



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BAILEYS TRAIL SYSTEM AWARDED NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND WIDENING FOR ADAPTIVE MOUNTAIN BIKES; PLANS MOVE FORWARD FOR 2025 BAILEYS TRAIL CONSTRUCTION**

The Athens-Wayne Outdoor Asset Development Corporation (AWOADC) nonprofit partner organization of the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA) has received a \$48,071 grant from the National Forest Foundation's Matching Awards Program, \$42,701 of which will be spent on trail improvements for the Baileys Trail System in the Wayne National Forest. The work will widen and repair drainage issues on approximately 5.3 miles of trail for the trails to meet adaptive mountain bike specifications. The trails affected will include Coal Train Trail, Gob Pile Loop Trail, and Bullfrog Loop Trail, three popular beginner-friendly trails at the Baileys Trail System.

A contract has been awarded to Dirtsculpt, LLC, a professional trailbuilding company based in eastern Pennsylvania. Trail users should be aware that portions of the three trails will be closed in the coming weeks for construction. Project work began on Friday, June 21st. Up-to-date closure information can be found at <https://baileystrailssystem.org/alerts-updates/>.

The Matching Awards Program awards funding to nonprofit organizations completing on-the-ground project activities on National Forest lands which enhance outdoor experiences and forest health. ORCA's nonprofit partner, the AWOADC, was awarded the funding for its commitment to serve mountain bikers living with mobility impairments through redeveloping trails to meet adaptive mountain biking specifications. Awardees must supply a 1:1 project match, which included trail construction funding from the State of Ohio utilized in 2023 for the construction of 7.8 miles of trail.

"We appreciate the support from the National Forest Foundation enabling this project," says ORCA's Executive Director, Jessie Powers. "We're thrilled to see this project underway and to offer trails that meet adaptive cycling standards at The Baileys!"

Additional project components have included a volunteer appreciation celebration in 2024, and will include volunteer participation opportunities in the trail redevelopment projects. Opportunities to participate in the trail redevelopment projects will be posted to

[www.baileystrailssystem.org/volunteer](https://www.baileystrailssystem.org/volunteer) in the coming weeks. At these events, volunteers will have the opportunity to learn new skills in trail construction, maintenance, adaptive mountain bike-friendly trails, and addressing drainage issues on mountain biking trails.

ORCA and the AWOADC underwent several rounds of bidding this year to secure contractors for a number of projects. The organization has awarded trail construction dollars from the Appalachian Community Grant Program to Rock Solid Trail Contracting, LLC, who will return to southeast Ohio in 2025 to construct additional trail miles at the Baileys Trail System. Additionally, ORCA awarded funding to Buena Environmental, LLC for several trailhead reconstruction projects on the Marietta Unit of the Wayne National Forest as part of ORCA's 2021 Appalachian Regional Commission POWER Grant.

ORCA, a council of governments, was created in 2019 to utilize Appalachian Ohio's plentiful outdoor recreation assets to sustainably diversify rural economies. ORCA staff operate the AWOADC, partner with the Wayne National Forest to plan and implement the Baileys Trail System project, and work on a variety of projects with recreation stakeholders and the regional multi-sector skilled ORCA Advisory Committee. The Baileys Trail System is a planned 88-mile mountain bike optimized trail system (open to all forms of human powered use) on over 9,000 acres of Ohio's only national forest. Upon completion, The Baileys will be the longest trail systems of its kind in the East.

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