

# Plan 4 Land

## PRESS RELEASE

### Contacts:

Joe Clase, AICP, Partner, Plan 4 Land, LLC  
(740) 413-4084 | [joe@plan4land.net](mailto:joe@plan4land.net)

Pamela Walker, Parks Committee Chair/Village of Ostrander Council  
(815) 674-6251 | [pamelakewalker@gmail.com](mailto:pamelakewalker@gmail.com)

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## OSTRANDER RECEIVES GRANT AWARD OF \$431,545 FOR PENN ROAD RECREATIONAL TRAIL

OSTRANDER, Ohio - - The Village of Ostrander is pleased to announce it has received a grant award in the amount of \$431,545 through the ODNR Clean Ohio Trails Fund. This generous award will be used to support a new recreational trail. The project is a 1-mile trail system located on a former railroad bed along Penn Road.

“We are thrilled to receive this grant funding through the ODNR. What an incredible opportunity for our community to create a beautiful green space to connect neighborhoods and families to nature. “ Pamela Walker, Parks & Trails Chair, Village of Ostrander.

The trail will be 10-foot-wide paved multi-purpose trail nestled on the old railroad bed, preserving the tree canopy and providing recreational benefit to the community. It will include a trailhead at the Mill Creek Golf Club and connect with existing neighborhood paths in the Meadows of Mill Creek, which is currently connected with the adjacent Blues Creek neighborhood to provide over 300 homes with easy access to the trail. The Village plan is to eventually connect the trail across Blues Creek, which currently divides residents in the Village without a safe pedestrian connection. This project will be a critical phase in accomplishing this larger goal. Additionally, this project will provide opportunities for surrounding jurisdictions to provide a larger regional connection in the future.

This project began with donation of a substantial portion of the old railroad bed by the developer of the Meadows of Mill Creek when the neighborhood was platted. The trail project was recommended in the 2023 Comprehensive Plan update. In 2024, the Village received commitment from the Mill Creek Golf Club to provide an easement on a portion of the proposed project. They subsequently applied for and received a grant from the ODNR NatureWorks Program to purchase a critical portion of the old railroad bed leading up to the railroad trestle. With the Ostrander NCA pledging support, the Village began clearing the old railroad bed in 2025, thanks in large part to the Delaware County Commissioners through the Delaware County Trail Grant. This multi-year project will result in an amenity that will serve the Ostrander community for lifetimes to come.

Mayor Joseph Proemm stated, “The Village of Ostrander has identified preserving and enhancing the historic railroad bridge of Blues Creek in our Zoning code in 2011. Since then, many meetings and surveys have identified parks and trails as an important part of the Village’s growth. The parks and trails are also mentioned in our Comprehensive Land Use Plan. We are excited on the work that has been going on to make this trail and park and are thrilled to announce the receipt of a \$431,545 grant from the Clean Ohio Fund grant to continue improving the parks and trails. This has been a long-term project, and with this grant, it will help us take a huge leap in progress. We are excited to see the residents use this trail and enjoy the beautiful views it will have.”

Prior to engaging in design of this project, the Parks and Trails Committee is seeking community feedback and comments. The Committee is asking any residents who live along this corridor and individuals interested in providing feedback to offer comments through a public comment link on the Village of Ostrander website at <https://ostranderohio.us>. Comments are encouraged before the end of February 2026 but will be accepted through the duration of this project, which is expected to be built out in the Spring and Summer of 2027. The village is seeking additional sponsors to assist with covering the local match for this project.

Scott Fryman with the Ostrander New Community Authority (NCA) indicated, “This was a group effort with the village and the NCA. The NCA wanted to invest in the community with something everyone can enjoy. The goal is to connect the village and make the community more walkable and connected. This project is the perfect addition to Ostrander and needed. We are very pleased and excited with the progress. We look forward to seeing it completed and used.”

Mary Mertz, Director of ODNR wrote in the grant award, “The addition of new multi-use trail infrastructure has always been a top priority of the Clean Ohio Trail Fund, and your project will help further that goal.” Mary Mertz, Director, ODNR. The grant is provided through the ODNR Clean Ohio Trails Fund, a major state initiative which works to improve outdoor recreational opportunities for Ohioans by funding trails for outdoor pursuits of all kinds.

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