

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY
Mayor's Office of Capital Projects
Division of Real Estate

TOWPATH TRAIL LEASE AND MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH
CLEVELAND METROPARKS

- Ordinance No: 778-2021
- Legislative Purpose: To enter into a lease and management agreement with the Cleveland Metroparks for the Towpath Trail.
- Project Summary: The City and Cleveland Metroparks are parties to a Project Development Agreement dated May 31, 2009, establishing a Towpath Trail Management Committee and providing for the development of the Towpath Trail within the City of Cleveland.
- The City of Cleveland portion of the Towpath Trail is located between Harvard Road at the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Heights border and Merwin Avenue in downtown Cleveland at Canal Basin Park.
- Under the Project Development Agreement, the City will be the owner of record for the land occupied by the Towpath Trail and the associated "ribbon" of greenspace that was designed and constructed for the Towpath Trail. City is also responsible for future capital repairs.
- Under the Project Development Agreement, the Metroparks will provide day-to-day management after completion of the Towpath Trail, including maintenance, safety and security, interpretive services, etc.
- Parties have agreed that a 99-year Management and Lease Agreement for Metroparks to carry out management responsibilities with lease rate of \$1.00/year.
- The Towpath Trail – so named because it largely follows the towpath used by horses to pull barges along the old Ohio and Erie Canal – is largely

complete from Zoar, south of Canton, to downtown Cleveland.

Funding, design and construction was a joint effort by the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, the Cleveland Metroparks and Canalway Partners to extend the Towpath Trail from the southern border of Cleveland in Cuyahoga Heights to a new Canal Basin Park under construction in downtown Cleveland near Settler's Landing.

Project Schedule:

Stage 2 (Steelyard Commons) was completed in 2007.

The Stage 4 Scranton Flats portion of the trail was completed in 2014.

Stage 3 (Steelyard to Literary) was completed in 2019.

Stage 1 (Harvard to Steelyard) was substantially completed in 2020.

Stage 4 (Literary to Canal Basin Park) was completed in 2021.

Price:

Management by Metroparks will be at no cost to City.

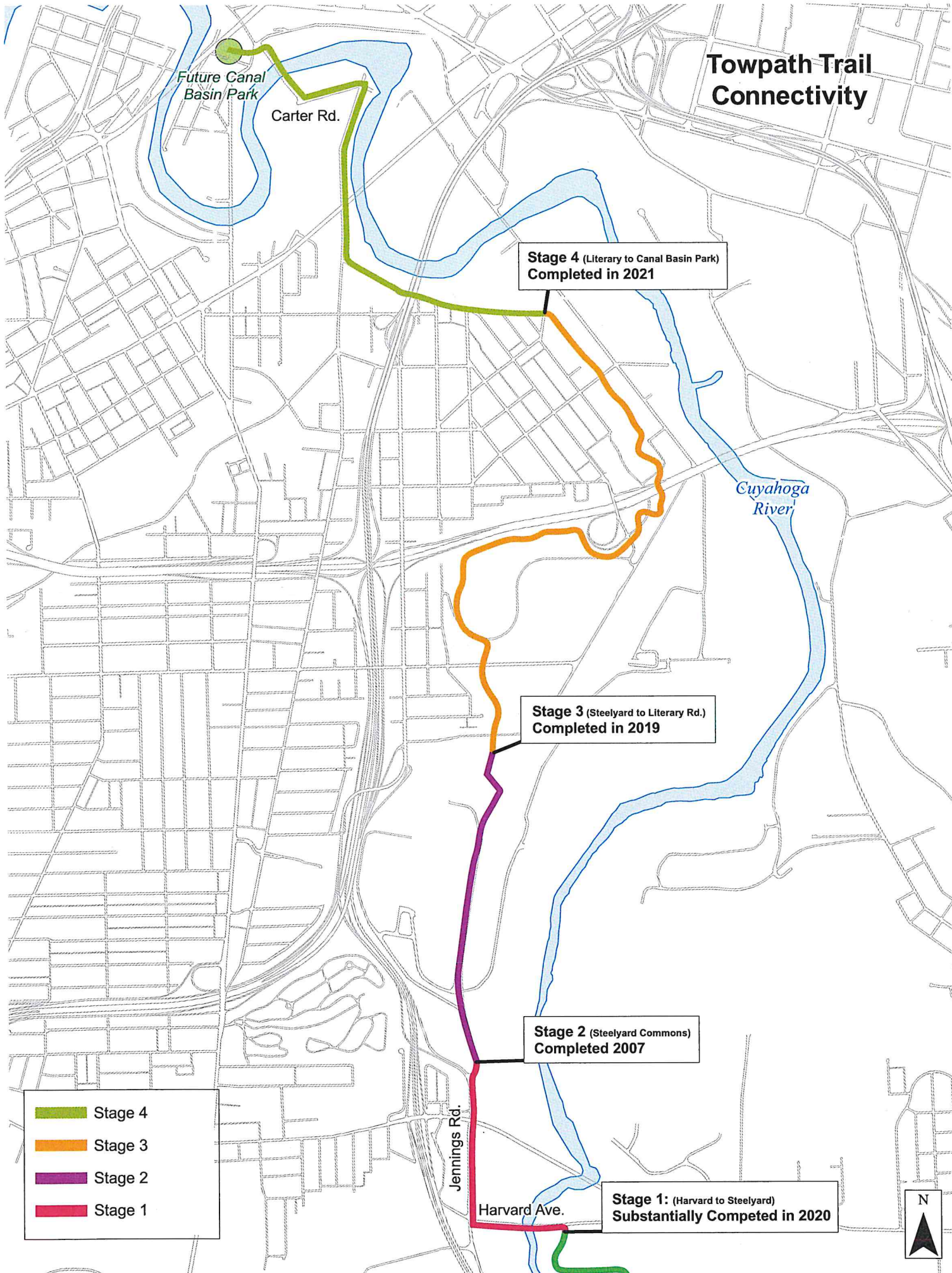
Ward:

Ward 12 (Councilmember Anthony Brancatelli)
Ward 3 (Councilmember Kerry McCormack)

Attachments:

Project Map

Towpath Trail Connectivity



Future Canal Basin Park

Carter Rd.

Stage 4 (Literary to Canal Basin Park)
Completed in 2021

Stage 3 (Steelyard to Literary Rd.)
Completed in 2019

Stage 2 (Steelyard Commons)
Completed 2007

- Stage 4
- Stage 3
- Stage 2
- Stage 1

Cuyahoga River

Jennings Rd.

Harvard Ave.

Stage 1: (Harvard to Steelyard)
Substantially Completed in 2020





City of Cleveland Memorandum
Frank G. Jackson, Mayor

Date: September 3, 2021

To: Barbara Langhenry, Director
Department of Law

From: Michael E. Cox, Director
Department of Public Works


Subject: Towpath Trail: Lease and Management Agreement with Cleveland
Metroparks

Please prepare legislation authorizing the Director of Public Works to enter into a lease and management agreement with the Cleveland Metroparks for the Towpath Trail.

Thank you.

MEC/JD

Encl.

Acknowledged by: 
Matthew Spronz, Director of Mayor's Office of Capital
Projects

cc: Valarie McCall, Chief of Government and International Affairs
Leah Short, Executive Assistant, Mayor's Office
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CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

Location Map of Towpath Trail

