



Helping Communities Leverage Their Outdoor Recreation Assets

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 7/14/2026

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BAILEYS TRAIL SYSTEM TO CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF ALL 88 MILES, BECOMING LONGEST MOUNTAIN BIKE-OPTIMIZED TRAIL SYSTEM EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI

July 22 celebration includes a 10 a.m. Visitor Center groundbreaking in Chauncey and the 11 a.m. ribbon cutting at the new Buchtel-Snow Fork Trailhead

WHAT: ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO- The Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA), the Athens-Wayne Outdoor Asset Development Corporation (AWOADC), and the Wayne National Forest will celebrate the completion of the 88-mile Baileys Trail System, now the longest continuous mountain bike-optimized trail system east of the Mississippi River. The trail system is projected to generate \$5.3 million in annual economic impact for Appalachian Ohio. The day includes two media opportunities: a groundbreaking for the future Baileys Visitor Center and a ribbon cutting opening the new Buchtel-Snow Fork Trailhead.

WHO: ODNR Director Mary Mertz,, appearing at the 10 a.m. groundbreaking. Jessie Powers, Executive Director, ORCA; Jason Reed, Wayne National Forest; Jay Kline, Buchtel Village Council and ORCA Vice Chair; Tim Warren, York Township Trustee; Jay Edwards, Former Representative; John Carey, Governor's Office of Appalachia, all speaking at 11 a.m.

WHEN AND WHERE: Wednesday, July 22, 2026. Both events are rain or shine.

10 a.m. – Baileys Visitor Center groundbreaking and photo opportunity. Located along West Bailey Road just past the entrance to the Chauncey-Dover Park Trailhead in Chauncey, Ohio (GPS: 39°24'22.2"N 82°07'52.8"W).

11 a.m. – Ribbon cutting and completion celebration, Buchtel-Snow Fork Trailhead, 5579 S.R. 685, Buchtel, OH 45716. Please note that some mapping apps display this address as Glouster, Ohio. Parking will be available at the trailhead lot.

VISUALS: Groundbreaking ceremony at the future Visitor Center site, remarks ribbon cutting, and the completed trailhead at the gateway to more than 9,000 acres of the Wayne National Forest.

RSVP: Attendance is open. Reach out to info@orcaohio.com with any questions.

CAN'T ATTEND? High-resolution photos will be available upon request after the event.



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BACKGROUND: Built across the Athens Unit of the Wayne National Forest, the Baileys Trail System transformed reforested lands once devastated by the coal economy into a nationally recognized destination for mountain biking, hiking, trail running, and adaptive cycling. Since construction began in 2019, the project has leveraged more than \$30 million in community infrastructure investment and united 18 Appalachian Ohio counties under the regional destination brand Ohio's Rolling Hills.

Learn more at www.baileystrailsystem.org and www.orcaohio.com and ohiosrollinghills.com