Free technical planning assistance is available for Communities and non-profit organizations through an application process



[Directory of National Park Service Community Assistance Programs](#)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[Smart Growth Technical Assistance Programs | Smart Growth | US EPA](#)

- Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities
- Cool & Connected
- Governor's Institute on Community Design
- Greening Americas Communities
- Healthy Places for Health People
- Local Foods, Local Places
- Recreation Economy for Rural Communities
- Smart Growth Implementation Assistance
- Smart Growth Implementation Assistance for Coastal Communities
- Special Smart Growth Technical Assistance Projects



[Environmental Justice Grants, Funding and Technical Assistance](#)

US Forest Service

Shared Stewardship Programs

- Forest Legacy
- Forest Stewardship
- Community Forest
- Ecosystem Markets
- Wood Innovation
- Urban and Community Forestry
- Forest Health Protection
- Landscape Scale Restoration
- Forest Taxation and Estate Planning



[How the Forest Stewardship Program Works | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#)



US Fish & Wildlife Service

Division of Partner & Intergovernmental Affairs

- Rural Fire Assistance
- Small Wetlands Program
- Landscape Conservation Design

Several other programs are available. Please visit the website and type “*List of Programs*” in the Search Box.

[USFWS - Division of Partner and Intergovernmental Affairs](#)



National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

Active Programs

- Acres for America
- Bring Back the Natives
- Conservation Partners Program
- Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program
- National Coastal Resilience Fund
- Resilient Communities Program
- Bats for the Future Fund
- Monarch Butterfly & Pollinators Conservation Fund

[Programs | NFWF.org](#)



US Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Technical Assistance | NRCS \(usda.gov\)](#)

Rural Development Programs & Services

[Programs & Services | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)

Strategic Economic & Community Development

[Strategic Economic and Community Development | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)



National Park Service

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

Ohio River Recreation Trail – **Resources List**

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