PRESS RELEASE INFORMATION - July 2021

COASTAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has awarded $389,353 for five Coastal Management Assistance Grants for State Fiscal Year 2022. The five projects include:

Recipient: Metroparks Toledo

County: Lucas
Project Title: Glass City Metropark Stormwater Management
Award Amount: $100,000
Match Amount: $106,842

Metroparks Toledo is working through a multi-phased project to restore and develop 70 acres of former brownfields along the Maumee River in Toledo, Ohio, known as the Marina District, into the Glass City Metropark. The Maumee River, flowing into Lake Erie's western basin, has the largest watershed of any Great Lakes tributary. Prior to industrialization, the lower Maumee River was a wide estuary bordered by thousands of acres of riverine marshes and swamps. As Toledo expanded, wetlands were drained and filled, and the shoreline was hardened to meet demands for shipping and industry. Originally floodplain, the project site was filled in during the early 1900s to support industrial activities and eventually a sports arena and private marina before the site was abandoned in the early 1990s.

When completed, the Glass City Metropark will be the largest natural area restoration project along the lower Maumee River. As part of the project, Metroparks is planning for the installation of a stormwater infiltration system composed of an 8,750 square foot bioretention cell and adjoining vegetated slope (i.e., buffer strip). This stormwater infrastructure is the focus of this grant program and will address existing runoff discharged directly into the River from the park drive and the anticipated additional runoff through the construction of impervious surfaces necessary to support public use of the project site (parking and paved accessible multi-use paths).

The Maumee River is the single largest source of sediment and phosphorus to Lake Erie. This stormwater infrastructure will help to reduce these inputs and to demonstrate solutions to the problem at a local/urban level.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Recipient: Lorain Port Authority

County: Lorain
Project Title: Port and Parks Lake Erie Bike Trail Station
Award Amount: $50,000
Match Amount: $50,000

This project will construct the Port of Lorain Trailhead at Mile Marker #00 of the Lorain County Metro Parks Bike Path. The project site is located on formerly private land, now owned by the Lorain Port Authority, at the entrance of the Mile-Long Pier in Lorain, Ohio. The trailhead will serve bikers and walkers of the trail and will also provide a place to enjoy views of Lake Erie and the Lorain Lighthouse.

Site preparation will include the clearing of invasive and nuisance vegetation and bluff restoration through the reintroduction of native plantings. An observation area will be constructed which will include a paver art compass, a kiosk with trail maps, swings, benches and railing. The project will also provide a bike repair station and bike racks for bicyclists using the Lorain County Metro Parks Bike Trail. Proper litter receptacles as well as dog waste stations will be provided on this project site to ensure litter control. This project will enhance 212 linear feet of public access to the waterfront.

Recipient: City of Rocky River

County: Cuyahoga
Project Title: Bradstreet's Landing – Interpretive Access Boardwalk
Award Amount: $100,000
Match Amount: $304,000

This project will construct an interpretive, ADA-compliant boardwalk to connect the reconstructed public fishing pier at Bradstreet's Landing in Rocky River, Ohio to the nearby, and newly reconstructed, pedestrian bridge. Construction on the pier should be completed by the end of Summer 2021. The pedestrian bridge project is currently in its pre-construction (engineering and permitting) phase but is scheduled for completion by the end of 2021; this project was funded in part by Cycle 24 of this grant program

When completed, the boardwalk will allow access to the Lake Erie shore for all abilities and will provide interpretive information regarding the historical and ecological values of the area in a visual and audible format to benefit the visually impaired. Increased public access and information in/on the area will also draw attention to the need to address water quality issues in the surrounding watershed (Cahoon Creek - Frontal Lake Erie), specifically those of Spencer Creek.

Without this boardwalk, the only ADA-compliant access to Lake Erie at this location is the pier. Once the boardwalk is constructed, users of Bradstreet's Landing Park will have increased access to 300 feet of Lake Erie shoreline. This project will also help to further the proposed Cleveland Metroparks/ODNR Water Trails and Cuyahoga County Lakefront Access plans.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Recipient: Cleveland Metroparks

County: Cuyahoga
Project Title: Wendy Park Nature-Based Shoreline Restoration
Award Amount: $21,000
Match Amount: $21,000

This project will address erosion along a 400-foot stretch of shoreline at Wendy Park, a popular park in Cleveland, Ohio, through nature-based shoreline restoration. Wendy Park is a 22-acre public greenspace located on Lake Erie, at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. The Park is comprised largely of fill material and past land management of the parkland included lack of shoreline buffers or stabilization and mowed edges. Since 2017, more than 10 feet of shoreline loss has been documented along this stretch of shoreline. The shoreline erosion affects water quality, contributes to accumulating debris on the shoreline, and threatens park infrastructure.

Funds are being requested to hire consultants to complete design and probable construction cost estimates for nature-based shoreline restoration along this 400-foot stretch of shoreline. The proposed shoreline design will mimic the natural shoreline and natural water/shore interface and will incorporate native materials and plantings to stabilize the shoreline and to provide onshore and nearshore habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. The restored shoreline will also filter runoff from the surrounding areas, reducing sediment input to Lake Erie, and will provide additional shoreline protection from storms and recent high lake levels. The outcome of this project will be a comprehensive design that will benefit not only water quality but public amenities at the park as well.

Recipient: City of Mentor

County: Lake
Project Title: Mentor Marsh Public Access Project Phase II
Award Amount: $118,353
Match Amount: $118,353

The City of Mentor will construct Phase II of the Mentor Marsh Public Access Project. Phase II of the project consists of 230 linear feet (1,840 square feet) of boardwalk connecting the observation deck (end of Phase I) to the existing trail system, giving the project one entire loop of accessible boardwalk. The boardwalk will provide infrastructure along the bank of Mentor Marsh for visitors, locals, birders, and nature enthusiasts to enjoy year-round.

The project is not only important because the marsh boasts one of the most species-rich sites along the Great Lakes shoreline and is identified as a National Audubon Society Important Birding Area, but also because the marsh has undergone rigorous restoration by the City of Mentor and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History following the disastrous introduction of salt mine tailings by a local mining operation in the 1960s. Since 2004, organizations have been working to eradicate invasive species that thrived in the hypersaline environment and reintroduce native species that serve as the foundation for

the marsh's uniquely diverse habitat. The project will include educational displays on the types of migratory and native bird species in the area, along with an overview of the restoration process and continued preservation efforts.

The boardwalk will be constructed with composite wood that will blend in with the natural surroundings and further immerse visitors into this rare and exciting habitat. Additionally, the boardwalk will be constructed with strict best practices on minimizing environmental impact.