



Western Reserve Land Conservancy

land • people • community



# Landline

[www.wrlandconservancy.org](http://www.wrlandconservancy.org)

Spring 2018



## Coastal treasure to be permanently conserved

An iconic reminder of the Great Lakes' rich natural heritage, the 68-acre Bay Point property along the Lake Erie shore has been acquired by Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

Known locally as the "Sandbar," the Ottawa County property consists of a narrow peninsula that extends south from the Marblehead Peninsula into Sandusky Bay. The northern portion of the property is more stable and contains mature trees along with extensive forested wetlands. The southern portion of the property is seemingly under constant change by shifting sands and wave activity. It comprises beaches, sandbars, small sand dunes, as well as coastal wetlands.

Coastal development has transformed nearly 80 percent of Ohio's coastline from its initial state. Nearly all of the remaining wetlands along Lake Erie's shoreline have been extensively modified through the addition of dikes and other erosion control measures; however, the Bay Point property is unique and remains unaltered. It contains some of the last remaining, undisturbed coastal wetlands of the historic Great Black Swamp.

Coastal wetlands and lakeshore dunes are regionally significant for Ohio's Lake Erie shoreline area, as well as along the shoreline of the Marblehead Peninsula, on which the property is located. Freshwater peninsular sand and dune complexes are considered to have international significance, in part due

**See Bay Point on page 2**

## Brecksville Upland Preserve added to Emerald Necklace

Thanks to the work of Cleveland Metroparks and Western Reserve Land Conservancy, a 102-acre City of Brecksville property once under threat of development, has been conserved in perpetuity.

Known as Brecksville Upland Preserve, the Cuyahoga County property is located between Parkview and Snowville Roads. It is just one parcel removed from both the Cleveland Metroparks Brecksville Reservation and Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Both Cleveland Metroparks and the Land Conservancy secured public funding to complete the project including a \$1.75 million grant from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, a \$300,000 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and a \$474,575 grant from the Ohio Forested Habitat Fund.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy got the property under contract in late 2016, acquired it in late 2017, and immediately transferred it to Cleveland Metroparks for long-term ownership and management. As part of the funding requirements, the Metroparks granted a conservation easement to the Land Conservancy to permanently conserve the property. The easement allows for passive park activities, such as hiking and wildlife observation.

**See Brecksville on page 8**







**Bay Point – from page 1**

to their role in supporting unique plant communities and migrating birds.

With pristine habitat, the property hosts many rare plants and animals. During site visits conducted by staff experts from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History’s Natural Areas Program, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Audubon Society, Davey Resource Group, and the Land Conservancy, more than 80 different bird species were identified on the property. In addition, a snowy plover was observed in September 2010, which is notable as snowy plovers have been non-breeding in Ohio since 1955.

Development causes sediments and nutrients to runoff into the water. With long-term conservation, not only is the threat of future development eliminated, but the wetlands and forests on the property will continue to absorb and slow the movement of this pollution into Lake Erie. Rich Cochran, president and CEO of the Land Conservancy, noted that this also has a positive economic impact. Visitors to Ohio’s Lake Erie region spend more than \$10.7 billion annually, nearly 30 percent of Ohio’s total tourism dollars. Regional tourism supports more than 100,000 northern Ohio jobs and generates

“The rarity and quality of Bay Point’s 34-acre freshwater coastal wetland habitat and nearly 2.5 miles of undisturbed Lake Erie shoreline make this coastal ecosystem a nationally significant conservation priority. We are extremely proud to preserve such an extraordinary landscape.”

**Rich Cochran, President & CEO of  
Western Reserve Land Conservancy**

\$750 million in state and local taxes.

In December 2017, Western Reserve Land Conservancy reached its first major milestone by acquiring the property.

“We’re extremely grateful to the previous owner of the property, Bay Point Acquisition,

LLC, for providing in excess of \$1 million of charitable value to help make this one-of-a kind project possible,” explained Cochran. “We are now working with our public funding partners to finalize grant administration and funding in order to permanently conserve this iconic property with conservation restrictions.”

Charles Papy, managing member of Bay Point Acquisition added, “On behalf of our long term members and residents, we are pleased to make this gift. We are proud to partner with the Land Conservancy to preserve this unique, natural gem along the beautiful shore of Lake Erie. Because of their expertise and hard work over many years, this amazing place will remain pristine forever.”

The Land Conservancy has secured public funding for the project through the Ohio Public Works Commission Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Fund and the Ohio EPA Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP). This specific WRRSP project is being sponsored by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS). In addition, the organization is awaiting a decision on a pending National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in partnership with the ODNR Office of Coastal Management.

In addition to support from Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and Congressman Dave Joyce, the project received resolutions and letters of support from the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners and the Village of Marblehead, as well as Black River Audubon, ODNR Office of Coastal Management, ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, and the Marblehead Merchants Group.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy will continue to finalize grant agreements and conservation restrictions over the next few months, including access and management plans. For questions about the project or to make a donation, please contact the Land Conservancy at 440-528-4150. 🌻





The beautiful 130-acre Gressard property will become public parkland.

# Tinkers Creek Greenway expands with new parkland

Portage Park District and Western Reserve Land Conservancy recently partnered in leveraging grant funds to permanently protect 189 acres of high quality natural areas in the City of Streetsboro, an area under continued development pressure.

The project, referred to as the Tinkers Creek Greenway, is comprised of two separate tracts of land: the 59-acre Beck tract acquired by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy then transferred to the Portage Park District, and the 130-acre Gressard tract acquired directly by the park district.

The 59-acre Beck property consists of high-quality wetlands, including approximately five acres of fen wetland habitat. Fens are fed with mineral-rich groundwater and are noted to have a high diversity of native plant species. Natural resource surveys of the property, conducted by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History’s Natural Areas Program, revealed some 295 species of flora and fauna.

The 130-acre property was part of the estate of the late William Gressard, a longtime nature columnist for the Record-Courier and passionate conservationist who originally dug the lake for his family’s fish farm business. The Gressards’ children are thrilled that it will be parkland.

“This project provides tremendous value to the community — by protecting rare and important ecosystems, protecting water quality, mitigating stormwater, and creating a beautiful new public park for all to enjoy”, remarked Christine Craycroft, Executive Director of Portage Park District. Over the next year the park district will be inviting the public to participate in planning for the new park site which includes woods, fields, wetlands, and a 30-acre spring-fed lake that was previously used as a commercial fishery. Possible opportunities listed by Craycroft include hiking, fishing, kayaking, picnicking, primitive camping, and educational programming.

As with many park and conservation projects, the partners secured funding from multiple sources. The Land Conservancy’s 59-acre tract was generously funded by the Ohio EPA (OEPA) through the Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP), with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), serving as the sponsor. The goal of WRRSP is to counter the loss of ecological function and biological diversity that jeopardize the health of Ohio’s water resources. It is an extremely valuable funding source to protect natural resource-rich properties.

Portage Park District leveraged the OEPA funds as local match for their Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant, along with funds from its voter-approved levy, to secure the 130-acre Gressard Tract. The landowners even helped out by selling the property at below market value.

“The Land Conservancy is excited to help complete two vital wetland conservation projects in Portage County,” explained Alex Czayka, eastern field director for the Land Conservancy. “We are especially grateful to work with the park district to conserve these lands in perpetuity.” 🌻

The 59-acre Beck property consists of high-quality wetlands.







Erik Kernell, and his father, Jeff, stand on their permanently preserved farmland.

## “They don’t make more land.”

Erik Kernell and his father, Jeff, recently worked with Western Reserve Land Conservancy, to ensure 147 acres of Huron County farmland remain farmland forever.

In December 2017, Kernell and his father donated conservation easements on two properties located in Clarksfield and Townsend Townships in Huron County. The respective 77-acre

and 70-acre properties are planted in a standard rotation of crops including corn, soybeans, and wheat. They are part of Kernell’s larger 2,000+ acre farm operation.

Seeing farm after farm developed, Kernell had always hoped to find a program that preserved farmland. “I can’t stand seeing houses built on former farms and prime farmland developed,” he emphasized. “They don’t make more land.”

Kernell intends to conserve additional properties with the help of the Land Conservancy. He was introduced to the organization’s farmland preservation work by neighbor and mentor, Scott Butts. The Butts family began working with the Land Conservancy in 2013 and has preserved more than 800 acres of farmland to date.

Butts inspired Kernell to pursue a career in farming, for which he is extremely grateful. “As a first-generation farmer, I cannot give enough thanks to those people that have believed in me and supported this dream. For any young person, it is hard to start a farm operation. I’ve been lucky to have the right people by my side,” he said. Kernell and his wife, Kelsey, have four young children that he hopes will continue farming. “I’ve been able to knock out a lot of the first-generation obstacles to this farming operation, and I hope that my children will continue to build upon it.” 🌻



Bob Smith stands at the top of steep hillside on his conserved property.

## Jefferson County family permanently conserves nearly 130 acres

Bob and Jill Smith, and their daughter Kathleen, recently worked with Western Reserve Land Conservancy to permanently preserve nearly 130 acres by donating conservation easements on two Jefferson County properties: a 77-acre parcel in Knox Township and 51-acre parcel in Island Creek Township.

The Knox Township property is a remnant of a larger farm purchased by Bob’s maternal grandparents in 1918. Over the years, the family raised cattle and operated a small orchard on the ridgetop and expansive forested hillside which overlooks the Croxton Run ravine. Today, the steep hillsides of this property contain a diverse mix of upland hardwood timber including five species of oaks, as well as several hillside groundwater seeps which provide pockets of wetland habitat for both flora and fauna.

After inheriting the property from his grandparents, Bob Smith passed the

Knox Township property to his daughter. He noted, “The family connection to this land is strong, which is why we ultimately decided to preserve it. It will never be developed.”

Bob and Jill Smith additionally preserved their property in Island Creek Township, less than 2 miles away from the Knox Township property. They purchased the property in the mid-1970s. There is a hayfield on the property buffered on three sides by hardwood ravines which boast scenic views across the Jefferson County mountain tops.

“Bob Smith routinely walks the rugged topography of his land. He knows every corner, every tree,” explained Brett Rodstrom, vice president of eastern field operations for the Land Conservancy. “I am grateful to have walked this cherished land with Bob and elated to help his family achieve their conservation dream of permanently protecting their land.” 🌻





## Second Richland County property preserved

Randall Derror's grandparents purchased 160 acres of farmland, just three miles south of the Village of Lucas, in 1950 with the hopes of creating a self-sufficient farmstead. Derror spent a lot of time on the farm growing up, as well as time exploring the woods, streams, and park near his parent's home just a few miles away in Mansfield.

In 1980, at the request of his grandfather, Derror took ownership of the farm. Farming ended on the property in 1984, and Derror enrolled the tillable ground in the United States Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program. In 1987, he expanded the property by purchasing a lot to the north.

Today, the property is comprised of diverse habitats including approximately 80 acres of mature forest, nearly 45 acres of marsh wetlands, and 50 acres of tillable old field habitat. More than a half mile of Switzer Creek, a tributary to the Mohican River, as well as a mile of unnamed tributaries can be found on the property. Derror manages five acres of his property as habitat for the Indiana Bat, a federally endangered species. Additionally, he is enrolling the old field habitat in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pollinator Partnership Program.

"I see continued development, urban sprawl, and fence-to-fence farming," noted Derror. "After devoting the last 30 years to creating great habitat on this property, I wanted to be sure it was saved."

Derror turned to the Land Conservancy with the hope of permanently conserving his cherished family property in Pleasant Valley. In December 2017, he donated a conservation easement on the 199-acre property. "I chose to work with Western Reserve Land Conservancy for two reasons," Derror explained. "First, the flexibility provided by the conservation easement best suited my needs. Second, I thoroughly enjoyed working with the Land Conservancy staff on the easement. They made the process very comfortable." 🌻

## 25 acres permanently preserved in Brownhelm Township

With a passion for their natural environment, Phyllis DeMark and Jean Hays recently worked with Western Reserve Land Conservancy to permanently conserve their 25-acre Lorain County property with a donated conservation easement.

"We knew this land was special the minute we walked on it twenty-five years ago," emphasized DeMark. She and Hays made an offer on the property within hours after stepping foot on it. "Some may call it an impulsive buy, but there was just some feeling we had and we trusted it. That trust has turned out to be a blessing!"

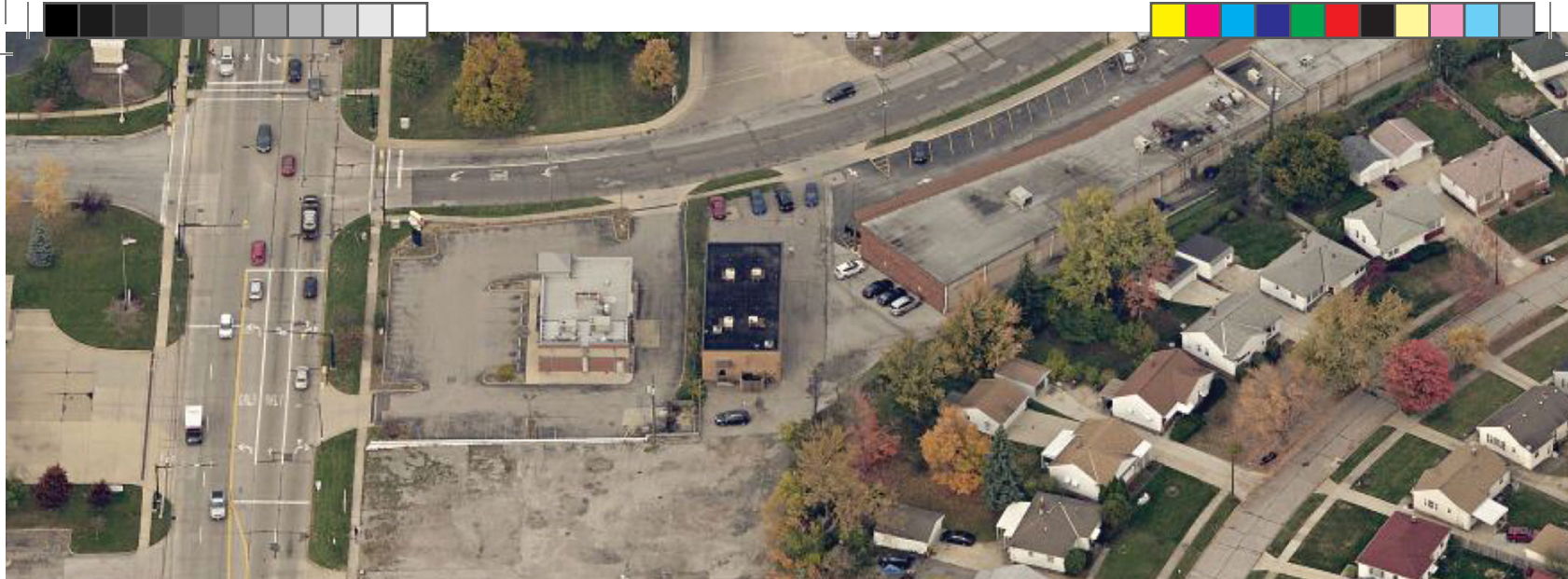
The Brownhelm Township property has tremendous natural resource features. It is situated along a prominent, high-quality tributary to the Vermilion River, locally called Chance Creek. Mature, steep hemlock and hardwood ravines encompass nearly one-quarter mile of the creek. Bald eagles and magnolia warblers have been spotted on the property, as well as wildflowers including cow-wheat and spotted coral root.

"We are proud to work with Phyllis and Jean to achieve their conservation dream," noted Andy McDowell, vice president of western field operations for the Land Conservancy. "The voluntary conservation easement restricts the ability to develop the property, ensuring that the vibrant natural areas on this picturesque property will remain undeveloped in perpetuity." 🌻



Jean Hays stands near a pond after a walk on the preserved property with Land Conservancy staff.





## New report finds few vacant homes, but slow housing market recovery in Cleveland's first-ring suburbs

In January 2018, Western Reserve Land Conservancy issued a new report, *Communities at the Crossroads: A Survey of Five First-Ring Suburbs*, examining the housing market challenges and opportunities facing Euclid, Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, South Euclid, and Warrensville Heights in the wake of the foreclosure crisis.

"Ohio cities were ravaged by the foreclosure crisis. Though many have seen and studied the devastating results in Cleveland, few have examined the detrimental impact on Cleveland's inner-ring suburbs," explained Jim Rokakis, vice president of the Land Conservancy and director of its Thriving Communities program. The report notes that the foreclosure crisis, along with suburban expansion and out-migration, took a serious toll on first ring suburbs in Cuyahoga County.

The Cleveland Foundation board of directors awarded a grant to the City of South Euclid in 2017 to study the effects of the foreclosure crisis on five of Cleveland's inner ring suburban communities and to strategize potential housing market recovery solutions.

In order to complete the study, the City of South Euclid contracted with Western Reserve Land Conservancy to complete a property inventory of five communities — Euclid, Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, South Euclid, and Warrensville Heights — and analysis of housing marketing trends. The city also contracted with Dynamo Metrics to create a web-based mapping and decision-support tool for these communities.

"By teaming up with other municipalities facing similar issues of vacancy and abandonment, we are better able to make

strategic and cost-effective decisions to support each of our communities," explained Sally Martin, Housing Director for the City of South Euclid.

The Land Conservancy began the property survey in July 2017. A 14-member team worked through the beginning of September to inventory 56,346 parcels in the five suburbs. Information about each parcel — including its vacancy status, the condition of any structures on it, and a photograph — was recorded on a tablet computer using a mobile app developed by Loveland Technologies.

"When analyzing the property survey results, we were encouraged that there are few blighted, abandoned properties awaiting demolition in the five suburbs," explained Rokakis. "The most severely blighted properties have largely been addressed by the communities and the Cuyahoga Land Bank. Vacancy has been declining in all five suburbs since 2014. And while there are limitations to an exterior-only survey, it is encouraging that over 98 percent of the surveyed homes are in excellent or good condition."

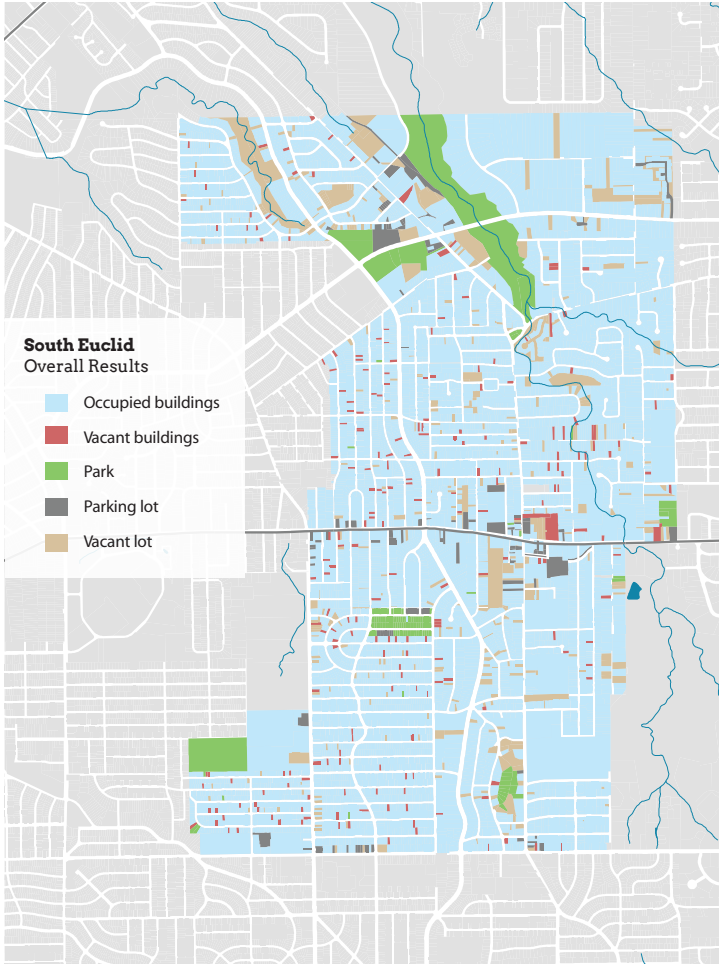
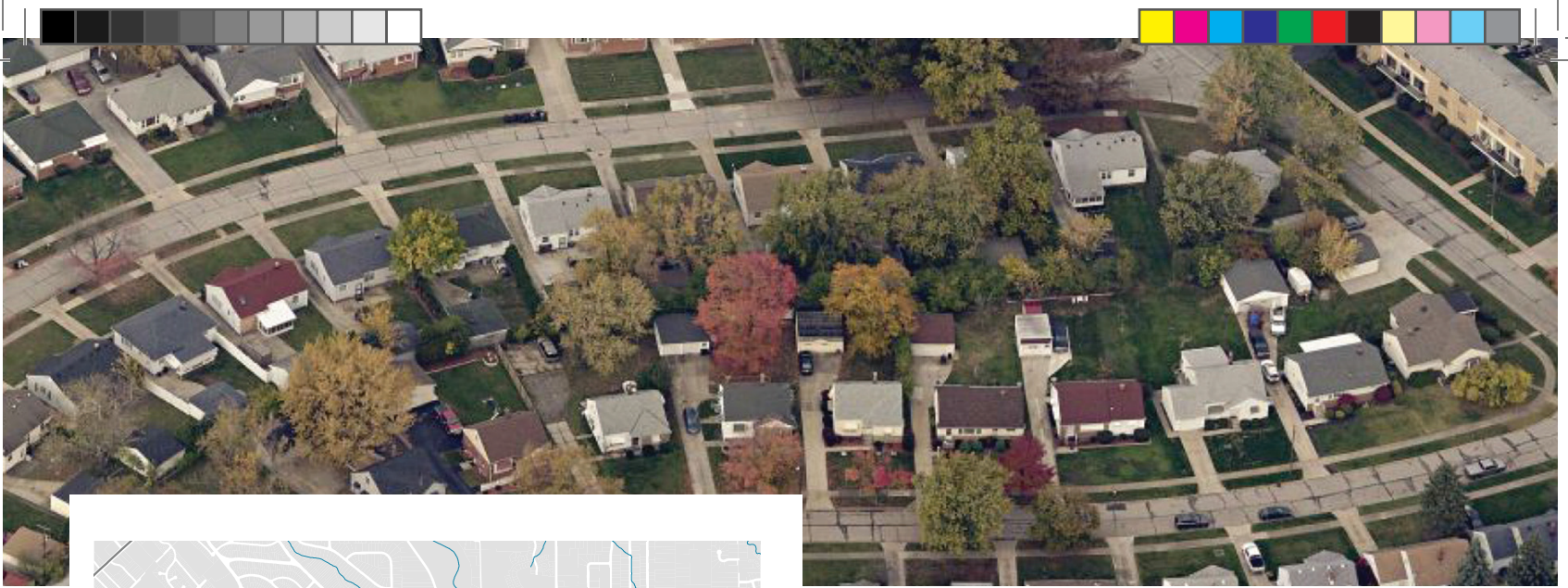
"Still, these suburban communities face some challenges,"

Rokakis noted. As part of the analysis, the Land Conservancy examined real estate market and homeownership trends across the cities. Property values are struggling to recover from the foreclosure crisis and residential property tax delinquency rates are increasing. Homeownership has declined in all five cities since 2000 and access to mortgage credit for home purchase and home rehabilitation appears to be a challenge for each. Rokakis emphasized, "The mayors in Cleveland's first-ring suburbs understand these challenges and are actively working

**"It is our hope that once this decision-making tool is put into practice, it will serve as a model for cities to develop more of a data-driven approach to resource deployment in order to realize an even greater impact."**

**Stephen Caviness, Cleveland Foundation Program Officer for Workforce & Social Investments**





to address them. I am confident that their work will continue to strengthen these communities.”

“In an era of declining municipal revenues, all cities are faced with doing more with less. Having this data will allow cities to make strategic and highly targeted interventions to achieve the best results at the least cost. Data-driven decision making is critical for first-ring suburbs,” explained Martin.

In addition to the report, Dynamo Metrics developed a Neighborhood Intel tool for each of the five participating cities. This easy-to-use web-based mapping and decision-support tool provides cities with the ability to contextualize and explore property survey data with respect to indicators of neighborhood health and economic activity, including data points provided

by Northeast Ohio Community and Neighborhood Data for Organizing (NEO CANDO) and the Census Bureau. The tool also allows cities to monitor the property value impact of demolition and rehabilitation work performed since 2009.

Each of the five cities also received two tablet computers, loaded with survey data for all properties in their respective communities and ongoing user licenses from Loveland Technologies. These computers give the communities the ability to update and create their own data about local property conditions, the most important action step listed in the report. Additional action steps call for strong code enforcement, assistance in reducing tax delinquency and expanding homeownership, expansion of financial tools for home rehabilitation, as well as work to tackle crime and foster social cohesion.

The analysis, along with specific survey data for each community, the impact of residential demolitions and rehabilitations, interviews with the respective mayors, and an action agenda for first-ring suburbs, can be found in the report: *Communities at the Crossroads: A Survey of Five First-Ring Suburbs.* 🌻

**To access the report, visit <http://bit.ly/communitiesatthecrossroads>**





## Diverse 23-acre wetland complex conserved

A 23-acre property boasting excellent native habitat, including high-quality wetlands, upland forest, and open meadow has been permanently preserved thanks to a partnership between Brimfield Township and Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

The Land Conservancy utilized a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant to acquire the Portage County property and subsequently transfer it to Brimfield Township. As part of the funding requirements, the township granted a conservation easement to the Land Conservancy to permanently conserve the property. The easement allows for passive park activities, including hiking, bird watching, and educational uses.

The wetlands on the property are categorized as high-quality given their large size, diverse plant community, and relatively undisturbed hydrology. The wetlands provide valuable habitat for many Ohio species, including four species of special interest: the green-winged teal, American black duck, red-breasted nuthatch, and winter wren.

“With the guidance and help of Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Brimfield Township was able to gain additional parkland for the residents of Brimfield,” explained John Dalziel, Brimfield Township fiscal officer. 🌻

### Brecksville – from page 1

The property largely consists of mature forest canopy dominated by red, black and white oak species, as well as tulip tree and shagbark hickory. The forest canopy is beneficial for many migratory bird and bat species, including several listed species of concern like the Cerulean Warbler and Little brown bat. Notable migratory species, like the Acadian Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hooded Warbler, and Ovenbird, have also been documented in the area.

Additionally, the property boasts more than 2,000 linear feet of headwater streams to the Cuyahoga River. These streams have been known to harbor the state-declining southern redbelly dace, a cold water minnow species.

The parcels comprising the Brecksville Upland Preserve property were zoned for single-family residential development. A subdivision plan had been designed for those parcels which included 46 proposed sub lots. Development of the property would have severely fragmented the existing surrounding greenspace.

“We are thrilled to have worked with Cleveland Metroparks during their centennial celebration year to preserve this precious land in Cuyahoga County,” noted Rich Cochran, president and CEO of the Land Conservancy. “Between our two organizations, we have now preserved approximately 75,000 acres. We are proud that our region is a national leader in conservation.” 🌻

“I want to thank Western Reserve Land Conservancy for helping to secure and protect this greenspace. The preservation of this land will help us enhance connections across Northeast Ohio as well as conserve important headwater streams that feed into the Cuyahoga River.”

**Brian Zimmerman, CEO of  
Cleveland Metroparks**

## Project UP™ initiative greens up Cleveland school

An alliance of businesses and nonprofits came together last fall to plant 30 robust trees at an elementary school in Cleveland’s Union Miles neighborhood.

The event brought together The Alliance for Community Trees, which is a program of the Arbor Day Foundation, Boise Paper, Avery Dennison, Holden Forests & Gardens, and Western Reserve Land Conservancy to support a community planting day at Breakthrough Schools’ E-Prep and Village Prep Woodland Hills campus.

The transformative project was competitively selected for funding through Boise Paper’s Project UP™ initiative. Funded through sales of select office papers and in partnership with

Avery Dennison, the initiative works to transform distressed urban spaces into vibrant community places. Previous Project UP™ locations include Atlanta; Chicago; Indianapolis; Baltimore; Opa-Locka, Florida; and Toronto, Canada.

“Cleveland was once nicknamed the Forest City, but the city has lost significant tree canopy,” explained Rich Cochran, president & CEO of the Land Conservancy. “Residents young and old are missing out on the health, safety, economic, and ecologic benefits trees provide. We are proud to work with our esteemed partners to plant robust trees that will benefit students and neighbors for decades to come.” 🌻



## Ohio watershed groups receive support, recognition



Jim Eck of Dominion Energy (left) and Betsy Juliano of Western Reserve Land Conservancy (right) congratulate Heather Elmer and Alicia Beattie (middle) of Chagrin River Watershed Partners on their Spotlight Award.

In October 2017, Dominion Energy and Western Reserve Land Conservancy awarded \$35,000 in grant funding to nineteen Ohio watershed groups. The awards ceremony took place at the Land Conservancy's Conservation Center.

"Ohio's watershed groups are critical to protecting the health of our freshwater resources," said Rich Cochran, president and CEO of the Land Conservancy. "We are extremely grateful to partner with Dominion Energy again this year to support the important and innovative work of watershed groups across the state, from more traditional planting projects along streambanks to unique education programs in schools and communities."

"Dominion Energy is proud to partner with Western Reserve Land Conservancy for this annual Watershed Mini Grants Program," said Jim Eck, Dominion Energy vice president, Ohio & West Virginia Distribution Operations. "This year's award-winning organizations have more than lived up to the high

standards of creativity, commitment, and enthusiasm, set by past honorees. Recognizing such outstanding grassroots effort is a key element of Dominion Energy's environmental and community service commitment."

Chagrin River Watershed Partners (Willoughby) received the Spotlight Award and a grant of \$5,000 in support of their project to promote forest resilience and protect coldwater streams. Additional Ohio organizations received grant awards for marketing, promotions, and outreach efforts, as well as project-specific costs. They include:

- Bass Lake Club (Chardon)
- Captina Conservancy (Barnesville)
- Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (Cleveland)
- Doan Brook Watershed Partnership (Cleveland)
- Friends of Euclid Creek (Cleveland)
- Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (Columbus)
- Friends of the Mahoning River (Warren)
- Friends of Scioto Brush Creek, Inc. (Otway)
- Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (Cincinnati)
- Little Beaver Creek Wild & Scenic River Advisory Council (Salem)
- Little Miami Watershed Network (Bellbrook)
- LoCo 'Yaks (Lorain)
- Mercer County Soil & Water Conservation District (Celina)
- Mill Creek Watershed Partnership (Cleveland)
- Northeast Ohio Public Information and Public Education (Painesville)
- Partners for Clean Streams (Perrysburg)
- Rocky River Watershed Council (Cleveland)
- Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (Twinsburg) 🌿

**Read more about the awards at**  
<http://bit.ly/2017watershedgrants>





**Western Reserve Land Conservancy hosted a spectacular EverGreen EverBlue on November 18, 2017, at TENK West Bank. Nearly 400 donors attended the fundraising event in Cleveland.**

Special thanks to our event chairs, Margaux Schmitz Murphy, Kate Shaughnessy, and Bob Biggar, as well as the dedicated committee and staff who worked tirelessly to make this a successful EverGreen EverBlue. We also thank our lead sponsors – Dealer Tire and Dominic & Julie Visconsi – and the many guests who raised a paddle for conservation, donated to our gift card pull tree, and purchased Land Conservancy apparel at the event. Together, we raised nearly \$300,000 to advance our mission!

**REVITALIZATION SPONSORS:** Dealer Tire and Julie & Dominic Visconsi | **STEWARDSHIP SPONSORS:** Fairmount Santrol, Great Lakes Growers, Sally & Dick Hollington, Sarah & Dick Hollington, KeyBank, Julie & Josh Nathanson, Ohio Real Title, The CJR Group | **COMMUNITY SPONSORS:** Connor Family Foundation, Douglass and Associates Co LPA, Heidelberg Distributing Company, Impullitti Landscaping, Inc., Marigold Catering, ParkOhio, Anne-Marie & Sam Petros, RPM International, Sherwin-Williams, Taft/, The Angeletti Group, LLC, Susan & John Turben Foundation | **EVERAFTER SPONSOR:** Kyla & Mitchell Schneider



From left to right: Jim Rokakis (Western Reserve Land Conservancy), Diana Sette (Holden Forests & Gardens), Linda Schnell, Pedro Prevo, Courtney Blashka (Holden), Jill Koski (Holden), and Colby Sattler (Land Conservancy).

**Sherwick Tree Steward Graduate Appreciation Event**

More than 60 guests joined the Land Conservancy and Holden Forests & Gardens at Goldhorn Brewery in Cleveland to celebrate recent and past graduates of the Sherwick Tree Steward Training program. At the event, we recognized the 2017 Tree Stewards of the Year: Pedro Prevo and Linda Schnell!



**Jacqueline Gillon recognized**

Jacqueline Gillon, Community Engagement Specialist with Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Thriving Communities program, was recognized in September 2017 with the Trailblazer Award by the Cuyahoga County Section of the National Council of Negro Women for her years of advocacy, work, and sacrifice.



**Rich Cochran honored**

In October 2017, Rich Cochran, President and CEO of Western Reserve Land Conservancy, was inducted into Hiram College's Garfield Society. The Garfield Society honors individuals who have demonstrated significant professional achievement and whose efforts have substantially enriched their communities. Membership in the Garfield Society is the equivalent of receiving an honorary degree from another institution of higher learning.





# Conservation Calendar

## Art Gallery Reception with Chuck Delpapa (CELEBRATE)

*Wednesday, April 11, 5:30 – 7:30 PM*

*Western Reserve Land Conservancy in Moreland Hills*

All are invited to join us for a reception with artist Chuck Delpapa on April 11 at 5:30 PM. Delpapa's work will be on display April through June 2018. The Land Conservancy is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM – 5 PM.

## Adam's & Haley's Run Cleanup (VOLUNTEER)

*Saturday, April 14, 9 AM – 12 PM*

*Haley's Run in Akron*

Spring is here! Join us for our annual clean up along Adam's and Haley's Runs in Akron where we will gather unwanted waste and remove invasive species from these great trails.

## Toast to Trees (CELEBRATE)

*Thursday, April 26, 6 – 8 PM*

*Market Garden Brewery Distribution Center in Cleveland*

Help us kick off our annual Arbor Day celebrations with a Toast to Trees! Join us at Market Garden Brewery for special tree-themed beer. \$1 of every tree beer purchase will support the Land Conservancy's Reforest Our City efforts to grow Cleveland's tree canopy.

## Tree Seedling Adoption with Mitchell's Ice Cream (CELEBRATE)

*Friday, April 27, 12 – 9 PM*

*Mitchell's Ice Cream in Ohio City and University Circle in Cleveland*

Join us at participating Mitchell's Ice Cream locations to adopt a tree seedling! We will be at Mitchell's slinging scoops, talking trees, and celebrating Arbor Day.

## 19th Annual Grand River Cleanup (VOLUNTEER)

*Saturday, May 19, 8 AM – 2 PM*

*Hidden Valley MetroPark in Madison*

Help us keep the wild and scenic Grand River clean and pristine! Hike local trails and, weather permitting, canoe the river to gather unwanted waste.

## Sherwick Tree Steward Trainings (LEARN)

Check our website for the latest Sherwick Tree Steward Trainings hosted in partnership with Holden Forests & Gardens.

## Vibrant Places (TOUR)

We are pleased to bring back our Vibrant Places tour series in 2018! Experience the Land Conservancy's work first hand by hiking new trails, connecting with family farmers, and exploring cherished keystone properties. Tours are reserved for current Land Conservancy donors – invitations to be sent this spring!

**For more information about events, visit our website:**

**[www.wrlandconservancy.org/events](http://www.wrlandconservancy.org/events)**





## Western Reserve Land Conservancy

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3850 Chagrin River Road  
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[www.wrlandconservancy.org](http://www.wrlandconservancy.org)  
440-528-4150

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## Want to wear and share your Land Conservancy love?

Western Reserve Land Conservancy has teamed up with our friends at Arborwear to provide a selection of branded clothing items. A portion of each sale benefits the Land Conservancy's critical land conservation and restoration work across the region!

Visit the webstore today. Go to [wrlc.arborwear.com](http://wrlc.arborwear.com) and enter password **wrlc**.

## Contact Us

**Geauga, Lake, Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning, Portage, Columbiana, Jefferson, and Carroll counties**  
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**Lorain, Erie, Huron, Medina, Wayne, Stark, and Summit counties**  
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