

Green Space Organizations and Initiatives

Katie Barnum and Andrew Sheridan

East Zone:

Page 2	Euclid Beach Now
Page 2	Future Heights
Page 3	Holden Arboretum
Page 3	South Euclid Citizens for Land Conservation
Page 4	The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
Page 4	Western Reserve Land Conservancy

West Zone:

Page 4	Cleveland Waterfront Coalition
Page 5	Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization
Page 6	Friends of Big Creek
Page 7	Friends of Chippewa Creek
Page 8	Green City Blue Lake (Formerly EcoCity Cleveland)
Page 8	Rocky River Watershed Council
Page 9	Soil and Water Conservancy
Page 9	Wendy Park Foundation

Central Zone:

Page 10	Building Cleveland by Design
Page 11	Cleveland Lakefront State Park
Page 11	Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Page 12	Dike 14 Environmental Education Collaborative
Page 12	Park Works
Page 13	West Creek Preservation Committee

Southeast Zone:

Page 15	Cuyahoga Valley National Park
---------	-------------------------------

Page 16	<u>Tow Path Trail Subsection</u>
---------	----------------------------------

Page 16	<u>Other Useful Resources</u>
---------	-------------------------------

Page 18	<u>Metroparks and Public Transit</u>
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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 downstream.”

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 Education 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/>)

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 concepts. 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)
- 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.gcbl.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 Ecological 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 NEORSD, 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 Areawide 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 Areawide 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](#)

Web page Includes:

Existing Trails/ Routes

- Lakefront Bikeway
- Harrison Dillard Bikeway
- Euclid Avenue Bike Lanes
- Morgana Run Trail
- Treadway Creek Trail & Greenway
- Towpath Trail-Steelyard Commons Loop
- Rocky River Reservation
- Garfield Park Reservation (click [here](#))

Current Planning

- Towpath Trail
- Lower Big Creek Study
- Lake to Lakes
- Lower Euclid Creek
- Hogsback Lane
- Kingsbury Run

- Train Avenue Trail & Greenway
- Sharrows
- Downtown Bike Station
- City Loop Trail

Programs/Initiatives

- Downtown Bike Rental
- Active Living by Design
- STEPS to a Healthier Cleveland
- Bicycle Safety information and tips
- Cleveland Bicycle Week Presentations
- Power Point Presentations
- 2010 Active Transportation Campaign

...And External Links, Partners, Bicycle Laws, Partners and organizations.

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](#)