

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

S. B. No. 398

Senators Blackshear, Wilson

Cosponsors: Senators Ingram, Brenner, Smith, Antonio

To enact section 1546.33 of the Revised Code to
create the Adopt a Trail Program.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 1546.33 of the Revised Code be
enacted to read as follows:

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Sec. 1546.33. (A) The division of parks and watercraft
shall establish and administer the adopt a trail program to
allow volunteer groups to assist in maintaining and enhancing
trails on state-owned land.

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(B) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
volunteer groups in the program may adopt any available trail or
trail segment to engage in any of the following activities:

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(1) Spring cleanup;

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(2) Litter collection;

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(3) Accessibility projects;

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(4) Special events;

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(5) Trail maintenance, enhancement, or realignment;

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(6) Public information and assistance;

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(7) Training.

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(C) (1) Volunteer groups seeking to participate in the
program shall apply to the chief of the division of parks and
watercraft on a form prescribed by the chief. The chief shall
approve or deny such application.

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(2) No volunteer group shall perform any activity on a
trail or trail segment without approval from the chief. If the
chief approves participation in the program, the chief shall
enter into a written agreement with a representative of the
volunteer group. The chief may allow more than one volunteer
group to adopt one specific trail or trail segment.

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(D) The chief shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter
119. of the Revised Code for the operation and implementation of
the program. The rules also shall establish requirements
governing any agreement entered into in accordance with division
(C) (2) of this section, including a requirement that the
agreement contain all of the following:

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(1) A provision that requires a volunteer group to
participate in the program for a minimum of two years;

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(2) A provision that specifies any required trail
assistance or maintenance when applicable;

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(3) A provision that requires compliance with all federal,
state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances.

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(E) Volunteer groups shall consist of people who are
eighteen years of age or older. Participants seventeen years of
age or younger shall be accompanied by an adult who is at least
eighteen years of age.

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(F) No volunteer group shall perform on any trail either

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of the following: 46

(1) Activities that reduce hours or compensation of a 47
department of natural resources employee; 48

(2) Activities that are inconsistent with the terms of a 49
collective bargaining agreement. 50

(G) If the division operates other programs in the 51
vicinity of a trail adopted by a volunteer group, the division 52
shall coordinate such programs to allow volunteer groups to 53
participate. 54

(H) The division may identify adopted trails with a sign 55
at a location along the adopted section after a volunteer group 56
completes fifty hours of service. The sign shall bear the name 57
of the volunteer group and the adopt a trail logo, which shall 58
be created by the division. 59

(I) The division shall coordinate with the closest solid 60
waste management district to ensure that trash and debris are 61
properly disposed of with proper documentation. 62

(J) Volunteer groups shall place collected litter at 63
designated locations approved by the division. The division may 64
coordinate with volunteers, local authorities, and state 65
agencies for the removal and disposal of collected litter. 66

(K) The division may provide garbage bags, safety 67
training, and gloves to volunteer groups in the program. 68