Our Vision
Thriving, prosperous communities nourished by vibrant, natural areas, working farms and healthy cities

Our Mission
To provide the people of our region with essential natural assets through land conservation and restoration
This annual report is a reflection of the journeys we make across the region to conserve cherished local landscapes and to create healthier urban environments. It also serves as a reminder of our historical travels. We invite you to explore the wonders of northern and eastern Ohio with us.

Travel along the North Coast, from a precious 5-acre park in Marblehead to a sprawling 600-acre preserve in Conneaut, and discover the ways in which we create public parks and provide public access to our great Lake Erie...

Take a ride along Route 422, from Cleveland’s Kinsman neighborhood all the way to Warren, and encounter the ways in which we work with partners to create healthier urban environments...

Follow the verdant banks of the bucolic Chagrin River and celebrate the founding of the Chagrin River Land Conservancy 30 years ago, as well as one of our more recent conservation projects completed in partnership with the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland...

Take a trip back to the original settling of the Western Reserve, as you learn about one family’s decision to permanently preserve their Lorain County land...

Western Reserve Land Conservancy provides our region with more than 50,000 acres of preserved land. That is an astounding amount of land, more than twice the size of Manhattan which is home to more than 1.6 million people!

And yet the meaning of our work is not found in gross numbers; rather it is revealed in individual stories such as those that we share herein. Our work touches millions of people. Our work improves the health and happiness of millions of people.

And yet one does not truly understand our work until it is seen through the eyes of a little girl when she first discovers the mystery of salamanders in the North Branch of Sulphur Springs, or when she first hugs a tree she has planted on East 79th and Kinsman.

Thank you for making our work possible! Together, we are quite literally making the world a better place.

Rich Cochran
President & CEO

Elizabeth Juliano
Board of Trustees Chair

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature... he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

John Muir

Rich Cochran

Elizabeth Juliano
Tracking Our Results

Western Reserve Land Conservancy reached several major milestones during the 2017 fiscal year*, including the permanent preservation of our 50,000th acre.

Here are some of the highlights:

- During the 2017 fiscal year, we **permanently conserved 63 properties** – a record number for the organization – **totaling nearly 4,100 acres** and bringing the total number of acres conserved by the Land Conservancy to a remarkable **50,811 acres**.
- We have now preserved land in **24 counties** across northern and eastern Ohio.
- Once the Land Conservancy conserves a property with a conservation easement, our work has only just begun. We have the legal responsibility to care for land encumbered by conservation easements forever. Our Land Stewardship team visits each one of our **688 preserved properties** at least once a year to make sure conserved land remains in its natural condition.
- Trumbull County (9,824 total acres) saw the largest increase in permanently preserved acreage this past fiscal year and continues to lead the region in acreage permanently preserved. Ashtabula County (8,770 total acres) saw the second largest increase in acres preserved given a number of farmland and watershed projects.
- We have now conserved land in **21 watersheds** across northern and eastern Ohio. The Grand River Watershed saw the largest jump in protected land around the state scenic river and its tributaries, adding 1,100 acres in the watershed.
- At the end of fiscal year 2017, the Land Conservancy had created more than **150 total public parks and publically-owned preserves** encompassing more than 10,000 acres across the region.
- The Land Conservancy celebrated the establishment of Ohio’s **46th county land bank** just after the end of fiscal year 2017, meaning that more than half of Ohio counties now have a land bank. County land banks are powerful tools for taking abandoned, tax delinquent properties and repurposing them for the benefit of local communities.
- At the close of fiscal year 2017, the Land Conservancy had planted more than **3,700 robust trees in the City of Cleveland** with the help of more than 1,600 individual and corporate volunteers as part of the Reforest Our City community reforestation program. Additionally, we distributed nearly 6,000 total tree seedlings at community engagement events.

*July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017
Acres Conserved by Watershed

- Ashtabula River: 5,875 acres
- Black River: 3,738 acres
- Chagrin River: 2,169 acres
- Conneaut Creek: 8,770 acres
- Cuyahoga River: 437 acres
- Frontal Lake Erie: 56 acres
- Huron River: 1,274 acres
- Lake Erie Islands: 132 acres
- Little Beaver Creek: 56 acres
- Mahoning River: 568 acres
- Pymatuning Creek: 2,874 acres
- Rocky River: 8,418 acres
- Sandusky: 487 acres
- Shenango River: 1,410 acres
- Tuscarawas River: 154 acres
- Vermilion River: 1,274 acres
- Walhonding River: 56 acres
- Wills: 157 acres
- Yankee Run-Shenango River: 1,335 acres
- Yellow Creek: 487 acres

Total: 50,811 acres saved in 24 Ohio counties

Acres Preserved by Year

- 2006: 5,811 acres
- 2007: 10,000 acres
- 2008: 14,000 acres
- 2009: 18,000 acres
- 2010: 22,000 acres
- 2011: 26,000 acres
- 2012: 30,000 acres
- 2013: 34,000 acres
- 2014: 38,000 acres
- 2015: 42,000 acres
- 2016: 46,000 acres
- 2017: 50,000 acres

Acres Conserved by County

- Ashland: 8,770 acres
- Ashtabula: 8,770 acres
- Cuyahoga: 437 acres
- Geauga: 8,418 acres
- Lucas: 3,738 acres
- Lorain: 2,169 acres
- Mahoning: 140 acres
- Medina: 1,274 acres
- Portage: 2,874 acres
- Trumbull: 9,824 acres
- Wayne: 157 acres

Acres Conserved by Watershed by Year

- Ashtabula River: 2006: 1,500 acres, 2017: 6,000 acres
- Black River: 2006: 1,000 acres, 2017: 4,000 acres
- Chagrin River: 2006: 500 acres, 2017: 2,000 acres
- Conneaut Creek: 2006: 5,000 acres, 2017: 10,000 acres
- Cuyahoga River: 2006: 500 acres, 2017: 1,000 acres
- Frontal Lake Erie: 2006: 50 acres, 2017: 100 acres
- Huron River: 2006: 500 acres, 2017: 1,000 acres
- Lake Erie Islands: 2006: 50 acres, 2017: 100 acres
- Little Beaver Creek: 2006: 50 acres, 2017: 100 acres
- Mahoning River: 2006: 500 acres, 2017: 1,000 acres
- Pymatuning Creek: 2006: 500 acres, 2017: 1,000 acres
- Rocky River: 2006: 50 acres, 2017: 100 acres
- Sandusky: 2006: 50 acres, 2017: 100 acres
- Shenango River: 2006: 500 acres, 2017: 1,000 acres
- Tuscarawas River: 2006: 50 acres, 2017: 100 acres
- Vermilion River: 2006: 500 acres, 2017: 1,000 acres
- Walhonding River: 2006: 50 acres, 2017: 100 acres
- Wills: 2006: 50 acres, 2017: 100 acres
- Yankee Run-Shenango River: 2006: 500 acres, 2017: 1,000 acres
- Yellow Creek: 2006: 50 acres, 2017: 100 acres
Cooperative Coastal Conservation

We are fortunate to have plentiful, high-quality water resources throughout northern and eastern Ohio, including our great Lake Erie.

The Land Conservancy has partnered with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Office of Coastal Management to secure critical funding for several coastal conservation projects. In late 2016, the conservation partners worked with the Village of Marblehead to secure federal Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program funding to complete the Lucien M. Clemons Park project.

The parkland was originally platted for residential development, a trend seen along the coast. More than 80 percent of Lake Erie’s 312 miles of southern coastline is privately owned, so securing public properties on the shoreline — even if small — is important. Today, Lucien M. Clemons Park provides the community with a beautiful preserve offering non-motorized boat access to Lake Erie, ideal fishing and birding opportunities, as well as a place to relax and enjoy the coastal scenery.

“Western Reserve Land Conservancy is a critical partner in preservation projects like this,” noted Yetty Lombardo, local liaison for the ODNR Office of Coastal Management. Chief Scudder Mackey added, “Providing public access to the Lake enhances public education and results in better management of Lake Erie’s coastal resources. Our cooperative work with the Land Conservancy is improving quality of life along the lakeshore.”

The ODNR Office of Coastal Management is a great partner in conserving Lake Erie coastline. The Land Conservancy is proud to work with Chief Scudder Mackey, Ph. D. (left) and Local Liaison Yetty Lombardo (right) on coastal conservation projects.
From the Lake Erie shoreline to the banks of the Grand River, Ashtabula County Metroparks and Western Reserve Land Conservancy partnered in 2017 to permanently preserve two unique properties that will soon be established as public parks.

Along the banks of the Grand River in Austinburg Township, the Land Conservancy worked with the park district to acquire and permanently preserve the former Camp Yakewi. The new 129-acre Upper Grand River Metropark will eventually offer outdoor recreational and educational opportunities including hiking, birding, camping, and canoeing.

And along the Lake Erie shoreline in the City of Conneaut, Ashtabula County Metroparks and the Land Conservancy worked together to purchase and permanently conserve a remarkable 602-acre piece of land, now known as Turkey Creek Metropark. The property boasts nearly one mile of undeveloped Lake Erie shoreline, a natural estuary, and more than 230 acres of precious coastal wetlands. The acquisition is adjacent to nearly 3,500 acres of conservation land, creating a regionally-significant wildlife, outdoor, and recreation area. A comprehensive access plan is currently being developed by Ashtabula County Metroparks for the parkland.

“One of Western Reserve Land Conservancy’s most important roles is helping local park systems and communities preserve these essential natural and historic assets for the public to enjoy,” explained Brett Rodstrom, vice president of eastern field operations for the Land Conservancy. “We are grateful to have assisted Ashtabula’s growing park system in the permanent preservation of these tremendous community assets and look forward to continued partnership.”

Ashtabula County Metroparks are growing under the leadership of Board President Paul Carpenter (left) and Executive Director Larry Frimerman (right).
From planting gardens with young children to coordinating healthy living seminars for seniors, Quiana Singleton continuously works to create a healthier community for her neighbors.

Singleton is a graduate of the Sherwick Tree Steward training program, hosted by Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Holden Forests & Gardens, where citizens learn how to plant, care for, and maintain trees. She was recognized as one of the 2016 Tree Stewards of the Year for her work to plant trees with elementary school students in Cleveland’s Kinsman neighborhood.

“Training residents to maintain existing and newly planted trees is critical to the success of the Cleveland Tree Plan and our collective reforestation work,” explained Colby Sattler, manager of urban forestry and natural resource management for the Land Conservancy. “Quiana has gone above and beyond not only to educate the community about the health benefits of trees in our urban environments, but also plant and maintain trees in her neighborhood.”

“The kids are still talking about the tree planting and that’s important. They will take that meaningful experience with them,” Singleton noted with a smile. She hopes that her work will create a healthier environment for her children, her neighbors, and future generations.

Once known as the Forest City, Cleveland’s urban tree canopy stands at just 19 percent. Quiana Singleton is working to reforest her neighborhood.
Ohio communities have developed innovative ways to revitalize neighborhoods ravaged by the foreclosure crisis.

Today, in the City of Warren’s oldest residential neighborhood – where vacant houses once devastated property values and attracted crime – you’ll find vibrant public greenspaces, nourishing community gardens, and beautiful public art installations.

Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership and the Trumbull County Land Bank have partnered on reducing blight and returning abandoned properties to productive use in Warren and throughout the county since 2010. Today, Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership manages all land bank-owned properties, which provides unique opportunities for greening, including the Lots to Love program.

The program provides financial and technical assistance to residents to install long-term greening projects on lots once occupied by vacant and abandoned properties. “Federal Hardest Hit funding provides a certain amount of money for greening after houses are demolished,” explained Matt Martin, executive director of Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership. “Neighbors can apply to take over these vacant lots as side yards, but if neighbors don’t want the lots, we offer these to the community. Lots to Love empowers residents to beautify their neighborhoods through community organizing.”

“It’s a work in progress,” Martin emphasized. “The neighborhood is still challenged, but these resident-driven and community projects are increasing the quality of life in Warren’s neighborhoods.”

The land reutilization efforts promoted by Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership, under Matt Martin’s leadership, in Warren’s Garden District are being replicated in communities throughout the region and the state.
While serving on the board for Trust for Public Land, Steve Morris visited land trusts across the country preserving vibrant greenspace. “I saw these land trusts working across the country,” Morris recounted, “and I thought, the Chagrin River valley is beautiful, let’s start one here.”

So in the summer of 1987, Steve Morris, Toni Bernet, Mal Bank, Jerome Gratry, Dave Ingalls, Bill McCoy, Patsy Shiverick, and Bud Talbott came together to establish the Chagrin River Land Conservancy. The all-volunteer organization began preserving cherished keystone properties throughout the valley.

Acre by acre and project by project, Chagrin River Land Conservancy grew. By the mid-2000s, Chagrin River Land Conservancy had permanently conserved more than 5,000 acres with the support of 11 fulltime staff members. Seeing the need to collaborate for increased regional land conservation capacity, eight land trusts across northern and eastern Ohio merged in 2006. At the time of merger, each of the merging land trusts became a part of Chagrin River Land Conservancy’s nonprofit organization and the name was changed to Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Since then, five additional land trusts have merged with the organization.

At Western Reserve Land Conservancy’s Conservation Celebration in June 2017, we honored the 30th anniversary of the Chagrin River Land Conservancy’s founding. Steve Morris and Tom Stanley, founder of the Russell Land Conservancy which merged with the original Chagrin River organization, shared their stories about the early days of land conservation.

“I would have never imagined 50,000 acres permanently preserved,” remarked Stanley. “I’m very proud of how far we have come.”

For more perspectives on the founding of the Chagrin River Land Conservancy, please visit the Land Conservancy’s website.
With tremendous vistas, critical wildlife habitat, and spectacular views of the Chagrin River valley, Hach-Otis Sanctuary and State Nature Preserve has historically been a popular destination for birders, hikers, naturalists, and families. Thanks to the work of Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, that popularity is sure to grow.

In 2017, conservation partners effectively doubled the size of the Lake County sanctuary to 160 acres while permanently protecting critical wildlife habitat and increasing public access to the Chagrin River.

The extension project permanently protects 80 acres of critical riparian and upland forest habitat which provide extensive breeding habitat for rare species including the yellow-bellied sapsucker and cerulean warbler, which are both state designated Species of Concern. Winter wrens, Canada warblers, and dark-eyed juncos have also been spotted on the property.

“The Chagrin River valley is part of National Audubon Society’s world wide web of designated Important Bird Areas,” noted John Lillich, manager of the Hach-Otis Wildlife Sanctuary and Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland trustee. “Many wild species are making their last stand from extinction in these protected areas.”

Carol and John Lillich were instrumental in the success of the Hach-Otis Sanctuary project. Carol currently serves as Secretary of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland. John currently serves as a trustee and is former president of the organization.
Cleveland tree canopy goal announced at Arbor Day celebration

Western Reserve Land Conservancy is a proud member of the Cleveland Tree Coalition, a group of more than 30 public, private and community stakeholders that have partnered with the City of Cleveland to rebuild the city’s urban forest. Stakeholders continue to work to achieve the goals established by the Cleveland Tree Plan. At an Arbor Day tree planting event organized by the Land Conservancy, City of Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson announced the city’s new tree canopy goal: plant more than 50,000 trees in Cleveland by 2020 and grow Cleveland’s tree canopy from 19 percent to 30 percent by 2040. Ultimately, the Land Conservancy aspires to work with coalition partners to grow Cleveland’s urban tree canopy to the recommended 40 percent.

105-acre Huron County Farm preserved in perpetuity

With the help of Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), Gene Kurzen ensured that his 105-acre Huron County farm will be farmland forever. The Land Conservancy recorded an agricultural easement on the New Haven Township property which is planted with a standard rotation of row crops including corn, soybeans, and wheat. The easement was supported through ODA’s Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) which provides funding to purchase agricultural easements from landowners who volunteer to keep their land in agricultural production in perpetuity. During the 2017 fiscal year, the Land Conservancy preserved four family farms through this program.

Property survey finds quality housing stock in Elyria

Using our planning and mapping expertise, Western Reserve Land Conservancy’s Thriving Communities program works with cities and neighborhood groups to survey all parcels in a given community. These surveys provide community leaders with the information needed to make planning decisions related to demolition, rehabilitation, and code enforcement. In 2016, we undertook a parcel-by-parcel inventory of the City of Elyria. Of the 21,827 parcels surveyed, only 2.9 percent were classified as vacant. Significantly, surveyors found 96 percent of Elyria’s occupied housing stock graded as either “A” (Excellent) or “B” (Good).

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Hudson greenspace conserved for future generations

Curt Van Blarcum, who was actively involved with the Hudson Land Conservancy before it merged to form Western Reserve Land Conservancy, donated a conservation easement on 7.3 acres of his Summit County property. Van Blarcum’s property contains over 5 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. He noted, “It’s important to have these greenspaces like these intact for future generations.”
Land Conservancy creates new park in Columbiana County

In early 2017, the Land Conservancy purchased the Willard Run Wetlands property in Hanover Township in partnership with the Columbiana County Park District, which will open the conserved property to the public in the near future. The property’s unique characteristics, particularly its wetlands, are ideal habitat for many species of flora and fauna. Two headwater streams are located on the property, both of which eventually run into Little Beaver Creek, a designated Ohio Wild and Scenic River and a nationally designated Scenic River. Funding for the project was provided through the Clean Ohio program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Williams Companies in order to help improve the Little Beaver Creek Watershed.

“Our farms will help feed your grandkids”

Richie Bellas and Janice Ellwood have been partners in a dairy operation located a half mile south of Kinsman for more than 30 years. Both Bellas and Ellwood inherited their Trumbull County family farms and purchased additional land to support their expanding dairy operation. At one time, they were milking 100 cows twice each day. Ellwood donated an agricultural easement permanently preserving her 75-acre farm and Bellas and Ellwood donated agricultural easements on several other parcels totaling 180 acres. When asked why they preserved their working farmland, Ellwood noted that she was relieved “that our land will remain farmland forever and our farms will help feed your grandkids.”

Modroo Farm saved, public preserve created

For over a generation, the Modroo Family Farm was a quintessential part of the Russell Township landscape. From farmers' markets and fall festivals to pastoral views and a historic farmstead, the Geauga County property played an integral role in the community. In December 2016, after decades of work, a portion of the iconic property was conserved forever. Western Reserve Land Conservancy officially acquired 53 acres of the historic property 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.
Pat McCaslin’s family is only the second family to own their Huntington Township property since the land was first settled by John Laborie in the early 1800s as part of the Western Reserve.

“Both my parents grew up in the city during the depression and, like most parents, they wanted a better life for their children. They worked hard and saved up in order to move my brothers and me away from what my father referred to as the “concrete jungle,” Pat explained. Her parents purchased their cherished southern Lorain County property in the 1960s from Gladys Mae Laborie.

This past year, Pat and her husband, Ric, permanently preserved 135 acres of the historic property with a conservation easement. A majority of the property consists of hardwood and evergreen forest. Steep ravines bisect the forested habitat and contain nearly two miles of well-shaded, high-quality tributaries to the West Branch of the Black River. The McCaslins continue to farm a small portion of the property as well.

“Both Ric and I were raised to love and respect nature,” Pat emphasized. “Working with Western Reserve Land Conservancy gave us the opportunity to perpetuate the dream my parents had to ensure the preservation of the historic farmland and greenspace they worked so hard to acquire.”

Pat and Ric McCaslin stand proudly with Pat’s mother, Mary McMahon (center), on their permanently preserved property.
Though Dr. Julie Clayman has traveled the world – from the Canadian wilderness to the Congo – to explore ecosystems and see endangered species, she places just as much value on the natural beauty of her 36-acre conserved property in Bainbridge Township.

Clayman, and her late husband, Dr. Jay Ankeney, donated a conservation easement on their beloved Geauga County property in 1997. In addition to donating the easement, Clayman and Ankeney donated their land to the Land Conservancy and reserved a life estate for themselves. As such, they became members of the Land Conservancy’s White Oak Legacy Society, our special group of supporters that have made a lasting commitment to land conservation and restoration through estate planning.

At the 2017 Steward Event, Western Reserve Land Conservancy recognized Julie Clayman with the Art of Caring Award.

The Art of Caring Award pays tribute to a White Oak Legacy Society individual or family who exemplifies the art of caring through their leadership, passion, and vision. In order to honor the unique gifts of the philanthropists who receive the award, local artists are commissioned to create unique artworks inspired by the generosity of our patrons. To honor Clayman, local artist Tan Gillespie painted two beautiful scenes of her preserved property, including Clayman’s cherished bluebird houses.

“Julie Clayman is an amazing woman with a deep and abiding passion for our Earth, an understanding of the importance of caring for the natural world, and concern for the delicate web of life that supports all of us,” emphasized Rich Cochran, president & CEO of the Land Conservancy. “We thank Julie for her philanthropic leadership.”

Art of Caring Award recipient Julie Clayman (left) and local artist Tan Gillespie (right) pose at the Land Conservancy’s 2017 Stewards Event.
This special group of Land Conservancy supporters have made a lasting commitment to land protection through a variety of estate-planning tools, including bequests in a will or trust, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, IRA designations, or gifts of life insurance.

Members include:
Anonymous (6)
Mr. William Abell
Stanley and Hope Adelstein
Dr. Jay Ankeney and Dr. Julie A. Clayman
Edward Baker and Anna van Heeckeren
Thomas E. Baker
Peter and Molly Balunek
Mr. and Mrs. Peter O. Benson
Mr. Richard C. Berg
Susi Brown
Ms. Jane C. Busch
Edith Chase
Mr. Richard and Dr. Jennifer Cochran
Margaret E. Cummins
Beau Daane
Ted and Anne deConingh
Ms. Marcia Deist
Perry and Mary Doermann
Mr. Othmar Elber
Louise M. Foster
Mark Frank
Roger Fuhrmeyer
Laurel Gress
Dick and Sue Grimm
Corinne P. Hickley
Mary Jane Hartwell
Jeff Holland and Marjorie Muirden
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Hyde
Ferdinand and Marguerite Jereb
Charlotte Karson Daiber
Kathy K. Leavenworth
Elsie Lutman
John and Kathryn Makley

Claire and Sandy McMillan
Bruce Merchant and Sandra Reel
Nora Lynn Nemec
Hugh and Greta Pallister
Faith E. Pescatore
Dr. George Peterson
Dr. John B. Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Rainger
Mindy and Tim Remington
Marc and Nancy Rubin
Richard and Tamara Rynearson
Mrs. Arlene J. Sahr
Franz and Beth Sauerland
Rose Scheeff
Inga Schmidt and Bruce Linsday
Virginia Shaw
Charlotte Stafford
Herbert J. and Faith Swanson
Karin Tanquist and Patrick Coy
Jean P. Thompson
Judith Ann and William Tucholsky
Bill and Cynthia VerDuin
Dr. Barry Walker
Bill and Mary Weber
Helen Wheeler
Gary and Beverly White
Dick and Jane Whitehead
Carter and Genevieve Wilmot
Mr. Arthur P. Ziegler Jr.

– deceased

If interested in joining our White Oak Legacy Society, please contact us at 440.528.4150.
Western Reserve Land Conservancy hosts many events across our region. Here’s a glimpse of events held throughout 2016 and 2017.

In May 2017, more than 50 volunteers canoed the Grand River and hiked local parks to pick up trash and debris. The annual event helps keep the scenic river clean and pristine!

More than 50 people enjoyed a gorgeous summer afternoon on the Vermilion River panning for gold in July 2017. The activity, hosted by the Land Conservancy’s Firelands Chapter, provides families the opportunity to explore the river.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy continues to host the Ohio Land Bank Conference for land bank officials and community development professionals. More than 300 people attended the 2017 conference in Cleveland which featured more than 30 sessions and 2 mobile tours.

EverGreen EverBlue, the Land Conservancy’s annual gala, is the organization’s most important fundraising event of the year. In 2017, more than 350 people stood up for conservation at TENK West Bank, a former foundry and warehouse, along the banks of the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland. A very special thank you goes to our event chairs, Bob Biggar, Kate Shaughnessy, and Margaux Schmitz Murphy.

Each year, Western Reserve Land Conservancy hosts regional celebrations to honor those landowners who have permanently conserved their properties. Pete McDonald, Director of Land Stewardship, provides an update on land conservation projects at each event, including the 2017 Eastern Landowner Appreciation event pictured above.
In August 2017, the Land Conservancy’s Young Professional Group helped with beautification projects along the Red Line Greenway in Cleveland.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy aims to make Arbor Day a Cleveland institution. During our 2017 celebration, more than 75 community and student volunteers gathered at Breakthrough Schools’ Citizens Academy in Cleveland’s Glenville neighborhood to hear from Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and plant 15 robust trees on the school campus.

Additionally, the Land Conservancy hosted Toast to Trees, a reception at Nano Brew Cleveland, where more than 100 guests came to enjoy Root Flare, a tree-themed beer, made especially for the Land Conservancy. We further engaged our community in Arbor Day by distributing hundreds of saplings in partnership with Mitchell’s Ice Cream.

Dominion Energy and Western Reserve Land Conservancy launched the Watershed Mini Grant Program in 2015 to serve organizations working to protect and improve land around rivers, lakes and streams throughout Ohio. Each year, the Land Conservancy hosts the Watershed Mini-Grant Awards Ceremony at its Conservation Center. More than $105,000 has been awarded to 30 different watershed groups across the state to date!

For the past three years, the Land Conservancy has partnered with the Cleveland Cavaliers, PwC, Davey Tree, Holden Forests & Gardens, and Cleveland Metropolitan School District to plant Trees for Threes - one tree for each three pointer scored by the Cavs at home during the regular season.
At the close of the 2017 fiscal year, Western Reserve Land Conservancy had permanently conserved more than 50,000 acres; preserved more than 200 farms; created more than 150 public parks and preserves; and planted more than 3,700 robust trees through our Reforest Our City Program. We cannot do this work without your remarkable support.

Thank you!

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### Statement of Financial Position

**June 30, 2017 and 2016**

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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>271,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>1,114,972</td>
<td>1,483,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,702,256</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,204,665</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>4,365,021</td>
<td>4,354,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>5,133,552</td>
<td>5,318,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,498,573</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,673,055</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 15,200,829</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 14,877,720</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Statement of Revenue and Expenses

**July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LP Program Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer of Conservation Lands</td>
<td>$ 4,878,351</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Program Revenue</td>
<td>11,417,411</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,295,762</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Philanthropic Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>527,193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Donations</td>
<td>1,268,482</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Donations</td>
<td>138,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events Net Revenue</td>
<td>263,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Investment Revenue</td>
<td>18,595</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,511,819</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSE</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Expense</td>
<td>17,155,177</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>644,873</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>689,732</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING EXPENSE</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,489,822</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>196,519</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ (174,482)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Western Reserve Land Conservancy Donors

Visionary • $25,000+
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Alise R. Scheff Trust
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Arctic Foundation
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Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Community Foundation of Lorain County
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The Lenox Foundation
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Ms. Elizabeth W. Porter
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Mr. Kevin Priest
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Carol Prior
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Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Schneider
Sears-Swettland Family Foundation
SecureView LLC
Jim and Kathyn Watterson
Bill and Mary Weber

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bolton
Katie Brandt and Jim Bennett
CM Wealth Advisors
Owen and Dana Colligan
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Mr. Christopher M. Connor
Kevin and Allie Connor
Mr. and Mrs. Evan R. Corns
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Douglas & Associates Co LP A
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Foundation for Geauga Parks
GE Foundation
The Good Community Foundation
Jon and Aimee Grimm
Dr. Bill and Laura Hlavin
The Holland Family
JAG Gift Fund

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Mr. and Mrs. Ed Addicott
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The Arthur L. Parker Foundation
Edward Baker and Anna van Heekeren
Mr. and Mrs. W. Craig Bashein
Mr. Richie Bellas and Mrs. Janice Ellwood
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bower
Susi Brown
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Mr. and Mrs. David Chilcote
Cheryl and Brian Coughlin
The Davey Tree Expert Company
Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. deConings Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Palmer DePetro
Frances and David Dickenson
David J. Eichenmiller and Alison W. Gee
Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation
Ms. Colleen Fifes
The G. R. Lincoln Family Foundation
Gertrude F. Orr Trust Advised Fund
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Mr. and Mrs. Doug Horner
Mr. Edward R. Hutton and Ms. Tami Brewer
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Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Impulilli
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Mr. and Mrs. Scott B. Kaplan
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Krebs
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Bruce and Inga Linsday
Mr. and Mrs. Richard McCaslin
Michael Pender Memorial Fund
Mr. Mark Mittler
Lori and Dan Nelson
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Orr Family
Kathy and Jim Pender
Mrs. Ella Quintrell
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Rankin
Mr. and Mrs. Ashley Reily
Remington Products Co.
The Richard and Rhonda Thompson Foundation
Robert R. and Gay C. Cull Family Foundation
RPM International Inc.
Kurt and Lori Schoeppler
Kevin Sherman
Judge Mary Spicer
Patrick and Nancy Sullivan

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Arctic Foundation Employee Engagement Fund
The Arthur L. Parker Foundation
Edward Baker and Anna van Heekeren
Mr. and Mrs. W. Craig Bashein
Mr. Richie Bellas and Ms. Janice Ellwood
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bower
Susi Brown
Catch Meaning Fund at the Cleveland Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. David Chilcote
Cheryl and Brian Coughlin
The Davey Tree Expert Company
Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. deConings Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Palmer DePetro
Frances and David Dickenson
David J. Eichenmiller and Alison W. Gee
Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation
Ms. Colleen Fifes
The G. R. Lincoln Family Foundation
Gertrude F. Orr Trust Advised Fund
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Mr. and Mrs. Doug Horner
Mr. Edward R. Hutton and Ms. Tami Brewer
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Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Impulilli
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Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Scott B. Kaplan
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Krebs
Lake Metroparks
Mr. and Mrs. Dale LaPorte
The Lincoln Electric Foundation
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Bruce and Inga Linsday
Mr. and Mrs. Richard McCaslin
Michael Pender Memorial Fund
Mr. Mark Mittler
Lori and Dan Nelson
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Orr Family
Kathy and Jim Pender
Mrs. Ella Quintrell
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Mr. and Mrs. Ashley Reily
Remington Products Co.
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Amy Collingwood
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Brian Humphrey
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M. Elizabeth Burrell
Mr. Roberto Nacinojch
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Barbara & Evan Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Evan R. Corns
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Lynn Dula
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Don Mitchell Jr.
Don and Pat Mitchell
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Esther McDowell and Chris Yochens
Hugh and Gretta Pallister
Carol and Daniel Fishwick
William Prior
Dan and Nancy Best
Audrey Katzman and Tim McParland
James Schmeller
Edna Schmeller
Dylan Sheneman
Gina Pauch
Marilyn James Sherer
Larry C. Sherer
Ann Shestak
Desia Ally Joseph
Faye Sivazlian
Intel Foundation
Finy Sahaidah
Mark Sivazlian
Carol and Virginia Tevis
Carol S. Tevis
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Kate Pilacky
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We apologize for any omissions. If your name has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please contact Gina Pauch at 440.528.4150 or gpauch@wrlandconservancy.org.
We are grateful to those who have volunteered their time and energy in support of our mission. Thank you!

Bill Abell
ABM Industries
Cody Adkins
Chris Alvarado, Slavic Village Development Corporation
AmeriCorps
Arborwear
Arconic
Ashland County Metroparks
Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland
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Ronnie Bailey
Ty Bailey
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Bruce & Susan Bennett
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Wayne County Planning Commission
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Katie White
Helen Whitehouse
Ann Wieland
Sarah Wiegand
Tina Wilson
Bill Wills
Windchime
Winston Williams
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Wooddreams Inc.
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Dennis Young
John M. Young
Dan Zeller
John M. Zettler
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Village of Marblehead

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Betty Hollister
Holy Name School
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Tanese Horton, The Centers & Harvey Rice School
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The J.M. Smucker Company
Imani Jasper
Vanguard Johnson, Buckeye-Shaker Square Area Development
Whitney Jones
Laura & Bill Jordan, Medina Raptor Center Inc.
Desia Joseph
Kurt Karakul
John Katzko
Sandra Kaufman, Ph.D.
Curt Keal
Mary Keane
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Kelleys Island Park District Recreation Board
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Jack Knight
Brian Koenker
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Lorain County Soil and Water Conservation District
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Ohio Real Title
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Ohio Wetlands Association
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Cuyahoga Land Bank
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Mark Hoberecht
Josh Holbrook
Holden Forests and Gardens

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Village of Marblehead
Jacqueline Bird, Mayor, Robert Hruska,
Rhonda Sowers, John Starcher
Village of Kelleys Island
Village of Maple Heights

Nancy Brancatelli, Kevin Kelley
The Cleveland Foundation
Cleveland Metroparks
Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Dr. Jim Bisell, Garrett Ormiston, Larry Rosche, Judy Semroc

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Funding for the 2017 Fiscal Year Annual Report was generously provided by the Sandra L. and Dennis B. Haslinger Family Foundation.

Special thanks to David Liam Kyle for providing many of the beautiful photos for this report, including those on the front and back cover.
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Vice Chair
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Butch Baron  
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Land Bank Program Director
George Warnock  
Land Steward & Conservation Project Manager - Eastern Region
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Special Projects Manager
Matt White  
Director of GIS
Shane Wohlken  
Land Steward - Central Region