



2025 Reservation Plans

Brookside, Garfield Park, Ohio & Erie Canal,
Washington, and West Creek Reservations

Community Open Houses

October 2025



Rivergate & Flats Community Open House

- Welcome and Introductions
- Reservation Plans and Rivergate Park
- Vision for the Valley Plan & ongoing coordination
- Partner Ecosystem
- Select Project & Partner Updates
 - Cleveland West Pier Repair (USACE/Cleveland Metroparks)
 - Memorial Bridges Loop Trail (Phil Kidd / City of Cleveland)
 - Veterans Memorial Bridge (Eric Mack / Cuyahoga County)
 - Canal Basin Park and Hart Crane Park (Mera Cardenas / Canalway Partners and staff from the City of Cleveland)
 - Rivergate Park (Kelly Coffman / Cleveland Metroparks)
 - Columbus Peninsula Riverfront Redevelopment (Josiah Denson / Cleveland Metroparks)
 - Irishtown Bend – many partners envisioned and advanced this concept, including LANDstudio and Ohio City Inc.
 - Bank stabilization (Linda Sternheimer / Port)
 - Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail and park development (Josiah Denson / Cleveland Metroparks and other partners)
 - Cleveland Rowing Foundation (Nikki Jaworski)
 - The Foundry (Gina Trebilcock)
 - Zaclon River Landing (Aaron Marcovy)
 - Trust for Public Land (Laura Hnat)
 - West Creek Conservancy
 - Western Reserve Land Conservancy
 - Cuyahoga River Area of Concern (Jenn Grieser / Cleveland Metroparks)



SECOND CENTURY OF STEWARDSHIP

OUR MISSION

Protecting nature, connecting communities
and inspiring conservation of our world.



Reservation Plans

- Plans move the System Plan's six Core Goals to action
 - They help connect expenditures to the System Plan
 - Tracking progress as we update the plans shows accountability
- Plans identify commitments to ongoing resource management and facility / infrastructure needs
- Plans are essential for the pursuit of grants and other outside funding
- Cleveland Metroparks System Plan and Reservation Plans are required for the agency's national accreditation and recognition as a 5-time winner of the National Gold Medal for Excellence in Park and Recreation management

Planning Process

Kick-off: March 27th

Initial Drafts & Discuss Area Plans: May 29th

Area Concept Plans: July 18th

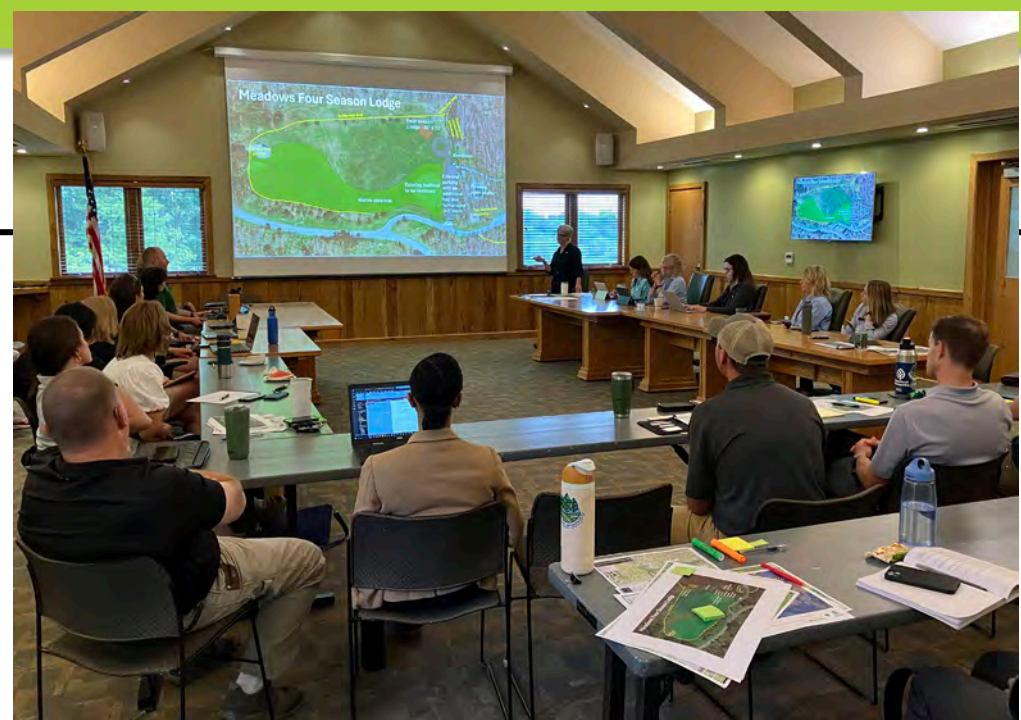
Draft Plans: early September

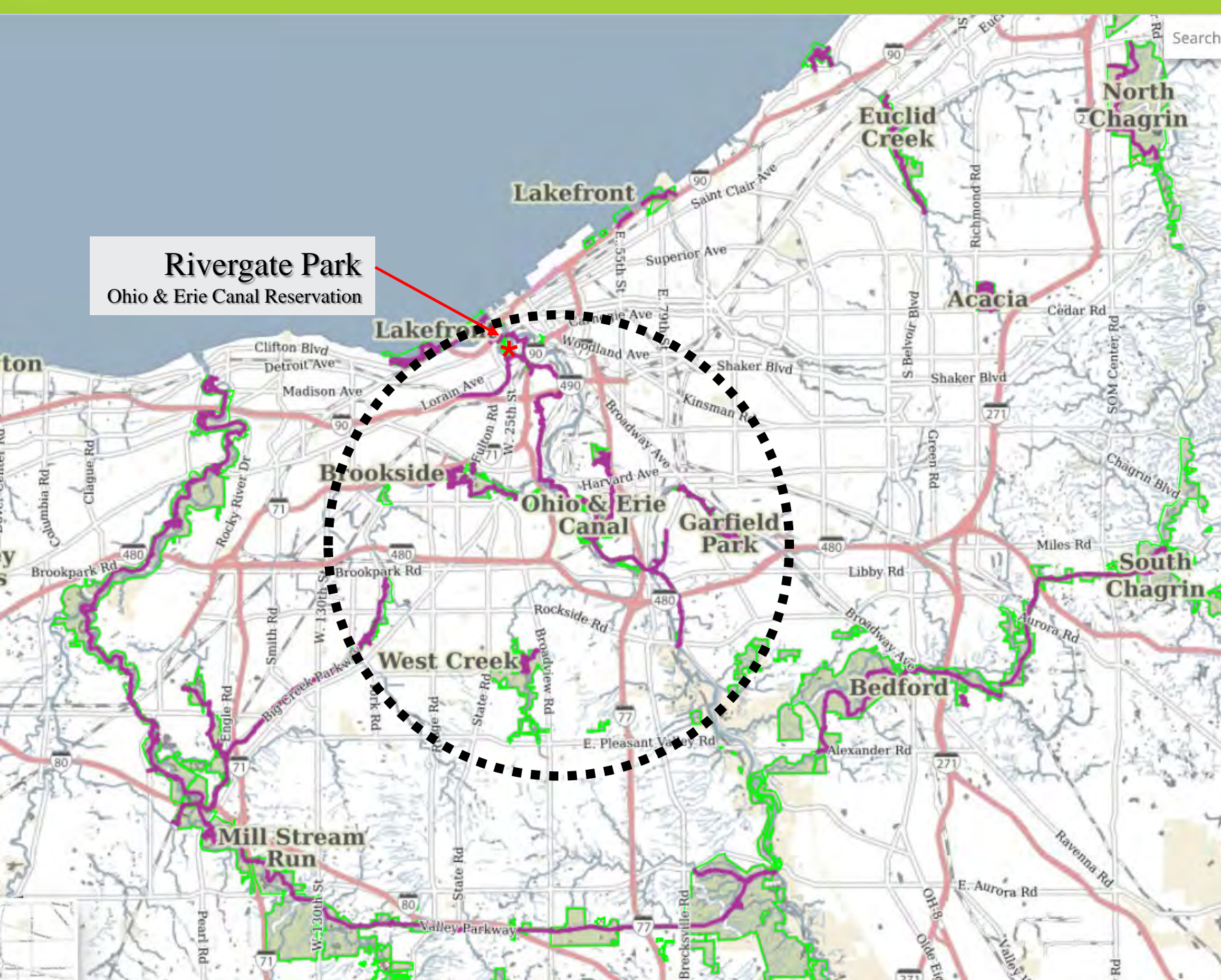
Introduce to Board: September 18th

Community Open Houses: October

Review Input / Final Recommendations: late October

Present for Board Review: November 20th





Rivergate Park
Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

2025 Reservation Plan Updates - Internal Stakeholders

Brookside, Garfield Park, Ohio & Erie Canal, Washington Park, and West Creek Reservations

Name	Division	Title
Brian Zimmerman	Exec. Office	CEO
Joe Roszak	ParkOps	COO
Chris Kuhar	Zoo	Exec. Director of Cleveland Zoo
Katie Corr	Zoo	Director of Education & Engagement
Kristen Trolio	Devt	Director of Grants
Natalie Ronayne	Devt	Chief Development Officer
Karen Kannenberg	Devt	Principal Giving Director
Anthony Joy	ITS	Chief Information Officer
Greg Keeney	ITS	Manager, Systems Dev't.
Rose Fini	Legal	Chief Legal Officer
Stephanie Kutsko	Legal	Sr. Real Estate Manager
Kyle Baker	Legal	Sr. Asst. Legal Counsel, Dir. of Real Estate
Kelly Manderfield	Marketing	Chief Marketing Officer
Linsey Saunier	Marketing	Brand & Advertising Director
Sam Cario	Marketing	Director of Special Events & Experiences
Kelly Coffman	P&D	Principal Planner
Sean McDermott	P&D	Chief Planning and Design Officer
Michele Crawford	P&D	Project Development Manager
Josiah Denson	P&D	Planner
Sara Byrnes Maier	P&D	Principal Planner
Laura Schuch	P&D	GIS Manager
Brandon Garman	P&D	Cartographer
Amanda Meier	P&D	Landscape Architect
Conner Karakul	P&D	Landscape Architect
P&D Intern	P&D	Intern
Liz Geith	ParkOps	Director of Parks - South
Chuck Engelhart	ParkOps	Director of Parks - East
Matt Kremms	ParkOps	Director of Parks - West
Boyd Sharp	ParkOps	Park Manager - Brookside
Grant Hodge	ParkOps	Park Manager - Garfield Park
Jeremy Skaggs	ParkOps	Park Manager - OEC/Washington
Matt Hogan	ParkOps	Park Manager - West Creek
Jim Rodstrom	ParkOps	Director of Construction
Jarrrod McCarthy	ParkOps	Director of Enterprise
David Donner	ParkOps/Golf	Director of Golf
Jenn Griesser	ParkOps/NR	Director of Natural Resources
Valerie Carter-Stone	ParkOps/NR	NR Area Manager - Central
Mary Rouse	ParkOps/OE	Director of Outdoor Experiences
Bethany Majeski	ParkOps/OE	Sr. Manager of Center Ops.
Terry Joyce	ParkOps/OE	OEC Manager (BD)
Jake Kudrna	ParkOps/OE	Center Manager (WSC)
Beth Kivela	ParkOps/OE	Sr. Manager of Community Programs
Rachel Nagle	ParkOps/OE	Outdoor Recreation Manager
Kelly Stillman	Police	Chief
Ken Schabitzer	Police	Captain
Charlie Moore	Police	Captain

Expansion since prior Reservation Plans (2017):

Reservation	2017 Acreage	2025 Acreage	Acreage Increase	% Growth
Brookside + Zoo	310	356	46	12.9%
Garfield Park	219	224	5	2.2%
Ohio & Erie Canal	372	405	33	8.1%
Washington Park	59	68	9	13.2%
West Creek	375	572	197	34.4%
Total:	1,335	1,625	290	17.8%

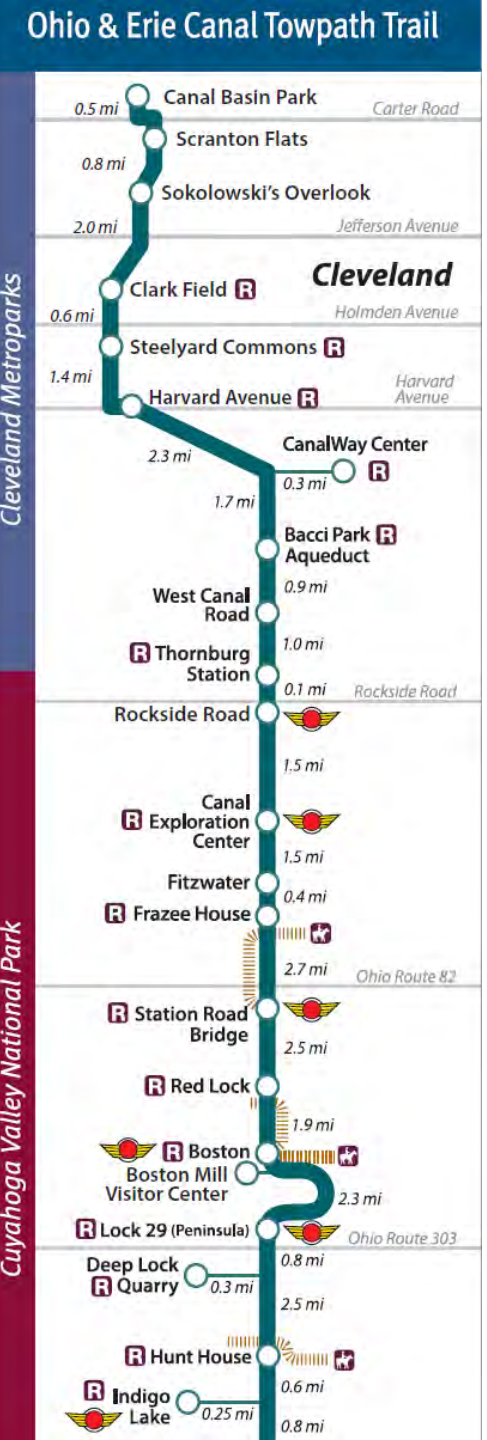


Common Themes

Our internal stakeholder team provided input including:

- This year's parks in Cuyahoga County's core are a combination of long-term protection and newer areas focused on restoration
- Trails and community connections are priorities for park users
- The Towpath Trail serves as a spine, linking to many secondary trails
- The parks provide respite from surrounding developed areas
- Natural resource management focuses on restoration and managing invasive species
- The recovery of the Cuyahoga River reflects decades of effort throughout the community

Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation & the Towpath Trail



Vision for the Valley

- Framework plan for the Cuyahoga River from Lake Erie to I-490
- Led by the City of Cleveland with funding from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) and support from project partners the Port of Cleveland, Flats Forward, and Cleveland Metroparks.
- Adopted in July 2021 by Cleveland City Planning Commission
- Consultants included OHM Advisors, City Architecture, Synergy, and Agency.
- Flats Forward convenes the project partners every two weeks to coordinate ongoing initiatives



LAKE
ERIE

DOWNTOWN

VALLEY WIDE CONCEPT MAP

- Cuyahoga River/Lake Erie
- Culverts
- River Edge Greening - Proposed
- Cuyahoga River Water Trail
- Federal Shipping Channel
- Non-motorized Boat Launch
- Existing Public Open Space
- Proposed Public Open Space
- Priority Corridors
- Currently Planned Sites
- Focus Areas
- Marinas
- Trails - Existing
- Trails - Proposed
- Gateways
- Key Intersections
- Connections
- Major Connections
- Bridges
- Illuminated Bridges
- New Iconic Attraction

WATERFRONT DISTRICT
MASTER PLAN

PORT OF
CLEVELAND

FLATS EAST
BANK

WAREHOUSE
DISTRICT

COLLISION BEND

GATEWAY
DISTRICT

OLD RIVER CHANNEL

JACOBS RIVERFRONT
EDGE DESIGN

THUNDER BIRD
MASTER PLAN

IRISHTOWN BEND

HINGETOWN

DUCK ISLAND

HISTORIC
TREMONT

JEFFERSON LINK

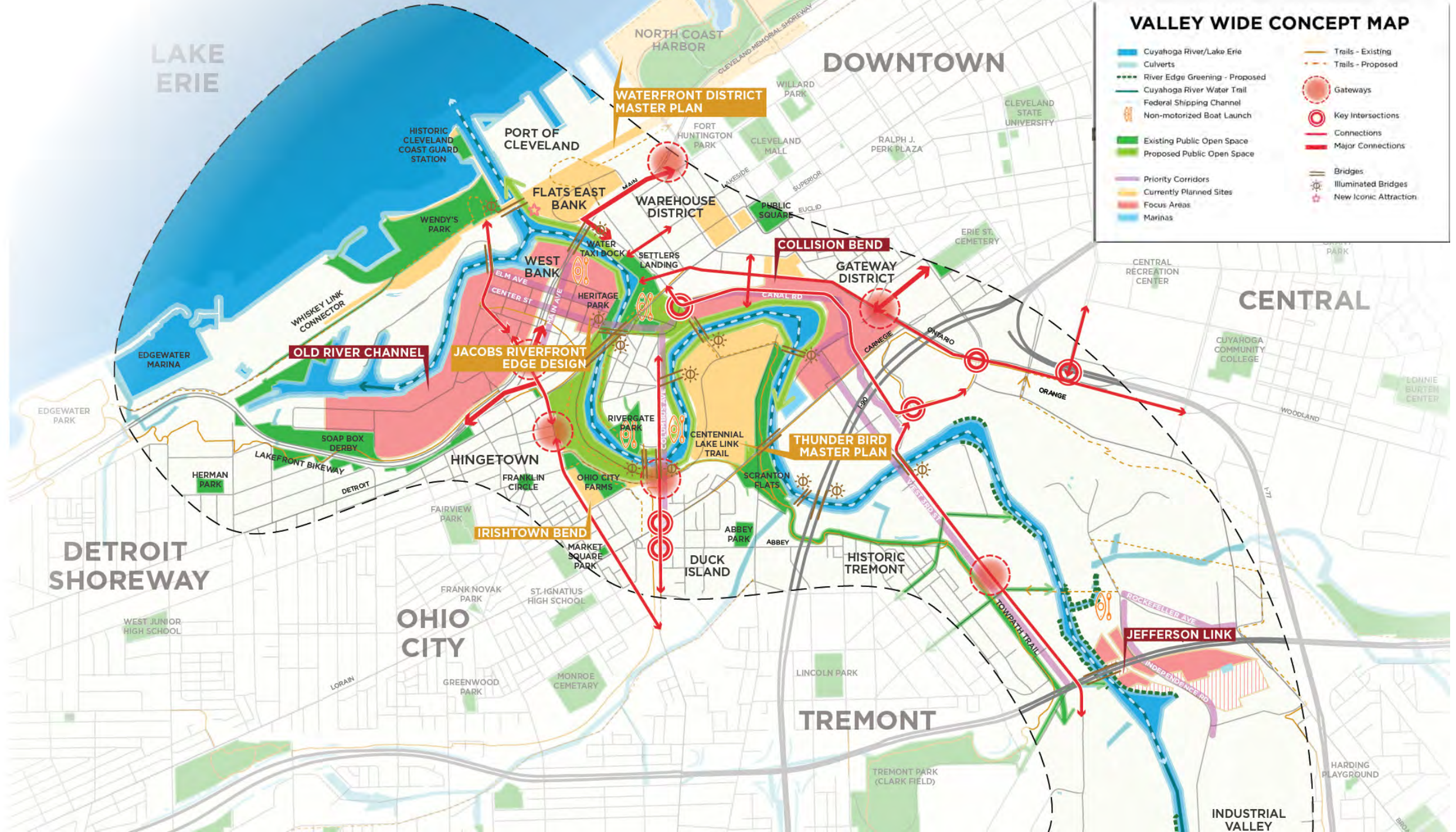
DETROIT
SHOREWAY

OHIO
CITY

TREMONT

CENTRAL

INDUSTRIAL
VALLEY



An Ecosystem of Partnership & Collaboration

Non-profits & non-governmental organizations include:

- Canalway Partners
- LAND studio
- Flats Forward Inc.
- Ohio City Inc.
- Cleveland Rowing Foundation
- The Foundry
- Zaclon River Landing
- Share the River
- Bike Cleveland
- Greater Cleveland Partnership
- Destination Cleveland
- Land Trusts
 - West Creek Conservancy
 - Trust for Public Land
 - Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Public agencies include:

- City of Cleveland
- Port of Cleveland
- Cuyahoga County
- Cleveland Metroparks
- Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
- Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency



DRAFT

LAKE ERIE

- EXISTING ALL PURPOSE TRAILS
- PROPOSED TRAIL OR BOARDWALK PROJECTS
- MEMORIAL BRIDGES LOOP CONSTRUCTION 2026
- CLEVELAND METROPARKS
- PENDING REDEVELOPMENT
- OTHER PARKS/GREEN SPACE
- NON-PROFIT RECREATION
- OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



Cleveland West Pier Repair

At Wendy Park

- **Phase 1** – Major repairs to Cleveland West (Historic US Coast Guard Station) Pier by US Army Corps of Engineers
- **Phase 2** – Installation of fencing and utility trough by Cleveland Metroparks
- Project Status:
 - **Phase 1** – Completed
 - **Phase 2** – Under Construction, complete by end of 2025
- Phase 1 Cost = \$6.9 million, Phase 2 cost TBD
- Contact: Sean McDermott, Cleveland Metroparks – sem1@clevelandmetroparks.com
- Project Partners: US Army Corps of Engineers, Cleveland Metroparks
- <https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/about/planning-design/planning-and-design-projects/projects/u-s-army-corps-of-engineers-cleveland-west-pier-repair>



Memorial Bridges Loop

- **Project Description:** The Memorial Bridges Loop will use excess road capacity to create a separated, shared-use path on Huron Rd and Ontario Ave, linking the protected bicycle lane & sidewalk on the Detroit-Superior (Veterans Memorial) Bridge with the existing separated shared-use path near and on the Lorain-Carnegie (Guardians) Bridge.
- **Proposed Improvements:**
 - Huron: Replacement of a vehicle lane with a new 10' shared used path + 5' delineated buffer + high vis crossing w/ RRFB at Tower City entrance.
 - Huron/Ontario Intersection: Improved crosswalk & reconstruction of the slip lane island to better accommodate pedestrians & cyclists.
 - Ontario: Expansion of existing sidewalk to 14.5-19.5' to create connection to existing shared used path at Hope Memorial (Guardians) Bridge plaza.
- **Schedule:**
 - Design: Completed
 - Construction: June-November 2026
- **Cost:** \$1.7M (estimated)
- **Contact:** Phil Kidd, City of Cleveland (pkidd@clevelandohio.gov)
- **Project Partners:** Congresswoman Shontel Brown; Leadership Cleveland; Bike Cleveland; Trust for Public Land; Bedrock
- **Website:** www.tinyurl.com/clevelandmbl



Veterans Memorial Bridge

The Veterans Memorial Bridge is an iconic bridge for its representation of local history, design, and critical connection over the Industrial Flats and Cuyahoga River. Design efforts are underway to adapt the former streetcar level of the bridge to a park like space with pathways and scenic overlooks.

- Project Status: Planning & Design
- Cost: \$7M secured for design & engineering; construction cost TBD
- Project contact: Eric Mack, Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works, EMack@cuyahogacounty.gov
- Project partners: Cuyahoga County, the Ohio Department of Transportation, the City of Cleveland, and the Cleveland Metroparks
- www.cuyahogacounty.gov/veterans-memorial-bridge



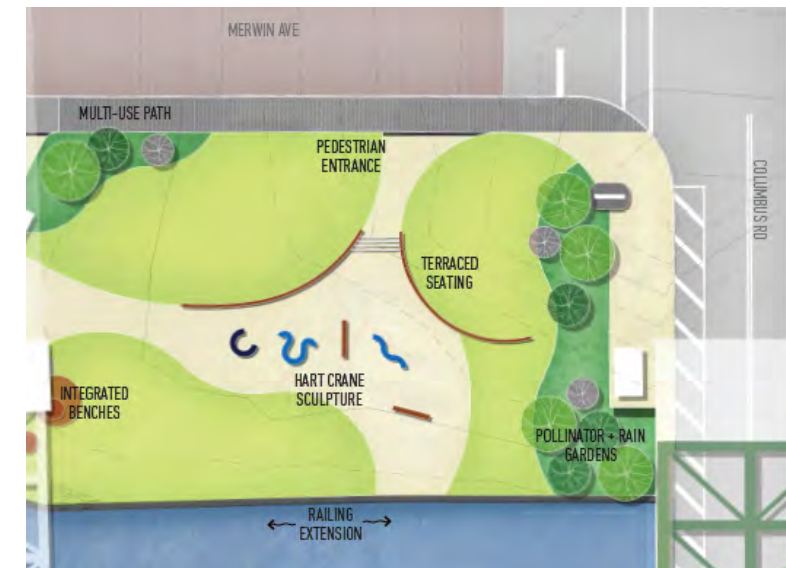
Canal Basin Park

- Currently the northern terminus of the 90+ mile Towpath Trail, Canal Basin is a riverside park and historic site of the Ohio & Erie Canal
- Planning - Redesign includes riverfront boardwalk, historic interpretation and representation of the historic basin with stormwater treatment
- Cost: \$15M for first 3 phases.
- Project Contact: James McKnight, Section Chief, Sr. Landscape Architect City of Cleveland Mayor's Office of Capital Projects, JMcKnight@clevelandohio.gov
- Project Partners: Canalway, City of Cleveland, Cleveland Metroparks, National Parks Service, Trust for Public Land, Downtown Cleveland Inc.
- <http://canalbasinpark.com/>



Hart Crane Memorial Park

- Canalway-owned riverside park bordering Rivergate commemorates the famed 20th century poet Hart Crane.
- Planning - Redesign will create identity for space, invite connection to sculpture and river and connect space to surrounding parks and trails.
- Project Contact: Mera Cardenas, Canalway, mera@canalwaypartners.com
- Project Partners: Canalway, Cleveland Metroparks
- canalwaypartners.com/advocacy/our-public-spaces



Rivergate Park

- Opened in 2011 to serve as a hub for community access to the Cuyahoga River; includes Merwin's Wharf restaurant
- Expansion includes adjacent properties, addition of Heritage Boat Docks, and area trails
- Rivergate Park is at the heart of efforts to improve public access to and along the Cuyahoga River, including the addition of 7 acres on the Columbus Peninsula, expanding the 2.8 acres of the initial 2012 park footprint
- Project Contact: Kelly Coffman, Cleveland Metroparks
kbc@clevelandmetroparks.com
- Project Partners: Cleveland Rowing Foundation and Trust for Public Land helped establish the park; Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority recently provided access to several parcels to help expand the park
- clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/visit/parks/lakefront-reservation/rivergate-park



Columbus Peninsula Riverfront Development

- Proposed development of former Graincraft, Catanese Classics Seafoods, Geist, and Inman properties
 - Long-term goal of public riverfront access
- Project Status:
 - Cleveland Metroparks entered into Lease Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with Ceres + LaPine Development
 - Application for Historic Tax Credits
 - Contact: Sean McDermott, Cleveland Metroparks – sem1@clevelandmetroparks.com
 - Project Partners: Cleveland Metroparks, Ceres + LaPine Development, City of Cleveland



Irishtown Bend Hillside Stabilization

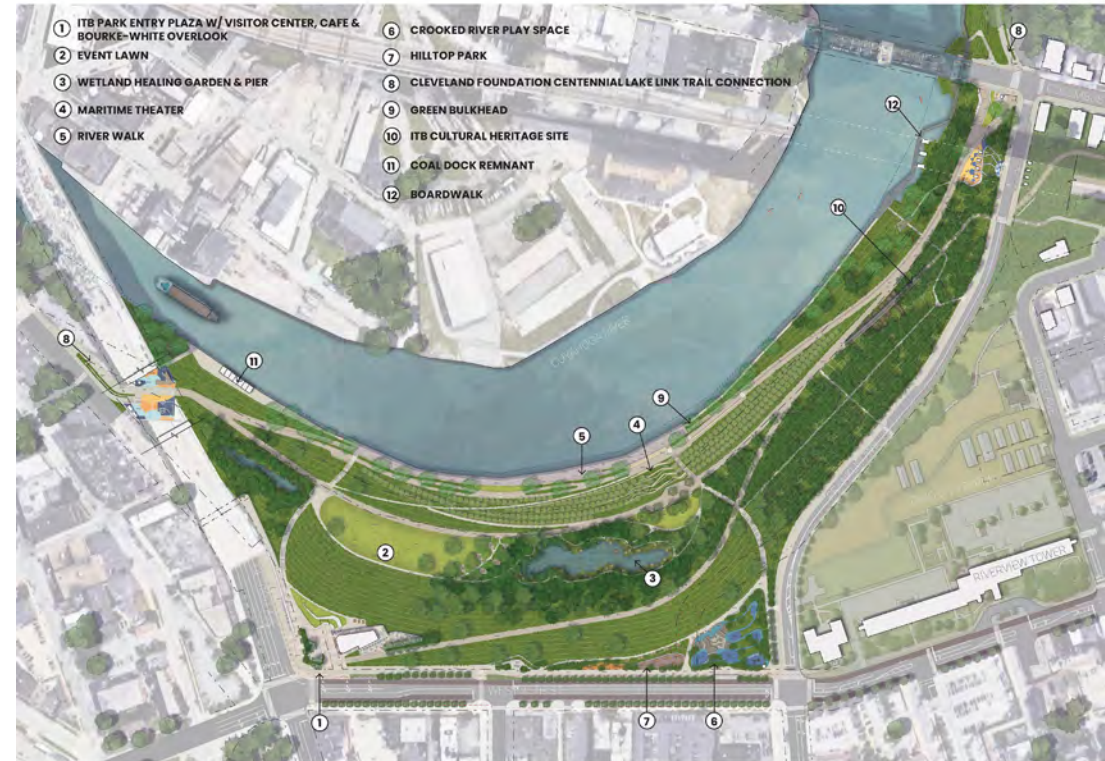
- Irishtown bend is **\$65 million stabilization** project aimed at transforming the hillside that stretches from W. 25th street between the Superior Detroit Bridge and Columbus Road, into a 23-acre public park and community amenity.
- In total, an estimated **\$100 million** project.
- This crucial work will insure the Cuyahoga River remains a thriving waterway for both industry recreation.
- **Project Contact:** Linda Sternheimer, Port of Cleveland
Linda.Sternheimer@portofcleveland.com
- **Project Partners:** Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County NOACA, Land Studio, Ohio City Inc., West Creek Conservancy, Cleveland City Council, Department of Transportation, Cleveland Metroparks, State of Ohio, CleanOhio /Dept. of Public Works, US Environmental Protection Agency, Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County



Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail / Franklin Enhancements & Irishtown Bend Park

- Multi-phase transformation of hillside into 25-acre greenspace connecting residents to the river, lake, and trail network
- Project Status:
 - **Trail** – Design; Construction Spring '26 – Spring '27
 - **Park** – Design; Construction Spring '27 – '29
- Cost
 - **Trail** – \$6 million
 - **Park** – \$40+ million
- Contact: Sean McDermott, Cleveland Metroparks – sem1@clevelandmetroparks.com
- Project Partners: Cleveland Metroparks, LAND studio, Ohio City Inc, Port of Cleveland, West Creek Conservancy, City of Cleveland, ODOT, NOACA, GCRTA

IRISHTOWN BEND PARK





Cleveland Rowing Foundation

- **Mission:** Supports and promotes rowing and recreation at Rivergate Park through partnerships with member organizations and the community.
- **Impact:** Home to 1,500+ high school, collegiate, and adult athletes on the Cuyahoga River.
- **Who We Are:** A 501(c)(3) nonprofit advancing the athletic, health, educational, and social benefits of rowing in Cleveland.
- **Community Role:** Hosts the Head of the Cuyahoga Regatta and collaborates with partners to expand river access, recreation & environmental stewardship.

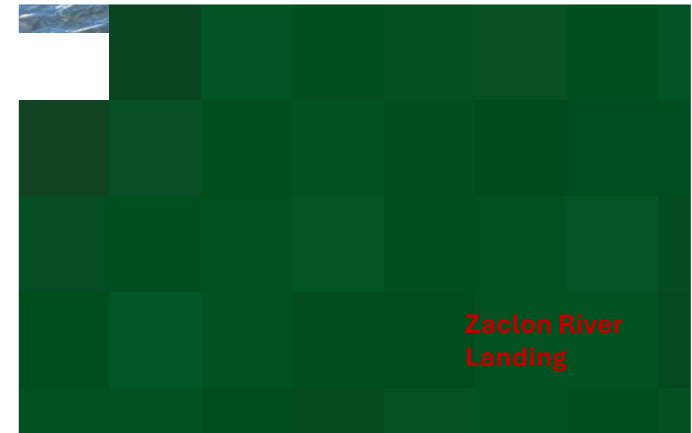
Zaclon River Landing

- Zaclon River Landing will provide Cuyahoga River access for paddle sports. The 2.76-acre property was purchased by conservation-oriented non-profit organizations. Site improvements are underway
- Cost (Committed funds / Overall cost)
- Project Contact: Aaron Marcovy
- Project partners:
- Website / QR code



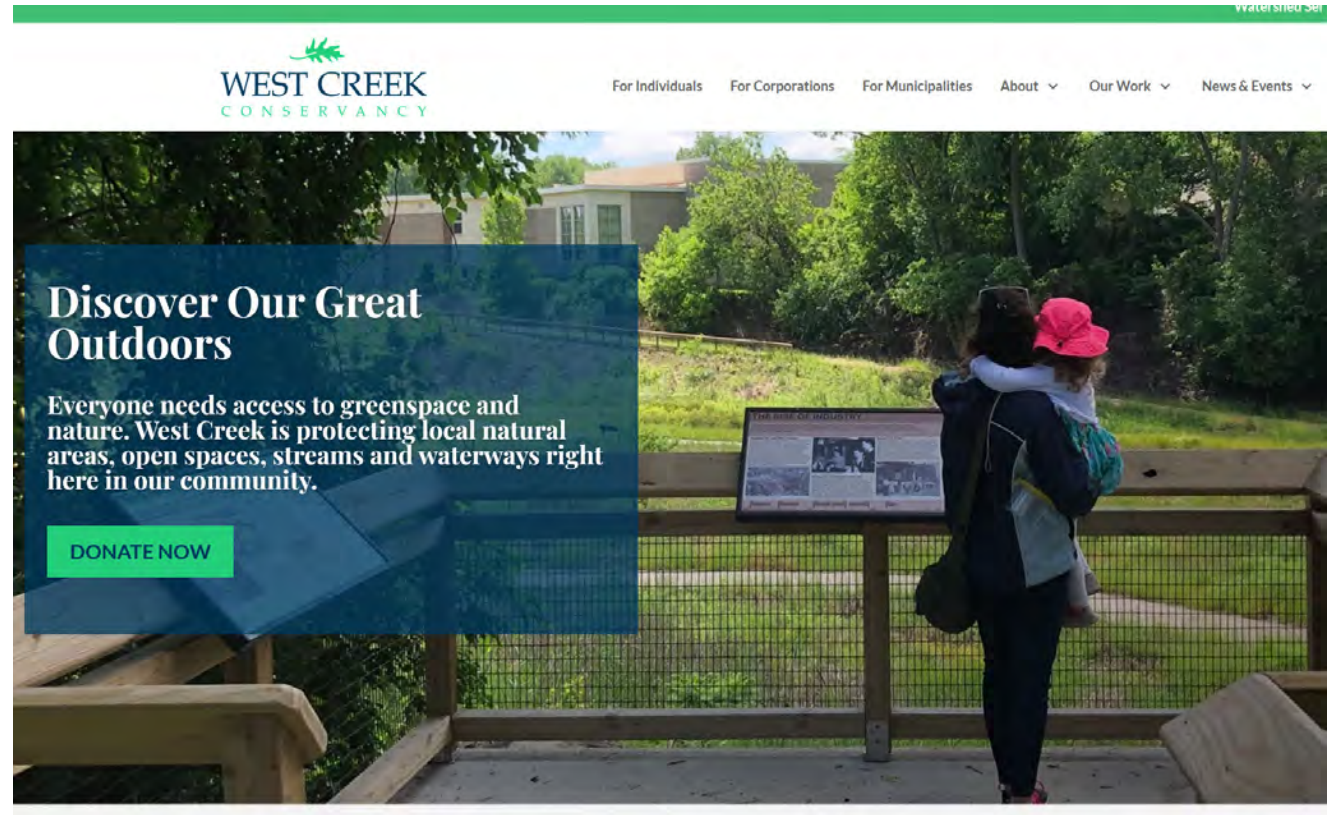
Zaclon River Landing

- **Overview:** 100% grassroots & volunteer-driven Brownfield reclamation project with target of being a safe, human-powered community river access point.
- **Project Status:** Phase 1 of remediation, site readiness, & river access has been funded and will be completed by EOY 2025.
- **Cost:** \$2M secured of ~\$4M target budget
- **Project contact:** Aaron Marcovy, lead volunteer, asm2002@gmail.com
- **Project partners:** West Creek Conservancy, Spartan Alumni Rowing Association, Ohio Dept. of Development, Ohio Public Works Commission, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Cuyahoga County, CWRU Rowing, Larsen Architects, Bricker Graydon, Meyers Roman, Flats Forward, City of Cleveland
- **Websites:**
 - www.spartanalumnirowing.org
 - www.zaclonriverlanding.org



West Creek Conservancy

- Mission: to enrich the lives of all people in Northeast Ohio by conserving natural habitats, restoring the ecological value of our region's lands and waters, and expanding opportunities to connect people from all cultures to experience nature and discover our great outdoors.
- West Creek's involvement in Irishtown Bend ultimately facilitates the stabilization of a 23-acre area along the Cuyahoga River protecting vital infrastructure and the integrity of the shipping channel. The property will be transformed into an urban park and provide the key linkage for the Lake Link Centennial Trail's connection to Wendy Park, Whiskey Island and Lake Erie.
- Derek Schafer, Executive Director
- westcreek.org



Trust for Public Land

In the fall of 2010, the rebirth of an industrial Cleveland neighborhood reached a milestone when Trust for Public Land and the Cleveland Rowing Foundation successfully purchased 7 acres of commercial riverfront land.

The partnership converted a vacant concrete-covered site into **Rivergate Park**, a vibrant recreational center in the Flats. Opened in May 2011, the park preserves public access to the Cuyahoga River for healthy, people-powered activities such as kayaking, canoeing, rowing and dragon boating. Rivergate Park also allows for expanded programming, such as a learn-to-row program for urban youth that has proved successful in other cities.

Cost:

- \$6.3M FMV (\$4.3M purchase price)
- Conveyed to Cleveland Metroparks (2010)

Philanthropy/Key Donors:

- City of Cleveland
- Gund Foundation
- MetLife Foundation

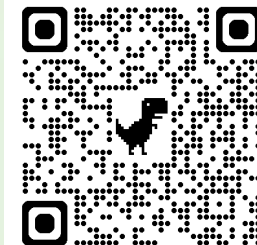
Key Stakeholders:

- Cleveland Metroparks
- Cleveland Rowing Foundation



TPL's Impact in Ohio

Support Our Work



17,981

ACRES OF LAND PROTECTED



102,326

PEOPLE CONNECTED TO THE OUTDOORS



137

ACTIVE AND COMPLETED PROJECTS

Trust for Public Land – Land Trust Alliance Rally (2025)

Cleveland hosted 1500+ land trust professionals for **Land Trust Alliance Rally (2025)** in September.

The Land Trust Alliance Rally is the nation's largest annual conference for land conservation, bringing together hundreds of land trust professionals to learn, connect, and grow.

TPL and **Cleveland Metroparks** and other conservation partners showcased nodes (including Rivergate Park) along Cuyahoga River, discussing Cleveland's historical environmental justice movement to our current day recreational development.



Western Reserve Land Conservancy

- Conserve – Connect – Sustain: Preserving Ohio's Lands for Future Generations.
- Rich Cochran, President, Chief Executive Officer
- wrlandconservancy.org



– Sustain

Once we conserve a property, our work has only just begun. Stewardship is critically important to our mission because it is the way we keep our promise to landowners and future generations that our conserved properties will remain protected forever.

Cuyahoga River Area of Concern

- Established in 1987 by Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between US & Canada
- Lower 46.5 miles of Cuyahoga River, 10 miles of Lake Erie shore & associated direct Lake Erie tributaries
- Originally identified 10 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) - 6 have been removed.
- Project Partners: USEPA, OEPA, OLEC, Cuyahoga SWCD & 25 members of the Advisory Committee
- <https://www.cuyahogaaoc.org/>



Cuyahoga River Area of Concern

- Remaining BUIs: Restrictions on dredging, loss of fish populations, loss of benthic macroinvertebrate populations, loss of aquatic habitat
- Management Actions to address BUIs (examples):
 - Cuyahoga River Old Channel – sediment cleanup [in design]
 - Irishtown Bend – green bulkhead [in construction]
 - Sowinski Park (Doan Brook) – habitat restoration [complete]
- [Interactive Story Map](#)



2025 Reservation Plan OPEN HOUSES

Cleveland Metroparks invites you to join our staff for Community Open Houses as part of the 2025 Reservation Plan updates! Each meeting will take place from 5:30-7:00 p.m. with a short presentation at 6:00.

Open Houses

Plans, this presentation, and an online comment form are available at:

www.clevelandmetroparks.com/2025plans

Park Reservation Open Houses:

Brookside

Wednesday, October 1

Brookside Valley Shelter

4101 Park Drive
Cleveland, OH 44144

Ohio & Erie Canal and Washington

Tuesday, October 7

CanalWay Center

4524 E. 49th Street
Cleveland, OH 44125

Garfield Park

Thursday, October 9

Garfield Pond Program Center

11410 Broadway Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44125

West Creek

Thursday, October 16

Watershed Stewardship Center

2277 W Ridgewood Drive
Parma, OH 44134

Rivergate & Flats

Monday, October 20

Merwin's Wharf

1785 Merwin Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44143

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Presentation at
5:30 p.m.

All Reservations

Wednesday, October 22

Virtual 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Register at
clevelandmetroparks.com/2025plans



Brookside Reservation



Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation



Washington Reservation