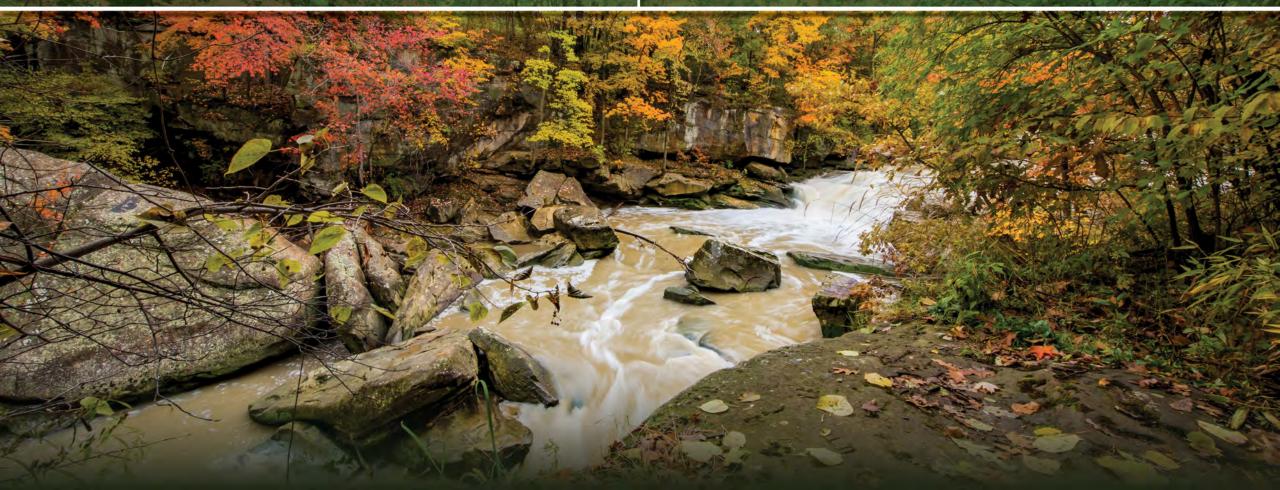


2025 Reservation Plans

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)





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

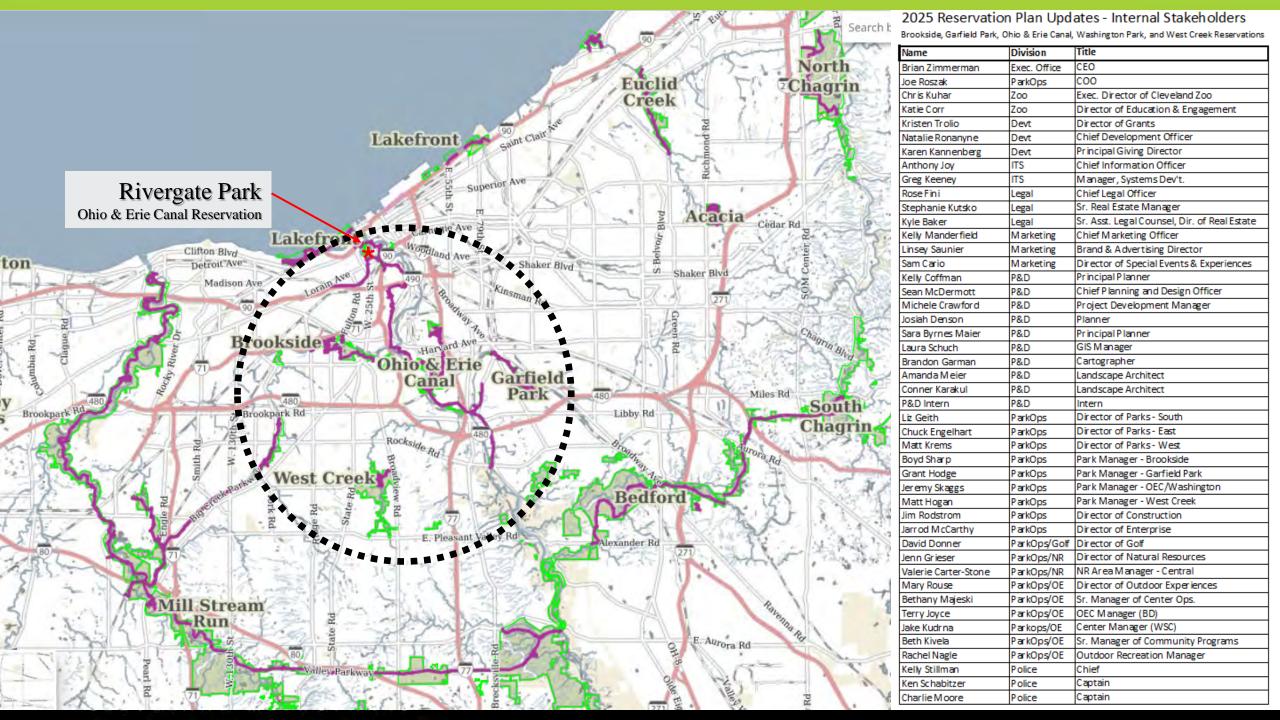
Review Input / Final Recommendations: late October

Present for Board Review: November 20th









Expansion since prior Reservation Plans (2017):

| | 2017 | 2025 | Acreage | |
|-------------------|---------|---------|------------------|--------------------|
| Reservation | 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 | <mark>290</mark> | <mark>17.8%</mark> |





Common Themes

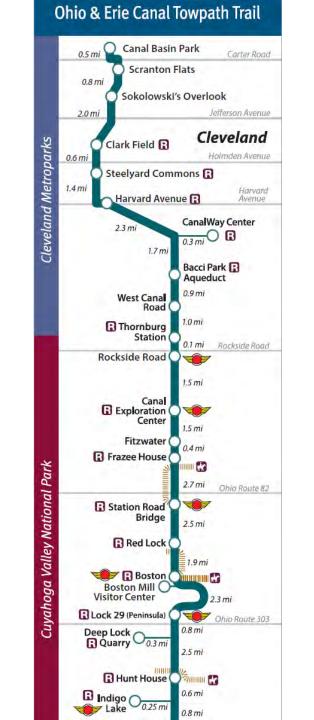
Our internal stakeholder team provided input including:

- 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



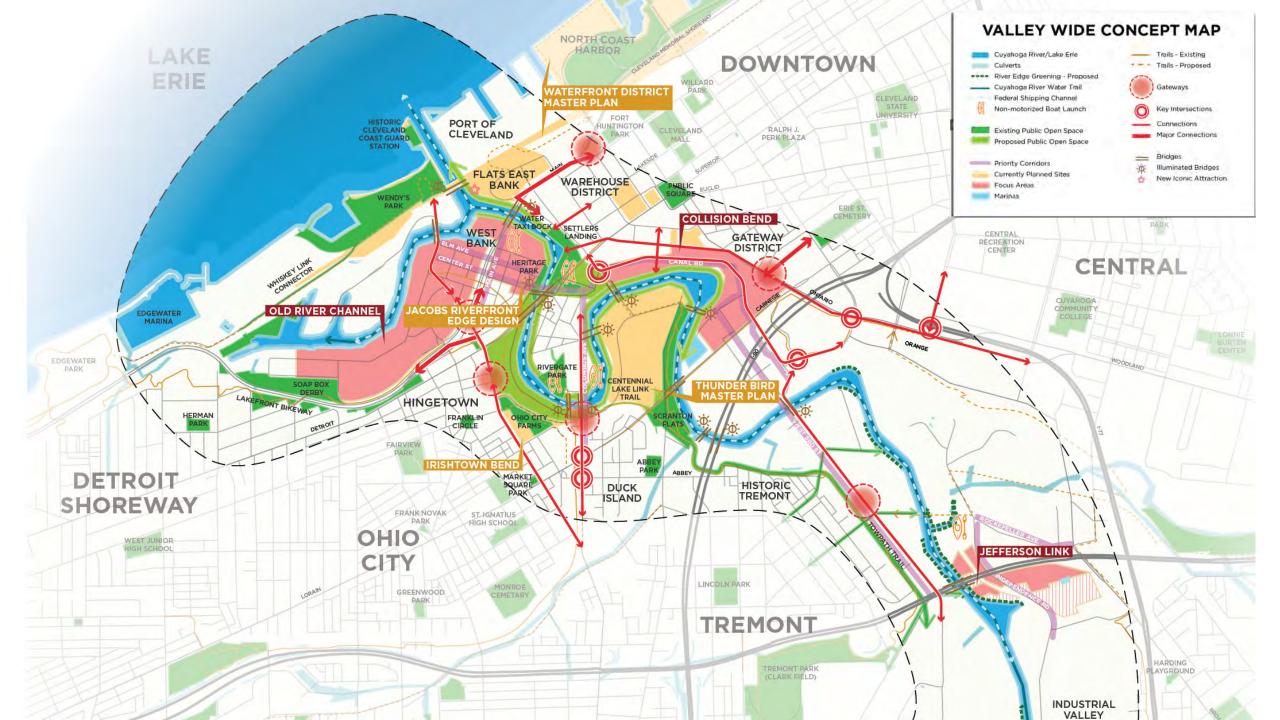


Vision for the Valley

- 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 2021by 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



planning.clevelandohio.gov/slider/Vision-for-the-Valley-Report-07-16-2021.pdf



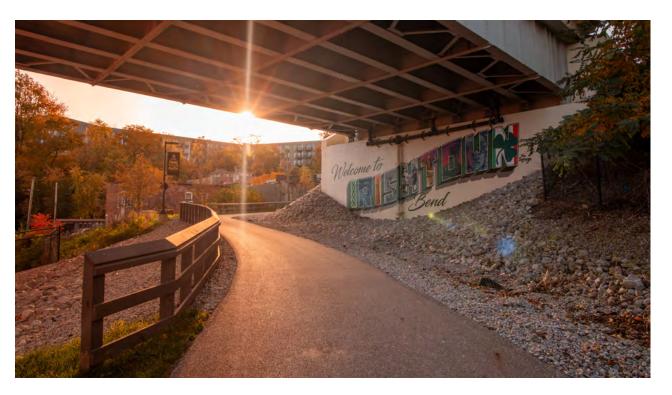
An Ecosystem of Partnership & Collaboration

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





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-and-design-projects/projects/u-s-army-corps-of-engineers-cleveland-west-pier-repair





Memorial Bridges Loop

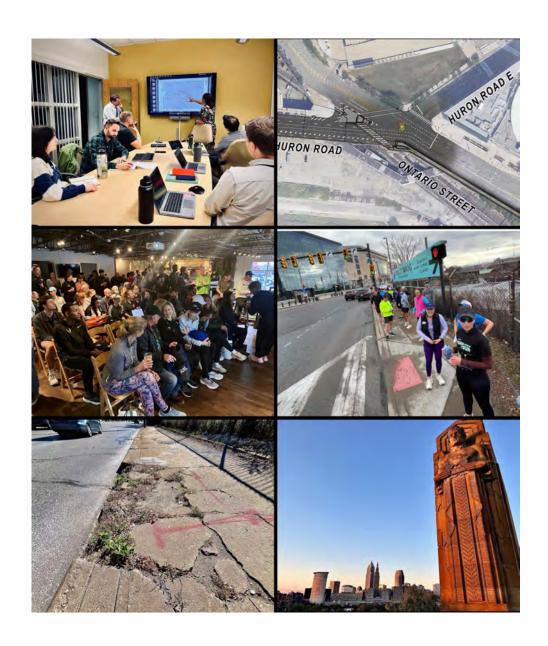
 Project Description: The Memorial Bridges Loop will use excess road capacity to create a separated, shared-use path on Huron Rd and Ontario Ave, linking the protected bicycle lane & sidewalk on the Detroit-Superior (Veterans Memorial) Bridge with the existing separated shared-use path near and on the 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:

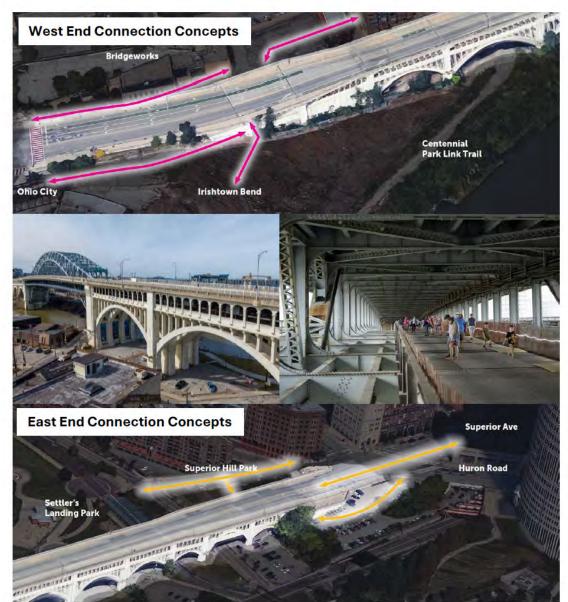
- Design: Completed
- Construction: June-November 2026
- Cost: \$1.7M (estimated)
- Contact: Phil Kidd, City of Cleveland (pkidd@clevelandohio.gov)
- Project Partners: Congresswoman Shontel Brown; Leadership Cleveland; Bike Cleveland; Trust for Public Land; Bedrock
- Website: www.tinyurl.com/clevelandmbl



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/veteransmemorial-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/lakefrontreservation/rivergate-park

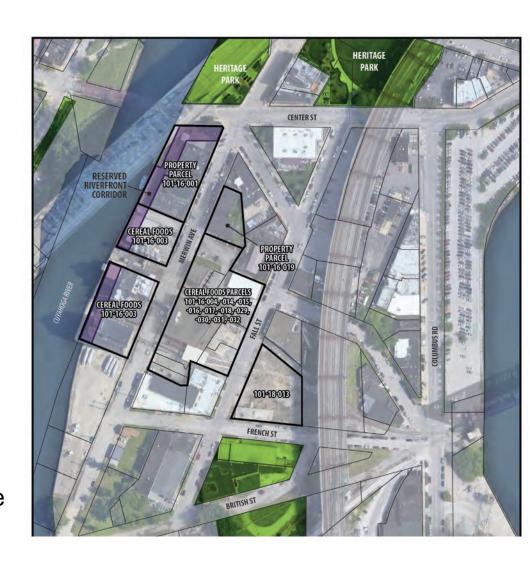






Columbus Peninsula Riverfront Development

- 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(NEORSD), 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



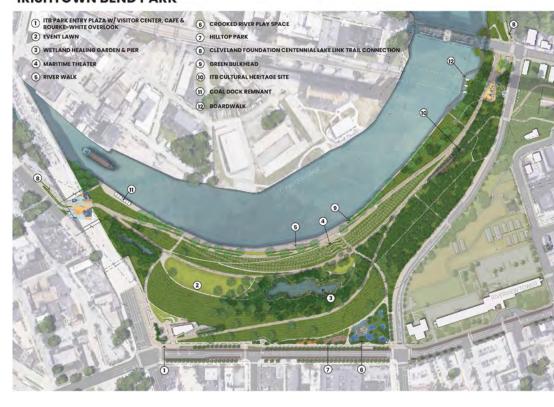




Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail / Franklin Enhancements & Irishtown Bend Park

- 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

- <u>Mission:</u> Supports and promotes rowing and recreation at Rivergate Park through partnerships with member organizations and the community.
- <u>Impact:</u> 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.
- <u>Community Role:</u> Hosts the Head of the Cuyahoga Regatta and collaborates with partners to expand river access, recreation & environmental stewardship.

THE FOUNDRY MISSION:

Transform the lives of Cleveland's youth through access to the sports of rowing and sailing.

Engaging youth in rowing and sailing promotes fitness, develops teamwork, communication, and perseverance skills, exposes scholarship and career opportunities, and provides access to Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River.





BY THE NUMBERS

The Foundry offers year-round land- and water-based programs for thousands of Cleveland area youth, including competitive rowing and sailing programs, introductory summer camps, strength and conditioning programming, and athlete enrichment opportunities for middle and high-school aged students. They also have a community outreach and engagement program called Row. Sail. Dream.

Since 2020



74

ZIP Codes

74 different zip codes across Northeast Ohio



140

Different Schools

Reached students from 140 different schools across Northeast Ohio



2,450

Students

Engaged 2,450 students in on-water programming, including camps, clinics, and competitive teams



12,400

Experiences

Provided over 12,400 introductory experiences to the sports of rowing and sailing through outreach

>> FORGE PERSONAL GROWTH

The Foundry program develops fitness, teamwork, communication, perseverance skills, exposes scholarship and career opportunities, and provides access to Lake Erie.



Kids enhance physical fitness through engaging, full-body workouts.



ద్యాప్ TEAMWORK

Advancing personal skills to promote and encourage trust and cooperation with others.



E COMMUNICATION

Building communication skills through activities requiring clear and effective collaboration.



R PERSERVERANCE

Cultivating growth through the application of focused effort, resilience, and determination.



SCHOLARSHIP

Boosting scholarship with unique and memorable educational opportunities and resources.



Participating enhances problemsolving skills, boosts self-confidence, and fosters community involvement.































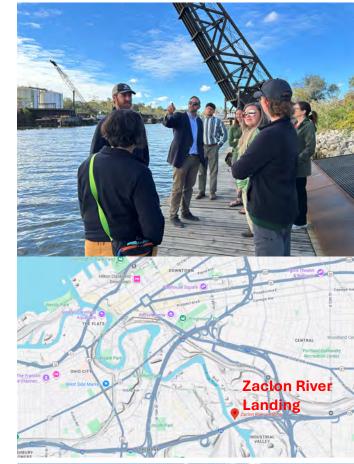






Zaclon River Landing

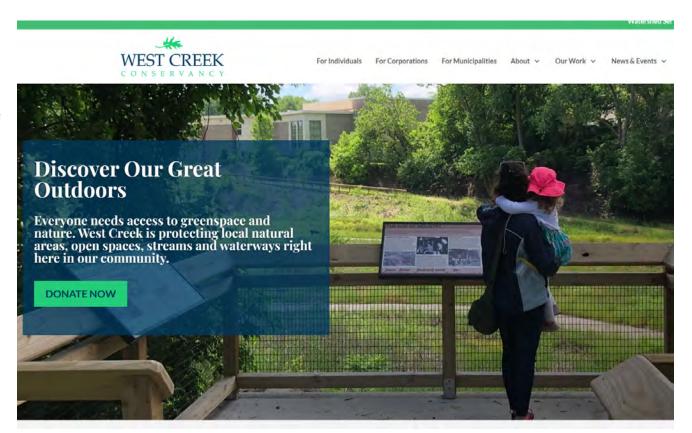
- Overview: 100% grassroots & volunteer-driven Brownfield reclamation project with target of being a safe, human-powered community river access point.
- **Project Status:** Phase 1 of remediation, site readiness, & river access has been funded and will be completed by EOY 2025.
- Cost: \$2M secured of ~\$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

CONNECTED TO THE OUTDOORS



137

COMPLET 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 <u>Cleveland Metroparks</u> 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

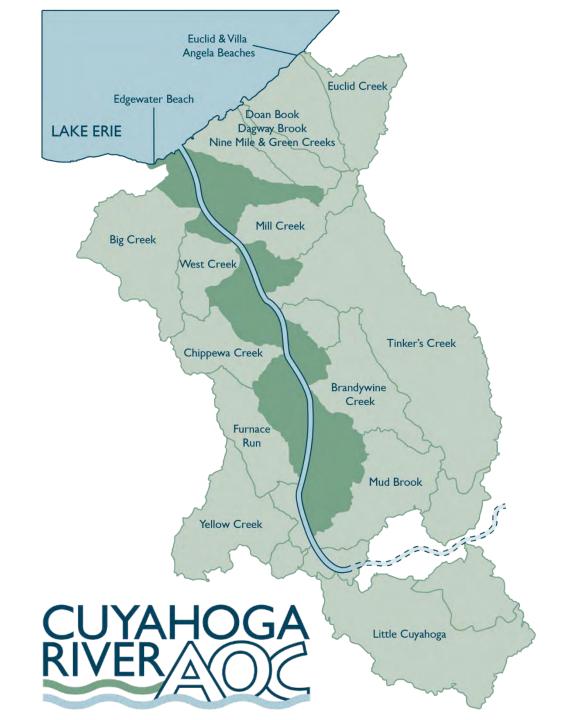


- Sustain

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.



Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation



Park Reservation Open Houses:

Brookside

Wednesday, October 1

Ohio & Erie Canal and Washington Tuesday, October 7

Garfield Park Thursday, October 9

West Creek Thursday, October 16

Rivergate & Flats Monday, October 20

All Reservations

Merwin's Wharf 1785 Merwin Avenue Cleveland, OH 44143

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Presentation at 5:30 p.m.

Virtual 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Register at Wednesday, October 22 clevelandmetroparks.com/2025plans

Plans, this presentation, and an online comment form are

Open Houses

www.clevelandmetroparks.com /2025plans

available at:

Brookside Valley Shelter

4101 Park Drive Cleveland, OH 44144

CanalWay Center 4524 E. 49th Street Cleveland, OH 44125

Garfield Pond Program Center

11410 Broadway Avenue Cleveland, OH 44125

Watershed Stewardship Center

2277 W Ridgewood Drive Parma, OH 44134