

Notes from West Creek Conservancy

West Creek Conservancy
P.O. Box 347113
Cleveland, OH 44134

Nonprofit Org
US Postage Paid
Cleveland OH
Permit No. 2348

Visit us online at
www.westcreek.org
[Facebook.com/west-creek](https://www.facebook.com/west-creek)

Printing Courtesy of Suburban Press, Inc. and the Mueller Family

JULY

INDEPENDENCE FROM CHEMICALS

- Learn to identify good & bad bugs. Many beneficial insects visit yards and should be left alone. Beneficial bugs feed on common pests. Find a strategy to foster healthy, balanced garden ecology.
- Purchase a garden insect guide
- Control pests with natural oils like neem and garlic. Only use neem oil when necessary, it is a natural broad spectrum insecticide that kills beneficial insects too.
- Sharp mower blades = Happy grass blades. By mid-summer mower blades have dulled, this causes stress to the lawn.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Adding organic matter to the soil, like compost or compost tea, relieves stress and feeds beneficial soil microbes. University studies have shown that a healthy microbe population will out compete most of the pathogens that cause fungal diseases in the lawn.



Notes from West Creek Conservancy

A land trust serving Greater Cleveland

July 2015

Why We Protected our Property

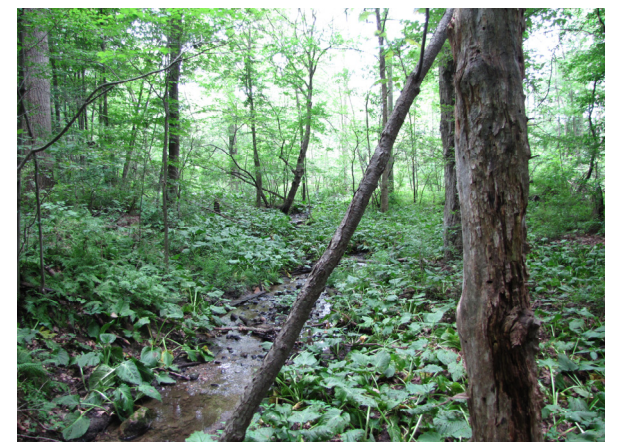
Our Road to Conservation

"My wife and I were looking for some wooded property to build our home. We found the perfect site and were able to make a deal with a seller, who was Pinnacle Sports of Medina. Everything looked good but the township had other plans. They wanted to see the road extended through this beautiful property. We solicited community support for our effort, but were unable to sway the township. We had planned on implementing a conservation easement on the property after the house was complete to protect it and prevent it from being subdivided in the future. We looked into a



conservation easement option immediately in hopes of persuading the township to permit our home and preservation ideals. Although the property is relatively small at just over 10 acres, West Creek Conservancy saw the value in this property and was on-board right away. We met with various environmental and government agencies and found this property was even more special than we thought. We soon discovered that it contained head-water tributaries of the west branch of the Yellow Creek, which flows into the Cuyahoga River, as well as multiple springs and wetlands (with plentiful skunk cabbage). What we found proved that this property has significant conservation value and the road should not be extended. It took over two years with many meetings, a

motivated buyer and seller, the assistance of an attorney and ultimately the Medina County Planning Commission to prevent the road from going through. The Conservation Easement was recorded at the end of June and the property is now protected! Many thanks to Derek and West Creek Conservancy for their foresight and willingness - we couldn't have done this without you! And please let us also extend a sincere thank you to Pinnacle Sports for all your help through the process.



Follow us on Twitter: [@west_creek](https://twitter.com/west_creek)
Like us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/west-creek](https://www.facebook.com/west-creek)
Find us online: www.westcreek.org

....Jeff and Christine Smith

Tails for Trails 2015

Join us for the Tails for Trails Dog Walk!

Sunday, August 23rd

12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

West Creek Reservation– Keystone Shelter, 2277 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma

- 3 mile walk
- Refreshments and shopping with local crafters & vendors
- Family activities - photo booth, face painting, music, raffles and more

Participate with or without a canine. Humans are free! Register before August 1st to receive a free T-shirt. Sign in starts at **11:00 am** and the walk will begin at **noon**.

Participants are encouraged to obtain pledge and/or donations. All donations will help West Creek Conservancy's efforts to protect land and build trails in our community and Parma Animal Shelter's effort to prevent animal cruelty, abuse, neglect, increase public awareness and appreciation of companion animals and educate the public on the importance of spay/neuter to control pet over-population. For every \$20 raised in pledges, you will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win our grand prize. Download pledge forms on our website: www.westcreek.org.



Registration online at: www.2015tailsfortrail.eventbrite.com

Sponsored in part by:  **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District**



FORESTCITY

N+CALL
waterproofing

INNOVATIVE
Title & Escrow Services LLC

hersh
PR & MARKETING



Registration Form

☐ 1 dog — \$20 ☐ 2 or more dogs — \$30

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

☐ Yes, I would like to be added to West Creek Conservancy's mailing/email list.

☐ Yes, I would like to be added to Parma Animal Shelter's mailing/email list.

Please mail this form along with payment to: West Creek Conservancy - Tails for Trails

P.O. Box 347113, Cleveland, OH 44134

(Please make checks payable to West Creek)

Questions: Call 216-749-3720 or email dpetkov@westcreek.org

2015 Fall Events

♦ Invasive Species Management and Restoration:

When: August 1st, 10AM-2PM

Where: Henninger House, 5757 Broadview Rd, Parma, OH 44134

Info: RSVP to 216-749-3720, ext 10. Tools and water will be provided at the site. Dress in clothes to work in. Park in the parking lot of the office building next door.

♦ Trash to Treasure Presentation and Hike:

When: August 8th, 12PM

Where: Watershed Stewardship Center, 2277 W Ridgewood Dr, Parma, OH 44134

Info: Please register by July 30th by calling 216-749-3720, ext 10. There will be a presentation beginning at 12PM with a hike to follow.

♦ Perennial Planting and Restoration:

When: September 26th, 10AM-2PM

Where: Baldwin Creek, 6303 Granger Rd, Independence, OH 44131

Info: RSVP to 216-749-3720, ext 10. Tools and water will be provided at the site. Dress in clothes to work in.

♦ Hike:

When: October 10th, 10AM

Where: Hemlock Creek Trail. 6801 Brecksville Rd, Independence, OH 44131

Info: RSVP to 216-749-3720, ext 10. Meet in the back of the Cleveland Clinic Parking lot. Dress for the weather and the hike.

♦ Planting and Restoration:

When: October 17th, 10AM-2PM

Where: Confluence Site, 6303 Granger Rd, Independence, OH 44131

Info: RSVP to 216-749-3720, ext 10. Tools and water will be provided at the site. Dress in clothes to work in.

Make a Difference! Join West Creek Conservancy or Renew Today

Annual Memberships: New ☐ Renewal ☐

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introductory | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland Steward | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Builder | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> River Guardian | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenway Champion | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Patron | \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Leader | \$2500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to volunteer | |

Let's continue to protect local natural areas, restore our streams, create hiking and bicycling trails and complete the West Creek Greenway. Your participation makes a difference, and membership donations are tax deductible as charitable contributions.

Newsletter Delivery Preference: Regular Mail _____ or Email _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to:

West Creek Conservancy

PO Box 347113

Cleveland, OH 44134

or join online via PayPal @ www.westcreek.org

Email: _____

Referred by: _____

(For **NEW** members only - Please list the name of the person that referred you so that they can be entered into our quarterly drawing)

River Sweep 2015

Each year hundreds of volunteers from across the community team up to beautify the Cuyahoga River Valley at Ohio's largest done-in-a-day cleanup event. This year West Creek Conservancy partnered with Canalway Partners to host the event on its 25th annual clean-up.

The West Creek Conservancy clean-up site was held at a property protected and restored by West Creek Conservancy near 7400 Broadview Rd, just north of Pleasant Valley Road in Parma. This year 245 volunteers from various local businesses such as Kohls, General Motors, and First Energy, as well as many from the local schools neighborhoods, joined in the efforts to help clean up the site. The dedicated volunteers removed over 75 bags of garbage, as well as shopping carts, tires, and other



debris from the property!

The fun did not stop there. In addition to the clean-up, the volunteers also planted over 25 large trees, 600 live stakes, 1,500 wetland plants, 24 shrubs and 100 quarts of flowers throughout the property.

The volunteers worked hard through the heat from 9 until noon., followed up by refreshments courtesy of Giant Eagle, Qdoba Mexican Grill, and Domino's.



**A special THANKS to
General Motors,
Normandy High School
First Energy, Qdoba,
Giant Eagle, Kohls
(Parma location), and
our outstanding
volunteers for helping
to make the event
great!**



Our Interns: Conservationists in Training

Stephanie is a senior at Baldwin Wallace University where she studies Sustainability. She was selected to work with West Creek Conservancy via the Cleveland Foundation summer internship program. Stephanie is a nature enthusiast and looks forward to learning more about environmentally focused non-profit organizations. When asked about her experience Stephanie shared, "I have never worked outdoors before so I really enjoy getting to spend much of my day outside. I am learning a lot from the experience of working on variety of projects throughout West Creek Conservancy." Stephanie enjoys racquetball, volunteering, and ice cream.

Dani is currently a sophomore at Muskingum University, where she is studying Environmental Science. She hopes to one day be doing field work within the realm of hydrology. Dani said that she chose West Creek Conservancy because "she values their mission to conserve and restore natural habitats, and wanted to get hands on experience in the field that she loves." She also shared, "working at West Creek Conservancy has taught me a lot about how non-profits function, how to manage an urban farm, and overall how to communicate more effectively. I love the fact that every day we have new tasks, so nothing is ever boring or monotonous." Dani enjoys spending time outdoors, a good movie, and Starbucks.



Interns: Dani Kindel (left) and Stephanie Poutz (right)

Connecting with our Veterans

This 4.3 acre property was purchased by the American Legion in June of 2006. The house that was on this property was donated to the Parma Fire Department for a "controlled burn" training. In 2013 the idea arose to build a bridge to the property so that people could enjoy the beautiful, wooded lot. The land also contains 650 linear feet of primary headwater stream, and a large riparian area with a fully functioning flood plain. West Creek Conservancy came to an agreement with Post 572 to place a 4 acre conservation easement on the land,

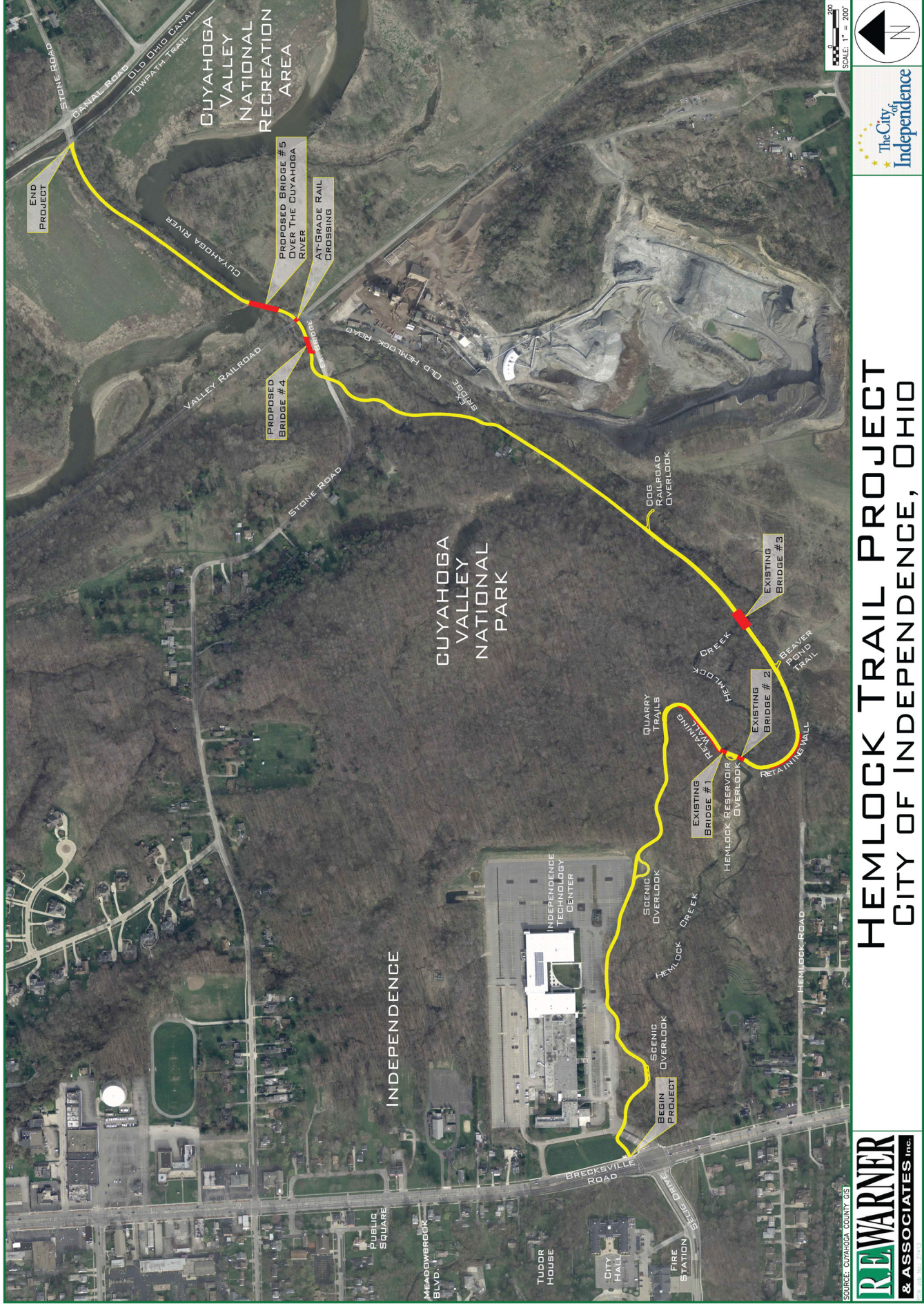
and the headwater stream at the end of 2014. In May of 2015, a bridge that had an estimated worth of just over \$30,000 was installed. This bridge featured an 8x8 look-out deck, 2 steps, 50 ft. boardwalk, and a 20 ft. bridge.



Photo Courtesy of Karly Keirse

The organizations that donated to the materials and helped secure funds were (in no particular order): West Creek Conservancy, Kohls Associates in Action, Creek-life.com, Axelrod Buick GMC, iLocalEverywhere.com, Emma Thorne, mKreative, and Peter Bode. This project is being featured on the City of Cleveland's office of sustainability's "Year of Clean Water" video series. Post 572 is, and will continue to be a leader in connecting veterans, the community, and the environment.

Hemlock Creek Trail



Project Benefits:

- ◆ Connects the City of Independence directly to The Towpath Trail and 110-miles linear heritage greenway extending from Lake Erie to Zanesville, now identified as the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway
- ◆ Provides additional access to greenspace, through the development of connector trails, particularly those identified in the West Creek Greenway Trail Master Plan, integrating the Hemlock Trail into regional bicycle network/plan, which will provide bicycle connectivity throughout the entire Greater Cleveland metropolitan area, strengthening the connections between communities
- ◆ Supports City of Independence businesses and neighborhood by providing multi-modal access which will introduce new visitors to the city center and downtown neighborhoods, which surround the trail (economic stimulus!)

WE NEED YOUR HELP

In order to complete the Hemlock Creek Trail, we need your help to raise an additional \$25,000 to fill a funding gap for construction. With your help we can make this dream a reality and bring the plans to fruition!

If you would like to help make this trail a reality, and make a lasting impact on the community you live in, please email dschafer@westcreek.org or simply put HEMLOCK in the memo line of your check!

Project History:

- 2005 In coordination with the West Creek Conservancy during the development of the West Creek Greenway Trail Master Plan, the City of Independence is able to obtain project funding for the Hemlock Trail Segment as a City of Independence High Priority Project in the 2006 SAFETEA-LU Transportation Bill as Congressional Earmark No. 490 for \$2.0 million.
- 2006 Cleveland Metroparks was awarded Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) grant from the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) to study and recommend the most feasible and effective trail route for those areas of the Greenway Trail. This resulted in the completion of the *West Creek Greenway Trail Master Plan*
- 2007 West Creek Greenway Trail Master Plan is finalized and identifies a series of trails that interconnect the four communities of Brooklyn Heights, Parma, Seven Hills, and Independence. The Master Plan defines a trail and greenway system that forms a continuous nineteen-mile loop connecting to the Ohio and Erie Canalway Towpath Trail. The Master Plan identified the 1.7 mile long Hemlock Trail which connects the City of Independence's Elmwood Park across the Cuyahoga River to the Towpath Trail in the Village of Valley View.
- 2014 The Environmental Document required by FHWA/ODOT for final engineering design is approved by ODOT and FHWA. The City of Independence commences with design/engineering of the Hemlock Creek Trail connector, **which will be one of CVNP's largest community connectors!!!**
- 2015 City of Independence commences with FULL design and engineering!
- 2016 **Construction to be underway!**