



*Helping Communities Leverage Their Outdoor Recreation Assets*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Pedals & Pollinators Brings Art, Outdoor Recreation, and Pollinator Education to Athens County Community**

**Community Food Initiatives and the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia invite the public to an afternoon of free family-friendly fun!**

**ATHENS COUNTY, Ohio - August 4, 2026** – Community Food Initiatives (CFI) and the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA) invite the public to Pedals and Pollinators, a free, family-friendly community celebration taking place on Sunday, August 16, from 11am to 2pm at the Chauncey-Dover Trailhead Park, 8433 W Bailey Rd, Millfield, OH 45761.

The one-day event celebrates the connection between outdoor recreation, public art, fresh local food, and pollinator conservation. Visitors of all ages are invited to participate in hands-on activities, learn from local conservation organizations, and enjoy a day of outdoor fun.

A central feature of the event will be the creation of a collaborative mural on the Baileys Trail System Bike Rental building. The mural is designed by Theresa House, the art teacher at Athens City School District's East Elementary. Community members are encouraged to join Theresa and bring the artwork to life. The finished mural will celebrate creativity, community, pollinators, and the outdoors while serving as a welcoming feature at the Chauncey-Dover Trailhead.

Additional activities include pollinator education from local organizations, including Butterfly Ridge Butterfly Conservation Center Ltd., the Master Gardeners of Athens Ohio, and Rural Action. Guests will also have the opportunity to enjoy riding on the Baileys Trail System pump track and explore the Chauncey Depot Storybook Trail. There will be free food provided by the Rhythm & Food food truck as well as complimentary fresh fruits, vegetables, from CFI's Veggie Van, and pollinator-friendly resources for all guests.

"Pedals & Pollinators is a wonderful example of what can happen when organizations work together around a shared vision for our communities," said Delia Palmisano, Deputy Director of the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia. "Outdoor recreation is about so much more than getting outside—it's about creating places where people can experience the connections between nature, art, local food, and one another. From painting a community mural to exploring the trails and learning about pollinators, this event celebrates the partnerships that make Appalachian Ohio a vibrant place to live, visit, and explore."



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“Pollinators are essential to healthy gardens, thriving ecosystems, and the local food we all enjoy,” said Molly Gassaway, Director of Garden Education at Community Food Initiatives. “Pedals & Pollinators is an opportunity for families to explore, create, and learn together while discovering simple ways they can support pollinators and care for the natural spaces that sustain our communities.”

The Pedals and Pollinators event and the Baileys Trail System Bike Rental building were made possible through Governor Mike DeWine, the Governor’s Office of Appalachia, and the State of Ohio’s Appalachian Community Grant Program, which supports projects that strengthen communities and expand opportunities throughout Appalachian Ohio.

### **About ORCA**

The Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA) is a council of governments advancing outdoor recreation, regional collaboration, and community development across Appalachian Ohio. ORCA manages the Baileys Trail System in partnership with the Wayne National Forest and works alongside communities across 18 counties to create healthy places, vibrant economies, and lasting outdoor experiences under the unified brand, Ohio’s Rolling Hills.

Learn more at [www.baileystrailsystem.org](http://www.baileystrailsystem.org) and [www.orcaohio.com](http://www.orcaohio.com) and [ohiosrollinghills.com](http://ohiosrollinghills.com)

### **About CFI**

Community Food Initiatives (CFI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering food sovereignty and resilient communities throughout Appalachian Ohio. Through education, gardening, food access programs, and community partnerships, CFI empowers individuals and families to grow food, improve health, and build a more sustainable local food system.



A mockup of the mural to be painted at the Baileys Bike rental, by local artist, Theresa House.