



Chapter 7.0
CONCLUSION



The Capstone course has examined various elements of park planning by focusing on a diverse selection of Cleveland Metroparks Reservations and one urban park outside of the Metroparks umbrage. Research has focused on social, physical and ecological quantitative and qualitative data. This has allowed for a better understanding of each park including the assets, challenges and associated economic value. Specific policy recommendations were made with respect to this research and the budgetary constraints facing each park. Overcoming financial constraints is the largest challenge each of these parks face. Restrictive budgets make maintaining the current level or previous level of service a challenge. As a result, many of the park groups in the class have included possible funding sources and collaborative ideas designed to prevent or limit additional financial costs.

The conservation, recreation and education mission-focus of the Cleveland Metroparks provides a logical outline within which our cross-group general park recommendations fit:

7.1 CONSERVATION

Each park has focused and continues to focus on conserving and enhancing natural ecosystems. The Cleveland Metroparks

has been able to create unique, exciting reservations in Garfield Park, Hinckley and Rocky River Reservations. Limited Parks and Recreation budgets in Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland have prevented long term conservation improvements at Forest Hill. However, the consequent benign neglect is preferable to developing conserved areas for other purposes.

Ecological

Ecological stressors make the need for conservation plans and strategies essential. Invasive species, erosion, pollution and stormwater management are a few of the discussed stressors that continue to impact all of the park systems.

Maintaining the current ecological level of health and upgrading when possible is essential for their short and long term futures. Additionally, the health of the communities surrounding the parks is clearly affected in economic terms. The valuation models quantify the positive effects - carbon storage services and hydrological services - that the parks provide to surrounding communities. This information should provide community and city officials with an economic incentive to secure the ecological wellbeing of the parks. Park ecosystems rely on responsible stewardship and collaboration between the responsible

parties.

Physical

Conserving important park structures and access points can elevate the appearance and interest in these parks. Well-constructed and maintained visitor centers provide a welcoming educational environment to accompany the natural outdoor amenities visitors seek. Assessing historically important structures and their current and potential value to the park is an important consideration.

Conservation of existing trails, paths, benches and other recreation sites requires regular maintenance and a commitment to balancing the built environment with the natural environment.

Social

Enhancing service-learning opportunities is a great way to educate young adults about the natural environment and the importance of conservation. Increasing the overall safety will enhance the overall positive experience of park visitors. Increased collaboration between nonprofit entities (watershed, greenspace and community organizations) and city officials could pave the way for increased funding opportunities through a variety of grants and con-

servancies. This pooled intellectual capital would debatably enhance the quality and diversity of philanthropic, innovative ideas.

7.2 EDUCATION

The Cleveland Metroparks organizes a variety of indoor and outdoor learning programs as well as community events that serve the same purpose. Some of these include camps, tours and festivals that educate visitors about the birds, animals and plants that make up an important part of the ecological health of the Metroparks Reservations.

Continuing these programs and creating additional service learning programs targeting grade and high school students is important. These programs would serve the purpose of not only educating young adults about the importance of conservation, the natural environment and ecology; but also lessening the burden of parks maintenance staffs that struggle to accomplish all of the necessary tasks.

7.3 RECREATION

Proper maintenance of trails and physical amenities like baseball diamonds, benches, golf courses, picnic areas, recreation fields and other amenities increases the attrac-

tiveness of each park and ideally creates a balance between active and passive recreational opportunities that respect the ecological condition of the park.

Connectivity in and out of the parks is essential to recreation. Increased signage and “you are here” maps would provide visitors with ease of movement and points of interest. Opportunities exist to connect some of the parks to other nearby parks and trails. Connecting these trails through signage and maps will elevate the level of recreation in and out of the park. This could increase park visitor numbers and interest in stewardship by these visitors.







Chapter 8.0
APPENDICES

CHAPTER 2.0 REGIONAL LANDSCAPE APPENDIX

Foreclosures in Metroparks Southeast Zone 1980 - 2009

	ZONE	HOUSING COUNT	1980 - 1989	1990 - 1999	2000 - 2009
BEDFORD	Southeast	4,200	8	17	74
BEDFORD HEIGHTS	Southeast	2,602	19	10	71
BRECKSVILLE	Southeast	4,330	4	2	9
HIGHLAND HILLS	Southeast	152	2	2	1
INDEPENDENCE	Southeast	2,810	0	3	5
MAPLE HEIGHTS	Southeast	9,480	14	61	285
NORTH RANDALL	Southeast	140	0	0	2
OAKWOOD	Southeast	1,285	5	19	31
VALLEY VIEW	Southeast	752	1	0	1
WALTON HILLS	Southeast	966	0	0	5
WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS	Southeast	3,105	44	32	88
Total		29,822	853	1,159	3,758

Source: Cuyahoga County Auditor
Prepared by: Karen Copeland

Foreclosures in Metroparks West Zone 1980 - 2009

	ZONE	HOUSING COUNT	1980 - 1989	1990 - 1999	2000 - 2009
BAY VILLAGE	West	6,119	1	2	27
BROOK PARK	West	6,816	10	6	67
CLEVELAND 15.84%	West	7,579	71	83	202
FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS	West	5,790	4	6	27
LAKESWOOD	West	13,017	52	22	157
MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS	West	4,970	4	1	13
NORTH OLMSTED	West	10,126	4	8	79
OLMSTED FALLS	West	2,491	1	4	24
OLMSTED TWP	West	3,289	4	4	27
ROCKY RIVER	West	6,075	5	3	27
WESTLAKE	West	8,382	5	6	44
Total		74,654	1,582	1,869	4,511

Source: Cuyahoga County Auditor

Prepared by: Karen Copeland

CHAPTER 3.0 GARFIELD PARK APPENDIX

GARFIELD PARK RESERVATION			
Economic Variables			
	CLEVELAND CITY	GARFIELD CITY	
Prop Tax Rate	2.08%	2.90%	
Residential Properties			
Distance (ft)	Within 200	92	149
	201 - 400	123	233
	401 - 600	118	236
	601 - 800	158	207
	801 - 1,000	168	216
	1,001 - 1,200	126	236
	1,201 - 1,500	211	293
Economic Value	\$ 331,892	\$ 732,652	
TOTAL ECONOMIC VALUE:		\$ 1,064,544	

Social and Recreational Value of Cleveland Metroparks

Service Provided	Reservation Name	Hours/Quantity of Service per year	Number of Participants per Year	Value per service (dollars)	Units	Cost to User per unit in previous column (Dollars)	Consumer Surplus	Total economic value for this service (dollars)	Notes
Educational Programming / School Groups	Garfield	0	N/A	62.52	per hour		62.52	0	1
Educational Programming / Non-school Grp	Garfield	1	26533	11.79	per hour	0	11.79	312824.07	2
Non-structured physical fitness (adult) - count only those who exercise at least 3 days per week	Garfield	N/A	3348	458.67	per year	0	458.67	1535627.16	3
Golf (weekend green fees)	Garfield	N/A	0	30.18	per round		30.18	0	4
Venue rental	Garfield	65	N/A	435	per event	150	285	18525	5
TOTAL:								\$ 1,866,976.23	

Notes

1. Average teacher salary in Cuyahoga County is \$62,575 (from City of Cleveland). Minimum hours per school year, grades 7-12 is 1001 (from Ohio School Boards Association). 62575/1001=
2. School expenditure per student per year in Cuyahoga County is \$11,803 (from Ohio Department of Development). Minimum hours per school year, grades 7-12 is 1001 (from Ohio School
3. Average YMCA membership fee for Cuyahoga County is 458.67 per year for an individual adult (from the YMCA)
4. Average weekend green fee for the top 25 public golf courses in Northeast Ohio is 30.18 (from Ohio Golf Guide)
5. The average cost to rent a venue for a wedding is \$435 (Bridal Association of America).

CHAPTER 4.0 HINCKLEY RESERVATION APPENDIX

Trails	Length (miles)	Description
Hinckley Hill Loop	2.5	This rugged trail crosses ravines and streams and follows sections of the Buckeye and bridle trails.
Hinckley Lake Loop	3.4	This trail provides many opportunities for viewing wading birds and waterfowl as it winds around Hinckley Lake.
Ledge Lake Loop	2.5	Starting from Ledge Lake or Worden's Homestead, this dirt trail meanders along creeks and out into open fields.
Whipp's Ledges Loop	1.25	Connecting Whipp's Ledges and Top O' Ledges picnic areas, this hilly trail loops through the spectacular 350 ft. Sharon Conglomerate ledges.
Wordens Ledges Loop	1.0	This wooded trail winds through moss and fern covered ledges to reveal carvings made by Noble Stuart in the 1940s.
Buckeye Trail	6.0	A hilly and rugged portion of the 578-mile Buckeye Trail travels through Hinckley Reservation. The trail continues in a large loop around the state.
Bridle Trail	6.0	Bicycles and motorized vehicles are prohibited.
All Purpose Trail	3.3	Paved trail for activities like cycling, walking and in-line skating. Around Hinckley Lake, along West Drive, State Road, East Drive and Bellus Road with entrances off Bellus and State roads.

Picnic Area	Reservable	Non-reservable	Electricity	Tables	Shelter	Enclosed Building	Parking	Grills	Restrooms	Ball Field	Playground	Drinking Water	Refreshment	Changing Rooms	Campfire Ring
Indian Point Area	X			X			X	X	X						
Johnson Picnic Area	X			X	X		X	X	X						
Rising Valley Picnic Area	X	X		X						X	X				
Spillway Pool Picnic Area	X			X			X	X	X			X	X	X	
Top O'Ledges Picnic Area	X			X	X		X	X	X			X			
Whipp's Ledges Picnic Area	X			X	X		X								
Redwing Picnic Area	X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X			
Kiwanis Picnic Area	X	X	X				X		X						X
Ledge Lake Building	X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X			
Ledge Lake Shelters	X		X	X			X	X	X		X	X			

Service Provided	Reservation Name	Hours/Quantity of Service per year	Number of Participants per Year	Value per service (dollars)	Units	Cost to User	Consumer Surplus	Total economic value (dollars)	Notes
Educational Programming	Hinckley	2	57029	\$62.52	per hour	N/A	N/A	\$7,185,654	1
Non-structured physical fitness (adult) - count only those who exercise at least 3 days per week	Hinckley	N/A	8715	\$10	per year	\$5	\$5	\$87,150	2
Venue rental	Hinckley	43	N/A	\$435	per event	\$150	\$285	\$18,705	3
\$7,291,509									

*ECOLOGICAL VALUATION TABLE
HINCKLEY RESERVATION*

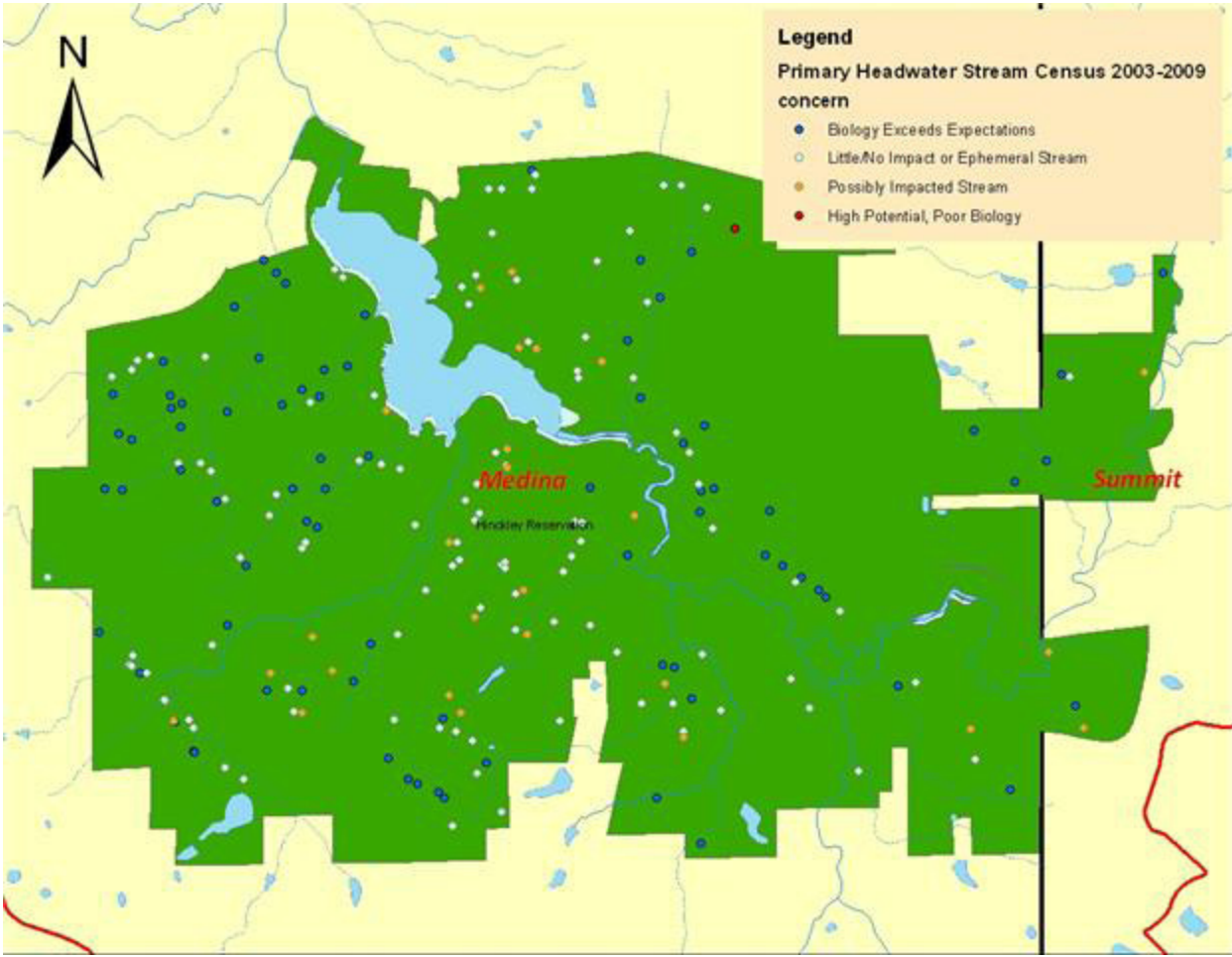
Value of Ecosystem Services offered by Cleveland Metroparks					
Ecosystem Type	Service Provided	Reservation Name	Number of acres of Ecosystem type	Value per acre of service	Total economic value of service
Forest	Hydrologic services	Hinckley	2178	\$73/acre	\$158,994
Forest	Carbon storage		2178	112 ST/acre at \$64 ST carbon	\$15,611,904
Forest	Air quality maintenance		2178	81 lb/ac/yr at \$2.66/lb	\$469,272
Forest	Stormwater Control		2178	2,835 cu ft/ac at \$2.33/cu ft	\$14,412
Forest	Biodiversity/Habitat		2178	\$923/ac/yr	\$2,343,528
Forest	Soil formation/retention		2178	\$5/ac/yr	\$12,698
Total:					\$18,610,808

Values per acre are taken from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's *Economic Value of New Jersey State Parks and Forests*.

Mates, W., and Reyes, J. *The Economic Value of New Jersey State Parks and Forests*. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Science, Research, and Technology. June 2004, Revised November 2006.

The value of hydrologic and carbon storage services are for the entire life of the ecosystem. The economic benefits of air quality maintenance, stormwater control, biodiversity protection, and soil formation and retention, however, are realized annually.

All values have been inflated to 2009 dollars.



CHAPTER 5.0 APPENDIX

Social and Recreational Value of Cleveland Metroparks									
Service Provided	Hours/Quantity of Service per year	Number of Participants per Year	Value per service (dollars)	Units	Cost to User per unit in previous column (Dollars)	Consumer Surplus	Total economic value (dollars)	Notes	
Non-structured physical fitness (adult) - count only those who exercise at least 3 days per week	N/A	1,786,912	\$10.00	per visit	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$8,934,559	1	
Golf (weekend green fees)	N/A	144,344	\$30.18	per round	\$13.16	\$17.02	\$2,456,735	2	
Venue rental	53	N/A	\$435.00	per event	\$150	\$285	\$15,105	3	
Total Economic Impact							\$11,406,399		

Value of Ecosystem Services offered by Cleveland Metroparks					
Ecosystem Type	Service Provided	Reservation Name	Number of acres of Ecosystem type	Value per acre of service	Total economic value of service
Forest	Hydrologic services	Rocky River	1,692	\$65/acre	\$128,233
Forest	Carbon storage	Rocky River	1,692	250 ST/acre at \$54.27/ST carbon	\$26,766,067
Forest	Air quality maintenance	Rocky River	1,692	81 lb/ac/yr at \$2.35/lb	\$375,524
Forest	Stormwater Control	Rocky River	1,692	2,835 cu ft/ac at \$2.05/cu ft	\$11,465,464
Forest	Biodiversity/Habitat	Rocky River	1,692	\$923/ac/yr	\$1,820,901
Forest	Soil formation/retention	Rocky River	1,692	\$5/ac/yr	\$9,864
Annual Value:					\$13,671,753
Total:					\$40,566,053

	1990\$	2008\$	Normalizer	TOTAL	CALC	Prop Tax	
Distance (ft)	Within 200	\$ 11,210	\$ 18,466	0.95	\$17,543	\$ 19,384,684	\$ 447,786
	201 - 400	\$ 10,216	\$ 16,829	0.95	\$15,988	\$ 28,649,690	\$ 661,808
	401 - 600	\$ 12,621	\$ 20,791	0.95	\$19,751	\$ 36,717,946	\$ 848,185
	601 - 800	\$ 11,269	\$ 18,564	0.95	\$17,636	\$ 33,419,841	\$ 771,998
	801 - 1,000	\$ 8,981	\$ 14,794	0.95	\$14,054	\$ 26,843,713	\$ 620,090
	1,001 - 1,200	\$ 8,126	\$ 13,386	0.95	\$12,717	\$ 24,746,698	\$ 571,649
	1,201 - 1,500	\$ 9,980	\$ 16,440	0.95	\$15,618	\$ 39,029,382	\$ 901,579
Total					\$ 208,791,953	\$ 4,823,094	

CHAPTER 6.0 FOREST HILL PARK APPENDIX

Table 6: Population projections within Forest Hill Park boundary

	Population (2009)	Population (2014)	Population (2019)	Number of Households (2009)	Number of Households (2014)	Number of Households (2019)
Cleveland	3,624	4,132	46,20	2,077	2,553	3,970
Cleveland Heights	8,938	8,190	7,147	4,442	4,382	6,813
East Cleveland	12,255	12,957	11,012	5,153	5,948	9,244
Entire boundary area	24,817	25,279	22,779	11,672	12,883	20,027

Table 7: Key demographic information for Forest Hill Park social boundary by city (2009)

	Population	Average household size	Median Age	Percent black population	Percent of population 25+ with bachelors	Unemployment Rate	Average household income	Percent of households renter occupied
Cleveland	3,624	1.76	31.48	32.53%	10.93%	11.28%	\$26,604	84.02%
Cleveland Heights	8,938	2.22	37.60	41.90%	17.32%	5.60%	\$66,721	63.30%
East Cleveland	12,255	2.41	36.33	91.46%	5.92%	18.62%	\$32,448	70.37%
Entire boundary area	24,817	2.29	35.80	65%	10.75%	13.61%	\$43,341	70.11%

Table 8: Value of ecosystem services offered by Forest Hill Park

Ecosystem Type	Service provided	Location	Acres of ecosystem	Value per acre of service	Total economic value of service
Forest	Hydrologic services	Forest Hill Park	109.16	\$65/acre	\$8,272.50
Forest	Carbon storage	Forest Hill Park	109.16	250 ST/acre at \$54.27/ST carbon	\$1,726,822.65
Forest	Air quality maintenance	Forest Hill Park	109.16	81 lb/ac/yr at \$2.35/lb	\$24,227.07
Forest	Stormwater Control	Forest Hill Park	109.16	2,835 cu ft/ac at \$2.05/cu ft	\$739,698.66
Forest	Biodiversity/Habitat	Forest Hill Park	109.16	\$923/ac/yr	\$117,476.12
Forest	Soil formation/retention	Forest Hill Park	109.16	\$5/ac/yr	\$636.38
Annual Value:					\$882,038.23
Additional Value:					\$2,617,133.85

Source:

Mates, W., and Reyes, J. The Economic Value of New Jersey State Parks and Forests. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Science, Research, and Technology. June 2004, Revised November 2006.

Notes:

Values per acre are taken from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protections Economic Value of New Jersey State Parks and Forests. The value of hydrologic and carbon storage services are for the entire life of the ecosystem. The economic benefits of air quality maintenance, stormwater control, biodiversity protection, and soil formation and retention, however, are realized annually. All values have been inflated to 2009 dollars.

SHERIFF SALES WITHIN SOCIAL CONTEXT BOUNDARIES OVER TIME

CITY	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
FOREST HILL PARK															
CLEVELAND	1	1	0	1	4	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	3	2	3
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS	0	2	2	6	5	4	6	4	2	3	7	2	8	5	3
EAST CLEVELAND	26	23	18	20	36	25	24	31	25	25	22	39	40	43	31
TOTAL WITHIN FOREST HILLS SOCIAL CONTEXT BOUNDARY	27	26	20	27	45	29	31	37	29	28	30	42	51	50	37
TOTAL HOUSING COUNTS	2,843														
GARFIELD PARK RESERVATION															
CLEVELAND	37	43	38	48	45	37	48	41	58	67	64	86	101	70	86
GARFIELD HEIGHTS	25	9	16	22	30	29	18	24	29	33	34	41	39	27	31
TOTAL GARFIELD SOCIAL CONTEXT BOUNDARY	62	52	54	70	75	66	66	65	87	100	98	127	140	97	117
TOTAL HOUSING COUNTS	11,051														
ROCKY RIVER RESERVATION															
BEREA	6	1	1	5	10	5	7	4	5	5	3	1	4	18	3
BROOK PARK	3	1	7	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	5	2	0	0	1
CLEVELAND	3	10	9	9	6	11	8	15	8	15	13	11	7	14	9
FAIRVIEW PARK	3	2	2	0	4	1	3	4	1	3	2	1	5	7	4
LAKEWOOD	2	1	6	4	4	9	4	6	8	7	4	5	3	8	5
NORTH OLMSTED	5	3	9	4	3	12	3	1	0	1	1	8	5	4	7
OLMSTED TWP	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROCKY RIVER	7	0	2	1	0	3	3	1	0	0	4	4	4	7	5
TOTAL RR SOCIAL CONTEXT BOUNDARY	30	18	39	25	30	43	31	35	25	33	32	32	28	58	34
TOTAL HOUSING COUNTS	23,337														

SOURCE: CUYAHOGA COUNTY OFFICE OF AUDITOR PROPERTY TRANSFER DATABASE

PHASE 1: ORGANIZATIONAL LANDSCAPE

GREENSPACE ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES

EAST ZONE

Euclid Beach Now

Address: P.O. Box 19535 Cleveland, OH 44119-0535

Phone: 440-946-6539

Email: epbn@bex.net

Location: none

Type: 501(c)3 non-profit

Director: n/a

Volunteers/Membership: Can join by paying \$12.00 annual dues.

Mission: "Our mission is to support the education of the public as to the history of Euclid Beach Park through lectures, exhibits, displays, memorabilia shows, television and radio appearances and any other available form. We also support the preservation of physical items from Euclid Beach Park that may be owned by other organizations, private individuals, or any other entity."

Action Plan: see Mission

Initiatives: Euclid Beach Arch Restoration and Dedication, 2007

Funding: Members

Partners: Cleveland Landmark Commission, Cleveland Building Department, Associated Estates Realty Corporation, Northeast Shores Development Corporation, City of Cleveland Councilman Polensek, Ward 11 (<http://www.euclidbeach.com/id2.html>)

Future Heights

Address: 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

Phone: 216-320-1423

Type: 501(c)3 nonprofit

Volunteers: yes

Mission: "Future Heights promotes a vibrant and sustainable future for Cleveland Heights and University Heights, Ohio, through innovative ideas and civic engagement."

Core Values: Active and informed citizen participation in community decision making

Innovative ideas in addressing the challenges of inner-ring suburbs

Open and effective communication and partnerships among community stakeholders

A thriving local economy

Historic neighborhoods and commercial districts

High quality and sustainable design

A regional approach to innovative planning and development

Initiatives: Publishes the Heights Observer, encourages volunteerism and active citizenship, Clean and Green efforts, education and "citizen planners"

Funding: Grants and memberships- Annual Report

Holden Arboretum

Address: 9500 Sperry Road, Kirtland, Ohio 44094

Phone: 440.946.4400

Type: 501 (c)3 nonprofit

President and CEO: Clem Hamilton

Volunteers: yes

Mission: "The Holden Arboretum envisions a Northeast Ohio in which trees, forests, and gardens provide maximum ecological and social benefits to the region's people and communities."

- Growing Trees and Communities: Interconnected networks of trees and wooded environments – from street trees to home gardens to green spaces – sustain the ecological health of the communities where we live and work.

- Conserving Native Forests: The diversity, health, function, and ecological services of forested ecosystems in human-impacted landscapes are conserved for future generations

- Engaging Children with Plants: Children have an appreciation for and knowledge of regional plants and their environments, and will be able to apply their understanding to real-life situations.

- Place and Purpose: People value Holden as an enjoyable and enriching place to visit and as an important institution that inspires popular support for improving trees, forests, and communities of the region.

"The Holden Arboretum connects people with nature for inspiration and enjoyment, fosters learning and promotes conservation."

Initiatives: Education, Special Events, Conservation, Horticulture, Police (trail patrol), Research

Funding: Donations, Ohio EPA, Revenue, Holden Arboretum Trust/Endowment. For the 2009 Financial Report click here.

Partners: For a complete list click here.

South Euclid Citizens for Land Conservation

Contact: Barb Holtz

Phone: 216-382-3595

Open Membership for South Euclid residents

Mission: "SECLC promotes the conservation of eco-valued green space and sustainability in South Euclid for the benefit of its citizens, business community and the natural world."

Core Values: "We believe that eco-valued green space will benefit South Euclid economically and aesthetically. We believe the City of South Euclid should actively embrace sustainability initiatives that promote a healthy community. We believe South Euclid residents should have a voice in city planning. We educate and inspire residents to be stewards of the natural world in their home landscapes and beyond our city borders. South Euclid is a good neighbor to surrounding communities recognizing others live down-

stream."

Initiatives: Inclusion of a Green Space Plan in the revision of the South Euclid Master Plan. Prioritize target properties for conservation. Review city ordinances to suggest revisions that support balanced growth. Learn more about conservation development initiatives. Presented proposed plan to city council in early December, 2009

Partners: City of Euclid

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

Address: 2600 South Park Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44120

Phone: 216-321-5935

Email: naturecenter@shakerlakes.org

Type: 501(c)3 nonprofit

Executive Director: Kay Carlson

Volunteers: yes

Mission: "The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes conserves a natural area, connects people with nature and inspires environmental stewardship."

Initiatives: Education, Conservation, Advocacy

Funding: Shaker Lakes Regional Nature Center Endowment Foundation, Nature Fund, Planned Gifts and Bequests

Partners: Click here for a complete list

Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Address: P.O. Box 314, Novelty, OH 44072

Phone: 440.729.9621

Email: info@wrlc.cc

Type: Nonprofit

President and CEO: Rich Cochran

Volunteers: yes

Mission: "Western Reserve Land Conservancy seeks to preserve the scenic beauty, rural character, and natural resources of Northeast Ohio." (Vision Statement)

Action Plan: Six program areas that include: The Land Protection Planning Program, The Conservation Educa-

tion Program, The Conservation by Donation Program, The Public Land Program, The Conservation Buyer Program, and The Stewardship Program. (Click here for in depth explanations)

Initiatives: To protect land utilizing Conservation Easements, Farmland Protection, Public Land, Donated Property, Bargain Sales, Conservation Buyer and through Stewardship in A 14-county region including Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning, Lake, Geauga, Portage, Stark, Summit, Cuyahoga, Medina, Wayne, Lorain, Huron and Erie. (Click here for recent news)

Funding: Donations, fundraisers

Partners: Chapters

WEST ZONE

Cleveland Waterfront Coalition

Address: 3105 Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Phone: 216-281-8703

Email: contact@clevelandwaterfrontcoalition.org

Type: 501(c)3 nonprofit

Program Director: Lynn Garrity

Membership: Levels range from \$10 to \$200

Mission: "The Cleveland Waterfront Coalition was recognized as a nonprofit 501c3 membership organization in 1981. Our mission is to increase public awareness of Cleveland's waterfront as a public resource and promote comprehensive waterfront planning and development that provides public access to a waterfront that is inspired by excellence in social, economic and environmental best practices."

Action Plan: Proposing a Lakefront Parks Conservancy Plan that addresses Future Management, Capital Improvements, Ecological Restoration/Natural Resource Management, Implementation of City's Lakefront Plan, Maintenance Endowment (infrastructure support) Marketing/Outreach and Program Expansion.

Initiatives and Timeline for the Planning Process:
Timeline- The project will begin upon receipt of the funding in April 2009 and commence by April, 2010.

Program Start-up April 2009- June 2009
Establish Program Staff and Agreements with Partner Organizations

Establish Subsidiary (this will already be underway)

Form Community Executive Advisory Committee

Finalize Work Plan and Scope of RFP
Hire Consultants/Develop Timeline and Deliverables with Consultants

Assemble Community Executive Advisory Committee – Conduct initial meeting – Goals & Objectives, Expectations and Outcomes

Inventory and Assembly – July 2009 – November 2009

Inventory park operations, park units, budgets
Conduct financial portfolio assessment.

Inventory and visit park conservancy models.
Identify program and marketing opportunities.

Inventory Natural Resource Management Component

Identify future park management entities and develop initial assessment criteria.

Conduct Community Advisory Executive Advisory Committee – Report initial assessment work

Development of Operational and Park Management Plan December 2009 – February, 2010

Assemble work tasks to determine short term and long term strategies.

Assemble draft plans for various aspects of Plan
Present to Community Advisory Executive Committee

Presentation of Final Report & Implementation Schedule April 2010

Present work to Executive Committee
Establish Partnership Agreements

Conduct work plans for years 1-2" (<http://www.clevelandwaterfrontcoalition.org/>)

[clevelandwaterfrontcoalition.org/](http://www.clevelandwaterfrontcoalition.org/))

Funding: fundraising analysis, revenue- generating ventures and potentially the Cleveland Metroparks Levy 2014 (Still in the planning face)

Partners: Notable political figures supporting this initiative

Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization

Web: <http://www.cuyahogariverrap.org/>

Type: Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization (CRCPO) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that operates the RAP (Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan,) the Cuyahoga American Heritage River Initiative (AHR,) and CLEERTEC (Cuyahoga/Lake Erie Environmental Restoration Technology Enterprise Center.)

Director: Joseph Koncelik
Area: Cuyahoga River Communities

Mission: is to restore and protect the environmental quality of the Cuyahoga River and selected watersheds that affect the aquatic ecosystems of the immediate Lake Erie shoreline.

Core Skills:

- PLANNING- support planning and implementation of remediation and restoration projects including habitat restoration, riparian zone restoration and repair, balanced growth land use planning and best management practices.

- ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT- assist in the development of local watershed stewardship groups, and in some cases acting as fiscal agent and support staff where needed.

- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE- provide maps, data and technical assistance focused on watershed and wetland functions, with decades of expertise in technical and scientific research and reporting, GIS/RS mapping and data inventory.

- EDUCATION- write, design and publish educational and outreach materials to support watershed stewardship, addressing specific locales as well as general con-

cepts. We train local officials in watershed protection, and agency personnel in communicating about storm water management and stream stewardship.

Initiatives:
HABITAT FOR HARD PLACES...restoring natural areas and creating new habitat for larval fish along the navigation channel. -Summer, 2008 saw the first prototypes of the Cuyahoga Habitat Underwater Basket (CHUB) installed for on site testing along the Cuyahoga's shipping channel. New initiatives are planned for five sites, from removing toxic sediment in the old river channel and restoring natural habitat near the lake to creating access for fish and people along the Scranton Peninsula.

• BIG CREEK WATERSHED ACTION PLAN- We have developed a plan for Big Creek that will serve as a basis for land use decisions in the watershed.

• FURNACE RUN WATERSHED PLAN -We have received a grant from the Lake Erie Commission to develop a Balanced Growth Plan for Furnace Run. We'll be organizing the local community leadership, presenting workshops and setting the stage for land use planning in this rapidly urbanizing watershed.

• BRANDYWINE CREEK WATERSHED PLANNING -The Partnership is in place. Now we are working with communities in "The Brandywine," as well as Summit County planners, engineers and soil and water conservation district, and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, on a Balanced Growth watershed management plan.

Action Plans: - The Cuyahoga/Lake Erie Environmental Resource Technology Center's first project will be to design and develop a prototype "green bulkhead" to replace aging steel bulkheads along the Cuyahoga River ship channel at the mouth of the river. The goal is to create environmentally-friendly structures that maintain the integrity of the riverbanks and allow for navigation of large ships, yet provide habitat for aquatic organisms and support fish as they migrate to and from the lake and the upper reaches of the river and its tributaries.

Friends of Big Creek

Address: P.O. Box 609272, Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Phone: 216.269-6472

Web: <http://www.friendsofbigcreek.org/index.html>

Type: 501(c)(3) organization

Director: Mary Ellen Stasek, Chair, Bob Gardin, Project Manager bgardin@friendsofbigcreek.org
Area: Together they drain nearly 38 square miles from 8 municipalities — Cleveland, Brooklyn, Linndale, Parma, Parma Heights, Brook Park, Middleburg Heights, and North Royalton.

Mission: "To conserve, enhance, and bring recognition to the natural and historic resources of the Big Creek Watershed and develop a recreational trail network that joins these resources to each other and the community."

Initiatives:

- The connection of existing greenways such as the CanalWay Towpath Trail west and south to the Big Creek Reservation at Brookpark Road.
- Improved conditions of Big Creek and the natural environment throughout the watershed
- Improved, safe and convenient access to the natural environment throughout the Big Creek watershed with increased educational and recreational opportunities
- Successful promotion of the benefits of a healthy watershed, as well as important historical events, structures and sites within the watershed.

Action Plans:

- Friends of Big Creek and the CRCPO's Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP), with local funding matches from the watershed communities, were awarded an Ohio Coastal Management Assistance Grant for a Big Creek Balanced Growth Watershed Management Plan. Community based watershed planning helps reduce flood damage, decrease the loss of greenspace, reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. The plan, managed by the RAP with assistance from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, is due for completion in March 2009.

- Friends of Big Creek, Cleveland Metroparks, and the cities of Cleveland and Parma joined the City of Brooklyn as co-sponsors for funding from a NOACA Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative grant for the Big Creek Greenway Trail Alignment & Neighborhood Connector Plan. The study, lead by the Floyd Browne Group, seeks to connect the Metroparks Big Creek and Brookside Reservations through the City of Brooklyn while identifying opportunities for interpretive exhibits and ecological restoration. This plan was completed in March 2009.

- Big Creek Greenway Trail Alignment and Neighborhood Connector Plan <http://www.friendsofbigcreek.org/newsletter09Spring.pdf>

Friends of Chippewa Creek

Address: 3855 Wallings Road, North Royalton, OH 44133

Web: <http://www.northroyalton.net/friendsofchippewacreek/default.asp>

Area: CCWP represents a coalition of members in a three-city area comprised of North Royalton, Broadview Heights, Brecksville, Cuyahoga County, Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan, Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and Cleveland Metroparks.

Volunteers: Yes

Mission: "Chippewa Creek Land Conservancy seeks to preserve the scenic beauty, rural character, and natural resources of the Chippewa Creek watershed through direct land protection and promotion of the responsible use of land and water resources."

Partners: City of North Royalton (Master Plan)

- Cities of North Royalton, Broadview Heights, and Brecksville (Balanced Growth Initiative)
- Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (Balanced Growth Initiative)
- Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (Balanced Growth Initiative)
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park District (Balanced Growth Initiative)

anced Growth Initiative)

- Cleveland MetroParks (Balanced Growth Initiative)
- Cuyahoga County Planning Commission (Greenspace Plan)
- Ohio EPA (Clean Ohio Fund)

Green City Blue Lake (Formerly EcoCity Cleveland)

Address: Cleveland Museum of Natural History
1 Wade Oval Drive Cleveland, OH 44106
Cuyahoga Bioregion

Phone: 216-231-4600

Web: <http://www.gubl.org/about/contact>

Type: 501(c)(3)

Director: David Beach

Rocky River Watershed Council

Address: 6100 West Canal Rd. Valley View, OH 44125

Phone: 216-524-6580 x14

Web: <http://www.myrockyriver.org/index.htm>

Type: 501(c)(3)

Director: Jared Bartley

Mission: "To protect, restore, and perpetuate a healthy watershed through public education, watershed planning, communication and cooperation among stakeholders."

Initiatives: Work is complete on the \$100,000 capital improvement project at Rocky River Park. Improvements include erosion control with a series of four stone retaining walls, creating a terrace and amphitheater effect; a paver walkway with benches offering a wonderful lake view from the top of the park; and new landscaping. The project received an "Outstanding" award from Ohio Parks and Recreation (OPRA).

Action Plans: Ecosystem Management Plan for the Lake-to-Trail 2008 (Cleveland Metroparks)

http://www.clemetparks.com/Naturalresources/documents/LakeAbram_EMP.pdf

Rocky River Upper West Branch Watershed Balanced Growth Plan

<http://www.medinaswcd.org/state%20endorsed%20plan.pdf>

Prioritization of Sites for Permanent Protection: Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Cleveland Metroparks are actively seeking to acquire both land and conservation easements in the Rocky River Watershed. While the RRWC strongly supports these efforts, there are certain categories of sites that are a high RRWC priority that do not fit the priorities established by these organizations. These sites are usually smaller, address headwater stream systems, and/or are located in urban areas. The objective is to identify and prioritize intact riparian and wetland habitats for preservation via conservation easement.

East Branch Conservation Easement Acquisition: Western Reserve Land Conservancy, in partnership with Cleveland Metroparks, received a grant to fund land acquisition and restoration projects within the East Branch of the Rocky River watershed from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's 319 Program. This program will protect 135 acres of open space with conservation easements -Protect 4,500 linear feet of high-quality streams -Protect 5 acres of wetlands-Restore 1 acre of land to a healthy riparian buffer.

Soil and Water Conservancy

Address: 6100 West Canal Road Valley View, OH 44125

Phone: 216-524-6580

Web: <http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/>

Type: 501(c)(3)

Mission: "To promote conservation of land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through stewardship, education, and technical assistance."

Wendy Park Foundation

Address: 127 Public Square #2700 Cleveland,

Ohio 44114

Phone: Phone 216.904.9456

Web: <http://006ccbc.netsolhost.com/index.html>

Type: 501(C)3

Director: Dan T. Moore, III- Chair

Area: Whiskey Island, Wendy Park

Volunteers: Yes

Mission: “Develop and restore the natural environment at Wendy Park to National Park standards of excellence, facilitate the restoration of the historic Coast Guard Station, integrate Whiskey Island Marina into Wendy Park and to provide public access to Lake Erie through connecting Wendy Park to the Towpath Trail. Further, to create programs and activities that educate the public on Great Lakes ecology, Eco-system sustainability, Maritime heritage, safety and youth training.”

Initiatives: “Cuyahoga County purchased the land including Whiskey Island Marina in December, 2004. The County plans to return the park land to its natural state by eliminating invasive weeds, flowers and grasses, planting species indigenous to the area and planting shrubs that will provide food and habitats for wildlife thusly creating a sustainable natural environment. Visitors will be able to enjoy a natural shoreline with direct access to Lake Erie, walk on trails through trees and meadows while enjoying stunning views of Lake Erie, the Flats and the downtown Cleveland skyline.

The Wendy Park Foundation will assist in efforts to restore the natural environment and to provide an enhanced park space with natural shoreline by raising funds and awareness for projects. Our first corporate donor was Cargill Salt. Cargill, through its Cargill Cares program granted monies to restore native prairie grasses and plant a flower garden. Further, Eco-system sustainability, educating the public on Great Lakes ecology and creating environmental education programs are also very important components to the mission of the Wendy Park Foundation.”

CENTRAL ZONE

Building Cleveland by Design

Address: 1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 733 Cleveland, OH 44115

Phone: 216-696-2122 ext. 126

Email: jglanville@parkworks.org

Type: 501 (c)3 nonprofit

Program Director: Justin Glanville

Volunteers: n/a

Mission: “Building Cleveland by Design aims to change the way Cleveland is built. It envisions a city where developers make design a first consideration, where citizens demand the best available design ideas, and where buildings exist in harmony with the environment.”

Action Plan: see mission

Initiatives: Lake Link Trail- “BCbD has been coordinating a wide-ranging collaborative of public and private stakeholders to create public trails and green spaces that lead to the region’s defining natural resources: Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River. The centerpiece of the plan is the 1.5-mile Cleveland & Mahoning Railroad Trail, which will run through an abandoned rail right-of-way traversing the Flats. The trail will connect to the Towpath Trail on Scranton Peninsula, then skirt the Cuyahoga River at Irishtown Bend below the West Side Market before running north through the West Bank of the Flats. The trail would connect with the existing Willow Street Bridge, which will have widened sidewalks, and then siphon users onto a new pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge that would cross the lakefront railroad tracks to Lake Erie at Wendy Park. The trail will not only give Clevelanders and visitors new access to the river and lake, but promote alternative transportation by providing a non-motorized connection between the neighborhoods of Tremont, Ohio City and the Flats. It will also serve as a stormwater demonstration project. Part of the trail right-of-way is a depressed former rail bed that will retain water, allowing particulates to settle out before being directed to the river.” See NOACA Greenway Corridor Main Avenue Park-“Another part of BCbD’s Flats Connection Plan is to reinvent asphalt lots underneath the

Main Avenue (Shoreway) Bridge as a park serving residents of the Flats, Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. The dominant feature of the park will be water. The Main Avenue Park will hold and treat the large amounts of stormwater flowing off the bridge, in a series of pools cascading down to the Cuyahoga River. The park would also provide habitat for birds and other species, and a boardwalk would be constructed across the pools to allow people to get an up-close experience of this new natural area. The well-known blue Main Avenue Bridge overhead would provide a dramatic, cathedral-like “ceiling” for the park.”

Wendy Park Plan- “Although it is adjacent to downtown Cleveland, Wendy Park is currently accessible only by traveling several miles west to Edgewater Park and then backtracking. The park, owned by Cuyahoga County, preserves 22 acres at the confluence of the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie. In recent years, the park has seen soaring attendance: from 15,000 in 2006 to 35,000 in 2008. The City of Cleveland owns the landmark, vacant Coast Guard Station inside the park and has led an effort to reopen it for public use.”

BCbD is partnering with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission to complete a management and master plan for the park. (Cuyahoga County is the current owner of the park.) The plan will chart a course for protecting Wendy Park’s natural resources while increasing accessibility. Resource protection is particularly important given the County’s oft-stated desire to turn the property over to Cleveland MetroParks. MetroParks has made clear that it will consider owning and managing the park if it 1) is connected to the rest of its park system via a Towpath Trail connector (a role the Lake Link Trail will serve); and 2) remains a natural resources area that provides habitat for native plant and animal species.”

Parent Organizations- Park Works, Cleveland Public Art

Partners: AIA Cleveland, City of Cleveland Sustainability Program, Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, Entrepreneurs for Sustainability, Northeast Ohio Chapter of USGBC, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Ohio City Near West, Wendy Park Foundation,

NOACA

Cleveland Lakefront State Park

8701 Lakeshore Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44108

Phone: 216-881-8141

Email: Cleveland.Parks@dnr.state.oh.us

Manager: Jim Seikel

-Ohio Department of Natural Resources also describes the Cleveland Lakefront State Parks in terms of resources, activities, boating and winter activities here.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Address: 1 Wade Oval Drive University Circle Cleveland, OH 44106

Phone: 216-231-4600

Email: naturalareas@cmnh.org

Type: 501(c)3 nonprofit

Department of Conservation: Jim Bissell, Curator of Botany

Volunteers: yes

Mission: To inspire, through science and education, a passion for nature, the protection of natural diversity, the fostering of health, and leadership to a sustainable future.

Conservation Mission: The Center for Conservation & Biodiversity unites the Museum’s conservation-related activities to further the protection and stewardship of the region’s native biodiversity.

Action Plan: The Center conducts extensive fieldwork, identifies and protects rare natural communities in Northern Ohio and provides conservation information to the community. Education, Conservation and Sustainability

Initiatives: The Conservation Outreach Program enables private landowners, state agencies, park managers or conservation organizations to request field inventories of natural lands. Once a request has been made to the program, a Conservation Outreach Specialist arranges a visit to the property. During that visit, and additional visits if needed, that staff member conducts an environmental assessment

of the site.

Funding: Endowment income, operating income and annual fund contributions

Partners: Corporate partners.

Dike 14 Environmental Education Collaborative

Contact Info: (several)

Location: The Collaborative has no official location, but Dike 14 is located at the north end of MLK Jr. Blvd. and North Marginal Road.

Mission: "The Dike 14 Environmental Education Collaborative was formed in 2003 and is comprised of local environmental education organizations who recognize the unique resources that Dike 14 offers for environmental education purposes. The goal of this unique Collaborative is to provide exemplary multi-interdisciplinary environmental education for students, teachers and families, and to promote environmental stewardship of Dike 14." (<http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/grantfunded-dike14.htm>) "Dike 14 Nature Preserve is an existing 88-acre former dredge disposal site that has become an extraordinary wildlife haven adjacent to Gordon State Park/Cleveland Lakefront State Park at the northern end of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in the heart of Cleveland, Ohio. Over the years, Dike 14 Nature Preserve has become naturalized and provides a exceptional opportunity for access to Lake Erie as well as access to a remarkable diversity of birds that either make their home in or use the area as a rest stop during migration, plants and other wildlife. From 1979 to 1999 sediments dredged from the Cuyahoga River and Cleveland Harbor filled the dike. Closed since 1999 as a disposal site. Citizen scientists have identified over 280 species of birds, numerous butterflies, 16 species of mammals (red fox, coyote, mink, deer) 2 species of reptiles, 26 Ohio plant species (wildflowers, grasses) and 9 species of trees and shrubs!" (<http://www.dike14.org/>)

Action Plan: see Mission

Initiatives: Creating the Nature Preserve- Level 1 Eco-

logical Risk Assessment, 11/07; Level 2 Ecological Risk Assessment, 11/07; Property Specific Human Health Risk Assessment, 11/07; Limited VAP Phase 2 Property Assessment, 10/07; Spring Open House tour of the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve, 5/22/10. For more information on these Assessments see the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District Dike 14 Page.

Funding: USEPA Brownfield Assessment Grant to assess hazardous substances- \$200,000

Partners/Members: Cleveland Botanical Garden, Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cuyahoga Soil and Conservation District, Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association, Earth Day Coalition, Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, Ohio Department of Natural Resources- Cleveland Lakefront State Park, The Ohio Lepidopterists, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society.

Park Works

Address: 1422 Euclid Avenue, Ste. 733 Cleveland, OH 44115

Phone: 216.696.2122

Web: <http://www.parkworks.org/>

Mission: "To lead, promote and facilitate creative programs and convene civic partners around projects which enhance the economic strength and quality of life of the Cleveland community through: park rehabilitation, recreation opportunities for all citizens, downtown beautification and green space development, environmental awareness, citizen engagement and stewardship."

Initiatives: ParkWorks has become a recognized strategic partner leading projects and programs that have significant impact on Cleveland's economic development. Through our expertise and our collaboration with partners such as the Downtown Cleveland Alliance; Neighborhood Progress, Inc.; University Circle Inc. and Cleveland Public Art, ParkWorks develops and expands the use of public space to promote neighborhood and downtown revitalization. We continue to build our reputation as results-driven and to use our depth of resources, expertise and passion to

deliver tangible results.

Action Plans: Perk Park Renovation, Public Square Redesign, Local Foods Assessment Program

West Creek Preservation Committee

Address: PO Box 347113 | Parma, OH 44134

Phone: 216.749.3720

Web: <http://www.westcreek.org/>

Type: non-profit 501(c)(3)

Director: David M. Lincheck

Area: West Creek is a 9-mile creek flowing through the cities of Parma, Seven Hills, Brooklyn Heights and Independence. It is a 500-acre natural park and regional recreational trail network.

Volunteers: Yes

Mission: "To conserve, protect and enhance the natural, historical and recreational resources of the West Creek watershed and vicinity through the protection and restoration of natural lands and the development of a greenway and recreational trail network, providing an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations."

Initiatives: To resurrect the historic significance of the creek and the potential for a recreational trail linkage to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

Busch Family dedicates 55 acres to the WCPC along Big Creek: The Busch Family Conservation Area, also known as Snake Hill at Big Creek. The ceremony marked the culmination of a multi-year effort to preserve this special area located on Ridge Road near Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. Recognizing the opportunity to conserve and restore a significant natural area, and its potential benefits for Big Creek, one of West Creek's neighboring watersheds, WCPC committed to the project. The Busch Family agreed to sell just under fourteen acres to the project, and the City of Parma agreed to place over 40 adjacent acres under a conservation easement.

Soon after, WCPC successfully applied for a \$148,000 grant from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. Parma and WCPC obtained a \$50,000 grant from the Land and

Water Conservation Fund. In 2009, additional grant funds from Clean Ohio brought the total to \$346,000 allowing for completion of this project.

As of October 2009, WCPC holds a conservation easement on the entire Busch / Snake Hill natural area, while the City of Parma has ownership of the land restricted by the easement. This ensures that the property will be permanently managed for conservation, stream protection, and low impact recreation. WCPC looks forward to working with the City, community members, and other partners, such as the Friends of Big Creek and NEORS, to explore potential stream/wetland restoration and other enhancements at Snake Hill. Benefits of this project include protection of over 2500 linear feet of Big Creek and one of its tributary streams, which have been threatened by runoff, increased storm flows, erosion and sedimentation from developments upstream. The natural area includes wetlands and floodplain, which helps absorb and slow stormwater, reducing problems downstream. The natural park protects fish and wildlife habitat. Just as important, it provides for access to green and open space for area residents.

Brooklyn Heights Resident Donates 5 Acre Natural Area to WCPC: Thanks to a Brooklyn Heights resident, a five acre wooded ravine, through which a tributary of West Creek flows, is now a protected natural area. Charles Novy donated this property to West Creek Preservation Committee in the Fall of 2009. The property is adjacent to and visible from the south side of I-480, just west of the Lancaster Road Bridge in Brooklyn Heights. Due to the steep terrain and difficult, limited access to the site, WCPC intends to manage this area for natural riparian habitat and stream protection purposes only. No trails nor any other amenities are planned for this property.

New Trail Constructed in the West Creek Reservation: The new trail exists along Ridgewood Drive, bringing the start of the all-purpose trail through the West Creek Reservation. A portion of the completed trail opens up a vista of deep woods, where no one was able to travel into before. Wetlands and the densely wooded area prohibited any kind of trail, but now it is open to the public.

West Creek was very cautious and creative when planning this trail; to reduce the amount of impervious surface created by the trail, innovative paving materials have been used. A portion of the trail uses pervious concrete. This allows water to percolate into the ground. The concrete is double the depth, eight inches instead of four, with aggregate under the eight inches. Because of its porous nature, the trail with this surface will need to be vacuumed to keep its “pores” open. Just a short distance beyond the trail, a new entrance to West Creek Reservation will be constructed. A picnic area and limited parking will be available in the coming years at this site. The current entrance near the bend in Ridgewood Drive will be closed. Plans indicate that the trail will then extend along the new entrance drive to Stewardship Center, which will have a larger parking area.

Action Plans:

- West Creek Green Way
- Greenway trail <http://www.westcreek.org/WCG%20Description.pdf>
- Sterns Farm Connector <http://www.westcreek.org/SFC%20Description.pdf>
- West Creek Reservation Trail <http://www.westcreek.org/WCR%20Description.pdf>
- Neighborhood Connector Trail <http://www.westcreek.org/WCN%20Description.pdf>
- West Creek Confluence Project <http://www.westcreek.org/Confluence.html>

Funding: Clean Ohio Funds, Donations

Partners: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, US EPA, Ohio & Erie Canalway, Great Lakes Commission, Lake Erie Commission, Cyrus Eaton Foundation, Cleveland Foundation, George Gund Foundation, Wal-Mart, Ohio Historical Society (Ohio Preservation Office), National Park Service, Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network, State of Ohio – Ohio Public Works Commission, Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency

SOUTHEAST ZONE

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Address: 15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville, OH 44141

Phone: 216-524-1497

Email: [Email page](#)

Type: Public- The National Park Service is a bureau in the Department of the Interior.

Acting Superintendent: Paul J. Stoehr

Volunteers: Yes- At Cuyahoga Valley National Park, volunteers perform a wide variety of duties during every season of the year. In 2008, over 2,300 volunteers donated almost 80,000 hours to the park. Our volunteers assist at special events, provide information at visitor centers, and lead nature and history tours. They help build trails, monitor plant and animal populations, and provide administrative assistance. We rely on these dedicated volunteers to provide the highest level of quality services to our visitors and to help us protect our valuable resources. Cuyahoga Valley National Park Volunteer Program is co-managed by the National Park Service and our friends group, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association (CVNPA).

Mission: “To preserve and protect for public use and enjoyment the historic, scenic, natural, and recreational values of the Cuyahoga River Valley and to maintain the open space necessary to the urban environment.”

What does this mean? It means that we are here to protect park resources so that you and future generations can experience, enjoy, and appreciate the Cuyahoga Valley National Park you know and love today. Explore this section of the website to find out how we are working to accomplish this mission.

Initiatives: For current plans and initiatives click here.

Action Plan: For localized current plans and initiatives click here.

Partners: Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association, Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy, Cleveland Metroparks, Metro Parks-

Serving Summit County, Eastern National, Ohio and Erie Canalway Association, Inn at Brandywine Falls. For more about the partner organizations: [click here](#).

Related to the Tow Path

Towpath Trail Partnership Committee (main page of websites): Board of Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga County Engineer, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, National Park Service, Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency, Ohio Canal Corridor, and the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Webpages specific to Tow Path:

- NPS (Cuyahoga Valley National Park)
- Ohio Canal Corridor
- Lake Link Trail (Building Cleveland by Design and Park Works)
- NOACA
- Cuyahoga County Tow Path and Greenway Extension
- Cleveland Bikeway Masterplan
- DLZ
- Ohio and Erie Canalway

“Land Protected for Cleveland’s Link to the Lake Trail, 12/29/09”-

“The only remaining intact corridor available for a new trail in downtown Cleveland has been protected, The Trust for Public Land, ParkWorks Inc., the City of Cleveland, and Cuyahoga County announced today. This purchase includes over 1.3 miles of continuous property that will serve as the backbone of the future Link to the Lake Trail.” (TPL)

Summit Metroparks
Camba?

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

General

- Cleveland Metroparks
- Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative
- Cuyahoga County Greenspace Plan, Greenprint, Existing Funding Sources

- Cleveland Urban Core Projects
- City of Shaker Heights Planning
- Horseshoe Lake Masterplan
- Gates Mills Land Conservancy

Trails and Connectors

- Hiking Ohio Parks
- Cleveland Bikeway Masterplan.

Funding Sources

Existing Funding Sources (Greenprint)
National Scenic Byways Program Grants Funded -Includes Ohio and Erie Canalway: Signage- Phase 2, Land for Ecological Restoration and Recreation Trail; The Mill Creek Connector Trail: Phase 2- Ohio and Erie Canalway and more

Ohio Department of Development Clean Ohio Fund: includes information on Trail Funding (see below), Green Space Conservation (click here for funded projects), Farmland Preservation and Brownfield Revitalization
Ohio Department of Natural Resources Grants
2009 Clean Ohio Trails Grant awards here

Metroparks and Public Transit

- Accessibility and barriers to access? GIS example □ Jason Russell, Spring '09
- Trailway connectors and greenways?
- Traffic counts? NOACA Traffic Counts

PHASE I: REGIONAL COLLABORATION LANDSCAPE

Methodology

Our study of the Regional Collaboration Landscape is broken down into four sections. Each section offers a series of strategies, examples, information and best practices outlining partnership efforts from outside the Cleveland area.

Each team member focused on an individual component within the regional collaborative landscape of the United States. Benchmarks of excellence in parks and open space were divided into two sections; planning efforts and the research of management strategies within successful systems.

Acquisition mechanisms focusing on public and private options are explored in Part III with a reliance on legal tools to assist broader conservation goals. Finally, Part IV focuses on collaborative best practice within the framework of the regional, local and environmental landscape. A number of resources were utilized in order to assemble the data within this analysis including classroom lectures and required readings. On-line resource materials, many available through the Cleveland State University Library, are listed within their particular section.

BENCHMARKS OF EXCELLENCE IN OPEN SPACE AND PARK PLANNING

“Parks strengthen communities. They increase community cohesion by providing a place for people to get together.”
-- Peter Harnik, director of the Green City program for the Trust for Public Lands

Planning is an important element to ensure a quality park and open space system. Not just the physical plan for the park, planning must include a comprehensive and cohesive

process with community involvement to help ensure the park will be used and loved by its community. For each of our four parks – Rocky River, Hinckley, Garfield and Forest Hills – it will be relevant to look at successful examples of the same type of park around the country as well as understanding how the parks are currently used by the local community and what their needs and desires are. The data we collect will help us understand our parks, but it is also important for site visits to observe how the park is used but also to experience and use the parks ourselves.

Guidance from the American Planning Association’s Great Public Places award program, the national initiatives of the National Recreation and Parks Association, the eleven principles for creating great community places from the Project for Public Spaces and the parks, recreation and open space planning process available from Washington State will provide guidance for helping us ensure the four parks we are studying receive the best physical plan and go through the best process.

APA’s characteristics to determine a Great Public Place & Guidelines for Great Public Spaces:

- Promotes human contact and social activities
- Is safe, welcoming, and accommodating for all users
- Has design and architectural features that are visually interesting
- Promotes community involvement
- Reflects the local culture or history
- Relates well to bordering uses
- Is well maintained
- Has a unique or special character

Features and Elements (not all may apply)

- What landscape and hardscape features are present? How do they contribute to the unique or special nature of the space?

- How does the space accommodate pedestrians or others whose access to the space is by transit, bicycles, or other means? Is the space welcoming to those with physical disabilities or others with special needs?
- Does the space accommodate multiple activities?
- What purpose does it serve for the surrounding community?
- How does the space utilize existing topography, vistas, or geography? Does it provide interesting visual experiences, vistas, or other qualities?
- How are murals or other public art incorporated into the space?

Activities and Sociability

- What activities make the space attractive to people and encourage social interaction? (Commerce, entertainment or performances, recreational or sporting, cultural, markets or vending, exhibits, fairs, festivals, special events, etc.)
- Does the space provide a sense of comfort and safety to people gathering and using the space? Does the space provide a friendly and welcoming atmosphere?
- How do people interact with one another? Does the space encourage communication or interaction between strangers?

Unique Qualities, Traits, and Characteristics

- What makes this public space stand out? What makes it extraordinary or memorable?
- Is there variety, a sense of whimsy, or an atmosphere of discovery or pleasant surprise?
- Is there commitment to maintain the space and to keep it a usable space over time? Does the public have a sense of ownership about the space? How has it changed over time?
- Is there a sense of importance about the space? What characteristics or qualities contribute to this?
- What is the history of the space, and how is it re-

membered or passed on from one generation to the next?

- Does the space serve as a place of inspiration or contemplation, or is it considered sacred?
- What is it about the space that contributes to a sense of community?
- What makes this space special and worthy of designation as a Great Space?

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION’S NATIONAL INITIATIVES

[<http://www.nrpa.org/partnerprograms/>]

1. Play

In response to a variety of social and environmental factors that have influenced the creation of the “Sedentary Generation” and the resulting necessity to prevent resulting chronic diseases and ensure the health of all Americans, NRPA has launched a variety of initiatives to bolster the value of play to ensure the public adopts lifelong habits that contribute to healthy lifestyles. Through NRPA’s vast network of parks and recreation agencies, play is the cornerstone to achieving personal and community health. Play not only resonates with all people, stimulating creativity and inspiration, it also strengthens intergenerational ties, solidifies a direct connection to nature, and promotes physical activity. Of particular focus for NRPA is play and America’s youth. Enabling outdoor play for America’s youth in a safe, enjoyable play area is an NRPA priority. In addition to supporting the association’s responsibility for promoting children’s rights to play in challenging, but safe environment, NRPA also commits to advocating for the health and social value that play provides to a child’s physical and emotional development.

2. Health

Through grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and numerous funding entities, NRPA’s com-

mitment to improving the nation's health, combating obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases, starts in public parks. NRPA is dedicated to advancing programs, throughout its Park and Recreation system, that:

- Promote healthy and active lifestyles for all Americans, regardless of age
- Develop relevant and timely health education and research for both the field and the public
- Advocate on the importance of well-being and fitness Federally and locally

3. Environmental Stewardship and Conservation

In light of growing urban populations and decreasing natural resources, the importance of early-life outdoor experience is one of the most important factors influencing young people's life-long appreciation for and protection of nature. NRPA's support of Park and Recreation Agency's work on behalf of environmental conservation is multifaceted:

- Development of sustainable conservation solutions that emphasize the integration of economic and environmental goals
- Programs that connect children to nature
- Advocacy on behalf of environmental issues, both Federally and locally
- Environmental stewardship ethics for communities
- Promoting green agendas for Park & Recreation Agencies nation-wide

Project for Public Spaces – Eleven Principals for Creating Great Community Places:

- The community is the expert – identify talents & assets within community, community is source of information.
- Create a place, not a design – a design is not

enough to create a place, physical elements such as seating & new landscaping must be introduced, ensuring management is within the pedestrian circulation patterns, develop effective relationship between park and surrounding area, strive for sense of community and comfortable image.

- Look for partners – for support and information, local institutions, museums, schools, etc. may be good sources.
- You can see a lot just by observing – look at how people are using (or not using) public spaces and find out what they like/don't like; once spaces are built, continuing to observe them will help you ascertain how they need to evolve.
- Have a vision – not just activities that might take place there or that the place is comfortable, but that the space should inspire a sense of pride.
- Start with the petunias: experiment, experiment, experiment – the best spaces will experiment with short term improvements that can be tested and refined over time: short term pilot projects; things like new seating, outdoor cafes, public art, community gardens, murals, etc.
- Triangulate – “triangulation is the process by which some external stimulus provides a linkage between people and prompts strangers to talk to other strangers as if they knew each other” (Holly Whyte); putting different elements in relation to each other to stimulate the triangulation process: for example, putting a children's reading room in a library near a children's playground outside and food kiosk nearby, these are going to be used more than if located independent of each other. (Heather's notes- on the other hand, part of the allure of a Metropark, to me at least, is the opportunity for solitude and quiet reflection)
- They always say “it can't be done” – starting with small-scale community-nurturing improvements can demonstrate the importance of ‘places’ and help overcome obstacles.
- Form supports function – need to understand how the space functions; design is important, but the use of the place tells you what ‘form’ needs to be accomplished.

• Money is not the issue – if the community and other partners are involved in programming, etc. this can help reduce costs; more important is to build enthusiasm for the project that the cost is viewed as less than the benefits.

• You are never finished – good public spaces respond to the needs, opinions and ongoing changes of the community; need to be flexible in management and open to change to ensure that a great public space stays a great public place.

Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development – Parks, Recreation and Open Space Planning Process:

- Consider goals and overall planning framework
- Initiate community visioning and ongoing citizen participation
- Inventory existing conditions, trends and resources/Identify problems and opportunities
- Develop Goals and priorities to guide parks, recreation and open space measures
- Enlist the support of other local groups, jurisdictions and departments
- Assess parks/open space/recreation needs and demands
- Develop site selection criteria and priorities, based on community goals
- Evaluate plan alternatives, select and adopt the preferred plan
- Prepare the parks, recreation and open space element
- Develop tools to implement your parks, recreation and open space strategy
- Adopt and transmit the element

BENCHMARKS OF EXCELLENCE IN OPEN SPACE AND PARK MANAGEMENT

Wikipedia defines park as “a protected area, in its natural

or semi-natural state, or planted, and set aside for human recreation and enjoyment, or for the protection of wildlife or natural habitats”. Every park has its own management system, in order to protect and conserve park land and wild life, as well as to enforce state laws and park regulations, and assist park visitors.

BEST PRACTICES

Yellowstone National Park

As the first National Park in the United States, Yellowstone is known as the flagship of the National Parks due to the large numbers of visitors, even those who live in other countries. Factors that contribute to Yellowstone's elevated status include:

- Wildlife - 7 species of ungulates (bison, moose, elk, pronghorn), 2 species of bear and 67 other mammals, 322 species of birds, 16 species of fish and, of course, the gray wolf
- Plants - There are over 1,100 species of native plants
- Yellowstone Lake is the largest (132 sq. mi.) high altitude (7,732') lake in north America
- 9 visitor centers
- 12 campgrounds

This Park is a major destination for all members of the family. For the active visitor, the park has thousands of miles of trails from day hikes to backcountry explorations. The main attractions are all located on the Grand Loop Road.

• Environmentalists and administration are focusing on implementing all of the components of conservation biology in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, by setting ecosystem management strategies, they are assisted by NEPA and the World Heritage Committee

• The U.S. Government and the World Wildlife

Fund ran a program in 1994, called “Save British Columbia’s Forests.”

- On July 7, 1995 the World Heritage Committee informed the Department of the Interior that it would send a delegation to comply with requests from the National Park Service and by the Assistant Secretary of Fish & Wildlife.

Put-in-Bay

Compared with Yellowstone National Park, is another park: Put-in-Bay located in Ohio. It emphasizes the value of history and education rather than the ecosystem.

Management of the park is simplified by adopting proper design strategies and separating the 8-mile island into different area - Perry’s Monument and the International Peace Memorial Theme Park. Resident area, entertainment area, camping, bars, shopping stores, fishing are also separated. The theme park is a classroom that helps people understand and appreciate the complexities of the natural world and of the historic events that have shaped the island. The DOI youth programs initiative offers a tremendous opportunity to engage young and diverse audiences in their parks through jobs and I&E efforts. In 2012-2015 there will be a Peace Celebration at Put-in-Bay.

Cuyahoga Valley and Cleveland Metroparks

Cuyahoga Valley National Park encompasses nearly 33,000 acres and receives more than 2.8 million recreational visits each year, making it one of the most-visited National Parks in the United States.

How do the National Park Services operate and plan for the park? One of the biggest programs presently is the Trail Management Plan (TMP). In order to identify issues, assess its existing trail system, establish objectives, and develop alternatives for the park’s future trail network. National Park Service has adopted a trail management plan in cooperation with the Cleveland Metroparks, Serv-

ing Summit County, and is developing a Comprehensive Trail Management Plan (TMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). This plan is needed to guide the future course of trail management and development in Ohio’s only National Park.

Washington State Park Growth Management Services

The GMA(Growth Management Act) promotes wide use of limited land and resources which helps conserve open space in Washington communities. In order to enhance the communities, the GMA calls for the development of parks and recreation facilities. The park service organization collects the survey data and analyzes the participation rates of the area and which facilities will receive the most use and the require the most maintenance. Details are provided outlining information about community preferences and needs. (See Table 2.4)

Table 2.4

ACQUISITION MECHANISMS FOR GREENSPACE

Acquisition and management of resource lands can be combined with regulatory measures to broaden the effectiveness of a conservation program. If land regulation is temporal, then acquisition of greenspace is permanent. For conserving greenspaces and their functions, acquisition is the strongest and surest means of protection. Acquisition methods can be divided into two strategic categories: those methods where landowners retain ownership of the land and preserve a resource through an easement or other mutual agreement, and those methods involving a transfer of title from the owner to a conservation agency. (Note: Conservation agency refers to a park system, local government, land trust, or other conservation organization that holds easement or title on the land and is involved in its conservation management.)

ACQUISITION OF GREENSPACE

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)

The owner’s rights to develop a parcel of land are sold to the local government or to a land trust. Most PDR programs are voluntary and offer a viable financial option to interested landowners.

Benefits: This is a proven technique for local communities with strong support to acquire lands for preservation. Owners who sell development rights receive an income and continue to use their land while retaining all other rights and property taxes should be reduced.

Drawbacks: Purchasing development rights can be expensive and this method rarely protects enough land to relieve development pressure on resource land. Available funding may not meet demand for easement purchases and since it is a voluntary program this means some resource areas may be lost.

Purchase of Rights and Other Easements

In addition to purchasing development rights, other rights, such as the right to timber or extract minerals, could also be purchased. Other ‘customized’ easements could be developed as needed depending upon the resource in question. Trail easements, such as those recently purchased for in the Flats in Cleveland, are an example of this type of easement.

Benefits: This method provides for the protection of scenic viewshed or forested buffer. It is less expensive than fee simple acquisition or PDR and provides desired income to owner while keeping resource intact.

Drawbacks: Mineral rights or timber rights management issues must be resolved and offers limited applicability for protecting greenspace.

Conservation Easement

This is a legal agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization or government agency to voluntarily restrict the use and development of the property. Easement grantee (i.e. local government) would hold a partial interest or some specified right in a parcel of land. A conservation, historic preservation, greenspace, or scenic easement is designed to protect a specific sensitive natural, historic, or cultural resource. An easement may be in effect for a specified period of time but is usually perpetual.

Benefits: This method can be effective in preserving greenspace if it meets mutual goals of landowner and agency. Easement provisions are tailored to needs of landowner and site preservation goals. Landowner retains ownership and use of the land. There are potential property, income, and estate tax benefits for donation or bargain sale of an easement. Easements run with the land, despite changes in ownership. Reduces costs for site protection when easements are acquired at less than fair market value for the protected area.

Drawbacks: A potentially costly baseline survey is required to identify the extent of natural, historic, or cultural resources within the easement. This method offers less protection than outright acquisition. The easement purchase may be costly, like the one conducted to protect the hillside along the canal in Garfield Reservation. In this technique agreement terms must be carefully and clearly outlined. The method is also management intensive: easements must be monitored and enforced; grantee agency must work closely with landowners. Easement grantee must possess technical expertise and financial wherewithal to monitor and enforce easement. Easement restrictions may limit property resale opportunities. Tax benefits may not be sufficient motivation for landowner to donate or sell easement.

Lease

An agreement between an agency and landowner to rent the land in order to protect and manage a sensitive resource.

Benefits: This is a relatively low cost approach to site protection. The landowner receives income and retains control of property. This can present an alternative for preservation minded landowners not ready to commit to sale of easement. Restrictions can be included in the lease to direct the activities of the conservation agency on the land.

Drawbacks: This is only a short-term protection strategy and the leases are not permanent.

Fee Simple Acquisition

Usually the sale of land at full market value. Ownership and responsibilities are transferred completely to the buyer.

Benefits: This is the most straight forward acquisition method and provides agency with full control over future of property.

Drawbacks: Of all of the techniques this is typically the most expensive. Buyer assumes full responsibility for care and management of property. There is a potential for the impacted municipality to lose revenue when land is removed from tax rolls. Since it is an outright sale there may be capital gains issues for seller.

Bargain Sale

Land is purchased at less than fair market value. The difference between the bargain sale price and the land's fair market value becomes a donation.

Benefits: This method reduces acquisition costs. Seller may

qualify for tax benefits for charitable donation which may offset capital gains tax implications.

Drawbacks: This technique can be difficult and time-consuming to negotiate and depending on the overall value of the property, it may still be costly to acquire the land.

Installment Sale

A percentage of the purchase price is deferred and paid over successive years.

Benefits: This method may provide possible capital gains tax advantages for seller.

Drawbacks: Complicates budgeting and financing of acquisitions.

Right of First Refusal

Agreement giving conservation agency the option to match an offer and acquire the property if the landowner is approached by another buyer.

Benefits: Agency can gain extra time to acquire funds for purchase.

Drawbacks: Resource may be lost if offer can't be matched by conservation agency. Some landowners are unwilling to enter into this kind of binding agreement.

Undivided Interest

Several parties share ownership in a parcel of land, with each owner's interest extending over the entire parcel.

Benefits: Changes to property cannot be made unless all owners agree.

Drawbacks: Property management can be complicated.

Land Banking

Land is purchased and reserved for later use or development. Land could be leased for immediate use (i.e. agriculture or athletic field) or held for eventual resale with restrictions. Local government functions as a land trust. Many programs are funded through real estate transfer taxes.

Benefits: Local government proactively identifies and purchases resource land. This method lowers future preservation costs by working as a defense against future increases in land prices, speculation, and inappropriate development.

Drawbacks: While this method can be expensive, with careful research and identification of potential inner-city parcels, relatively inexpensive neighboring parcels could be acquired. Public agency must have staff to handle land trust functions of acquisition, management, lease, or resale. Real estate transfer tax for land acquisition would require local enabling legislation.

Acquisition & Saleback or Leaseback

Agency or private organization acquires land, places protective restrictions or covenants on the land, then resells or leases land.

Benefits: Proceeds from sale or lease can offset acquisition costs. Land may be more attractive to buyer due to lower sale price resulting from restrictions. Management responsibilities assumed by new owner or tenant.

Drawbacks: This can be a complicated procedure. Owner retains responsibility for the land but may have less control over the property. Leases may not be suitable on some protected lands.

Nonprofit Acquisition and Conveyance to Public Agency

Nonprofit organization (such as land trust) buys a parcel of land and resells it to a local government or other public agency. This is the typical method for organizations such as the Trust for Public Land.

Benefits: Nonprofits can often move more quickly to purchase and hold land until the public agency is able to buy it. This method could reduce acquisition costs for public agency.

Drawbacks: Local government must be willing to purchase land and assume management responsibilities.

DONATION OF GREENSPACE

Outright Donation

Owner grants full title and ownership to conservation agency.

Benefits: Obviously, resources can be acquired at very low costs to the agency. As part of donation, the receiving agency may receive an endowment for long-term land stewardship. Donor may qualify for income tax deductions, estate tax relief, and property tax breaks.

Drawbacks: In this method the landowner loses potential income from sale of land and the receiving agency must accept responsibility and long-term costs of land management. Stewardship endowments may make donations cost prohibitive for landowner.

Donation via Bequest

Land is donated to a conservation agency at the owner's death through a will.

Benefits: If the grantee has a large estate this method can reduce estate taxes and may benefit heirs with reduced in-



heritance taxes. It also allows owner to retain full use and control over land while alive, while at the same time ensuring its protection after death.

Drawbacks: This technique allows no income tax deduction for donation of land through a will and requires careful estate planning by the landowner.

Donation with Reserved Life Estate

In this method the owner retains rights to use all or part of the donated land for his or her remaining lifetime and the lifetimes of designated family members.

Benefits: This method allows owner to continue living on and using the property during his or her lifetime while ensuring the land's protection and allows the designation of family members to remain on land.

Drawbacks: The tax benefits for this technique may be limited and some types of open space may not qualify. This method can delay transfer of the land to the conservation agency for a long period of time.

Conclusions/Recommendations

As is evident by the above list, there are numerous methods for acquiring land for conservation purposes. Each technique has benefits and drawbacks with multiple implications for a variety of issues. Any park system evaluating methods for obtaining land must base decisions on a careful consideration of the circumstances involved in each particular case. Guiding principles for land acquisition by the Cleveland Metroparks should be Conservation, Education and Recreation. If land is available for a donated conservation easement, then this would fit within financing issues and the Conservation principle. If land is available at a bargain price with no restrictions, then this could be used for any of the above principles. Land from a recently

demolished school building could be donated by a local school system and converted to a park with an education component. Finally, with the current vacant land situation in Cuyahoga County, an inventory system should be created to identify neighboring parcels that may be available for incorporation into existing Metroparks reservations

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

“To manage resources in the public interest, agencies must expand their value base in order to understand the range of public groups: their concerns and how to reach them. To do this requires interaction with people of different values and cultures, which by definition means building bridges with the world outside agency walls.”

- Julia M. Wondolleck and Steven L. Yaffee
- Making Collaboration Work: Lessons from Innovation in Natural Resource Management

Collaborative relationships are essential in solving problems which neither party can solve individually. Agencies can no longer exist within a silo and must build links with outside interests and like agencies that share common interests. A focus on broadening the traditional notion of collaborative relationships while developing partnerships that bridge long-standing boundaries of organizational affiliations, personal interests and perceptions, geography and jurisdictions is the scope of this analysis.

By presenting a series of best management practices across several themes, it is the intent to provide alternative scenarios whereby stakeholders expand their sense of value and responsibility toward natural resource protection.

LOCAL CONSERVATION FINANCE MEASURES

Anderson Township, Ohio

In 1989, trustee candidates in Anderson Township, located near Cincinnati, ran for election on a platform focusing on a free-market approach to preservation of greenspace

within their community. Subsequently two of the candidates were elected and responded quickly to address the rapid loss of existing greenspace within the Township. Trustees obtained support in the Ohio House of Representatives through the Passage of House Bill 717, effective June 28, 1990, which permitted Ohio townships to acquire — without exercise of the power of eminent domain — ownership interests in land, water or wetlands, and to restore and maintain land, water or wetlands, all for the purposes of preservation and protection. House Bill 717 also permits townships to submit to the voters a real estate tax levy of up to five years to finance such activities.

Shortly after the passage of the legislation a grassroots effort was undertaken in Anderson to convince township voters to approve a ballot initiative to forward the objectives outlined in the legislation. At the November 6, 1990 general election a 9/10 of a mill five-year greenspace levy was approved. Shortly thereafter a Greenspace Advisory Committee of citizens and one township trustee was formed to recommend to the Board of Township Trustees of Anderson Township appropriate parcels for acquisition using monies derived from the passage of the levy. The levy was subsequently renewed by the voters in November, 1995.

Guiding the committee in this process has been the establishment of criteria in the evaluation of parcels considered for acquisition and the value of the parcel to the Township's overall greenspace program. The criteria include visual and natural quality, susceptibility of the parcel to development, the potential to provide a buffer or greenway to existing open space, geographical balance and of course, cost and long-term maintenance. To date over 72 parcels encompassing 686.39 acres have been preserved within the Township.

Granville Township, Ohio

Granville Township is another one of the few townships

in Ohio to have passed Open Space levies for the purpose of raising money to preserve open space. Threatened by increasing annexation pressures from the city of Columbus, township residents have approved two levies to fund acquisitions as well as appropriating general fund money towards this purpose.

The Township Trustees have established committees consisting of both the Village of Granville and Granville Township to collaborate on the recommendation of possible acquisitions. To date, the Township has purchased parcels totaling approximately 536 acres, conservation easements, designed to limit development, have been purchased on an additional 232 acres.

Hinckley Township, Ohio

In 2006, newly elected trustee Ron Garapick followed in the footsteps of Anderson Township and initiated a similar ballot measure in Hinckley. A committee including Garapick and three residents forwarded the initiative to area residents. The 0.9 mill, five year levy as proposed would have raised approximately a quarter of a million dollars annually, opening the door to a wide variety of acquisition options, including grants, easements and land donations. Voters turned down the levy at the November 7, 2006 general election by a vote of 1506 to 659.

Resources: www.tpl.org Local Greenprinting for Growth: Volume III: Securing Conservation Funding.

<http://www.andersontownship.org/>, <http://www.granvilletownship.org/>
ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Looking beyond the confines of local governments to forge partnerships with other governmental entities, non-profit land trusts, the business community, farmers and ranchers, developers, and volunteers provide an avenue to broaden the scope of individual ecosystem management strategies. This section will offer several examples of Best

Practice in Ecosystem Management.

The Applegate Partnership

The Applegate Partnership was founded in 1992 to provide a community-based approach to working with the ecological and economic issues that affected the members of the Applegate River watershed region. The Applegate River watershed encompasses an area of 500,000 acres in Jackson and Josephine counties in southern Oregon and Siskiyou County in California. Sixty-one percent of the land is publicly owned and thirty-one percent is held in private ownership.

The partnership's mission was formulated to address the ongoing conflict over the management of the region's public forest lands. Environmentalists, timber industry representatives, federal agency land managers ranchers, farmers and community representatives came together to forge a mutual agreement that would address both the ecological and economic issues over which they had been fighting.

The Applegate Partnership's mission statement clearly defines its participants, its ecological and economic mission and its methods for carrying it out:

“The Applegate Partnership is a community-based project involving industry, conservation groups, natural resource agencies and residents cooperating to encourage and facilitate the use of natural resource principles that promote ecosystem health and diversity.

Through community involvement and education, this partnership supports management of all land within the [Applegate] watershed in a manner that sustains natural resources and that will, in turn, contribute to the economic and community well-being within the Applegate Valley.”

The mission statement is an example of why the partnership has continued to build local cooperation and was cited by the Department of the Interior as a model for other forest-based communities. From its inception, the

idea was to provide a setting in which people, who usually fought with one another, could work together.

Several elements unique to the partnership separate itself from many other regional collaborative efforts, including:

- The group meets four times a month to ensure that as many people as possible have an opportunity to participate and share their concerns and ideas.
- There exist no hierarchical structure so all participants have equal status, an important consideration in maintain relationships between people with opposing views.
- The Partnership provides ongoing educational and outreach efforts that include local households and absentee land owners.

Through their shared concern of maintaining a healthy resilient forest ecosystem, dialogue has been fostered offering participants equal opportunities to discuss problems and forward negotiations. a result of the partnership is that former enemies now regard each other as decent people and the ongoing health and sustainability of the watershed region.

Resources: Su Rolle, Measures of Progress for: Case Study of the Applegate Partnership. US Department of Agriculture Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station General Technical Report PNW-GTR-565, October 2002. <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/gtr565.pdf>
http://www.reo.gov/ama/applegate_info/applegate_partnership.htm
http://www.sustainable.org/casestudies/SIA_PDFs/SIA_Oregon.pdf

Ohio Balanced Growth Program

This program is a voluntary, incentive-based strategy developed through the efforts of the Rocky River Upper West

Branch Watershed Planning Partnerships. The program approved state-wide in 2009, focuses on regional land-use policies and is structured to align state policies, incentives, funding and other resources to support watershed balance growth planning and implementation. This partnership combines representatives from the conservation, development and agricultural communities as well as individuals from local and regional infrastructure and planning agencies to further the shared priority of protecting and restoring Lake Erie, the Ohio River, and Ohio's watersheds to assure long-term economic competitiveness, ecological health, and quality of life.

The program is provided support from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. The Lake Erie Commission's role is to preserve and protect Lake Erie's natural resources, protect the ecological quality of its watershed, and promote economic development of Ohio's North Coast and includes representation from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Department of Transportation. Additional local support of the program is provided by county commissioners, county agencies and local communities within the various watersheds.

Integral to the program is the identification and designation of specific areas within the watersheds including: Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) ; Priority Development Areas (PDAs); and Priority Agricultural Areas (PAAs). The definition of specific areas provide participating political jurisdictions a guide for implementing land-use policies and best management practices that achieve the goals and objectives identified in the Rocky River Watershed Action plan such as the protection of riparian corridors along the Rocky River as well as a guide for future development.

Key components of the program include:

- State Incentives for Local Governments

- State Program Inventory
- Financial and Technical Special Incentives
- The implementation of recommended model regulations to help promote best local land use practices that minimize impacts of water quality and provide for well planned development that reduces urban sprawl, protects natural resources and encourages development in urban areas.

The Chicago Wilderness Project

Chicago Wilderness is a regional nature preserve encompassing more than 250,000 acres across portion of three states – southeastern Wisconsin, northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana. This region is one of the few metropolitan areas remaining that offer a high concentration of globally significant natural communities, including tall-grass prairies, oak woodlands, marshes and bogs.

In the 1990s a collaborative effort to save these remaining natural communities and their inhabitants was formed, area conservation groups created an alliance of more than 175 public and private organizations and formed the Chicago Wilderness consortium. Together these groups work toward protecting, restoring, studying and managing the natural ecosystems of the Chicago region, enriching the quality of life for area residents and contributing to the preservation of global biodiversity. The group considers itself to be a network of partnerships and a facilitator of collaboration. The choice to not define itself as an individual entity reduces competition between Chicago Wilderness and its member organizations.

Membership in the Chicago Wilderness varies greatly and consists of federal, state and local governments; municipalities and park districts; large nongovernmental conservation organizations; small volunteer groups; educational and research organizations; cultural institutions; and more. Recognizing that business corporations play an important role in promoting community vitality and quality of life

membership was expanded in 2002 to include for-profit organizations. To date over 25 for-profit organizations have pledged their support towards the mission of Chicago Wilderness.

Guided by principles realizing that nature does not recognize political or institutional boundaries a collaborative approach toward resource management is protecting thousands of species of native plants and animals living peacefully among the more than nine million people who also call the region home.

Resources: <http://www.chicagowilderness.org>.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS THAT ENHANCE THE REGION

Sharing the wide-ranging talents of agency staff within a region may provide positive role models for residents in urban environments. The field of public resource management also provides a training ground for youngsters at risk while offering interactive exposure to science education and a broader understanding of the value and shared responsibility of our natural resources.

Minnesota Green Corps

Minnesota Green Corps is a statewide initiative to help preserve and protect Minnesota's environment while training a new generation of environmental professionals. Established in 2009 and coordinated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency the program aims to:

- Respond to higher energy costs by local governments
- Assist community members to take eco friendly actions
- Reduce greenhouse gases and other air pollutants
- Transition to a green economy
- Train new environmental professionals

This environmentally focused offshoot of the AmeriCorps program provides opportunities for recent college graduates to improve Minnesota's environment, while gaining experience and learning valuable job skills. Members are working on projects in areas such as the Three Rivers Park District located in the western suburbs of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metro area of Minnesota is a 2009-2010 host site for the Minnesota GreenCorp program.

This 27,000 acre park is hosting a Local Government Energy Conservation project through the GreenCorps program. Project participants will establish baselines for greenhouse gas emission and water consumption for district facilities and fleets, and will identify and recommend areas for energy and water conservation as well as fuel use. This information will then be shared with like entities.

Resources: <http://www.threeriversparks.org>
<http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/download/mngreen-corps-projects.pdf>

Philadelphia's Horticultural Society (PHS) – Philadelphia Green

This program is referred to as "The nation's largest urban greening program". PHS's Green City Strategy promotes a comprehensive approach to revitalizing and maintaining the city's green infrastructure as a key element in urban renewal. Philadelphia Green puts this approach into action by collaborating with local residents, community groups, government, and businesses and includes the following goals:

- Develop and preserve community green space
- Revitalize parks and public spaces
- Reclaim abandoned land
- Support open space planning
- Build community capacity

From the nurturing of community gardens and tree canopies within the city to Green Initiatives including storm water management education and green roofs. Philadelphia Green is an all-encompassing integration of resource management and community development within the urban framework. Additional contributions include providing ongoing maintenance support and programming to works with existing park facilities and local governments to provide connect city residents with the natural world, vacant lot revitalization and economic initiatives.

Philadelphia Green continues to expand its strength and capacity with new partnerships and community-based initiatives, helping lead the city toward a "sustainable" future by partnering with the city of Philadelphia on a broad-based planning process known as GreenPlan Philadelphia. This collaboration was created in 2006 to research and develop open space planning issues and implement the recommendations into the organizational structure of the city's departments.

Resources: <http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/phlgreen/index.html>
<http://philadelphiagreen.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.greenplanphiladelphia.com/>

CONCLUSION

As the evidence listed above presents, the concept of building supportive networks of people, ideas and institutions has been proven to effectively enhance resource management. While the importance of the leadership that provides a framework from which all success radiates cannot be underestimated, nor can the importance of successful collaborations on a regional scale that involves broad participation.

METHODOLOGY – DATA AND MONITORING

Demographic Data Sources

2000 US Census Block Group
2009 Estimate and 2014 Projection Spatial Insights, Inc

Buffer Maps and Data

The source of the data for this component was provided by Spatial Insights, Inc., a firm that offers estimated and projected census block group data for population and housing. The data provided was for years 2009, 2014, and 2019. To gather data related to predetermined distances from the Cleveland Metroparks, the first step was to identify the relevant buffers or distances. In order to support the economic valuation process discussed above, distances of 0-200 feet, 201-400 feet, 401-600 feet, 601-800 feet, 801-1000 feet, 1001-1200 feet, and 1201-1500 feet were chosen.

It was further determined that the following data was required for a comprehensive analysis of the surrounding communities: total housing units (2009); units occupied (2009); units vacant (2009); total population (2009); population age 0-9; population age 10-19; population age 20-24; population age 25-39; population age 40-64; population age 65+; total family households; average household size; total population male; total population female; total population white; total population African-American; total population Asian; total population Hispanic; population with education less than high school; population with a high school diploma; total population with an associates degree; total population with a bachelor's degree; total population with graduate or professional degree; total households; average family size; households with no vehicles; households with one vehicle; households with two or more vehicles; population in residence for ten years; median household income; median family income; median discretionary income; average home equity; average home mortgage; and

average household net income.

The buffer distances and data were then entered into ArcGIS where they were joined, producing a layer with relevant census block group data. A Cleveland Metroparks layer was proved by the Cleveland Metroparks. A map of the seven-county region of northeast Ohio, including the Metroparks layer was produced, and the seven buffer distances and the corresponding block group data were added to the map. The data was then exported in Excel format, where the data could be manipulated and charted for a regional overview.

Before charting the data, a calculation was run to establish an average home value, which was not provided by the Spatial Insights, Inc. However, average home equity and average mortgage values were provided by Spatial Insights. Therefore, these two values were added together to reach an average home value. Graphs were then produced for 2009 income relative to distance from the Metroparks, education level in 2009 relative to distance, and average 2009 home value relative to distance.

Land Use Data

Land use data was created using four sources: The Cuyahoga County Office of the Auditor (2009 tax land use codes); Cuyahoga County Government (2008 aerial photography), Bing.com (circa 2007 oblique photography); and field research.

Foreclosure Data

The foreclosure data primarily used in the illustrative examples were gathered from transfer records of Sheriff sales within Cuyahoga County (source: Cuyahoga County Auditor). This data source is more desirable than foreclosure filings because Sheriff sales is available back several years with a higher degree of reliability. Sheriff sales include both tax and mortgage foreclosure procedures. The vast majority of tax foreclosures occurred within the City

of Cleveland. Of all the foreclosures in Cleveland, less than ten percent were tax foreclosures.

Additional sources include:

http://planning.city.cleveland.oh.us/cwp/pop_trend.php
<http://www.realtytrac.com>
<http://hdl.handle.net/10161/322>
http://www.obm.cuyahogacounty.us/pdf_obm/en-US/MoodysRatingRpt.pdf

GIS Library

A library of Geographic Information Services (GIS) layers (files) were collected to undertake analytical efforts and produce figures for illustrative purposes. Sources include:

Cleveland Metroparks
Hydrology Layers
Watershed Layers
Forest Cover
Impervious Surfaces
Cleveland Metropark Facilities
Cleveland Metropark Boundaries
Cuyahoga County Auditor
Parcel Layer
County Streets
County Rail Lines
Municipal Boundaries
Medina County Auditor
Parcel Layer
County Streets
County Rail Lines
Municipal Boundaries

The following layers were created by the participants of the project:

All Forest Hill Layers
Forest Cover Polygon
Conflated US Census TIGER Census Block Layer
Sensitive Areas within Cleveland Metroparks
Social Context Boundaries
Cleveland Metropark Planning Region Polygon

METHODOLOGY – USER SURVEY

The purpose of the survey was to obtain data regarding the demographic composition of Cleveland Metroparks visitors; satisfaction of park resources, facilities and programming; and overall value of the Metroparks mission of conservation, education and recreation.

The data gathered in the research process will aid in determining future planning objectives of the Cleveland Metroparks. The survey process consisted of both a face-to-face user survey and a web-based survey. Teams were assembled to administer the survey within three Metroparks reservations: Garfield; Hinckley and Rocky River. The Cleveland Metroparks face-to-face survey was conducted over the week of March 24th to March 31st, 2010. All observations that were recorded as part of the process were carried out on one or more days during this time period. Each student was assigned a location within the primary research areas and partnered with a classmate to administer the survey face-to-face with Cleveland Metroparks users. Each student was provided a badge clearly identifying them as a Cleveland State University student. In order to assure a broad sample of users within the three Metroparks reservations, surveys were conducted in two-hour shifts that encompassed both weekday and weekend use, as well as morning, afternoon and evening times. Subjects were surveyed individually, requiring one survey sheet each.

The face to face survey included 29 questions regarding the Cleveland Metroparks and nine regarding research subject demographics. Several questions were open-ended. This survey generated 213 responses.

A condensed (ten question) survey was posted online between the dates of April 15th and April 26th, 2010. The survey was distributed via social media and consisted of student contact lists and Facebook accounts. The survey was also available on the Hinckley Township webpage. This survey generated 363 responses.