

Towpath Trail – Stage 3

Steelyard Commons to Literary Road in Tremont

The Towpath Trail Partners made a strategic decision early to segment the Towpath Trail project into 4 distinct stages:

Stage 1 – from current terminus at lower Harvard Avenue to Steelyard Commons

Stage 2 – Steelyard Commons (by others)

Stage 3 – Steelyard Commons to Literary Avenue in Tremont

Stage 4 – Literary Avenue to Canal Basin Park (terminus of Towpath Trail)

The guiding principles for the Towpath Trail/ Stage 3 included:

- Defining a safe, separated, off-road trail
- Defining access points for nearby neighborhood residents
- Providing a green buffer area between residential and industrial uses
- Identifying interpretive opportunities

The following 5 sections depict the recommendations for the Stage 3 Towpath Trail alignment and include potential land use scenarios for an affiliated greenway. Here is a brief description of each panel.

Holmden Ave. to Clark Ave: Holmden Avenue crossing at-grade, continuing along the hillside and under the Clark Avenue Bridge towards Clark Fields. The crossing at Holmden Avenue benefits from an expanded greenway that allows closure of the road with cul-de-sacs at the top and bottom of the street. The hillside routing provides enhanced views while taking advantage of its natural setting.

Clark Fields: After crossing under Clark Avenue the trail skirts along the western perimeter of Clark Fields and I-490, slowly rising on an earthen berm that parallels the I-490/ W. 7th Street interchange. There are dynamic changes in this area as the entrance to Clark Fields is reconfigured to a single point of entry and exit from Clark Avenue. The plan also depicts two neighborhood trail connectors: from a small trailhead located at the intersection of W. 11 Street/Clark Avenue and from the w. 11th pedestrian bridge over I-490.

Valley View Bluff & W. 3rd Street Trailhead: The Towpath begins rising to an elevation to cross the heavily trafficked and dangerous West 7th Street near the on/off ramps for I-490 and rediscovers a plateau that provides commanding views of the Cuyahoga Valley and nearby Tremont neighborhood – ripe for interpretation. The trail descends into an area below the I-490 Bridge which could host a trailhead parking lot and another interpretive story centering on the history and impact of rail transportation.

Quigley / W. 3rd Street to Jefferson Ave: The Towpath follows the former West 4th Street corridor and offers trail users consistent views of the Cuyahoga River Valley and the approaching downtown skyline. The at-grade crossing of Jefferson eliminates the vehicular traffic while adding cul-de-sacs at the top and bottom, which could provide small parking areas for the adjacent commercial interests.

Jefferson Ave to Literary Ave: The Towpath approaches the terminus of stage 3 – a small trailhead on Literary Avenue. It can accommodate either an at-grade or elevated crossing of the street. That decision will be made in the planning for the final phase of the project in Stage 4.

For more information, call Ohio Canal Corridor @ 216-520-1825 or visit www.ohiocanal.org.

