

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Cleveland Metroparks Administrative Offices
Rzepka Board Room
4101 Fulton Parkway
Cleveland, Ohio 44144

8:00 A.M. – SPECIAL MEETING

AGENDA

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **NEW BUSINESS/CEO'S REPORT**
 - a. **APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS**
 - i) **General Action Items**
 - (a) Authorization of Land Acquisition and Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant
Application: Robb Property – Hinckley Reservation (±25 Acres)
4. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Regular Meeting – **Wednesday**, September 18, 2019 – 8:00 a.m.
Cleveland Metroparks Administrative Offices
Rzepka Board Room
4101 Fulton Parkway, Cleveland, Ohio 44144

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Purchase/Acquisition of Real Property

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

- (a) ***Authorization of Land Acquisition and Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Grant***
Application: Robb Property, Hinckley Reservation (±25 acres)
(Originating Sources: Brian M. Zimmerman, Chief Executive Officer/Natalie Ronayne, Chief Development Officer/Kristen Trolio, Grants Manager/Rosalina M. Fini, Chief Legal & Ethics Officer/Kyle G. Baker, Director of Real Estate & Senior Assistant Legal Counsel/Stephanie Kutsko, Land Protection Manager/Isaac D. Smith, Conservation Program Manager)

Background

Hinckley Reservation, consisting of 2,953 acres, is comprised of significant natural resources and a variety of recreational opportunities which combine to create a park that serves as a unique regional destination. The protection goal for Hinckley Reservation is focused on preserving the East Branch of the Rocky River (EBRR), its tributaries and other sensitive resources within the reservation. Cleveland Metroparks is interested in preserving ±25 acres of land situated along the EBRR and adjacent to an existing conservation easement to enhance the EBRR corridor and build upon a connection between Hinckley Reservation and Mill Stream Run Reservation.

Recommended Fee Acquisition of ±5 acres

The Robb Property is located at the rear of 810, 834, and 860 River Road in Hinckley Township (reference map, page **03**). John Robb recently reached out to Cleveland Metroparks with an interest in selling the rear ±25 acres of his family's property. The Robb Property has a nice variety of different habitat types including river, tributary streams, wetlands, mature floodplain forest, upland forest, and meadow. While evaluating the property for acquisition Cleveland Metroparks Natural Resources' staff located a population of larger Canadian St. John's-wort (*Hypericum majus*) which is a noteworthy species and not previously known to occur in Medina County. John K. Robb & Donna Lee Robb, Gary Alton Robb & Lisa Ann Robb, and Linda L. Olsavsky, Trustee of the Lois C. Robb Irrevocable Trust Dated November 17, 2017 have agreed to sell the ±25 acres via fee simple title for \$225,000. Acquisition of the property would continue Cleveland Metroparks goal of preserving land in the EBRR corridor and creating core natural resource areas along the river.

ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

Funding

The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission, provides funds for acquisition of greenspace in order to conserve natural areas and protect the state’s natural resources. Cleveland Metroparks proposes to apply to this program for funding to acquire the Robb Property. Acquisition of the Robb Property is contingent upon receiving Clean Ohio funds.

Cleveland Metroparks will request funds from the program for acquisition expenses and associated due diligence fees, as well as funds to perform natural resource restoration on the Robb Property. If awarded, the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund program will fund the project as shown below:

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund (54%):	\$239,000
<u>Local Match – Land Donation (37%):</u>	<u>\$205,000</u>
Total Project:	\$444,000

The required resolution is on page **04**.

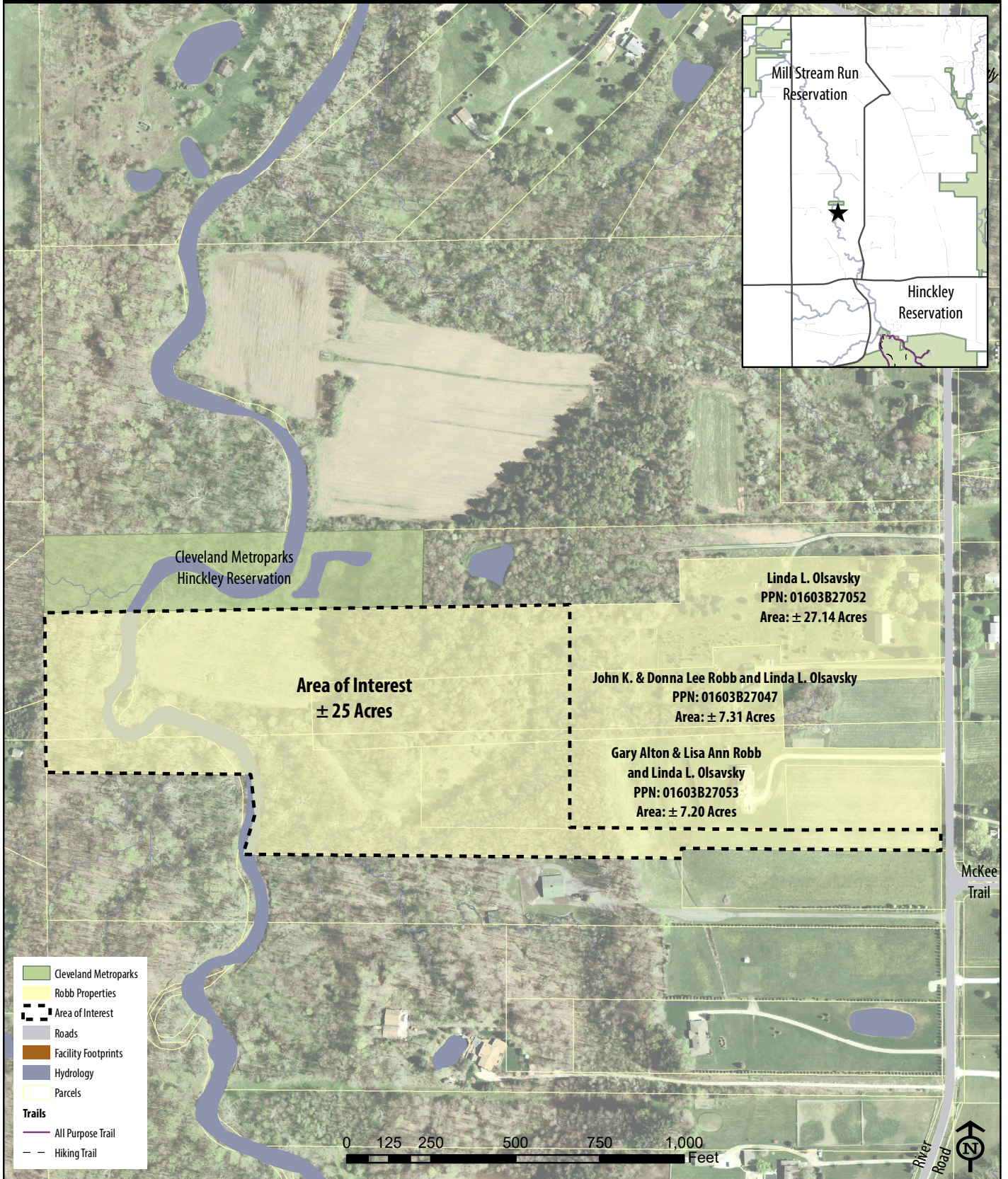
This is an important acquisition for the Rocky River watershed, preservation of the Robb Property will conserve forests, wetlands, meadows and streams of the EBRR, and expand upon this important corridor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Board authorize the acquisition of fee simple title of ±25 acres as hereinabove described, from John K. Robb & Donna Lee Robb, Gary Alton Robb & Lisa Ann Robb, and Linda L. Olsavsky, Trustee of the Lois C. Robb Irrevocable Trust Dated November 17, 2017, for a purchase price of \$225,000, contingent upon funding and subject to the terms and conditions hereinabove summarized, and subject to the environmental assessment report and evidence of title, including exceptions to title, by the Chief Legal and Ethics Officer; further, that the Board authorize the adoption of the resolution to authorize the submittal of a grant application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding assistance of ±\$239,000 through the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund program as described above; further, to authorize and agree to obligate the funds required to satisfactorily complete the proposed project and become eligible for reimbursement under the terms and conditions of the program; and finally, that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into agreements and execute any other documents as may be required to accept the grant upon award and to acquire the property; form of document(s) to be approved by Chief Legal and Ethics Officer.

Hinckley Reservation

Robb/Olsavsky Properties - Hinckley Township



**Resolution Authorizing Application to the
Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
September 10, 2019**

WHEREAS, The State of Ohio, through the Ohio Public Works Commission, administers financial assistance for greenspace conservation, through the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund program, and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Metroparks desires financial assistance under the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund program, and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Metroparks desires to acquire ±25 acres as part of Hinckley Reservation, referred to as the Robb Property,

NOW THEREFORE, be is resolved by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District:

That the Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District approves filing this application for financial assistance.

That Brian M. Zimmerman, Chief Executive Officer, is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file an application with the Ohio Public Works Commission and to provide all information and documentation required to become eligible for possible funding assistance and further, that Brian M. Zimmerman is authorized to enter into any agreements as necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

That the Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District does agree to obligate the funds required to satisfactorily complete the proposed project and become eligible for reimbursement under the terms of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund program.

Debra K. Berry, President
Board of Park Commissioners

CERTIFICATE OF RECORDING OFFICER

I the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by Cleveland Metroparks on the 10th day of September 2019, and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Brian M. Zimmerman
Chief Executive Officer