



## United States Department of the Interior

Interior Region 3: Great Lakes  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance  
Ohio Field Office  
1664 West Main Street  
Peninsula, OH 44264



OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL  
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1.A.1(MWR-LCPP/R)

October 24, 2019

Meg Slifcak and Beth Sanderson  
Richfield Joint Recreation District and Friends of Crowell Hilaka  
4374 Broadview Road  
Richfield, OH 43286

Dear Ms. Slifcak and Ms. Sanderson:

Thank you for your request of assistance from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program.

Upon review, we have determined that your request meets the program goals and guidelines of RTCA, so we have made a preliminary decision to provide a year of assistance with you on the **Richfield Heritage Preserve Project!** Assistance from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program will be provided during the 2020 federal fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2019, and ends September 30, 2020.

During this year I will work with you to...

- Set goals and priorities for what you would like to accomplish during RTCA project period.
- Identify project partners and the roles they might play, the information to be gathered and how to proceed.
- Work with the project partners to assess existing plans and resources, provide updates and identify potential challenges and opportunities.
- Consider the ANCA consult and identify priorities and strategies to implement resulting recommendations.
- Identify and convene stakeholders to gather information, gauge community support, consider trail/park options and address concerns or questions.
- Lead several on-site field trips to examine the feasibility and reality of proposed plans.
- Consider improvements and connections to local and regional parks, trails, communities and historical/cultural resources for additional recreational opportunities.
- Convene a workshop to inform efforts, set goals, gather ideas, build support and make progress in a tangible way.
- Develop a plan for next steps, implementation, programming and possible funding.
- Consider the development of a management structure to assist in future planning, programming and maintenance of Richfield Heritage Preserve park and trail facilities.

Our working relationship is a partnership in which RTCA works with you and other partners. NPS technical assistance is represented by the time and resources that staff invests in each project. RTCA staff members manage several projects concurrently throughout the year. In striving to meet the collective needs of all partners, we will be as flexible as possible in meeting your project needs.

## Award Commitment

Although it is not required, in return for NPS technical assistance, we encourage you to consider the following requests of you and your project partners during our work together:

- *At the start of the fiscal year, participate with RTCA to develop an annual work plan that identifies specific roles and tasks for project partners, public involvement and specific RTCA assistance (see attached as an introduction to discussion!);*
- *Identify and commit time and resources (financial, in-kind, overhead, etc.), along with other project partners, to match our assistance;*
- *Acknowledge and credit NPS RTCA in press releases, promotional materials, maps, and publications such as newsletters, surveys, brochures, and final planning documents;*
- *Provide copies of print and media news to RTCA staff;*
- *Provide copies of the final planning document and/or other project materials to RTCA staff;*
- *Submit project photographs and videos, along with photo/video releases signed by photographer and subject authorizing the use of these photographs and videos in official National Park Service publications and displays, newspapers, television, magazines, videos, presentations concerning the project, and on its website without further consideration or compensation;*
- *Complete a project close-out report at the end of NPS assistance;*
- *Help us to identify on-the-ground results (miles and acres) that have been achieved five years after we complete our technical assistance. (as that is how Congress measures our program success).*

We cannot make a final decision pending budget approval from Congress and the President, but we wanted to let you know that, barring unexpected circumstances, we fully expect to accept your application and we will strive to work with your partners to accomplish this project.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 440-717-3775, or our program manager in the Midwest Regional Office, Dave Thomson at 402-661-1570. I am looking forward to working with you on this exciting effort that will be a tremendous benefit to the Richfield Heritage Preserve!

Sincerely,



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Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance  
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