



# Natural Resources Assistance Council

District 3 – Franklin County – 614-228-2663

**Kyle Wilson**  
Chair

## Round 17 – Applicant Presentations & Project Updates Meeting

**Laura Ball**  
Vice-Chair

**Monday, January 9, 2023**  
**1:00 p.m.**

Matthew Brown  
Karl Craven  
Stephen Farst  
Nathan Johnson  
Jim Palus  
Shannon Sorrell  
Tyler Stevenson  
Steve Studenmund  
Terry Seidel

### AGENDA

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Approval of May 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes
3. Available Funds
4. Project Updates
  - a. Cherrybottom Park Expansion – Venice Club
  - b. Big Walnut Acquisition
  - c. Blacklick Creek Stream Restoration and Riparian Corridor Enhancement
  - d. Schleppi Run Acquisition Hailey
  - e. Big Walnut South Protection
  - f. West Franklinton Green Space
  - g. Glover Groff Restoration Phase II
  - h. Dry Run Stream Restoration
  - i. Utzinger Bog Conservation
  - j. Eastmoor Green Line
  - k. Marsh Run Stream Restoration in Gantz Park
  - l. Taylor Farm Acquisition on Rocky Fork Creek
  - m. Stockbridge Urban Forest
  - n. Utzinger Bog Expansion & Enhancement - Scioto River Flyway Corridor
  - o. Refugee Road – Mason Run Protection

**Staff:**  
Edwina Teye  
614-233-4123

c/o MORPC  
111 Liberty Street  
Suite 100  
Columbus, OH 43215

### 5. Preliminary Screener Presentations – **Start**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>
1:45	City of Whitehall	Fairway Blvd. Big Walnut Trail Conservation Acquisition and Access Ayers Conservation Easement
2:00	Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District	
2:15	Metro Parks	Clover Groff Headwaters Acquisition
2:30	Columbus Recreation & Parks	Cooke Woods Preservation Project Hope Central Greenspace Project Linden Green Line Linear Park

6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

If you require special assistance, please notify  
Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or [lkaufman@morpc.org](mailto:lkaufman@morpc.org)

**The next NRAC meeting is:**  
Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., MORPC (site visits)



# Natural Resource Assistance Council

Applicant Presentations & Project  
Updates - Jan 9, 2023



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION



# AGENDA

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Approval of May 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes
3. Available Funds - **\$3,951,462.92**
4. Project Updates
5. Preliminary Screener Presentations
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

# PROJECT UPDATES



MORPC

- a. Cherrybottom Park Expansion – Venice Club
- b. Big Walnut Acquisition
- c. Blacklick Creek Stream Restoration and Riparian Corridor Enhancement
- d. Schleppi Run Acquisition
- e. Big Walnut South Protection
- f. West Franklinton Green Space
- g. Glover Groff Restoration Phase II
- h. Dry Run Stream Restoration
- i. Utzinger Bog Conservation
- j. Eastmoor Green Line
- k. Marsh Run Stream Restoration in Gantz Park
- l. Taylor Farm Acquisition on Rocky Fork Creek
- m. Stockbridge Urban Forest
- n. Utzinger Bog Expansion & Enhancement - Scioto River Flyway Corridor
- o. Refugee Road – Mason Run Protection



# AGENDA

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Approval of May 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes
3. Available Funds - **\$3,951,462.92**
4. Project Updates
5. Preliminary Screener Presentations
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

# PRELIMINARY SCREENER APPLICATIONS



MORPC

Start Time	Applicant	Project Name
1:45	City of Whitehall	Fairway Blvd. Big Walnut Trail Conservation Acquisition and Access
2:00	Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District	Ayers Conservation Easement
2:15	Metro Parks	Clover Groff Headwaters Acquisition
2:30	Columbus Recreation & Parks	Cooke Woods Preservation Project
		Hope Central Greenspace Project
		Linden Green Line Linear Park

DISTRICT 3 - FRANKLIN COUNTY

ROUND 17

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND

**PRELIMINARY SCREENER**

**Deadlines**

*Preliminary Screener –December 9, 2022*

*Application – March 10, 2023*



**DISTRICT 3 - PRELIMINARY SCREENER**  
(Franklin County, Ohio)

**CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND – ROUND 17**

**Applicant Name:** City of Whitehall  
(County, municipal corporation, township, conservancy district, nonprofit organization, etc.)

**Project Name:** Fairway Blvd Big Walnut Trail Conservation Acquisition and Access

**Type of Project:**  **Land Acquisition**  
(√ one) Property Owner Owner(s) Please allow us to finish working through the agreement  
Address: 750 Fairway Bl & 800 Fairway Bl Parcel #: 090-001775  
090-001776

Has anyone contacted the property owner about acquisition?  
 **YES**  
If yes, who contacted the property owner? Zach Woodruff, City Administrator  
Date of contact: September 2022

Is the property owner willing to cooperate with the applicant?  Yes

**NO**

**Riparian Corridor/Watershed Protection & Enhancement**

**Applicant Contact:** Shannon Sorrell

**Address:** 721 Country Club Road  
Street  
Whitehall OH 43013  
City State Zip code

**Phone Number:** 614-863-0121 **Fax #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** Shannon.sorrell@whitehall-oh.us

**Certifying Representative:**

Kim Maggard 12-9-2022  
(Original Signature) Please use blue ink (Date Signed)

Mayor Kim Maggard  
(Certifying Community/Agency Representative - Type or Print Name and Title)

**PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION** (attach response on separate sheet of paper)

Clearly define the scope of the project and identify the boundaries of the property or watershed area involved in this project

**A. Purpose**

(Provide a general description)

**B. Location**

**C. Project Components**

**D. Status of Easements or Acquisition**

**E. Include Photos & Map of Project Area**

(map and photos must clearly identify project limits and adjacent existing amenities)

**PART 2: ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST:** (25% match required) *Providing 37.9% match*

Local Match	\$ <u>125,000</u> City Contribution
Other Match (specify all sources)	\$ <u>\$125,000</u> Partial Land Donation
Clean Ohio <u>Grant</u> Requested	\$ <u>409,000</u>
Estimated Total Project Costs	\$ <u>659,000</u>
Who provided this cost estimate?	<u>Ryan Andrews, Principal, EMHT</u> (Name, Title, Agency) 614-775-4555 (Phone Number)

**PART 3: PROJECT EMPHASIS:** (√ all that apply from A or B and provide a written explanation of how this relates to your project. Note at least one of these criteria is required to be eligible)

**A. Open Space Acquisition (Sec. 164.22 A)**

acquires land for passive parks

acquires land for public forests

acquires land for wetland preservation or restoration

acquires land for natural areas protecting endangered species

acquires land for other natural areas

acquires land for connecting greenway corridors

acquires permanent publicly accessible conservation easement

acquires land to enhance educational opportunities and provide physical links to schools and after school centers

constructs or enhances facilities necessary to make the acquired open space area accessible & useable by the general public

**B. Riparian Corridors or Watershed Protection & Enhancement (Sec. 164.22B)**

- establishes and maintains permanent riparian buffers with native vegetation
- restores permanent natural stream channel using natural channel design principles
- restores and maintains natural function of the floodplain such as through the removal of streamside levees
- removes artificial in stream structures such as low-head dams and old bridge piers
- employs and maintains "Best Management Practices" to improve water quality

**Note: Restoration projects will be required to provide a concept plan and demonstration of resource improvement at the time of the application.**

**C. Other Characteristics: (✓ if applicable)**

- accelerates untreated water runoff?
- encourages invasive non-native species?
- funds current legal obligations (such as fines, penalties, litigation expenses, mitigation or reclamation) under state or federal laws or local ordinances or achieves a stormwater permit or other requirement associated with a private development or redevelopment project?
- funds facilities other than those required to provide public access to or use of open space?
- funds facilities for active recreation, such as tennis courts, ball fields or recreation centers?
- funds storm water facilities as primary purpose?
- funds facilities or improvements (other than invasive species removal) on an easement?

**If Yes to any of the above in C, the project is ineligible.  
Please see [Eligible Costs](#) on the OPWC webpage.**

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**NOTE:** All applicants shall meet with the NRAC for a brief (10 minutes or less) overview of their project. Staff will be contacting the applicant after the preliminary screening due date to set up the appointment. Round 17 presentation dates are tentatively set for January 9, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at MORPC premises

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*FOR STAFF USE:*

**PRESENTATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Time

Submit to: Edwina Teye, District 3 Liaison  
Mid- Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
Email: [eteve@morpc.org](mailto:eteve@morpc.org)  
Phone: 614-233-4233

## **PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **A. Purpose**

The City of Whitehall is proposing acquire approximately 10 acres of prime greenspace (and approximately 748 feet of waterfront) along the Big Walnut Creek located along Fairway Boulevard and adjacent to the future Big Walnut Trail (and within .7 miles of John Bishop Park). The project site is located east of the intersection of Etna Road and Fairyway Boulevard in the City of Whitehall, Franklin County, Ohio (Exhibit 1). The proposed acquisition and improvements are intended to preserve greenspace, protect floodway buffers, and to provide critically positioned access to the Big Walnut Creek at approximately river mile (RM) 23.5 for public paddling, fishing, hiking and other passive recreation.

The proposed project area is located along the southeastern boundary of the City of Whitehall, and will be a featured component of the Big Walnut Trail and blueway access as planned by the City and emphasized in Rapid5 planning. The region's current planning efforts emphasize preservation of greenspaces and development of waterway access, with the Big Walnut Trail being a key waterway for consideration. Given the density of development within Whitehall, the opportunities for preservation and access are rare. The revitalization of the City through park improvements and economic development have created meaningful change for our residents. The City intends that the park system will have a strong focus on connecting residents to resources throughout the community and restoring and preserving natural areas. The critical location of this project will serve to preserve the aesthetics of the Big Walnut Corridor from future development and to the benefit of the community it will double the number of access locations to the Big Walnut Creek within Whitehall. Furthermore, downstream the next access location is more than \_\_\_\_\_ miles away.

Natural greenspace within the city limits of Whitehall is at a minimum and park acreage is still below national standards. This parkland acquisition opportunity will allow the City to preserve functional floodplain and habitat as well as provide greenspace and waterway access. Planned improvements are minimal; the planned pathway will follow an established path and the canoe/kayak/creek entry point will be along the same trajectory, thereby minimizing clearing on the property. The proposed pathway is shown on Exhibit 3, and further details will be available upon official project submission. The proposed project will establish a permanent conservation easement over approximately 10 acres of land to protect entire acquisition.

### **B. Location**

The proposed acquisition and project area is located in the southeast corner of Whitehall, east of the intersection of Etna Road and Fairway Boulevard in the City of Whitehall, Franklin County, Ohio (Exhibit 1). The project is located in the Mason Run-Big Walnut Creek watershed (HUC 05060001-15-05) around river mile (RM) 23.5 of Big Walnut Creek. Within the project reach, Big Walnut Creek is designated by Ohio EPA as Warm Water Habitat (WWH) and a Superior High Quality Water.

### **C. Project Components**

The proposed project will seek to acquire, protect and enhance the riparian corridor of Big Walnut Creek and surrounding greenspace, and improve the access to the riparian corridor and stream to provide additional opportunities for passive recreation. Beyond acquisition, the project will include

two primary components: enhancement of the riparian corridor and greenspace via planting/revegetation and installation of one creek access point.

### Enhancement

The enhancement of the project area will include removal of invasive species (bamboo and honeysuckle, primarily) and provide for the planting of native understory species. A survey of the current plant inventory will be completed to assess desirable native species to establish a diverse and functional understory with native trees and shrubs. The estimates of planting provided are from a previously completed Round 13 Clean Ohio restoration of approximately the same acreage.

**Table 1. Proposed Native Planting Plan**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Estimated Quantity
<b>Trees (Shade)</b>		
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Blue-beech	600
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern redbud	
<i>Diosperos virginiana</i>	Persimmon	
<i>Sassafras albidium</i>	Sassafras	
<b>Trees (Sun)</b>		
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos 'inermis'</i>	Honey locust (thornless)	1,500
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	American sycamore	
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Eastern cottonwood	
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black cherry	
<i>Quercus spp.</i>	Oaks	
<b>Shrubs (Shade)</b>		
<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	Rough-leaved dogwood	1,800
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering dogwood	
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch hazel	
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spice Bush	
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nanny berry	
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Black-haw	
<b>Shrubs (Sun)</b>		
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray dogwood	600
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood viburnum	

### Recreational Access Points

Big Walnut Creek and its riparian corridor offers excellent outdoor recreational opportunities to Central Ohio, including paddling, fishing, hiking, and birdwatching. As shown on Exhibit 4, there are several put-ins to facilitate public access to Big Walnut Creek in Franklin County. These access points are located in Westerville (near Hoover Dam), Gahanna (Woodside Green Park, Friendship Park and Pizzuro Park) and Columbus (Big Walnut Park, Nafzger Park and Hamilton Township Park). This will become the second recreational access location in Whitehall, with the first being at 402 N. Hamilton Rd, in Whitehall Community Park.

The City proposes to use a portion of the requested Clean Ohio Funds to remedy this shortfall to provide this second creek access location at this property. This access improvement will provide an 8-foot wide, 1,000-foot long asphalt trail from the future parking lot through the riparian corridor to Big Walnut Creek. The put-in will be composed of a vegetated concrete block mat (Flexamat or similar). The mat will provide a stable, non-slippery surface that allows for infiltration but can withstand high flows from Big Walnut Creek. Riprap will be installed along the northern edge of the put-in to further protect the put-in. As this pathway will utilize an established, unpaved drive (historical to the property), minimal understory clearing will be completed to provide open access along the trail and at the put-in.

The location of this property and project will align it along the future Big Walnut Trail, currently under review for funding through Attributable Funds.

**Summary of Project Costs**

The City has prepared a preliminary estimate of costs for the proposed improvements as summarized below. These costs include survey, engineering, permitting, and preparation of the deed restriction, as well as actual plant installation / construction costs.

Land Acquisition:	\$250,000
Riparian Planting Enhancement:	\$ 74,000
Canoe/Kayak Trail and Launch:	<u>\$335,000</u>
Total Projected Cost	\$659,000

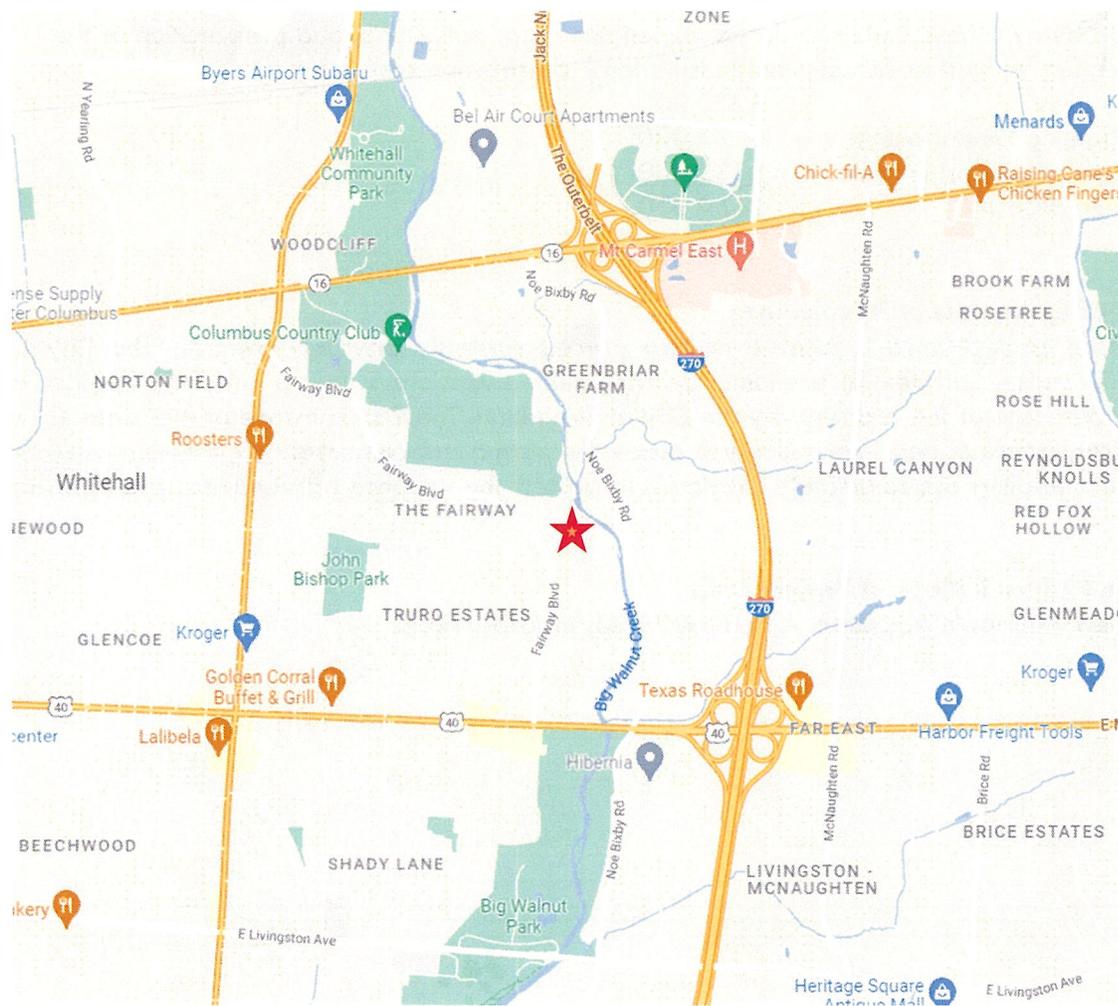
**D. Status of Easements or Acquisitions**

The proposed project area is located on two parcels currently privately owned. The City of Whitehall is under confidential economic development discussions with the property owners to discuss the purchase of the property by the City of Whitehall. The City is aware of the Clean Ohio easement requirements and is prepared to place the permanent conservation easement over the project area, totaling approximately 10 acres, to protect the enhanced greenspace and riparian corridor.

**E. Include Photos & Maps of Project Area**

See attached exhibits in Appendix A and the photos in Appendix B.

## Appendix A: Maps of Project Location



# Clean Ohio Conservation Fund – Preliminary Screener



Appendix B: Photos of project location







DISTRICT 3 - FRANKLIN COUNTY

ROUND 17

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND

**PRELIMINARY SCREENER**

**Deadlines**

***Preliminary Screener – December 9, 2022***

***Application – March 10, 2023***



**DISTRICT 3 - PRELIMINARY SCREENER**  
(Franklin County, Ohio)

**CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND – ROUND 17**

**Applicant Name:** Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District  
(County, municipal corporation, township, conservancy district, nonprofit organization, etc.)

**Project Name:** Ayers Conservation Easement

**Type of Project:**  **Land Acquisition**  
(√ one) Property Owner Owner(s) Sine-Marie Ayers

Address: 5143 E Walnut Street Parcel #: 220-000885

Has anyone contacted the property owner about acquisition?

**YES**  
If yes, who contacted the property owner? Kyle Wilson

Date of contact: August 2022

Is the property owner willing to cooperate with the applicant?  Yes  No

**NO**

**Riparian Corridor/Watershed Protection & Enhancement**

**Applicant Contact:** Kyle Wilson

**Address:** 1404 Goodale Blvd Suite 100  
Street

Columbus Ohio 43212  
City State Zip code

**Phone Number:** 614-486-9613 **Fax #:** 614-486-9614

**E-mail Address:** kwilson@franklinswcd.org

**Certifying Representative:** *Kyle Wilson* 12/9/2022  
(Original Signature) Please use blue ink (Date Signed)

Kyle Wilson Assistant Director  
(Certifying Community/Agency Representative - Type or Print Name and Title)

Submit to: **Edwina Teye**  
**District 3 Liaison**  
**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**  
**111 Liberty Street, Suite 100**  
**Columbus, OH 43215**  
**614-233-4233**  
**614-621-2401**  
E-mail: [eteve@morpc.org](mailto:eteve@morpc.org)

**PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION** (attach response on separate sheet of paper)

Clearly define the scope of the project and identify the boundaries of the property or watershed area involved in this project

**A. Purpose**

(Provide a general description)

**B. Location**

**C. Project Components**

**D. Status of Easements or Acquisition**

**E. Include Photos & Map of Project Area**

(map and photos must clearly identify project limits and adjacent existing amenities)

**PART 2: ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST: (25% match required)**

Local Match \$ 20,000

Other Match (specify all sources) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Clean Ohio Grant Requested \$ 60,000

Estimated Total Project Costs \$ 80,000

Who provided this cost estimate? Kyle Wilson Assistant Director , FSWCD  
(Name, Title, Agency)  
614-486-9613  
(Phone Number)

**PART 3: PROJECT EMPHASIS:** (✓ all that apply from A or B and provide a written explanation of how this relates to your project. Note at least one of these criteria is required to be eligible)

**A. Open Space Acquisition (Sec. 164.22 A)**

acquires land for passive parks

acquires land for public forests

acquires land for wetland preservation or restoration

acquires land for natural areas protecting endangered species

acquires land for other natural areas

acquires land for connecting greenway corridors

acquires permanent publicly accessible conservation easement

acquires land to enhance educational opportunities and provide physical links to schools and after school centers

constructs or enhances facilities necessary to make the acquired open space area accessible & useable by the general public

**B. Riparian Corridors or Watershed Protection & Enhancement (Sec. 164.22B)**

- establishes and maintains permanent riparian buffers with native vegetation
- restores permanent natural stream channel using natural channel design principles
- restores and maintains natural function of the floodplain such as through the removal of streamside levees
- removes artificial in stream structures such as low-head dams and old bridge piers
- employs and maintains "Best Management Practices" to improve water quality

**Note: Restoration projects will be required to provide a concept plan and demonstration of resource improvement at the time of the application.**

**C. Other Characteristics: (✓ if applicable)**

- accelerates untreated water runoff?
- encourages invasive non-native species?
- funds current legal obligations (such as fines, penalties, litigation expenses, mitigation or reclamation) under state or federal laws or local ordinances or achieves a stormwater permit or other requirement associated with a private development or redevelopment project?
- funds facilities other than those required to provide public access to or use of open space?
- funds facilities for active recreation, such as tennis courts, ball fields or recreation centers?
- funds storm water facilities as primary purpose?
- funds facilities or improvements (other than invasive species removal) on an easement?

**If Yes to any of the above in C, the project is ineligible.  
Please see [Eligible Costs](#) on the OPWC webpage.**

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**NOTE:** All applicants shall meet with the NRAC for a brief (10 minutes or less) overview of their project. Staff will be contacting the applicant after the preliminary screening due date to set up the appointment. Round 17 presentation dates are tentatively set for January 9, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at MORPC premises

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*FOR STAFF USE:*

**PRESENTATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Time

## **PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **A. Purpose –**

To permanently protect +/- 5 acres of riparian corridor and forestland. Property is in a rapidly developing area. Tributary drains to Hoover Reservoir, which is a major source of drinking water for the City of Columbus.

### **B. Location**

The property is located at 5143 East Walnut Street, Westerville Ohio 43081. The property remain part of Plain Township though it is surrounded on three sides by the City of Columbus.

### **C. Project Components**

- Appraisal – to obtain value of conservation easement
- Survey – to define the project boundaries
- Acquisition / closing and recording – execution of agreement

### **D. Status of Easements or Acquisition**

- in negotiation, property owner have shown interest in protecting this property for over a decade

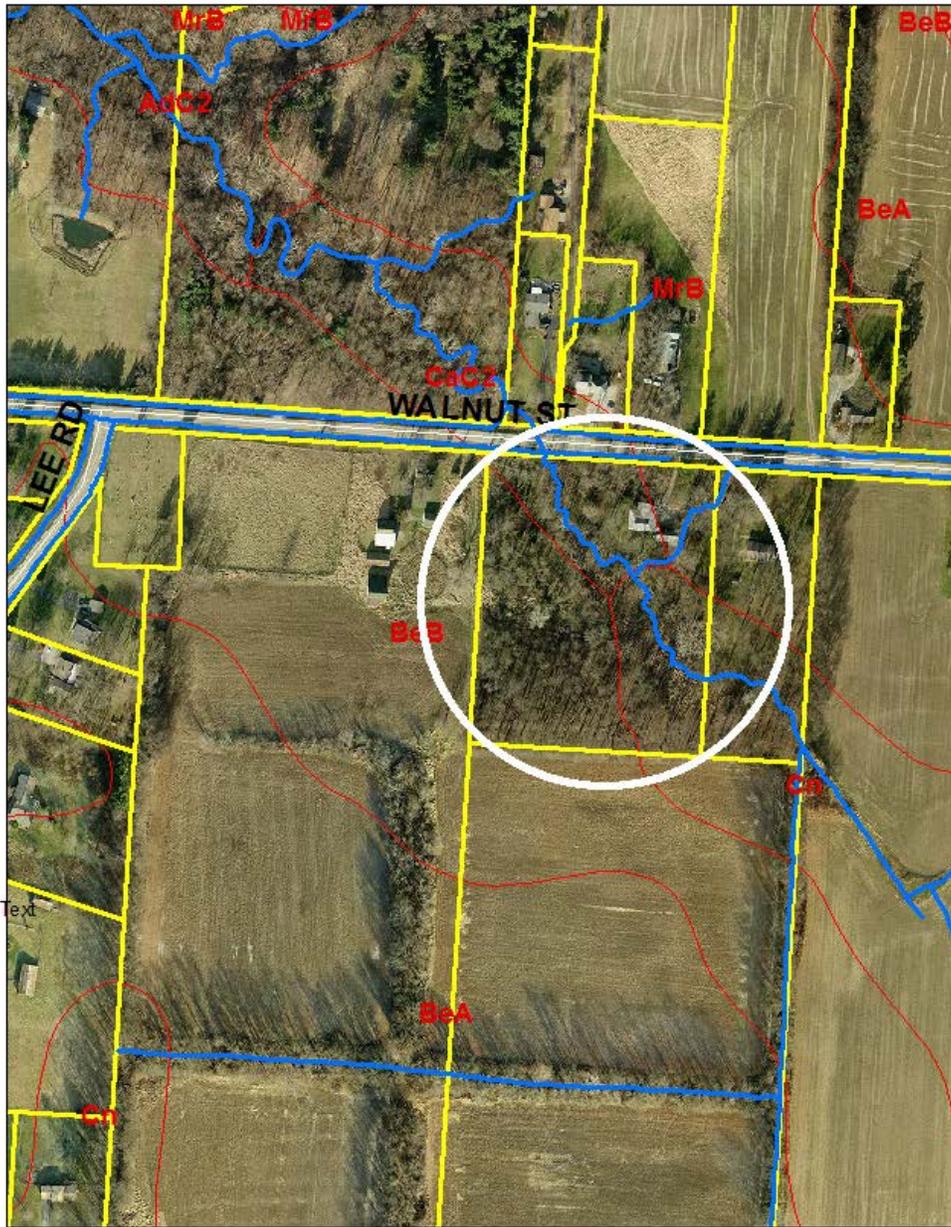
### **E. Include Photos & Map of Project Area**

(map and photos must clearly identify project limits and adjacent existing amenities)





# Ayres Property 5143 E Walnut Street



**DISCLAIMER:** Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only. Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and its agents, consultants, contractors, or employees provide this data and information "AS IS" without warranty of any kind, implied or expressed, as to the information being accurate or complete. Map information is believed to be accurate but accuracy is not guaranteed. With knowledge of the foregoing, any user of this data agrees to waive, release and indemnify Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, its agents, consultants, contractors or employees from any and all claims, actions, or causes of action for damages or injury to persons or property arising from the use or inability to use Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District GIS data.



## Legend

- hydro05
- parcel
- Franklin\_County\_Soils

**PART 3: PROJECT EMPHASIS:** (☐ all that apply from A or B and provide a written explanation of how this relates to your project. Note at least one of these criteria is required to be eligible

**A. Open Space Acquisition (Sec. 164.22 A)**

- **acquires land for passive parks –**  
This project intends to establish a conservation easement that would protect the land in perpetuity. Easement language would include the stipulation that the site could be utilized for park purposes in the future if usage is consistent with deed restrictions.
- **acquires land for public forests –**  
Approximately 3 acres of the proposed easement is forested. The forested area contains a variety of hardwood trees, is relatively free of invasive species and boasts a few Bald Cypress trees including their distinctive knees.
- **acquires land for wetland preservation or restoration –**  
Though delineation would need to occur to determine whether or not wetlands are present, a large portion of the proposed easement sits very wet and boasts one of the largest populations of Eastern Skunk Cabbage in Franklin County.
- **acquires permanent publicly accessible conservation easement –**  
This project would acquire +/- 5 acres of conservation easement. The conservation easement would be recorded at the Franklin County Recorder's Office and monitored by Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.

**B. Riparian Corridors or Watershed Protection & Enhancement (Sec. 164.22B)**

- **establishes and maintains permanent riparian buffers with native vegetation-**  
The conservation easement would provide permanent vegetative buffer for this unnamed tributary to Hoover Reservoir/ Big Walnut Creek

DISTRICT 3 - FRANKLIN COUNTY

ROUND 17

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND

**PRELIMINARY SCREENER**

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**Clover Groff Headwaters  
Acquisition**

**Columbus and Franklin Co. Metro Parks**

**Deadlines**

***Preliminary Screener – December 9, 2022***

***Application – March 10, 2023***



**DISTRICT 3 - PRELIMINARY SCREENER**  
(Franklin County, Ohio)

**CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND – ROUND 17**

**Applicant Name:** Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks  
(County, municipal corporation, township, conservancy district, nonprofit organization, etc.)

**Project Name:** Clover Groff Headwaters Acquisition

**Type of Project:**  **Land Acquisition**  
(√ one) Property Owner Owner(s) Robert Bright Trust

Address: 4427 Elliott Rd, Hilliard, Ohio Parcel #: 053-000321

Has anyone contacted the property owner about acquisition?

**YES**

If yes, who contacted the property owner? Steve Studenmund

Date of contact: November 22, 2022

Is the property owner willing to cooperate with the applicant?  Yes  No

**NO**

**Riparian Corridor/Watershed Protection & Enhancement**

**Applicant Contact:** Steve Studenmund

**Address:** 1069 W. Main Street, Westerville, Ohio 43081

**Phone Number:** 614-895-6231

**E-mail Address:** Studenmund@metroparks.net

**Certifying Representative:**

  
(Original Signature) Please use blue ink

12-8-2022  
(Date Signed)

Tim Moloney, Executive Director, Metro Parks  
(Certifying Community/Agency Representative - Type or Print Name and Title)

Submit to: **Edwina Teye**  
**District 3 Liaison**  
**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**  
**111 Liberty Street, Suite 100**  
**Columbus, OH 43215**  
Phone: **614-233-4233**  
Fax: **614-621-2401**  
E-mail: [eteeye@morpc.org](mailto:eteeye@morpc.org)

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(Provide a general description)

**B. Location**

**C. Project Components**

**D. Status of Easements or Acquisition**

**E. Include Photos & Map of Project Area**

(map and photos must clearly identify project limits and adjacent existing amenities)

**PART 2: ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST:** (25% match required)

Local Match \$ 415,000

Other Match (specify all sources) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Clean Ohio Grant Requested \$ 1,245,000

Estimated Total Project Costs \$ 1,660,000

Who provided this cost estimate? Steve Studenmund, Land Acquisition Manager  
(Name, Title, Agency)

614-895-6231  
(Phone Number)

**PART 3: PROJECT EMPHASIS:** (✓ all that apply from A or B and provide a written explanation of how this relates to your project. Note at least one of these criteria is required to be eligible)

**A. Open Space Acquisition (Sec. 164.22 A)**

acquires land for passive parks

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**B. Riparian Corridors or Watershed Protection & Enhancement (Sec. 164.22B)**

- establishes and maintains permanent riparian buffers with native vegetation
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- employs and maintains "Best Management Practices" to improve water quality

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**C. Other Characteristics: ( ✓ if applicable)**

- accelerates untreated water runoff?
- encourages invasive non-native species?
- funds current legal obligations (such as fines, penalties, litigation expenses, mitigation or reclamation) under state or federal laws or local ordinances or achieves a stormwater permit or other requirement associated with a private development or redevelopment project?
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**If Yes to any of the above in C, the project is ineligible.  
Please see [Eligible Costs](#) on the OPWC webpage.**

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**NOTE:** All applicants shall meet with the NRAC for a brief (10 minutes or less) overview of their project. Staff will be contacting the applicant after the preliminary screening due date to set up the appointment. Round 17 presentation dates are tentatively set for January 9, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at MORPC premises

---

FOR STAFF USE:

**PRESENTATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Time

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Clearly define the scope of the project and identify the boundaries of the property or watershed area involved in this project

**A. Purpose**

Metro Parks' is submitting this application to acquire approximately eighty-three acres of land in the City of Hilliard, Ohio as dedicated open space for the Park District while protecting the headwaters of the Clover Groff Run. This area is adjacent to a growth corridor for single family residential development. Homestead Metro Parks is just east of this parcel and is currently connected through a multi-use trail completed by the City of Hilliard. It is Metro Parks intention to meet the open space needs in this area with the City of Hilliard.

**B. Location**

This project is located at 4427 Elliott Road, Hilliard Ohio, Franklin County. The former farm and homestead are a single parcel of approximately 153 acres that spans both sides of Elliott Road. The proposed acquisition is for 83 acres of the larger parcel. The project site is on the west side of the road and contains approximately 2,000 linear feet of Clover Groff Run (a tributary of Hellbranch Creek). The property is in the Hellbranch / Big Darby Creek watershed. The majority of the site is currently being used for agricultural production.

**C. Project Components***Acquires land for passive parks*

This acquisition would add to the open space efforts of Metro Parks and the City of Hilliard on the western edge of Hilliard. The parcel would provide residents and visitors to the park the opportunity to explore and enjoy the area, as well as protecting, enhancing and preserving a variety of habitat types (including stream habitat, riparian corridor, woodland, prairie and grassland) for current and future generations.

*Acquires land for wetland preservation or restoration*

There are two small wetlands located on the parcel that provide valuable water quality important for Clover Groff Run. Wetland preservation and restoration are major focuses of Metro Parks' Resource Management team. Soil maps indicate several low-lying areas where seasonal wetlands could be created. Creating a wooded buffer along the stream channel would be an added benefit.

*Acquires land for other natural areas*

Clover Groff Run is a tributary of Hellbranch Creek, which is a Big Darby Creek, a State and National Scenic River that represents one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the Midwest. Big Darby Creek and its watershed are home to a broad assemblage of plants and animals, including eighty-six species of fish and forty-one species of freshwater mollusk, several of which are endangered. Protecting the headwaters of Clover Groff Run as open space will allow Metro Parks to further protect the health of the Hellbranch and Big Darby Creek watersheds in an area that experiences considerable environmental pressure from both agriculture and rapid residential and commercial development.

**D. Status of Easements or Acquisition**

This project will be a fee simple acquisition.

**E. Include Photos & Map of Project Area**

Please see the attached documents.



# Clover Groff Headwaters



# Clover Groff Headwaters



© 2008 EagleView Technology Corporation

# COOKE WOODS



## **PRELIMINARY SCREENER**

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND  
ROUND 17



THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
RECREATION AND PARKS

SUBMITTED TO: DISTRICT 3 NRAC  
DECEMBER 9TH, 2022



**DISTRICT 3 - PRELIMINARY SCREENER**  
(Franklin County, Ohio)

**CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND – ROUND 17**

**Applicant Name:** Columbus Recreation and Parks Department  
(County, municipal corporation, township, conservancy district, nonprofit organization, etc.)

**Project Name:** Cooke Woods Preservation Project

**Type of Project:**  Land Acquisition  
(√ one) Property Owner Owner(s) **BA Cooke LLC**

Address: **Lot 16, East Cooke Road**

Parcel #: **010-045381**

Has anyone contacted the property owner about acquisition?

YES

If yes, who contacted the property owner? **Recreation and Parks & City Attorney Office**

Date of contact: **Ongoing throughout 2022**

Is the property owner willing to cooperate with the applicant?  Yes  No

Riparian Corridor/Watershed Protection & Enhancement

**Applicant Contact:** **Brad Westall, Planning Manager---Columbus Recreation and Parks**

**Address:** **1111 East Broad Street**  
Street

**Columbus**  
City

**OH**  
State

**43215**  
Zip code

**Phone Number:** **(614) 645-2441** **Fax #:** **(614) 645-5767**

**E-mail Address:** [brwestall@columbus.gov](mailto:brwestall@columbus.gov)

**Certifying Representative:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Original Signature) Please use blue ink

12/9/22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Signed)

Brad Westall, PLA Planning Manager  
(Certifying Community/Agency Representative - Type or Print Name and Title)

Submit to: **Edwina Teye**  
**District 3 Liaison**  
**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**  
**111 Liberty Street, Suite 100**  
**Columbus, OH 43215**  
Phone: **614-233-4233**  
Fax: **614-621-2401**

**PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION** (attach response on separate sheet of paper)

Clearly define the scope of the project and identify the boundaries of the property or watershed area involved in this project

**A. Purpose**

(Provide a general description)

**B. Location**

**C. Project Components**

**D. Status of Easements or Acquisition**

**E. Include Photos & Map of Project Area**

(map and photos must clearly identify project limits and adjacent existing amenities)

**PART 2: ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST:** (25% match required)

Local Match	<b>\$ 96,000</b>	<b>(28%)</b>
Other Match (specify all sources)	\$ _____	

Clean Ohio Grant Requested **\$ 248,400** (72%)

Estimated Total Project Costs **\$ 345,000**

Who provided this cost estimate? **Columbus City Attorney's Office, Real Estate**  
**Darren Rigel**  
 (Name, Title, Agency)  
**( 614) 645-7907**

**PART 3: PROJECT EMPHASIS:** (√ all that apply from A or B and provide a written explanation of how this relates to your project. Note at least one of these criteria is required to be eligible)

**A. Open Space Acquisition (Sec. 164.22 A)**

acquires land for passive parks

acquires land for public forests

acquires land for wetland preservation or restoration

acquires land for natural areas protecting endangered species

acquires land for other natural areas

acquires land for connecting greenway corridors

acquires permanent publicly accessible conservation easement

acquires land to enhance educational opportunities and provide physical links to schools and after school centers

constructs or enhances facilities necessary to make the acquired open space area accessible & useable by the general public

**B. Riparian Corridors or Watershed Protection & Enhancement (Sec. 164.22B)**

- establishes and maintains permanent riparian buffers with native vegetation
- restores permanent natural stream channel using natural channel design principles
- restores and maintains natural function of the floodplain such as through the removal of streamside levees
- removes artificial in stream structures such as low-head dams and old bridge piers
- employs and maintains “Best Management Practices” to improve water quality

**Note: Restoration projects will be required to provide a concept plan and demonstration of resource improvement at the time of the application.**

**C. Other Characteristics: (✓ if applicable)**

- includes hydro-modification projects such as dams, dredging, sedimentation, bank clearing, ditch development or channelization?
- accelerates untreated water runoff?
- encourages invasive non-native species?
- funds current legal obligations (such as fines, penalties, litigation expenses, mitigation or reclamation) under state or federal laws or local ordinances or achieves a stormwater permit or other requirement associated with a private development or redevelopment project?
- funds facilities other than those required to provide public access to or use of open space?
- funds facilities for active recreation, such as tennis courts, ball fields or recreation centers?
- funds storm water facilities as primary purpose?
- funds facilities or improvements (other than invasive species removal) on an easement?

**If Yes to any of the above in C, the project is ineligible.  
Please see [Eligible Costs](#) on the OPWC webpage.**

-----

**NOTE:** All applicants shall meet with the NRAC for a brief (10 minutes or less) overview of their project. Staff will be contacting the applicant after the preliminary screening due date to set up the appointment. Round 16 presentation dates are tentatively set for January 10, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. by virtual video conference via Microsoft Teams. Details on how to join can be found on the MORPC website by [clicking here](#)

---

**FOR STAFF USE:**

**PRESENTATION:**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

## **PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **A. Purpose**

This project will acquire a 5.4 acre mature forested parcel in the North Linden neighborhood. Data shows that this tract is part of the largest remaining woodlands in the Linden/Northland area of the city. The property is on the east side of two forested parcels being acquired by Recreation and Parks in December/2022 (Edwards and Pelino acquisitions). The total acquired from these two owners is approximately one half of the 10 acre total woods. This project would acquire the second half.

### **B. Location**

1841 East Cooke Road

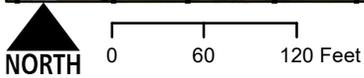
### **C. Project Components**

At 10 total acres, Cooke Woods may seem small in relative size, but it's location in the densely populated north sector of Columbus makes it one of the largest intact woodlands. A one acre forested wetland is also present on the site. The property is owned by a developer planning to build an apartment complex. However, the developer has been in discussions with CRPD in late 2022 about the potential of selling the site for conservation purposes. The Dahlberg Learning Center adjacent to the woods has expressed interest in potential nature study for young students. The site will be used for habitat and protection, only a nature trail is planned for future access.

### **D. Status of Easements or Acquisition**

BA Cooke LLC acquired the site in March/2022. During the acquisition of the neighboring western parcels, the owner has been in direct contact with CRPD, and is open to working with this project, pending final negotiations.





THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
RECREATION AND PARKS

**COOKE WOODS**  
BA COOKE LLC SITE  
CLEAN OHIO ROUND 17

**A. Photos & Map of Project Area**



Wooded Area – east side



Wetland Area – south side

# HOPE CENTRAL GREENSPACE



## PRELIMINARY SCREENER

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND  
ROUND 17



**DISTRICT 3 - PRELIMINARY SCREENER**  
(Franklin County, Ohio)

**CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND – ROUND 17**

**Applicant Name:** **Columbus Recreation and Parks Department**  
(County, municipal corporation, township, conservancy district, nonprofit organization, etc.)

**Project Name:** **Hope Central Greenspace Project**

**Type of Project:**  **Land Acquisition**  
(√ one) Property Owner Owner(s) **Brown Road Community**

Address: **1553 Brown Road, Columbus, OH 43223**

Parcel #: **140-000154**

Has anyone contacted the property owner about acquisition?

**YES**

If yes, who contacted the property owner? **Recreation and Parks**

Date of contact: **September – December 2022**

Is the property owner willing to cooperate with the applicant?  **Yes**

**Riparian Corridor/Watershed Protection & Enhancement**

**Applicant Contact:** **Brad Westall, Planning Manager---Columbus Recreation and Parks**

**Address:** **1111 East Broad Street**  
Street

**Columbus**  
City

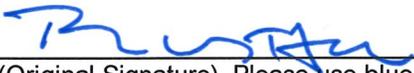
**OH**  
State

**43215**  
Zip code

**Phone Number:** **(614) 645-2441 Fax #: (614) 645-3300**

**E-mail Address:** [brwestall@columbus.gov](mailto:brwestall@columbus.gov)

**Certifying Representative:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Original Signature) Please use blue ink

12/9/22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date Signed)

**Brad Westall, PLA Planning Manager / Columbus Recreation and Parks**  
(Certifying Community/Agency Representative - Type or Print Name and Title)

Submit to: **Edwina Teye**  
**District 3 Liaison**  
**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**  
**111 Liberty Street, Suite 100**  
**Columbus, OH 43215**

Phone: **614-233-4233**  
Fax: **614-621-2401**  
E-mail: [eteye@morpc.org](mailto:eteye@morpc.org)

**PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION** (attach response on separate sheet of paper)

Clearly define the scope of the project and identify the boundaries of the property or watershed area involved in this project

**A. Purpose**

(Provide a general description)

**B. Location**

**C. Project Components**

**D. Status of Easements or Acquisition**

**E. Include Photos & Map of Project Area**

(map and photos must clearly identify project limits and adjacent existing amenities)

**PART 2: ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST: (25% match required)**

Local Match \$ 126,000 (28%)

Other Match (specify all sources) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Clean Ohio Grant Requested \$ 324,000 (72%)

Estimated Total Project Costs \$ 450,000

Who provided this cost estimate? City Real Estate Division---Darren Rigel  
(Name, Title, Agency)  
(614) 645-7907  
(Phone Number)

**PART 3: PROJECT EMPHASIS:** (√ all that apply from A or B and provide a written explanation of how this relates to your project. Note at least one of these criteria is required to be eligible

**A. Open Space Acquisition (Sec. 164.22 A)**

acquires land for passive parks

acquires land for public forests

acquires land for wetland preservation or restoration

acquires land for natural areas protecting endangered species

acquires land for other natural areas

acquires land for connecting greenway corridors

acquires permanent publicly accessible conservation easement

acquires land to enhance educational opportunities and provide physical links to schools and after school centers

constructs or enhances facilities necessary to make the acquired open space area accessible & useable by the general public

**B. Riparian Corridors or Watershed Protection & Enhancement (Sec. 164.22B)**

- establishes and maintains permanent riparian buffers with native vegetation
- restores permanent natural stream channel using natural channel design principles
- restores and maintains natural function of the floodplain such as through the removal of streamside levees
- removes artificial in stream structures such as low-head dams and old bridge piers
- employs and maintains “Best Management Practices” to improve water quality

**Note: Restoration projects will be required to provide a concept plan and demonstration of resource improvement at the time of the application.**

**C. Other Characteristics: (✓ if applicable)**

- includes hydro-modification projects such as dams, dredging, sedimentation, bank clearing, ditch development or channelization?
- accelerates untreated water runoff?
- encourages invasive non-native species?
- funds current legal obligations (such as fines, penalties, litigation expenses, mitigation or reclamation) under state or federal laws or local ordinances or achieves a stormwater permit or other requirement associated with a private development or redevelopment project?
- funds facilities other than those required to provide public access to or use of open space?
- funds facilities for active recreation, such as tennis courts, ball fields or recreation centers?
- funds storm water facilities as primary purpose?
- funds facilities or improvements (other than invasive species removal) on an easement?

**If Yes to any of the above in C, the project is ineligible.  
Please see [Eligible Costs](#) on the OPWC webpage.**

-----

**NOTE:** All applicants shall meet with the NRAC for a brief (10 minutes or less) overview of their project. Staff will be contacting the applicant after the preliminary screening due date to set up the appointment. Round 16 presentation dates are tentatively set for January 10, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. by virtual video conference via Microsoft Teams. Details on how to join can be found on the MORPC website by [clicking here](#)

---

**FOR STAFF USE:**

**PRESENTATION:**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

## **PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **A. Purpose**

The Hope Central Greenspace Projects will acquire a 9 acre parcel for the Southwest Columbus community, an area significantly underserved by parks and natural areas. Located along Brown Road, near the center of the 10 square mile Southwest area, this project is rated by local residents as one of the top priorities for the long term resilience of the surrounding neighborhoods. Approximately 2,400 residents live within the 10 minute walkshed of the property.

### **B. Location**

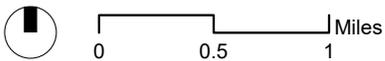
1553 Brown Road, ½ mile north of Frank Road. Parcel ID 140-000154

### **C. Project Components**

The Hope Central Church is in the process of selling their 14 acre property. The site is level terrain, surrounded by residential housing, and is very close to a large Southwest school district campus. The proposed property is approximately 50% wooded and 50% open fields. The existing church, outbuildings, and parking lot is located in the northern 5 acres of the site, and the church is interested in splitting the property and selling the remaining 9 acres for a potential public greenspace.

### **D. Status of Easements or Acquisition**

In August of 2022, the Department sponsored a community open house at the Hope Central Church to engage with residents about parks, trails, and recreation resources. Lack of parkland and natural areas was listed as the number one need. Pastor Jacob Barker, the church founder, and member of the Southwest Area Commission, noted that the church would be open to discussing a sale of their southern piece for family park space. Since that time, the church has a buyer for the existing church assets, and has temporarily set aside the 9 acre southern piece for CRPD to pursue acquisition funding.

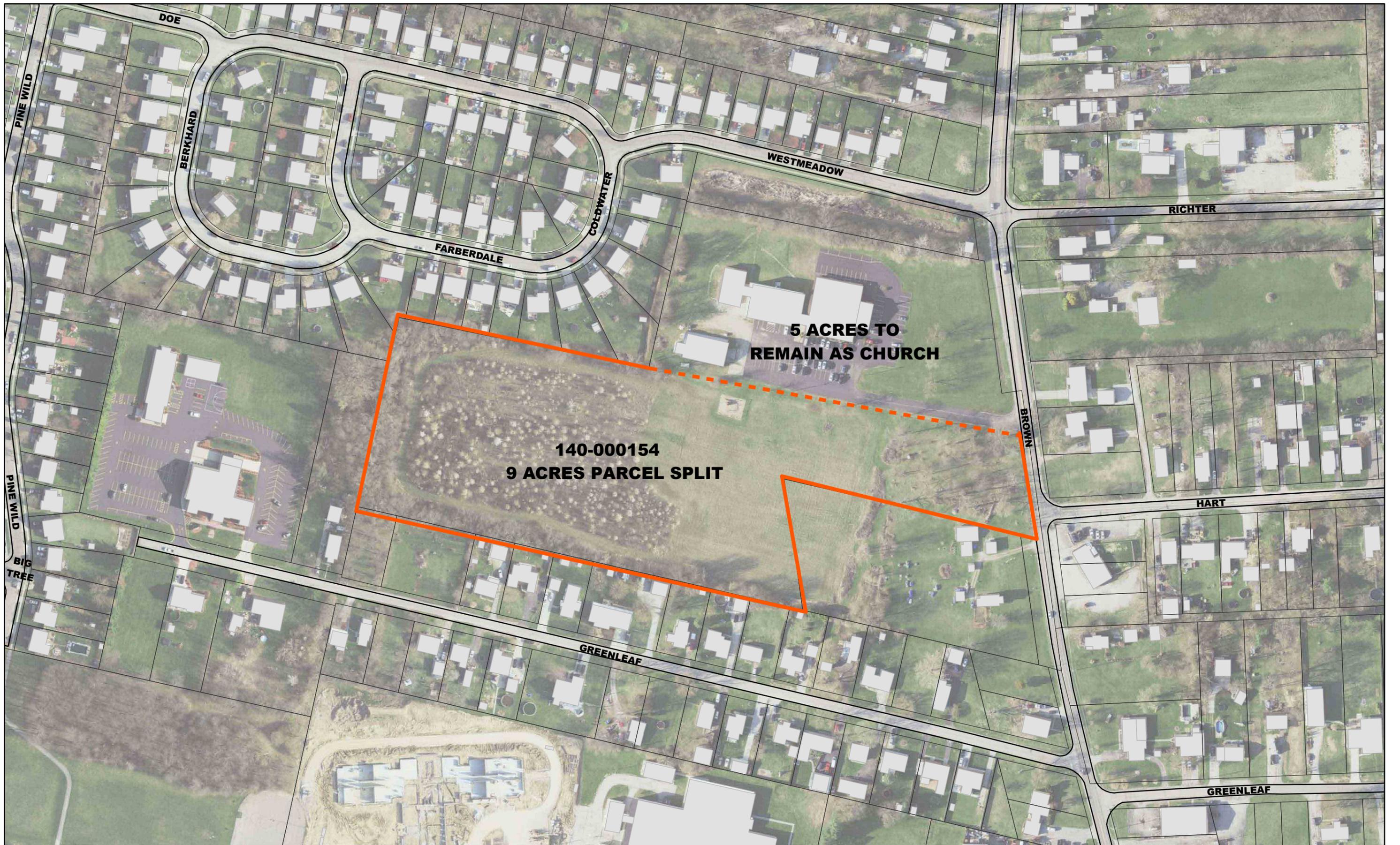




**Frontage along Brown Road**



**Looking West—Open Meadow**





9 ACRE SITE

BROWN RD

SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOLS



CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND

ROUND 17

# PRELIMINARY SCREENER



## Linden Green Line | Linear Park Corridor



THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

RECREATION AND PARKS

Submitted to: District 3 NRAC  
December 9, 2022



**DISTRICT 3 - PRELIMINARY SCREENER**  
(Franklin County, Ohio)

**CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND – ROUND 17**

**Applicant Name:** Columbus Recreation and Parks Department  
(County, municipal corporation, township, conservancy district, nonprofit organization, etc.)

**Project Name:** Linden Green Line Linear Park

**Type of Project:**  **Land Acquisition**  
(√ one) Property Owner Owner(s) **BZ Investors**

Address: **4444 Llewellyn Rd, Columbus, OH 43230**

- Parcel #:
- 010-222041**
  - 110-000063**
  - 600-110562**
  - 113-001061**
  - 190-000071**
  - 010-087437**
  - 130-000075**
  - 010-244168**

Has anyone contacted the property owner about acquisition?

**YES**

If yes, who contacted the property owner? Recreation and Parks & City Attorney Office

Date of contact: **Ongoing throughout 2021/2022**

Is the property owner willing to cooperate with the applicant?  Yes  No

**NO**

**Riparian Corridor/Watershed Protection & Enhancement**

**Applicant Contact:** **Brad Westall, Planning Manager---Columbus Recreation and Parks**

**Address:** **1111 East Broad Street**  
Street

**Columbus**  
City

**OH**  
State

**43215**  
Zip code

**Phone Number:** (614) 645-2441 Fax #: (614) 645-3300

**E-mail Address:** [brwestall@columbus.gov](mailto:brwestall@columbus.gov)

**PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION** (attach response on separate sheet of paper)

Clearly define the scope of the project and identify the boundaries of the property or watershed area involved in this project

**A. Purpose**

(Provide a general description)

**B. Location**

**C. Project Components**

**D. Status of Easements or Acquisition**

**E. Include Photos & Map of Project Area**

(map and photos must clearly identify project limits and adjacent existing amenities)

**PART 2: ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST:** (25% match required)

Local Match **\$ 2,790,000 (57%)**

Other Match (specify all sources) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Clean Ohio Grant Requested **\$ 2,150,000 (43%)**

Estimated Total Project Costs **\$ 4,940,000 (Note: Certified Appraisal completed by 12/15)**

Who provided this cost estimate? **Columbus City Attorney's Office, Real Estate  
DA Peterson  
(Name, Title, Agency)  
( 614) 645-7907**

**PART 3: PROJECT EMPHASIS:** (√ all that apply from A or B and provide a written explanation of how this relates to your project. Note at least one of these criteria is required to be eligible

**A. Open Space Acquisition (Sec. 164.22 A)**

acquires land for passive parks

acquires land for public forests

acquires land for wetland preservation or restoration

acquires land for natural areas protecting endangered species

acquires land for other natural areas

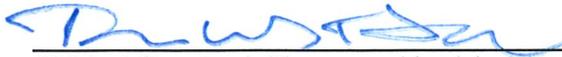
acquires land for connecting greenway corridors

acquires permanent publicly accessible conservation easement

acquires land to enhance educational opportunities and provide physical links to schools and after school centers

constructs or enhances facilities necessary to make the acquired open space area accessible & useable by the general public

**Certifying Representative:**



(Original Signature) Please use blue ink

12/9/22  
(Date Signed)

Brad Westall, PLA      Planning Manager  
(Certifying Community/Agency Representative - Type or Print Name and Title)

Submit to:      **Edwina Teye**  
                    **District 3 Liaison**  
                    **Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**  
                    **111 Liberty Street, Suite 100**  
                    **Columbus, OH 43215**  
Phone:           **614-233-4233**  
Fax:               **614-621-2401**  
E-mail:           **[eteye@morpc.org](mailto:eteye@morpc.org)**

**B. Riparian Corridors or Watershed Protection & Enhancement (Sec. 164.22B)**

- establishes and maintains permanent riparian buffers with native vegetation
- restores permanent natural stream channel using natural channel design principles
- restores and maintains natural function of the floodplain such as through the removal of streamside levees
- removes artificial in stream structures such as low-head dams and old bridge piers
- employs and maintains “Best Management Practices” to improve water quality

**Note: Restoration projects will be required to provide a concept plan and demonstration of resource improvement at the time of the application.**

**C. Other Characteristics: (✓ if applicable)**

- includes hydro-modification projects such as dams, dredging, sedimentation, bank clearing, ditch development or channelization?
- accelerates untreated water runoff?
- encourages invasive non-native species?
- funds current legal obligations (such as fines, penalties, litigation expenses, mitigation or reclamation) under state or federal laws or local ordinances or achieves a stormwater permit or other requirement associated with a private development or redevelopment project?
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- funds facilities or improvements (other than invasive species removal) on an easement?

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Please see [Eligible Costs](#) on the OPWC webpage.**

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---

**FOR STAFF USE:**

**PRESENTATION:**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

## **PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **A. Purpose**

The Linden / Northland communities of Columbus are one of the region's most underserved areas for parks, open spaces, and natural areas. The purpose of the Linden Green Line project is to provide a new 58 +/- acre linear park and preserve stretching along 7 miles of an abandoned rail corridor, from Cooper Road in the Northland community to Windsor Park, in the Linden community. The rail corridor is privately owned, for sale, and acquiring the property provides a transformative opportunity for over 131,000 residents living nearby to create a unique large-scale linear park through a dense inner city community.

### **B. Location**

From Cooper Park (Cooper Road/Westerville Road) to Windsor Park, south of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Location Map attached.

### **C. Project Components**

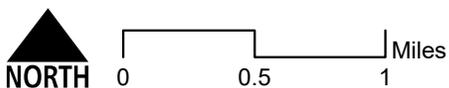
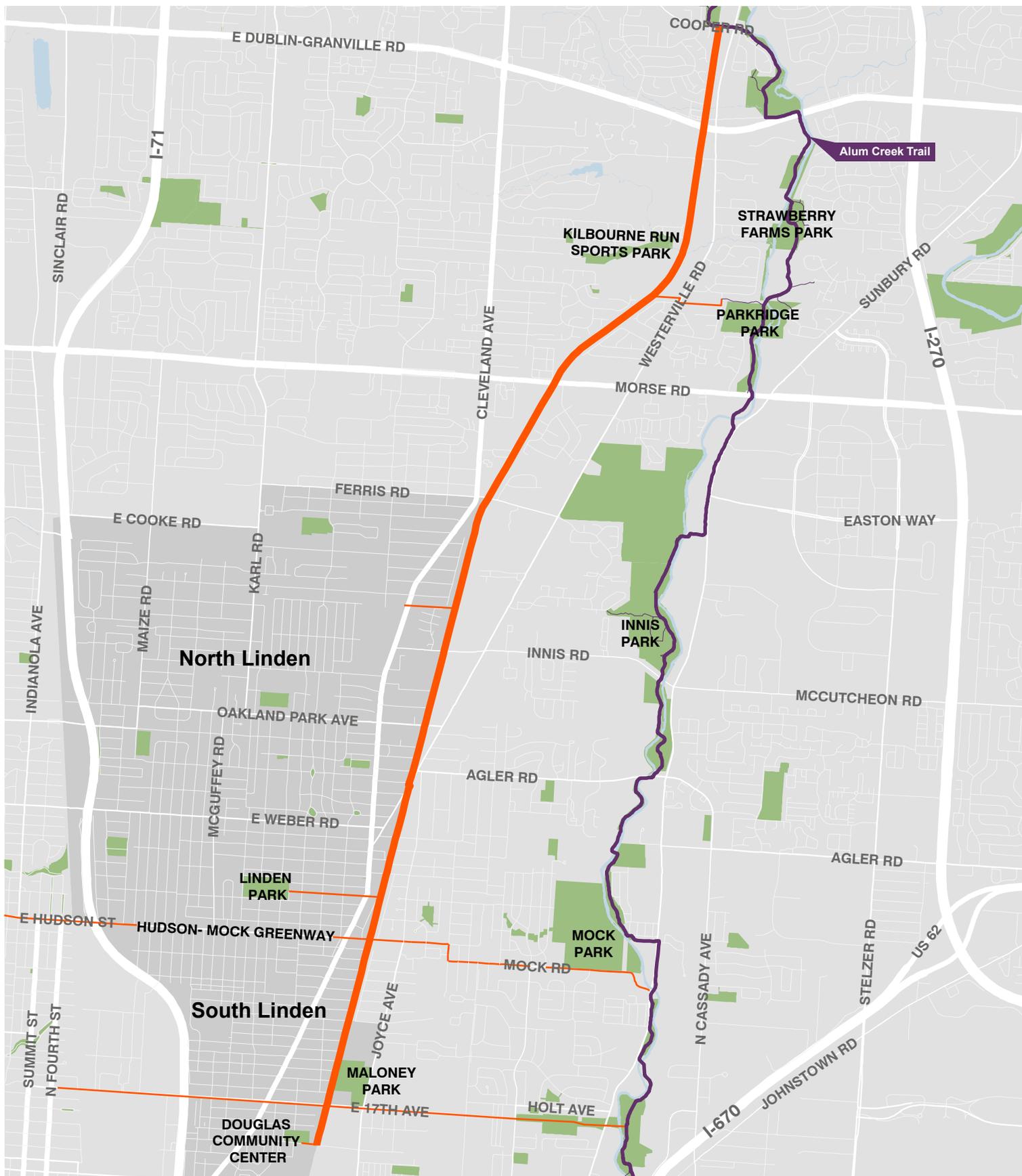
The Linden Green Line will utilize the longest abandoned corridor in Columbus. The rail corridor is privately owned by BZ Investors, and the average width of the linear park space would average 80'. This application would be for acquisition funding.

The project is intended to construct the first-ever linear park in Central Ohio. Components would include 7 miles of 10' pathway, with the remaining 70' of the corridor devoted to restoration of a natural area, i.e. forest plantings, native shrubs, wildflowers and selective open greenspace. Where appropriate, and designed with input from the community, some small scale amenities (play spaces, gathering areas, seating, exercise, etc.) are planned to be included. Over 40 access points to the linear park are available. Once the corridor is acquired, future preservation projects stretching east and west along the line will be planned and acquired as the linear park advances, to enhance and widen the natural open spaces and connector corridors. For example, the rail corridor crosses several small tributaries to Alum Creek; and several substantial tracts of woodland and greenspace are adjacent to the corridor. The Green Line also passes through the center of what will become one of the region's largest sports parks, Kilbourne Run, now under development and planned to open in 2025.

#### **D. Status of Easements or Acquisition**

BZ Investors acquired the rail corridor in 1997. Contact with the owner was initially done in 2015, and a Round 11 Clean Ohio preliminary application was submitted to District 3 NRAC in 2016. The project at that point was unable to advance to a final application. Discussions have been ongoing since, and the owner and Recreation and Parks will have a completed certified appraisal by December 15, 2022. Title work has been submitted and is under review by the City.

Finally, in September of 2022, CRPD completed a Preliminary Corridor Feasibility Study to physically inspect the entire corridor, including stream crossings, access points, street crossings, and existing environmental conditions and/or encroachments.



# Linden Green Line Location Map

# LINDEN GREEN LINE

## AT A GLANCE....

- 7 MILES
- 58 ACRES
- 13 NEIGHBORHOODS
- 8 UNDERSERVED AREAS -
- 10 PARK CONNECTIONS
- 300 ACRES POTENTIAL NATURAL AREA
- 131,000 PEOPLE WITHIN 10 MIN.



--- PROPOSED SHARED USE PATH

■ COLUMBUS PARKLAND

▨ NATURAL SYSTEM CONNECTIONS (OPEN WOODLANDS, RIPARIAN CORRIDORS)

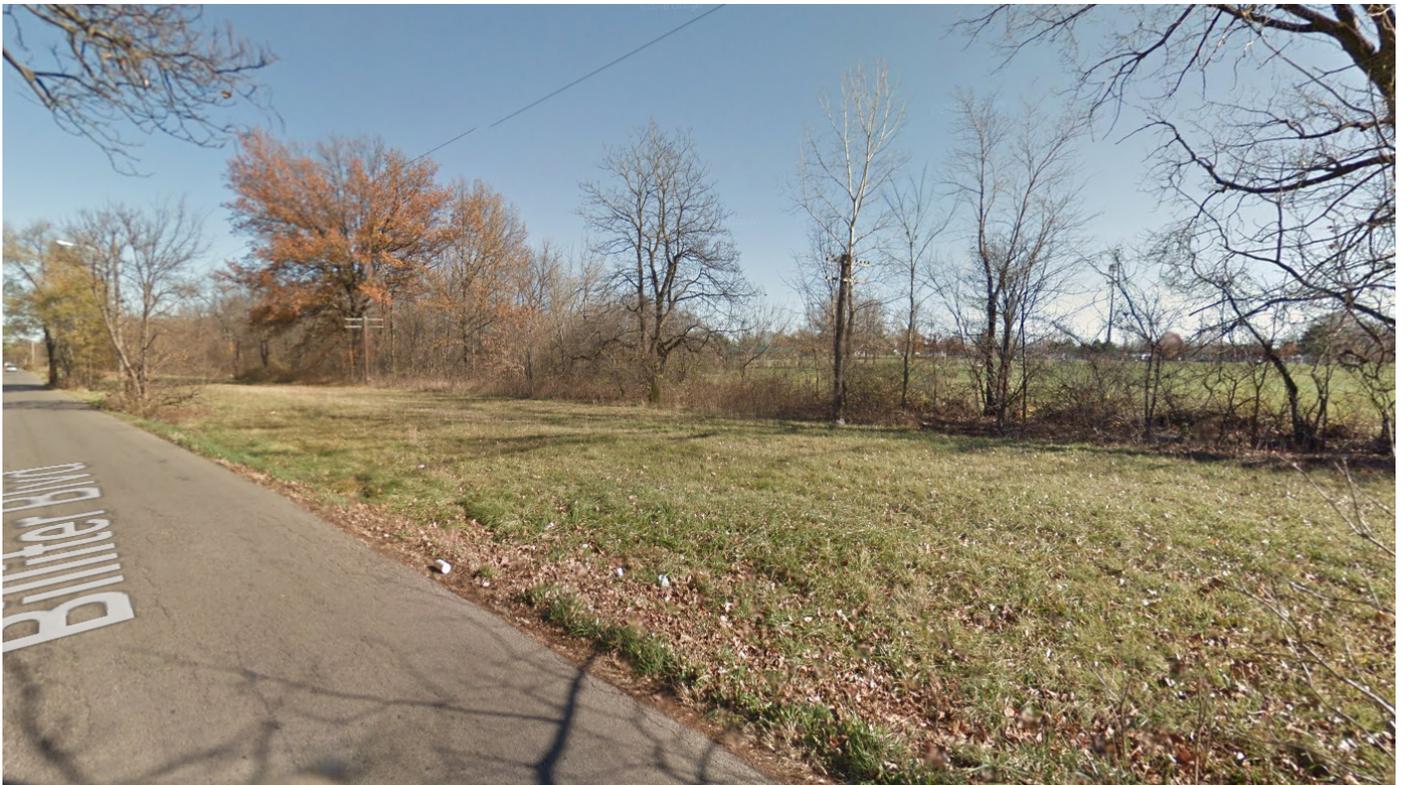
0 500 1,000 1,500 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 Miles

▲ NORTH



View north from St. Stephens Community Center/17<sup>th</sup> Avenue



View northeast towards Maloney Park from Billiter Boulevard



View looking south from Hudson Street



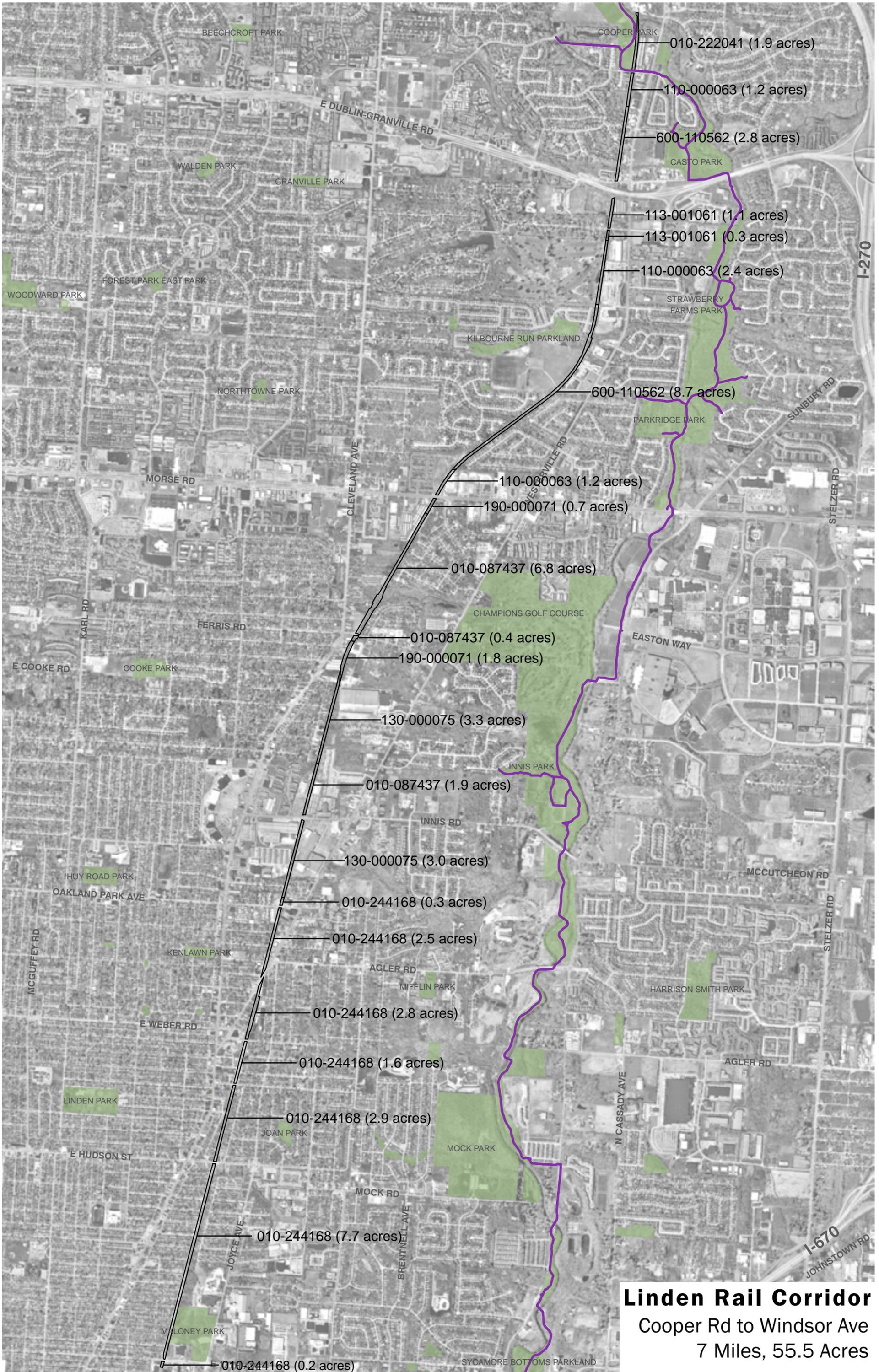
View looking north from Linden STEM Academy



View looking north from Ferris Road



View looking north from Minerva Lake Road



# Other Business



# Natural Resources Assistance Council

District 3 – Franklin County  
614-228-2663

## Clean Ohio Conservation Fund – Fiscal Year 2024 Schedule

### 2023

**June 2**  
Friday, 5:00 p.m.

**Preliminary Screeners Due**

**June 26**  
Monday 1:00pm – 5:00 p.m.

**Applicant Presentations & Project Updates Meeting**

**September 1**  
Friday, 5:00 p.m.

Final Applications Due

**September 14**  
Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Site Visits**  
(Weather permitting, confirm by 9/11 at 3 p.m.)

**September 18 (if necessary)**  
Monday, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Site Visits**

**October 2**  
Monday, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Application Scoring Session**  
MORPC

**October 16**  
Monday, 5:00 p.m.

Application Scores Due

**November 6**  
Monday, 10:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Final Action & Working Session**  
(Policies/Criteria, Project Updates)  
MORPC

### **Submit inquires, screenings and applications to:**

Edwina Teye | 614-233-4233 | [eteye@morpc.org](mailto:eteye@morpc.org)

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission | 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100 | Columbus, OH 43215

Committee meetings will be held in accordance with public health orders. The meetings will be held in-person. Please check MORPC's [meetings and events webpage](#) for details.



# AGENDA

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Approval of May 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes
3. Available Funds - **\$3,951,462.92**
4. Project Updates
5. Preliminary Screener Presentations
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

**Kyle Wilson**

*Chair*

**D3 Natural Resource  
Assistance Council**

[KWilson@franklinswcd.org](mailto:KWilson@franklinswcd.org)

**Edwina Teye, Ph.D.**

*Sr. Planner*

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning  
Commission

[eteye@morpc.org](mailto:eteye@morpc.org)

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, OH 43215



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

