

GROWING TOGETHER: YOUR IMPACT IN ACTION

2025

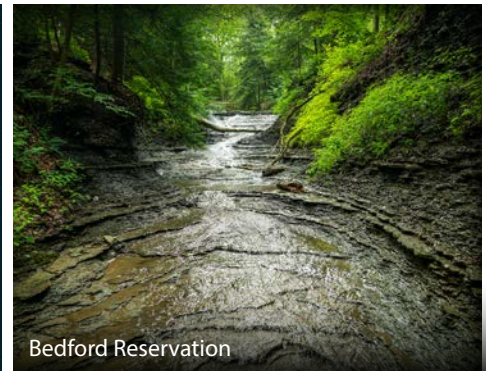


**Cleveland
Metroparks®**



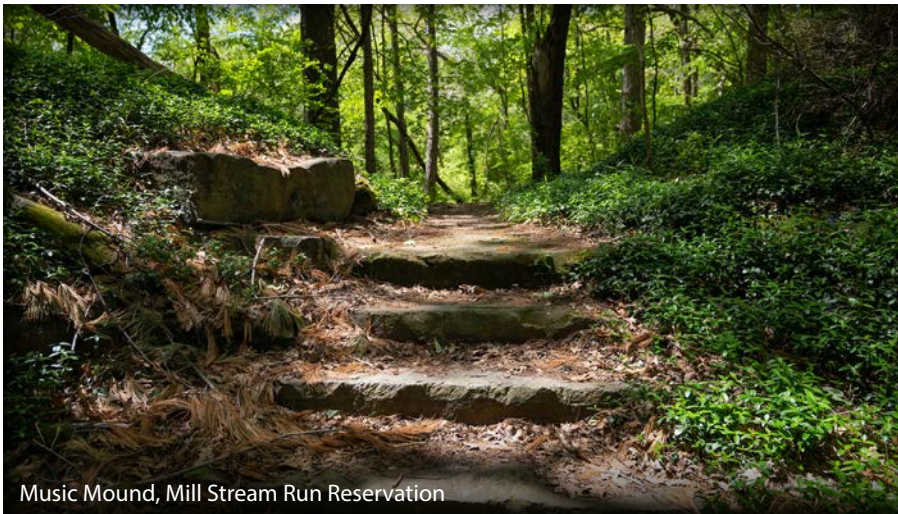
Cleveland Metroparks®

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION



Bedford Reservation

Every gift you make is more than a donation; it is a promise that nature will thrive in Cleveland Metroparks for generations. Whether you support trails, habitats, education or a favorite reservation, you turn your care for the parks into lasting change.



Music Mound, Mill Stream Run Reservation



Floating Wetland Planting, Gordon Park

This past year, your generosity shaped the experiences of millions who walk, learn, play and connect in Cleveland Metroparks. What follows is only a glimpse of what you made possible.



Fishing Program, Youth Outdoors



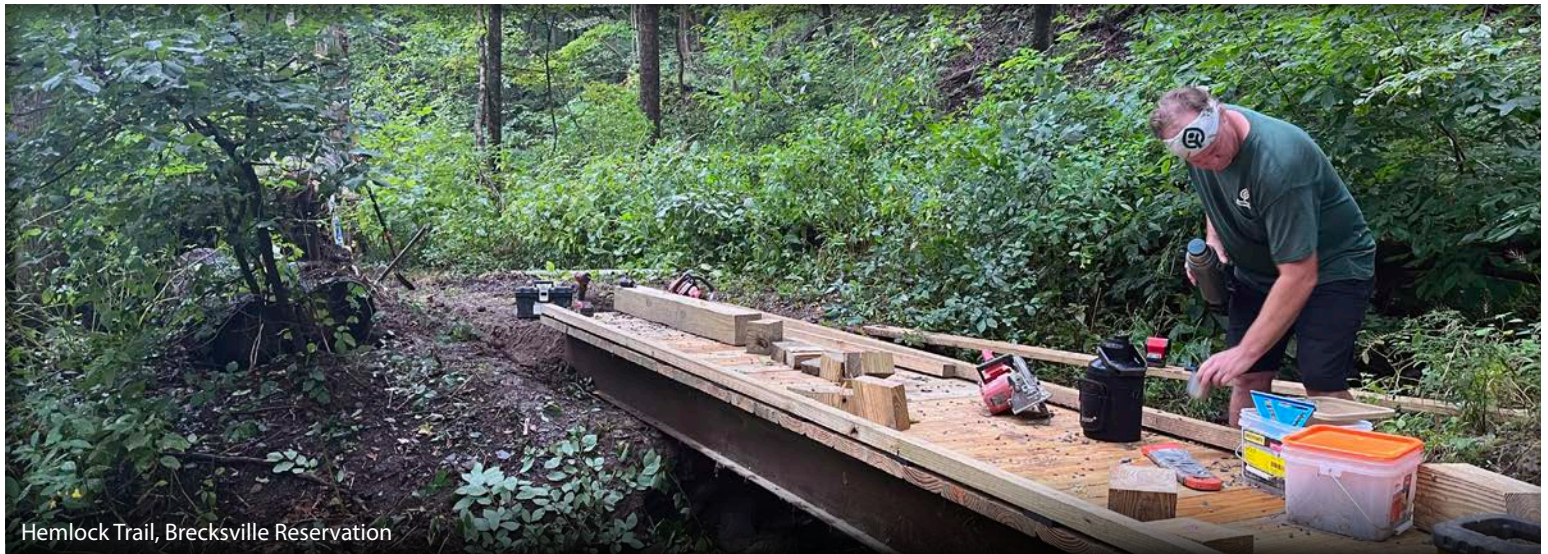
Rocky River Reservation



PROTECTING LAND, TRAILS & PUBLIC SPACES

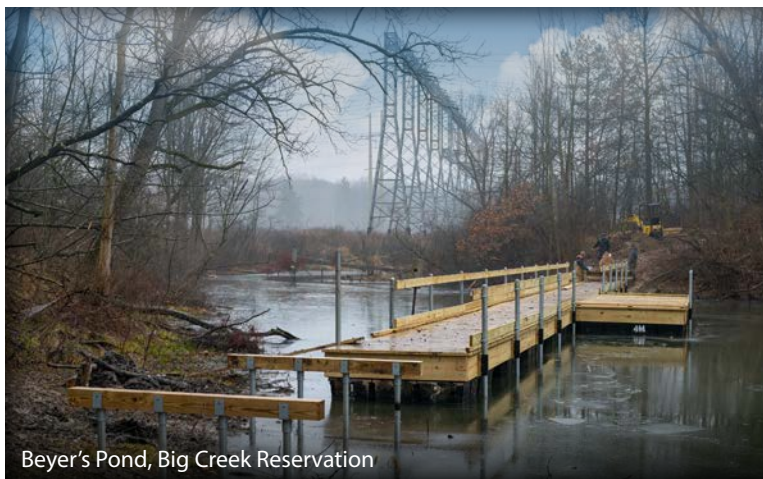


In Brecksville, rehabilitation of the Hemlock Trail and new decking on the Deer Lick Loop Trail are renewing two of the reservation's most iconic paths. A new stone staircase at Hinckley's Whipps Ledges, wooden steps underway in Brookside and a rebuilt boardwalk in Bedford are refreshing these well-loved trails so they remain inviting destinations for years to come.



Hemlock Trail, Brecksville Reservation

In Rocky River, portions of the Bridle Trail are being restored, while floating boardwalks at Beyer's Pond in Big Creek carry visitors into wetlands alive with nature. West Creek welcomed a new shared-use trail and mountain bike skills area.



Beyer's Pond, Big Creek Reservation



West Creek Reservation

Enhancements around the greenhouse in Acacia help safeguard native plants used to restore trails and natural areas throughout the Park District, while a refreshed observation deck in Rocky River provides a welcoming spot to pause and enjoy the view. A renewed overlook along the Towpath in Ohio & Erie Canal offers beautiful perspectives of the Cuyahoga River.



RESTORING HABITATS & ENHANCING ECOLOGY



Across the Emerald Necklace, over 3,000 trees were planted to strengthen our forests. Perennial plantings in Bedford and West Creek enriched entrances, while in Hinckley, flower beds at Ledge Lake and near the Boathouse were refreshed. New coniferous trees at Garfield's Windy Ridge and plantings around the Program Center further enriched the landscape. In Bradley Woods, donor support created new native gardens at the Codrington Shelterhouse, and in Huntington, trees are being replanted to replace some lost in last year's tornado.

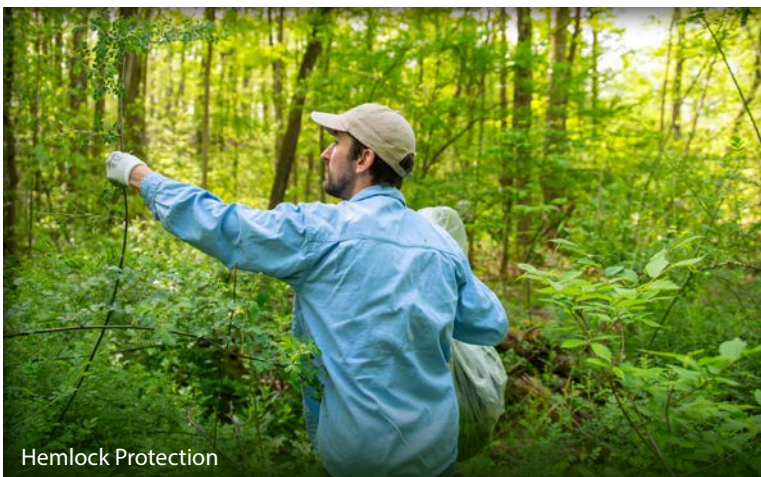


Windy Ridge, Garfield Park Reservation



Whispering Woods, North Chagrin Reservation

From Whispering Woods in North Chagrin to Camp Corde in West Creek, to Scranton Flats and South Chagrin's Forest Loop Trail, new plantings and protections are strengthening habitats.



Hemlock Protection



Blanding's Turtle

Donor funds also supported pest management to protect hemlocks, invasive plant cleanups and Blanding's turtle monitoring while helping advance shoreline restoration planning at the lakefront. Alongside these ecological enhancements, your gifts also help fund land acquisitions, ensuring more natural areas will be protected and cared for far into the future.



CONNECTING YOUTH & COMMUNITIES



From the first steps in a career to the first steps on a trail, these opportunities were seeded by philanthropy. The Youth Outdoors Fellowship gave teens their first jobs, career coaching and mentorship - experiences that will guide them for years. You are also helping children experience Cleveland Metroparks through guided field trips that spark curiosity and inspire a lifelong connection to nature.



Youth Outdoors Fellowship



Andrews Nature Play Area

Outdoor classrooms at Nature Preschools in Garfield and North Chagrin are being refreshed with new equipment, and updates to Karen's Way Play Space in Huntington, the Andrews Nature Play Area in Brecksville and the Lindsey Family Play Space in Edgewater continue.

Donor generosity also strengthens community programming and outdoor recreation, from first fishing trips through the Youth Outdoors program to try-it sessions, group hikes and popular activities like urban line dance.



Patrick S. Parker Community Sailing Center



Barge 225

Momentum continues to build for the Patrick S. Parker Community Sailing Center, which will soon open Lake Erie to families across our region, and for Barge 225, a future floating education center at Wildwood Park that will bring Lake Erie's science, history and wonder to life for learners of all ages.



CREATING WELCOME SPACES & EXPERIENCES



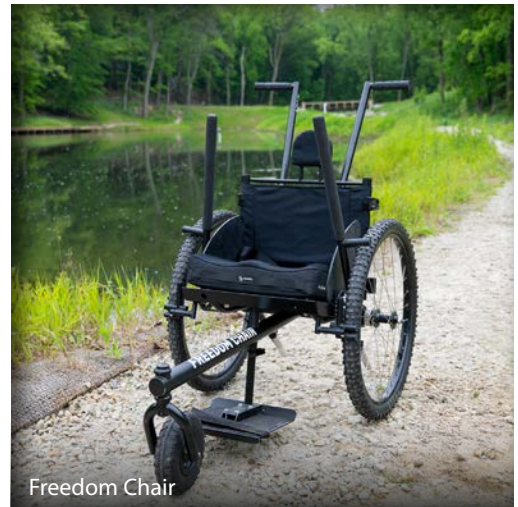
In Brecksville Reservation, upgrades at Meadows and Plateau Shelters included improved picnic areas, water fountains and walkways. In Mill Stream Run, donor support enabled major improvements at Wallace Lake, making it a destination for families across the region. Your support also expanded opportunities in golf, from adding a new SoloRider accessible cart to reintroducing scholarships that help young players attend Junior Golf Camps and discover the joy of the game. And the purchase of a Freedom Chair, a trail-ready wheelchair, has opened access to paths that were once out of reach for visitors with mobility challenges.



Wallace Lake, Mill Stream Run Reservation



SoloRider Accessible Cart



Freedom Chair

Philanthropy also enhances the care and training of the animals who serve our community. Mounted Unit horses benefit from custom-fit saddles, ongoing chiropractic treatments and a new paddock that expands outdoor training space. Support also funded advanced officer training and helped welcome Blue, the newest member of the team. At the same time, each of our K-9s is equipped with a ballistic vest, giving these four-legged officers the protection they need to safeguard our community. With your support, both visitors and service animals continue to thrive in Cleveland Metroparks.



Mounted Officer Tig



K-9 Officer Fury



SUPPORTING WILDLIFE & AQUATIC HABITAT



With your support, wildlife across Cleveland Metroparks is thriving, and people are connecting to it in new ways. More than 200 upgraded cameras in the Focus on Wildlife project are capturing the hidden lives of local species, fueling nationally recognized conservation strategies. Your generosity also made possible the public release of our long-running breeding bird survey, ensuring this critical data is now available to researchers, educators and communities everywhere.

WILDLIFE CAMERA MONITORING

Inventory wildlife



Understand wildlife interactions & relationships



Understand relationships with park users & pets



Wendy Park, Lakefront Reservation

Your gifts also sustain beloved traditions and strengthen aquatic habitat. Stocked rainbow trout and catfish bring joy to families at the Children's Fishing Derby and Fall Family Fishing Fest while helping to ensure balance of species throughout Cleveland Metroparks waters.



South Chagrin Reservation



Children's Fishing Derby, Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

New electrofishing equipment is supporting fish surveys and is an integral part of student field outings. Every gift you make protects wildlife, advances science and deepens the connections that bring people closer to nature.



ENRICHING EDUCATION & GUEST EXPERIENCE



Across Cleveland Metroparks nature centers, your support is creating more welcoming and inspiring spaces. In Brecksville, perennial plantings near the center attract monarch caterpillars.



Monarch Caterpillars

At Rocky River, new reptile tanks, a nature play area and a larger-than-life wood duck sculpture create immersive experiences for children and families, while a new dipping deck at West Channel Pond offers exciting, hands-on nature exploration.



Rocky River Nature Center

North Chagrin expanded its STEM learning capacity with digital microscopes, tactile animal pelts and child-friendly furniture, while its beekeeping program is thriving with new plants, hive care and bee suits for the keepers.

At Watershed Stewardship Center, your generosity is bringing an exhibit refresh to life and completing a new Creekside Classroom for younger learners.

At CanalWay, a new smart telescope is connecting groups to the wonders of the sky, even in the city. Each of these improvements is helping more people learn, discover and connect with nature.



STEM Programming



Smart Telescope



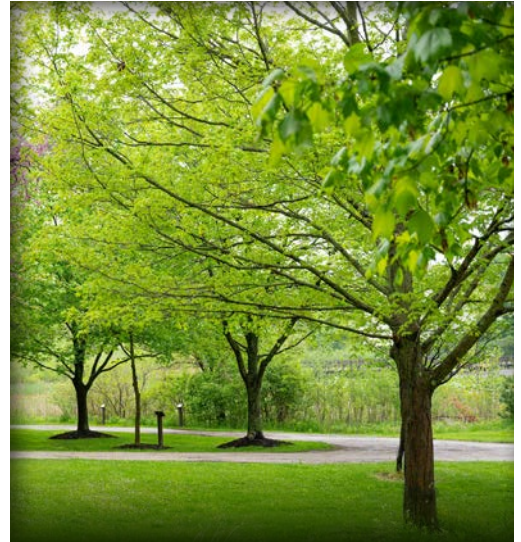
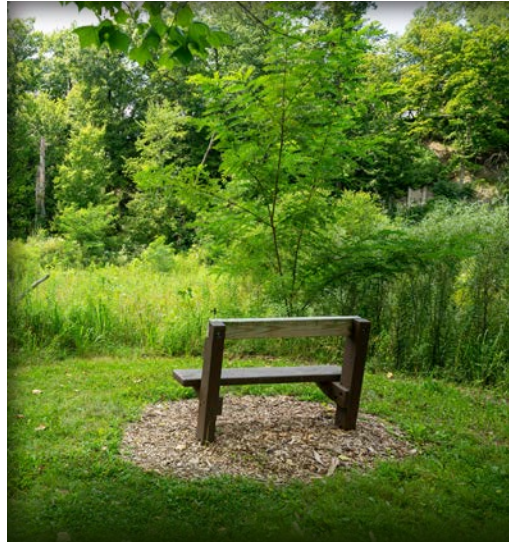
Creekside Classroom



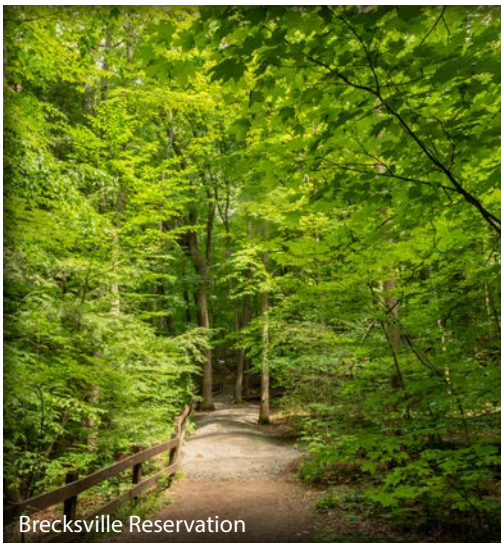
HONORING LOVED ONES THROUGH TRIBUTE GIVING



Many of you chose to celebrate and remember loved ones with tributes that live on. Benches placed along favorite trails have become places of reflection, while trees planted across all 18 reservations are growing into living memorials for families to gather beneath.



Others honored lives with gifts to Cleveland Metroparks funds, ensuring that their loved one's legacy supports trails, habitats, education, youth programs and more. Each tribute is deeply personal, yet it ripples outward to enrich the park experience for countless others.



Brecksville Reservation



Turtle Research, Natural Resources



Summer Camp, Outdoor Experiences

Thank you from the staff

Liz Geith | Director of Parks | South

As the Director for the Southern Reservations, including Bedford, Big Creek, Brecksville, Garfield Park, Hinckley, Mill Stream Run, South Chagrin and West Creek, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your generous contributions to our wonderful park district. We take immense pride in our work and deeply appreciate the community's recognition of how they can help enhance Cleveland Metroparks. Your efforts are truly making a difference!

Matt Krems | Director of Parks | North

As Director of Park Operations - North, I want to sincerely thank you for the care and generosity you show for these extraordinary places. Every improvement, from restored trails to refreshed play areas and protected habitats, reflects a community that believes in the value of parks. On behalf of our entire team, thank you for all you do to help keep Acacia, Bradley Woods, Brookside, Euclid Creek, Huntington, Lakefront, North Chagrin, Ohio & Erie Canal, Rocky River and Washington Reservations vibrant, welcoming and thriving for all to enjoy.

Jenn Grieser | Director of Natural Resources

On behalf of the Natural Resources team, thank you very much for your contributions to our conservation efforts. With your help, we are restoring native habitats, expanding our understanding of local species and stewarding natural areas in ways that support both ecological health and long-term resilience. Together, we are improving our forests, streams, wetlands and meadows to enhance wildlife habitat and ecosystem services, while also inviting guests to explore the biodiversity gains your support helps make possible.

Mary Rouse | Director of Outdoor Experiences

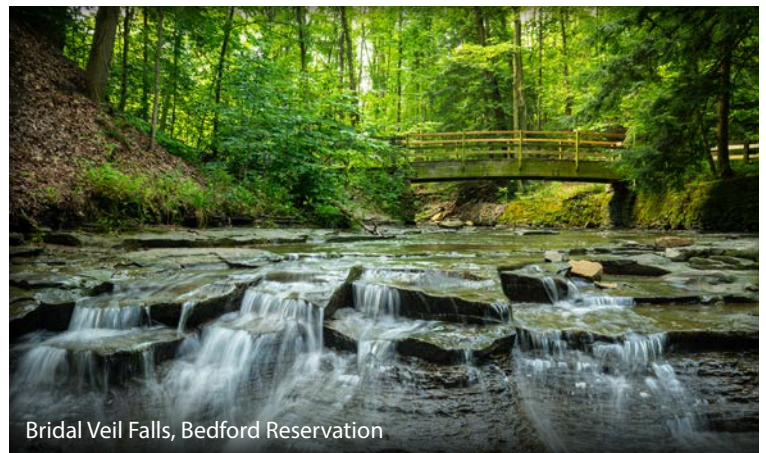
Thank you for helping people of all ages build lasting connections to nature. From first-time campers and budding naturalists to families discovering the joy of exploring the outdoors together, your support brings these experiences to life. I see every day how your generosity helps make these moments possible and how they inspire a lifelong love of the outdoors. On behalf of me and my entire team, thank you for making this work possible.



Garfield Park Program Center



Squire's Castle, North Chagrin Reservation



Bridal Veil Falls, Bedford Reservation

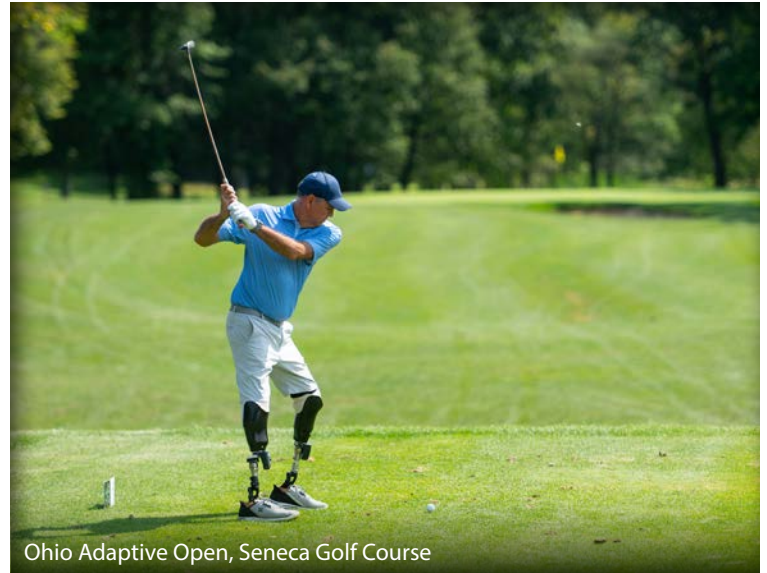


Adaptive Outdoor Programming

Thank you from the staff

Dave Donner | Director of Golf

Cleveland Metroparks Golf was honored to receive generous donations that strengthened our programming, enhanced facilities and advanced key operations. These contributions expanded youth access to golf, promoted greater inclusivity across our courses and supported sustainability efforts that benefit both the environment and our community. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and remain committed to being thoughtful stewards of every gift. On behalf of our team and the many guests who benefit, thank you for your unwavering support.



Ohio Adaptive Open, Seneca Golf Course

Captain Ken Schabitzer Cleveland Metroparks Police Department

On behalf of the Cleveland Metroparks Police Department, thank you for supporting the specialized teams that help us serve and protect our park district in unique and meaningful ways. The four-legged officers in our Mounted and K-9 Units play a vital role in building community trust, supporting patrol and emergency response and offering memorable interactions across the Park District. Thank you for making this work possible and standing behind them, and us.



K-9 Unit Puppies, Ike (l) and Sig (r)

Jim Rodstrom | Director of Construction

With your support, we are making meaningful improvements not only to the trails that connect our communities, but to the surrounding spaces that make every visit more enjoyable, from places to pause and gather, to the paths that guide you there. On behalf of our construction team, thank you for helping us shape experiences that are welcoming, lasting and built for everyone to enjoy.



Bridge Construction, Garfield Park Reservation



Cleveland Metroparks®

Every gift you make becomes a part
of something bigger.

Renewed trails, restored habitats, inspired children, protected wildlife and honored legacies. Alongside annual support, gifts to Cleveland Metroparks endowment fund help ensure that this work continues for generations, funding projects and improvements across the entire park system.

Thank you for being at the heart of this work and for being part
of the Cleveland Metroparks family.

