

1.2 The Ohio River Greenway: History

The Ohio River Greenway is a paved, multi-use, urban, linear recreational trail in Southern Indiana that roughly follows the course of the Ohio River. When it is completed in 2015, the 7-mile trail will pass through the Southern Indiana cities of Jeffersonville and New Albany and the town of Clarksville, and, with the 2014 opening of the Big4 Pedestrian Bridge, spans the Ohio River to link to Jeffersonville to Louisville, Ky.

Figure 1. Map of the Ohio River Greenway.



Source: [Ohio River Greenway](#)

The purpose of the Greenway is to increase connectivity between the three riparian localities, between their residents and the natural resources and services provided by the Ohio River, and between the cities on either side of the Ohio River. The design of the Ohio River Greenway provides recreational opportunities, a contiguous alternative transportation option between municipalities, natural resource protection, opportunities for cultural and educational learning, a local economy stimulus, and health and wellness activities.

Governance of the Greenway is complicated, as the trail falls within three local governmental jurisdictions – the cities of New Albany and Jeffersonville, and the town of Clarksville – which, in turn, are within the boundaries of Floyd and Clark counties. Additionally, the Greenway intersects with lands that belongs to a state (Falls of the Ohio State Park), and lands that are managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a federal agency. Each of these entities observes a distinct set of rules related to funding sources and management procedures, which were partially spelled out in the June 2003 Project Cooperation Agreement between the Department of the Army (Corps of Engineers) and the non-Federal sponsors (Ohio River Greenway Development Commission, City of New Albany, Town of Clarksville, and the City of Jeffersonville).

The Ohio River Greenway Commission was created in 1993 to facilitate the collaborative governance of the Greenway, and to serve as a non-profit, quasi-governmental channel for funding and other resources. The genesis of the Ohio River Greenway Commission was a charter by the Indiana Legislature in April, 1993, which created the Ohio River Greenway Development Commission and granted it the power to coordinate, recommend, and implement Ohio River Greenway activities. The Commission is comprised of three persons from each of the three local governments –the Chief Executive (Mayor or Town Council President) of each locality and that Chief Executive’s two citizen appointees – and representatives from Clark and Floyd Counties who are appointed by the Governor for four year terms. Non-voting members that lend support to the Commission include the Director of the Office of Tourism, the Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation, and the President of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. Appointed and non-voting members of the Commission are volunteers (Ohio River Greenway Commission, 2014). The present organization and membership of the ORGC, including its standing committees, are shown in [Appendix A](#).

In 2007, the Commission added an employee, a project manager, and in 2013, it hired a part-time administrative assistant. Also in 2013, realizing the pressing need for maintenance policy and manual to coordinate maintenance of the completed portions of the greenway, the Commission applied for and was awarded a grant through the Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) to research and develop a trailway maintenance manual.