

# Penn Road Trail Project

Open House Invitation • Project Update • Frequently Asked Questions

## YOU'RE INVITED — PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

*Stop by any time during the hours below at the Ostrander Village Hall. No appointment needed.*

### Open House #1 – Review preliminary engineering plans:

**Monday, July 20, 2026 • 4:30–6:30 PM • Ostrander Village Hall**

### Open House #2 – See how your comments were addressed:

**Monday, September 14, 2026 • 4:30–6:30 PM • Ostrander Village Hall**

**Plans are expected to be finalized by Fall 2026. Construction is anticipated in Spring 2027.**

## About the Project

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The Penn Road Trail is a planned 1-mile long, 10-foot-wide paved multi-purpose trail along the former railroad bed off Penn Road. It is supported by a \$431,545 grant from the ODNR Clean Ohio Trails Fund. The trail will include a trailhead at the Mill Creek Golf Club and tie into existing neighborhood paths in the Meadows of Mill Creek and Blues Creek, with a long-term goal of creating a safe pedestrian connection across the village. The project has been planned since the donation of land from adjoining development and was recommended in the Village's 2023 Comprehensive Plan.

## Thank You for Your Feedback

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We continue to welcome feedback at [www.ostranderohio.us](http://www.ostranderohio.us). As of June, we have received a lot of feedback through the online survey, with residents sharing both enthusiasm and important concerns. Your comments are directly shaping the design. Below are answers to the questions we heard most often. We look forward to discussing each of these with you in person at the open houses.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Q. How frequent will this trail be used?

**A.** Of respondents, most anticipate daily (16%) or weekly (50%) planned use of the trail, though 25% indicate they would rarely or never use the trail. This appears reflective of national averages for trail use, but such are getting more popularly used as they get expanded to new destinations and trailheads.

### Q. How will the privacy of adjacent homeowners be protected?

**A.** We have heard privacy concerns clearly and take them seriously. A topographic survey will help the preliminary engineering plans presented on July 20th examine options such as landscape buffering, screening, and clear boundary delineation where properties back up to the corridor. Nothing is final — we want your input before plans are completed, and we encourage affected homeowners to share specific concerns at the open house.

### Q. A trail already exists in the Meadows of Mill Creek nearby. Why is a new one needed?

**A.** The Penn Road Trail is intended to create safe, multi-purpose, linear routes eventually connecting the village core to surrounding neighborhoods — not to duplicate existing paths. It follows a former railroad bed, a large portion of which was donated when the Meadows of Mill Creek was platted, and it was identified as a community

priority in the Village's 2023 Comprehensive Plan. As design progresses, the team will look at how this segment best connects with existing trails.

**Q. Will the trail increase noise?**

**A.** Concerns about noise — both from Penn Road and from trail use — are part of the design conversation. The team is evaluating buffering and design measures intended to help reduce noise impacts where homes adjoin the corridor. We welcome specific input on what noise and locations are of greatest concern.

**Q. How will motorized vehicles such as dirt bikes and ATVs be kept off the trail?**

**A.** The Penn Road Trail is intended as a family-friendly, non-motorized path. Measures commonly used to discourage motorized use — such as access controls at trailheads, signage, and entry design — will be evaluated during preliminary engineering, along with the Village's approach to enforcement. Once the trail is open, law enforcement will assist in ensuring compliance by regular users.

**Q. Who is paying for the trail?**

**A.** The project is funded primarily through the \$431,545 ODNR Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant, and the Village is seeking additional sponsors to help cover the required local match to keep from using local tax dollars.

**Q. Will the trail affect my property value?**

**A.** National studies of paved multi-use trails generally find neutral-to-positive effects on nearby property values, though results vary by location and design. The Village's goal is a well-designed, well-maintained amenity that benefits the broader community.

**Q. What amenities will the trail include?**

**A.** Survey responses showed interest in benches (68%), waste cans (71%), pet waste stations (52%), and bicycle racks (13%), among other ideas. The committee is weighing these options against budget and long-term maintenance as plans develop, and preliminary amenity concepts will be presented on July 13.

**Q. What about pets and pet waste?**

**A.** Pet waste stations were among the most requested amenities and are being considered in the plans. We ask all trail users to clean up after their pets and to carry out their trash to help keep the corridor clean for neighbors and visitors.

**Q. What about people cutting through yards or onto private property?**

**A.** Designated access points and clear boundary delineation will be considered in the design to direct trail users appropriately and respect adjacent properties. We welcome input on locations where this has been a problem.

**Q. What about drainage, standing water, and the steep embankment?**

**A.** Preliminary engineering will assess grading, drainage, and safety along the corridor, including standing-water and slope concerns raised by residents. If you have a specific location to flag, please bring details (photos are welcome) to the open house.

**Q. I did not receive a notice about this project. How can I stay informed?**

**A.** We apologize if you did not receive earlier mailings, and we are committed to improving communication going forward. You can stay informed and request a copy of the design plans by visiting the Village website ([www.ostranderohio.us](http://www.ostranderohio.us)) and providing your email address in the project survey or attending the open houses.

## Stay Involved

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Comments are welcome throughout the project. To receive updates or a copy of the design plans please provide your email address to:

**Pamela Walker**, Parks & Trails Chair, Village of Ostrander Council

Email: [pwalker@ostranderohio.us](mailto:pwalker@ostranderohio.us) • Phone: 815-674-6251

Village website: <https://ostranderohio.us/>

This trail is being designed with your input. Please join us on July 20 and September 14.