in JEN ee um: Latin. Natural disposition of talents. Rootword for "engineer"

Ingenium

FALL 2025

EMH&T

Bridging Communities

Freedom Trail Connector

Sterkel Park in Mansfield

Taylor Farm Park in New Albany

Cultural Resources Expansion

This summer, EMH&T mourned the loss of an extraordinary leader—and I mourned the loss of a cherished friend. Doug's absence is deeply felt by each of us, yet above our sorrow rises the clear voice we all remember: "Get on with it."

In that spirit, I offer only a few words here, in quiet tribute to Doug. Within these pages, you'll read about our ongoing work to strengthen and uplift communities. Doug was woven into the fabric of that mission—his contributions enriched not only our projects, but our lives.

Sandy Doyle-Ahern
President

Ingenium

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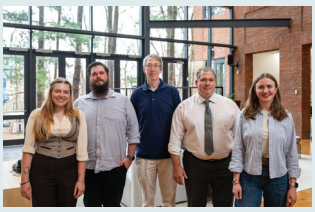

Regular Columns

FREEDOM TRAIL: Two Communities Bridged Through Recreation

The missing link between two well-traveled recreation trails has finally been placed.

The Freedom Trail in the Summit Metropolitan Park District (Summit Metro Parks) ended very near the Portage Park District's Portage Hike and Bike Trail; however, the two trails were never connected due to the challenging conditions.

"In the past there was no safe and efficient way to continue from one trail to the other," said Craig Schrader, PE, MS, Structures Manager for EMH&T. "Users of the trail system, primarily pedestrians and cyclists, had no other option than to share Middlebury Road with motor vehicles, which was especially precarious considering the narrow existing roadway bridge and tight curves with steep grades."

With safety for users a primary concern and driver of the project, the EMH&T team devised a solution, which would connect the two trails, cities, and counties.

"We proposed that the safest feasible alternative would be to construct an off-line bridge with a new trail section that would safely unite the two trails," said Schrader.

The trail connector begins at the recently constructed Freedom Trail trailhead parking lot in the city of Kent, crosses Middlebury Road at grade, spans over a set of CSX railroad tracks, and ends at the existing Portage Hike and Bike Trail on the east side of Middlebury Road adjacent to the Cuyahoga River.

Because the connector would carry users over the railway, the team engaged in significant coordination with CSX related to site constraints and railroad public project requirements to determine feasibility of each alternative.

> **"The trail brings together two communities using recreation, while it also provides a visually and experientially unique community amenity."**
> Craig Schrader, PE, MS

Once an agreed upon alternative was selected–the connector bridge and additional section of trail–the EMH&T structures team advanced to detailed design. During this phase, the design team began designing the additional section of trail that would lead from the Freedom Trail connector bridge to the Portage Hike and Bike trail.

The connector features a new single-span prefabricated 175-foot long, 12-foot-wide trail bridge that runs parallel to Middlebury Road on the east side of the roadway. The new trail connector is 0.35 miles long with 10-foot wide shared-use trail that effectively eliminates the need for users to travel on Middlebury Road. The connector also links a trail system in the City of Stow, Summit County with the City of Kent, Portage County by extending to the Summit Metro Parks Freedom Trail to the Portage Park District Portage Hike and Bike Trail.

This section uniting the trails would be at a relatively steep grade, so the team designed the descending trail to be switchback-style, rather than straight, to maintain a soft, progressive descent. An aesthetic modular block retaining wall with custom concrete coping was also included in EMH&T's design to

accommodate steep grades without encroachments onto CSX property. This 0.20-mile asphalt shared-use path connecting the two trails is also aesthetically and visually interesting for users, including larger boulders and ornamental landscape plantings.

During construction, traffic was maintained on Middlebury Road except for the installation of the prefabricated bridge. Utility poles were relocated to support construction and one access drive was removed to make way for the shared-use path.

The Freedom Trail Connector received funding from a combination of an Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study grant and Summit Metro Parks general funds, so Ohio Department of Transportation standards and procedures were used at the project site. The trail was designed in accordance with AASHTO and accessibility guidelines for outdoor recreation trail facilities.

"The final trail is more than a connector for two trails," said Schrader. "It brings together two communities using recreation, while it also provides a visually and experientially unique community amenity." ■

For more information about our structures capabilities, contact Craig Schrader, PE, MS, at 614.775.4632 or cschrader@emht.com.

COMPLETE SERVICES FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Roadway/Highway

- Preliminary Engineering/Studies
- Roadway Engineering/Design
- Complex and Non Complex Highway Design
- Roundabout Design/Analysis
- Pavement Life Cycle Cost Analysis
- Pavement Design and Rehabilitation
- ADA Curb Ramp Design and Compliance
- Utility Coordination and Design
- Storm Sewer Design and Rehabilitation

Structural

- Highway Bridge Design
- Railroad Bridge Design
- Pedestrian Bridge Design
- Bridge Load Rating
- Structural Analysis
- Level 1&2 Bridge Structure Type Studies
- Precast Culvert Design
- Cast-in-Place Retaining Wall Design
- Soldier Pile Wall Design
- Sheet Pile Wall Design
- Manufactured Stabilized Earth (MSE) Wall Design
- Modular Block Wall Design
- Municipal Structure Design

Traffic Engineering

- Interchange Modification and Justification Studies
- Corridor Improvement Studies
- Traffic Impact Studies
- Traffic Capacity Analysis
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
- Traffic Counts and Projections
- Access Management
- Thoroughfare Planning
- Traffic Calming
- Traffic Signal Warrants and Design
- Street Lighting Design
- Traffic Signal Design
- Signal System Interconnect
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Signing and Pavement Marking
- MOT Alternative Analysis
- MOT Planning and Design
- Constructability Review

Railroad Engineering

- Port Rail Loadout Facilities
- Intermodal Terminals
- Oil and Gas Facilities
- Mainline Tracks
- Siding and Lead Tracks
- Yards and Terminals
- Industrial Developments

NEPA Services

- NEPA process management
- NEPA documents: CE, EA, EIS, Tiered Environmental Reviews
- Section 4(f) and Section 6 (f) documents
- Agency coordination and approvals

Ecological Surveys

- Floristic assessments
- Tree surveys
- Bat acoustical and emergence surveys
- Mussel surveys and relocation
- Fish and aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling

Ecosystem Restoration

- Restoration: site selection, engineering, construction oversight
- Planting plan development and installation
- Monitoring
- Adaptive management: invasive/ nuisance species control

Wetland, Stream & Waterway Permitting

- Delineations
- Habitat assessments (HHEI/QHEI/ ORAM/VIBI/ICI)
- Waterway permitting: federal and state
- Mitigation: planning, engineering, reporting and monitoring
- Regulatory agency negotiations

Public Involvement

- Identify public involvement requirements
- Organize and hold meetings (virtual and in-person)
- Produce targeted informational materials (print and digital formats)

Hazardous Materials

- Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs)
- Regulated Materials Reviews: screenings/assessments/ investigations
- Asbestos inspections
- Remediation and hazardous materials management, including BUSTR UST closures

Cultural Resources: Archaeology, History/ Architecture

- Due diligence literature reviews
- Archaeological surveys: Phase I Surveys, Phase II Evaluative Testing, Phase III Data Recovery
- History and architectural surveys: Phase I and II Surveys
- NRHP nominations, mitigation, and Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs)
- Negotiations with state historic preservation offices and federal agencies
- Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and Historic American Building Survey (HABS)
- Section 106 consulting

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- Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
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- Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Program
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- H2Ohio

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- Complex Roadway Design
- Bicycle Facilities and Enhancement Design
- Interchange Justification Operation/ Modification Study
- Safety Studies
- Limited Right-of-Way Plan Development
- Complex Right-of-Way Plan Development
- Bridge Design Level 1.1, 1.2 & Level 2
- Basic Traffic Signal Design
- Traffic Signal System Design
- Limited Highway Lighting Design
- Complex Highway Lighting Design
- ITS Design and Operations
- Ecological Surveys: Aquatic, Terrestrial, Wetland Delineation
- Environmental Document Preparation: EA/EIS, CE, Section 4(f)
- Stream and Wetland Mitigation
- Waterway Permits
- Regulated Materials Review
- Archaeological Investigations
- History/Architectural Investigations
- Noise Analysis and Abatement Design
- Qualitative Air Quality Analysis
- Public Involvement: C1/C2 Level CE, D1/Higher Level CE, EA/EIS
- Construction Management Firm
- Financial Management System Evaluation

STERKEL COMMUNITY PARK IN MANSFIELD REOPENS AS A BEACON OF INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

In the summer of 2025, a long-standing community dream became reality with the grand reopening of Sterkel Community Park—a 33-acre destination park on Mansfield's south side.

Originally launched in 2018 as a direct outcome of the 2017 Park System Master Plan prepared by EMH&T, the Sterkel Park revitalization started as a collaborative design initiative between the City of Mansfield, EMH&T, Midstates Recreation and the Friends of Sterkel Park advocacy group. What began as a small playground project, evolved into one of the most inclusive and ambitious open space redevelopments in the north-central region of the State of Ohio. Franco Manno, Senior Landscape Architect at EMH&T, championed both the park planning effort as well as the design and engineering that helped bring the vision for Sterkel Park to life.

"We set out to create a space that truly reflected the diversity and needs of this community," Manno said. "We feel like we succeeded because the new Sterkel Park offers something for everyone—regardless of age or ability."

A Vision Sparked by Community Need

As the project evolved, it grew in scale and community impact. The direct result of the

involvement of Superintendent Michelle Giess of Richland Newhope, the organization serving as Richland County's Board of Developmental Disabilities. Richland Newhope values and respects the abilities of all people and is dedicated to supporting people to be valued members of their community while living the life they desire.

"From the beginning," Manno said, "the vision was clear: to create a 'Community Park for All'—a vibrant, inclusive hub for recreation, wellness, and connection. A place where no one is left behind."

The City of Mansfield teamed with Richland Newhope, with support from EMH&T, Midstates Recreation and the Friends of Sterkel Park, and began shaping a master plan that reflected the voices and values of an underserved population within the community.

Leadership, Persistence, and Funding Breakthroughs

The journey wasn't easy.

"We started with an idea and a concept that grew into what we believed could become one of the best parks in the state, but it was going to be expensive," said Giess.

She helped rally the community, raising $4.6 million through local businesses, civic leaders, and grassroots efforts. The project gained momentum thanks to the leadership of Giess and Mansfield's Mayor Jodie Perry who both played pivotal roles in championing the impact that a project of this nature could have on the region, not just the City of Mansfield.

"Sterkel Community Park," Perry remarked, "stands today not merely as a recreational space, but as a symbol of what Mansfield can achieve through inclusion, accessibility, and the power of community collaboration."

Designing for Everyone: Age, Ability, and Access

Sterkel Park now features:

- One of the largest playground redevelopments in the north-central Ohio region
- Interactive play pieces, a covered fitness area, and an outdoor storybook trail
- Pickleball courts, an accessible looped path system, and an accessible parking lot
- Modern oversized shelter for events and large gatherings, grills, and play tables
- Fully accessible restrooms with adult-sized changing tables
- Wi-Fi and security cameras, ensuring safety and connectivity

The park's layout emphasizes multigenerational appeal, inclusive design, and connectivity to nearby residential neighborhoods, Richland County Children Services, and the YMCA of North Central Ohio.

Community Engagement and Recognition

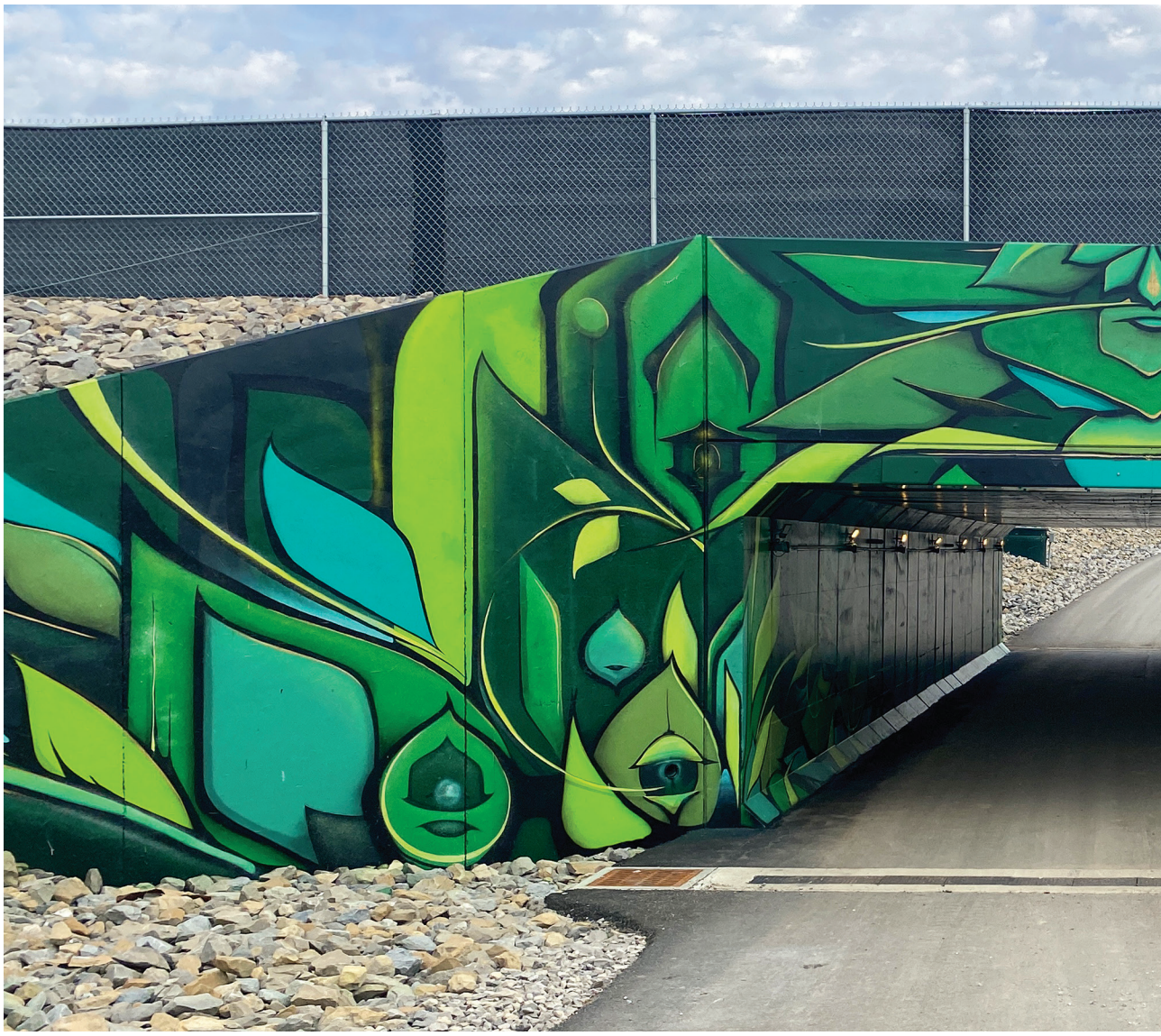
Sterkel Park is now under consideration for an Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) award, a testament to its collaborative design approach, prioritization of inclusivity and its impact to the underserved residents of Mansfield and Richland County.

Lessons in Persistence

The project, which began before the COVID-19 pandemic, faced several delays but never lost momentum.

"Sterkel Park was more than just a community-based design effort, it was an exercise in persistence," said Jim Dziatkowicz, Director of Planning and Landscape Architecture at EMH&T. "A great idea with such a positive impact on the community will eventually find a way to succeed." ■

For information about our park planning capabilities, contact Franco Manno, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP, at 614.775.4704 or fmanno@emht.com or Jim Dziatkowicz, PLA, ASLA, at 614.775.4703 or jdziatkowicz@emht.com.



Legend Valley Pedestrian Tunnel

EMH&T designed a significant safety improvement led by our Structures team for one of Central Ohio's outdoor live music and campground venues.

Legend Valley, situated in Licking County near Thornville, has played host to numerous live music events and festivals since the 1970s. One concern that has neared crescendo over the years, though—how to safely allow for event patrons to access the venue grounds on the east side of State Route (SR) 13 from the parking and campground area on the west side of SR 13.

EMH&T was commissioned to provide design solutions and construction documentation for an underpass beneath SR 13, which provides safe connectivity to Legend Valley and facility parking. Prior solutions at the site included temporary bridge structures, which cost the client at least $500,000 per year. A permanent crossing ultimately improved safety, eliminated temporary impacts to the roadway and

vehicular traffic, and significantly reduce long term costs. EMH&T provided engineering, survey, hydraulic analysis, electrical, final design, detailed construction plans, and maintenance of traffic for a 24-foot span x 10-foot rise pedestrian underpass.

San Francisco-based Ian Ross created an organic and vivid mural that adorns the headwall, wingwalls, and tunnel. The graffiti style art depicts slightly abstracted leafy structures in rich, earthy green and blue hues—an echo of nature captured in paint, where concrete meets imagination. ■

NEW ALBANY'S TAYLOR FARM PARK RETHINKS WHAT A PARK CAN BE

Taylor Farm Park is not your typical city park. Instead of sports fields or pickleball courts, it boasts prairies, wetlands, and wildlife.

Located on the western edge of New Albany, sandwiched between Rocky Fork Creek and Sugar Run, Taylor Farm Park has quickly become one of the most popular community amenities in the City. Many area residents utilize the park, walking its many miles of trails and taking in the abundance of nature and wildlife.

John Warinner, an area resident, proudly claims to walk the trails of Taylor Farm Park two to three times a day, often hoping to see a rare species while birding. On this day he was excited to find a red-tailed hawk perched atop a utility tower before swooping down into the marshy wetland for a snack.

Early Settlers

Taylor Farm Park is located on land that was once owned by some of New Albany's earliest residents, the Taylor family, who arrived in the area during the 1820s. The Taylor Family established a homestead on the land between Hamilton and Harlem Roads on each side of East Dublin-Granville Road—the area, generally located, from Hamilton Quarter to the Hampstead Green neighborhood.

Over the course of two centuries, much of the land had slowly been sold off from the original Taylor homestead and little remained from the time the family occupied the area. The large family home located within the park, which

dates back to the 1840s and 1850s, still stands. During construction, the Taylor family lived in a log cabin while the house was built from brick fired on the land where the park is sited.

The Taylor Farm Park land, ±98 acres, was the last bit of the original homestead to be sold. This particular property had long been in high demand from developers. Eleanor Taylor, a direct descendant of the original Taylor family, came to own the last remaining land from the early homestead. For nearly 30 years Ms. Taylor routinely declined all offers for the land.

The Acquisition Process

EMH&T presented the Taylor Farm parcels to the New Albany Company as a potential option for a wetland mitigation project in November 2018.

National Geographic included the City of New Albany's efforts in their annual report for the City's environmental education initiative as part of the National Geographic Bioblitz learning program.

"Knowing Ms. Taylor's reluctancy to sell to developers, we presented the idea that the New Albany Company could potentially obtain the property to create wetlands onsite and develop it into a community amenity, which would effectively preserve the Taylor Farm land," said Rob Milligan, Director of Environmental and Cultural Resources at EMH&T.

The New Albany Company and Ms. Taylor agreed to terms for the property in May 2019.

Around this time the City of New Albany began to show interest in acquiring a property to utilize as a park with a strong environmental component. The City ultimately agreed to acquire the Taylor Farm property from the New Albany Company with the idea that it would utilize the land for passive recreation, working around the restored wetland habitat. This would allow the property to serve a dual purpose as both wetland mitigation and community park.

While the land acquisition process unfolded, the team, led by Rob and EMH&T's Heather Dardinger, Senior Environmental Scientist, was exploring ideas for a grant to assist in funding the purchase of the property. In 2019, the Ohio Public Works Commission awarded the City of New Albany a $857,250 grant through the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, as a result of the top scoring application prepared by EMH&T.

Developing the Park

EMH&T worked closely with the City and MKSK (landscape architect) in an environmental and civil engineering capacity to maintain the required balance between park and wetland to uphold the mitigation requirements.

The EMH&T team began work in early 2020, converting the nearly 100-acre former farmland into wetland and native prairie buffers. Initial work consisted of a wetland delineation, Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and cultural resources investigation, which allowed for environmental permitting and civil design of the wetland cells. The property is considered a 100-year floodplain, so EMH&T engineered some of the wetland cells to be over excavated to obtain compensatory floodplain mitigation credit.

The EMH&T restoration team, led by Aaron Acus-Souders performed all the necessary restoration planting in addition to invasive control and management to ensure that the wetlands will perform as they should for mitigation purposes for multiple United States Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency permits.

The mitigation planting plan required the team to seed in the wetland cells, install native wetland plant material, including containerized trees, shrubs, and install signage. A total of 36.4 acres of wetland were seeded and/or planted, 27.4 acres were designed to be emergent wetland, and nine acres designed to be forested wetland. From the winter of 2021 through spring of 2022, the restoration team spread 910 pounds of seed, 730 pounds of overseed, installed 7,200 bare root shrubs, and planted 63 15-gallon trees across 75 acres.

The wetland areas of Taylor Farm Park have since been utilized by the City of New Albany and New Albany-Plain Local School District as a teaching tool. National Geographic included the City of New Albany's efforts in their annual report for the City's environmental education initiative as part of the National Geographic Bioblitz learning program.

"Taylor Farm Park epitomizes the creative thinking involved in developing something special with a positive community impact that can withstand the test of time."
Rob Milligan

In addition to the preserved wetland areas, EMH&T in cooperation with MKSK designed Taylor Farm Park to feature 2.5 miles of trails, boardwalks and lookout areas, along with associated parking—most of which feature permeable surfaces. Taylor Farm Park also has a playground area with two play spaces that cater to children of various ages.

"Taylor Farm Park epitomizes the creative thinking involved in developing something special with a positive community impact that can withstand the test of time," said Milligan. ■

For more information about our environmental services capabilities, contact Rob Milligan at 614.775.4515 or rmilligan@emht.com.

A grand opening celebration was held at Taylor Farm Park on September 5, 2024. The event included a ribbon-cutting ceremony, guided nature walks, light snacks, and garden-fresh mocktails.

ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM: EMH&T Expands Cultural Resources Expertise

The Cultural Resources team (L-R): Katie Piatek, Robert Milton, Josh Engle, David Lamp, and Regan Jacoby.

EMH&T is one of few firms that offer in-house cultural resources services to evaluate sites for the presence of both cultural artifacts and historic structures.

From conducting a literature review of existing documentation to determining if additional cultural resource investigations are required for a project—we have the capacity to prepare and present any or all required reports and supporting documentation needed to secure project permitting or funding.

The team is led by Cultural Resources Manager Josh Engle, MA, Principal Investigator. Josh brings significant archaeology experience to EMH&T. He obtained his master's degree in Anthropology from the University of Mississippi and his bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Kentucky. He oversees Section 106 cultural resources in addition to federal and state standards and processes for Phase I, II, and III cultural resource investigations for both archaeological sites and architectural properties/historic preservation.

"Archaeology is primarily driven by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), which mandates that any project involving federal funding or permits must take cultural resources into account," said Josh. "Our team remains abreast of regulatory standards at both federal and state levels. We are responsible for identifying and evaluating the potential impacts of project activities

on historic sites and structures. Additionally, Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider public input and concerns related to historic preservation when making final decisions."

Josh has a team of four well-rounded staff with numerous specialties. This includes David Lamp, MS, Principal Investigator, and Senior Archaeologist with considerable experience in identifying and assessing sites and properties. Rounding out the team are archaeologists Katherine Piatek, Regan Jacoby, and Robert Milton. The robust cultural resources team boats 45 years of combined experience.

"One of our recent projects, located just south of Newark, Ohio, has been fascinating to prepare for our client," Josh shared. "The project began with a Phase I survey and is currently undergoing a Phase II investigation." Phase I involves a preliminary assessment to determine the presence of potential archaeological resources. Phase II is a more detailed evaluation of any identified sites to assess their eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Should a site be deemed significant, Phase III focuses on data recovery or mitigation to address any negative impacts of a significant archaeological site.

"Within this project, we found a presence of 12 prehistoric sites that required Phase II survey. The majority of what was found is dating back to the Hopewell culture. Our team has been able to document and preserve cultural information from the site before it is disturbed," said Josh.

Another notable project that the archeological team has worked on was at Cesear Creek State Park wildlife area in southwest Ohio. For this bridge replacement, a portion of the project was located within an abandoned late 19th century town. Additionally, an Archeological Atlas of Ohio, by William Mills published in 1914 shows a prehistoric earthwork within the project's area. The site

"We found a presence of 12 prehistoric sites that required Phase II survey. The majority of what was found is dating back to the Hopewell culture."

Josh Engle, MA

is controlled by the Army Corps of Engineers and requires a special permit since the project is located on federally controlled land. Josh, on behalf of our client, secured this permit in order for the project to move forward. "We bring significant expertise and knowledge of regulations, so that our clients don't have to know it all. These regulations must be complied with, as fees could happen, or denial of future permits," continued Josh.

According to Josh, our team also has extensive experience conducting in-house geophysical surveys utilizing gradiometry, conductivity, resistivity, and ground penetrating radar techniques. This technology is quite unique, as it detects underground cultural features without having to dig.

The cultural resources team has conducted hundreds of Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III archaeological surveys, along with determinations of effects for historic properties. Archaeology offers valuable insights into past human experiences and plays a critical role in managing and preserving the cultural resources that shape our shared heritage. By uncovering and interpreting these resources, archaeologists directly connect us to our origins and contribute to building a more informed and respectful future. ■

For more information on EMH&T's Cultural Resources services, contact Josh Engle, MS, at 614.775.4519 or jengle@emht.com.

Cultural Resources Services: Archaeology, History/ Architecture

- Due diligence literature reviews
- Archaeological surveys: Phase I Surveys, Phase II Evaluative Testing, Phase III Data Recovery
- History and architectural surveys: Phase I and II Surveys
- NRHP nominations, mitigation, and Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs)
- Negotiations with state historic preservation offices and federal agencies
- Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and Historic American Building Survey (HABS)
- Section 106 consulting

FLASHING YELLOW ARROWS: A Safer Turn for Columbus

Drivers navigating the west side of Columbus may have noticed a new addition to the City's traffic signals: the flashing yellow arrow.

This innovative signal is part of a pilot program launched by the City of Columbus in collaboration with EMH&T, aimed at improving safety and efficiency at high-risk intersections.

A Vision Zero Initiative

The flashing yellow arrow pilot is a key component of Columbus's Vision Zero program, which targets intersections with high crash rates. The City identified the Hilliard-Rome Road corridor between Roberts Road and Trabue Road, and Roberts Road between Hilliard-Rome Road and I-270, as part of its high injury network—areas with the highest incidence of vehicular crashes.

"These corridors were ideal for testing the flashing yellow arrow signal heads," said Jason Smallwood, PE, Senior Project Manager at EMH&T.

How It Works

Unlike traditional left-turn signals, the flashing yellow arrow allows drivers to turn left when the intersection is clear of oncoming traffic and pedestrians. This signal replaces the standard green light for left turns, offering more opportunities to turn while maintaining safety.

"The flashing yellow arrow can improve traffic flow and reduces delays," Smallwood explained. "It gives drivers more flexibility while still prioritizing safety."

Each signal head includes a red arrow, solid/flashing yellow arrow, and green arrow, in compliance with the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. According to the Federal Highway Administration, the new signals are designed to reduce left-turn crashes by up to

Where to See Flashing Yellow Arrows

A total of 11 intersections received the new signals. Along Hilliard-Rome Road, these include:

- Meijer Store Drive at Westpoint Plaza
- Westchester Woods Boulevard
- Tanglewood Plaza
- Tanglewood Park Boulevard
- Nike Drive
- Silver Horn Center (Roberts Crossing)
- Roberts Road

On the Roberts Road corridor, intersections include:

- Walcutt Road
- International Street
- Westbelt Drive
- Wilson Road

40%, a benchmark that could lead to broader implementation across Columbus.

Engineering the Upgrade

EMH&T led the design and engineering efforts, working closely with the City of Columbus and subcontractors 2LMN and Advanced Engineering Consultants. The project involved a comprehensive review of existing infrastructure, ensuring it could support the new signal heads without requiring utility relocations.

"We were able to design the improvements without disturbing overhead utilities," said Smallwood. "That helped us avoid unnecessary impacts and streamline the construction process."

The upgrades also included:

- Pedestrian curb ramp improvements for ADA compliance
- Radar detection systems replacing conventional loop detectors
- New traffic flow monitors, such as the one installed at Hilliard-Rome Road and Westchester Woods Boulevard
- Flashing Yellow Arrow signage adjacent to each signal head

Looking Ahead

If the pilot proves successful, perhaps other intersections in the City will see the new arrows. For Smallwood and the EMH&T team, the project represents a meaningful step toward safer, smarter streets.

"This initiative is about more than just traffic signals," Smallwood said. "It's about making our roads safer for everyone—drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists alike." ■

For more information about the Flashing Yellow Arrow Pilot Program or other traffic engineering services, please contact Jason Smallwood, PE, at 614.775.4645 or jsmallwood@emht.com.

Shorts

Honoring a Colleague

The Ohio State University bestowed an incredible honor upon EMH&T's late colleague, Bill Jones.Bill provided construction oversight since 2014 as the lead Resident Project Representative for the Cannon Drive Relocation project. Bill was onsite at the project more than anyone else over the past eight years. In April of this year, Bill passed away very unexpectedly. As a remarkable gesture to honor Bill and his dedication to the University, OSU and the Cannon Drive Relocation project team installed a permanent plaque at one of the trees on the east end of the Olentangy pedestrian bridge atop the levee. We are touched by the thoughtfulness and tribute to the legacy Bill left.

Taylor Station Road and Claycraft Road Roundabout

The City of Gahanna sought to enhance the level of service and reduce vehicle delays at the intersection of Taylor Station Road and Claycraft Road, located within the City's industrial and technology district east of I-270 and north of Broad Street. EMH&T provided professional engineering services for the design of a modern single-lane roundabout solution. The roundabout was specifically designed to accommodate the intersection's high volume of semi-truck traffic, while also incorporating sidewalks, shared-use paths, and crosswalks equipped with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) for improved pedestrian safety.

Montgomery Rail Facility Groundbreaking

The Alabama Port Authority has officially broken ground on the Montgomery Intermodal Container Transfer Facility. EMH&T partnered with the Alabama Port Authority and CSX to bring this new facility to fruition. Once complete, the 272-acre Montgomery Rail Facility will process 30,000 shipping containers per year and provide seamless connectivity between Central Alabama and the Port of Mobile—a hub with access to global markets. EMH&T's scope included site/civil engineering for two 3,500 linear feet process rail tracks, one 3,500 linear foot support rail track, a maintenance building, and an administration building.

Beech Road Pooled Wetland Mitigation Site a Home for Sandhill Cranes

Development along the western Licking County technology and industrial corridor continues at a rapid pace. Beech Road—stretching from Jug Street in the north to Morse Road in the south—is alive with construction activity. Cranes dominate the skyline, heavy equipment hums, and work trucks move in and out daily.

EMH&T is proud to have designed much of the infrastructure supporting this monumental growth. A critical part of this effort has been securing waterway permits to enable construction. One major outcome of this permitting process was the creation of the Beech Road Pooled Wetland Mitigation Site—an 89-acre area featuring pre-existing forested woodlots, constructed wetlands, and upland buffers.

For over a decade, EMH&T's Environmental Division has actively planted, maintained, and monitored this site. The mitigation design aimed to restore surface flow and groundwater connectivity, reflecting the site's pre-agricultural conditions. Today, the area is thriving, successfully supporting amphibian larvae as intended. The team continues to monitor the site's ecological health by cataloging amphibian species and native flora.

In May 2023, while planting 10.5 acres of buffer trees, a pair of sandhill cranes were observed—a remarkable discovery given the species' history in Ohio. Once extirpated and later listed as endangered, sandhill cranes are now considered threatened. Breeding pairs are extremely rare in Licking County; the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) recorded only one nesting pair in the County and two in neighboring Franklin County in its 2022 survey.

Earlier this year, the same pair returned to the site, consistent with the species' tendency to revisit breeding grounds annually. EMH&T staff discovered the pair nesting a single egg. Just weeks later, a second pair was spotted at the mitigation site.

The presence of sandhill cranes automatically elevates the wetland to a Category 3 classification, indicating superior habitat and hydrological function. This underscores the exceptional environmental health of the site—an outcome of EMH&T's dedicated stewardship. Protected in perpetuity, the wetlands and upland buffers will continue to flourish, providing vital habitat for a diverse range of species.

Columbus Department of Recreation & Parks Anheuser-Busch Park Pickleball Courts Open

The Columbus Department of Recreation & Parks recently celebrated the opening of four new pickleball courts with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Anheuser-Busch Park. This project off Olentangy River Road on the northwest side of Columbus reflects the City's commitment to expanding recreational opportunities and promoting active lifestyles to its residents. The new courts offer ADA-accessible design, evening lighting, and shaded seating, supporting both physical health and social connection for residents. EMH&T led the conceptual design, park programming, public engagement, detailed design, and preparation of construction plans, specifications, permits, and bidding documents—ensuring the site meets community needs and enhances quality of life.

City of Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther (center) joins Columbus Director of Recreation and Parks Bernita A. Reese (left), and EMH&T Director of Planning and Landscape Architecture Jim Dziatkowicz at the ribbon cutting on July 10, 2025.

Giving Back

EMH&T continues its commitment to give back to the communities where we live and work. The firm offers employees paid time off to participate in a wide variety of charitable efforts. Here's a look at how some of our staff have recently given back:

EMH&T's Employee Grant Program empowers staff to support organizations they personally volunteer with by providing funding through a semiannual application process. This round's winners include Brett Salings for Form5 Prosthetics Inc., which will use the grant to support its CO_FAB workshops that help create custom devices for disabled youth; Alex Jensen for Community Refugee and Immigration Services, which will apply the funds to its Enduring Welcome Fund supporting refugee integration services; and Gretchen Fickle for A Special Wish Foundation, which will use the grant to help fulfill wishes for children with life-threatening illnesses.

Woodward Park Clean-Up: Employees from nine departments joined forces with the Columbus Recreation and Parks team for the Woodward Park cleanup. They planted trees, revitalized landscaping, and removed invasive species making a lasting impact on the park's natural beauty.

EMH&T Impact: EMH&T staff came together to create care kits for the YWCA Women's Residency program and Vista Village residents. They assembled kits with items to support women's personal care needs. We thank YWCA and the Vista Village communities for allowing us to serve your residents.

Innis Park Clean-Up: The Transportation and Traffic Divisions assisted with litter clean-up at Columbus' Innis Park. They spent the day collecting trash and debris throughout the park, helping maintain a clean and safe environment for the public. Their efforts supported the City's commitment to keeping community spaces well-maintained and accessible.

Night to Shine: Bernice Daniels, James Jett, Brett Salings, Travis Eifert, and Michael Kopechek in the Urban Design group proudly supported the Night to Shine event in Centerburg, Ohio, by helping with setup. Night to Shine offers an unforgettable prom night experience for individuals with special needs, ages 14 and older.

Gigi's Dog Shelter: Patricia Brown, Alyssa Tantillo, and Paige Cashin (Development I) volunteered at Gigi's Dog shelter where they assisted in the spring cleanup.

Stuff the Backpack: Team members from various divisions participated in the United Way's Stuff the Backpack event at Nationwide Arena. Through the three volunteer sessions, they contributed to successfully packing 10,000 backpacks for children starting the new school year!

Ohio EPA Environmental Event: Megan Cree (Water Resources), Christian Franczek (Environmental), and Elayna Kebe (Water Resources Intern) represented our team at the Ohio EPA Environmental STEM Day. They engaged high school students with interactive demonstrations using a stream table and live mussels. They also shared details about our summer internship program, inspiring future environmental professionals.

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Visit us at Booth 323/422.

Tuesday, October 14 | 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Thinking Outside the Box – Hydraulic Structures
Moderator: Robert Hoops, PE
Room: B240-245

Robert will moderate three presentations within this session related to hydraulic structures:

Title: **Catch Basins, Laterals, and Manholes: Is There Another Way?**
Speakers: Richard Splawinski and Erik Brokamp

Title: **Performing for the Protocol at the Expense of Overall Functionality**
Speakers: Chris Allen and Clint Hartle

Title: **Circular Pipe Economy: Recycled Plastic Pipe Manufacturing and Infrastructure**
Speaker: Michael Cook

Tuesday, October 14 | 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Shifting Lanes in Environmental Law
Moderator: Christy Pirkle, MS
Room: C170-171

Christy will moderate this session about environmental law and new directions in environmental regulations.

Title: Shifting Lanes in Environmental Law
Speakers: James Auslander and Megan Goedeker

Wednesday, October 15 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Appreciation for Wetland and Stream Mitigation
Speakers: Melissa Seeley, MEn, and Aaron Acus-Souders, BA
Room: C170-171

Aaron and Melissa will discuss a variety of EMH&T's wetland and stream restoration projects that have turned ecologically degraded areas into diverse natural habitats that benefit both communities and wildlife. Topics will cover critical elements for success and lessons learned over years of creating, managing, and monitoring mitigation sites.