



## Take a Hike in Dayton

*by Karen Cisne*

On Friday, October 25, 2013, officials from Five Rivers Metroparks, the City of Dayton, the Buckeye Trail Association and the North Country Trail Association gathered at Deeds Point Metropark (Troy Section, point 5) on the banks of the Great Miami River in Dayton, Ohio to celebrate the designation of Dayton as a “Trail Town.” Dayton Mayor Gary Leitzel’s announcement made it official: “Now, therefore, the city of Dayton does hereby proclaim that Dayton, Ohio is a Buckeye and North Country Trail Town and commends the Buckeye Trail Association for its work in developing and maintaining the Buckeye Trail. And furthermore, encourages all residents and visitors of Dayton to take a hike on the Buckeye and North Country Trail.”

Thus, Dayton became the second and largest city on the Buckeye and North Country Trail so designated. Brent Anslinger, Program Operations Manager for Five Rivers Metroparks, defined “trail town” for the audience. He said it is a community through which the Buckeye and North Country Trail passes that supports hikers with services, promotes the trail to its citizens, and embraces the trail as a resource to be protected and celebrated. Dayton City Commissioner Nan Whaley said Dayton was grateful and excited for the designation saying, “It’s not every day that Dayton is the largest community that is part of something that reaches 4,600 miles.” She added that Dayton is proud to add an urban flavor to the trail and to use the opportunity to highlight one of the city’s greatest amenities, the Great Miami River.

Until I attended the celebration, I was unaware of the strides my hometown has made in fostering a healthier urban and suburban lifestyle by providing and promoting trails for hiking and biking throughout the region. It is the combined effort of the City of Dayton, Five Rivers Metroparks, the Buckeye Trail Association and the North Country Trail Association. Their work put Dayton on both the Ohio trail map and the National trail map.

A section of the Buckeye Trail system runs through Taylorsville Dam Metropark (Troy Section, point 9) where I often walk with my young grandsons. It is located near Vandalia, just north of Dayton where I now live. Vandalia is designated the “Crossroads of America.” Lincoln’s old National Road crosses the old Dixie Highway in the center of Vandalia. When I drive on Rt. 40, the old National Road, I take pride in reflecting on its history.



*Recognition of Trail Town Status – Mayor Gary Leitzel, BTA Executive Director Andrew Bashaw, and NCTA Director of Trail Development Andrea Ketchmark*

*Brent Anslinger*

Similarly, when I walk through Taylorsville Dam Metropark, I now appreciate the fact that under my Nikes is a footpath that traverses 1440 miles of Ohio, thanks to the Buckeye Trail Association. Furthermore, thanks to the North Country Trail Association's work with the BTA and other trail organizations to manage and maintain 4600 miles of trails in seven states, the more fit and adventurous can take a left on the same path in Dayton and hike to New York, or turn right and go clear to North Dakota! My hometown has earned its new title—Dayton is a “Trail Town!”



Brent Anslinger



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Following the Blue Blazes Wherever They Go,  
Great Miami River Recreation Trail



Brent Anslinger

Celebrating with the Wright Brothers, Deeds Metropark