

### **MASTER PLAN TEAM**

### **PLAN SPONSOR**



### **PLAN CONSULTANT**



### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Executive Summary	5
Public Involvement & Survey Results	8
Metropark Vision Plans	11
Friends of Conneaut Creek Metropark	12
Eyring Wetlands Metropark	14
Graham Rd. Covered Bridge Benson Family Metropark	16
Harpersfield Covered Bridge Metropark	18
Hatches Corners Metropark	20
Lampson Reservoir Metropark	22
Red Brook Metropark	24
Turkey Creek Metropark	26
Upper Grand River Metropark	28
Conneaut Trails Metropark	30
Conneaut Trails: Camp Peet & Kaval Trailheads	32
Conneaut Trails: Conneaut Works & Smokey Run Trailheads	34
Pymatuning Valley Greenway Trail	36
Western Reserve Greenway Trail	38



### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### Who is this document for?

This document is intended to serve as a guide for Ashtabula County Metroparks board members, staff, and stakeholders as the organization endeavors to expand its park, trail, and programming opportunities in Ashtabula County.

### Why is this document important?

The Master Plan aims to outline a clear set of both short-term and long-term goals for each of the Metropark parks and trails included in the report. These goals and objectives were developed through a detailed planning process led by Ashtabula County Metroparks and incorporated significant stakeholder and public input though in-person meetings and surveys. The individual park visions included in this report present the results of this planning process.

### **Process and Outcomes**

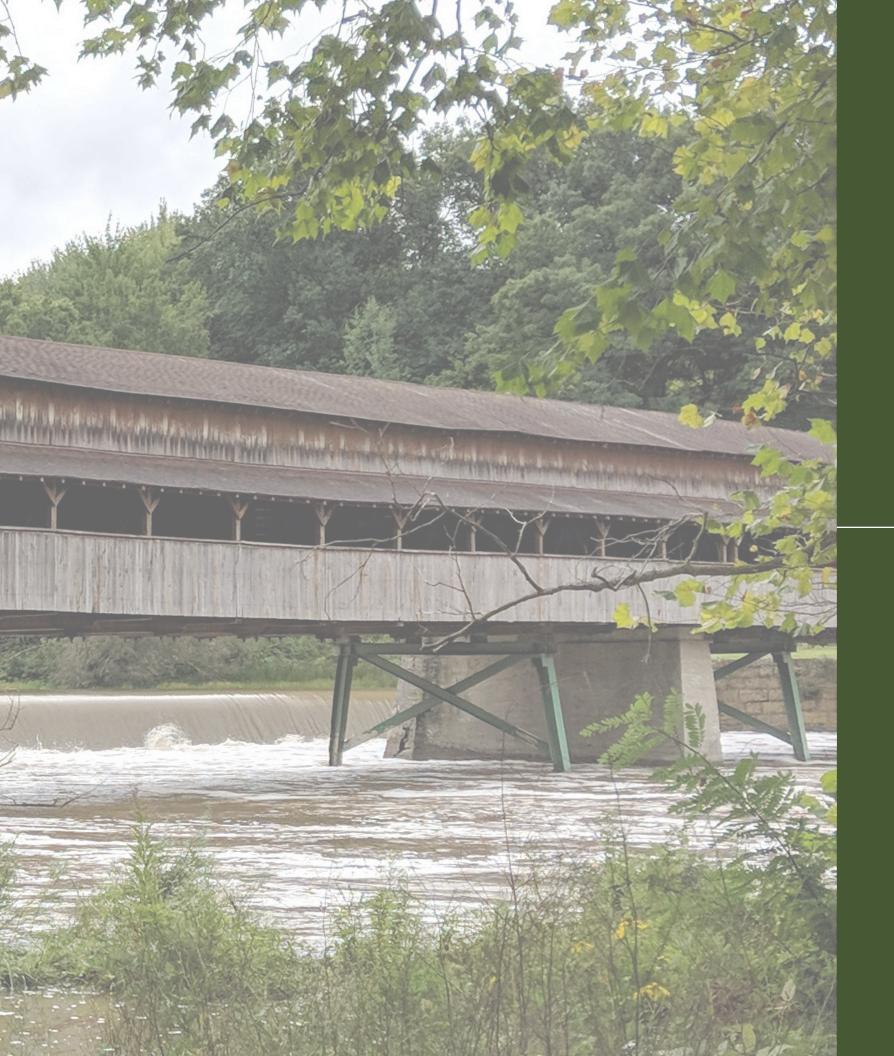
The Master Planning process began in the Fall of 2018 with a detailed review of existing conditions at the individual Metropark properties. This data collection and existing conditions analysis was conducted through a series of site visits, photo logs, desktop analysis, internal Metroparks data, and publicly available data review.

Following the inventory and analysis of the existing conditions, a county-wide map was developed that displayed the existing park and trail locations as well as planned trail additions. As part of the mapping exercise, a detailed park amenity iconography was established to represent existing and planned amenities at the various properties. This iconography is also included in the Park Vision Plan portion of this report to map key amenity locations such as parking and restrooms, as well as existing and planned park amenities.

The park amenity analysis then transitioned into the public and stakeholder involvement process, which included a detailed online survey as well as in-person stakeholder and public involvement meetings. The online survey, which gathered 160 responses, focused on understanding typical park visitors, preferred programming, park preference, and desired future amenities. The in-person meetings allowed stakeholders and the public to vote on specific amenities that were desired on a per-park basis, which provided the project team with insight to guide the individual park visions. In total, 1,099 amenity votes were cast by the public and stakeholders.

The feedback and votes collected through the process were analyzed by the team and highlighted the overarching desires of increased Connectivity and Conservation. These two themes helped guide the project team in developing the Vision Plans for individual parks, with a focus on both short-term and long-term opportunities for new trail connections and new park amenities. Additionally, the Metroparks will explore potential acquisition opportunities in the future to strategically expand the park and greenway system.





PARK MASTER PLAN

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & SURVEY RESULTS

### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & SURVEY RESULTS**

### **OUTREACH AND SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS**

As part of the planning process, Ashtabula County Metroparks conducted several outreach meetings and surveys to gather information, solicit user preferences, and gain insight into the wants and needs of visitors. In addition to in-person meetings, a detailed online survey was also conducted to better understand the types of amenities and park programming the community is interested in. The online survey successfully gathered input from 160 respondents and provided key insights for the team in determining prioritization of park improvements and establishing a vision for the future.

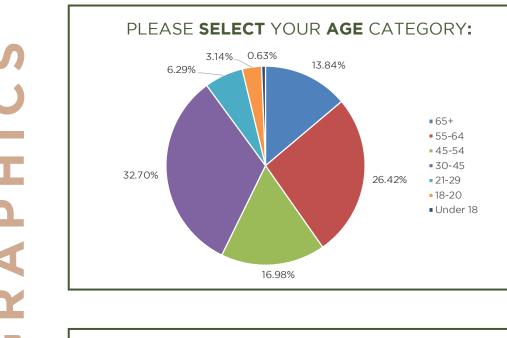
The public and stakeholder involvement meetings focused specifically on the different types of amenities that could be developed at the individual parks. Participants used a voting process to rank their most-desired amenities at each park, with a total of over 1,000 votes cast throughout the process.

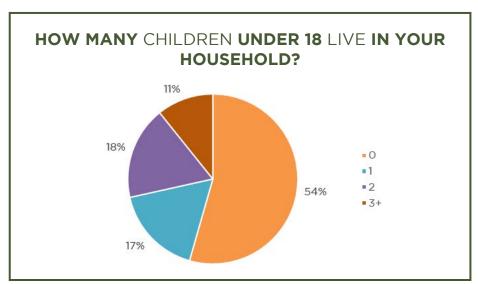
After analyzing the online survey and in-person voting data, two clear themes emerged: Connectivity and Conservation. Parkgoers expressed a strong desire to continue expanding the existing trail network by developing additional connections between parks and developing new trail corridors throughout the County. Not surprisingly, the most visited Metropark facility is the Western Reserve Greenway Trail, followed by the Harpersfield Metropark. Park patrons also highlighted their desire for expanded wildlife and habitat education hikes, habitat restoration, birding opportunities, and the development of a nature center. Reinforcing the theme of Conservation, when asked to rank the importance of stream and land conservation on a scale of 0-100, survey participants responded with an overall score of 84.

Highlights of the online survey and meeting results are shown on the following page. The full results of the survey and voting results can be found in the appendix. 160

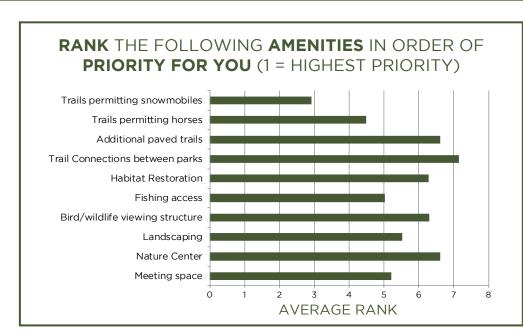
Online Survey Responses 1099

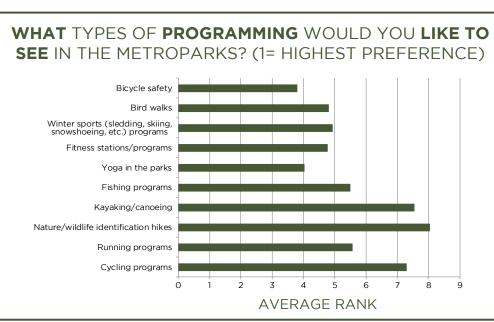
Amenity Prioritization Votes





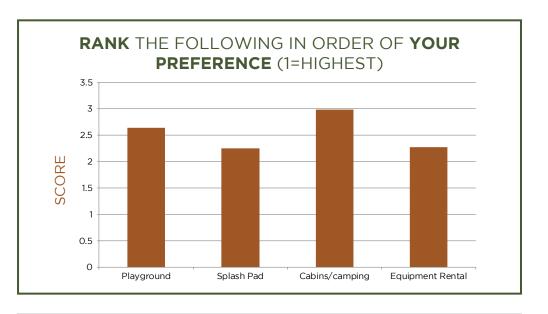
### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & SURVEY RESULTS**



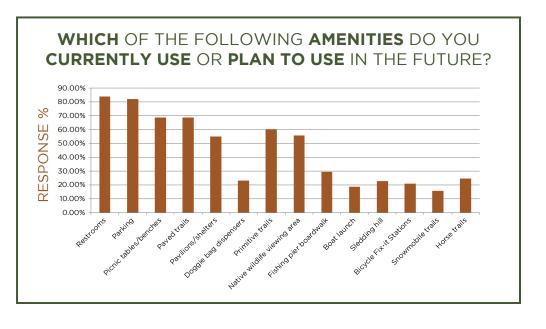


HOW IMPORTANT SHOULD PERMANENT LAND
CONSERVATION AND STREAM PRESERVATION BE
FOR ASHTABULA COUNTY METROPARKS?

SCALE OF 1-100 (100 = HIGHEST)











PARK MASTER PLAN

### METROPARK VISION PLANS



### FRIENDS OF CONNEAUT CREEK METROPARK

### **EXISTING FEATURES**











### **PARK DETAILS**

The 79-acre Friends of Conneaut Creek Metropark, which sits along Conneaut Creek, was created through Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant funding in 2007. The highlights of the park include approximately 3,500 ft. of Conneaut Creek frontage, 34 acres of forested high quality riparian wetland, 20 acres of upland mixed woodland, 16 acres of former agricultural fields, and partially restored meadow and forest. The park also features a .4 mile ADA-compliant paved trail.

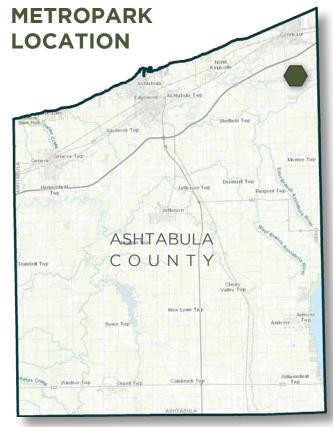
### SHORT-TERM PARK DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Loop Trail and staircase to connect upland area with creek-edge fishing opportunities
- Pavilion
- Improved restroom facilities

### **LONG-TERM PARK VISION**

Additional future trail opportunities





### **EYRING WETLANDS METROPARK**

### **PARK DETAILS**

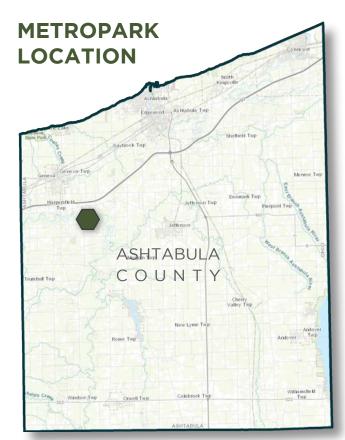
The 52-acre Eyring Wetlands Metropark is a former wetland restoration site donated to Ashtabula County Metroparks. The park features wetlands and hiking trails for bird and wildlife viewing and photography, and outdoor educational opportunities. The 2 miles of hiking trails connect the parking lot and restrooms to the small ponds.

### SHORT-TERM PARK DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Additional wetland mitigation
- Pavilion
- Reutilization of former outbuildings

### **LONG-TERM PARK VISION**

Observation platform/overlook







### **EXISTING FEATURES**



















### GRAHAM RD. COVERED BRIDGE BENSON FAMILY METROPARK

### **EXISTING FEATURES**



### **PLANNED AMENITIES**







### **PARK DETAILS**

The Graham Road Covered Bridge is a covered bridge which formerly spanned the west branch of the Ashtabula River in Pierpont Township. Built from remnants of a former covered bridge that was damaged in a flood in 1913, the single-span Town-truss bridge now sits along the south side of Graham Road, near its original site. The property, formerly owned by the Benson Family, and abuts an additional riverfront parcel to the east that could provide additional water access and fishing opportunity in the future.

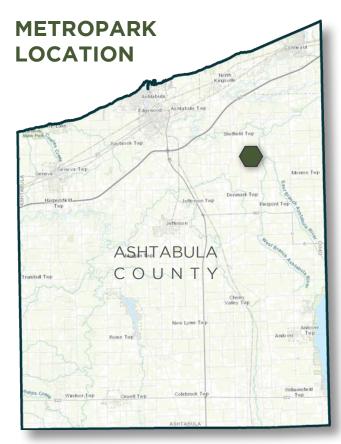
### SHORT-TERM PARK DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Formalize parking area
- Restrooms
- Picnic tables/picnicking area

### **LONG-TERM PARK VISION**

• Explore potential expansion opportunities





### HARPERSFIELD COVERED BRIDGE METROPARK

### **PARK DETAILS**

Located approximately 3.5 miles south of Geneva in northwestern Ashtabula County, the park consists of approximately 53 acres bisected by the Grand River. The Harpersfield Covered Bridge Metropark has an activity field, woodlands, covered pavilions with picnic tables, and a popular bait and gift shop. Park patrons can enjoy birding, field games, fishing, kayaking and canoeing, wading, photography, picnicking, and the numerous popular events hosted by the Metroparks and other groups. Recent additions include ADA paved trails and boardwalk, a naturescape playground, new backstop, and a volleyball court.

### SHORT-TERM PARK DEVELOPMENT GOALS

• Create additional hiking and natural surface trails

### LONG-TERM PARK VISION

• Explore creation of overnight camping options

### METROPARK LOCATION To the state of the stat





### **EXISTING FEATURES**











### HATCHES CORNERS METROPARK

### **EXISTING FEATURES**



### **PLANNED AMENITIES**





### **PARK DETAILS**

Located in Monroe Township, south of Conneaut in northeastern Ashtabula County, Hatches Corners Metropark is comprised of 202 acres of woods and wetlands. Established in 2007 with OPWC grant funding, the park features 7,274 feet of frontage on the Bear Creek tributary to Conneaut Creek, 34 acres of riparian wetland, 78 acres of wooded upland, and a 90-acre meadow. Two parking lots and 2.5 miles of hiking trails have been established. A multi-purpose trail for hiking, birding, and horseback riding off of Rt 7 was installed in 2017. Hunting is also permitted to help maintain a healthy deer population.

### SHORT-TERM PARK DEVELOPMENT GOALS

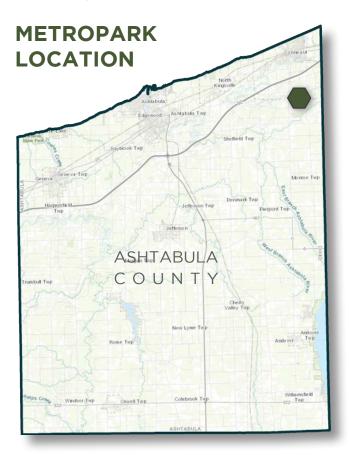
- Create additional hiking and natural surface trails
- Install pavilion

### LONG-TERM PARK VISION

- Additional equestrian trail and cross-country skiing opportunities
- Investigate potential for primitive camping (no-flame)







### LAMPSON RESERVOIR METROPARK

### **PARK DETAILS**

Located just outside of Jefferson, the 162-acre property includes a 23 acre reservoir, which was constructed in 1906 to provide water to the village. The former reservoir is now a constructed wetland with stocked fish, a 340' ADA accessible observation platform and fishing pier. Additionally, there are 2 miles of primitive horse and hiking trails with more planned. The initial 92-acre portion of the park was acquired in 2007 with Clean Ohio Grant funds, followed by the 2016 purchase of an additional 70 acres with a conservation easement. Recent developments include the installation of benches and boardwalk.

### SHORT-TERM PARK DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Create additional hiking trails
- Add picnic pavilion
- Enhance parking area

### **LONG-TERM PARK VISION**

• Explore potential meeting facility and/or nature center

## METROPARK LOCATION North Ringsville Ashtabida E-gyenosid Ashtabida Trup Setterion Tap Setterion Ashtabida Trup Ashtabida Ashtabida Trup Ashtabida Trup Ashtabida Trup Ashtabida Trup Ashtabida Trup Ashtabida Ashtabida Ashtabida Trup Ashtabida Ashtabid



### **EXISTING FEATURES**













### **RED BROOK METROPARK**

### **EXISTING FEATURES**



### **PLANNED AMENITIES**



### RED BROOK METROPARK CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



### PARK DETAILS

This newly opened park, Red Brook Metropark, spans 145 acres of a former golf course site. The park features three miles of former golf cart trails, and 2 miles of primitive hiking trails. A new sledding hill and one mile of additional ADA compliant trails have been constructed, with significant habitat restoration underway. Red Brook Metropark has a sledding hill, a popular running and walking route, and is a haven for fishing, neighborhood picnics, and birding hikes. Winter sports programming includes crosscountry skiing, snowshoeing, and snow biking.

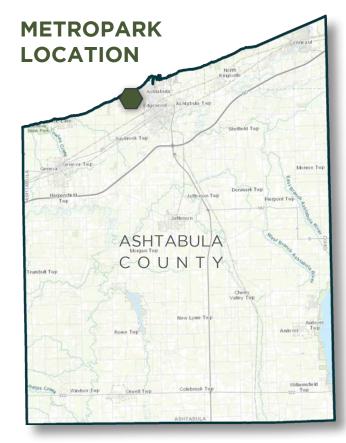
### SHORT-TERM PARK DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Playground
- Pavilion
- Restrooms
- Habitat Restoration
- Renovate or re-purpose non-
- functioning structures
- ADA compliant parking lot
- Meeting Space/Nature Center
- Programming/Farmers' Market
- Explore mountain biking

### LONG-TERM PARK VISION

Signature Feature/Amenity

Amphitheater



### **TURKEY CREEK METROPARK**

### **PARK DETAILS**

Turkey Creek Metropark occupies 602 acres on Thompson Rd. and Lake Rd. in Conneaut, Ohio. Forming the northeastern-most corner of Ohio, the area is largely inaccessible. The Turkey Creek Metropark features 236 acres of wooded wetlands, rare species of plants and wildlife, and 3 miles of Turkey Creek frontage - an outstanding trout fishing stream. Currently, the park is accessible only by foot from Pennsylvania, at the end of Lakeview Rd. Though not fully open to public, hunting and fishing are allowed by permission.

### SHORT-TERM PARK DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Rebuild/refurbish access and parking
- Create scenic overlook

### LONG-TERM PARK VISION

- Ohio-side access
- Enhance fishing access
- Pavilion/picnic area

- Portable Restroom
- Expand trails
- Breakwall to protect shoreline and prevent erosion



### **EXISTING FEATURES**















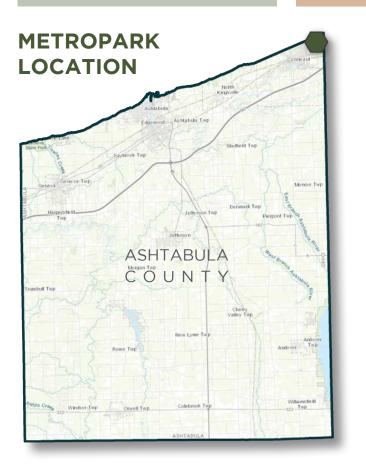
















### **UPPER GRAND RIVER METROPARK**

### **EXISTING FEATURES**







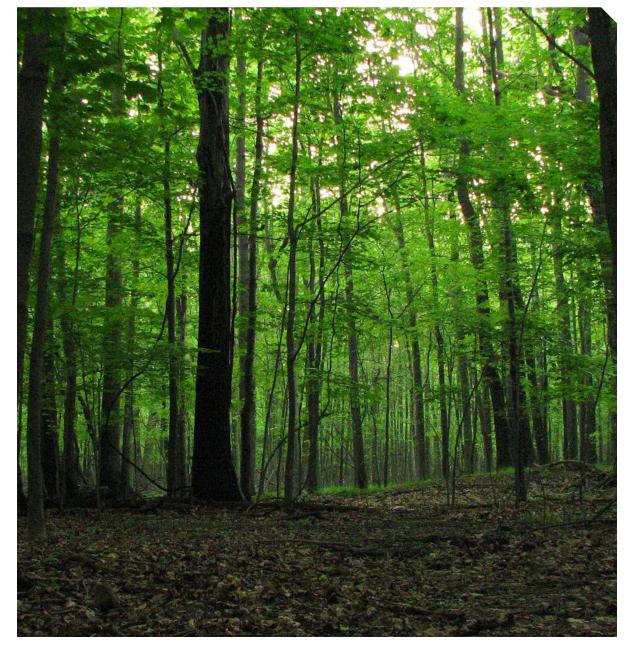




**PLANNED AMENITIES** 







### **PARK DETAILS**

This 135-acre former youth and religious camp is in the process of being transformed into a wildlife and river sanctuary on a bend in the Grand River between the Nature Conservancy's Morgan Swamp Preserve and the Harpersfield Covered Bridge Metropark. This conservation easement protected park encompasses a 3/4-mile stretch of Grand River frontage, soaring forests, wetlands, unique wildflowers and wildlife habitat. The numerous remaining camp structures will be analyzed and evaluated for potential demolition, rehabilitation and/or reuse as shelters and meeting space. Planned updates include a driveway and parking area, camping and lodging, and restoration of the existing pavilion, paddle boat ramp, and trails.

### SHORT-TERM PARK DEVELOPMENT GOALS

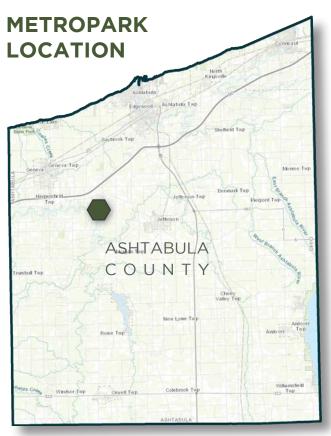
- Secure existing legacy structures
- Explore funding opportunities for park development
- Evaluate, remove, and/or rehabilitate legacy structures

### LONG-TERM PARK VISION

• Evaluate potential for new water and sewer infrastructure system

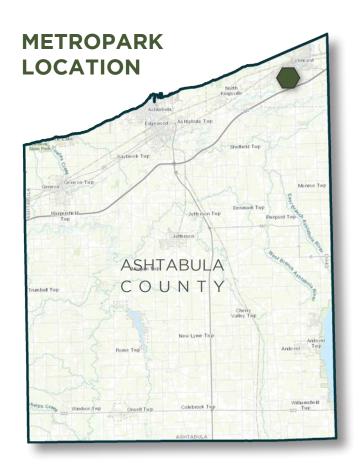








### **CONNEAUT TRAILS METROPARK**





Conneaut Works Historic Site - From Mill St. Bridge

### **PARK DETAILS**

The newly created Conneaut Trails Metropark is a combination of two different existing parks and newly acquired stream-front properties along Conneaut Creek and Smokey Run in Conneaut. It includes Camp Peet to the west and Indian Mound Metropark to the east abutting downtown Conneaut. The now nearly 400-acre Conneaut Trails is centered around Conneaut Creek based trails and scenic river access points.

The combining of Ashtabula County Metroparks' Conneaut Creek parks located between Camp Peet and Downtown Conneaut provides opportunities for Metroparks to add new trails and parking areas.

### SHORT-TERM PARK DEVELOPMENT GOALS

 New trailheads and entrances are being developed at 491 S. Amboy Rd., 252 Daniels Rd., 289 W. Main Rd. (US 20 at Gore Rd), E. Welton Rd., Gateway Ave and Dorman Rd., to complement the Conneaut Earthworks Cultural Site at 431 Mill Rd., and Camp Peet at 405 Creek Rd.

### **LONG-TERM PARK VISION**

 Add additional trails and trailheads as additional land is conserved and/or trail easements are obtained.

### TRAILHEAD DETAILS:

- Camp Peet Kaval Trailhead: 88 Acres
- Camp Peet Clara D. Peet Trailhead: 68 Acres
- Bennett Trailhead: 10.2 Acres
- Ring US-20 Trailhead: 40 Acres
- Conneaut Works Historic Site Trailhead: 53 Acres
- Smokey Run Trailheads: 126 Acres

### **CONNEAUT TRAILS: CAMP PEET & KAVAL TRAILHEADS**

### **PARK DETAILS**

Historically known as Camp Peet, and originally a youth camp, the 68-acre Camp Peet Metropark lies on the West Branch of the Conneaut Creek. The park provides opportunities for fishing, birding, hiking on the 1.9 miles of trails, scout group programming, picnicking at the new pavilion, and more.

The recently acquired 88-acre Kaval property to the west provides the potential for a future trailhead and combined park area of almost 160 acres. A recent significant upgrade to the park, the covered pavilion, sits along the existing driveway into the park. These combined properties serve as the western gateway to the overall Conneaut Trails Metropark.

### SHORT-TERM PARK DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Cross-country skiing

### **LONG-TERM PARK VISION**

• Expand and formalize the primitive camping sites throughout the park

# METROPARK LOCATION Ashlabida Edgewood Ashlabida Tup Shettield Tup Shettield Tup Shettield Tup Ashlabida Edgewood Tup Shettield Tup Shettield Tup Ashlabida Coneva Coneva Tup Shettield Tup Ashlabida Coneva Coneva Tup Ashlabida Edgewood Ashlabida Tup Shettield Tup Ashlabida Coneva Coneva Tup Ashlabida Ashlabida Coneva Tup Ashlabida As



### **EXISTING FEATURES**













### **CONNEAUT TRAILS: CONNEAUT WORKS & SMOKEY RUN TRAILHEADS**

### **EXISTING FEATURES**









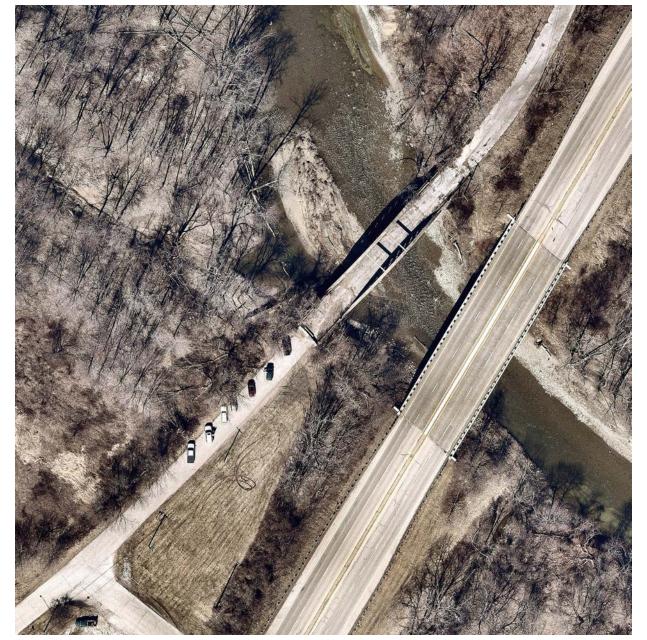






**PLANNED AMENITIES** 





### PARK DETAILS

Conneaut Trails Metropark's eastern gateway, including the Conneaut Works Historic Site and Smokey Run Trailheads, spans 178 acres with the addition of the 91-acre Frank Talarico Nature Preserve. The park features beautiful riverside flora and fauna, provides public access and trails to Conneaut Creek, and celebrates the cultural heritage of prior inhabitants, namely the adjacent Indian enclosed raised fortification. The primitive hiking trails throughout the property provide access for birding, hiking, fishing, and kayaking. Recent expansion to the south provides additional opportunities to connect with schools, neighborhoods, and the Ohio Welcome Center off of Interstate 90.

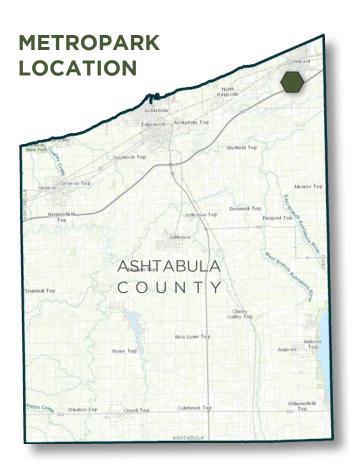
### SHORT-TERM PARK DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Develop a parking area and drive entrance east of Rt. 7
- Expand trail and hiking opportunities

### LONG-TERM PARK VISION

- Explore trail connections along Gateway Ave. between the school campus and Rt. 7 corridor.
- Explore parking access off of Gateway Ave.
- Explore potential connection to the Ohio Welcome Center on I-90





### **PYMATUNING VALLEY GREENWAY TRAIL (PLANNED)**

### TRAIL DETAILS

Currently in the preliminary design phase, the Pymatuning Valley Greenway Trail is a multi-phased 26-mile trail concept that connects Jefferson, Dorset, Andover, and Williamsfield to the Pennsylvania state line. The first phase, approximately 3.51 miles long, will utilize the ACMP-owned former rail corridor to connect from Marvin Rd. south of Andover to just outside of Dorset.

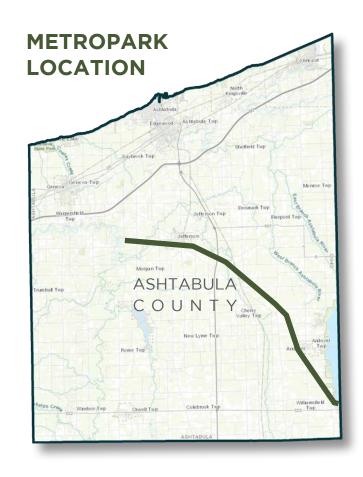
### SHORT-TERM TRAIL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Complete phases by Gardner Rd. and the state line
- Develop on-road connections to the trail from nearby destinations

### **LONG-TERM TRAIL VISION**

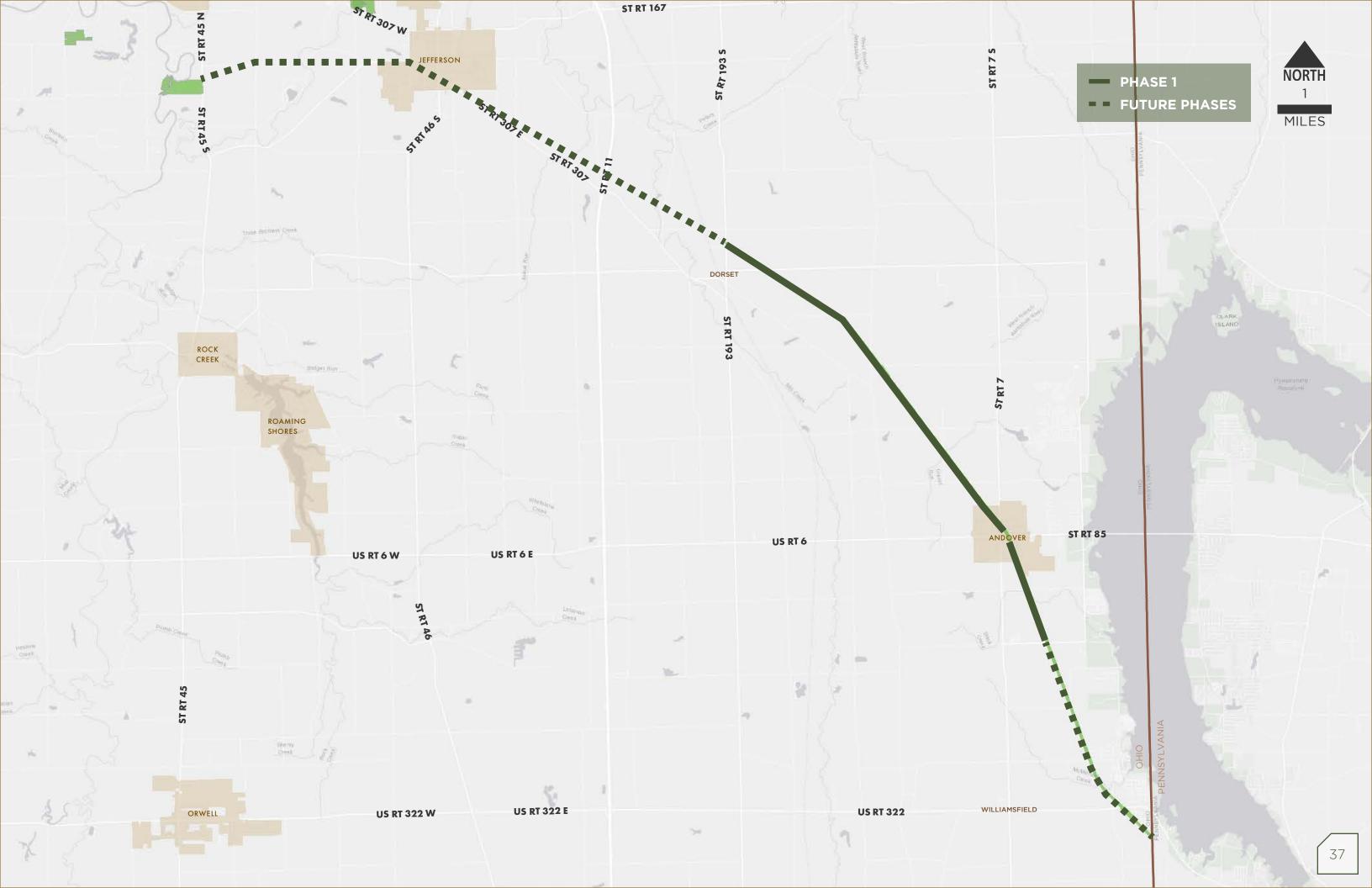
- Study and develop future phases
- Explore opportunities to obtain ROW to connect Jefferson and the Western Reserve Greenway Trail

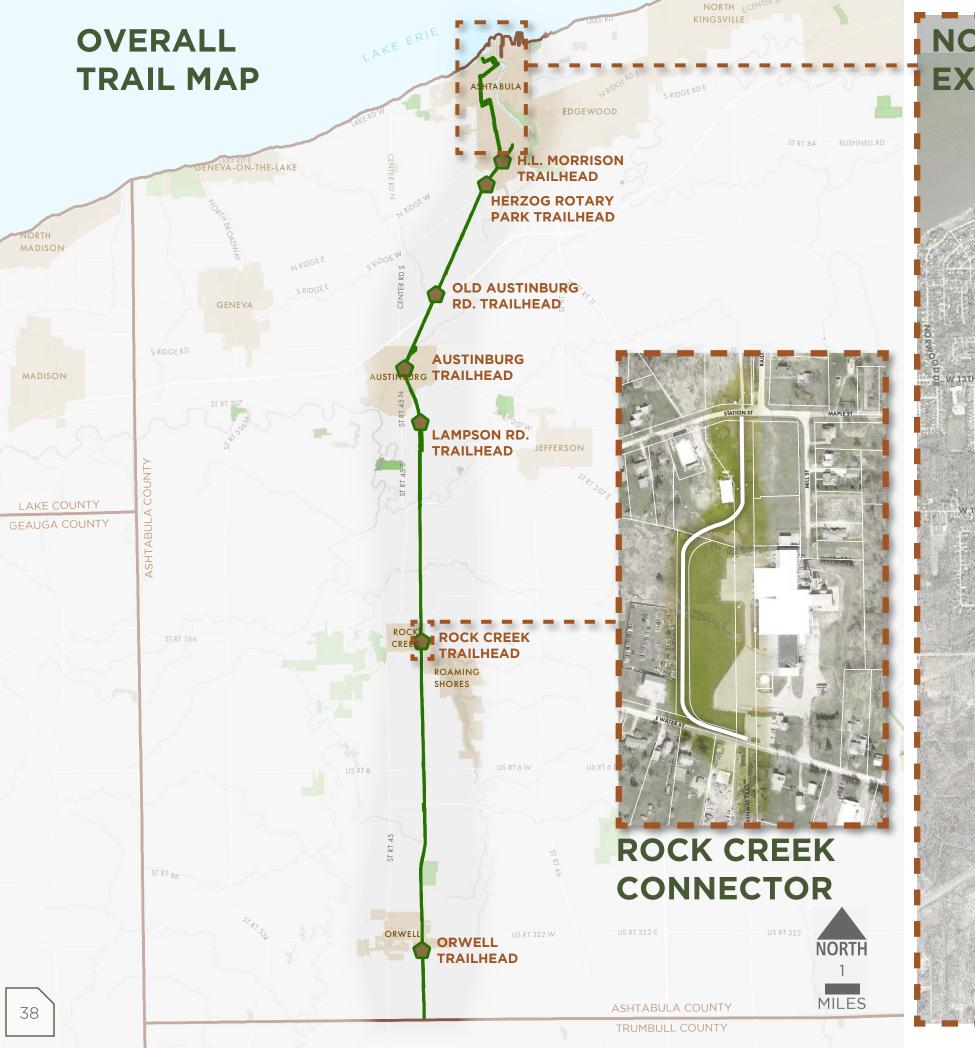


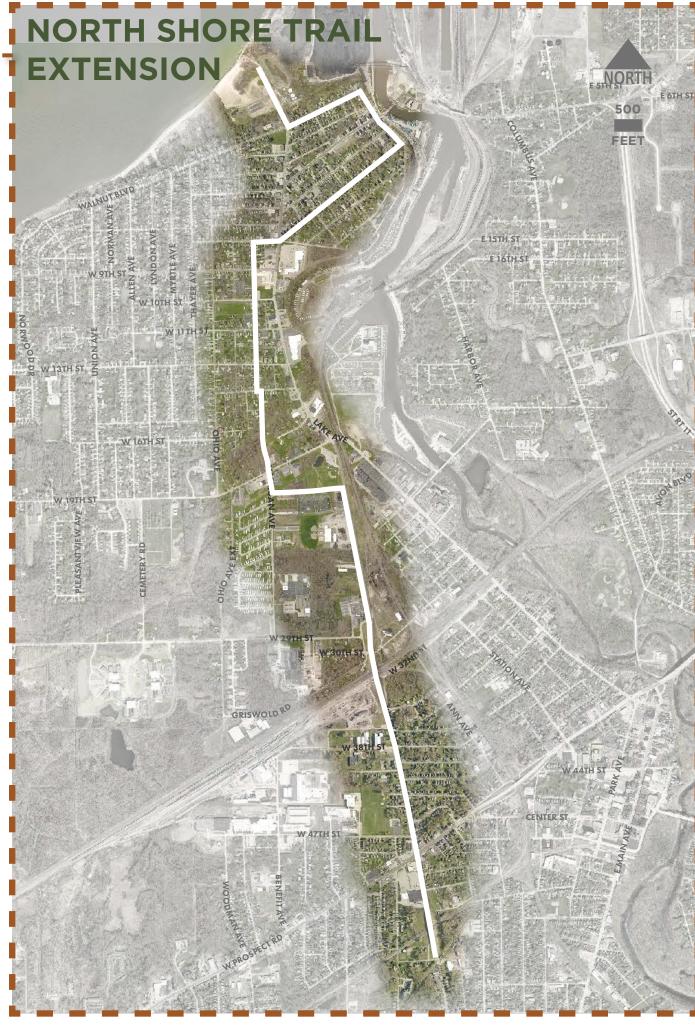












### **WESTERN RESERVE GREENWAY TRAIL**

### **EXISTING FEATURES**



### **PLANNED AMENITIES**







### TRAIL DETAILS

One of the most visited of all Ashtabula County Metroparks, the Western Reserve Greenway Trail spans 44 miles of former railway right-of-way in Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties. Ashtabula County is home to the northern 27 miles of trail, connecting to Trumbull County's 17-mile portion just south of Orwell. The final northern phase, the North Shore Trail, is just about complete and extends the length from 27.5 to approximately 32.8 miles. The Western Reserve Greenway Trail is also the last leg of the Great Lake to River Greenway Trail network.

### SHORT-TERM TRAIL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Pave the H.L. Morrison Trailhead parking area
- Add/enhance restroom facilities
- Complete Rock Creek Connector piece
- Pave parking lot at Dodgeville Rd.

### LONG-TERM TRAIL VISION

- Explore permanent restrooms
- Connect to Indian Trail Park
- Connect to Kent State Campus
- Connect Walnut to W 9th St.
- Potential to tie-in to future Cleveland to Erie and Ashtabula to Pittsburgh trail networks





