

# 2017 Draft Reservation Plan Updates

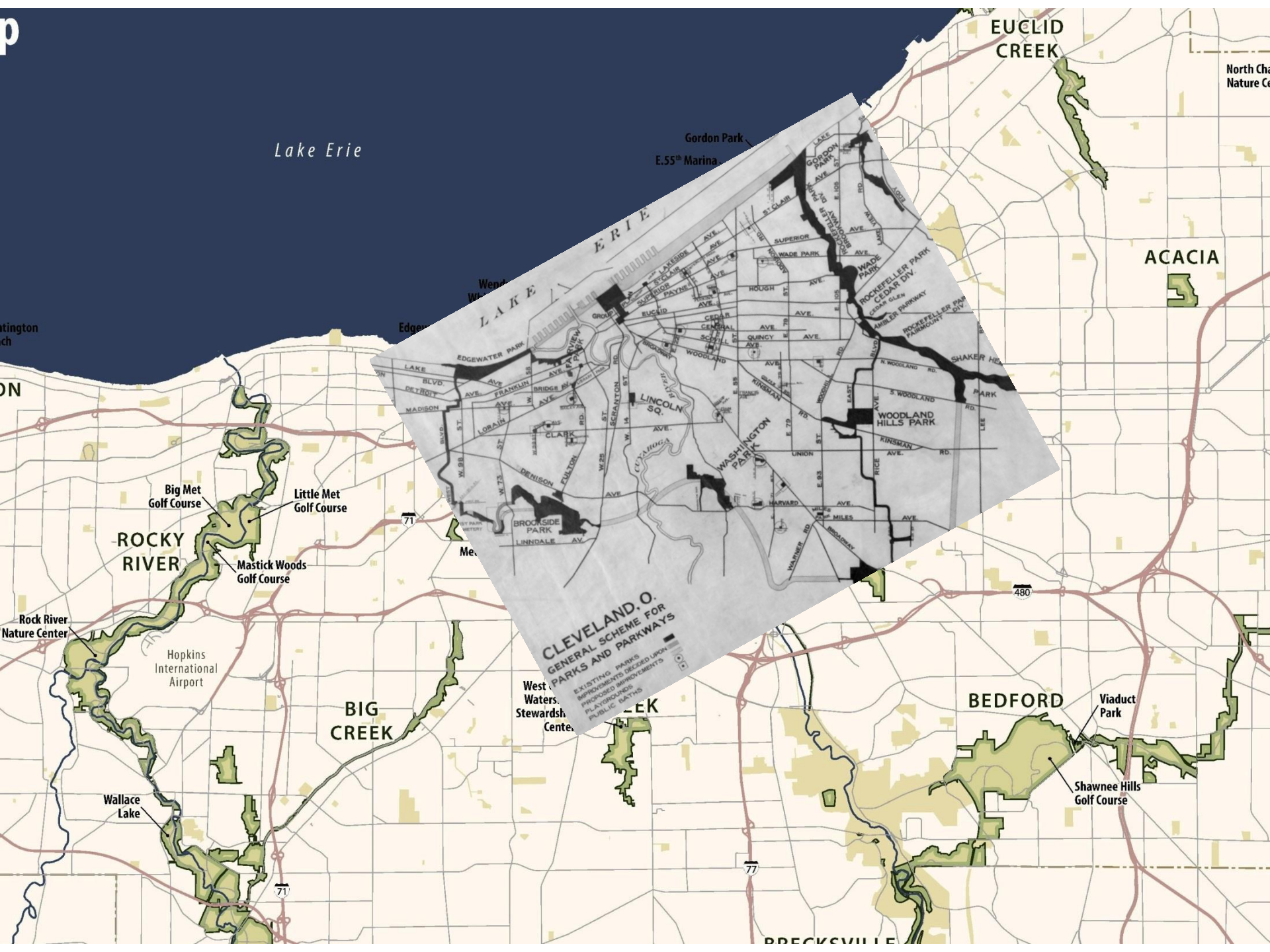
Big Creek, Brookside, Washington, Ohio & Erie Canal,  
and Garfield Park Reservations

Presentation to the Board of Park Commissioners

September 7, 2017







Lake Erie

EUCLID CREEK

North Ch Nature C

Gordon Park  
E.55<sup>th</sup> Marina

ACACIA

LAKE ERIE

CLEVELAND, O.  
GENERAL SCHEME FOR  
PARKS AND PARKWAYS

EXISTING PARKS  
IMPROVED PARKS  
PLAYGROUNDS  
PUBLIC BATHS

ROCKY RIVER

Big Met Golf Course  
Little Met Golf Course  
Mastick Woods Golf Course

Rock River Nature Center

Hopkins International Airport

BIG CREEK

BEDFORD

Viaduct Park  
Shawnee Hills Golf Course

West Waters Stewardsh Center

Wallace Lake

BRECKVILLE

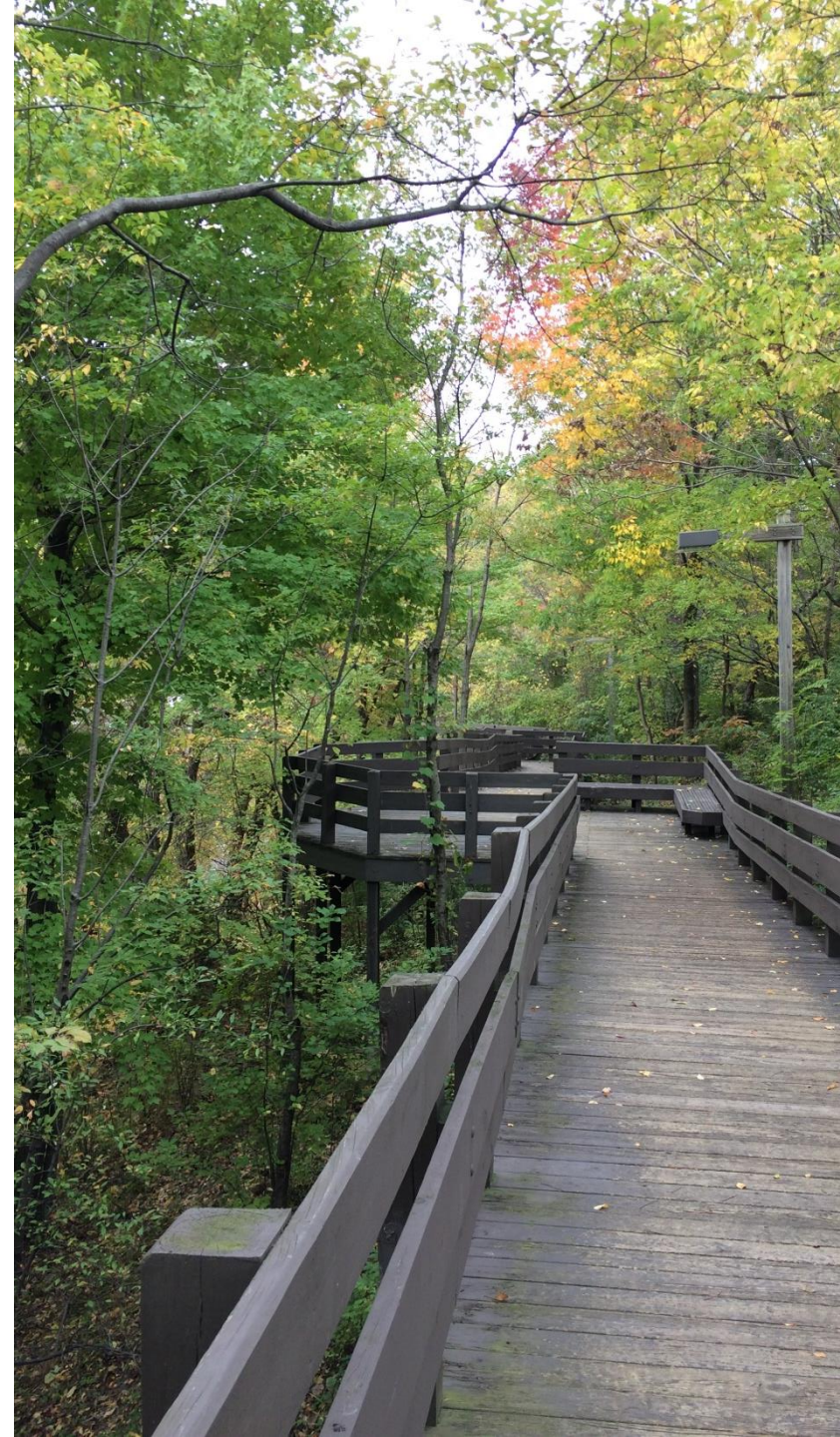


# 2017 Schedule

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 7<sup>th</sup>**

***Open Houses Sept. 12, 13, 19, and 20***  
*Plus Garfield Park and North Chagrin Centennial  
Concerts and Vital Neighborhoods Picnic in Brookside*

Work Session 4 Final Review October  
Final to Board December





# 2017

Public Open Houses will be held the following evenings from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., with short presentations at 5 and 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 12 | Brookside Reservation**  
Valley Event Center  
Located along John Nagy Blvd. east of Ridge Road  
Cleveland

**Wednesday, September 13 | Garfield Park**  
Trolley Turn Canopy  
Located along Garfield Parkway South  
Garfield Heights

**Tuesday, September 19 | Big Creek Reservation**  
Creekside Reserved Shelter  
Located in the Snow Road Picnic Area off  
Big Creek Parkway  
Parma

**Wednesday, September 20 | Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation**  
CanalWay Center  
4524 East 49th Street  
Cuyahoga Heights

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the future of the parks.



Plans and comment cards will be available for each reservation at each meeting. Materials can also be found online at [clevelandmetroparks.com/reservationplans](http://clevelandmetroparks.com/reservationplans). Questions? Contact Kelly Coffman, Senior Strategic Park Planner at [kbc@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:kbc@clevelandmetroparks.com)

4524 East 49th Street  
Cuyahoga Heights



# 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





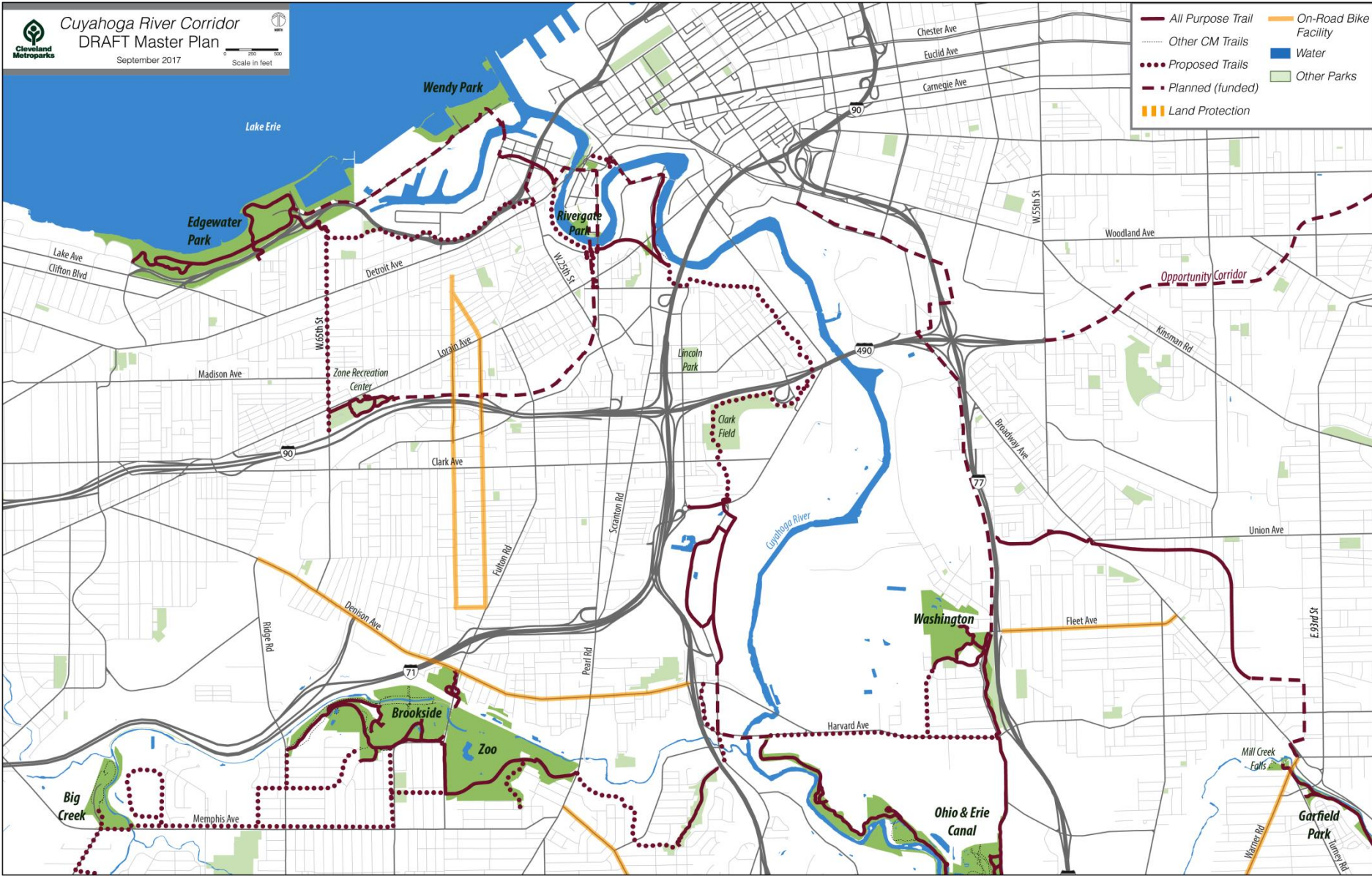
# Cuyahoga River Corridor DRAFT Master Plan

September 2017

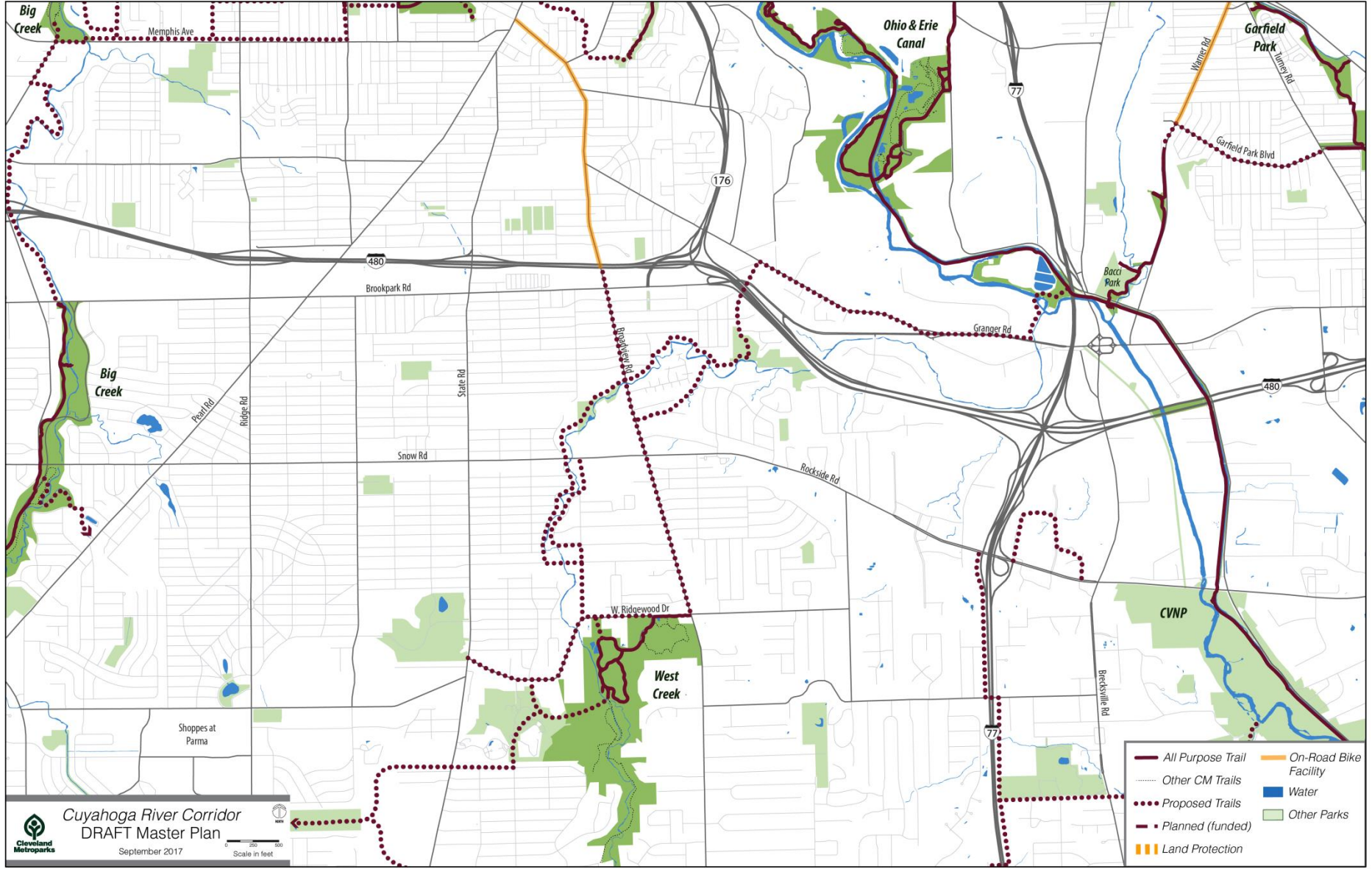


Scale in feet

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







**Cuyahoga River Corridor  
DRAFT Master Plan**

September 2017



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# Big Creek

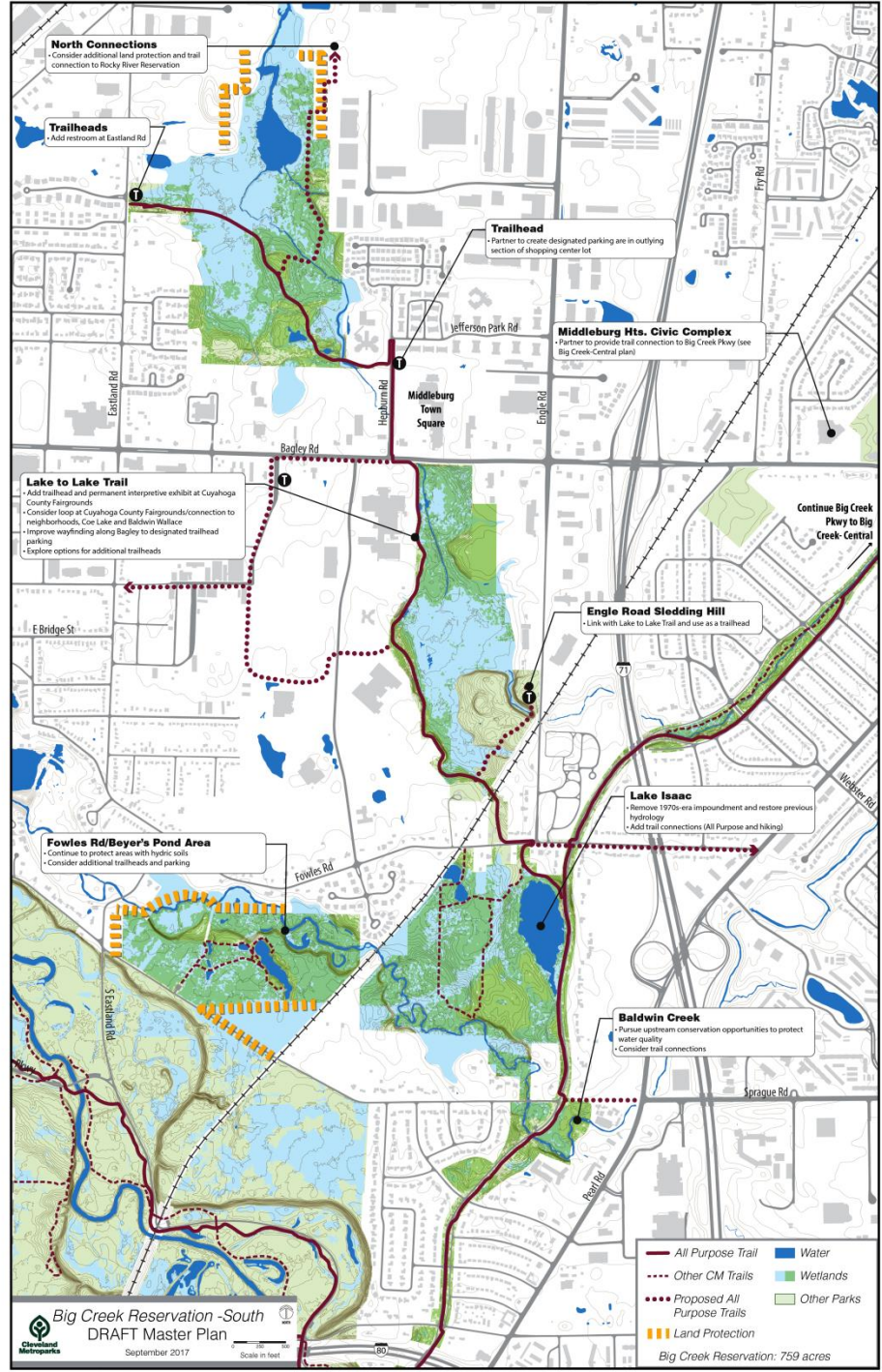
- Connect missing links along Big Creek
- Partner with neighboring communities to improve bike and pedestrian access to park
- Improve park awareness along Parkway and at Lake to Lake Trail
- Protect wetlands and floodplains in urban watershed



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







**North Connections**

- Consider additional land protection and trail connection to Rocky River Reservation

**Trailheads**

- Add restroom at Eastland Rd

**Trailhead**

- Partner to create designated parking area in outlying section of shopping center lot

**Middleburg Hts. Civic Complex**

- Partner to provide trail connection to Big Creek Pkwy (see Big Creek-Central plan)

**Lake to Lake Trail**

- Add trailhead and permanent interpretive exhibit at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds
- Consider loop at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds/connection to neighborhoods, Coe Lake and Baldwin/Wallace
- Improve wayfinding along Bagley to designated trailhead parking
- Explore options for additional trailheads

**Fowles Rd/Beyer's Pond Area**

- Continue to protect areas with hydroic soils
- Consider additional trailheads and parking

**Lake Isaac**

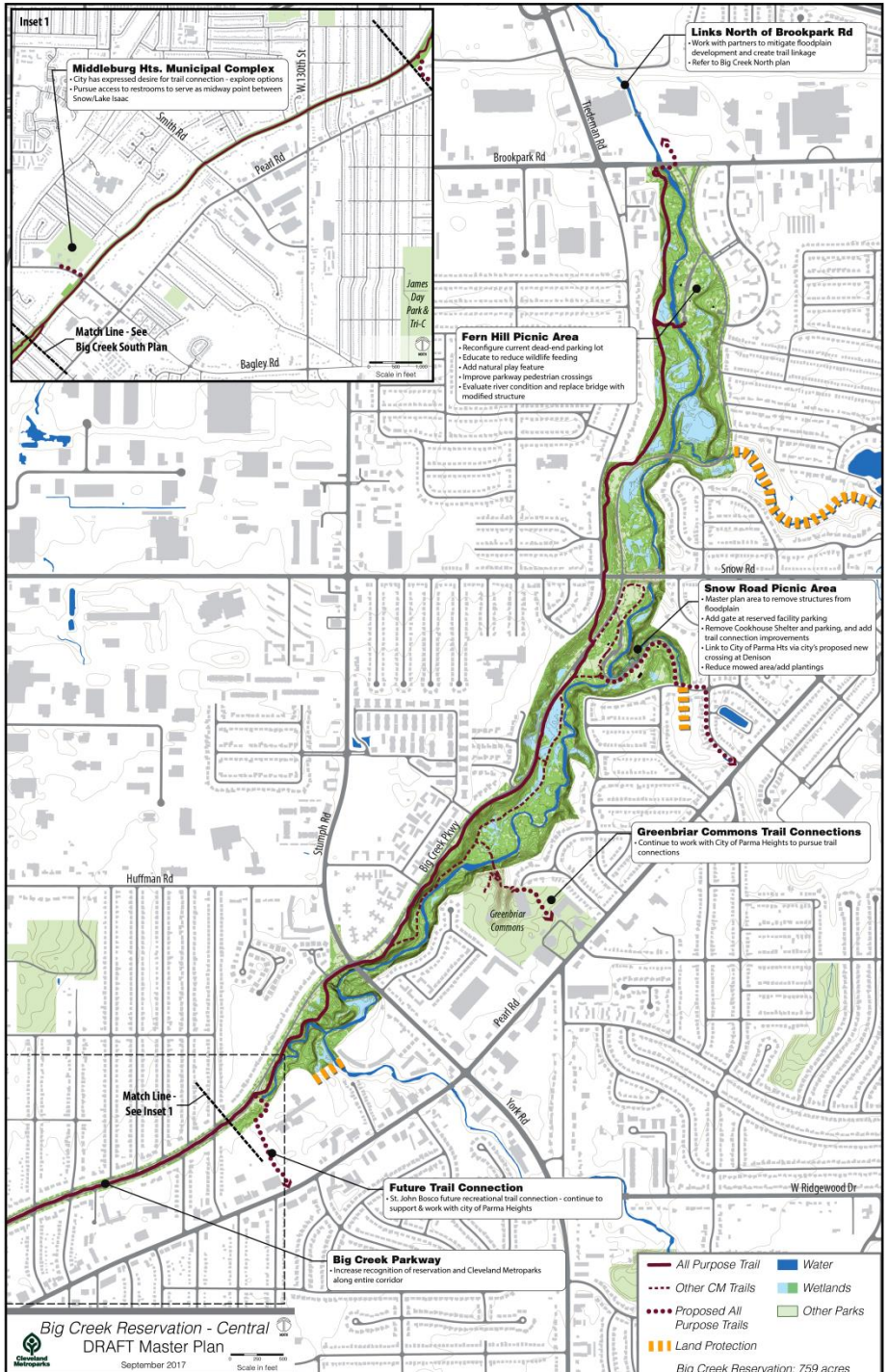
- Remove 1970s-era impoundment and restore previous hydrology
- Add trail connections (All Purpose and hiking)

**Baldwin Creek**

- Pursue upstream conservation opportunities to protect water quality
- Consider trail connections

- All Purpose Trail
- - - Other CM Trails
- Proposed All Purpose Trails
- ▬ Land Protection
- Water
- Wetlands
- Other Parks





**Middleburg Hts. Municipal Complex**

- City has expressed desire for trail connection - explore options
- Pursue access to restrooms to serve as midway point between Snow/Lake Isaac

**Links North of Brookpark Rd**

- Work with partners to mitigate floodplain development and create trail linkage
- Refer to Big Creek North plan

**Fern Hill Picnic Area**

- Reconfigure current gravel parking lot
- Educate to reduce wildlife feeding
- Add natural play feature
- Improve parkway pedestrian crossings
- Evaluate river condition and replace bridge with modified structure

**Snow Road Picnic Area**

- Master plan area to remove structures from floodplain
- Add gate at reserved facility parking
- Remove Cookhouse Shelter and parking, and add trail connection improvements
- Link to City of Parma Hts via city's proposed new crossing at Denison
- Reduce mowed area/add plantings

**Greenbriar Commons Trail Connections**

- Continue to work with City of Parma Heights to pursue trail connections

**Future Trail Connection**

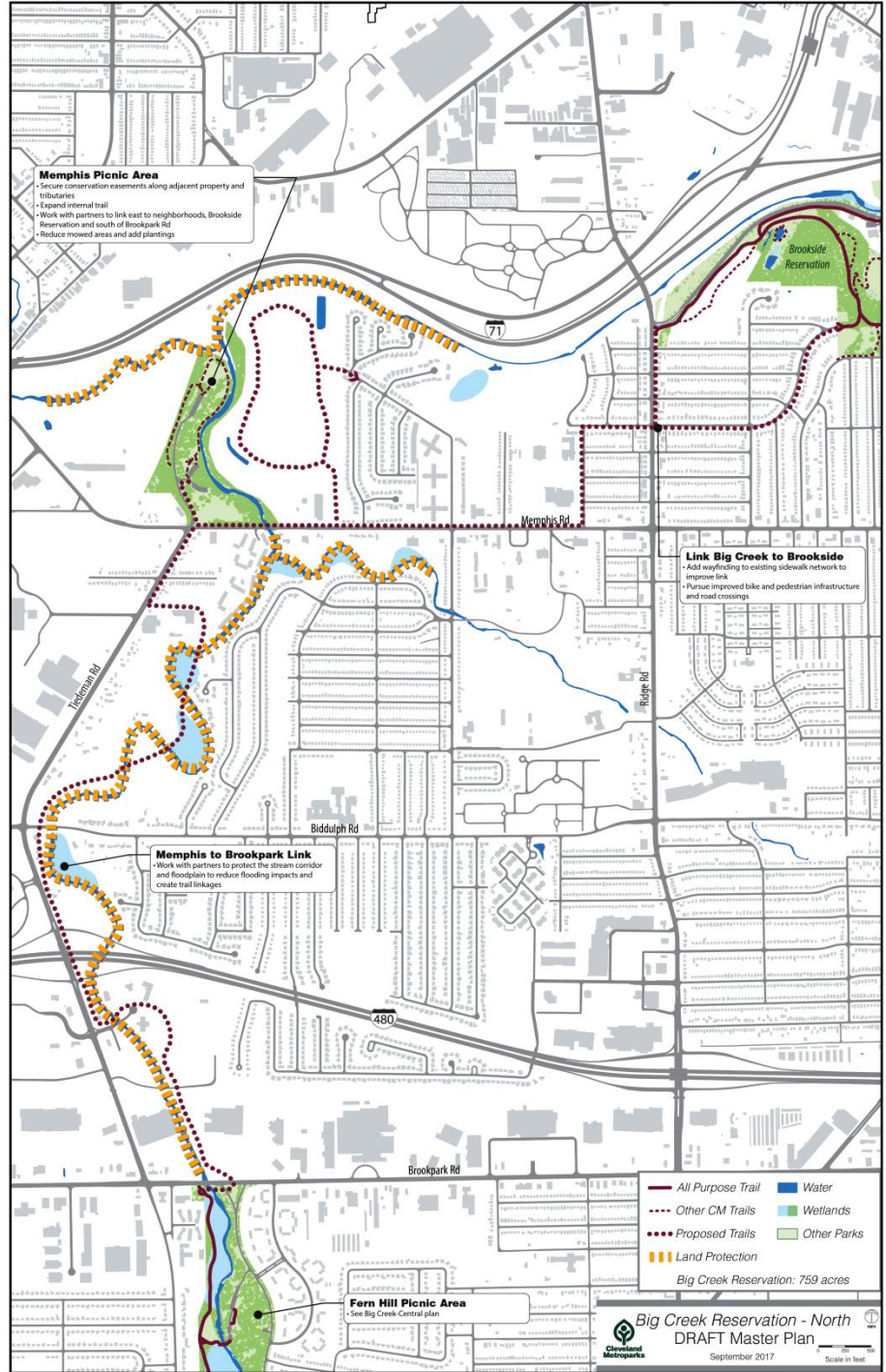
- St. John Bosco future recreational trail connection - continue to support & work with city of Parma Heights

**Big Creek Parkway**

- Increase recognition of reservation and Cleveland Metroparks along entire corridor

- All Purpose Trail
- - - Other CM Trails
- Proposed All Purpose Trails
- ▬ Land Protection
- Water
- Wetlands
- Other Parks





**Memphis Picnic Area**  
 Secure conservation easements along adjacent property and tributaries  
 • Expand internal trail  
 • Work with partners to link east to neighborhoods, Brookside Reservation and south of Brookpark 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

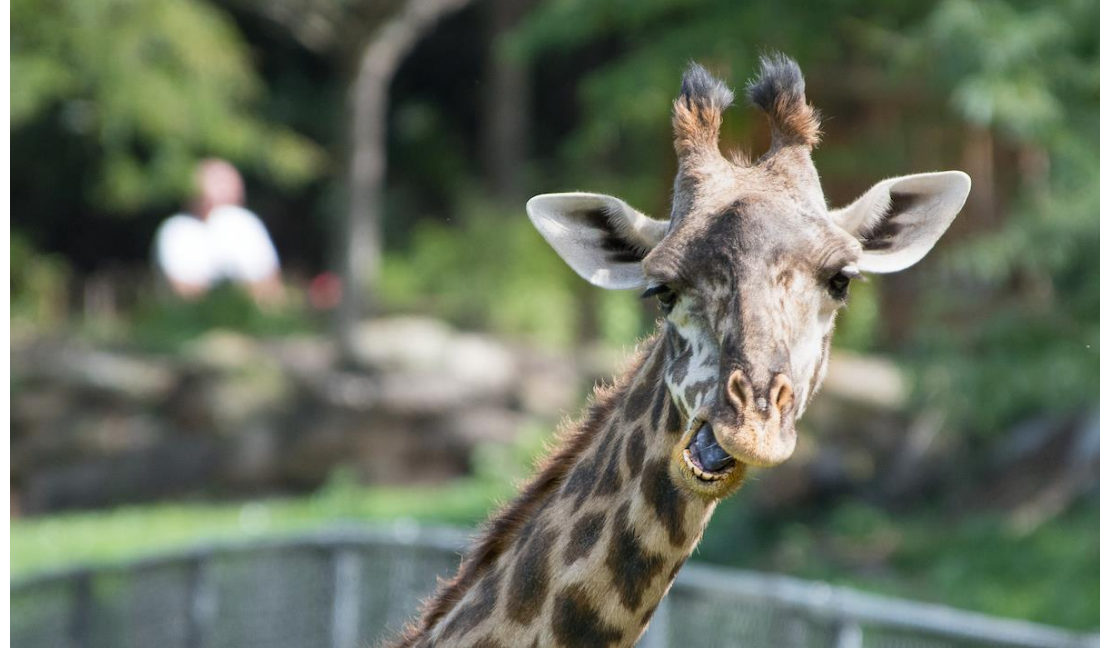
— All Purpose Trail    ■ Water  
- - - Other CM Trails    ■ Wetlands  
••••• Proposed Trails    ■ Other Parks  
■ Land Protection

Big Creek Reservation: 759 acres



# Brookside

- Embrace identity as a hub for active recreation
- Improve neighborhood and regional connections
- Protect habitat in a heavily programmed park
- Support the function and mission of the Zoo







**Brookside Overall**

- Study circulation and improve wayfinding to Zoo and park
- Improve brand recognition of Cleveland Metroparks at Brookside facilities
- Improve coordination with area parks and community open space
- Secure adjacent land protection opportunities
- Pursue green infrastructure strategies to mitigate impervious surfaces

**Brookside Play Fields & Parking**

- Add green infrastructure features
- Optimize shared use functionality
- Consider trail loop at perimeter of fields

**Historic Brookside Park Stadium**

- Increase public awareness through programs or events

**Brookside Valley Event Site**

- Consider enclosed facility for year-round use

**Historic Brookside Park Bridge**

- Highlight Stinchcomb's involvement

**Big Creek Corridor**

- Work with NEORS and other partners to improve ecological function; including fish passage
- Pursue upstream storage to reduce intensity of flood events

**Cleveland Metroparks Zoo**

- Reduce vehicular/pedestrian conflicts at entry
- Incorporate green infrastructure at Zoo parking
- Add bike/pedestrian trail linking Brookside to Denison Ave and Wildlife Way
- Coordinate with Zoo planning updates

**John Nagy Blvd/Ridge Road**

- Add trailhead amenities - play area, fitness equipment & signage
- Improve bike and pedestrian connections along Ridge Rd
- Consider branding feature visible from I-71 (Leafman?)

**Foote/Wolf Memorial Park**

- Highlight as gateway to Zoo and Brookside Park
- Improve access and sightlines into park
- Study future connectivity to East
- Add crosswalk at Wildlife Way

**Connections to West**

- Explore connections to Big Creek Reservation & other public open space

**Brookside Ball Fields**

- Investigate options for city forestry operations
- Renovate trail sections on the hill
- Add trail segment at base of bluff to create a loop or add a loop at football fields

**Meadow Ridge Picnic Area**

- Upgrade play equipment
- Add flush restroom

**Upland Area & Overlook**

- Study trail connection to valley; consider stairs as fitness feature

**Connections to East**

- Continue to work with partners and pursue trail connection to Henninger, Treadway & Towpath
- Improve crossing at Pearl to Henninger

St. Thomas More Parish & School  
John M. Coyne Recreation Center

**Neighborhood Connections**

- Renovate Pensacola stairs, improve trail system and neighborhood connections
- Add Cleveland Metroparks trailhead signage
- Explore opportunities with Estabrook Recreation Center
- Create trailheads at Pensacola, Muriel, 42nd St & 38th St

**Valley Walls**

- Repair damaged headwalls
- Add plantings and stabilize erosion
- Designate sanctioned trails and remove bootlegs

**Private Inholding**

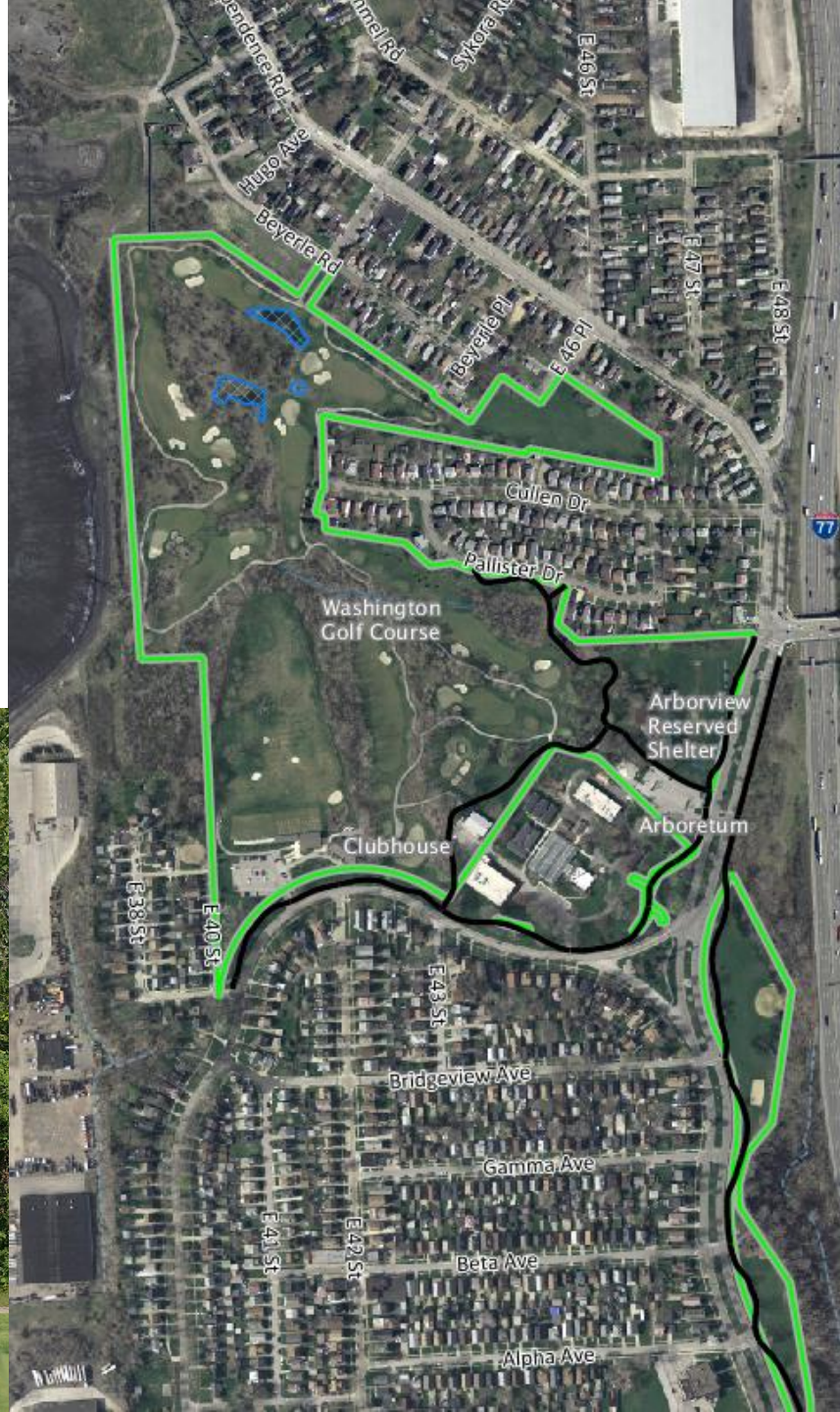
- Maintain contact with owner

- All Purpose Trail
- - - Other CM Trails
- Proposed Trails
- ▨ Land Protection
- Water
- Wetlands
- Other Parks



# Washington

- Increase awareness of this park – centrally located and easily accessible from I 77
- Add features to make park and clubhouse more welcoming (street trees, crosswalks, signage)
- Support neighborhood uses with play and exercise areas and improved restroom
- Explore possible expansion and trail linkages





- All Purpose Trail
- Other CM Trails
- Planned & Funded Trails
- Proposed Trails
- 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**

- Improve signage & wayfinding
- Explore other trailhead opportunities along corridor
- Add kayaking sign at Cuyahoga River
- Add wayfinding to/from CanalWay Center

**Trail & Neighborhood Connections**

- Work with proposed routes and existing pedestrian bridge - link to park
- 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**

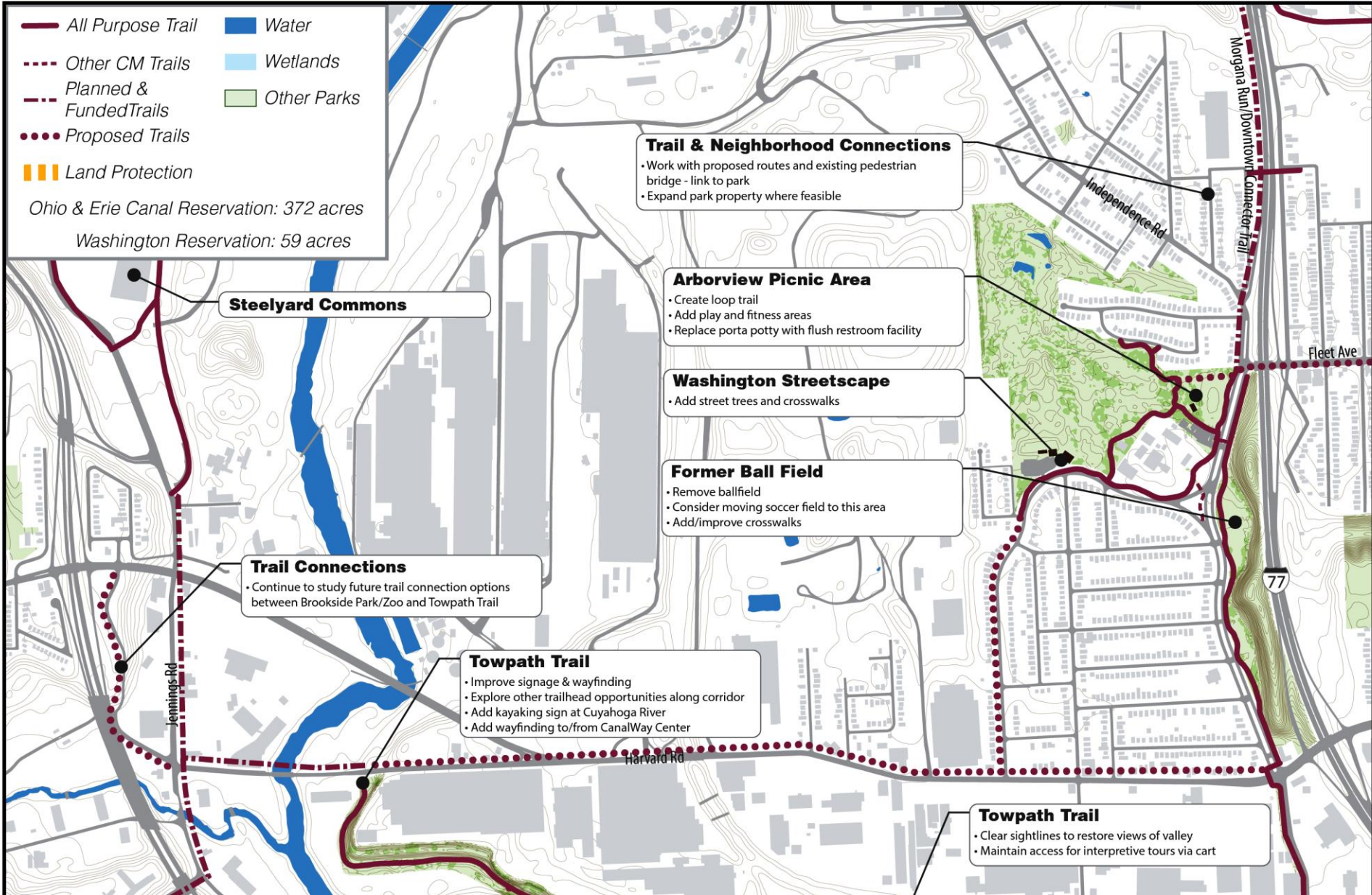
- Add street trees and crosswalks

**Former Ball Field**

- Remove ballfield
- Consider moving soccer field to this area
- Add/improve crosswalks

**Towpath Trail**

- Clear sightlines to restore views of valley
- Maintain access for interpretive tours via cart





# Ohio & Erie Canal

- Improve 49<sup>th</sup> Street entrance and general access and circulation
- Develop new management center
- Evolve operations as Towpath and urban greenways expand
- Maintain standards as facilities age







**Towpath Trail**

- Clear sightlines to restore views of valley
- Maintain access for interpretive tours via cart

**Settler's Bluff Picnic Area**

- Shelter renovation pending

**Possible Future Connection to Henniger/Brookside**

**Ohio & Erie Canal Mountain Bike Trail**

**Morgan's Hollow 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

**Park Management Center**

- Construct new facility and access drive to park

Northern Zone

Southern Zone

**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

**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
- 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

**Canal Rd/ E.49th St**

- Explore potential trailhead/ADA access



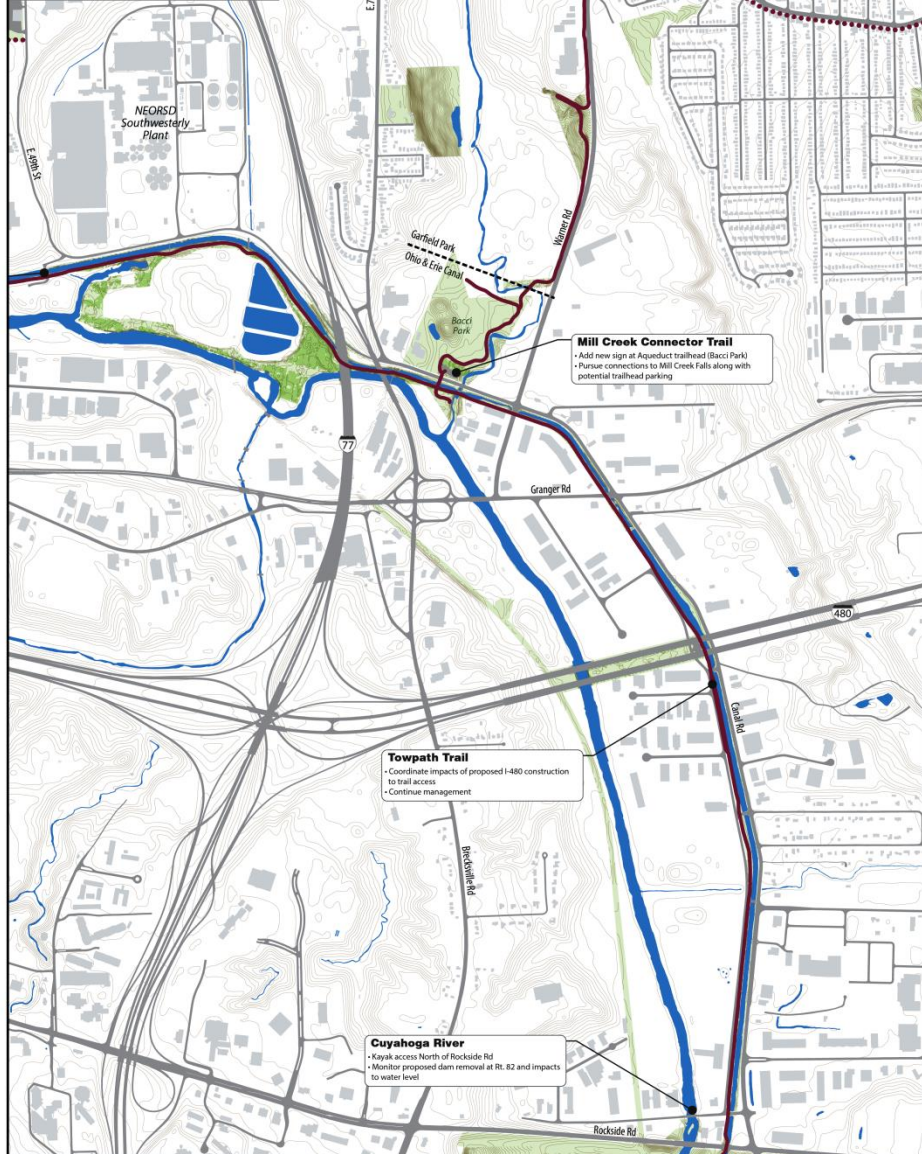
Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation  
Washington Reservation  
DRAFT Master Plans

September 2017

Scale in feet  
0 200 500



— All Purpose Trail    — Water  
- - - Mill Creek Falls Connection (Sidewalk & Bike Lanes)  
— Wetlands    — Other Parks  
- - - - Other CM Trails  
••••• Proposed Trails/Cycle Track  
▬▬▬ Land Protection  
 Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation: 372 acres



**Mill Creek Connector Trail**

- Add new sign at Aqueduct trailhead (Bacchi Park)
- Pursue connections to Mill Creek Falls along with potential trailhead parking

**Towpath Trail**

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

**Cuyahoga River**

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

Cuyahoga Valley National Park



# Garfield

- Add new shelter and picnic area improvements
- Continue to make trail connections
- Improve visibility and offerings at Mill Creek Falls
- Explore potential park, open space, and trail expansion





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

**Valley Overlook**  
 • Scenic vista/potential future connection

**Mill Creek Connector Trail**  
 • Refer to Ohio & Erie Canal/Garfield Plan for connection to towpath and Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

**Windy Ridge Picnic Area**  
 • Renovate and reconfigure picnic area and pavement  
 • Assess community priority features

**Trolley Turn Area**  
 • Develop trailhead at northwest corner with restroom, exercise equipment, and play area  
 • Replace tent with permanent shelter at east end  
 • Remove one-third of parking and configure as two smaller lots

**Old Birch Area and APT Loop**  
 • Reduce mowing; add woodland edge and pollinator plantings  
 • Add restroom  
 • 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 and add boardwalk/drainage in wet areas  
 • 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 picnic shelter  
 • Improve circulation and community connections

**Greater Broadway Loop**  
 • Develop trail route east of Broadway (approx. seven mile loop)  
 • Explore potential of Wheeling & Lake Erie RR corridor  
 • Discuss partnering opportunities with Calvary Cemetery; trails, programs, resource management

**Garfield Pond**  
 • Incorporate historic features in development of new pond  
 • 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

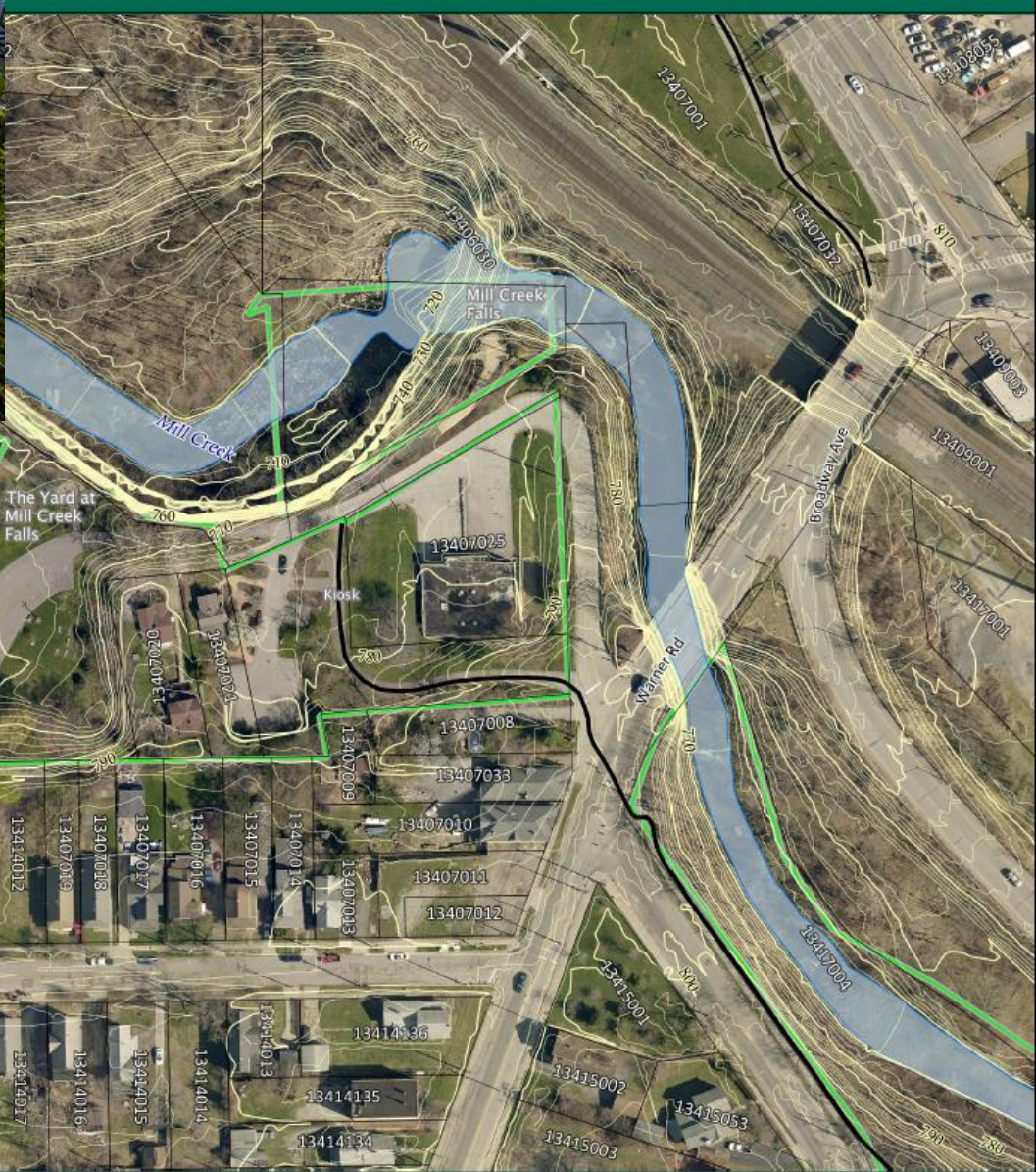
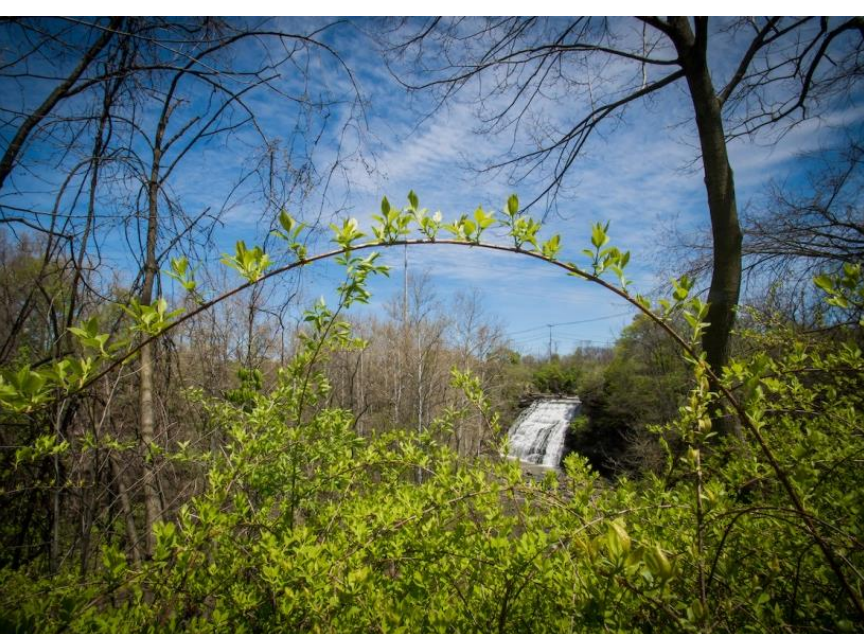
**Mill Creek**  
 • Expand upstream protection efforts  
 • Remove berms at channel and daylight culverted portions  
 • Mitigate stream erosion  
 • Remove industrial access

**Red Oak Picnic Area**  
 • Add second picnic shelter and parking  
 • Decommission ballfield



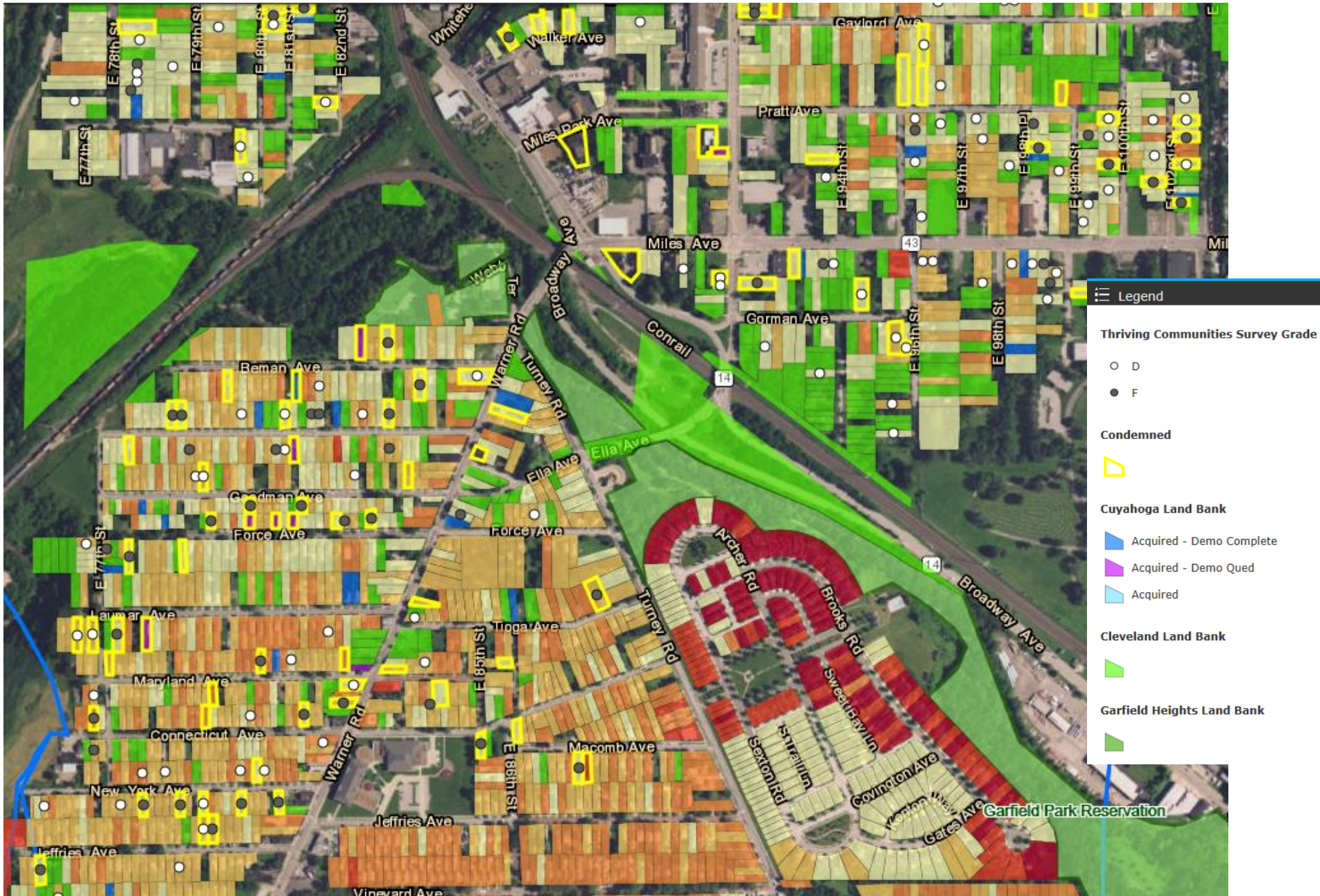


# Mill Creek Falls



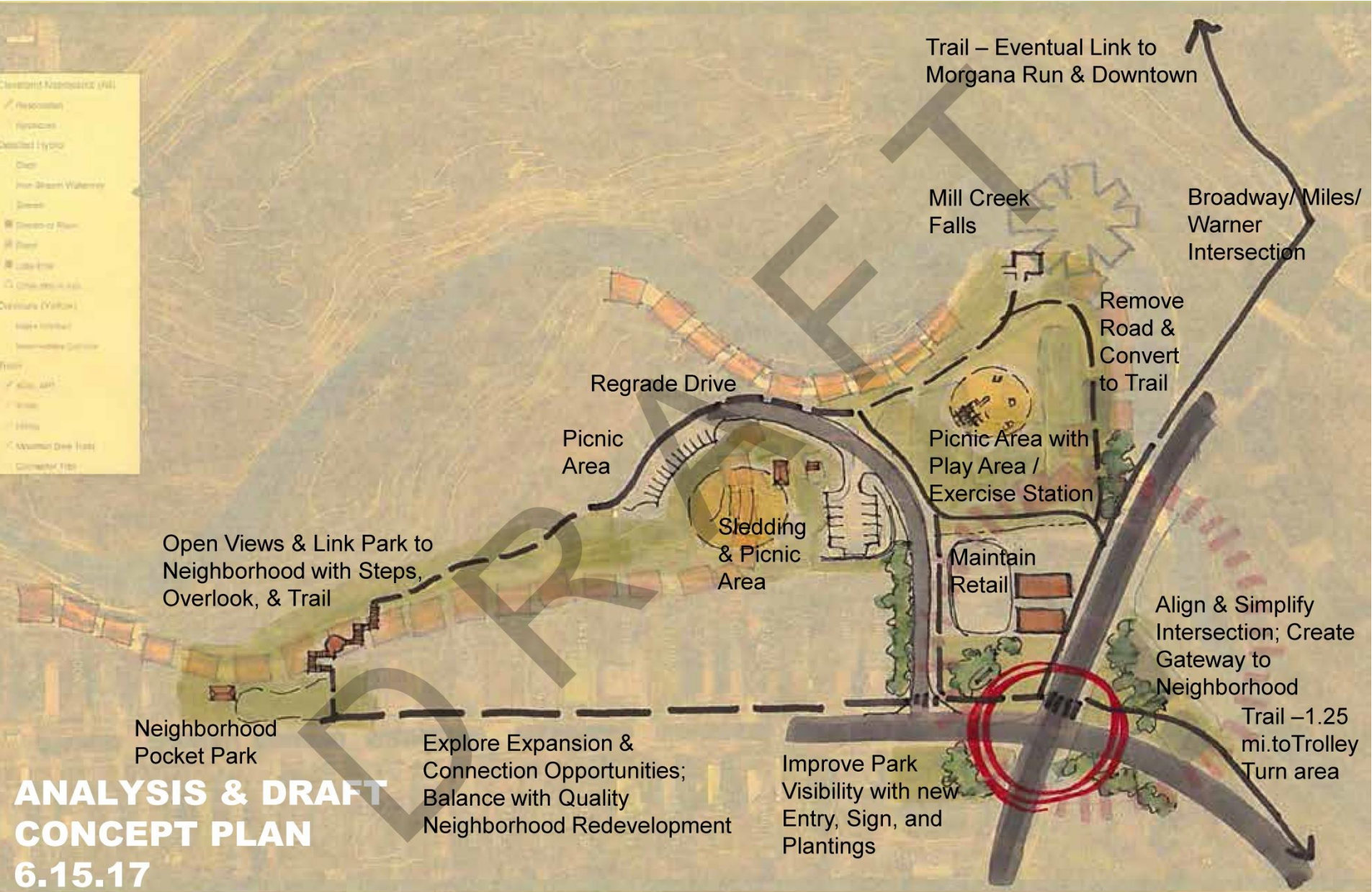


# Mill Creek Falls and Surrounding Neighborhood





# Mill Creek Falls Concept Plan





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