



2025 Reservation Plans

Brookside, Garfield Park, Ohio & Erie
Canal, Washington, and West Creek
Reservations
December 18, 2025





SECOND CENTURY OF STEWARDSHIP

OUR MISSION

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

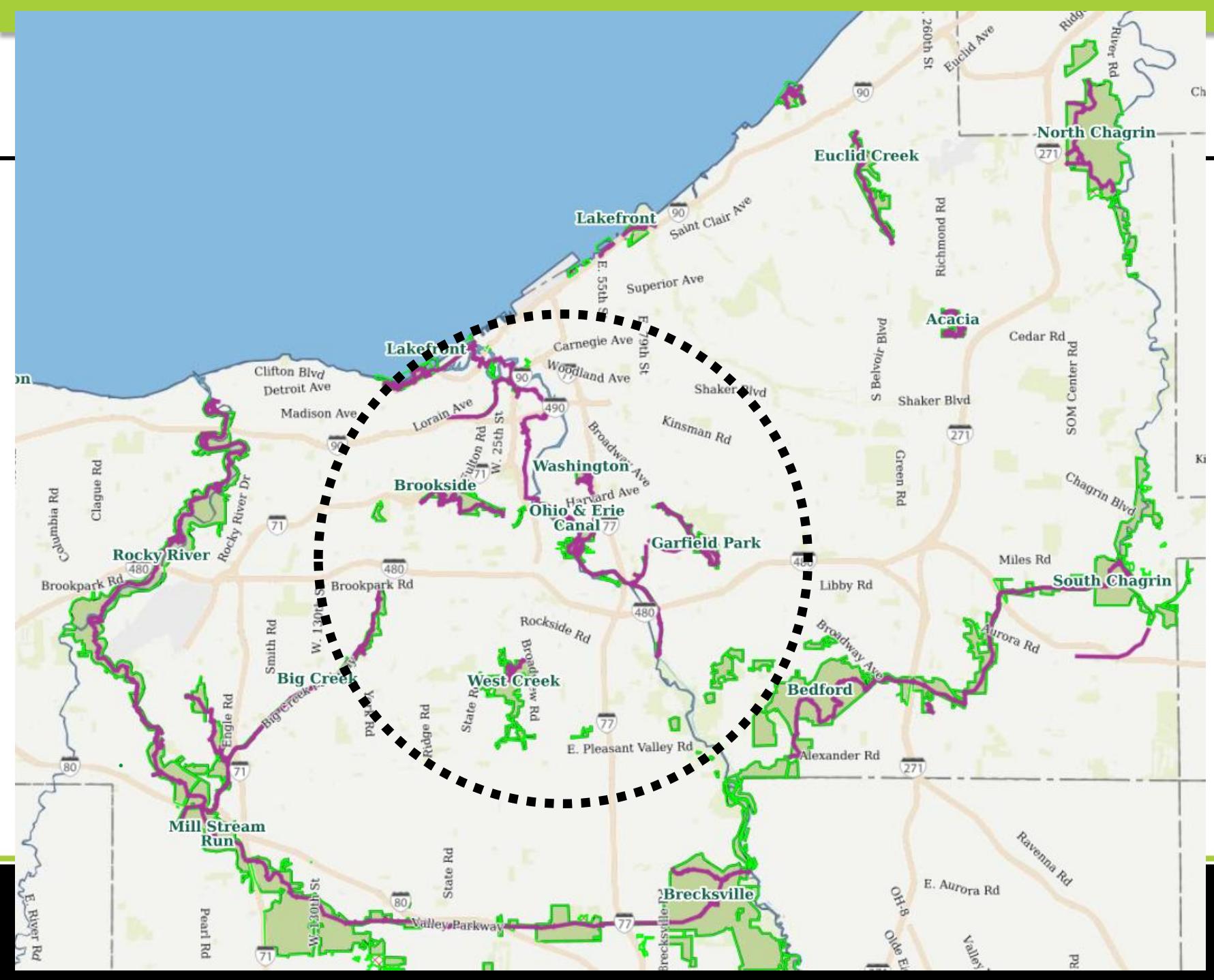


Reservation Plans

www.clevelandmetroparks.com/2025plans

- Reservation Plans are a CAPRA*-required component of the System Plan
- The plans move our six Core Goals to action by:
 - Connecting expenditures to the System Plan
 - Tracking progress to show accountability
- Plans for each Reservation identify priorities for ongoing resource management and facility / infrastructure needs
- Plans coordinate with regional trail plans
- Plans are essential for the pursuit of grants and other outside funding

SECOND CENTURY OF STEWARDSHIP SYSTEM PLAN			CONNECT	CONSERVE	ENGAGE	INNOVATE	SUSTAIN	WELCOME
ITEM	AREA	ACTION	ICON	ICON	ICON	ICON	ICON	ICON
1.0	Brookside Park Overall Notes	Study circulation and improve wayfinding to Zoo and park Improve brand recognition of Cleveland Metroparks at Brookside facilities Improve coordination with area parks and community open space Secure adjacent land protection opportunities; discuss internal opportunities Continue to implement green infrastructure strategies to mitigate impervious surfaces	Green					Blue
2.0	Historic Stadium & Bridge	Increase public awareness of historic use through programs / events and interpretive signage Consider re-activating baseball field		Yellow	Purple			Blue
3.0	Historic Underpass	Highlight Stinchcomb's involvement in the stone underpass with an interpretive sign						
4.0	Cleveland Metroparks Zoo	Improve connections into the Zoo for transit passengers arriving along Fulton Parkway or Pearl Road. Consider adding wayfinding and explore microtransit options Coordinate with Zoo major planning updates Reduce vehicular / pedestrian conflicts at entry Continue to incorporate green infrastructure at Zoo parking Strengthen bike and pedestrian links through Brookside Park to Zoo entrances	Green			Red		Blue
5.0	Pearl Road Gateway	See Area Plan highlighting gateway to Zoo and Brookside Park and incorporating Foote Wolf Memorial Park, .56 acres added in 2023, and updates to Zoo signage Improve access and sightlines into the park Explore bus drop off / Zoo shuttle to improve transit access		Green		Red		
6.0	Connections to East	Add wayfinding and promote Brighton Park, neighborhood greenway, and Treadway Creek trails as a connection to the Towpath, including missing link at Jennings Road Coordinate repairs along Treadway Creek trail with City of Cleveland			Purple			Blue
7.0	Brighton Park	Consider adding a small scale nature play feature The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority's MetroHealth Bus Rapid Transit improvements will add a two-stage mid-block crosswalk for safe connections between the zoo and Brighton Park	Green					
8.0	Valley Stewardship	Repair damaged headwalls Add plantings and stabilize erosion		Yellow				Blue
9.0	Neighborhood Connections	Add Cleveland Metroparks trailhead signage at trail from Muriel and W. 38th St. to Wildlife Way Explore opportunities with Estabrook Recreation Center / Cleveland programs	Green			Red		Blue
10.0	Upland Area & Overlook	Add stairs connecting upland overlook area to Brookside Event Center. Include a wheelchair ramp to facilitate walking bicycles up or down the stairs and promote as part of Brookside's fitness programs. Provide trail maps along Fulton and in the valley Maintain buffer along zoo perimeter	Green		Purple	Red		Blue
11.0	Meadow Ridge Picnic Area	Upgrade play equipment Add flush restroom		Yellow	Purple			Blue
12.0	Brookside Ball Fields	Investigate options to relocate city forestry operations Coordinate pending Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District project construction access and impacts to park along with proposed leave-behind conditions Renovate trails sections on the hill	Green	Yellow				Blue



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	Dev't	Director of Grants
Natalie Ronanyne	Dev't	Chief Development Officer
Karen Kannenberg	Dev't	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 Krems	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
Jarrod McCarthy	ParkOps	Director of Enterprise
David Donner	ParkOps/Golf	Director of Golf
Jenn Grieser	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

Planning Process

Kick-off: March 27th

Initial Drafts & Discuss Area Plans: May 29th

Area Concept Plans: July 18th

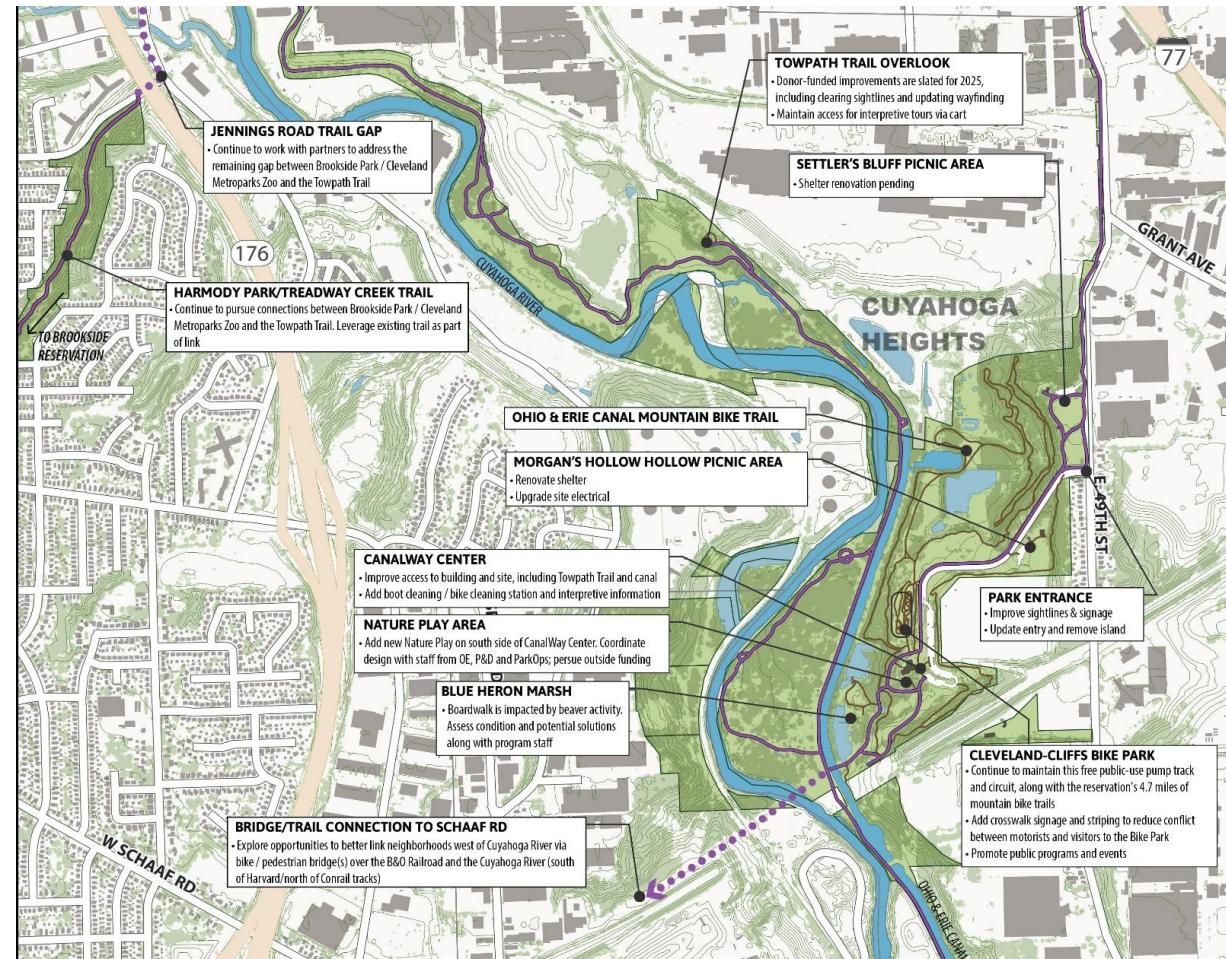
Draft Plans: early September

Introduce to Board: September 18th

Community Open Houses: October

Review Input / Final Recommendations: late October

Present to Board: December 18th



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.

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**

Engagement

Five in-person Open Houses each had an average of 45 people

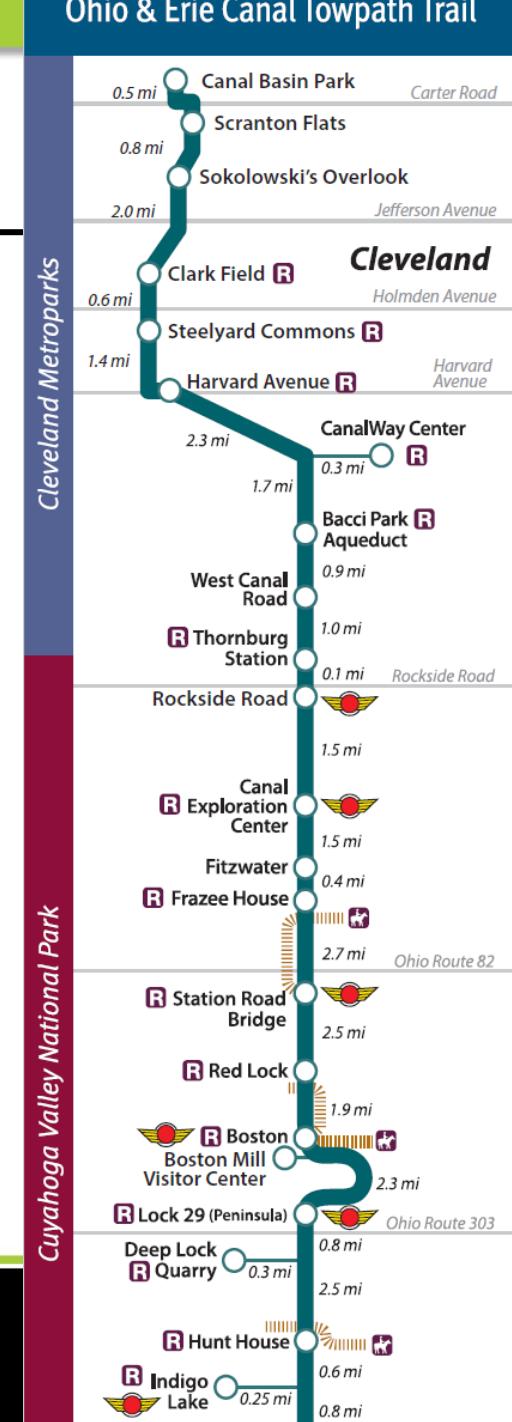
Elected officials in the eight communities surrounding the parks received invitations to the meetings and helped promote to residents.

Meetings were attended by elected officials including the mayors of Garfield Heights and Parma.

Staff documented over 100 comments related to the park plans.

Common Themes

- This year's parks in Cuyahoga County's core are a combination of long-term protection and newer areas focused on restoration and connection
- Trails and community connections are priorities for park users, along with smaller neighborhood links and loops within parks
- The Towpath Trail serves as a spine, linking parks and many communities
- 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



What We Heard – Brookside Reservation

Attendees knew the park well.

Suggestions included:

- Improve wayfinding for trails; excited about new connection between the Brookside Valley Event Center and Fulton Park Dr. overlook
- Excitement for 'Snake Hill Trail' between Wildlife Way and W. 38th St.; request for small trailhead; concern about dirtbikes and ATVs
- Prune vegetation at Foote Wolf Park / Pearl Rd.
- Brighton Park – request for bridge to north side of Big Creek and to Calgary Park (challenging; cost and real estate)
- Request for bike racks at shelter and ballfields
- Request for sledding hill and ice skating
- Upgrade play equipment at Meadow Ridge



What We Heard – Garfield Reservation

Attendees knew the park well.

Suggestions included:

- **Lots of appreciation for recent improvements**
- Mill Creek
 - Add new sign, extend APT short term
 - Relocate quarry slabs from lower area to enhance main greenspace / picnic area
 - Add play feature in main lawn
 - Improve lighting
- Update wayfinding and awareness as Garfield Blvd. Connector Trail and other trails are completed
- Consider remote control boats or events at pond
- Request for play area at slope; consider Iron Springs



Rivergate Open House



 **Cleveland Metroparks®**

Cuyahoga Riverfront Updates

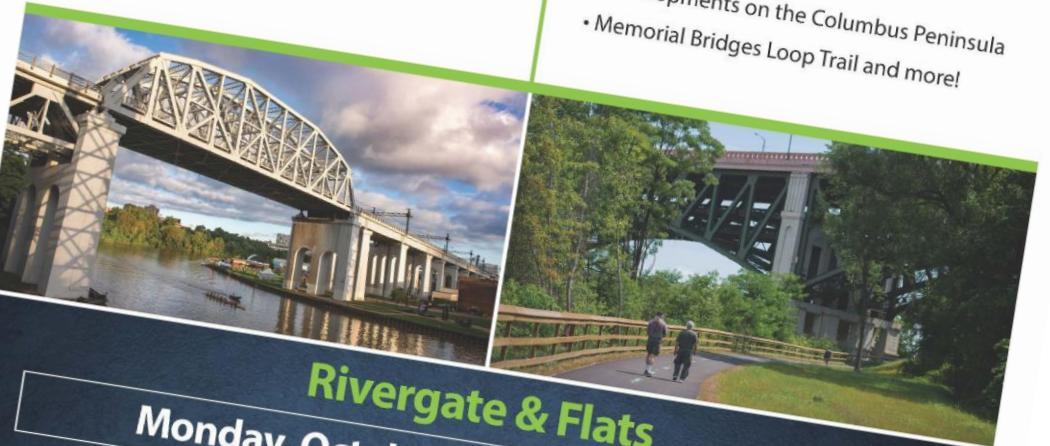
Join Cleveland Metroparks and partner organizations for a riverfront-focused Open House!

Project teams will provide updates on many of the initiatives envisioned in the Vision for the Valley plan for the Cuyahoga River.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about each project and are encouraged to provide input to project staff.

Updates include:

- Rivergate Park
- Irishtown Bend Park
- Canal Basin Park
- Developments on the Columbus Peninsula
- Memorial Bridges Loop Trail and more!



Rivergate & Flats
Monday, October 20, 2025 | 5 - 7 p.m.

Merwin's Wharf
1785 Merwin Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. with a presentation at 5:30 p.m.

Merwin's Wharf kitchen will be closed, but drinks will be available for purchase.

This is one meeting in a series of public Open Houses as a part of the Cleveland Metroparks 2025 Reservation Planning process

For more information, visit clevelandmetroparks.com/2025plans

What We Heard – Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

Ohio & Erie Canal Open House low attendance (weather)

Rivergate Open House touched on the Vision for the Valley Plan & ongoing coordination. The following projects and partners were represented:

- 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.
- Cleveland Rowing Foundation (Nikki Jaworski)
- The Foundry (Gina Trebilcock)
- Zaclon River Landing (Aaron Marcov)
- Trust for Public Land (Laura Hnat)
- West Creek Conservancy
- Western Reserve Land Conservancy
- Cuyahoga River Area of Concern (Jenn Grieser / Cleveland Metroparks)

Comments:

- Request to show Rivergate kayak launch on park map
- Question about Bedrock kayak launch
- Ontario Stone status?
- City staff - Willow St. bridge potential one-way operation
- Zaclon as potential program stop
- Parking layout coordination with CRF
- Hoopes / parking / ITB

What We Heard – Washington Reservation



Comments from community coordination:

- Expand parking and driving range at Washington Golf Course
- No designated use for north field
- Show NEORSD spur parking lot to remain
- Confirm proposed restroom location
- Flexibility re. overall size of future parking - First Tee and golf course overflow, depends on final overall uses at remainder of park

What We Heard – West Creek Reservation

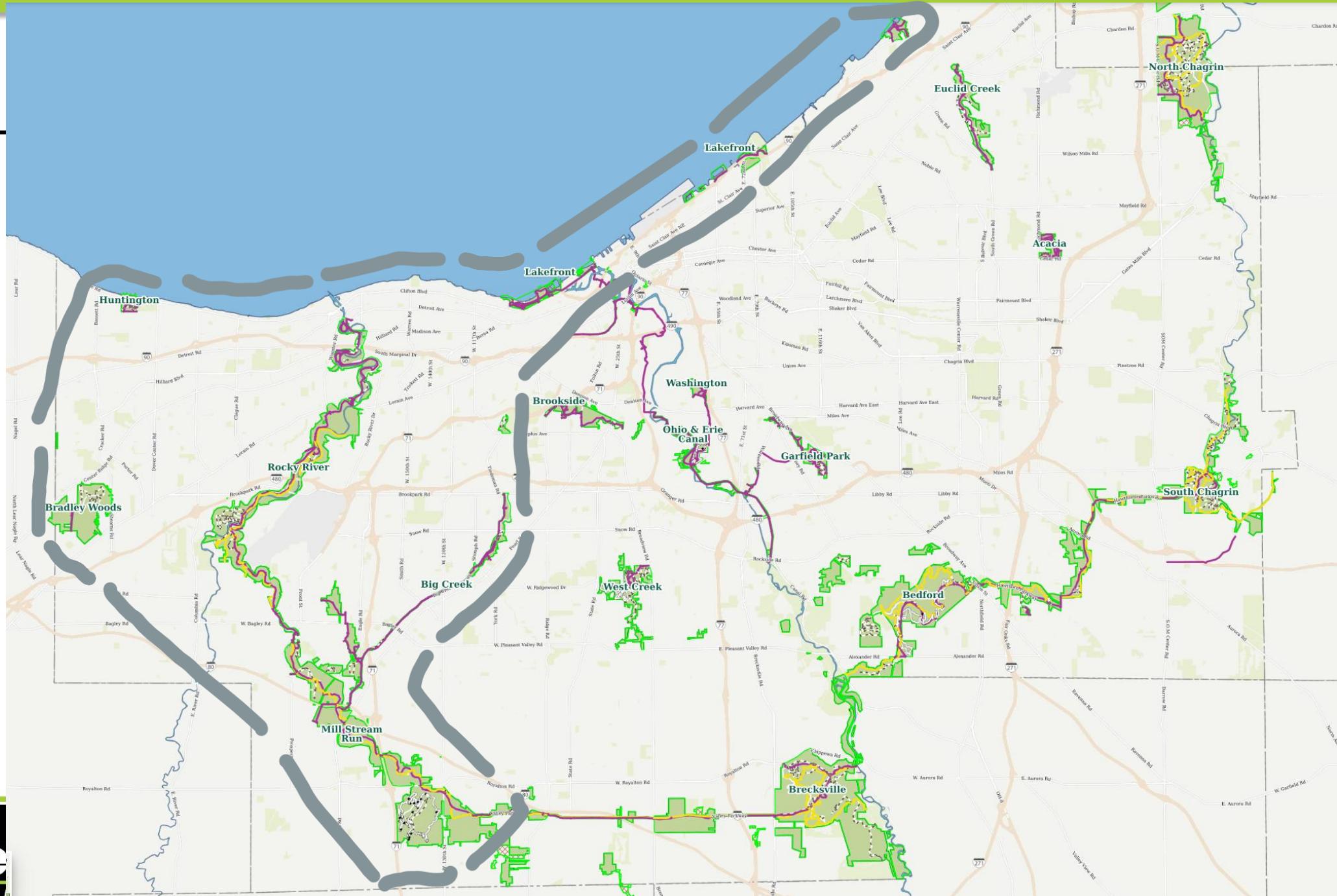
Suggestions included:

- High Point Park:
 - Request for access from State Road (not possible at this time)
 - Neighbors were interested in additional land protection
 - Request to maintain bike/ped access on Hawthorne when new drive is constructed
 - Renovate Meadowhawk Lodge (formerly Camp Cordray)
- Concern about after-hours activities
- Consider natural surface/ boardwalk from Coventry/ Broadview trail to the north (Thorncliffe Blvd.)
- Assess if overall north/south natural surface trail through West Creek valley is feasible long term



2026

- Lakefront & Euclid Creek Lakefront
- Huntington
- Bradley Woods
- Rocky River
- Mill Stream Run
- Big Creek





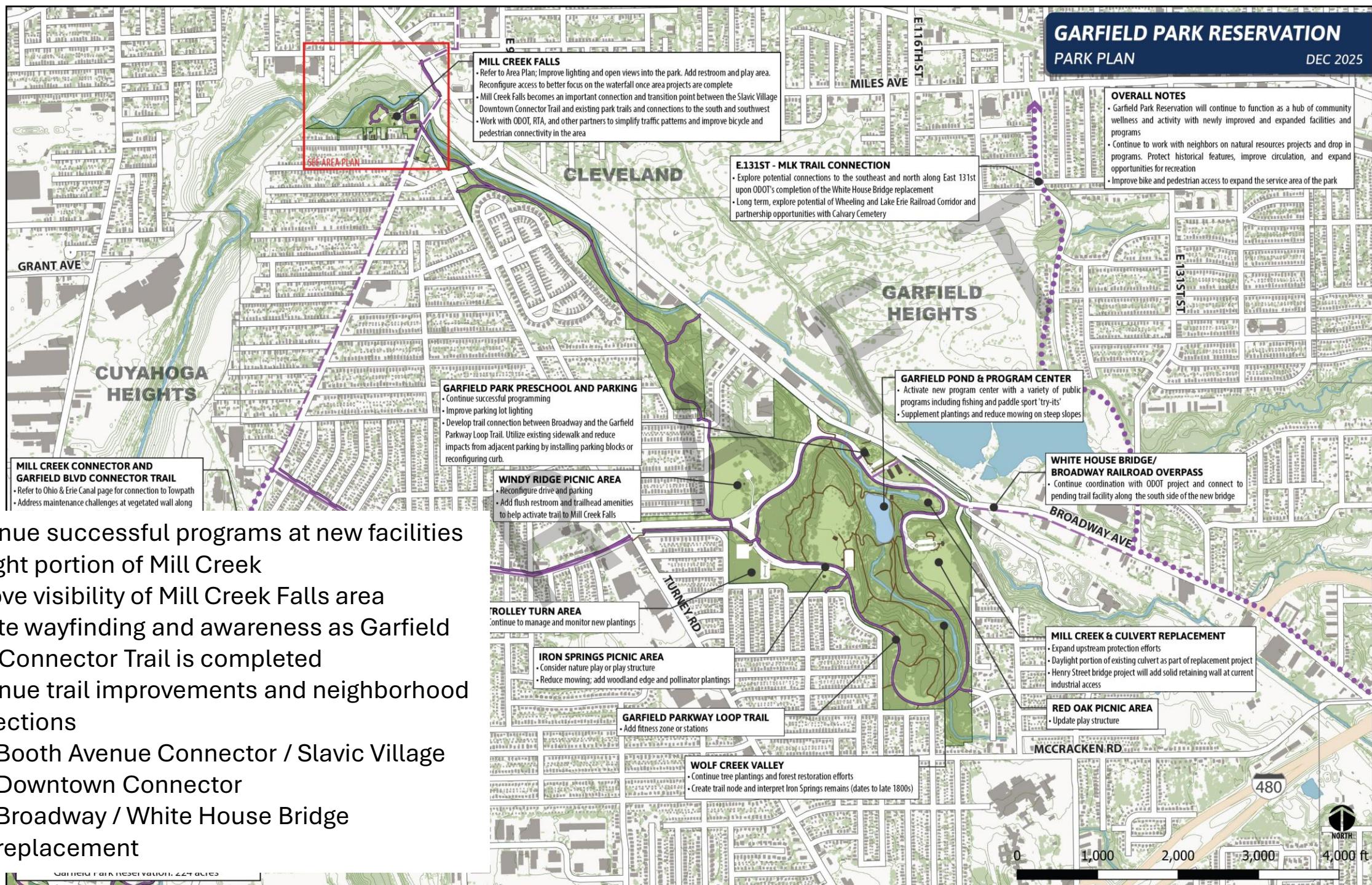
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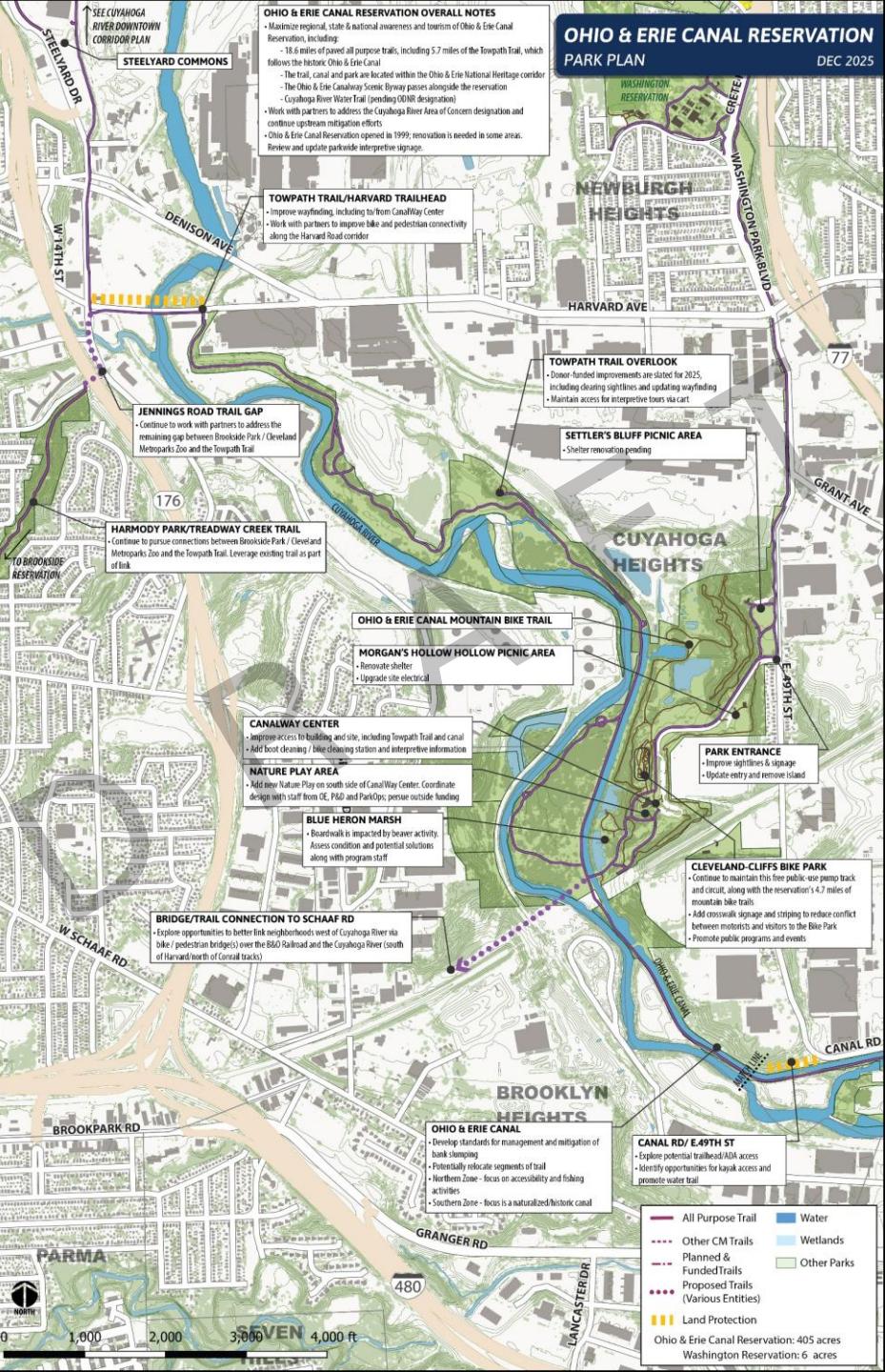




- Brighton Park and the Treadway Creek trail improve access to the Towpath; partner to address remaining gaps
- Create a gateway highlighting Cleveland Metroparks Zoo at the Pearl Road - Wildlife way intersection
- A new natural surface trail between Wildlife Way and W. 38th St. will improve neighborhood access to the zoo
- Study improvements to existing ballfields
- Improve trail connections between the valley and Park Dr.



- Continue successful programs at new facilities
- Daylight portion of Mill Creek
- Improve visibility of Mill Creek Falls area
- Update wayfinding and awareness as Garfield Blvd. Connector Trail is completed
- Continue trail improvements and neighborhood connections
 - Booth Avenue Connector / Slavic Village Downtown Connector
 - Broadway / White House Bridge replacement

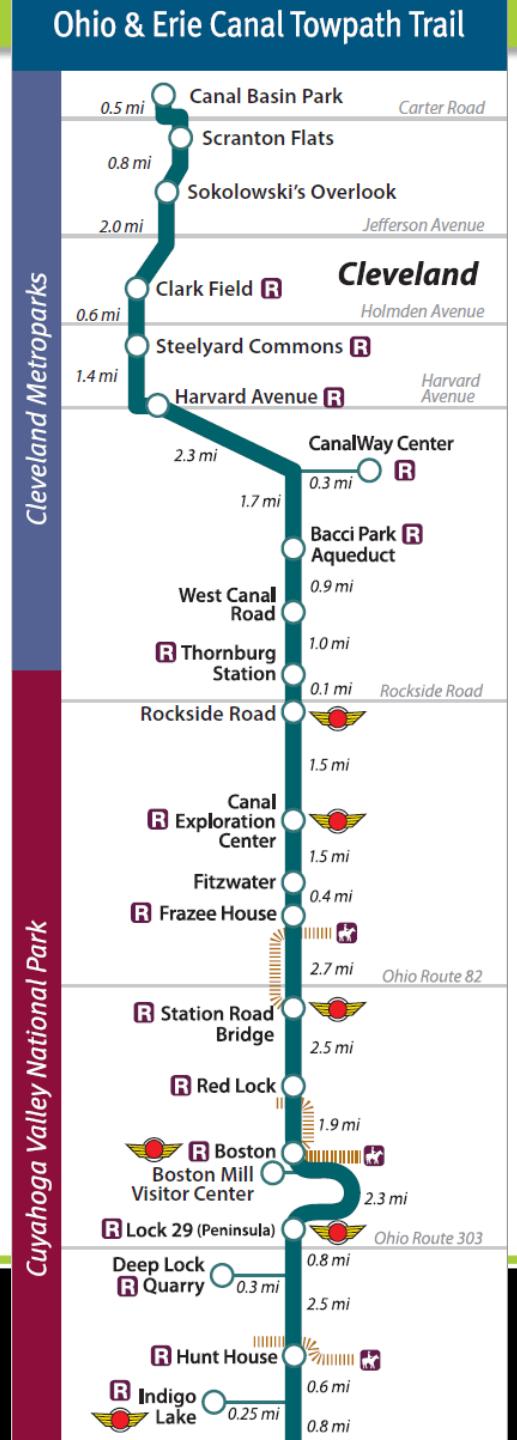
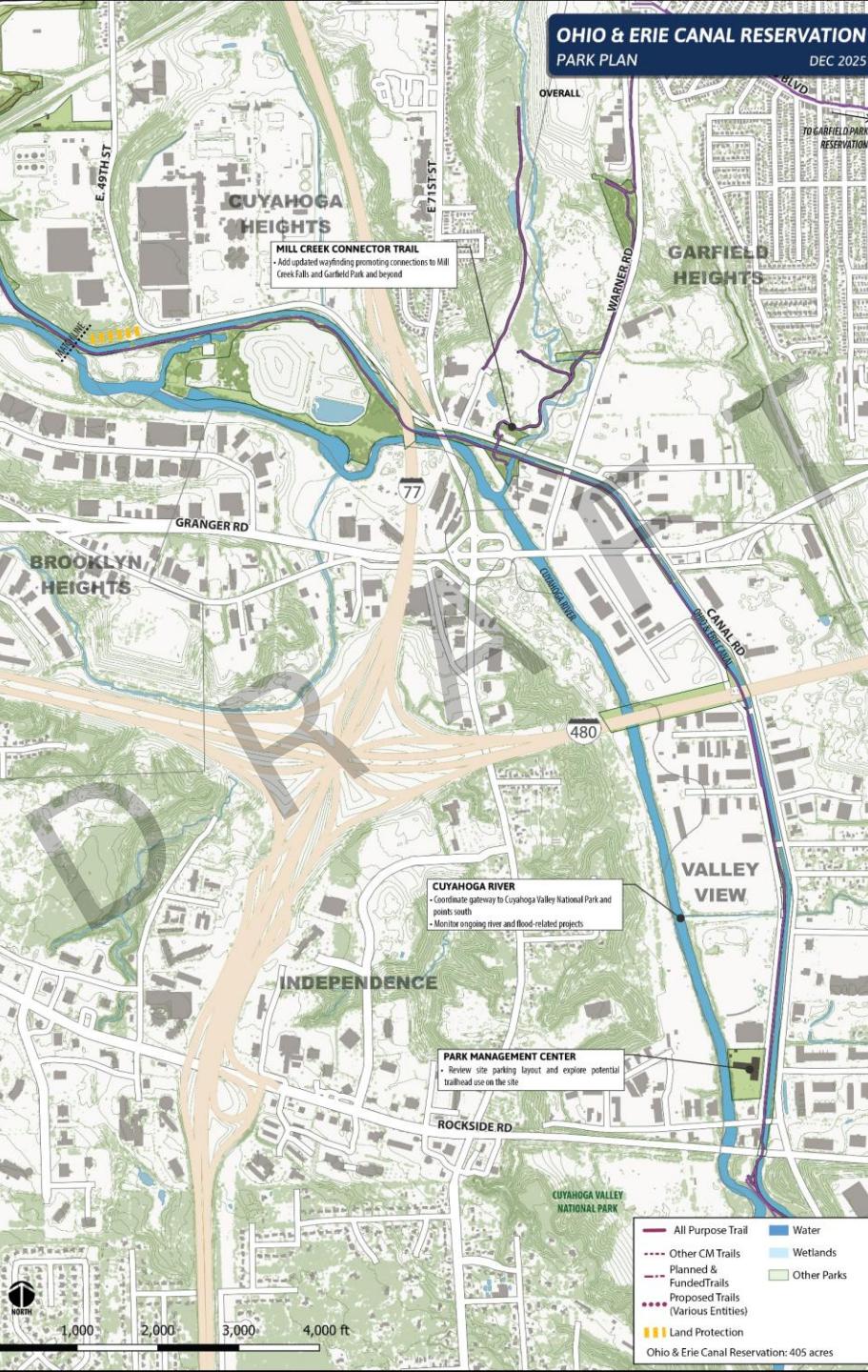


Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

- Continued work with partners in the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern to remove or remediate Beneficial Use Impairments
 - The return of bald eagles and river otter highlight the improved health of the corridor
- Continued stewardship of the Towpath Trail and Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Area
 - Key corridor linking downtown Cleveland to Cuyahoga Valley National Park
 - A spine for numerous trail spurs and community connections
- Recent expansion of mountain bike facilities
 - Cleveland-Cliffs Bike Park pump track
 - Expansion of mountain bike trails geared for various skill levels

Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

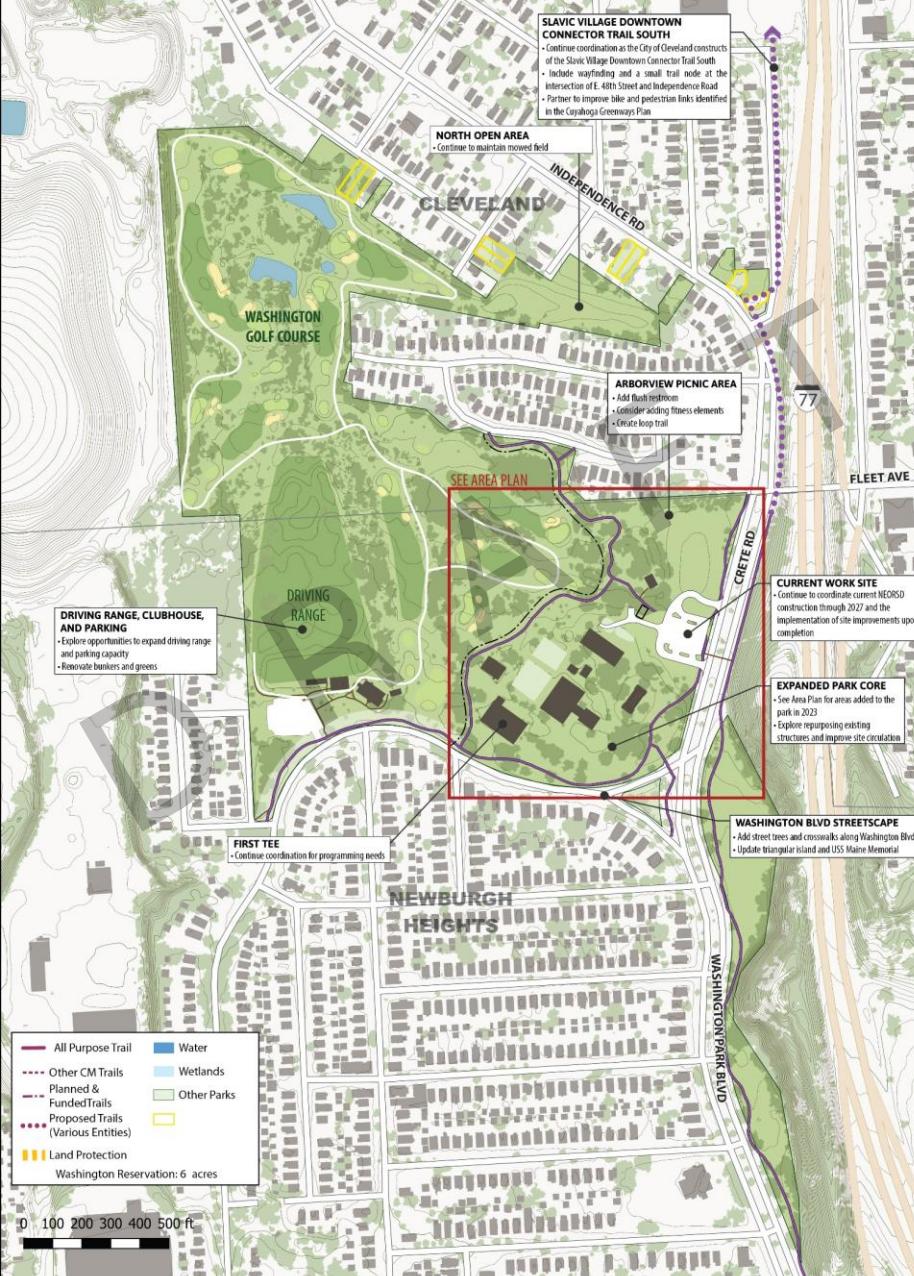
- Continued stewardship of the Towpath Trail, which also serves as northeast Ohio's segment of the Ohio to Erie Trail, linking the Ohio River to Lake Erie
- Addition of Park Management Center
- Pending completion of all purpose trail link along Garfield Boulevard to connect Garfield Reservation to the Towpath





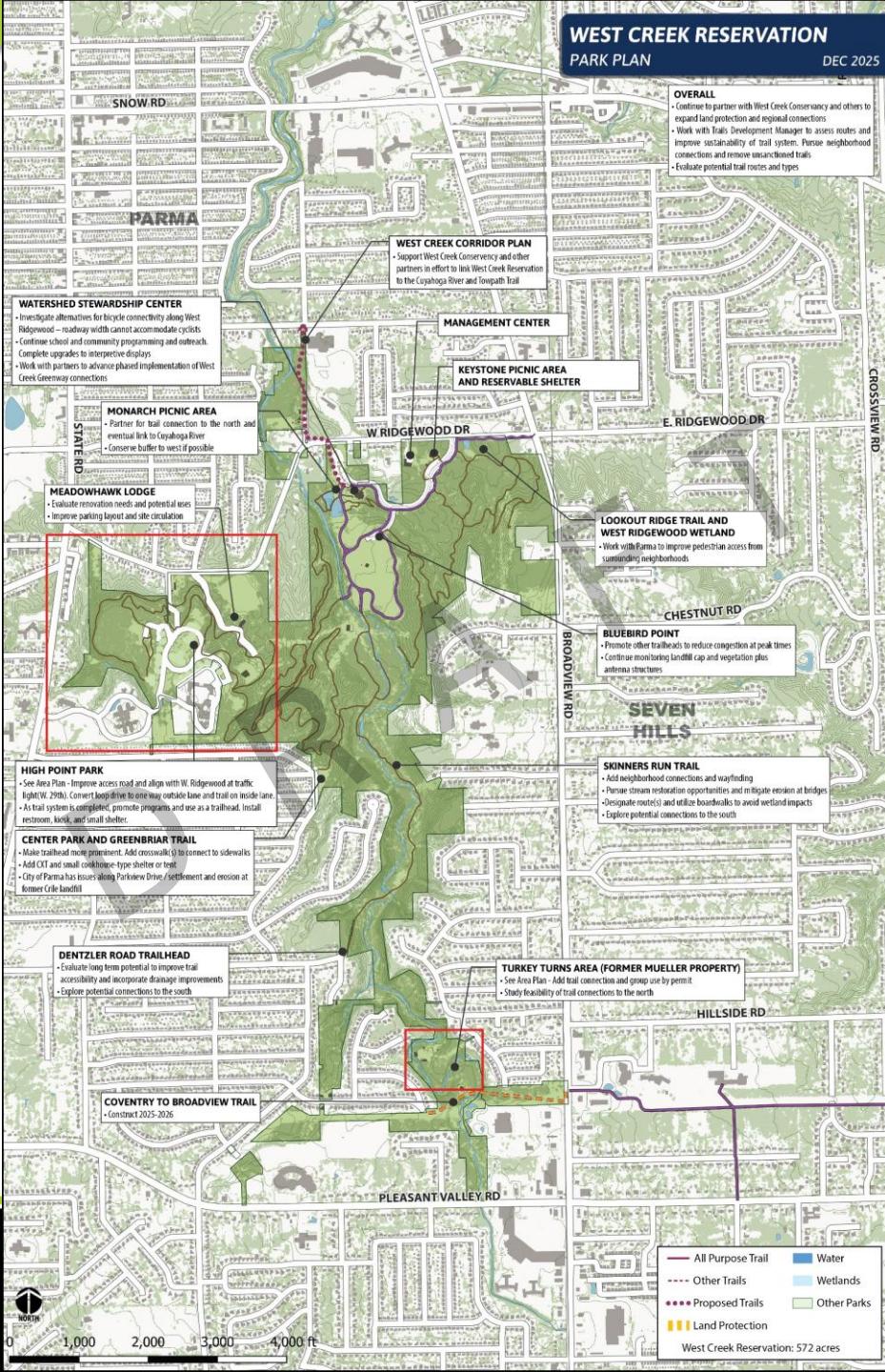
- Rivergate Park is at the heart of dynamic efforts to improve public access to and along the Cuyahoga River
- Irishtown Bend Stabilization led by the Port of Cleveland is nearing completion and sets the stage for trail and park improvements.
- Irishtown Bend Park will include the final segment of the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail.
- Efforts from many partners have resulted in completion of trails and funding is in place for additional key links
- The City of Cleveland and Canalway Partners are advancing plans for Canal Basin Park and Hart Crane Park
- Redevelopment is underway in numerous areas, including parcels on Columbus Peninsula owned by Cleveland Metroparks

OVERALL NOTES
 • Update amenities and programs to optimize use by surrounding neighborhoods and increase active use of the park



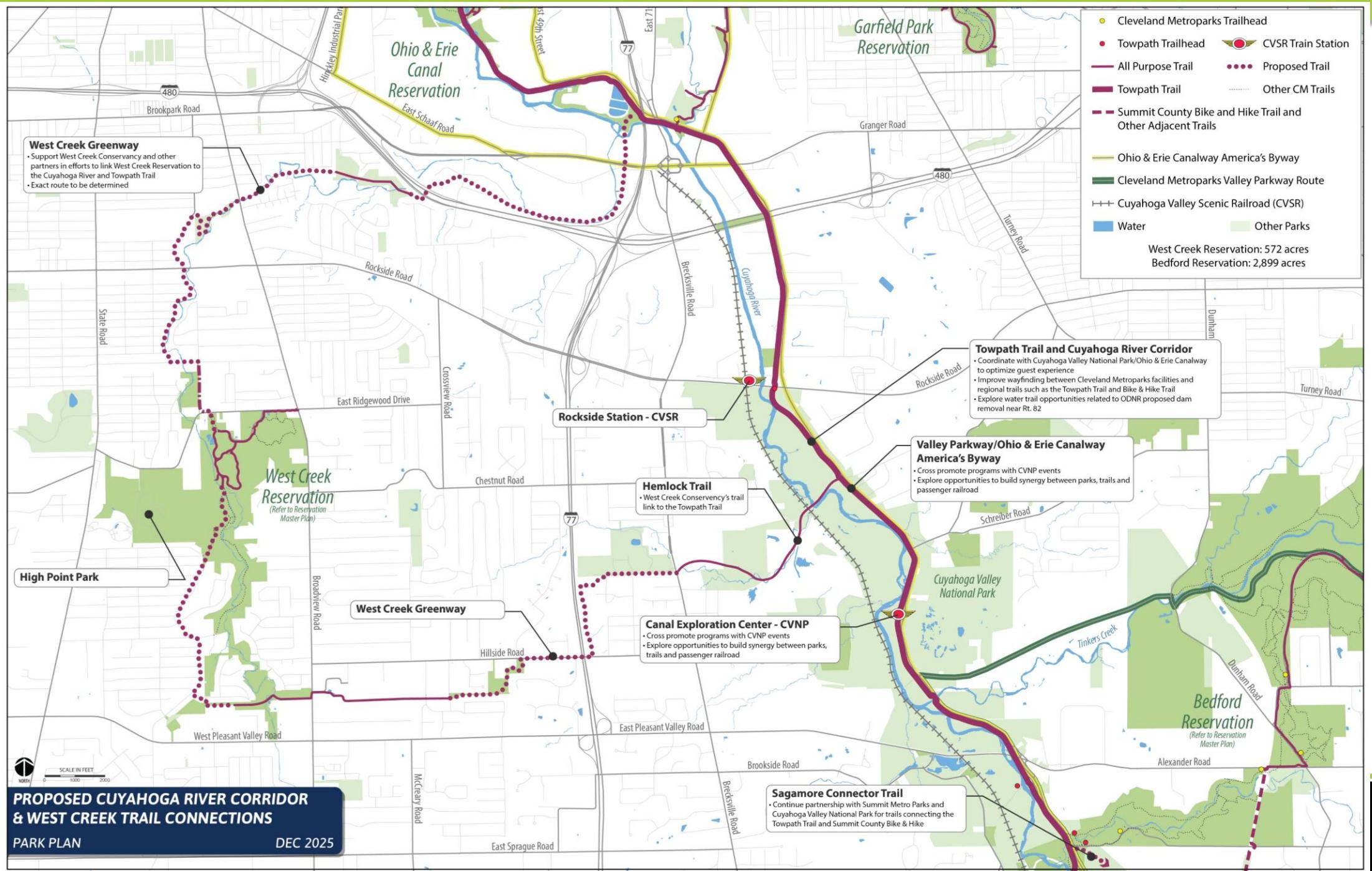
Washington Reservation

- Expansion added 9 acres to the park
- First Tee facility improvements / expansion
- Site restoration at former temporary classrooms
- Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Southerly Tunnel construction at main parking area through 2027
- Regional connections – Slavic Village Downtown Connector – South design and neighborhood coordination in partnership with the City of Cleveland
- Golf Course – adding parking and expanding driving range



West Creek Reservation

- Dynamic expansion added nearly 200 acres to the park, a 34% increase
- High Point Park
 - Mountain bike trail development, working to improve vehicular access
 - Padua wetland restoration
 - Potential renovation of lodge
- Trail development
 - Lookout Ridge Trail and Overlook
 - Mountain bike trail development
- Regional connections – Coventry to Broadview all purpose trail under construction



PROPOSED CUYAHOGA RIVER CORRIDOR & WEST CREEK TRAIL CONNECTIONS

PARK PLAN

DEC 2025



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