

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 - December 31, 2021



WEST CREEK
CONSERVANCY

Dear Friends,

The West Creek Conservancy story has been 25 years in the making. The organization has its roots with a small band of citizens who grouped together to create Parma's first natural park over 20 years ago. Since then, West Creek has grown to be a protector of thousands of acres of critical habitats across Northeast Ohio.

Our mission is to enrich the lives of all people in Northeast Ohio by conserving natural habitats, restoring the ecological value of our region's lands and waters, and expanding opportunities to connect people from all cultures to experience nature and discover our great outdoors. Over the last 25 years, West Creek has delivered lasting impacts to our region. However, there is still much work to be done.

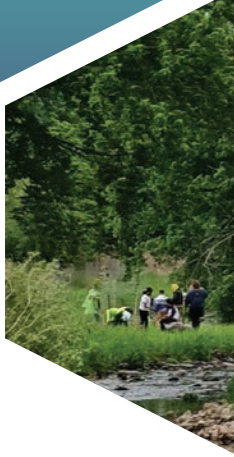
As you scan the daily news headlines, environmental topics have increasingly been front and center at a global, national, and local level. Many of these stories offer bleak assessments on the state of the environment and what the future brings. However, the future is not etched in stone; our choices will determine our future environment. We can and should make those decisions that foreshadow our region's environmental well-being as a story filled with optimism and hope.

Across Northeast Ohio, there are still too many high-quality natural areas that are at risk, too many degraded lands and waterways, and too many people with limited or no access to safe greenspace. West Creek has delivered multitudes of conservation wins for our region over the past 25 years and made significant improvements in the lives of many who live here. As we look to the future, we will all continue to write West Creek's story. Be on the lookout for those news headlines in our region. There are more good conservation stories coming.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to me with your thoughts.

Eric Sluss

Eric Sluss
Chair, Board of Directors





WEST CREEK GREENWAY UPDATE

Over the past 25 years, West Creek's path (no pun intended) to expand West Creek Reservation and Greenway has made significant strides. Starting in 2006, the Reservation was created and 324 acres put under Cleveland Metroparks stewardship and public access development. In 2013, the Watershed Stewardship Center opens. In 2021, the protected landscape within the park boundaries begins to top 500 acres and stretch into two adjacent communities (Seven Hills and Independence). And, attendance to the still relatively new park is already topping 180,000 visitors per year!

In 2021, West Creek worked to leverage necessary funding to fully restore the former Padua Franciscan property (also referred to as former Camp Corde, CYO, etc.) off West Ridgewood. It was not only an effort to restore stream, wetland, and floodplain areas, but also to ensure appropriate public access to and through the property as it directly connects to West Creek Reservation. By the end of 2022, West Creek will complete full design and engineering of the restoration initiative with construction to begin in early 2023.

Just uphill (and connected to) the former Padua property, demolition was completed at the former Parmadale property. This work will enable the integration of 80+ more acres of land into the park; 52 acres of which are mature woodlands.

With the removal of parking lots and other structures, we now have the opportunity to expand the forest, increase stormwater infiltration, protect headwater streams, as well as expand recreational amenities at West Creek Reservation.

In early 2022, West Creek coordinated efforts with the City of Parma to leverage trail construction funding for two priority routes in West Creek Greenway, totaling approximately 1.5 miles. Astonishingly, over 40,000 people live within a 1-mile radius of West Creek Reservation and with such a densely populated community, West Creek is strategically identifying and prioritizing such critical pathways to connect to the Reservation. Stay tuned in 2022/2023 for additional updates.

The acquisition and expansion of West Creek Reservation would not have been possible without the continuous support of the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Fund, administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission. Throughout the years, Clean Ohio funds have been used toward acquisition, restoration, and improvements to the Reservation. "We are pleased that Clean Ohio funds were able to be utilized for the Reservation and Greenway, not only for conservation, but for the community as a whole," said Linda Bailiff, Director of the Ohio Public Works Commission; "without the forward thinking and grass roots efforts of the community, the Reservation would not have been possible, and we are thrilled to be a part. Amazing things happen when people come together, and I look forward to walking a completed trail in the name of those who had a glorious, shared vision, and Derek who will knock on any stranger's door to move that vision forward. This project is the true meaning of the spirit of collaboration."



IN CONSERVATION COLLABORATION IS KEY!

When West Creek is called upon by a partner for assistance, it becomes an immediate call to action. West Creek recognizes that collaboration is key to the organization's success and that it is critical to develop partnerships built on mutual value and respect. West Creek provides technical expertise, experience, and a willingness to pursue and undertake complex and challenging land projects in support of partner organizations, park districts, agencies, and conservation minded communities. Many projects and opportunities come along, but collaboration, partnerships, and open lines of communication are essential to bring these important conservation projects to fruition.

Twenty-five years ago, the original focus of the organization was the preservation of West Creek Valley in Parma and the creation of the West Creek Greenway. It took cooperation and collaboration with many partners and communities over the years, and as a result the Cleveland Metroparks West Creek Reservation has grown to over 500 acres. The 21-mile Greenway is an intercommunity hike bike network, with the next phase underway. The Greenway will link the southern terminus of the Reservation to the Seven Hills Hike Bike Trail. According to Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, "acquiring greenspace in a fully built-out community like Parma is challenging, however, Derek and his team have achieved this over the years. The Conservancy team

successfully implements plans because it collaborates with community leaders and groups to leverage everyone's strengths and capabilities – it is definitely a working relationship of Progress through Partnerships."

Irishtown Bend is another example of a complex project involving a coalition of governmental and nonprofit partners. The project involves the acquisition of 23 acres along the west bank of the Cuyahoga River in the flats, and stabilization of the hillside for protection of the river as a major shipping channel. Linda Sternheimer, Director of Urban Planning & Engagement for the Port of Cleveland said "Collaborations allow each organization to do what they do best, and Irishtown Bend is a prime example. We're proud to have such partners as West Creek." When completed, Irishtown Bend will become a waterfront park and welcoming green space open to all. The new Irishtown Bend Park will improve connections between Ohio City and the Flats, Downtown, the Cuyahoga Riverfront, and Lake Erie through the completion and connection of regional trails like the Redline Greenway, the Towpath Trail, and more.



West Creek recently assisted Mill Creek MetroParks with the acquisition and conservation of a 161-acre property in Mahoning County. The property consists of unique natural habitats including a mosaic of mature mesic and swamp forests, and 80 acres of high-quality wetlands. Aaron Young, Executive Director of Mill Creek MetroParks, welcomed the assistance of West Creek, and acknowledged the importance of collaboration in conservation. "Partnerships such as the one between Mill Creek MetroParks and West Creek Conservancy are invaluable when it comes to being able to preserve the natural wonders of the world while being as economically feasible as possible," said Young. "The acquisition of this unique property is another step forward in the mission of the MetroParks serving the needs of all of Mahoning County."

Effective collaboration with funding partners is equally important for the success of complex conservation transactions. West Creek has been awarded funding for several projects through a groundbreaking, water quality focused funding opportunity initiated by Governor Mike DeWine and appropriately named H2Ohio. "Teamwork is vital for the progress of H2Ohio wetlands. These projects, big or small, thrive with support from ODNR and local partners who know their value. Collaboration with entities like West Creek Conservancy strengthen our ability to build and maintain these natural, cost-effective landscapes, improve water quality, and create habitat. We are thankful to our partners for helping us achieve the goal and look forward to even more opportunities to work together in the future." - Governor DeWine.

These projects would not have been possible without the forward thinking of Governor DeWine, and the collaboration and support of ODNR. "At its core, H2Ohio is all about collaboration. In order for our water quality work to be successful, we depend on trusted conservation partners like West Creek Conservancy – an organization that punches well above its weight when it comes to identifying and pursuing high-impact opportunities for ecological restoration" said Eric Saas,



ODNR's H2Ohio Program Manager. "We are very proud of the ongoing partnership between ODNR's H2Ohio Program and West Creek Conservancy."

ODNR Director Mary Mertz remarked that "when we got the green light to move forward with ODNR's portion of the H2Ohio initiative, we hit the ground running – scoping out potential locations, creating a dream team to make these wetland projects a reality, and recruiting local partners to be our boots on the ground at each site. These strong partnerships, and continued support from Governor Mike DeWine, will help us build on the strong foundation we've created and lead to improved water quality and public health."

While West Creek may be a small organization, it is also a nimble organization, ready to step in when and where necessary. "Small organization, big impact. That's how I view West Creek Conservancy," said Medina County Park District Director, Nathan Eppink. "Derek Schafer and Joe Leslie are the Odd Couple of Conservation. Derek's daily uniform consists of a T-shirt and jeans--sometimes even flip-flops--while Joe has been observed scouting properties in neatly pressed button-down shirts, slacks, and immaculate leather footwear. The dynamic and unlikely duo's ability to multi-task and get things done through partnerships, together with Dawn Petkov and a supportive board, is unrivaled" Eppink said, with a witty yet amazingly accurate comment.

West Creek is backed by a 16-member Board of Directors, the ongoing support of many foundations, a network of generous individual, corporate, and municipal donors, a large and growing membership base, and many volunteers who are actively involved and passionate about the mission of West Creek.

PIPE CREEK PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PROJECT



The Pipe Creek Protection and Restoration project is located in the City of Sandusky, in Erie County. West Creek Conservancy stepped in to accept ownership of the properties, which were donated by Cedar Point and the Valli Family. These properties total approximately 15.5 acres and are now permanently protected for their conservation values, maintaining green space, and other conservation related uses. While the project site is owned by West Creek Conservancy, Erie Soil and Water Conservation District has been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.

This newly protected site is one of the last remaining 13 acres of coastal wetlands on Pipe Creek. Since the late 1920s, over 100 acres of coastal marsh have been lost from the mouth of Pipe Creek due to development and erosion. Shortly before the issuance of the Clean Water Act in the 1970s, developers began filling this wetland with rocks, soil, and other debris in hopes to one-day build a residential

neighborhood. The passing of the Clean Water Act suspended the filling activities; however, and the wetlands were never restored. Since then, this site became a spot for illegal dumping and eventually was overtaken by the invasive aquatic species *Phragmites australis*.

The restoration of this site included control efforts of *Phragmites australis*, improvement of bi-directional flow indicative of Great Lakes Coastal wetlands, removal of debris, and enhancement of native wetland vegetation. Unique to this project is the use of biodegradable man-made Biohaven® “floating islands” that provide habitat for microbial and plant species. These floating island wetlands help to improve the diversity of wildlife habitat and improve water quality of Pipe Creek by filtering sediment and nutrients.

The protection and restoration of this site would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of several government agencies,

private business, local watershed groups, adjacent landowners, and volunteers. Erie Soil and Water Conservation District received \$160,000 through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Management. Other local and regional partners for the project include Cedar Point, the Friends of Pipe Creek Watershed, and the Valli Family.

A special thank you and memoriam to Mrs. Wanda Valli who never gave up on restoring this natural area after she witnessed it being filled several decades ago. Her determination kept a spotlight on this forgotten site, which served as a catalyst to the site’s rebirth and protection. In recognition, a monument to honor Wanda Valli will be placed on the site.

Management of this site and further restoration efforts will be a collaborative effort between West Creek Conservancy, Erie Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Friends of Pipe Creek Watershed. The Erie Soil and Water Conservation District will serve as the primary, local contact for the site and will coordinate any maintenance recommended, with additional assistance from the Friends of Pipe Creek Watershed.





BIRD FAMILY BOG PRESERVE

In July of 2020, West Creek Conservancy was called upon by the Portage Park District to pursue an important project in Rootstown Township, Portage County. The 171-acre Bird Family Bog property had been recently listed for sale for the first time in decades, which drew immediate interest from many potential buyers for the unique property. This presented an immediate and rare opportunity to protect one of the last few extant bogs in Ohio.

The Bird Family Bog has been referenced in scholarly studies of peatlands of Ohio for decades, and the level of research and attention to the bog over many years created a unique opportunity to conserve an important and unique habitat. Only 2% of Ohio's peatlands remain, which are generally concentrated in Northeast Ohio. This rare habitat in Ohio remains under threat from development, mining, agriculture, filling, draining, and dredging. In addition, the Bird Family Bog is the only historically known site in Ohio of the rare and endangered plant, Labrador Tea.

Preserving the entirety of the property was imperative to protection and restoration measures along Breakneck Creek. The property is contiguous to private land conserved through a conservation easement and is within the Portage Park District's envisioned Breakneck Creek Greenway. The acquisition and protection of the property meets the goals of the Portage Park District's Master Plan, and the area is identified as a source water protection area for the cities of Ravenna and Kent.

"This project is another example of a successful public/private partnership in which West Creek

had the ability to act quickly to make the acquisition deal when the Park District discovered this important conservation property was on the market," said Christine Craycroft, Executive Director of the Portage Park District; "It's been great collaborating with them [West Creek] in developing plans for restoration and management of the property that will eventually become a beautiful public park."

Projects like this would not be possible without the help and support of our many partners, including the Portage Park District, H2Ohio and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Fund and the Ohio Public Works Commission, The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, The Ohio State University, Portage Park District Foundation, Rootstown Township, Portage County, and of course the efforts of all of our staff and Board.

West Creek will be the interim owner of the property while invasive treatments, limited reforestation, and bog management occur. Ultimately, the property will be turned over to the Portage Park District as a park and preserve.



BLUEBELL PRESERVE: PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

The Bluebell Preserve Restoration project is located in the Village of Lodi, in south-western Medina County. West Creek partnered with The Nature Conservancy and the state-sponsored H2Ohio Program to purchase the 76-acre property. This was truly a collaborative effort, with neither funding source being enough to have done it alone.

West Creek has taken a hybridized approach to watershed restoration, first focusing on land acquisition and in most cases the subsequent restoration, rehabilitation, demolition, and/or reclamation of the property. Plans are currently underway for demolition, restoration, and rehabilitation of the agricultural property, which will provide substantially improved habitat diversity and improve water quality in the Black River and Rocky River watersheds.

The Black River is a direct tributary to the central Lake Erie Basin, an area highly impacted by nutrient inputs from agricultural land use.

The project is anticipated to restore more than 25 acres of wetland, 50 acres of forested buffer, and nearly a half mile of headwater stream. Wetlands will be re-established or rehabilitated on land currently used for soybean farming. Restoration will involve drain tile disruption, shallow grading, treatment of invasive species, and planting a high diversity of native plants. Stream restoration will include restoring natural flow to two tributaries of the East Fork Black River and re-establishing a diversity of native vegetation to the riparian corridor surrounding these restored streams.

This project will reduce nutrient loading and improve downstream water quality through the elimination of agricultural practices, which will slow the flow of water across the landscape and will eliminate the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Nutrients and sediment from agricultural practices will no longer flow directly downstream and will improve water quality as the hydrologic inputs are processed more naturally. The removal of existing artificial drainage will further reduce the volume and velocity of flow following storm events, as well as nutrients and sediment from agricultural practices. The rehabilitation of the degraded wetlands, former wetlands, and establishment of a riparian corridor will further

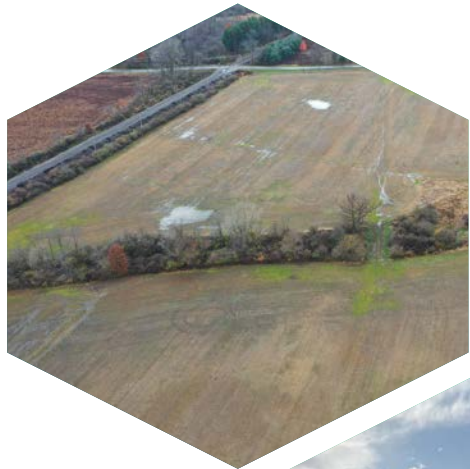


reduce nutrients and sediment load, and water volume and velocity to improve water quality on site, downstream, and ultimately Lake Erie.

The property is a key addition to connecting people and wildlife to Medina County Parks. It separated 265 acres of the Park District's land at Bluebell Valley and Hidden Hollow Camp from 130 acres of public land that protects the headwaters of the East Fork Black River. Only a half mile of property separated these public properties until West Creek knitted together the partnership to fund the purchase of Bluebell Preserve and connect them.

West Creek has protected thousands of acres across northeastern Ohio, and prides itself on partnerships, which help to maximize limited resources and leverage strengths and resources. In the short term, West Creek will own and manage the property during the restoration process, with the intent to transfer to Medina County Park District to own and manage once restoration and rehabilitation is complete.

In addition to providing funding for the purchase and permanent protection of the property, the collaborative partnership is also funding the full ecological restoration of the site, and a long-term management endowment.



MUD LAKE PARK EXPANSION

With the assistance of West Creek Conservancy, another critical property has been added to the Medina County Park District. The 56-acre Mud Lake Park project expands upon the 400-acre Mud Lake Park natural area, allowing the area to be enhanced with passive recreational amenities in the future.

The site is a mosaic of habitats, and it is probable that this site once held a glacial fen community prior to conversion to agricultural uses. Water quality protection is imperative to the watershed, especially headwater reaches and groundwater sources. Approximately 30 of the 56 acres are either wetland or floodplain and therefore worthy of preservation, inclusive of 1,878 linear feet of headwaters of Killbuck Creek. Such conservation projects often help catalyze additional preservation efforts which inherently create linear corridors for recreational purposes.

Conservation of the property not only protects critical resources in the area, it also provides visitors with an opportunity for hiking and wildlife observations with views of wet meadows and shrub wetlands. There is also potential for the property to become a hotspot for birding, providing an economic boost to the region from tourism. With millions of birders nationwide, bird watching is a recreational activity that contributes billions of dollars annually to the U.S. economy.

“Recognizing the importance of collaboration and partnerships, built on mutual goals and values, West Creek stepped in to acquire a critical property on behalf of the Medina County Park District” according to Nathan Eppink, Executive Director. “This acquisition is an example of West Creek’s ability to identify and implement viable significant opportunities for land conservation, restoration, and access. With each partner

project, West Creek provides the technical expertise, experience, and willingness to pursue projects such as this in support of partner organizations and the overall mission of land and water protection, and public recreation.”

Medina County Park District is a local and regional leader in conservation, education, and the protection of natural resources. Employees take pride in the parks, trails, programs, and community; ensure quality outdoor experiences; protect public investments; plant the forests and prairies of tomorrow; and develop the next generation of stewards. The district manages more than 7,200 acres and more than 40 miles of trails.

The Project is a coordinated effort by West Creek Conservancy and Medina County Park District and would not have been possible without the help and support of the Village of Creston, Wayne County, Congressman Gonzalez, Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Fund, and the Ohio Public Works Commission.





GRAND RIVER HEADWATER PRESERVE: **PERMANENT PROTECTION THROUGH THE GIFT OF LAND**

Because of the generosity of Beverly Horton and the Horton Trust, West Creek Conservancy now owns approximately 43 acres of beautiful, pristine property in Southington Township, Trumbull County.

Known as the Grand River Headwaters Preserve, the rolling to level land also has a number of ravines generally draining to the northwest. The wet ravine and swale wetlands drain to swamp thickets and wet swamp areas on the western portions of the property, which are part of the headwaters of the Dead Branch of the Grand River.

The site is largely mature second growth forest and the canopy is composed mainly of Sugar Maple, White Oak, Red Oak, and American Beech, with some Black Cherry and occasional Red Maple and Shagbark Hickory.

A large number of mature Sugar Maple trees have been used for sap for maple syrup production. And a sheet metal cabin with a stone fireplace and chimney was historically used for boy scouts to camp and enjoy the nature of the site. Other than the maple sap collection and the cabin, the site is largely unaffected by human activity.

“It was a pleasure to facilitate the donation of land to West Creek Conservancy” said Beverly Horton, who was thrilled to entrust West Creek with the long-term stewardship of the land that has been in her family for decades.

West Creek will continue to allow sap production on the preserve. In addition, a natural resources management plan will be developed which will outline the best management practices to protect, and potentially restore, habitat health and function on the Grand River Headwaters Preserve.



RECLAIMING BIG CREEK CORRIDORS



Watersheds? Not the most common word in our day to day lives... but understanding our place in it is crucial when it comes to how we function as a community, and as we work to protect our region's environment and infrastructure.

Our friends at Big Creek Connects explain it perfectly: A watershed or drainage basin is an area of land that drains precipitation (rain & snowmelt) into a particular body of water - a stream, river, lake or ocean. Water can flow directly into or go through smaller tributaries first, so that within each large watershed there are many smaller watersheds. No matter where you live you are in a watershed. Watersheds are influenced by climate, topography, geology, vegetation and land use.

A watershed is not only a drainage area — it's where we live, work and play.

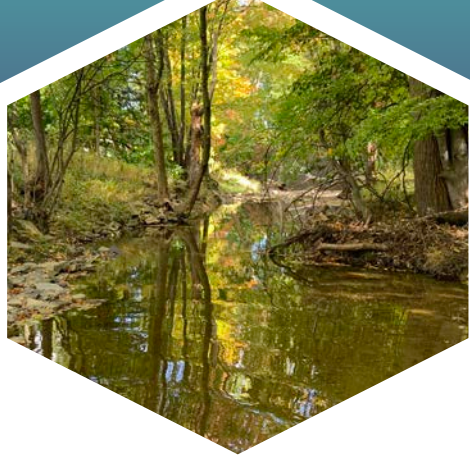
And yes, there's a facility referred to as the 'Watershed Stewardship Center' that is one of the best places to become more acquainted with your own watershed, get involved with the Watershed Stewardship Volunteer Program, or even learn about best practices you can put to use at your home or workplace. The Watershed Stewardship Center is operated by Cleveland Metroparks in collaboration with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and West Creek Conservancy. It is located at 2277 W. Ridgewood, Parma in the heart of the West Creek Reservation.

Big Creek Watershed

It's amazing that the Big Creek watershed contains over 130+ miles of different stream channel within its 38 square mile drainage area; unfortunately, with Big Creek being one of the most urbanized and largest tributaries to the Cuyahoga River, it's also nearly 40% impervious with many streams buried, moved or otherwise modified by historical development.

Much of West Creek's work has been to reverse, or "un"-develop, unsustainably developed areas — such as those around Big Creek. In 2021, the organization completed an extensive series of acquisitions, within the cities of Brooklyn and Parma. In our traditional progress-through-partnerships approach, West Creek worked to sync mission-based efforts with those of each city as well as the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.





By the end of 2021, West Creek acquired over 2 miles of stream channel and 65 acres along both the mainstem of Big Creek and East Branch of Big Creek. This included preserving the critically important floodplain and stream-side forests, as well as removal of structures within the corridor. In addition, West Creek was able to restore over one-half mile of Stickney Creek, which passes through the heart of Memorial Park, and leverage funding to complete the park's connector trail.

All the hard work of West Creek can be succinctly summarized in our 3-word mission statement: Protect, Restore, Connect. West Creek strives to protect land and water resources by incrementally connecting parcels of land along riparian corridors in a 'watershed' approach toward regional sustainability. It's like putting together a puzzle of individual land acquisitions to slowly connect and restore the natural blue-green infrastructure of preserved blue rivers and green forests. Ultimately, it is also a long-term approach to protecting local and regional anthropogenic infrastructure such as buildings, roads, and utilities. Some of the land that is protected may not need immediate restoration or 'fixing.'

Nonetheless, West Creek evaluates the most effective and efficient approach to restore the natural function and ecological integrity of each site. Lastly, West Creek endeavors to connect people to nature. Be it through recreational trail, passive access, or simply having woods to explore in your neighborhood, the health benefits of tree equity are essential for all humans.

Fruition of these projects would not have been possible without the many partners who have supported West Creek like The Ohio Public Works Commission – Clean Ohio Green Space Program, Ohio EPA 319 Program, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the City of Parma, the City of Brooklyn, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Big Creek Connects!

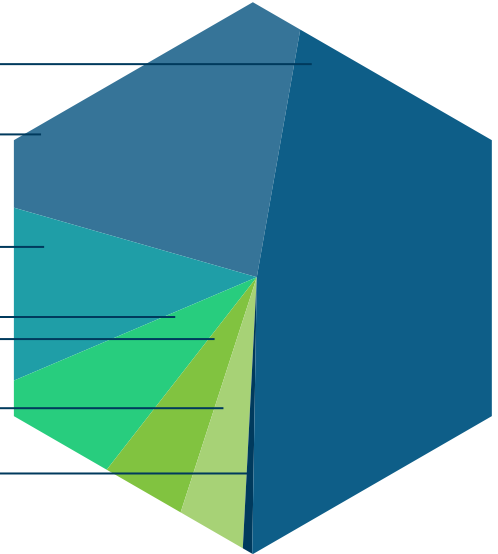




2021 REVENUE

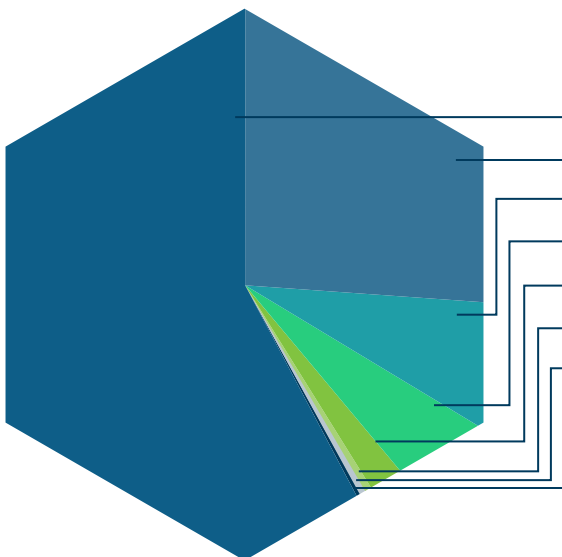
Total Revenues: \$9,546,450

Government Grants: 47.7%	\$4,558,024
Fee Services: 23.1%	\$2,206,765
In Kind Donations: 11%	\$1,043,368
Non-Gov. Grants: 8.1%	\$775,000
Dues & Donations: 5.6%	\$532,972
Miscellaneous: 4%	\$387,361
Special Events: 0.5%	\$42,961



2021 EXPENSES

Total Expenses: \$9,314,045



Land Acquisition: 58%	\$5,397,606
Habitat Restoration: 26.1%	\$2,430,471
Operating: 7.4%	\$488,111
Miscellaneous: 5.2%	\$690,264
Property Management: 2.3%	\$211,608
Outreach Programs: 0.4%	\$41,485
Professional Fees: 0.4%	\$38,921
Fundraising: 0.2%	\$15,579

Change in Net Assets: \$232,405

DONORS & SUPPORTERS

You make it possible! In 2021 your donation allowed West Creek Conservancy to protect dozens of new properties throughout Northeast Ohio. We are grateful to all the individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations who have supported our vital work. Contributions received from January 1 - December 31, 2021 are listed here.

\$10,000 & Over

Lloyd & Cynthia Bratz
City of Independence
City of Parma
Cleveland Foundation
DiGeronimo Family Foundation
George Gund Foundation
Kelvin & Eleanor Smith Foundation
Ohio Stream Preservation Inc.
Padua Franciscan High School
TEGNA
Wilkshire Golf Inc.

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Cedar Fair L.P.
City of Beachwood
City of Brooklyn
City of Garfield Heights
Jen DiGeronimo & The
DiGeronimo Family Foundation
Rudolf & Barbara Hermes
Fred Hipp
The James M. Cox Foundation
John Kurtz
Sherwin-Williams Foundation
Village of Brooklyn Heights
Village of Cuyahoga Heights
Village of Valley View
Rich & Barbara Weiser

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Donald G. Bohning
Mark Davey & The Davey Family
Foundation
Jeff Lennartz
Paul McAuliffe
David Sangree
Eric Sluss
Swagelok Foundation
Dick & Jane Whitehead

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Shimshon Balanson
Tom & Margo Bertin
Benjamin Borns
Tom Denbow
Joseph DiGeronimo
Giving Well Family Foundation

Patrick Gsellman
Chris & Jenny Hartzell
Irvin Hazel
Martha J. Lanning
Luciano Family Foundation
Joseph Manning
Mark Haynes Construction
Ryan & Terri Marrie
Michael Mohlenkamp
Kenneth A. Moss
Peter Rebar
Connor Redman
David Sacks
Eric & Debbie Schafer
George Zbiegien

\$500 to \$999

Anonymous (2)
William Birchenough
Robert Brill
Ann Chasar
Dale E. & Bernice E. Mansperger
Foundation, Inc.
Russell Donda
Terry & Jana Greathouse
Patricia R. Hanavan
Dr. Christine Krol & David Sagerser
Lubrizol Foundation
Monica Moore
Mr. Edwin Muckley
Raymond & Mary Murphy
New Belgium Brewing Company
Mark & Julie Pleune
William Resch
Chris & Vicki Soukup
Emma Lee Spring
The Kathleen T. Schlemmer Fund for
Animal Welfare & the Environment
United Swiss Society of Cleveland
Nate & Diane Ward
Robert & Barbara Yoder

\$250 to \$499

Anonymous (2)
AmazonSmile Foundation
Don & Edie Bees
Ross & Sarah Blakely
Ed Dufala

Thelma Feith
Maribeth Feke
Michael Fiala
Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP, at the
direction of John Paul Lucci
Jonathan Hicks
Barbara Hrdlicka
Lee & Candy Hutton
Eric & Marian Klieber
Mark Link
Frank Lovell
Christopher & Melissa Owen
Progressive Insurance Foundation
Elena Roszkowski
David Roth
Ed & Brendalee Salk
Steven Sardiga
Sheldon & Mary Ann Schafer
Todd & Marie Sciano
Jim & Pat Spoth
Tari Stahl
Terry Stahurski
Larry & Mary Vasil
Greg Warren & Karen Seawall
Gene A. Wimmer

\$100 to \$249

Anonymous (7)
Jim & Kathy Amato
Robert & Cheryl Anderson
Steve & Kathy Bales
Ed & Sue Ballou
Nancy Bartholomew
Art Basso
David Beach
Michael Bennett
Fred Bess & Jeff Converse
Sean Brennan
Grace Caliguire
William Carroll
Susan Chapman
Keith Chlem
Cheung Cho Yue, M.D.
Clarice Clemens
Holly Clemens
Marty Culbertson & Martine
Scheuermann
Maria Curcio



David Daams
Robert & Gabriella
Dagostino
Brian & Collen Day
Tim DeGeeter
Leo Deininger & Ruth Skuly
Richard Delanis
Alexander Derkaschenko
John & Deanna DiGeronimo
Mark & Pam Dobbins
John & Marci Dolnacko
Ed & Kathy Durkin
Antoinette Dyko
Tom Gajewski
Steven Galecki
Vickie Gallagher
Greater Akron Audubon Society
Dan & Carol Hargenrader
Peter & Judy Harvan
Robin H. Hatch
Martin & Dawn Hermes
Suzanne Hollo
Hollywood Scapes - Joe Phillips
Don & Nancy Howell
Kevin Jansky
David & Mary Jecmen
Debra Jesionowski
Jim & Pat Kastelic
Ursula Keck
Norbert Klimer
Frank & Dawn Knauss
Ronald & Paula Koenig
Donna Koler
Paul Kovalcik
Bonni J. Kurtz-Ponomarenko
Kelly Kyser
Lawrence Lindberg
Sylvan Long
Mary Ann Loschelder
Mike & Monica Losneck
Ed Lukacevic & Resi Sonntag
Gary & Therese Manke
Bob & Kathy McAteer
Aribert Meder
Ryan & Dana Mercier
Kenneth & Barbara Messinger-
Rapport

Andre Mitchell
John Mitterholzer
Ralph & Theresa Mog
Jonny Molnar
Kevin Moriarty
Ronald Mueller
Ken Murach & Jane Penttila
Mary Murphy
Thomas Mysliwiec
Larry Napoli
Neff & Associates
Donna Nettgen
Thomas H. Oden
Karen Ormsby
Joe & Peggy Osburn
Stan & Jean Pajka
Dianne Palivoda
Marianne Parker
George & Marie Patterson
Greg & Tana Peckham
Sharyn L. Peterson
Ronald & Lucille Philipps
Elizabeth Prusak
Michelle Ray
Margaret Rein
Elise Repp
John & Deborah Riczo
Ridgewood Garden Club of Parma
Brian & Karen Riegel
Terry & Mandy Robison
Linda Rocchi
Andrew Rosen
Arrye Rosser
Jean Schafer
Michael P. Shaughnessy, MD
Tammy Shoemaker
Eric C. Singer & Andrea R. Sperduto
Lisa Skalecki
Caryl Smith
Don & Ron Smolen
Judge Kenneth Spanagel
Jim Sprague
Kent Starrett
Gary Suchocki

Gladys Swicki
Anthony & Eleanor Szpak
Brian Tighe
Catherine Timko
Dennis & Lynn Trammell
Stephen F. Tucholsky
Steve & Barbara Tucky
Dimitri Turko
Betty A. Urban
Spenser & Christy Vago
Karen Vargo
Jennie Vasarhelyi
David Walkowiak & Barb Moxey
Gary & Carol Whidden
Thomas & Marcia White
Whole Foods
Wendel Willmann
Denis Zaharija
Kevin Zupancic

\$99 & Under

Anonymous (6)
Patrick Arch
Richard Babyak
George Baker
Lindsay Baker
Sylvia M. Banks
Michael & Linda Barath
Joseph Baumann
Stephen Bedell
Milene Bender
Richard Berg
David & Juliann Blaha
Alan & Donna Blake
Rebecca Bode, Ph.D.
Kathleen J. Bradley
Elaine Breiner
Sharon Brejer
Daniel Brindza
Mark Brody
Helen J. Broszczuk
Michele Burk
Tito & Marge Cambareri
Kathy Cavalier
Cyndi Celebrezze & Steve Mason
Pam Cerio
Bernard Charnas
Christine Chenevey
Jeanne Cherney
Kay Clark
Erica Clerc
Gary Cohen
Marcia Cornelius
Curtis & Gail Cost

Dale Cowan
 Alan & Patricia Dailey
 Terry & Laurie Davison
 Tom Day Jr.
 Jill DeMatteis
 Dean DePiero
 Kathy DiGiovanni
 Kathy Dishion
 Bill & Betty Dodds
 Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
 Ed Dooner
 Eaton
 Lou Elsaesser
 Lucy Erba
 Dorothy Fallar
 Peter Fedynsky
 First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 855K
 Robert Fischer
 Joseph A. Franchino
 Hank Frisch
 Lee Gase
 Rick & Mary Gates
 Janice Geho
 Great Lakes Publishing Co.
 Ronald Goldfarb
 Dorothy K. Gonda
 Jeremy & Nancy Greathouse
 Kathleen Guzy
 Lloyd & Bernadette Hannaford
 Donna Harland
 Rose Hartman
 John M. Hazel
 Rob & Liz Hersh
 Elaine Hlaves
 Edie Hoffmann
 Kathy Holland
 Joseph Hooven
 Patty Hosler
 Bessanne Hustosky
 Independence Garden Club
 John Ivancic
 Leila Jackson
 Georgene Jasinski
 Rick Jaworski
 Roy & Maureen Jech
 Michael & Nancy Jones
 Richard Juby
 Geraldine Kaftan
 Dennis Kapral
 Melissa Katuscsk
 Louise Keith
 Key Bank Foundation
 Jeff & Darla Klein
 Jonathan Konopka

Kurt & Diane Korfhage
 Michelle Kozelka
 Joyce Krajewski
 Paula Kramer
 Ann Krepps
 Tom & Karen Kurak
 Kevin Kussmaul
 Karen LaMoreaux
 Mary Ann Lanser
 Gregory Lary
 Dennis & Jean Lehotan
 Joeseeph & Fran Leisz
 Lois Lenard
 Robert Liggett
 Debbie Lime
 Donald & Carole Lisy
 Becky Loas
 Gary & Gail Long
 Hans Luders
 James Madden
 Emily Madej
 Jim Madej
 Janice Marnich
 John & Elaine Martin
 John & Jackie Maslanka
 Herbert Mausser
 Bill & Deborah McCort
 Stephen Morris
 Robert Nickle
 Alexander Nixon
 Jane Norris
 Janet Noss
 Tom & Peggy Oberg
 Helene Osowski
 Bruce Page
 Sandra Paliga
 Pete Panizzutti
 Karen Pelley
 Amanda Pfriem
 John & Marguerite Phillips
 George & Catherine Plude
 Jofrey & Andrea Quintanar
 Barbara Rajavich
 Candy Ridler
 Dave Rindfleisch
 David & Mary Robertson
 Regina Rock
 Dennis & Sandra Rohal
 Stephanie Ruggles
 Mark & Marie Sabo
 Darlene Sadowski
 Susanne Sande
 Sharon Schnall
 Erika Schnur

George & Linda Schnur
 Tom Schock
 Clifford & Betty Schuenaman
 John & Tammy Sech
 Amy Sheldon
 Barry Sherwin
 Kevin L. Skerl
 Gerard Slusny
 Martin & Anne Smalc
 Bernadette Smith
 Juanita N. Smith
 Corey Snipes
 Claren Sommer
 Rosemary Stagel
 Kathy Straky
 Nancy Streichert
 Thomas & Yolanda Sutyak
 Paul J. Swancer
 Frank & Betty Terepka
 Marilyn Thies
 Donna J. Thom
 Greg Toth
 Dennis Turski
 Jacob VanSickle
 Lesley Visconti
 Dena Von Alt
 Thomas E. Walczak
 Charee Walter
 Jerry Wasylyszyn
 Sherry Webb
 Janet Weiser
 Gary E. White
 Mary Ann Wiedl
 James A. Wohl
 Gary D. Zanercik
 Chloe Zeller
 Jane Zickes
 Dan & Pam Zupancic

In Kind Donations

Briarwood Products
 Cleveland Metroparks
 Cuyahoga River Restoration
 Keep It Local Project LLC
 Parma PCIC
 Matt Valencic

We make every effort to list our donors accurately. We regret any errors or omissions. If you have any questions about this report please contact Dawn at 216.749.3720, ext 10, or dpetkov@westcreek.org

CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Thomas Bird
Cedar Point Park, LLC
Cuyahoga County
John D. Dellagnese, III
Marlin & Kaylene Hostettler
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio EPA
Ohio Public Works Commission
U.S. EPA
W&B Horton Family Limited Partnership

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of Dave Vasarhelyi

Anonymous
Jane Anderson
Joanne Arhar
Dick Arndt & Joanne Arhar

In Memory of Irene Toth

Ellen Davis

In Memory of Dorothy Hazel

Helene Dreibelbis

In Memory of Dorothy Mueller

Virginia Kovach

In Memory of Tom & Marge Hudock

Virginia Kovach

In Memory of Thomas A. Neuman

Virginia Kovach

In Memory of William J. Rabatin

Virginia Kovach

In Memory of Catherine Langan

Langan Family Trust, (via Richard,
David, James Langan & Pat Thompson)

In Memory of Dave Vasarhelyi

Brian & Karen Riegel
Gary & Carol Whidden

In Memory of Nickolas Rowan

Elinor Rowan

TRIBUTE DONATIONS

In Honor of Candy Ridler

Alexander Nixon

In Honor of Bill Somerlot

William Resch

2021 STAFF

Derek Schafer
Executive Director

Dawn Petkov
Director of Finance

Peter Bode
CLE Project Manager

Emily Rindfleisch
Outreach Manager

Joe Leslie
Director of Real Estate

2021 BOARD OFFICERS

Eric Sluss, *Chair*
Robert Brill, *Vice Chair*
Jennifer DiGeronimo
Recording Secretary
Paul S. McAuliffe
Treasurer

2021 DIRECTORS

Benjamin M. Borns
Robert J. Dagostino
Maribeth B. Feke
Barbara J. Hermes
Jeffrey W. Lennartz
Michael J. Mohlenkamp
Christopher B. Owen
Connor Redman
Tracey L. Rock
Steven R. Sardiga
Tari P. Stahl
Richard K. Weiser

CURRENT STAFF

Derek Schafer
Executive Director

Dawn Petkov
Director of Finance

David Saja
*Senior Watershed
Program Manager*

Joe Leslie
Director of Real Estate

Kara Beninghofen
*Stewardship & Outreach
Coordinator*

CURRENT BOARD OFFICERS

Eric Sluss, *Chair*
Robert Brill, *Vice Chair*
Jennifer DiGeronimo
Recording Secretary
Shimshon Balanson
Treasurer

CURRENT DIRECTORS

Benjamin M. Borns
Robert J. Dagostino
Maribeth B. Feke
Barbara J. Hermes
Albert Johnson III
Jeffrey W. Lennartz
Michael J. Mohlenkamp
Monica Moore
Christopher B. Owen
Mark Pleune
Connor Redman
Steven R. Sardiga
Karen Vargo
Richard K. Weiser
Mengxue Xie



CELEBRATING

25 YEARS of Making Nature
your Neighbor

PROTECT RESTORE CONNECT

AN URBAN LAND TRUST
SERVING NORTHEAST OHIO


WEST CREEK
CONSERVANCY



JOIN TODAY!
westcreek.org



WEST CREEK

CONSERVANCY

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



www.westcreek.org
216-749-3720
info@westcreek.org

