Of all the years we have enjoyed as a successful and results-oriented organization, 2016 clearly outshines them all. Our land conservation results alone would make this our greatest year ever.

Last year, our land protection team completed 70 land conservation projects totaling more than 5,000 acres. We closed on 33 land conservation projects in December alone. It is important to know that less than half of our projects this year were in the form of donated conservation easements, which means that a majority of our closings were the most complex kinds of transactions. We closed deals in 14 different counties and we completed 20 projects that relied on public funding. I am so proud of and grateful for this previously unimaginable level of effort and accomplishment.

And, as a result of this enduring teamwork and many years of consistent effort, we preserved our 50,000th acre. In the context of Northeast Ohio, which is home to more than 4 million people, 50,000 acres is a lot of land. For perspective, Manhattan, New York, is approximately 15,000 acres in size; we have preserved more than three times that land area!

We now have more than 670 conserved properties that we steward. I am so pleased that we have developed, what I believe to be, the best conservation easement stewardship program in the country.

And that’s not all. Our Thriving Communities team continues to achieve great success cleaning and greening urban centers across the state. To date, we have led the effort to create 41 county land banks and raised more than $400 million to fight blight through demolition and regreening. We have engaged an astounding 1,300 volunteers in planting more than 3,500 trees in the City of Cleveland through our reforestation program over the last two years.

In 2016, our development team also excelled in fundraising, planned extraordinary events, and produced outstanding publications and digital content. Our legal department negotiated, documented, and closed a record number of real estate transactions. All of our colleagues came together to run what often felt like a well-oiled machine.

Our success is built on the virtuous work of thousands of people... our donors, our trustees, our volunteers, our partners, our allies, our employees, and all of the landowners with whom we work. Our motto is #TeamworkMakesTheDreamWork because we know that our success is simply the manifestation of an army of people working together in harmony.

Our work is essential to the present and future of our region, to human health, to economic prosperity, to the preservation of all living things, and to human equality. Together, we are filling our region with precious natural areas, working farms and forests and thriving cities endowed with verdant virtues.

Thank you for making all of this possible. Thank you for making the world a better place!

Rich Cochran, President & CEO
Modroo Farm saved, public park to be created in Geauga County

In December, Western Reserve Land Conservancy officially acquired 53 acres of the historic Modroo family farm in Geauga County and transferred ownership to the Russell Township Park District. The land will be managed by the park district as a public park named Modroo Farm Preserve. It will offer public access for hiking, bird watching, and other passive recreational activities.

“We began working with the Modroo family in the early 1990s to permanently preserve the historic farm considered to be the gateway to Russell Township,” explained Rich Cochran, president and CEO of the Land Conservancy. “Today, in partnership with the Russell Township Park District and so many generous members of the community, we are thrilled to announce that we have saved the farm and it will now become a beautiful community park.”

When the Modroo family put the property up for sale in July 2015, the Land Conservancy began negotiations to acquire 53 acres of the property. In June 2016, the Land Conservancy and the Russell Township Park District announced a partnership to move forward with the purchase of the 53 acres and creation of a public park.

Russell Township Park District and the Land Conservancy have worked together to ensure the conservation of important natural areas and provision of limited recreational activities on Modroo Farm Preserve. A one-mile interpretive trail will be woven throughout the property providing the opportunity for visitors to observe old field, forest, and wetland habitats as well as the wildlife they support.

Funding for the project was provided by a park district levy designated for land acquisition and generous donations from individuals in the community. The Land Conservancy will continue to raise funds for the project until all of its obligations are met; there are several naming opportunities available to donors.

“We cherish this area of the Chagrin Valley because of scenic natural areas like Modroo Farm Preserve,” noted Cochran. “Western Reserve Land Conservancy thanks all those who made it possible to add this iconic property to our community’s collection of precious places.”
**Family Farms continued...**

**84 acres preserved in Wayne Township, Ashtabula County**

Keith Waris jokes that he learned to operate a tractor at the age of three on his grandfather’s original 103-acre farm. Today, the third generation Ashtabula County farmer owns 580 acres and concentrates on grain farming and running a small cattle operation. Waris first contacted the Land Conservancy in 2008 to discuss farmland preservation opportunities. With the Land Conservancy’s assistance and funding from ODA, Waris permanently preserved 203 acres of farmland surrounding his farmstead and 150 acres of nearby farmland in 2011.

In December 2016, Waris permanently preserved an additional 84 acres of farmland located in Wayne Township, Ashtabula County. The property is currently managed for row crops and is typically planted in soybeans and corn. A small portion of the parcel is forested and a headwaters stream of Pymatuning Creek bisects the property. Waris has worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement conservation plans on each of his preserved properties to minimize soil loss and protect water quality.

**47 acres preserved in Litchfield Township, Medina County**

Charles Swingle, Jr.’s grandfather established his family farm, located approximately 2 miles east of the Litchfield town center, in the early 1940s. Today, Swingle Jr. owns the farm with his sisters, Patricia Reisner and Nancy Miller, and manages its operations. The children worked to permanently preserve the farm in honor of their father, Charles Swingle, Sr., who still operates the tractor on occasion.

Swingle harvests approximately 24.5 acres of corn, soybeans, and hay on rotation and also runs a small cattle operation. The remaining portions of the preserved property are primarily natural areas and a maintained area including a single-family residence, an agricultural building complex and a lake.

According to Andy McDowell, vice president of western field operations for the Land Conservancy, “Mr. Swingle’s property is the first farm in Medina County to be accepted and funded through the LAEPP. We are incredibly pleased that a second farmland parcel owned by the Swingle family was accepted into the program in 2016 and is set to be permanently preserved.”

**54 acres preserved in Marlboro Township, Stark County**

James Brahler took over operations of his family’s 54-acre farm in Marlboro Township after his mother, Frances, passed away four years ago. Wanting to preserve the farm forever, Brahler contacted Western Reserve Land Conservancy to apply for the LAEPP. The majority of Brahler’s property is used for farming corn, oats, wheat, and soybeans.

Brahler also raises cattle and chickens on the farm. The cattle are housed in a large barn constructed on the property in 1877. Brahler said he plans to invest his LAEPP funds into building a larger chicken house.

Alex Czayka, eastern field director for the Land Conservancy, noted, “Farmers like Mr. Brahler are able to reinvest the funding received by ODA back into their farm operation, which not only benefits their family, but also benefits Ohio agriculture. When we help a farmer invest in their business, we are engaged in land preservation and economic development.”
South Akron Greenway project celebrates another milestone

For many years, Western Reserve Land Conservancy has worked with corporate and community partners in southeast Akron to restore streams, build trails, and create a vibrant natural asset for the surrounding neighborhood.

In December, Western Reserve Land Conservancy transferred five parcels, totaling 3.2 acres, to the City of Akron. The parcels surround Adam’s Run, a tributary stream to the Little Cuyahoga River, and contain wetland and forest habitat. When combined with land already owned by the city, these newly acquired parcels form the foundation for the site of the future Adam’s Run stream restoration and trail installation.

“The success of this project depends on the strength of our partnerships,” added Schiffman. “The Land Conservancy thanks our partners at EnviroScience, RiverReach, GPD Group, and the City of Akron. We also owe tremendous thanks to Peg Bobel, Andrea Irland, Denny Stoiber, and Dave Gunnarson for their constant commitment to a trail amenity for the residents and workers of this neighborhood in Akron.”

Preserving an agricultural legacy

Richie Bellas and Janice Ellwood have been partners in a dairy operation located a half mile south of Kinsman for more than 30 years.

Bellas’ grandparents purchased their northeast Trumbull County farm in the early 1900s. It was the first and only place they ever lived, and Bellas loved visiting the property. He began helping with farm chores at a young age and fondly remembers carrying cans of milk to the road for pick up by the milk truck. He continued to help out on the farm through his high school, college, and young adult years.

When Ellwood was one year old, her family left their home in the City of Niles to start a small farm operation down the road from the Bellas property. As she grew up, Ellwood helped her parents raise cattle, pigs, chickens, and turkey. Along the way, she developed a deep appreciation for farming and being active outside.

Both Bellas and Ellwood inherited their family farms and purchased additional land to support their expanding dairy operation. At one time, they were milking 100 cows twice a day.

“In those days, it was hard work but also very rewarding,” said Bellas. “There were only two of us, and we had to work our butts off to make it happen. But it was worth it.”

In December 2016, Ellwood donated an agricultural easement permanently preserving her 75-acre farm, and Bellas and Ellwood donated agricultural easements on several additional parcels totaling 180 acres. The agricultural easements protect valuable farmland soils from development and preserve the deep agricultural and rural heritage of northeast Trumbull County.

Just before donating their agricultural easements, Ellwood and Bellas sold their cows to a young farming couple that now rent their facility and milk the cows. Ellwood and Bellas continue to do field work and provide feed for the cattle, but are thankful to have more time to complete these chores and pursue new hobbies. More importantly, Ellwood noted, they are grateful “that our land will remain farmland forever and our farms will help feed your grandkids.”
Conservation partnership preserves Northeast Ohio gems

In 2016, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Western Reserve Land Conservancy partnered to permanently preserve unique natural areas from the Vermillion River in Erie County to the Grand River in Ashtabula County.

Together, the nonprofits permanently preserved six properties in four different counties totaling 348 acres. The Museum owns each of the properties and granted conservation easements, permanently prohibiting development of the properties, to the Land Conservancy. Staff members from each organization will help monitor the properties annually to ensure they remain protected.

200 acres conserved in the Grand River Lowlands
In Ashtabula County, the Land Conservancy now holds conservation easements on three properties within the larger Grand River Terraces complex owned by the Museum. The properties include a largely forested 100-acre property in Morgan Township containing nearly a half mile of a headwater tributary to the Ohio designated Wild and Scenic Grand River; an additional 50-acre old growth forest in Morgan Township containing 1,350 feet of a high-quality headwater tributary to Bronson Creek; and a 50-acre property in Trumbull Township consisting of forested wetland habitat boasting 1,650 feet of the Grand River itself while also protecting an additional 1,800 feet of tributary waters.

“We are pleased to partner with the Land Conservancy to add an extra layer of protection to parcels at our Grand River Terraces, which is nearing 1,000 acres of contiguous forest. This preserve provides excellent habitat for forest dependent birds,” explained Renee Boronka, associate director for the Museum’s Natural Areas Division.

The vegetated and forested buffers along the tributaries also help control run-off, prevent erosion, and mitigate flooding to downstream properties which help to improve overall water quality in the Grand River watershed. Funding to purchase the easements was provided through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant secured by the Land Conservancy to purchase conservation easements from landowners along the Grand River. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades and funds a variety of activities including protection and restoration projects.

20 acres conserved in City of Green, Summit County
In Summit County, the Land Conservancy now holds a conservation easement on a 20-acre parcel that is part of the Museum’s 344-acre Singer Lake Bog Preserve. The property is located in the City of Green within the larger Portage Lakes wetland complex in the Upper Tuscarawas River.

Dr. James Bissell, director of natural areas and curator of botany for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History explained that Singer Lake Bog supports 73 species of dragonflies and damselflies, more than any other wetland in Ohio, including the state-threatened Elfin Skimmer, Racket-tailed Emerald and Chalk-fronted Corporal. Nearly all of these species are present on the preserved property during their flight period and it serves as important foraging habitat within the Singer Lake basin.

See Museum Partnership on page 8...
Extraordinary property preserved, conservation wish honored

Lake Metroparks’ Pleasant Valley Park recently expanded with the assistance of Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

The Land Conservancy assisted the park district in acquiring an additional 45 acres of high quality habitat, increasing the park’s size to nearly 125 acres. Lake Metroparks granted a conservation easement on the property to the Land Conservancy, ensuring it will remain permanently conserved.

The property’s diverse habitats host a great variety of species, including six state-listed bird species as well as an active bald eagle’s nest. There are also two young American chestnuts on the property, which appear to be sprouts from an old parent root system growing near the edge of the bluff above the State Scenic Chagrin River. While no longer a state listed-species, American Chestnuts remain rare in Ohio.

The property is in close proximity to Lake Metroparks’ original 80-acre Pleasant Valley Park to the east and nearby natural areas including the Cleveland Metroparks’ North Chagrin Reservation to the southwest, and the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland’s Hach-Otis Sanctuary and State Nature Preserve to the north. In addition, several conservation-easement protected private properties are located to the north and east. Each of these properties enhances a significant conservation corridor along the Chagrin River in Willoughby Hills.

Brett Rodstrom, vice president of western field operations for the Land Conservancy explained, “Faye Sivazlian inherited this extraordinary property from her uncle and fiercely protected it throughout her lifetime. The Land Conservancy and our partners are honored to have worked with Ms. Sivazlian and her family to fulfill her wish for the property: permanently preserving it.”

Funding for the project was made possible through significant Lake Metroparks contributions and Clean Ohio grant funding. The Clean Ohio Fund, which was approved and renewed by voters, is a pool of state bond dollars that matches local funds for qualifying projects.

Lake Metroparks will open the property at a later date for passive recreational activities like hiking, birdwatching, and nature study. The new parkland will provide approximately 583 additional linear feet of Chagrin River fishing access. Lake Metroparks aims to facilitate access to fishing on its properties so that fishing can be enjoyed by anglers of all ages, abilities, and experience levels.

Celebrate Arbor Day!

There are many reasons to celebrate trees this Arbor Day: trees save energy, reduce stormwater runoff, enhance property values, improve water quality, and make our neighborhoods more attractive. There are many opportunities to plant trees and learn about reforestation efforts this Arbor Day - we hope to see you at one of these upcoming events!

Attend Sherwick Tree Steward Training: Holden Forests & Gardens and Western Reserve Land Conservancy have partnered to provide a free 4-part Tree Steward Training program where citizens can learn how to plant, care for, and maintain trees. The training
Philanthropists recognized with Art of Caring Award

Though they grew up in different countries, Franz and Beth Sauerland’s love of the outdoors sprouted from similar roots. As children, both would visit their grandparent’s countryside properties – Franz working on his grandfather’s farm in rural Germany during school vacations and Beth hiking through the woods on her grandfather’s property each Sunday in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Years later, the couple’s love of the outdoors grew into an interest in land conservation. “We felt a need to protect natural areas. At the same time we began hearing about the Chagrin River Land Conservancy from friends,” Beth recounted. “We knew if we didn’t protect the beautiful scenic views of the countryside around us it would be gone forever. We made the Land Conservancy a philanthropic priority and Franz took a more active role in the business of the organization.”

In 2001, Franz became a trustee of Chagrin River Land Conservancy and eventually immersed himself in the work of the strategic planning committee. This committee helped launch the regional merger of several land trusts, including Chagrin River Land Conservancy, to create Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

Rich Cochran, president and CEO of the Land Conservancy, shared, “During one key deliberation, there was a five minute break. Franz walked outside with a few other trustees and together they raised $500,000 to launch the merger. It was an amazing moment, and it exemplifies the philanthropic spirit of Franz and Beth.”

“The merger to create a regional land trust was very important and very impressive,” noted Franz. He continued to serve on Western Reserve Land Conservancy’s Board of Trustees with great distinction until 2011.

This past November, Western Reserve Land Conservancy honored Franz and Beth Sauerland’s philanthropic leadership with the Art of Caring Award.

The Land Conservancy’s Art of Caring Award pays tribute to a White Oak Legacy Society individual or family exemplifying the art of caring through leadership, passion, vision, and philanthropy. To recognize the unique gifts of the philanthropists who receive the award, a local artist is commissioned to create unique artworks inspired by the generosity of our patrons. This year, a Chagrin Falls artist, Tan Gillespie, painted a watercolor piece of the Chagrin River for the Sauerlands.

At the event to honor Franz and Beth, Rich Cochran emphasized, “I have never met two people who are more honest, more earnest, more caring, or more humble. Franz and Beth truly exemplify the Art of Caring through their invaluable contributions to the Land Conservancy and other organizations. They inspire all of us by sharing their wisdom, time, and resources with unsurpassed generosity.”

For more information about the White Oak Legacy Society, please call 440-528-4150 or email sdilik@wrlandconservancy.org

program consists of classroom and field training sessions which cover topics including: basic tree biology, tree identification, soil types, tree health assessments, in addition to planting and pruning best practices.

Learn more at EarthFest: Western Reserve Land Conservancy is proud to partner with public and private stakeholders of the Cleveland Tree Coalition to celebrate Arbor Day at EarthFest 2017. The event, hosted by Earth Day Coalition, will take place from 10 AM to 5 PM at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. The event will feature community efforts to create vibrant green space.

Enjoy a sundae and receive a seedling: Mitchell’s Homemade Ice Cream and Western Reserve Land Conservancy are partnering to reforest the region again this Arbor Day! Visit any one of Mitchell’s stores across Northeast Ohio on Friday, April 28 for a delicious ice cream treat and receive a tree seedling (while supplies last) to plant in your yard.

For more information about upcoming events or volunteer opportunities, visit www.wrlandconservancy.org/events or follow us on social media @wrlconservancy.
Preserving green space in Hudson

Curt Van Blarcum is no stranger to land conservation. When signing the paperwork to donate a conservation easement on 7.3 acres of his Summit County property, he reminisced about past land conservation projects and acquaintances with Kate Pilacky, Firelands associate field director for the Land Conservancy. Van Blarcum was actively involved with the Hudson Land Conservancy and Pilacky helped form both the Tinker’s Creek Land Conservancy and Firelands Land Conservancy; each of these land trusts were part of the merger that created Western Reserve Land Conservancy in 2006.

Van Blarcum’s property contains over five acres of floodplain with mixed habitats, one acre of forest and nearly 1,200 linear feet of a tributary stream to Brandywine Creek. It is located near downtown Hudson and is nearly adjacent to a 12-acre preserved property. Van Blarcum made sure that the conservation easement was written to allow for passive park uses, like hiking and nature observation, as he has been discussing donating the property to the city at some point in the future. He noted, “It’s important to have green spaces like these intact for future generations.”

Museum Partnership continued...

52.5 acres conserved in Fitchville Township, Huron County

In Huron County, the Land Conservancy now holds a conservation easement on a 52-acre property that was added to the Museum’s 81-acre Big Swamp Preserve and a privately-owned 11-acre conservation easement property for a total of 144 contiguous acres of forested swamp complex, considered to be one of the highest qualities of its kind in northeast Ohio.

The property contains large sphagnum bog wetlands, vernal pools, wet meadow, old field habitat, and forested areas. Chris Szell, director of conservation management for the Land Conservancy, noted, “Development has dramatically reduced Ohio’s wetlands, and preserving a property like this protects rare habitat and improves water quality by capturing stormwater runoff, trapping sediment and nutrients, and recharging groundwater.”

A Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant, secured by the Museum, was used to purchase the conservation easement on the Fitchville Township property. The Clean Ohio Fund, which was approved and renewed by voters, is a pool of state bond dollars that matches local funds for qualifying projects. The dollars continue to be a source of significant conservation funding for our state.

75.3 acres conserved in Florence Township, Erie County

In Erie County, the Land Conservancy now holds a conservation easement on 75 acres in the Vermilion River watershed. The Museum acquired portions of the property from neighboring landowners Dan Styer (Museum’s 64-acre Wolf Run Preserve) and Cheryl Wolfe-Cragin (Museum’s 11-acre Vermilion Valley Cliffs) using Clean Ohio funding.

The flat and gently sloping upland portions of the property are divided by steep ravines surrounding the one mile of Vermilion River frontage and two-thirds of a mile of tributary streams, including Wolf Run. The main habitats on the property include old field, agricultural field, forest, forested seeps, and swamp wetlands.

Styer has undergone extensive efforts to remove and control invasive species that once overran the property. He has hosted many garlic mustard pulls on the property with the help of Museum and Land Conservancy volunteers.
Staff Spotlight: Development Team celebrates staff retirements and welcomes new talent

This year, Western Reserve Land Conservancy will celebrate the retirement of two talented Development Team members: Jean Gokorsch and Sheila Randel. We thank Jean and Sheila for the years of dedicated service to our organization and wish them the best in their retirement!

Jean Gokorsch, Director of Development
Jean Gokorsch has worn many hats and filled many shoes during her tenure with Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

After volunteering with the Chagrin River Land Conservancy’s education and outreach committee for many years, Gokorsch officially joined the Western Reserve Land Conservancy staff in 2006. With professional fundraising experience and an academic background in biology, she worked with both the Development and Stewardship teams over the past 11 years.

When asked about favorite memories during her tenure, Gokorsch had many to share. “We’ve completed so many outstanding projects,” she explained. “We are so lucky to have Snake Hill Farm, in Bainbridge, under conservation easement. The Lake Erie Bluffs and Richfield Heritage Preserve projects are amazing too.”

Gokorsch enjoyed working on many projects with familial ties as well. She reminisced, “When I first started working the Land Conservancy, I had the pleasure of meeting and working with Carter Wilmot, a relative I never knew before, who had preserved his family’s beautiful property in Brecksville. I enjoyed working with Inga Schmidt to preserve her property, a portion of which was part of my mother’s family farm. And I am proud to have worked with the community to save Modroo farm which is across from my grandparents’ family farm.” Gokorsch has also preserved 60 acres of her own property in Guernsey County with a donated conservation easement.

Gokorsch shared humorous memories too, like the time a donor accidentally slipped into Oberlin Bog and pulled a fellow hiker head first into the bog. “When it comes down to it, I’ve met so many incredible people and built so many great relationships over the years,” Gokorsch explained. “I hope to keep in touch as so many have become friends.”

Gokorsch will work part-time with the Land Conservancy through the end of June. In retirement, she hopes to spend more time with her family, including her 12 grandchildren, and cross each of the national parks off of her travel bucket list.

Sheila Randel, Database Manager
As the Land Conservancy’s database manager for the past eight years, Sheila Randel has been responsible for managing the donor database, processing gifts and providing informational support for the entire staff. As you may imagine, her attention to detail is impeccable.

This conscientiousness is evidenced not only when you receive Landline in the mail, but also when supporters tour the Land Conservancy’s Conservation Center - from Randel’s cataloging of generously donated books to crafting creative nature decorations to baking delicious treats, once with apples grown on the Conservation Center property.

“She has enjoyed creating and sharing with our staff,” Randel noted. “Moving to the Conservation Center from our former headquarters in Chesterland was such an inspirational change. It meant a lot to staff that a donor had enough faith in our organization to design and build such a beautiful workplace.” Randel also found inspiration in touring completed land conservation projects during her tenure.

Randel will work full-time with the Land Conservancy through the end of February. In retirement, she hopes to spend more time sewing, reading, and heading to the movies. She also hopes to spend more time with friends and family, including her six grandchildren.

continued on next page...
This past fall, Western Reserve Land Conservancy welcomed three talented staff members to our Development Team: Catlin Layton, Elizabeth Grace, and Megan Quinn.

**Catlin Layton, Manager of Special Events and Volunteers**
A Florida-native, Catlin Layton never imagined moving to Cleveland but she has found the city to be a perfect fit. Layton joined the Land Conservancy in September 2016 as our new Manager of Special Events and Volunteers after working as the Director of Operations at Conventions2016, LLC and Capitol Partners, LLC. These firms produced more than 80 events at the Republican and Democratic National Conventions last year. Prior to that role, Layton managed programs and events at Women in Government Relations and the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce.

“I am looking forward to seeing more people engage with our mission through volunteer projects and events,” Layton explained. “I believe that diverse events for landowners, tree stewards, young professionals, outdoor enthusiasts, birders, and photographers, will lead to further engagement and enable us to continue and expand the Land Conservancy’s great work.”

**Megan Quinn, Director of Development**
An accomplished fundraising professional and an incredible team player, Megan Quinn joined the Land Conservancy as our new director of development in November. Quinn previously worked as the director of development for The MetroHealth System and director of the Heart Walk with the American Heart Association.

“I am most looking forward to being a part of, in my estimation, the most exciting time in Western Reserve Land Conservancy history,” Quinn explained. “Not only are we protecting incredible land, but we are also revitalizing our great city. Helping raise funds to accomplish these goals is exciting.” She added, “Our land is what we have to leave to our children, our children’s children, and beyond. Together, we are leaving them a legacy to be proud of.”

**Elizabeth Grace, Assistant Director of Development and Stewardship**
Like many supporters, Elizabeth Grace was attracted to Western Land Conservancy because of our diverse work to conserve natural areas and restore urban centers. As our new assistant director of development and stewardship, Grace will have the opportunity to engage donors in all aspects of this work.

Grace worked with Slavic Village Development for 20 years in various roles, most recently as the director of marketing and fundraising. While with Slavic Village, she demonstrated her ability to engage community residents, area businesses, and donors to support the work of the community development corporation. In her new role, Grace is excited to work with donors, volunteers, and supporters throughout the region. She emphasized, “I am so impressed by the passion and dedication of those involved with the Land Conservancy.”

In October 2016, Dominion and the Land Conservancy awarded more than $35,000 in grant funding to 16 Ohio watershed groups for marketing, promotions and outreach efforts as well as project-specific water quality improvement project expenses.

Trees for Threes! In October 2016, the Land Conservancy partnered with the Cleveland Cavaliers, PwC, Davey Tree, Holden Forests & Gardens, and MC²STEM High School to plant the first of 433 trees - one for each three pointer scored by the Cavs last season.

In January 2017, the Land Conservancy helped kick off the Year of Vibrant Green Spaces with the City of Cleveland Office of Sustainability. Stay tuned for more opportunities to celebrate green space this year!
Conservation Calendar

**Informational Meeting on Conservation Easements (LEARN)**
Thursday, Feb. 23 at Lodi Library, 6:30 - 8 PM
Learn about land preservation efforts from the Land Conservancy’s western field staff

**Young Professional Group 2017 Kick Off (LEARN)**
Thursday, Feb. 23 at Goldhorn Brewery, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Network with fellow young outdoor enthusiasts and learn about ways to get involved in our work

**Art Show by Susan Onysko (SEE)**
March 1 through June 23 at the Land Conservancy’s Conservation Center, open M - F from 8:30 AM - 5 PM
See the work of Susan Onysko, a travel photographer, who has devoted the last decade to the art of capturing evocative stories from some of the most remote and extreme locations of our world (reception on May 25 from 5 - 7 PM)

**Informational Meeting on Conservation Easements (LEARN)**
Wednesday, March 8 at Wakeman Community Library
Learn about land preservation efforts from the Land Conservancy’s western field staff

**Grand River Chapter Annual Dinner (SUPPORT)**
Thursday, April 13 at Martini’s Restaurant and Lounge in Ashtabula, 6 - 8 PM
Join our Grand River Chapter for updates on land preservation efforts in our eastern region

**Adam’s Run and Haley’s Run Clean Up (VOLUNTEER)**
Saturday, April 15 in Akron, 10 AM - 1 PM
Help keep Akron beautiful by participating in this annual spring clean up

**Earth Day Outings (LEARN)**
Saturday, April 22 at the Earth Day Coalition’s EarthFest 2017 and Medina County Earth Day
Keep an eye out for Land Conservancy staff and volunteers at Earth Day celebrations around the region

**Arbor Day Tree Giveaway with Mitchell’s (SUPPORT)**
Friday, April 29 at all Mitchell’s Homemade Ice Cream Shops, 11 AM until supplies are out!
Celebrate Arbor Day and help reforest our cities by picking up a free tree seedling with your ice cream purchase

**Birding Hike (LEARN)**
Saturday, May 6 at Red Brook Park, 7:30 - 9:30 AM
Join us for a free morning of exceptional birding with Paul and Susie Belanger

**Medina Marsh Open House (LEARN)**
Saturday, May 13 at Medina Marsh in Medina Township, 10 AM - 2 PM
Join us at our Medina Marsh Preserve field office for a day of free family activities

**Grand River Clean Up (VOLUNTEER)**
Saturday, May 20 at Hidden Valley MetroPark in Madison, 8 AM - 1 PM
Hike local parks and, weather permitting, canoe along the Grand River to collect unwanted waste

**Sherwick Tree Steward Trainings (LEARN)**
Check our website for the latest Sherwick Tree Steward Trainings hosted in partnership with Holden Forests & Gardens - we have multiple trainings scheduled in Cleveland’s Cudell, Glenville and Slavic Village neighborhoods this spring. Trainings are free; advance registration requested.

**Viewfinders Photography Group (LEARN)**
Check our website for the latest Viewfinders’ instructional meetings and experiential outings designed for all ages, skill levels and camera types
Green Machine provided by Ganley

If you join us at an upcoming clean up or tree planting event, be sure to keep an eye out for the “Green Machine.” The Land Conservancy sincerely thanks Ganley Auto Group for generously donating the truck which allows our staff to easily transport supplies and more efficiently carry out our land conservation and restoration mission.

Jane Gimbel, special projects assistant for the Land Conservancy, and Colby Sattler, urban forestry & natural resources project manager, pose for a photo in front of the “Green Machine” before a long day of tree planting and beautification in Cleveland’s Ohio City neighborhood.

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