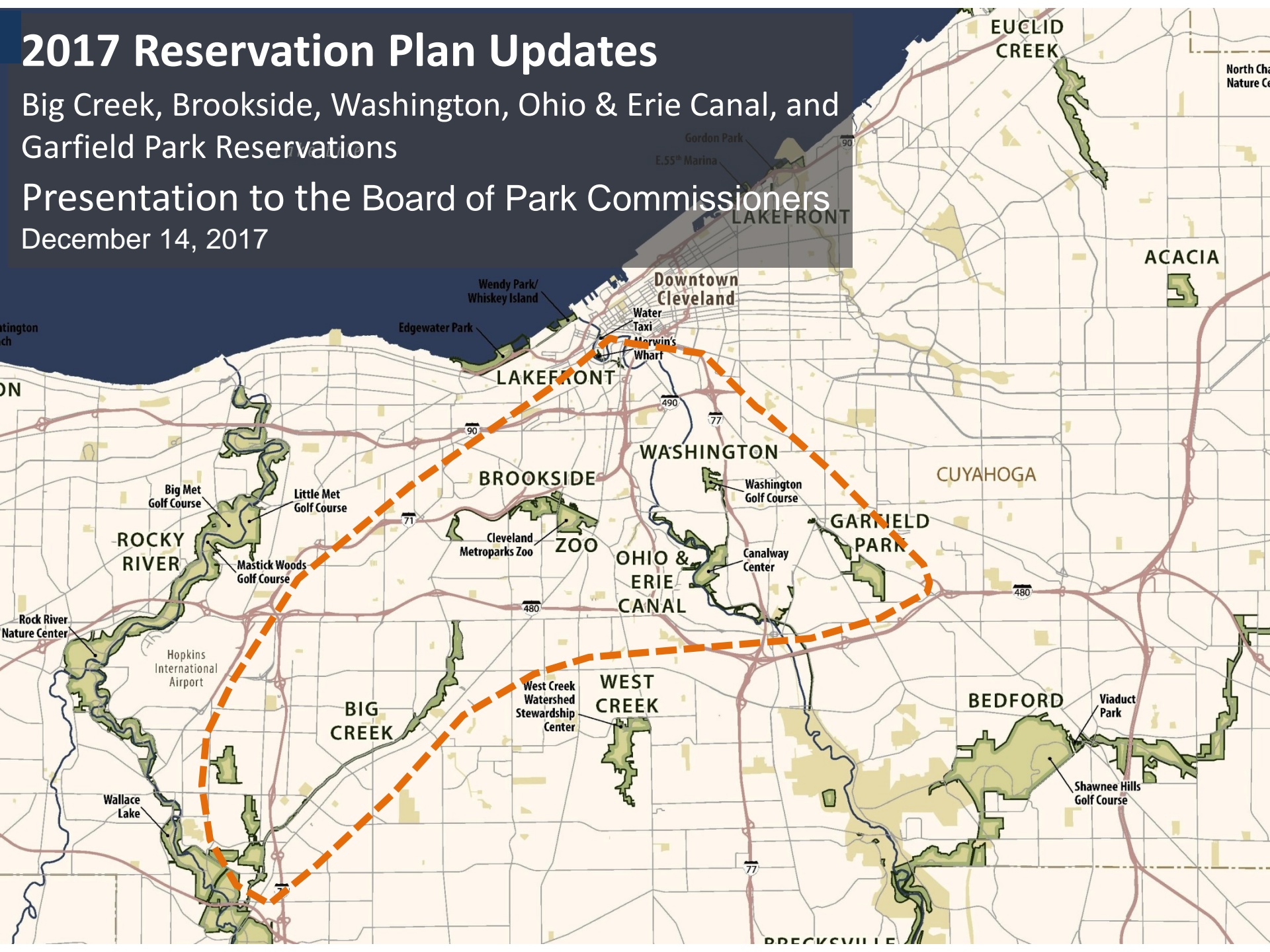


2017 Reservation Plan Updates

Big Creek, Brookside, Washington, Ohio & Erie Canal, and
Garfield Park Reservations

Presentation to the Board of Park Commissioners

December 14, 2017



2017 Schedule

Work Session 1 Kick off – January
Work Session 2 Initial Concept – March
Outside Stakeholder Meetings – April
Work Session 3 Concept Review – May
Leadership / Chiefs Review – July /August
Draft to Board September

Open Houses Sept. 12, 13, 19, and 20

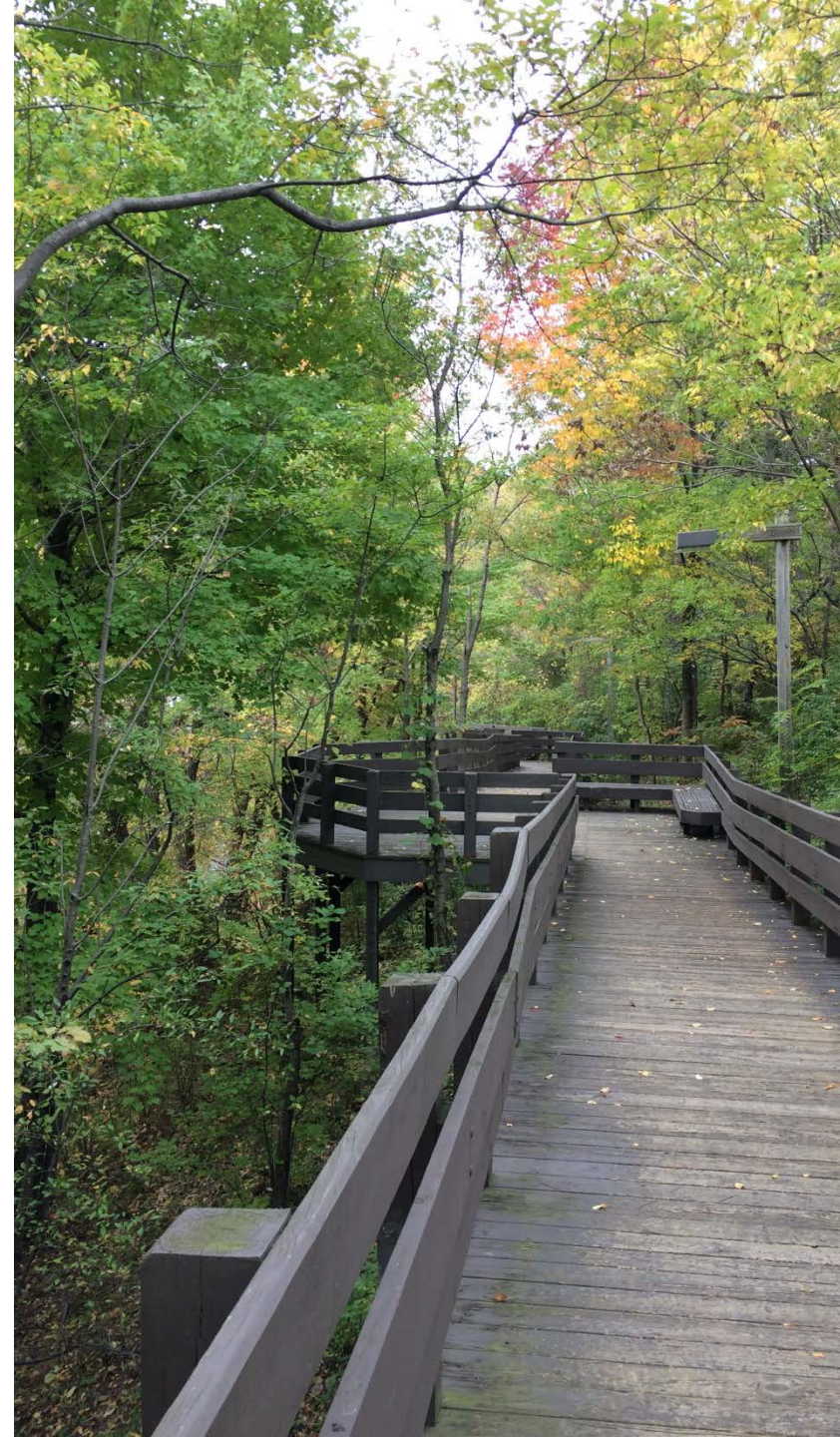
Garfield Park & North Chagrin Centennial Concerts

Vital Neighborhoods Picnic in Brookside

Discussions with Brooklyn, Old Brooklyn CDC,
Newburgh Heights, Slavic Village CDC, Garfield Hts.,
Cuyahoga Hts., Big Creek Connects, West Creek
Conservancy

Work Session 4 Final Review – October

Final to Board December



Reservation Attributes

Shared challenges

- Isolation and barriers (creeks, topography, railroads, highways)
- Wayfinding
- Visitor comfort
- Some aging infrastructure

Assets and advantages

- Brookside and Garfield have been used as parks since 1890s
- Mature trees and some relatively undisturbed areas
- Good 'bones' – circulation patterns and infrastructure
- Opportunity to positively impact surrounding communities
- Urban greenways – trails and linear parks not surrounded by additional parkland
- Provide green infrastructure and stream corridor protection in the midst of developed areas



2017 Reservation Plan Updates
Neighborhood Connections

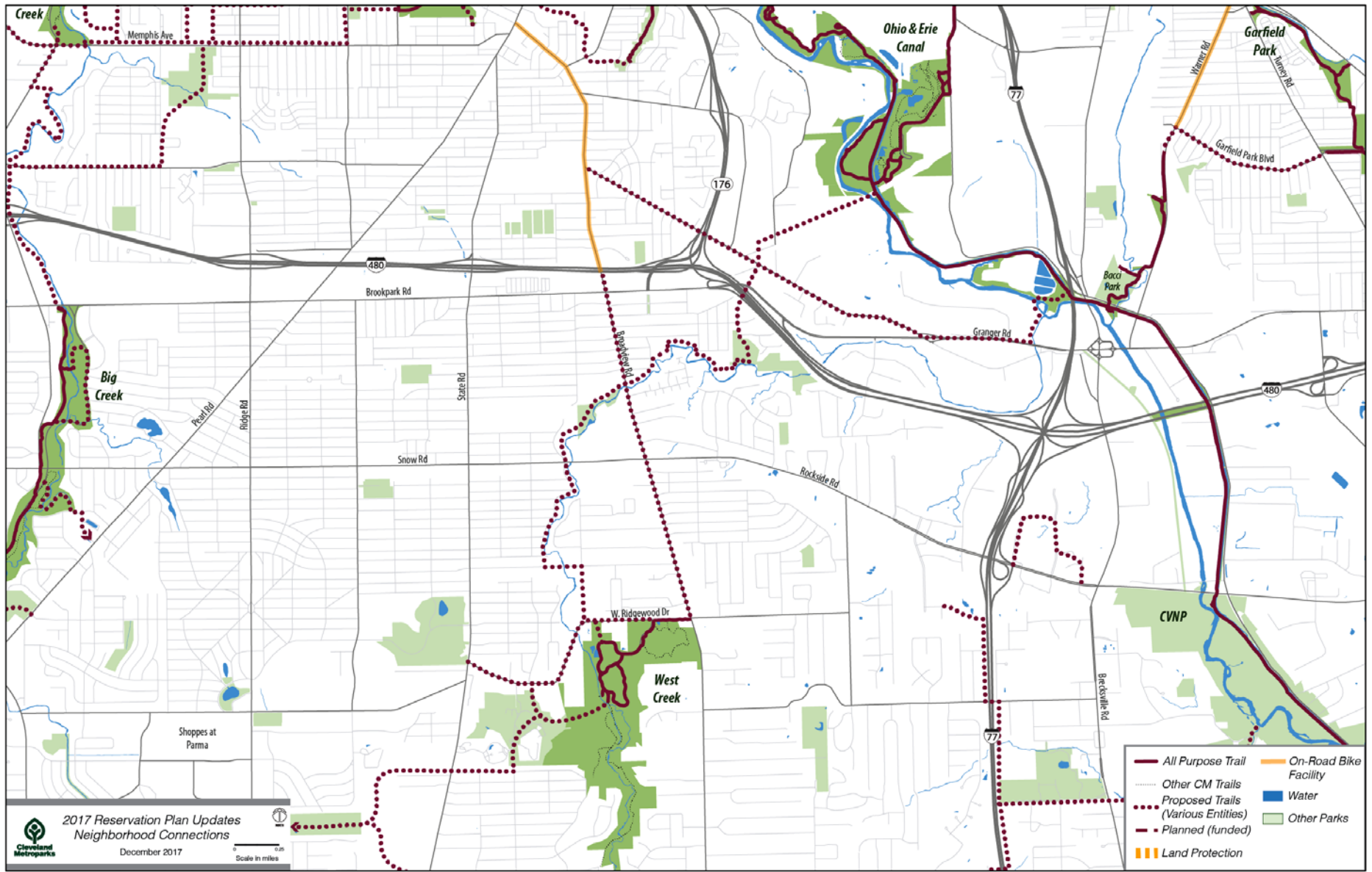
December 2017



Scale in feet

- All Purpose Trail
- On-Road Bike Facility
- Water
- Other Parks
- - - Proposed Trails (Various Entities)
- - - Planned (funded)
- - - Land Protection





2017 Reservation Plan Updates
Neighborhood Connections

December 2017



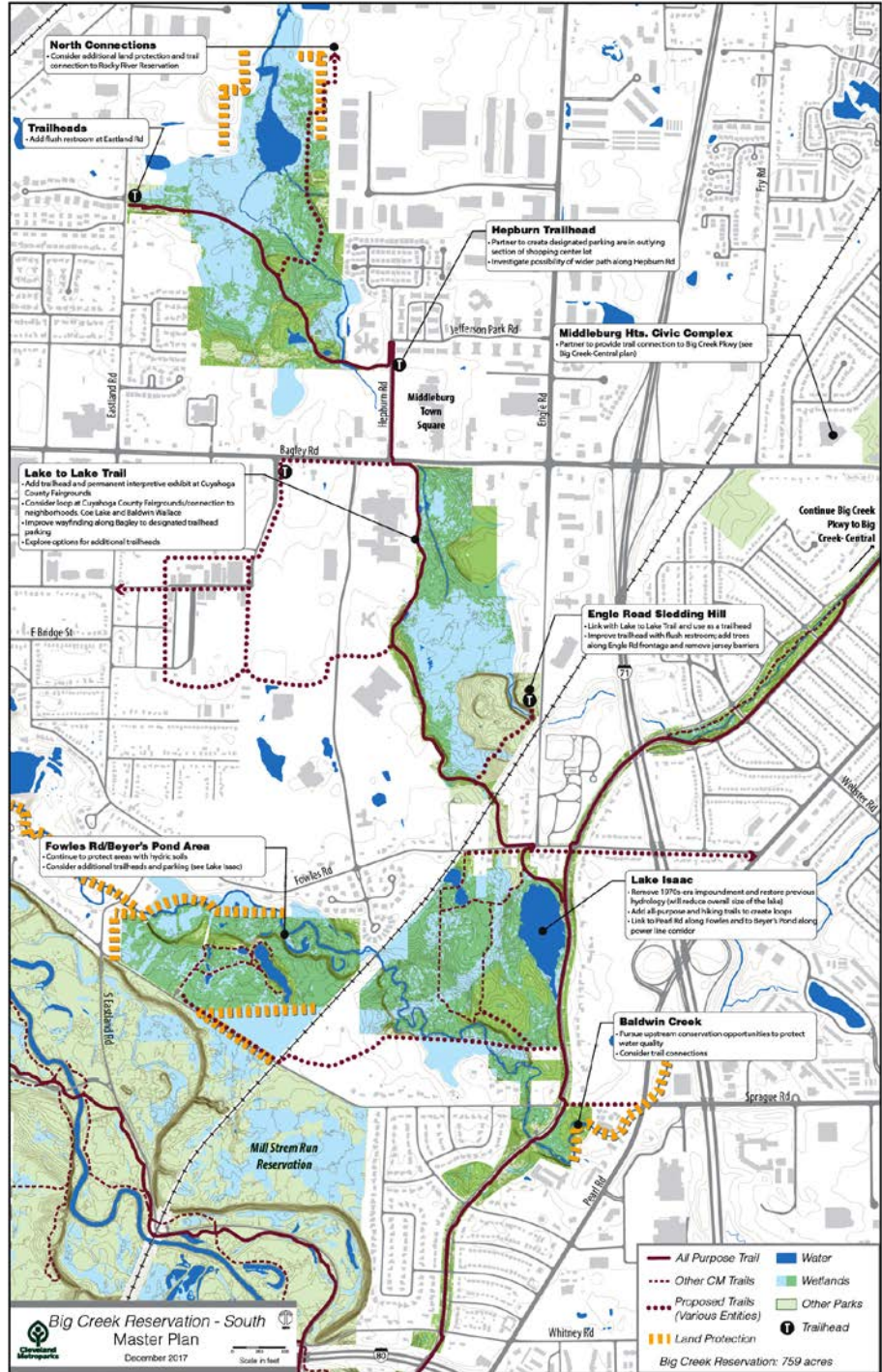
Big Creek

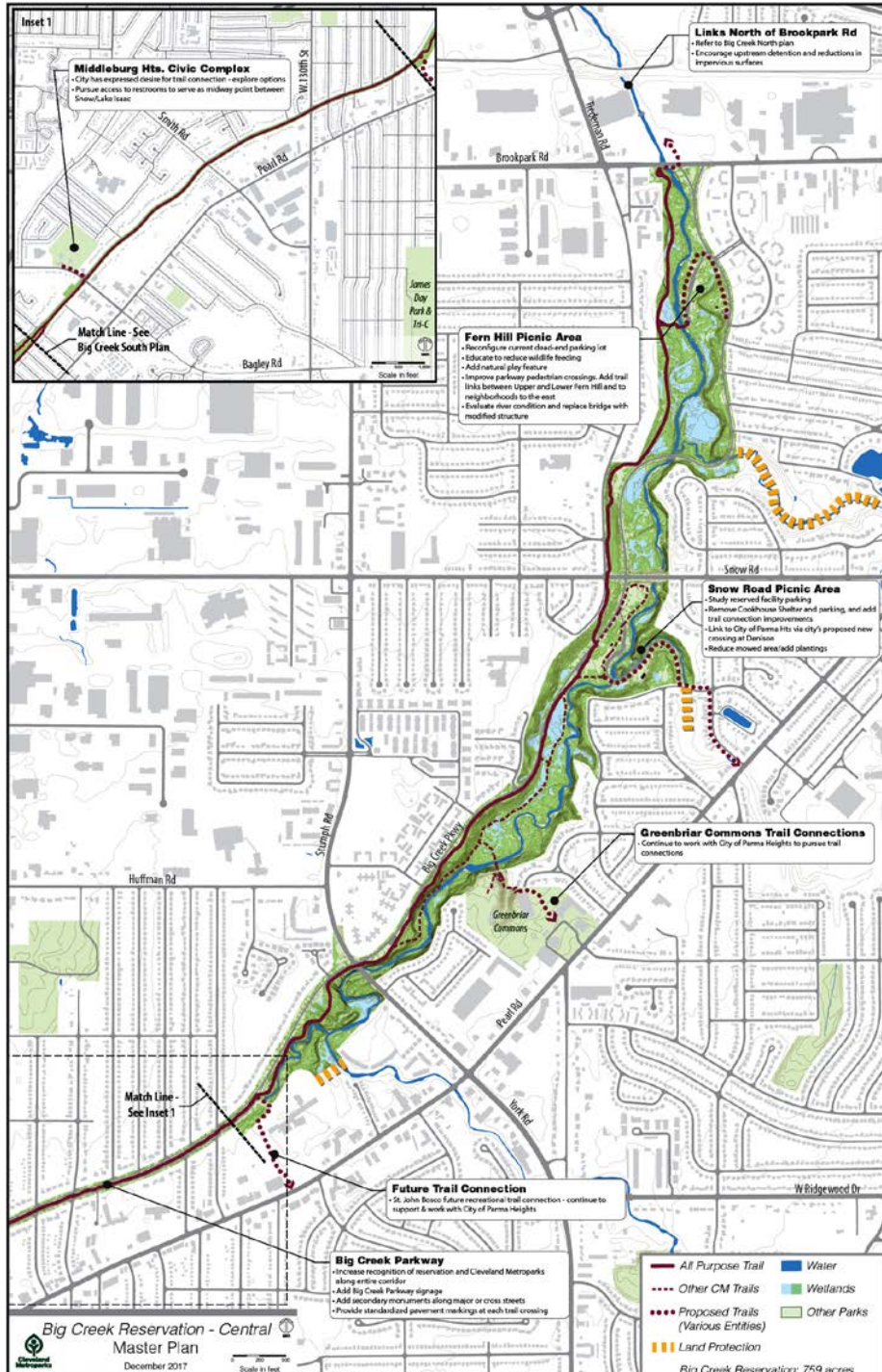
- Connections – protect Big Creek corridor, add trail loops, and improve park to park connections
- Partner with neighboring communities to improve access to/from trail

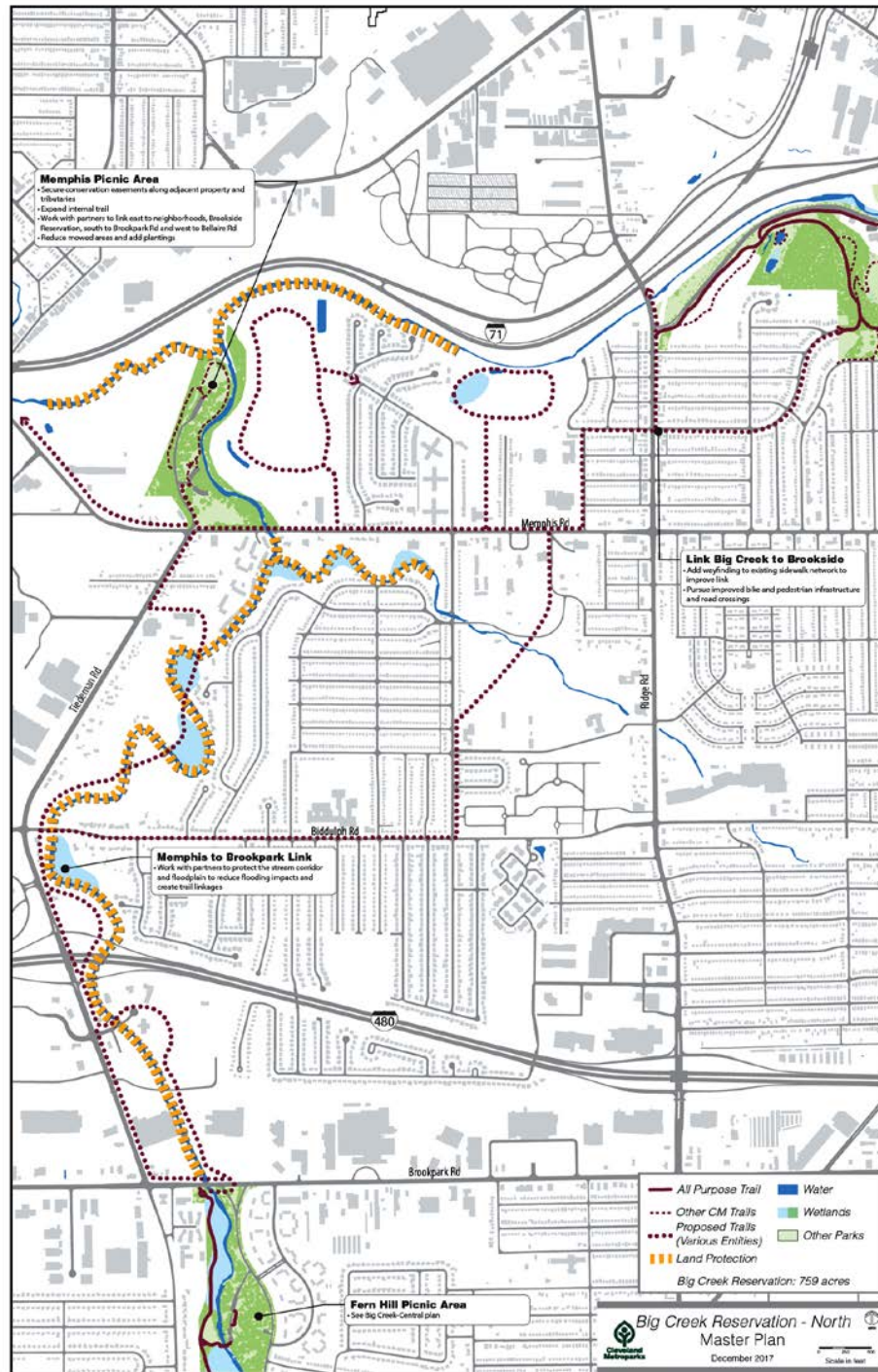


Big Creek - S. of Snow Rd Neg 83
Sept 138









Memphis Picnic Area

- Secure conservation easements along adjacent property and tributaries
- Expand internal trail
- Work with partners to link east to neighborhood, Brookside Reservation, south to Brookpark Rd and west to Bellamy Rd
- Reduce mowed areas and add plantings

Link Big Creek to Brookside

- Add wayfinding to existing sidewalk network to improve link
- Pursue improved bike and pedestrian infrastructure and road crossings

Memphis to Brookpark Link

- Work with partners to protect the stream corridor and floodplain to reduce flooding impacts and create trail linkages

Fern Hill Picnic Area

- See Big Creek-Central plan

- All Purpose Trail
- Other CM Trails
- Proposed Trails
- (Verixus Entities)
- Land Protection
- Water
- Wetlands
- Other Parks

Big Creek Reservation: 759 acres

Initial Priorities – Big Creek Reservation

- Trail and neighborhood connections
 - Lake to Lake north to Rocky River Reservation
 - Memphis to Brookpark Link
- Fern Hill Picnic Area improvements
 - Reduce wildlife feeding
- Baldwin Creek – pursue upstream conservation to protect water quality



Brookside

- Support for park as a hub for active recreation
- Improve neighborhood and regional connections – various locations; approaches include steps, trails, signage
- Support the function and mission of the Zoo





Brookside Reservation: 132 acres

Initial Priorities – Brookside Reservation

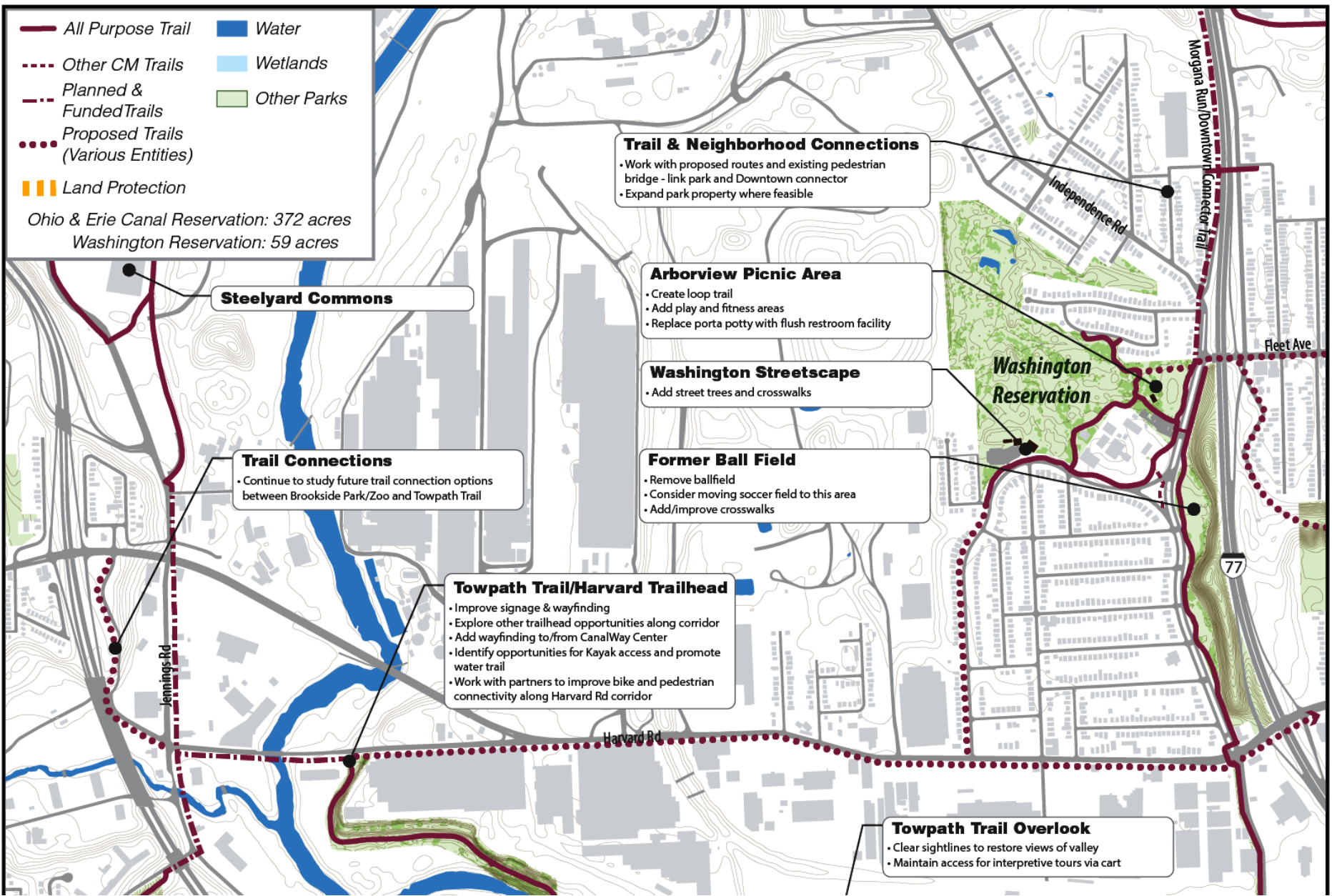
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
 - Incorporate green infrastructure in parking lots
 - Maintain contact with owner of private inholding
 - Coordinate ongoing improvements
- Connections within the park
 - Denison Avenue / Wildlife Way
 - Fulton Parkway /Brookside Event Center (stairs)
 - Muriel and 38th / Wildlife Way
- Connections to surrounding neighborhoods and other parks



Washington

- Newburgh Heights plan for trail along south side of Harvard and connections across I-77
- Interest in play and exercise areas and improved restroom as well as streetscape improvements
- Support for additional lighting





- All Purpose Trail
- - - Other CM Trails
- - - Planned & Funded Trails
- · · Proposed Trails (Various Entities)
- ||| Land Protection
- Water
- Wetlands
- Other Parks

Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation: 372 acres
 Washington Reservation: 59 acres

Steelyard Commons

Trail Connections
 • Continue to study future trail connection options between Brookside Park/Zoo and Towpath Trail

Towpath Trail/Harvard Trailhead
 • Improve signage & wayfinding
 • Explore other trailhead opportunities along corridor
 • Add wayfinding to/from CanalWay Center
 • Identify opportunities for Kayak access and promote water trail
 • Work with partners to improve bike and pedestrian connectivity along Harvard Rd corridor

Trail & Neighborhood Connections
 • Work with proposed routes and existing pedestrian bridge - link park and Downtown connector
 • Expand park property where feasible

Arborview Picnic Area
 • Create loop trail
 • Add play and fitness areas
 • Replace porta potty with flush restroom facility

Washington Streetscape
 • Add street trees and crosswalks

Former Ball Field
 • Remove ballfield
 • Consider moving soccer field to this area
 • Add/improve crosswalks

Towpath Trail Overlook
 • Clear sightlines to restore views of valley
 • Maintain access for interpretive tours via cart

Washington Reservation

Jennings Rd

Harvard Rd

Independence Rd

Morana Run/Downtown Connector Trail

Fleet Ave

77

Initial Priorities – Washington Reservation

- Trail and neighborhood connections
 - Partner to link along Harvard Rd.
 - Work with proposed routes incl. Downtown Connector and existing pedestrian bridge to better link to neighborhoods east of I-77
- Arborview Picnic Area – add flush restroom and lighting
- Expand park property where feasible



Ohio & Erie Canal

- Interest in linking to neighborhoods west of Cuyahoga River
- Improve 49th Street entrance and general access and circulation
- Understanding of ongoing obligations with Towpath maintenance





Towpath Trail Overlook
 • Clear sightlines to restore views of valley
 • Maintain access for interpretive tours via cart

Settler's Bluff Picnic Area
 • Shelter renovation pending

Harmody Park/Treadway Creek Trail
 • Leverage existing trail to link Towpath to Brookside

Ohio & Erie Canal Mountain Bike Trail

Morgan's Hollow Picnic Area
 • Renovate shelter
 • Upgrade site electrical

Canalway Center
 • Improve access to building and site
 • Add boat cleaning/bike cleaning station & interpretive
 • Improve ADA access to Towpath

Park Entrance
 • Improve sightlines & signage
 • Update entry and remove island

Blue Heron Marsh
 • Boardwalk impacted by beaver activity - elevate and improve one section with dipping deck access
 • Remove the remainder of boardwalk

Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

Bridge/Trail Connection to Schaaf Rd
 • Explore opportunities to better link neighborhoods west of Cuyahoga River

Park Management Center
 • Study development of a new facility and access drive to park

Northern Zone

Southern Zone

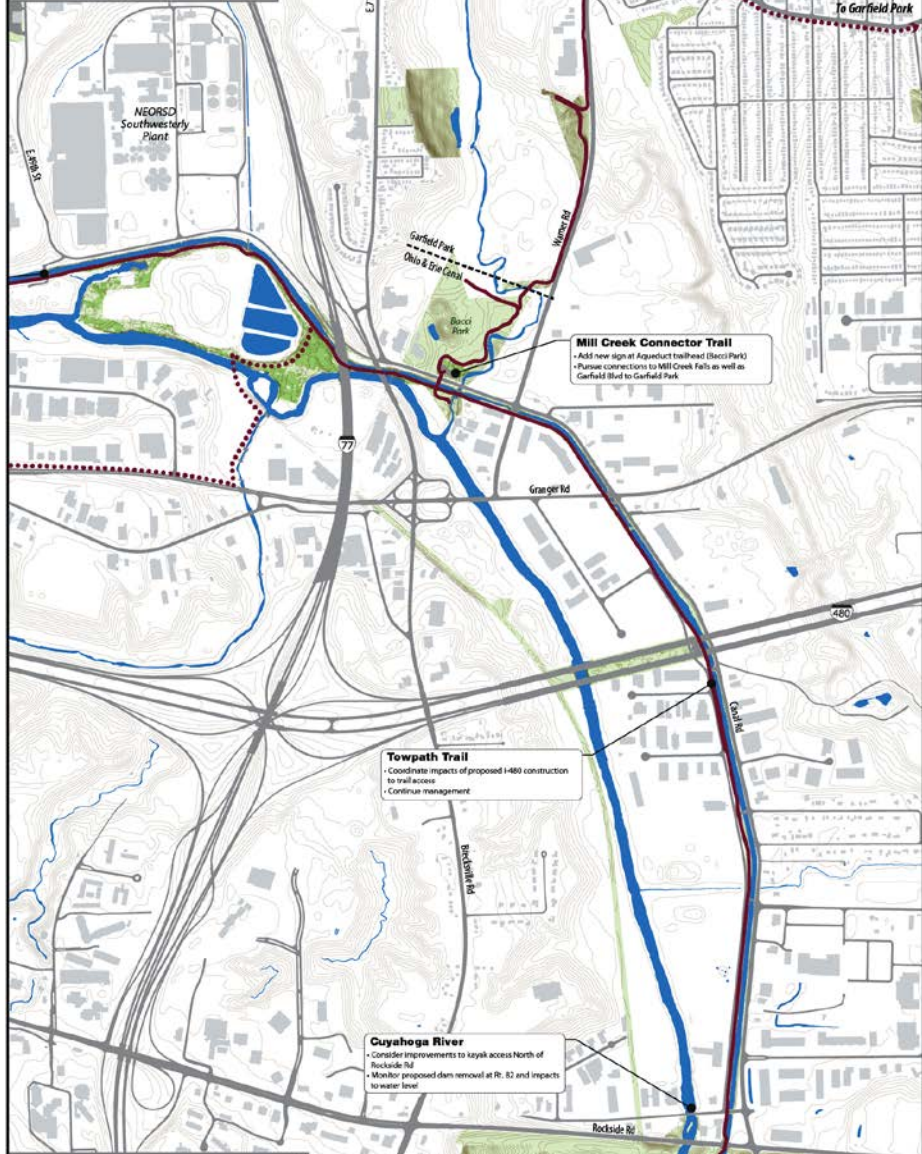
Overall
 • Maximize regional, state & national awareness and tourism of Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation, including:
 - 5.7 miles of the Towpath Trail, which follows the historic Ohio & Erie Canal
 - The trail, canal and park are located within the Ohio & Erie National Heritage corridor
 - The Ohio & Erie Canalway Scenic Byway passes alongside the reservation
 - Cuyahoga River Water Trail (pending ODNR designation)
 • Work with partners to address the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern designation and continue upstream mitigation efforts
 • Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation opened to the public in 1999. Several facilities are now in need of renovation

Ohio & Erie Canal
 • Develop standards for management and mitigation of bank slumping
 • Potentially relocate segments of trail
 • Northern Zone - accessible and fishing activities
 • Southern Zone - naturalized/historic canal profile

Canal Rd/ E.49th St
 • Explore potential trailhead/ADA access
 • Identify opportunities for kayak access and promote water trail

— All Purpose Trail — Water
- - - Mill Creek Falls Connection - Sidewalk & Bike Lanes — Wetlands
- - - - Other CM Trails — Other Parks
••••• Proposed Trails (Various Entities)
▬▬▬ Land Protection

Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation: 372 acres



Mill Creek Connector Trail

- Add new sign at Aqueduct trailhead (Backs Park)
- Phase connections to Mill Creek Falls as well as Garfield Blvd to Garfield Park

Towpath Trail

- Coordinate impacts of proposed I-480 construction to trail access
- Continue management

Cuyahoga River

- Consider improvements to kayak access North of Rockside Rd
- Monitor proposed dam removal at Rt. 82 and impacts to water level

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Initial Priorities – Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

- Trail and neighborhood connections
 - Partner to link along Harvard Road
 - Pursue connections to Mill Creek Falls as well as Garfield Boulevard to Garfield Park
- Develop standards for Towpath and canal management / treatment of canal's banks
- Cuyahoga River
 - Work with partners to address the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern designation and continue upstream mitigation efforts
 - Promote kayak access and state water trail designation



Garfield Park

- Support for pond
- Groups using shelters sometimes impact neighbors
- Several requests to have restrooms at Mill Creek
- Lots of interest in new shelter / picnic area / restroom improvements
- Support for enforcement presence and maintenance efforts



- All Purpose Trail
 - Water
 - Wetlands
 - Other Parks
 - - - Mill Creek Falls Connection (Sidewalk & Bike Lanes)
 - - - Other CM Trails
 - - - Proposed Trails (Various Entities)
 - - - Land Protection
 - Trailhead
- Garfield Park Reservation: 219 acres

Valley Overlook
 • Scenic vista/potential future connection

Mill Creek Connector Trail
 • Refer to page Ohio & Erie Canal page for trail connection to towpath

Garfield Center
 • Improve parking lot lighting

Windy Ridge Picnic Area
 • Reconfigure drive and parking
 • Add new shelter
 • Add flush restroom and trailhead amenities to help activate trail to Mill Creek Falls

Trolley Turn Area
 • Remove majority of parking and configure as two smaller lots
 • Remove canopy shelter and replace elsewhere in the park. Reuse concrete pad as accessible picnic area

Old Birch Area and APT Loop
 • Reduce mowing; add woodland edge and pollinator plantings
 • Add flush restroom and fitness equipment
 • Add cul-de-sac at drive and separate road from APT
 • Remove excess pavement and create biofilter cells

Wolf Creek Valley
 • Pave Middle Road Trail. Add boardwalk to maintain wetland pockets
 • Restore forested lands
 • Feature Iron Springs remnant; dates to late 1800's
 • Repair and reopen historic stone staircases

Mill Creek Falls
 • Open views and reconfigure area
 • Add restrooms, picnic shelter and play area
 • Improve circulation and community connections, including bike/ped facilities on Warner Rd bridge and potential intersection reconfiguration

Greater Broadway Loop
 • Develop trail route east of Broadway
 • Explore potential of Wheeling & Lake Erie RR corridor
 • Discuss partnering opportunities with Calvary Cemetery; trails, programs, resource management
 • Approx. seven miles total

Garfield Pond
 • Incorporate historic elements in development of Wolf Creek stream restoration/pond features
 • Accomodate fishing and paddle sport 'try-its'

Quarry Lakes
 • Consider opportunities to connect trails and open space to the North and East

Broadway Railroad Overpass
 • Modify to create traffic calming and bike and pedestrian access
 • Divert bridge drainage and runoff to bioretention cells
 • Enhance conditions under below bridge

Mill Creek
 • Expand upstream protection efforts
 • Remove berms at channel and daylight culverted portions
 • Mitigate stream erosion
 • Remove industrial access

Red Oak Picnic Area
 • Study facility expansion to better integrate into neighborhood
 • Decommission ballfield



Initial Priorities – Garfield Park Reservation

- Windy Ridge Picnic Area
 - Reconfigure drive and parking
 - Add flush restroom, new shelter, and trailhead amenities to help activate trail to Mill Creek Falls (remove Trolley Turn canopy)
- Old Birch Picnic Area – Add flush restroom and fitness equipment
- Mill Creek Falls – Add flush restroom, shelter, and play area
- Garfield Pond – Incorporate historic elements in development of Wolf Creek stream restoration/pond feature



