

# West Creek Conservancy

*Enriching the lives of people in Greater Cleveland by:*

~Conserving Natural Habitat~

~Restoring ecological value and sustainability of urban lands~

~Expanding neighborhood opportunities to experience nature~

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*Celebrating 22 Years  
of Land and Water Conservation*

Presented by:

Derek Schafer, Executive Director

# Protect

- Urban land conservation focus
  - Assists other organizations
    - Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
    - Cleveland Metroparks, Portage & Summit Park Districts
    - Friends of Euclid Creek
    - LAND studio
    - Port Authority
    - Ohio City Inc
    - Rocky River Watershed Council
    - Tinkers Creek Watershed Partnership
    - Big Creek Connects
    - Friends of Yellow Creek
    - Municipalities/individuals/churches/schools/etc.

200+ Properties Protected  
- Greater Cleveland

~fee simple acquisition  
~conservation easement  
~environmental covenant  
~lease/license

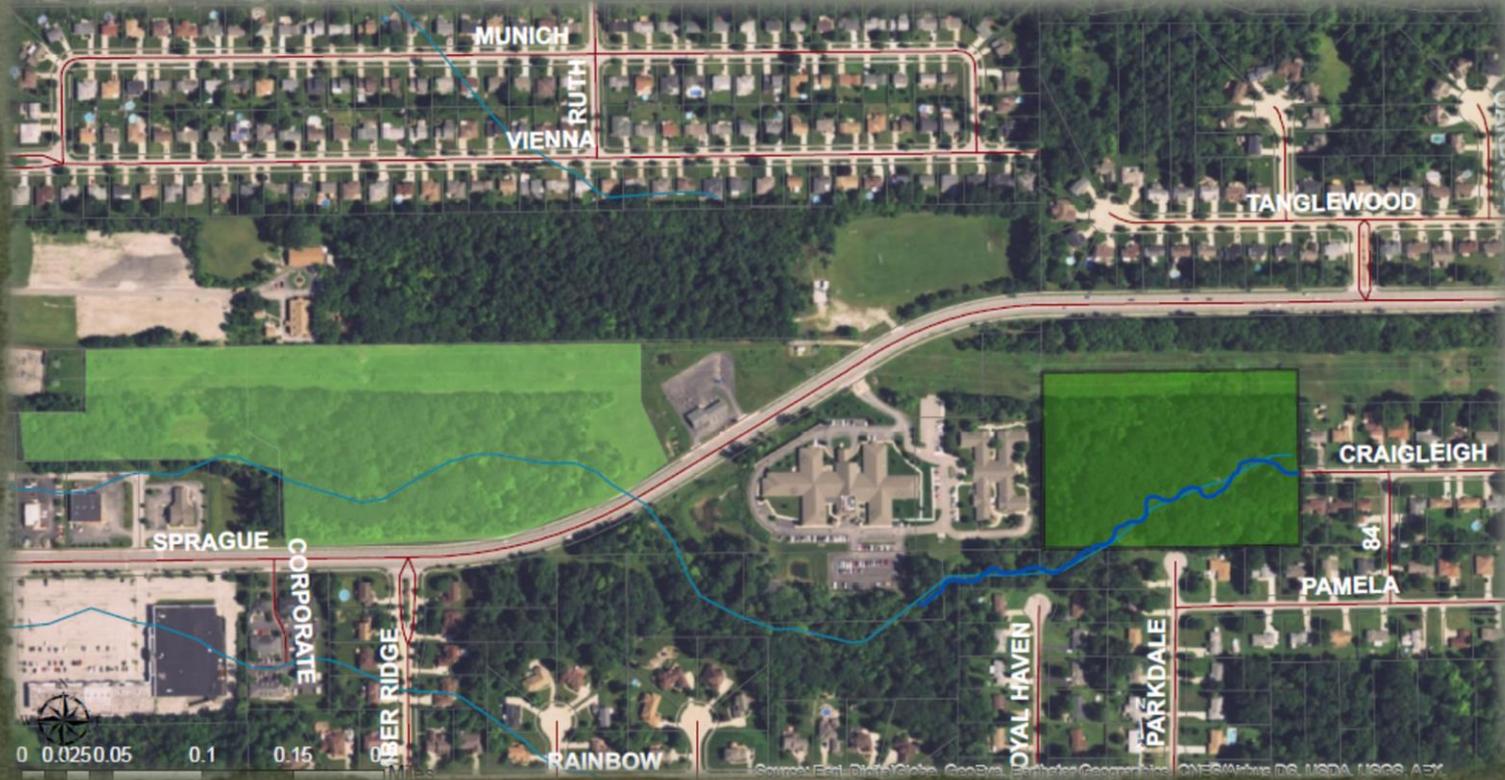


7500 feet



- Acquisition = long term
  - Floodplain/riparian area
  - Stream/forest/wetland

- Create contiguous corridors of protected land



Source: Earth Digital Globe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroX

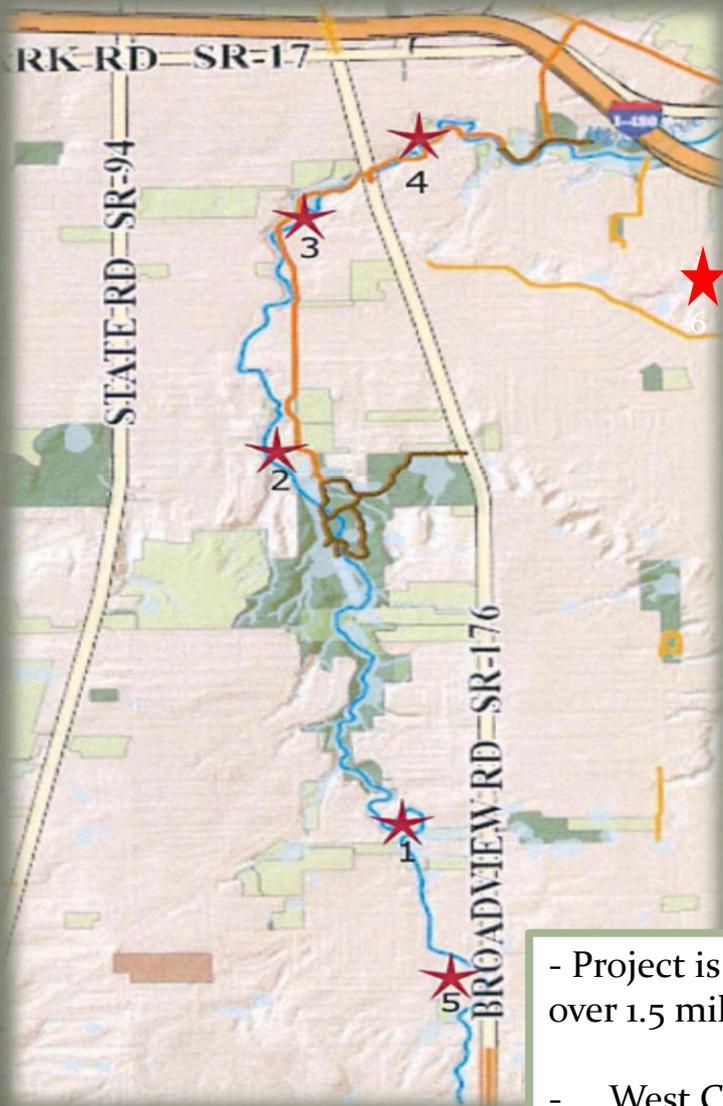


Floodplain  
630 pm



Floodplain  
730 am

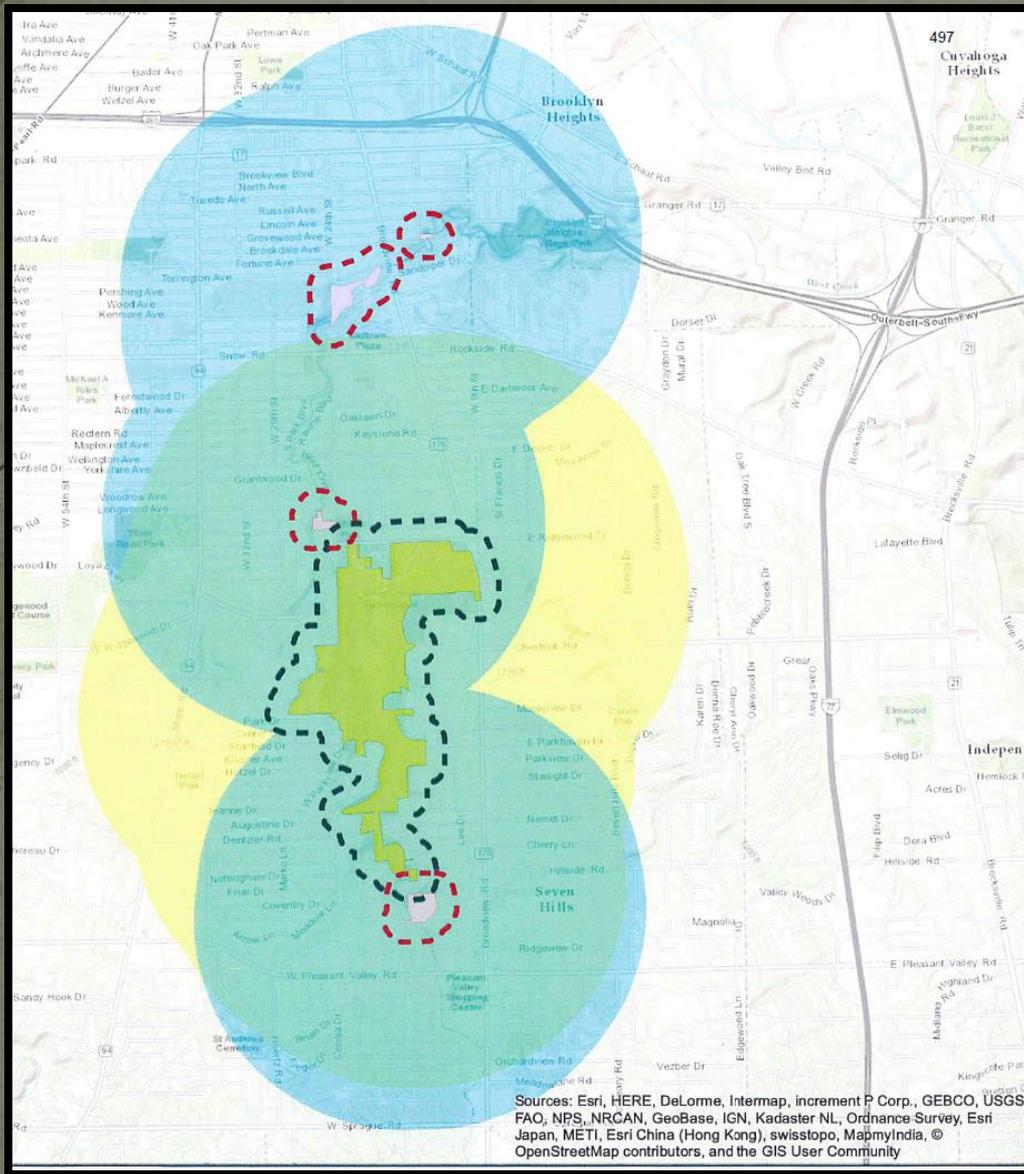
# Critical Greenway Conservation



- Property 1: Fee
  - \$800,000
- Property 2: Fee
  - \$250,000
- Property 3: CE
  - Donation
- Property 4: CE
  - Donation
- Property 5: CE
  - Donation
- Property 6: CE
  - Donation

- Project is inclusive of properties totaling 46 acres of conserved area, and over 1.5 mile of stream, 5 acres wetland, and vital floodplain

- West Creek Conservancy is the fee-owner/conservation easement holder
- Leveraged \$1.4 Million plus, \$550,000 in donated value



Over 44,810  
people within  
1-mile of the  
proposed  
properties and  
West Creek



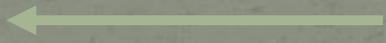
# Retrofit



**Private**



**Public**



**Institutional**





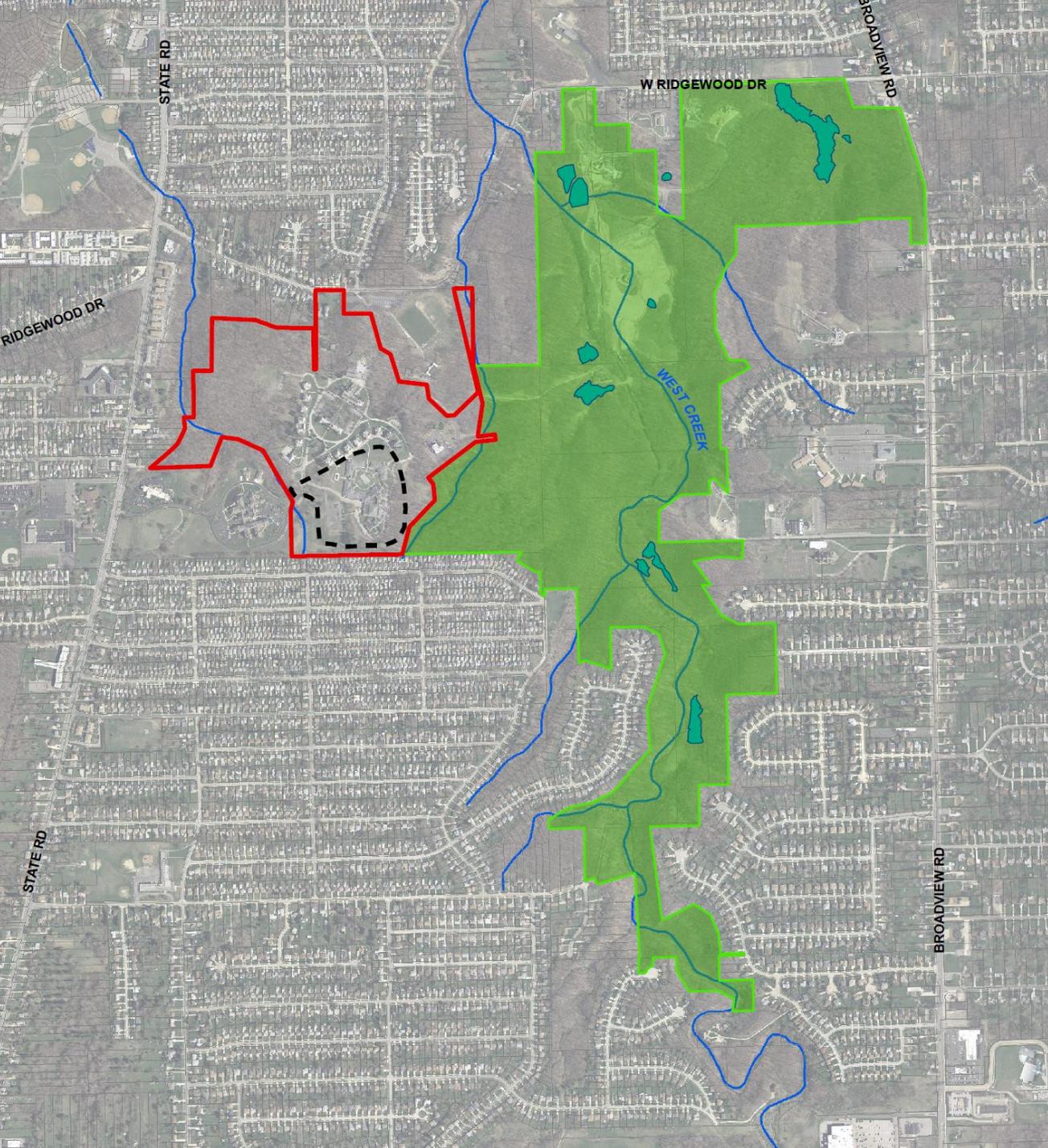
# Reclaim

- Remove unsustainable development
- Floodplain access
- Long-term vision
- Long-term costs
- Long-term cost-saving
- Infrastructure protection
- Creating resilient communities

## ➤ Additional Benefits

- Trails-Greenways
- Community Greenspace
- Tourism
- Recreational Activities
  - Birding
  - Fishing
  - Water Access





- 90 acres total
- 80 to protect
- Diocese to continue ITC and programs
- 52 acres forested
- 28 impacted
- Over 20 structures
- 10+ acres of impervious surface
- Directly adjacent to WCR
- Expands park to over 400 acres, opens many new access points



Demolishing 12 acres of structures/impervious surface (20+ structures)  
\$1,275,000 Leveraged to date, plus \$100,000+ for Environmental Clean Up



# Watershed Stewardship Center

- Vital partnership with NEORSD & CMP
  - Programmatic & Steering Committee coordination
- Community liaison & outreach assistance
- Facilitation with partners/stakeholder
- Cross communicate NEORSD – CMP events/programs
- Co-coordinate events!
  - World Water Day
  - Backyard Biodiversity Bash
  - Trainings
  - Citizen Science
  - Watershed Volunteer Program



# Watershed Management



- Site assessments
- Stream/wetland assessments
- Mitigation analysis
- Mapping
- Resource inventory
- Grant writing
- Leverage Restoration \$
- GI Municipal assistance
- Code review/recommendations
- Landowner site visits

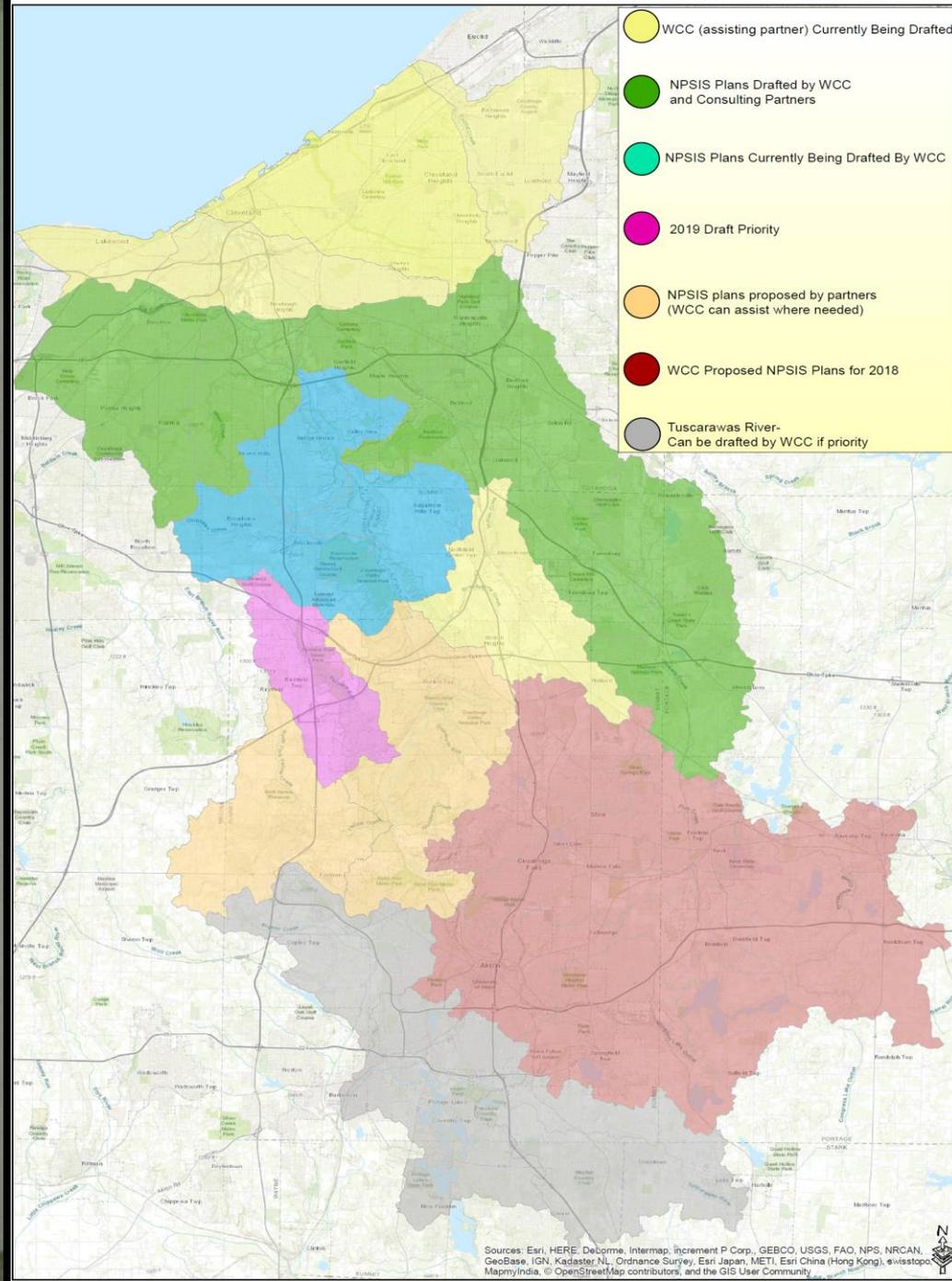
# Conservancy Stewardship



# Watershed Planning

- West Creek Endorsed 2009
  - Large objectives complete
  - Revised 2017
- Coordinating 14 Additional plans
- Support provided by Ohio EPA & over 30 community partners

## NPS-IS Plans Coordinated by WCC

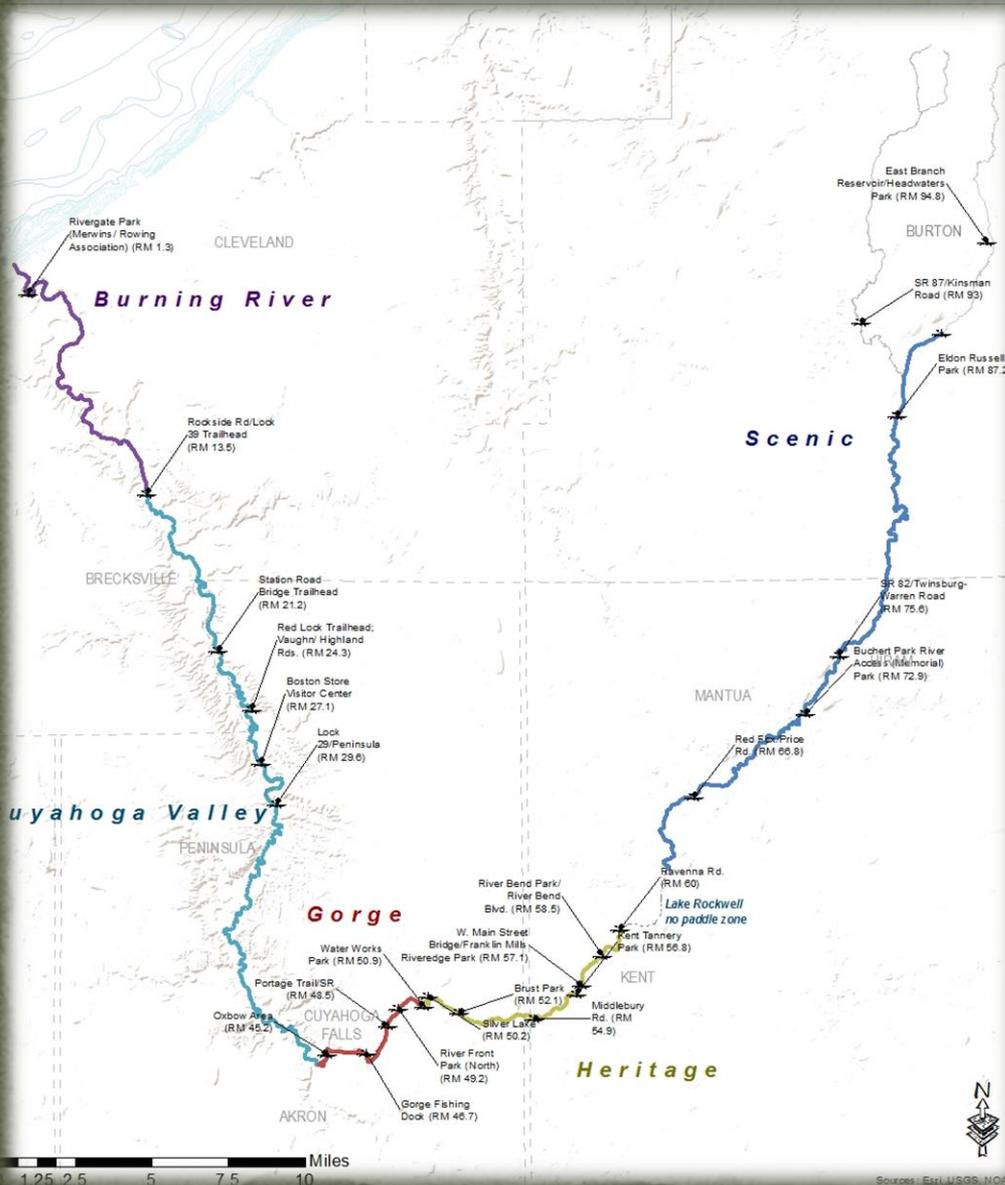


# Community Events

- Greater Cleveland Trails & Greenways Conference
- Fundraisers:
  - Tacos & Tequila
  - Up! A Creek
  - Creatures in the Forest 5k/1-Mile
  - Hemlock Hustle
- Cleanups, plantings, invasive management
- Project Hikes & Tours
- Public Meetings
- Newsletters-Annual Report
- Social Media presence
- Campaign Messaging



# Cuyahoga River Water Trail



- 4 counties
- 26 communities
- 93 miles
- State Designation 2019 (goal)

- Increase public access
- Share resources to create better and safer experience for all visitors
- Enjoy health and beauty of Cuyahoga River
- Boost tourism and economic development

