



County Executive Chris Ronayne
Cuyahoga County Administrative Headquarters
2079 E 9th St.
Cleveland, OH 44115

March 21, 2024

RE Letter of Support for Cuyahoga County CPRG Implementation Grant Submission

Lake Metroparks
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Lake County Probate Judge
Mark J. Bartolotta

Board of Park Commissioners
Gretchen Skok DiSanto
Frank J. Polivka
John C. Redmond, CPA

Executive Director
Paul Palagyi

Dear Executive Ronayne,

I am writing on behalf of Lake Metroparks to demonstrate our organization's commitment to supporting the Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant submitted by Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland, and the City of Painesville for the deployment of clean electricity and nature-based solutions, in alignment with the PCAP measures submitted by the Northeastern Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for the Cleveland-Elyria Metropolitan Statistical Area.

The CPRG Implementation Grant submitted by Cuyahoga County, in coalition with the City of Cleveland and the City of Painesville, is an innovative and transformative project that will generate clean and renewable energy through brownfield development and municipal utility clean energy deployment, as well as other nature-based solutions that will dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve low-income energy burden, and improve outdoor air quality.

As the park district serving Lake County, Lake Metroparks supports the proposed vision to transform the former Diamond Shamrock property into a 1,100-acre public lakefront preserve. This project will advance Lake Metroparks' ongoing effort to establish unprecedented lakefront access through creation of a 2.25-mile ADA accessible lakeshore bike and pedestrian trail connecting Painesville Township Park to Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park, with overlooks and access points to create enhanced public access to our greatest natural resource – Lake Erie. This collaborative effort to reclaim a former industrial site, creating park and greenspace connectivity along the lakefront and connecting our communities to a restored natural environment is fundamentally aligned with the mission and vision of Lake Metroparks.

Our mission is to conserve and preserve the natural resources of Lake County while providing a variety of safe, affordable and enjoyable educational and recreational programs and activities that enhance the quality of life in Lake County now and for the generations to follow. Lake Metroparks currently manages 39 parks and over 60 miles of trails, providing recreational experiences for over 4 million visitors annually. Lake Metroparks will support West Creek Conservancy and the local communities in realizing the vision for the 1,100-acre site, including supporting the ecological restoration and management of the property for public access and recreation.

We are committed to supporting the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions throughout our region through strong, sustainable partnerships and innovative solutions that are inclusive of the values of all Northeastern Ohioans.

Sincerely,



Paul Palagyi