

**As Passed by the Senate**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**S. B. No. 398**

**Senators Blackshear, Wilson**

**Cosponsors: Senators Ingram, Brenner, Smith, Antonio, Schaffer, Craig, DeMora, Gavarone, Hicks-Hudson, Johnson, Landis, Manning, Patton, Reineke, Roegner, Romanchuk, Timken, Wilkin**

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To enact section 1546.33 of the Revised Code to 1  
create the Adopt a Trail Program. 2

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

**Section 1.** That section 1546.33 of the Revised Code be 3  
enacted to read as follows: 4

**Sec. 1546.33.** (A) The division of parks and watercraft 5  
shall establish and administer the adopt a trail program to 6  
allow volunteer groups to assist in maintaining and enhancing 7  
trails on state-owned land. 8

(B) Except as otherwise provided in this section, 9  
volunteer groups in the program may adopt any available trail or 10  
trail segment to engage in any of the following activities: 11

(1) Spring cleanup; 12

(2) Litter collection; 13

(3) Accessibility projects; 14

(4) Special events; 15

(5) Trail maintenance, enhancement, or realignment; 16

<u>(6) Public information and assistance;</u>	17
<u>(7) Training.</u>	18
<u>(C) (1) Volunteer groups seeking to participate in the</u>	19
<u>program shall apply to the chief of the division of parks and</u>	20
<u>watercraft on a form prescribed by the chief. The chief shall</u>	21
<u>approve or deny such application.</u>	22
<u>(2) No volunteer group shall perform any activity on a</u>	23
<u>trail or trail segment without approval from the chief. If the</u>	24
<u>chief approves participation in the program, the chief shall</u>	25
<u>enter into a written agreement with a representative of the</u>	26
<u>volunteer group. The chief may allow more than one volunteer</u>	27
<u>group to adopt one specific trail or trail segment.</u>	28
<u>(D) The chief shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter</u>	29
<u>119. of the Revised Code for the operation and implementation of</u>	30
<u>the program. The rules also shall establish requirements</u>	31
<u>governing any agreement entered into in accordance with division</u>	32
<u>(C) (2) of this section, including a requirement that the</u>	33
<u>agreement contain all of the following:</u>	34
<u>(1) A provision that requires a volunteer group to</u>	35
<u>participate in the program for a minimum of two years;</u>	36
<u>(2) A provision that specifies any required trail</u>	37
<u>assistance or maintenance when applicable;</u>	38
<u>(3) A provision that requires compliance with all federal,</u>	39
<u>state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances.</u>	40
<u>(E) Volunteer groups shall consist of people who are</u>	41
<u>eighteen years of age or older. Participants seventeen years of</u>	42
<u>age or younger shall be accompanied by an adult who is at least</u>	43
<u>eighteen years of age.</u>	44

<u>(F) No volunteer group shall perform on any trail either</u>	45
<u>of the following:</u>	46
<u>(1) Activities that reduce hours or compensation of a</u>	47
<u>department of natural resources employee;</u>	48
<u>(2) Activities that are inconsistent with the terms of a</u>	49
<u>collective bargaining agreement.</u>	50
<u>(G) If the division operates other programs in the</u>	51
<u>vicinity of a trail adopted by a volunteer group, the division</u>	52
<u>shall coordinate such programs to allow volunteer groups to</u>	53
<u>participate.</u>	54
<u>(H) The division may identify adopted trails with a sign</u>	55
<u>at a location along the adopted section after a volunteer group</u>	56
<u>completes fifty hours of service. The sign shall bear the name</u>	57
<u>of the volunteer group and the adopt a trail logo, which shall</u>	58
<u>be created by the division.</u>	59
<u>(I) The division shall coordinate with the closest solid</u>	60
<u>waste management district to ensure that trash and debris are</u>	61
<u>properly disposed of with proper documentation.</u>	62
<u>(J) Volunteer groups shall place collected litter at</u>	63
<u>designated locations approved by the division. The division may</u>	64
<u>coordinate with volunteers, local authorities, and state</u>	65
<u>agencies for the removal and disposal of collected litter.</u>	66
<u>(K) The division may provide garbage bags, safety</u>	67
<u>training, and gloves to volunteer groups in the program.</u>	68