Bedford • Brecksville Hinckley • West Creek 2016 Reservation Plan Updates

Planning and Design Department
Cleveland Metroparks Internal Stakeholders



December 22, 2016

Cleveland Metroparks 2020: The Emerald Necklace Centennial Plan

Seven Key Directions

Green Infrastructure

Scale

Cleveland and Inner

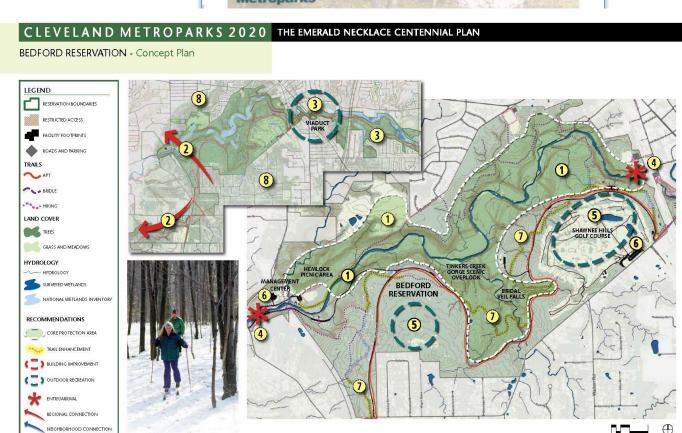
Outdoor Recreation

Regional Greenway 5

Lakefront

Financial Sustainabil

+ Seven Action Areas





2015 Strategic Planning Update



Acquire & manage parks to conserve natural resources and contribute to green infrastructure



Advance trails that connect with local, state and regional trails



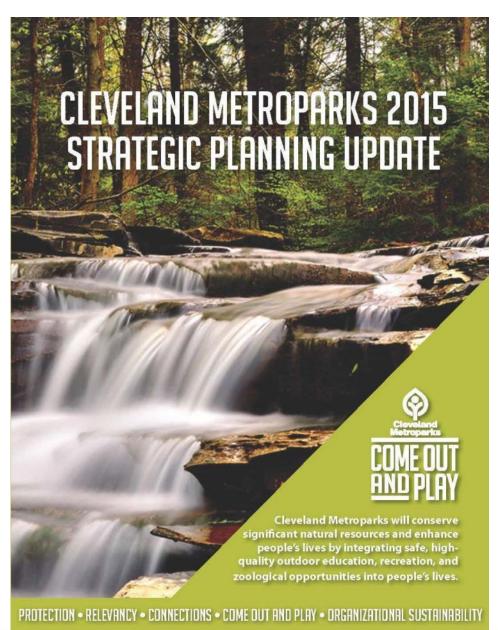
Expand and strengthen outdoor recreation



Support resurgence of City of Cleveland



Continue sustainable business practices





Reservation Plan Updates

- Plans updated on a rotating basis
- Internal stakeholders guide plan development
- Public outreach includes open houses and online comments

Process:

Kickoff – January

Concept 1 - March

Concept 2 - May

Chiefs – July

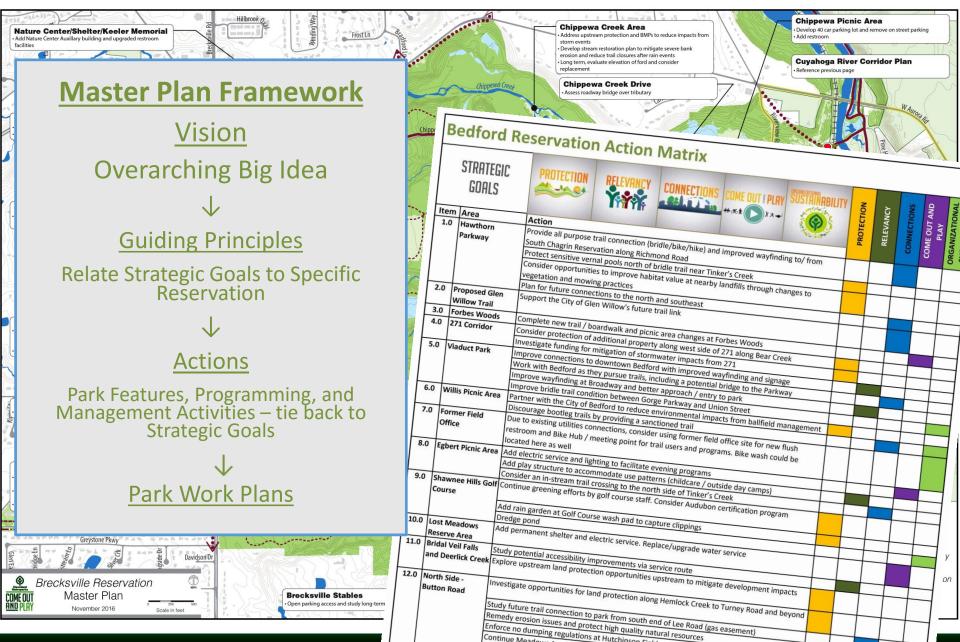
Draft to Board – August 18th

Outside Stakeholder Meetings and Public Comment - September

Evaluate Input / Edits – October

Draft Final to Board – December

Plan Elements



PUBLIC MEETINGS AND ONLINE COMMENTS

Common Comments

- Strong turn out from bridle trail users and advocacy for trails / trailer parking
- Support for stream corridor protection

Bedford

- Support for trail connection to downtown Bedford
- Agree with need to add trail along Richmond to connect with South Chagrin – should accommodate bikes, horses, and pedestrians

Brecksville

- Support for trail connections to neighborhoods to the north (not to Echo Hills)
- Concern about stables and bridle trails

Hinckley

 Interest in regional connections to Richfield Park (Crowell Hilaka) and to Allardale – must accommodate bike/ped/horses

West Creek

- Concern about trail and bridge connections within park
- Support for the continual improvement of park
- Interest in neighborhood and regional connections







Bedford Reservation Vision and Guiding Principles

Vision

Bedford Reservation's vision is to protect the resources of this National Natural Landmark while encouraging visitors to explore the trails leading to the riffles of Tinker's Creek, deep hemlock ravines, dramatic waterfalls, and meadows and forests. Bedford's Gorge Parkway offers an historic, scenic experience with signature stops and attractions.

Guiding Principles

PROTECTION: Maintain high ratio of natural areas to developed areas. Pursue protection of adjacent fragile areas, such as floodplains, steep slopes, and stream channels, where development would negatively impact park resources.

RELEVANCY: Continue the success of sustainable trail enhancements, improve community connections, and assess options to further integrate Shawnee Hills Golf Course with park offerings and landscapes.

CONNECTIONS: Strengthen wayfinding and connectivity of the Emerald Necklace, particularly the Parkway and trail connections to Brecksville and South Chagrin, as well as to Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the Towpath, and Summit County Bike Hike Trail. Improve bike and pedestrian access from adjacent neighborhoods.

COME OUT AND PLAY: Expand opportunities for users. Maximize the feeling of sanctuary and retreat for park guests while capitalizing on nearby regional attractions and recent acquisitions.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY: Address aging park infrastructure with historically appropriate repairs. Study stream restoration needs and pursue funding. Work with partners to reduce urbanization impacts.

BEDFORD RESERVATION PRIORITIES

 Lost Meadows Shelter (replacement of canopy with 20x40 permanent structure)



 Tinker's Creek Watershed stewardship and corridor restoration (walls, etc.)



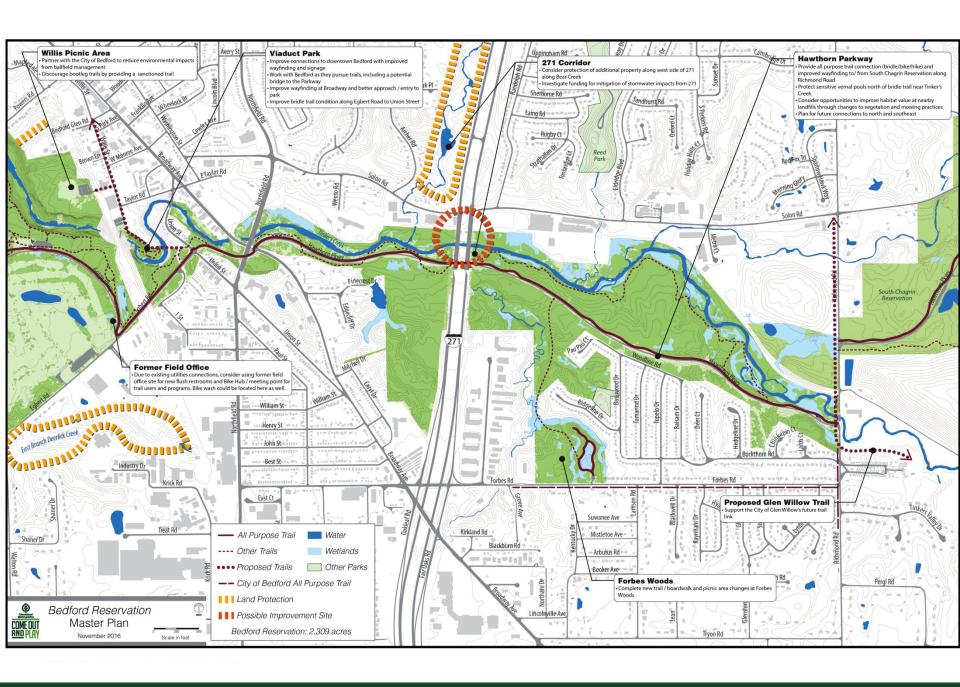
 Trail Connection to Towpath (APT and Bridle) – north route and south route

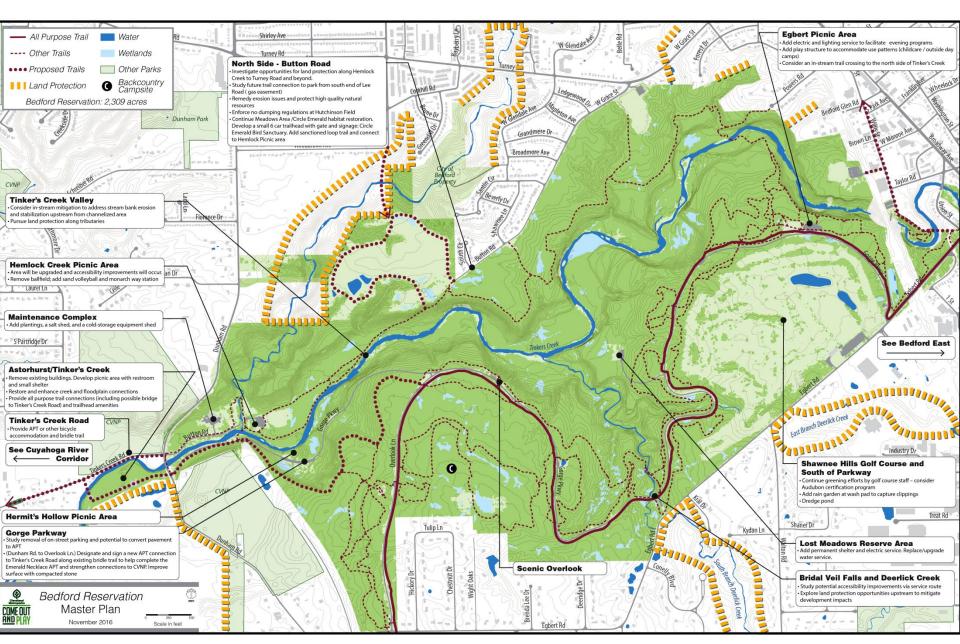


 Trail Connection along Richmond Rd.

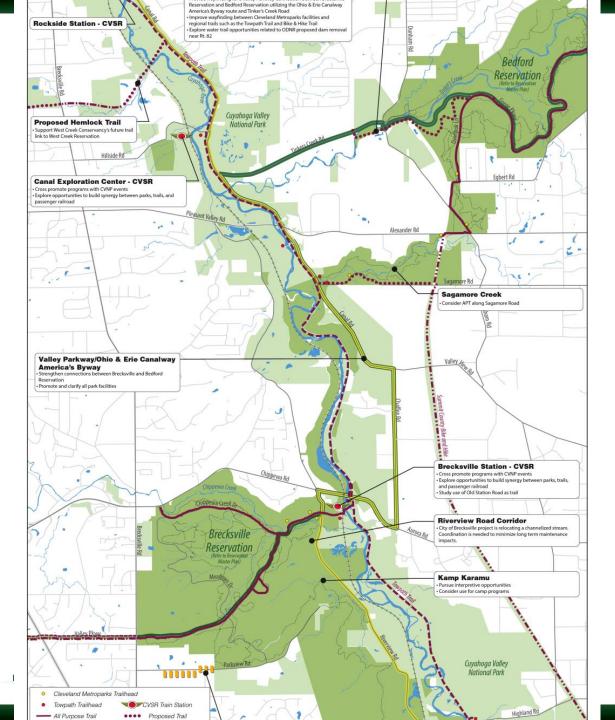














Advance trails that connect parks to neighborhoods and to local, state, and regional networks



Brecksville Reservation Vision and Guiding Principles

Vision

The mature forests and scenic streams of Brecksville Reservation predate surrounding development and provide a transition from built-up areas to the rural Cuyahoga River Valley. Stewardship of the park will focus on large-scale ecosystem protection and the park's rich cultural history, including Depression-era buildings and trails as well as generations of nature programs.

Guiding Principles

PROTECTION: Mitigate the impacts of unsanctioned trails and property encroachment. Engage partners to address upstream development practices impacting stormwater runoff within the Chippewa Creek and Snowville watersheds.

RELEVANCY: Continue the tradition of nature education. Build on historic programs connecting guests to hiking, education, and recreation in scenic and peaceful natural area surroundings.

CONNECTIONS: Strengthen the reservation's role as a major node in the Emerald Necklace by enhancing wayfinding between Mill Stream Run and Bedford Reservations and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Manage trails to protect resources and improve guest experience. Work with partners to provide greater connections to adjacent neighborhoods.

COME OUT AND PLAY: Promote synergy between Brecksville Reservation and adjacent parks and trails. Expand recreational offerings to strengthen the park's role as a regional hub.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY: Address need for indoor program space to support education efforts. Assess park management and specialty functions (Trails, VisCom, golf course management, trail crew) to identify facility needs and ongoing operational efficiencies.

BRECKVILLE RESERVATION PRIORITIES

- Nature Center Auxiliary Building
- Utility infrastructure (water, sewer, fiber)
- Chippewa Field Parking and Restroom Development (investigate floodplain and utility issues)
- Overall Chippewa Creek watershed stewardship efforts and trail / bridge
- New Management Center



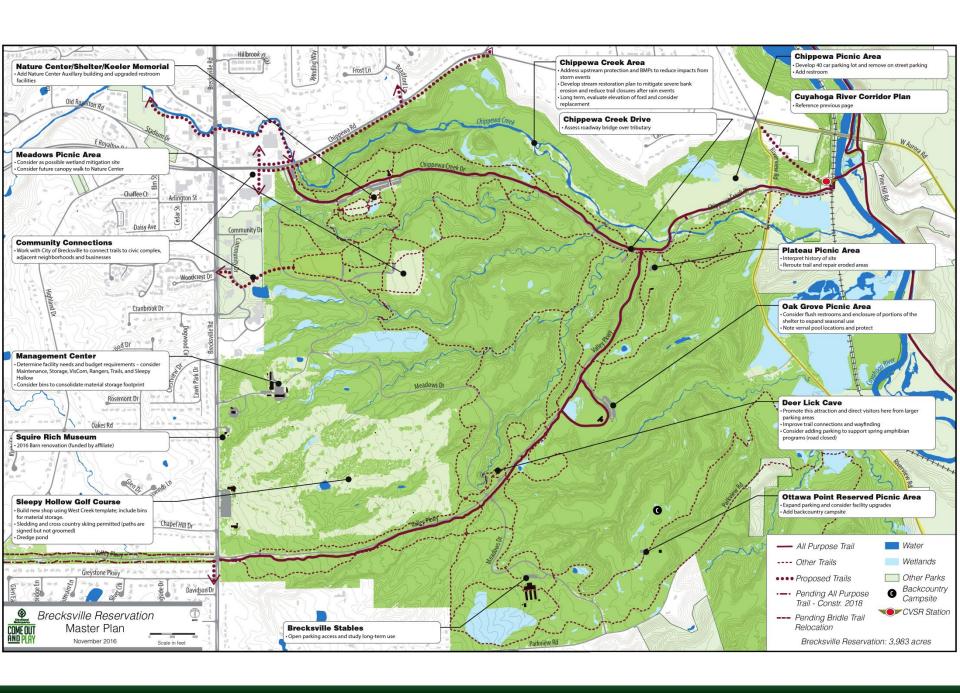


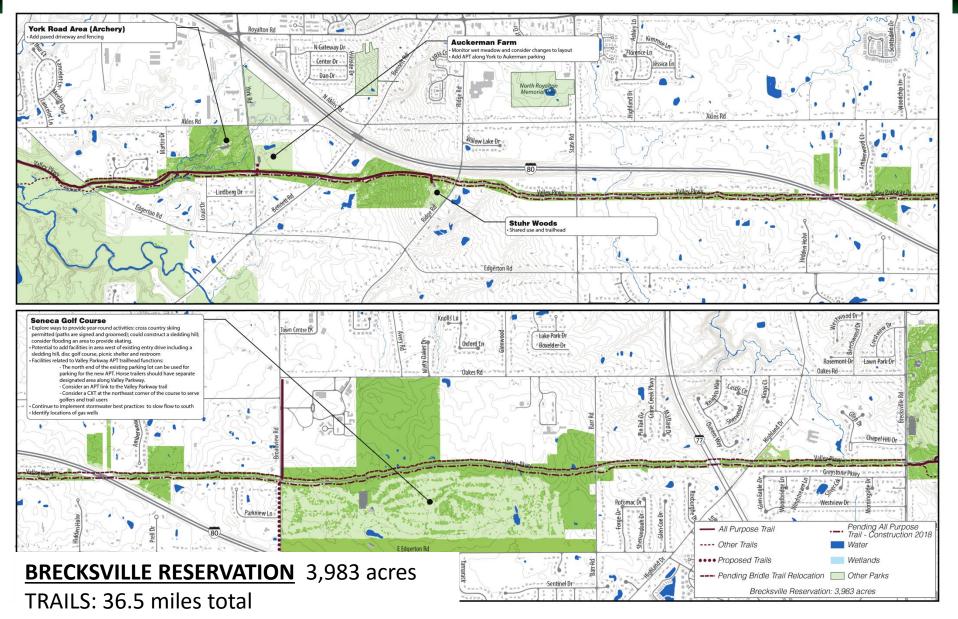












All Purpose Trail (APT - paved): 5.8 miles Additional 6 miles APT @ Valley Pkwy Ph. 1 Underway; complete June 2017 Bridle: 17.8 miles (8.5 @ Valley Pkwy) Hiking (natural surface): 12.9 miles

Ph. 2 Construction 2017/18



Hinckley Reservation Vision and Guiding Principles

Vision

Hinckley Reservation offers a glimpse into past land uses giving way to the forces of nature. Significant contiguous natural resources and a variety of recreational opportunities combine to create a park that will continue to serve as a unique regional destination.

Guiding Principles

PROTECTION: Protect the East Branch of the Rocky River, its tributaries, and other sensitive resources within the reservation. Partner to anticipate future impacts and extend resource protection beyond park boundaries.

RELEVANCY: Serve as a special destination for park users to hike, recreate, and observe nature. Continue to provide some park functions not offered in other reservations in balance with natural resources.

CONNECTIONS: Improve internal trail system, including the designation of trail loops linking multiple attractions. Partner with adjacent park systems to promote a network of trails, open space, and recreational opportunities.

COME OUT AND PLAY: Support the unrivaled opportunities for water recreation at Hinckley Lake, the East Branch of the Rocky River, and Ledge Pool Recreation Area, along with rock climbing at Whipp's Ledges. Work to balance trails, including bridle trails, with resource protection.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY: Right-size number of guest facilities. Upgrade quality to enhance visitor experience and minimize maintenance. Replace management center in consideration of long-term park operations.

HINCKLEY RESERVATION PRIORITIES

- Hinckley Lake and Dam structural repairs and dredge plus associated programs and features
- Protection of East Branch Rocky River / Rising Valley and key tributaries
- New Management Center
- Ledge Pool Improvements
- Plan for Worden's Area

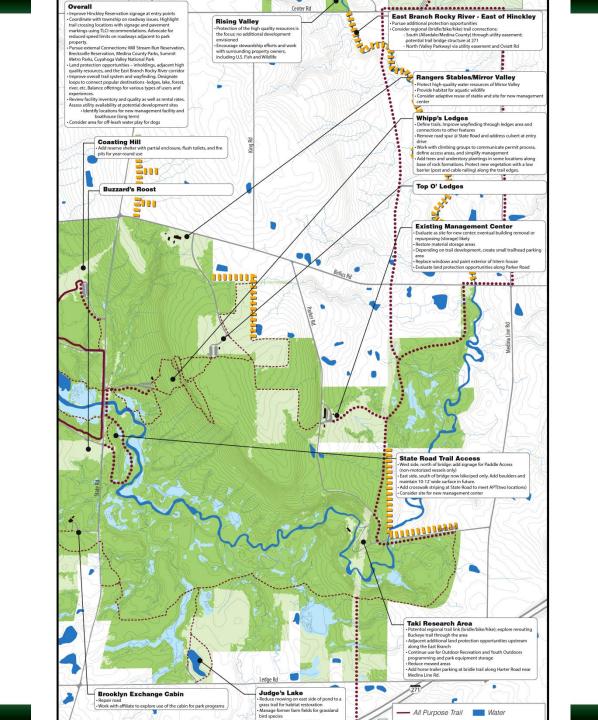


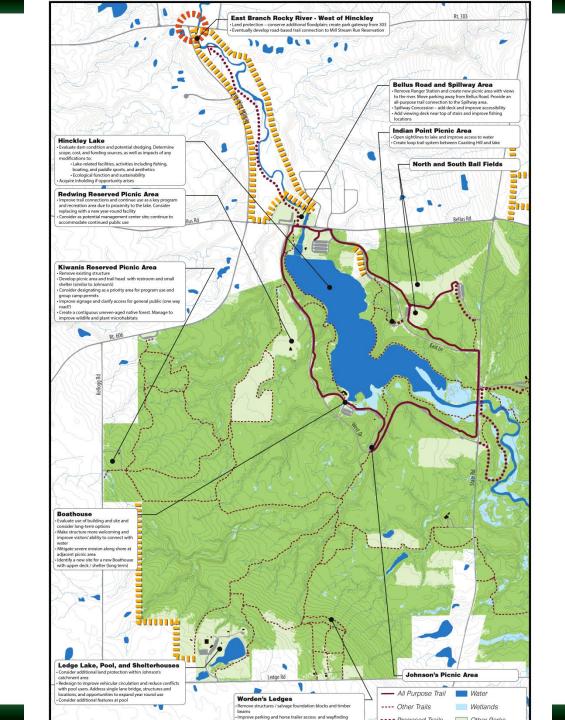














West Creek Reservation Vision and Guiding Principles

Vision

Created through a grassroots effort, West Creek Reservation winds through the core of Ohio's seventh largest city. This park connects the community to the scenic West Creek valley while serving as a living laboratory for the development, implementation, and evaluation of emerging best practices for urban habitat and watershed restoration.

Guiding Principles

PROTECTION: Demonstrate the capacity of the natural world to recover from human impacts. Work with current and new partners to expand the park's scope of protection within the watershed, improve community resilience, and implement strategies for improved stormwater management and urban environmental stewardship.

RELEVANCY: Serve Greater Cleveland through the reservation's programs, trails, and facilities. Identify opportunities to leverage the capacity, tools, and partners of the Watershed Stewardship Center for education, community outreach, and environmental leadership.

CONNECTIONS: Improve connections to adjoining neighborhoods, community destinations, and regional assets such as the Towpath, while also reducing the number of unsanctioned trails within the park to protect sensitive resources.

COME OUT AND PLAY: Improve wayfinding throughout the reservation. Capitalize on community ownership in the park .Improve access and expand health and wellness message along with continued environmental stewardship.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY: Maintain park facilities with current best practices and strive to restore habitat functions impacted by past land use. Continue to adapt management, research and education programs, and facilities as future trail links and park expansion bring new challenges and opportunities.

WEST CREEK RESERVATION PRIORITIES

Continue to work with West Creek
 Conservancy for trail connections and
 land protection, including additional
 acquisitions (Parmadale, etc.)



 Develop trailheads and amenities, including flush restrooms



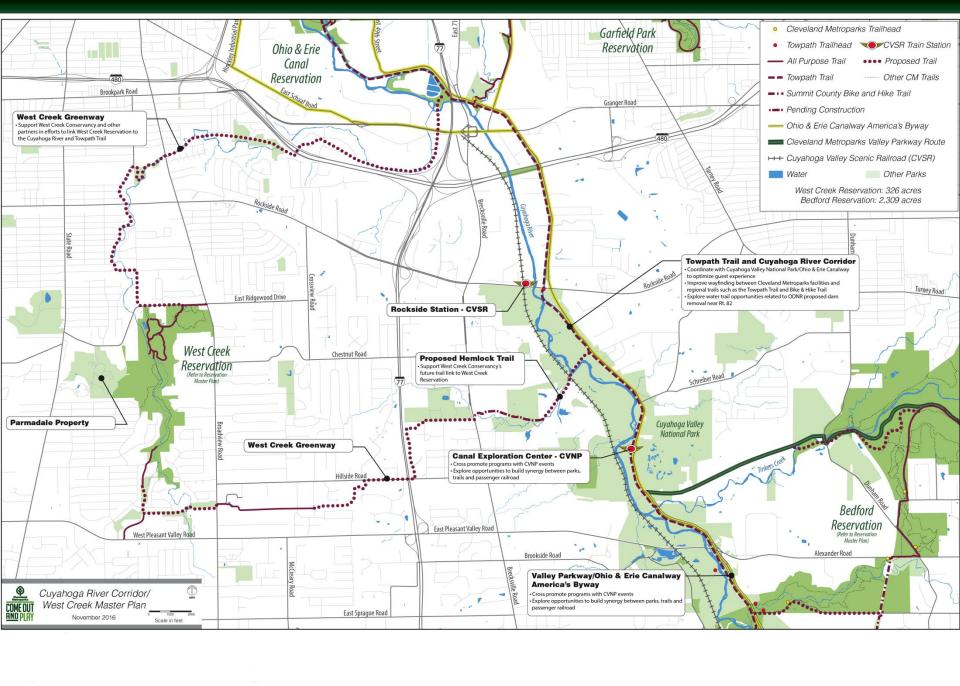
 Develop Overlook Deck with views to Downtown

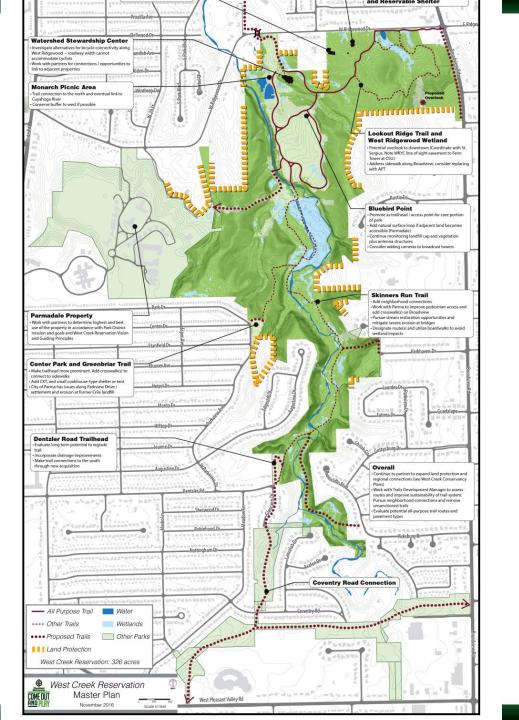


 Continue to implement latest stormwater BMPs and demonstrate latest technology









Summary of Proposed Actions as Related to Strategic Goals

