

# Brighton Park

**BRIGHTON PARK SITE PLAN**  
CLEVELAND METROPARKS  
JUNE 2020

- **Type** All-purpose & natural surface loop trails
- **Length** 5,000 linear feet
- **Cost** \$1.3M for acquisition, remediation, and park improvements
- **Funding Sources**
  - Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
  - Cuyahoga County Brownfield Fund
  - USEPA
  - Sustain Our Great Lakes
  - Recreational Trail Program – ODNR
  - Cleveland Foundation
  - Arconic
  - Kent H. Smith
  - NOPEC
  - City of Cleveland Casino Funds
  - Cuyahoga County Supplemental Grant Program
- **Date:** 2006 (initial planning) to 2021 (park completion)

County: Cuyahoga  
(Cuyahoga District #3)

## Brighton Park – physical trail

1. The 25-acre property is located in the City of Cleveland on the east side of Pearl Road, near the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood. The property was the site of a former construction and demolition debris landfill. The property contains frontage along Pearl Road and approximately .16 miles of frontage along Lower Big Creek. There are no structures on the property. The most recent use was as a go-cart operation on a portion of the land along Pearl Road.

The trail at Brighton Park links the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo to the Towpath Trail. It trail route connects Brookside Reservation and Cleveland Metroparks HQ, down Wildlife way past the zoo, across Pearl Road, through Brighton Park, then weaves through the neighborhood to Hamody park down the treadway trail and ultimately merging with the tow path trail. If you go right on Harvard you continue to CVNP and Akron, or head north to Steelyard Commons, Tremont, downtown Cleveland and ultimately Lake Erie.

2. **REQUIRED:** Provide contact information in case we need to contact you about this project.

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## Brighton Park



- **Project Leaders/Managers:** Isaac Robb, Western Reserve Land Conservancy
- Sean McDermott, Cleveland Metroparks
- Jeffery T. Verespej, Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp.

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From landfill to landmark! Brighton park transformed a former construction debris landfill into a neighborhood asset. This included acquisition, remediation, and improvement of a 25 acre site.

The Project also qualified for up to \$200,000 in grant funding (with 20% match required) to be used for environmental remediation and expenses associated with completing the Voluntary Action Program (VAP), a necessary step if the Land Conservancy or the future long-term owner wish to obtain a No Further Action Letter and a Covenant Not to Sue from the State of Ohio. Although staff was verbally informed of the funding award in early 2015 by Cuyahoga County Development staff, it required an application which was submitted in July 2015. Formal approval arrived in January 2016. The remediation work was completed in December 2017. The long delay resulted from slow moving bureaucracies at Cuyahoga County and OEPA. The County did not provide a sub-grant agreement until late 2016 and then OEPA required several public comment meeting and review periods that had to be repeated when the remediation area proved to be so small. (Originally estimated at 1-2 acres in size, upon delineation the area was only 30 ft. x 30 ft.)

## Brighton Park



### Unique!

- **Environmental Enhancements** 25-acre greenspace in the heart of the city
- **Social Equity** 60% of Old Brooklyn residents reported NOT using parks in 2018

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Cleveland Metroparks



Western Reserve  
Land Conservancy  
land • people • community

Old Brooklyn’s Community Health Needs Assessment documented the following: 43% of Old Brooklyn residents have elevated BMI, 32% have high blood pressure, 25% report poor-to-fair overall health and 13% report mental distress. In addition, 60% of Old Brooklyn residents reported NOT using parks.

*Quote from resident: “As a resident of Old Brooklyn, I’m really excited about Brighton Park. I love to ride my bike in the neighborhood, and the park helps connect some of our main trails in the community. I got a chance to tour the site a few summers ago, before the park started being developed, and seeing it all come together has been really special. It’s great to see vacant land being repurposed and becoming beautiful. One time when I went for a walk there, I was chatting with 2 neighbors whose property backs up to the park- they were so proud to have this beautiful greenspace in their backyard. I look forward to seeing the park in the spring, when all the foliage comes alive again! – Kate Warren, Old Brooklyn resident”*

In 2019, the Land Conservancy received \$386,607 for park improvements through the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund (COCF). This paid for over 2,000 feet of all purpose trails, 3,000 feet of natural trail, a kiosk, overlook, signage, fencing, and parking. Later in 2019, the Land Conservancy received funding from Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) in the amount of \$187,000. This includes significant tree planting, a meadow restoration, soil remediation, and a bioswale. In early 2020, the Land Conservancy received a grant in the amount of \$103,000 of federal funding through the Recreational Trail Program through ODNR to complete the project.

## Brighton Park



### Buzz on the Street

- From Landfill to Landmark



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(Cuyahoga District #3)



<https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/getmedia/a564c418-4def-417c-92a9-bd46f6650bb3/190418-Henninger.pdf.ashx>

<https://www.freshwatercleveland.com/breaking-ground/LandfillPark072119.aspx>

<https://www.wcaudubon.org/story-blog/the-brighton-park-initiative-by-tom-romito-board-member-western-cuyahoga-audubon-society>

[https://twitter.com/steven\\_litt/status/1273677428951519234?s=20](https://twitter.com/steven_litt/status/1273677428951519234?s=20)

<https://www.cleveland.com/news/2020/06/cleveland-metroparks-approves-plan-to-turn-old-brooklyn-landfill-into-26-acre-park-with-towpath-link.html>

<https://www.wrlandconservancy.org/whatwedo/advocacy-and-research/brighton-park/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0iK-pytqI8&t=1s>

<https://www.facebook.com/OBCDC/photos/a.119559914741820/3768820549815720/>