Embrace the Lake: CHEERS for Access, Equity and a Resilient Future in Cleveland

Summer Community Update, August 10, 2023
Is this your first engagement event for CHEERS?

No - I’ve been to a couple! 63%

Yes 38%
We want to hear from you!
Slido.com with the code #3500363

What do you like to see and do at the lake front in the summer?
What do you like to see and do at the lake front in the summer?

Boogie boarding
See wildlife
Swim
Playing with my kid
Kayaking
just hang out! And paddle
Picnic
Cookout
hike
watch
bird
Go to the beach
swim, boat, take my dogs
Sunsets
Go to beach
Ride bike, swim, relax
Paddle boarding, swimming
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Ariel International
Bike Cleveland
Bluestone Heights
Campus District
CEI
City of Cleveland – Wards 7 and 9
Cleveland Cultural Gardens
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress
Cleveland State University – MUPD
Greater Collinwood CDC
Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District
Cuyahoga County - Dept of Planning, Public Works, and Public Safety
Cuyahoga County Council
Cuyahoga Land Bank
Cuyahoga River AOC
Doan Brook Watershed Partners
Destination Cleveland
Dominion Energy
Downtown Cleveland Alliance
East Clark Elementary Bird Nerds
Famicos
Forest City Yacht Club
Friends of Kirtland Park
Glenville
Greater Cleveland Partnership
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA)
Green Ribbon Coalition
Holden Parks Trust
Ingenuity
InterCity Yacht Club
Kirtland Bird Club
Kirtlandia Society
Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail Scenic Byway
Lakeside Yacht Club
LAND Studio
MidTown CDC
ODNR Division of Wildlife
NEORSD
NOACA
Phastar
St. Clair Superior Development Corporation
Slovenian National Home
St. Martin de Porres High School
The Foundry
Trust for Public Land
UCI
Upcycle Parts Shop
USACE
Village of Bratenahl
West Creek Conservancy
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
The strategy is focused on developing an **equitable** and **resilient** future for Cleveland’s east side lakefront and centers existing residents.
Thanks for your continued engagement!
What have we been up to this spring?

+ February Community Engagement Results
+ Site Enabling Studies and Findings
+ Masterplan Refinement Process and Revised Plan
February Community Engagement Results
Engaged over 200 people through in-person events and virtual survey!

Programming related to the new amenities. Particularly education around new habitats, nature, and protecting the environment.

Relationship building with adjacent neighborhoods. Over “engagement”

Highlight access to parks as a driver of health. Opportunity to build in a healthy systems / living framework.

Safe and accessible connections
Top priority and questions: Where will parking be? Improved safety for pedestrians & bicyclists on 55th & 72nd Streets? Connect to other community assets?
We talked about equity and park experience

Accessibility, provide equal and intentional access to the park and lakefront for the local community.

Highlight generational narratives, provide space to hear about the different lived experiences and evolution of the lakefront from the community.

More educational opportunities, group events, and programming - especially for kids.

“I remember before I-90 my brothers and I would run across the road and go to the lake almost every day!”

“MLK and gardens didn’t used to exist for us (African Americans). It was forbidden, but I would ride my bike down there to see the lake. Now I am the president of the African American garden.”

“I’m excited to take my kids, who will one day take their kids to the park.”
How to keep the shoreline alive

Creating a 365-park and lakefront experience

Community-generated art and opportunities to incorporate historical markers

Better connections and access to the neighborhood and nature preserve

Safer pedestrian / biking experience and more park & walk/bike options

Educational programming and activities to create more awareness and understanding of why it's important
You and the Lake!

**Currently Do At The Lake**
- Most of the activity is around the E 55th St Marina for fishing, North Gordon Park, and the Nature Preserve.
- Top activities include: Fishing, Bike/Scooter, Walking

**Want To Do At The Lake**
- What people want to see most at the lake is as much fishing as possible, better access from the neighborhoods, new or improvements to pedestrian bridges, and well lit trails and plenty of amenities within the park.
- Some of the proposed amenities or activities include: food truck pavilion, places for concerts / live music, renovate & reuse of old aquarium, land bridges, and viewsheds for a “photo-op” of the view

**Excited To Do At The Lake**
- People are most excited to have access and to have the opportunity to spend more time at the lakefront.
- Top projects or experiences people are looking forward to are: biking & walking trails, nature programs, kayaking (kayak rentals), having consistent public access.
**Master Plan Refinement**

**Connect with Nature**
- Excitement over the many new plant and animal species
- Maintain existing fishing areas during construction until new fishing access is built
- Potential programming ideas: community tree care program to adopt/plant a tree

**Touch the Water**
- Most use E 72nd St, agree there needs to be improvements to lighting and perception of safety
- Consistent and connected bikeways (from the neighborhood and connecting to the west side)
- Improvements to Gordon Park pedestrian bridge (visual interest and better ground connection)

**Play at the Shore**
- Better bike infrastructure and access to the lakefront with bike network in the park
- Strong interest in water activities – boating, kayaking, and fishing and places to rent equipment
- Re-purpose the old aquarium for community use

**Enhancements to Access**
- Pedestrian experience across I-90
- New pedestrian bridge

**Top 3 Ways to Use the Lakefront**
- Boating + Kayaking
- Picnic / Flex Space
- Walks / Boardwalk Space
Upcoming Engagement

Goal: Present Refined Masterplan and design process and continue to hone the design and programming

Style: Smaller work-sessions (breakout groups, pop-up events, etc.)

• Discuss topics, design/sketch together with the community, stakeholders, partners and the design team

Focus: We want to have Community Conversations

• Topics specific to the project moving forward (equity, programming, habitat, environmental justice, education, access, etc...)
What topics do you want to discuss at the community conversations?

- Balance of commercial and recreational
- Fishing pier details
- What community defines as safety/safe
- Protect expand habitats
- Parking
- Neighborhood input
- Cleanliness
- Covered seating
- Timeline
- Lifeguard shortages
- Water access
- Tree canopy
- Built structure sustainability
- Connections to bike network
- At-risk species at reservation
Site Investigations & Enabling Studies
Cultural and Environmental assessments were conducted

 ✓ Section 106 Scoping Request
   o The proposed development outlined in the masterplan will have no effect on historic properties. Substantial changes to the project design should be coordinated with SHPO.

 ✓ Level 1 Ecological Survey Report
   o Status – completed on March 31
   o *Phase II ESA is recommended prior to construction*
   o *Excavation within 300-ft of the boundaries of the Gordon Park Landfill will require a Chapter 513 Permit from the Ohio EPA.*
Local and regional ecological reference site visits complete

"Naturalized" Dredge Disposal Areas

Natural Areas / Preserves
Focus on habitat zone analysis from reference site visits

Naturally Occurring Habitat Zones
- Deepwater (>4' water depth)
- Shallow Near Shore (<4' water depth)
- Wetlands
- Meadow
- Upland Woodland

Human Dependent Habitat Zones
- Barrier Beach
- Revetments and Bioengineered Walls/Breakwaters
- Green Infrastructure/Stormwater Management
Advancement of wave modeling
Creation of 3D flow model
Lots of permitting coordination!

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - Section 404 Permit
  - Section 10 Permit
  - Section 408 Review
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
  - Shore Structure Permit
  - Submerged Lands Leases
  - Consistency Certification
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
  - 401 Water Quality Certification
- U.S. Coastal Guard
  - Private Aids to Navigations
- Agency Coordination
  - Ohio History Connection
  - ODNR Division of Wildlife
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - City of Cleveland
  - Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority
Masterplan Refinement
Design Refinement Goals

Creating a plan that maintains and expands on the CHEERS resiliency vision

**Reduce the cost** by reducing the overall length of breakwater, while maintaining dredge fill capacity (20-years)

**Expand ecology** by creating diverse, site-appropriate terrestrial and aquatic habitats

Reduce the risk of adverse affects to **water quality**, provide movement of water through the cove to address water quality concerns

**Address trash reduction**, and consider overall park operations and maintenance

Expand upon the priorities identified in the Masterplan for **programmatic opportunities**, and continue to develop and refine the park programs based on community outreach events

**Improve park access**, links to the neighborhood and community, and expanded parking for new park amenities
“Optioneering”

SHIFT West

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master plan Phase</th>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Option 2</th>
<th>Option 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BREAKWATER PERIMETER</td>
<td>7,600 LF</td>
<td>5,600 LF</td>
<td>6,400 LF</td>
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<tr>
<td>LANDMASS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land side:</td>
<td>35.7 acres</td>
<td>34.5 acres</td>
<td>37.5 acres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isle:</td>
<td>35.2 acres</td>
<td>35.8 acres</td>
<td>32.5 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cove:</td>
<td>40.8 acres</td>
<td>33.5 acres</td>
<td>30.0 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NARROW Isle

EXPAND Landside
The Refined Plan

Design Refinement Goals

- Reduce Length of Breakwater
- Expand Habitat
- Water Quality
- Debris Reduction
- Expand Programmatic Opportunities
- Improve Site Access
The Refined Plan

- Fishing Pier
- Nature Play
- Nature Based Shoreline
- Shallow Cove
- Weir
- Fishing Pier
- Lawn
- Kayak Portage
- Fishing/Overlook
- Nature Trail
- The Cove
- The Lakeshore
- Picnic Pavilion
- The Gordon Hills
- E. 55th Marina
- InterCity Yacht Club
- Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve
- Lake Erie
Partner Updates
The City of Cleveland's Mayor's Office of Capital Projects is in the first phase of planning the future of parks and recreation in the city of Cleveland.

The city is working with a consultant team and conducting a collaborative and public-centered planning process.

More information and a survey are at [www.cleparksrecplan.com](http://www.cleparksrecplan.com)
City of Cleveland North Coast Harbor

Cleveland wants feedback on downtown lakefront draft plan that includes beach, ‘land bridge’ with a graceful curve & more

Updated: Jul 27, 2023, 9:07 p.m. | Published: Jul 27, 2023, 3:10 p.m.

By Steven Litt, cleveland.com

See www.clevelandnorthcoast.com for more information and a survey

James Corner Field Operations

Cleveland unveils new vision for downtown lakefront land bridge

Renderings depict images of a Cleveland lakefront land bridge designed by James Corner Field Operations to connect downtown to waterfront attractions including the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Browns Stadium, and the Great Lakes Science Center.
Wayfinding Planning Process
Starting Fall of 2023
ST. CLAIR SUPERIOR SERVICE AREA:
SCSDC STRATEGIC GOAL AREAS

**People**
- Engaging Residents
- Promoting a Safe Community
- Connecting Businesses

**Place**
- Strengthening the Housing Stock
- Leveraging Assets & Activity Nodes
- Enhancing the Neighborhood
- Advocating for Access

**Performance**
- Sharing Our Story
- Building Organizational Capacity
- Stabilizing Finances
- Maintaining Stable Governance
Wayfinding...
- Shows that a place is well loved and cared for, which attracts businesses and investments
- Increases a sense of neighborhood pride
- Improves connections to Lake Erie
- Provides support for local businesses through marketing

This grant will cover the costs for wayfinding signs, neighborhood banners, and a neighborhood welcome sign
Wayfinding in Cleveland:
Expected Start Date: July 1st, 2023
Expected End Date: June 1st, 2024

Project Timeline:

- **Planning (6 months)**
  - Guide Studio will develop a plan for the design, placement, and implementation of signage

- **Implementation (6-12 months)**
  - Signs and banners will be produced based on designs by Guide Studio and installed around St. Clair Superior
Cuyahoga County ARPA: $50,000
- Project Implementation - Received

Cleveland Foundation: $25,000
- Wayfinding Plan - Received

Ohio and Erie Canalway: $25,000
- Wayfinding Plan - Pending

$350,000 Gap – Fundraising Strategy

stclairsuperior.org
Project Support Opportunities
THANK YOU!