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TRAIL LAKE PARK

- **Trail - Multi-purpose trail mixed bike and pedestrian use. Non motorized only.**
- **Length** – 1.62 mile paved loop
- **Cost** – 3.8 million
- **Funding Sources**
Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Ohio Department of Transportation, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Ohio EPA Water Resources Restoration Sponsor Program, Portage Park District Foundation
- **Start date** 5/2019; Open Date: 11/2021
- **Project Managers:**
Portage Park District

County: Portage County



Trail Lake Park is a wonderful asset to the Portage Park District and surrounding communities. The 222-acre park and its 30-acre lake are named for the historic Native American Mahoning Path Trail that traversed the property. Situated in the City of Streetsboro bordering Franklin Township, Trail Lake Park offers a variety of natural resources for visitors to appreciate and explore. The property has a diverse successional habitat of grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees that provide food and shelter for native wildlife.

Project Leaders/Managers: The park district secured over \$2.3 million in grants and donations, about 60% of total project costs. As with many park and conservation projects, various partners pulled in funding from multiple sources. The Land Conservancy's tract was generously funded by the Ohio EPA through the Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP), with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), being the sponsor in this case. The OEPA funds were used as local match for the Portage Park's Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant, along with funds from its voter-approved levy. The landowners even helped by selling the property at below market value.

Previous Landowners and In-kind Donors:

Bill, Jr., Bob, Gwen, Richard Gressard
 Adam, Trevor, and Will Kreierho
 Brad and Sandy Brotje
 The Nature Conservancy

Primary Design, Engineering and Construction Contractors:

Charles Frederick, Landscape Architect
 Karpinski Engineering
 Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc.
 Kent State University Metin Eren Archeology Lab
 Emerald Environmental
 Enviroscience
 Davey Resource Group, Inc.
 Woodford Excavating, LLC.
 S.E.T Inc.
 Aquafab, LLC.
 Cornerstone Landscaping

Provide contact information in case we need to contact you about this project.
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Amenities

Trailhead: 50 car paved parking with additional 25 spaces on natural surface, bike rack, wheelchair accessible picnic table

Fishing Pier: fishing pier, accessible kayak launch, benches on pier

Along the Trail: 5 benches along the trail, picnic tables at various locations along the trail

Neighbor to Herrick Fen State Nature Preserve

County: Portage County



The 130-acre property was a part of the estate of the late William Gressard, longtime nature columnist for the Record-Courier and passionate conservationist who originally dug the lake for his family’s fish farm business. Situated in the City of Streetsboro bordering Franklin Township, Trail Lake Park offers a variety of natural resources for visitors to appreciate and explore. The property has a diverse successional habitat of grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees that provide food and shelter for native wildlife. The primary feature and park namesake is the 30-acre man-made fishing lake. A segment of the Osprey Loop is built upon a historic section of the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad line. This line carried President Abraham Lincoln on his inaugural tour. It was also used regularly to transport ice cut from Twin Lakes to Cleveland. Park neighbors have been excited to have the property available for recreations and are happy to be close to such a wonderful resource.

Additionally, Trail Lake Park belongs to the Tinkers Creek watershed, which is the largest sub-watershed to the Cuyahoga River. Perhaps most significant is the park’s proximity to Herrick Fen Nature Preserve which is home to several rare and endangered species. “Connecting Herrick Fen with Portage County Park property will allow more people to experience this special place – one that not only protects a host of rare species but also plays an important role in contributing cleaner water downstream.” Said Bill Stanley, state director for The Nature Conservancy in Ohio.

This trail builds on Portage Park District’s growth in Portage County, Trail Lake is situated north of the Franklin Connector portion of the Portage Hike and Bike Trail and south of Seneca Ponds Park, also in Streetsboro.

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Benefits to the Public

Trail Lake Park's variety of activities makes it a public favorite. The most unique feature is the accessible kayak/canoe launch which allows all ability levels to enjoy the lake.

Environmental enhancements

Tree planting May 2021 – 5.5 acres

County: Portage County



It's important to note that Trail Lake Park was opened in November of 2020, amidst the pandemic, giving the community a new place to visit and rest or recreate. Since opening in November, the park/trail continues to provide a place of respite, recreation and relaxation in a safe environment for the people of Portage County and beyond. The largest influx of visitation anecdotally comes from Hudson, Streetsboro, Stow and Kent – communities within 10-15 minutes of the property as expected. Per park survey, patrons are coming from various locations as far as 15-30 miles away to visit the park for kayaking, fishing and hiking. Patrons of all ages and abilities have easy access to the parking, paved trail and restrooms and well as an accessible picnic table on a concrete pad near the trailhead. Trail Lake also seems to be a hot spot for pet owners who appreciate the loop trail for a short or long walk with their pets.

Temporary education signage has provided several opportunities for visitors to learn more about the park including the history of the lake and its previous owners, Railroad history, bio-orientation areas, wildlife information and more. The diverse successional habitat at Trail Lake Park provides food and shelter for a variety of native wildlife species, particularly birds. 81 species of birds have been documented at the park. Bald Eagles, Osprey, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Kingbird, and a variety of spring warblers are frequently observed.

Google Reviews of the park: 34 5-star reviews since Nov. 2020 (samples below)

This newly opened park is great! There's a paved walking trail as well as a natural one. They offer catch and keep fishing as well as a kayak launch. This place will be amazing in every season! Thank you Portage Park District!
Great new park! Wonderful trails, paved and other. Beautiful Lake views. Nice dock with canoe and kayak launcher!
Great new park. Still seems to be in progress, but very nice considering. There is a paved parking lot with nice restrooms available. The fishing dock and kayak launches are nice features. There are also several picnic tables placed along the trails around the lake. It'll be a few years before everything grows in.
Went the first day the park opened very nice lake very nice paved trail. can't wait for more paths to open in the future what a gem in our area
Wonderful park. Great views of the lake on the 1.6 mile trail.
Great place to just sit to watch nature or to walk around the lake on the trail. Awesome addition to Portage County and Streetsboro!!!