

File Note for R/W along
SR 24/25 Anthony Wayne Trail
Former Miami & Erie Canal Lands
And the Wabash Erie Canal Lands
City of Toledo, Lucas County

SR 24/25 Anthony Wayne Trail – Overview:

The Anthony Wayne Trail, through Lucas County and the City of Toledo, is constructed upon the site of the Miami & Erie Canal, lands that formerly belonged to the State of Ohio. As such it has a history that is unique amongst the roads of Northwest Ohio, and can create difficult and complex questions that often require a higher level of investigation to resolve. The surveyor or engineer is strongly advised to have at least a cursory understanding of the Canal's history and its evolution before undertaking any venture along the Anthony Wayne Trail corridor.

Miami & Erie Canal – Summary History

The Miami & Erie Canal began construction in 1825 and was completed in 1845. At the time of its development, many lands were sold to the State without the benefit of a definitive boundary survey; it was not until the early 1900's as the Canal was being decommissioned that the formal extents of State ownership were determined. The S.A. Buchanan surveys are generally, but not always, the definitive source for retracing the former Canal boundaries; however, various additional surveyors have been involved throughout the years in establishing or re-establishing the existing Right-of-Way lines, or defining compromise lines based upon the best available evidence or legislative acts. Some of the more notable surveys include the J.C. Wonder survey for the proposed Senate Bill #194, the W.E. Campbell re-survey of the Buchanan Lines, the J.B. Marston and Marsh surveys within the City of Toledo, and the W.H. Gould Compromise Lines surveys. The existing Right-of Way along the Anthony Wayne Trail consists primarily of the boundaries established by these surveys, and re-establishing the Buchanan line is almost always necessary to determine the current location of Right-of-Way.

In 1922, much of the former Miami & Erie Canal land (from Lake Erie to Waterville) was sold to the City of Toledo for use as a boulevard. Toledo later divested themselves of ownership of the lands from Maumee southward. Within Toledo's limits, the City generally still holds title to the fee interest for the lands along the Anthony Wayne Trail. As such, the Anthony Wayne Trail was declared to be a Limited Access Highway under Toledo Municipal Code 331.30. However, areas near interchanges may instead be declared Limited Access by the State of Ohio. Specific locations along the Trail should be thoroughly investigated to determine the current disposition and assumptions should always be avoided.

General Notes about Documents Contained in this Directory:

The files contained in this directory are intended to assist surveyors and engineers with retracement and resolving questions of ownership along the former Canal Lands.

This directory will not be a comprehensive catalog or history for Canal itself, but rather a repository for information and documents obtained as projects necessitate the need for investigation.

The documents contained in this directory are for information purposes only.

This directory is subject to updates as new information becomes available.