

LAND MANAGEMENT AND LAND USE PLAN FOR THE SHAKER LAKES PARKLANDS



Photo: Anthony Koonce

2024 Update

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PART ONE: INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

BASIC PREMISES

The Shaker Lakes Parklands is a multi-use park serving many communities in Greater Cleveland. It preserves a valuable urban natural area that provides these communities with opportunities for recreation and environmental education.

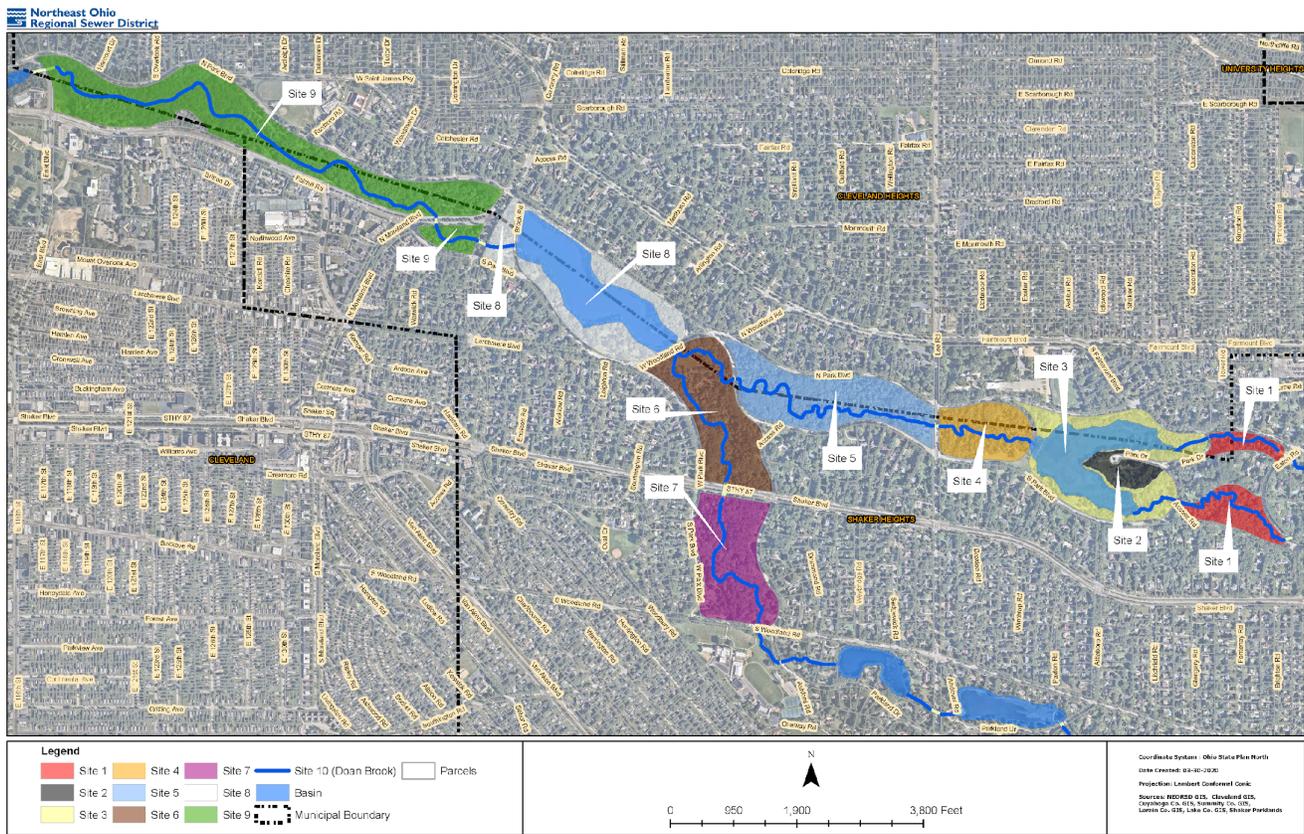
PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

This plan has been developed cooperatively by all parties involved in the management of the Shaker Lakes Park area, including the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership, the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and the Cities of Cleveland, Cleveland Hts., and Shaker Hts. It presents recommendations and guidelines for sound land use and land management of the Shaker Lakes Parklands. It is intended to restore and maintain the environmental quality of the area by encouraging ongoing cooperation and communication among all parties involved in the use and management of the parklands. This Plan was created in 1981, updated in 1995, 2013, and 2020. The Shaker Parklands

Management Committee has deemed the management plan a “living document” that will be updated when needed to promote high-functioning, healthy ecosystems within the Shaker Lakes Parklands.

THE PARKLANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN AREA

The 300-acre Shaker Lakes Parklands lie within the 7500-acre Doan Brook watershed. The boundaries of the Shaker Parklands are North Park Boulevard to the north, Eaton Road to the east, Martin Luther King Boulevard to the west, and an irregular line following Fairhill Road, South Park Boulevard into West Park Boulevard, South Woodland Road, and South Park Boulevard to Warrensville Center Road on the south and southeast.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

The Cleveland Heights City Council, Shaker Heights City Council, Cleveland City Council and the Board of Trustees of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership have reviewed and accepted this plan. The PMC will work with all parties involved to achieve successful implementation of the plan’s policies. This will be accomplished by meeting regularly to monitor the plan’s guidelines and encourage ongoing communication and

cooperation among those responsible for Parklands stewardship and maintenance.

The PMC consists of relevant staff and Council representatives from:

- Doan Brook Watershed Partnership 216-325-7781: DBWP will convene PMC meetings and serve as a clearing house for communications between Committee members. Both DBWP staff and volunteers serve on the Committee.
- City of Cleveland: Cleveland owns the land, which is protected as publicly accessible parkland. Cleveland holds leases with Cleveland Heights, the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and Shaker Heights. Please contact DBWP at 216-325-7781 with concerns for Cleveland.
- City of Cleveland Heights: Cleveland Heights manages the parkland within the city's border. The City manages scheduled activities and maintenance within the Shaker Lakes Parklands). Cleveland Heights Parks and Recreation Department can be reached at 216-691-7373 and concerns will be directed to the appropriate staff person.
- City of Shaker Heights: Shaker Heights manages both scheduled activities and parkland maintenance within the city's border. Shaker Heights Public Works Department can be reached at 216-491-1490 and concerns will be directed to the appropriate staff person.
- Nature Center at Shaker Lakes: The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes manages the full area of site 6, approximately 20 acres. The Nature Center mission is to conserve a natural area, connect people with nature and inspire environmental stewardship. Promoting passive recreation, including hiking, bird-watching, and connecting with nature, in accordance with NCSL guidelines. The Natural Resources Manager is responsible for land management and stewardship, and can be reached at 216 321-5935.
- Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS): Under their Regional Stormwater Management Program, the NEORS has entered into service agreements with the Cleveland, Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights for inspection and maintenance of the Doan Brook within the Shaker Lakes Parklands. NEORS may undertake projects to stabilize stormwater-induced erosion and rehabilitate the stream. The NEORS main line is 216-881-6600, then ask the operator for the Watershed Team Leader for the Doan Brook watershed.

The PMC members and concerned parties shall report to the DBWP, the PMC's coordinating body, to communicate policies and procedures that are at issue or in need of review by the entire PMC.

If representatives from PMC organizations cannot attend a meeting, an alternate may be designated to attend meetings on a regular basis. It is recommended that the PMC meet quarterly to assess on-going practices and coordinate new plans for Parklands management, research, and restoration.

OWNERSHIP AND DEED RESTRICTIONS

Most of the Shaker Lakes Parklands were conveyed to the City of Cleveland by the Shaker

Heights Land Company in 1895. The deed to the City of Cleveland restricts the use of the lands to park purposes.

In 1947 those areas (300 acres) of the parklands that lie within the municipal boundaries of the Cities of Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights were leased to those cities by Cleveland. Under the lease agreements, the Parklands must be maintained by Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights respectively; must be devoted exclusively to park purposes; and must be open to the public. In 1990, the City of Cleveland extended the leases to the Cities of Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights for park purposes for fifty years with the right to extend for an additional fifty years. Thus, the future of the Parklands is secure until the year 2040 or with lease extension until 2090.

In 1968 the City of Cleveland leased to the Shaker Lakes Regional Nature Center (former name of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes) a 4.55 acre parcel where the Nature Center building is located. That lease ran until April 1, 2001, but will remain in effect thereafter until Cleveland City Council terminates it. If for any reason that lease were terminated, the Nature Center parcel would still be subject to the lease from the City of Cleveland to the City of Shaker Heights. The Nature Center manages an additional 20 acres of land around its building per agreement with the Cities of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and the surrounding Shaker Lakes Parklands have been awarded the following special environmental designations:

- National Environmental Education Landmark
- National Environmental Study Area

These designations were awarded to Nature Center by the National Park Service and the United States Department of the Interior. They recognize that one of the primary purposes of the Parklands is environmental education and the health of the habitats upon which environmental education is based. The Nature Center was the first in the nation to be designated a National Environmental Education Landmark.

- Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA)

The Shaker Lakes Parklands are included in a designated Audubon Important Bird Area that encompasses the entire Doan Brook. The National Audubon Society identifies and monitors areas of habitat that are considered important or critical to nesting and migratory birds. The designation "Important Bird Area" calls attention to the habitat, and encourages preservation, maintenance, and improvement of this habitat for native bird species. See <https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/doan-brook-shaker-parklands-lakefront-preserve> for further information.

The Shaker Lakes Parklands have also been awarded this special historical designation:

- Listing on the Register of National Historic Sites

The designation is awarded by the United States Department of the Interior to help assure the preservation of sites of historic value that are located within the Parkland area. The historic sites in the Parklands are remnants of the Shaker colony: the dams at Horseshoe and Lower Shaker Lakes, the Jacob Russell grave site and the remains of the Shaker sawmill foundation.

PART TWO: PUBLIC-USE GUIDELINES FOR THE SHAKER LAKES PARKLANDS

INTRODUCTION

Though the goal of the Shaker Lakes Parklands Management Plan is primarily to set a shared approach to land management and regular maintenance practices, the cities and organizations of the PMC recognize the need for guidance on public-use activities. The following list is a guide for the Shaker Lakes Parklands until a comprehensive public-use plan is in place. The DBWP will serve as a clearinghouse for Parkland usage and management and communicate questions to the appropriate governing entity until a formal planning and public engagement process is initiated.

Passive recreational activities include:

- Walking*
- Nature and ecological studies
- Bird walks and research
- Nature painting, photography, sketching, writing
- Picnicking
- Cross-country skiing
- Bicycling and jogging on paths or roadways
- Horseshoe Lake Park also allows for group picnicking, playground use and organized sports (permit required)**

Group activities include:

- Naturalist-led walks
- Outdoor education programs
- Indoor and outdoor lectures
- Conservation meetings, forums, workshops, programs, exhibits
- Educational day camping sessions for school, college and recreation groups
- Volunteer stewardship, such as clean-ups and invasive plant/animal removal.
- Organized tent camping (permit required)**

* Walking dogs is permitted but owners shall adhere to ordinances concerning dogs and other

pets. All pets must be under control of the owner at all times, should not be permitted to run at large, and all feces must be removed and disposed of by pet owners at their residence. The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes prohibits dogs and cats on their campus to better protect local wildlife and habitats, with the exception of the Upper Rim Trail. Service animals are allowed.

** Groups planning scheduled activities in Horseshoe Lake Park should contact the City of Shaker Heights (216) 491-1400 or <https://www.shakerheightsoh.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Horseshoe-Lake-6>.

Activities prohibited in the Shaker Lakes Parklands include:

- Dumping of any kind
- Feeding or disturbance of wildlife
- Collection or disturbance of plants, fossils, artifacts or other natural objects
- Open fires
- Swimming
- Trailer or overnight tent camping
- Hunting or trapping, except for wildlife management, authorized by the appropriate City
- Archery, unless part of a sanctioned program with The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes or use of firearms
- Rock climbing
- Horseback riding
- All off-road vehicles
- Bicycling or hiking off of paths designated for this use
- Skateboarding
- Ice Fishing
- Fishing from Horseshoe and Lower Lake shores in Cleveland Heights***
- Ice Skating
- Boating, with the exception of non-motorized boats on Lower Lake

***Shaker Heights does not prohibit fishing on the south side of Lower Lake, pending a public use planning process.

PART THREE: MANAGEMENT POLICIES OF THE SHAKER LAKES PARKLANDS

INTRODUCTION

What follows are general policies and recommendations for management of the entire Shaker Lakes Parklands. In addition to general policies, the Parklands have been divided into ten sites, which may include unique guidelines in addition to general policies that apply across the Shaker Lakes Parklands.

RESEARCH & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Wildlife, plants or plant material, geologic features, archaeological features or historic protections should not be disturbed or collected unless a part of an approved scientific, environmental, educational, or historical research project.

Such research is encouraged with permission from the appropriate entity/city. Proposals should be sent to the DBWP to facilitate the process: info@doanbrookpartnership.org. Historical research questions should be directed to the Shaker Historical Society (216) 921-1201 or shakerhistoricalsociety.org. Research on the Nature Center grounds should with permission of the Nature Center. (216)321-5935.

Environmental monitoring of the Shaker Lakes Parklands should be coordinated with DBWP. DBWP will circulate monitoring schedules to all Committee members and, where possible, assist with public awareness. NEORSD has permission to conduct monitoring through service agreements with Cleveland, Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights.

MOWING PLAN

The PMC will collaborate with the municipal service departments to develop a mowing policy and implementation plan for grassy areas within the parklands. Mulching mowers should be considered when purchasing new mowing equipment. Mulched leaves should be left on the landscape wherever possible instead of being blown, bagged or gathered for disposal elsewhere. Leaves left under trees from which they've fallen will provide overwintering habitat for insects that live in the trees. This is especially important for White Oaks.

The cities will mow strips along roads adjacent to all of the parkland's ten sites.

Areas maintained as lawn should be mowed to a height of no less than three inches (3") to allow for the healthiest growth of grass. Sections that are to be maintained as meadow should be mowed in March/April to minimize impact on seed production, wildlife, nesting birds, and to discourage woody growth. Cities will try not to mow when the soil is saturated to avoid compacting soil with heavy equipment. Any changes to mowing plans should be done in consultation with the PMC.

The Shaker Parklands contain several "No Mow" Zones planted with native thickets, grasses, sedges, ferns, and forbs to provide healthy habitat for insects and birds. They are critical to maintaining Parkland designations as an Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) and a National Environmental Landmark. They are also critical to the overall municipal recreation plan that includes opportunities for citizens to enjoy both passive and active recreation. The PMC will meet when necessary to review established No Mow Zones.

A 75' riparian barrier of shrubs, trees, and other appropriate vegetation along the banks of the Doan Brook and Shaker Lakes should be maintained to prevent erosion and provide habitat. Private property owners along the Doan Brook will be encouraged to maintain a 75' vegetated buffer.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources mandates that the cities of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights maintain earthen dams with lawn. No other vegetation is permitted and grass shall not grow taller than-12 inches. According to Ohio Laws and Rules, the owner of a dam is responsible for ensuring that the dam is maintained and operated in such a way that it does not constitute a hazard to life, health, or property. In other words, a dam owner is legally obligated to maintain the safe condition of the dam. Because a dam that holds back, or has the potential to hold back water, poses a foreseeable risk to persons and property downstream, the owner of the structure is responsible for taking precautionary measures.

PRUNING AND TREE REMOVAL

Pruning is permitted in all areas for safety, security, and disease control. Any large-scale pruning should be done in coordination with the PMC. Pruning for aesthetic reasons should follow the site-specific guidelines in this plan.

Trees should not be removed unless there is a safety hazard; trees are diseased or invasive; or an approved land management program necessitates their removal.

Trees in the Parklands play an important role in maintaining temperatures, purifying water, preventing erosion and creating resilient urban habitats.

PLANTING

Native plantings are required within the parklands to enhance aesthetics, to improve and restore natural habitats, to limit access to portions of the park, and to control erosion. Plantings should follow site-specific guidelines in this plan. Permission to plant non-native vegetation should be reviewed by the PMC.

INVASIVE PLANTS

See Appendix for a list of invasive plant species that threaten the Parklands. Cities should distribute this list to the appropriate staff to ensure that plants on this list are not installed by the Cities or their contractors.

No invasive plant species should be planted in the Parklands. Wherever possible, invasive plants should be removed from the Parklands.

The PMC will coordinate with the municipalities to identify invasive plants and to control the spread of monocultures. Both mechanical and chemical removal projects will be reviewed by the PMC.

DUMPING AND LITTER

Current ordinances concerning litter and dumping in the parklands, including yard-waste, should be strictly enforced in order to improve the aesthetic appearance, health and safety of the parklands.

Current ordinances prohibiting the dumping of chemicals into the waterway and into the sewer system should be strictly enforced to prevent chemical contamination of the Shaker Lakes and Doan Brook.

The PMC will work in cooperation with the local service departments to develop and regularly review the placement of trash receptacles. Trash receptacles should be regularly checked and emptied as needed, at least weekly during spring, summer and fall.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Ordinances to control sediment should be followed to reduce stormwater erosion, runoff and sedimentation in the Doan Brook, Shaker Lakes, and Lake Erie. In addition to sediment, runoff carries non-point source pollution which contributes to algal blooms in the Shaker Lakes and Lake Erie, a process known as eutrophication.

The PMC will work in cooperation with the local service departments to locate and correct sites of erosion and sources of siltation in the Doan Brook watershed. Per Ohio EPA, any construction that disturbs an acre of land, or more requires an approved Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3). Stormwater control measures (SCMs) include rain-gardens, bio-swales, permeable pavement and other green infrastructure solutions to reduce runoff from impervious surfaces. The PMC encourages pursuing opportunities to implement and maintain green infrastructure that protects, or improves water quality and natural hydrologic function in Doan Brook, as well as opportunities to expand urban natural areas along the brook.

USE OF CHEMICALS

Chemicals defined as pesticides – including insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, algicides, and rodenticides should not be used in the Parklands except to secure human health or environmental biodiversity and meet regulatory requirements. The use of these and other chemicals should be limited to spot application in areas where a definite problem exists and only after other less ecologically detrimental solutions have been tried.

Salt should be used moderately and only on parking lots, sidewalks, and roadways, knowing that storm sewers flow directly into the Doan Brook and Shaker Lakes.

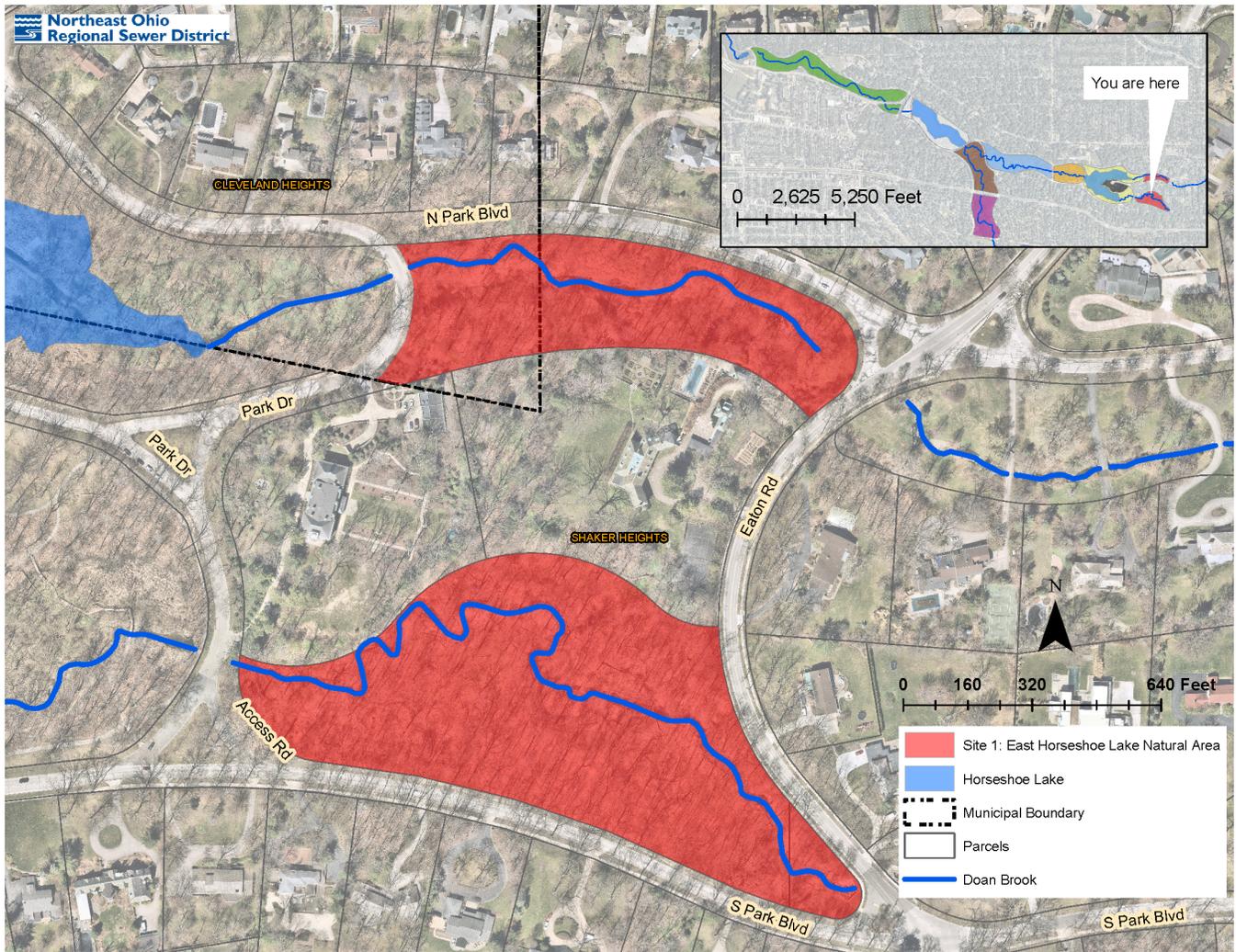
PART FOUR: SITE SPECIFIC POLICIES

The General Policies above apply to all sites.

SITE #1 – EAST HORSESHOE LAKE NATURAL AREA

Location

Site 1 is a natural area of wildlife habitat extending east from Park Drive to Eaton Road along the two branches of the Doan Brook.



Usage

This land is a natural wildlife area with limited recreational use.

Management

In addition to the General Policies, site specific policies include:

- As a natural preserve for wildlife habitat, do not mow other than a narrow strip along adjacent roadways, in accordance with the Mowing Plan.
- Do not prune trees and shrubs, or remove dead trees except as provided in the General Policies.
- With approval from the PMC, native planting and invasive plant removal may be done to improve wildlife habitat, control erosion and limit access.

SITE #2 – HORSESHOE LAKE PARK

Location

This area is bound by the two fingers of Horseshoe Lake and Park Driveway. This parcel is formally known as Horseshoe Lake Park.



Usage

The Park may be used for passive recreational activities such as picnicking; recreational games; and use of the paths, tree-house, playgrounds, and shelters for community events and performances. Information for reserving a pavilion is [here](#).

Management

In addition to the General Policies and in accordance with the [Horseshoe Lake Master Plan](#), site specific policies include:

- Paths may be surfaced with gravel or other appropriate material to protect lawns, and facilitate movement of people through this park area.
- Areas below the picnic grounds along the eastern edge of the Lake to be left natural to

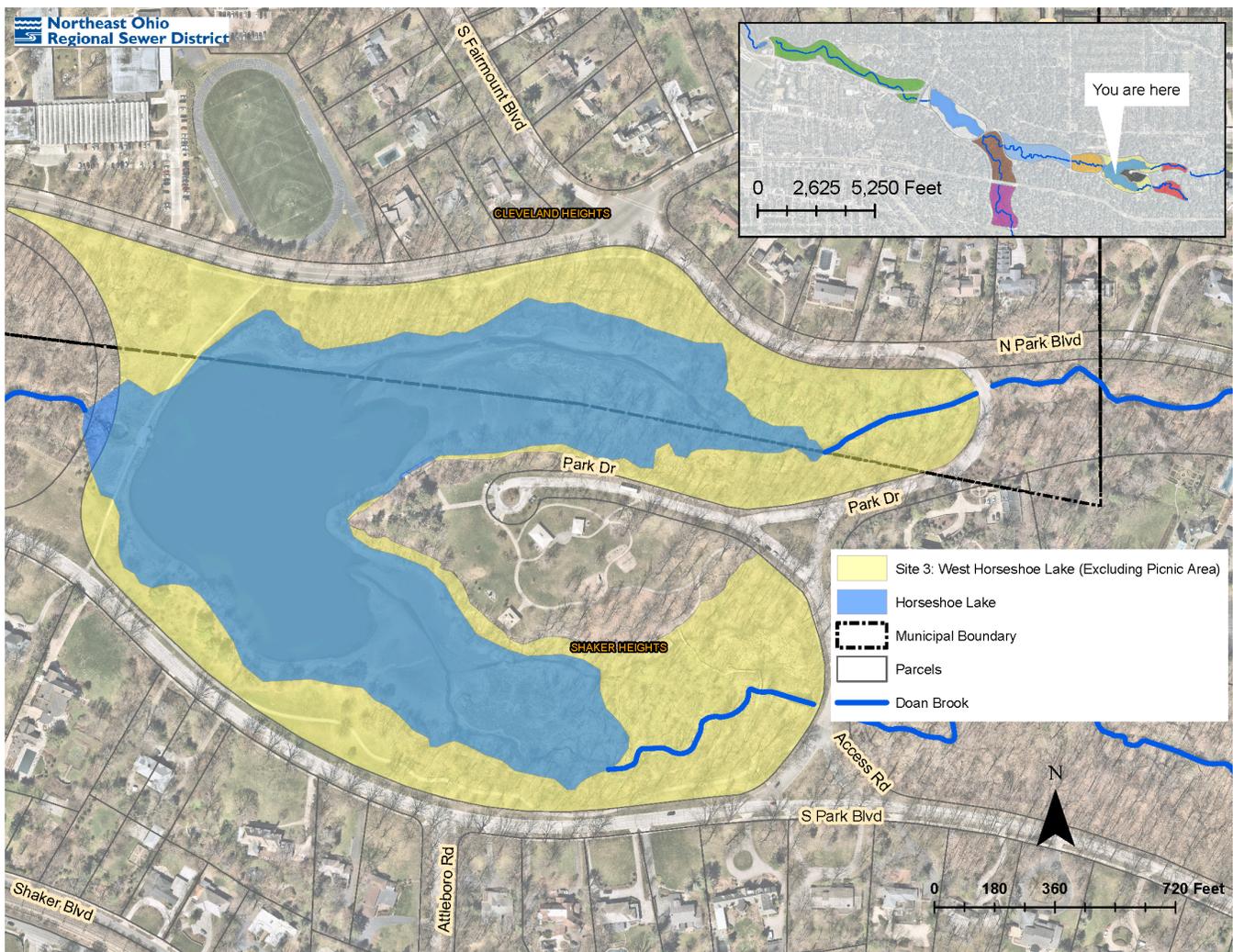
provide a variety of wildlife habitat.

- Maintain a No Mow Area, 2-3' wide, along the lake shore to deter Canada Geese from grazing on its shores. The shoreline should be planted with tall vegetation such as wetland shrubs. At select scenic viewpoints of the Lake, tall marsh plants can be planted instead of shrubs

SITE #3 – WEST HORSESHOE LAKE (EXCLUDING THE PICNIC AREA)

Location

Site 3 includes the upper banks surrounding the lake, including the Shaker-built dam between North Park and South Park Boulevard. It includes the grass sections from Park Drive west to Lee Road, (excluding the marshy areas at the eastern extremes of the lake and the flood plain below the dam covered under Site #4).



Usage

This area should be a natural setting for passive recreation (hiking, birding, individual games,

sketching, education etc.).

Management

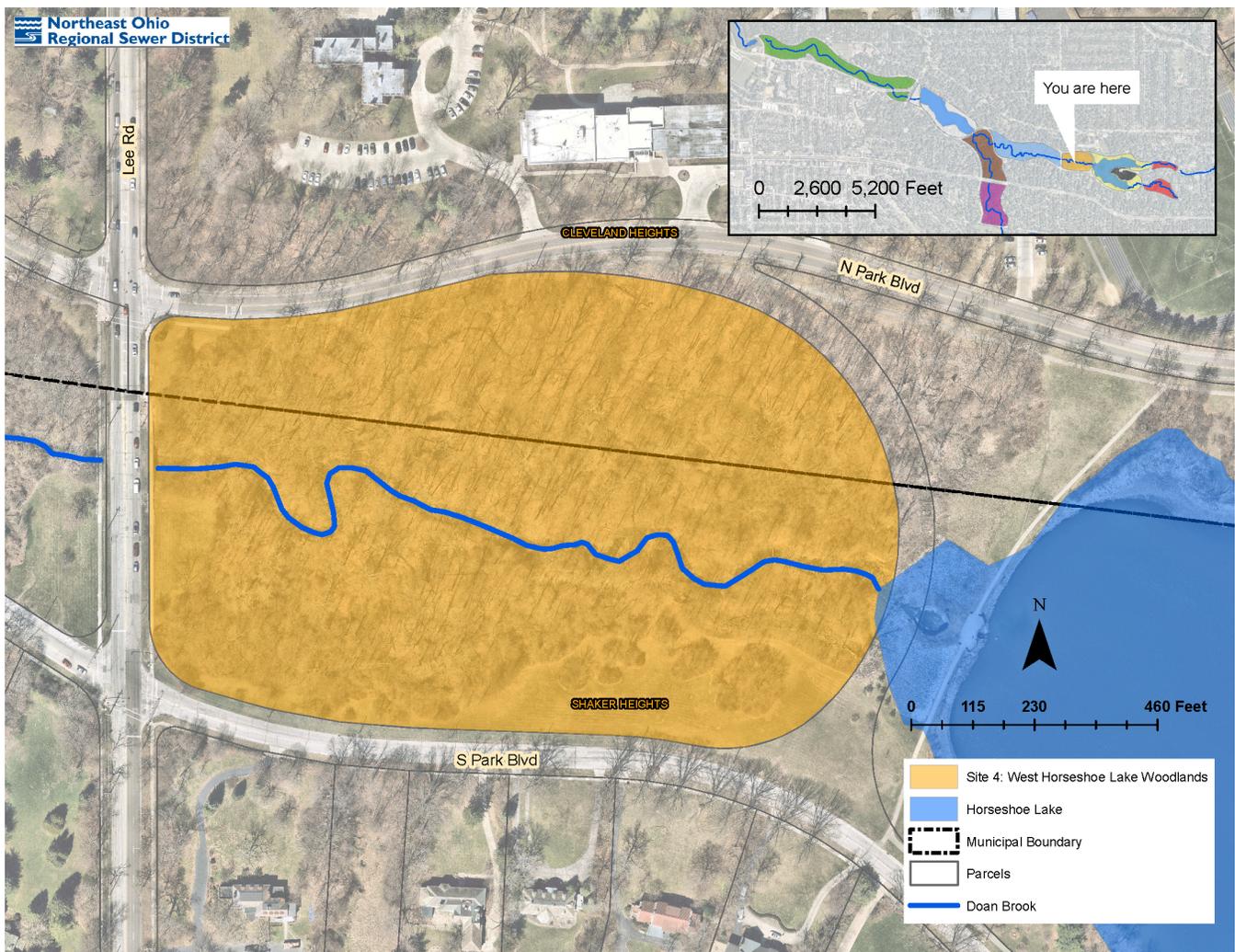
In addition to the General Policies, site specific policies include:

- The dam and the spillway should be kept free of all woody vegetation and carefully maintained to assure good grass coverage at all times.
- Trails should be constructed and maintained to promote usage and to protect habitat.

SITE #4 – WEST HORSESHOE LAKE WOODLANDS

Location

Site 4 is a wildlife habitat preserve, which includes the hillside and forested riparian corridor between Lee Road and Horseshoe Lake dam.



Usage

This land is a natural wildlife area with recreational use, limited to the perimeter, along North

and South Park Blvds. and the mowed fields.

Management

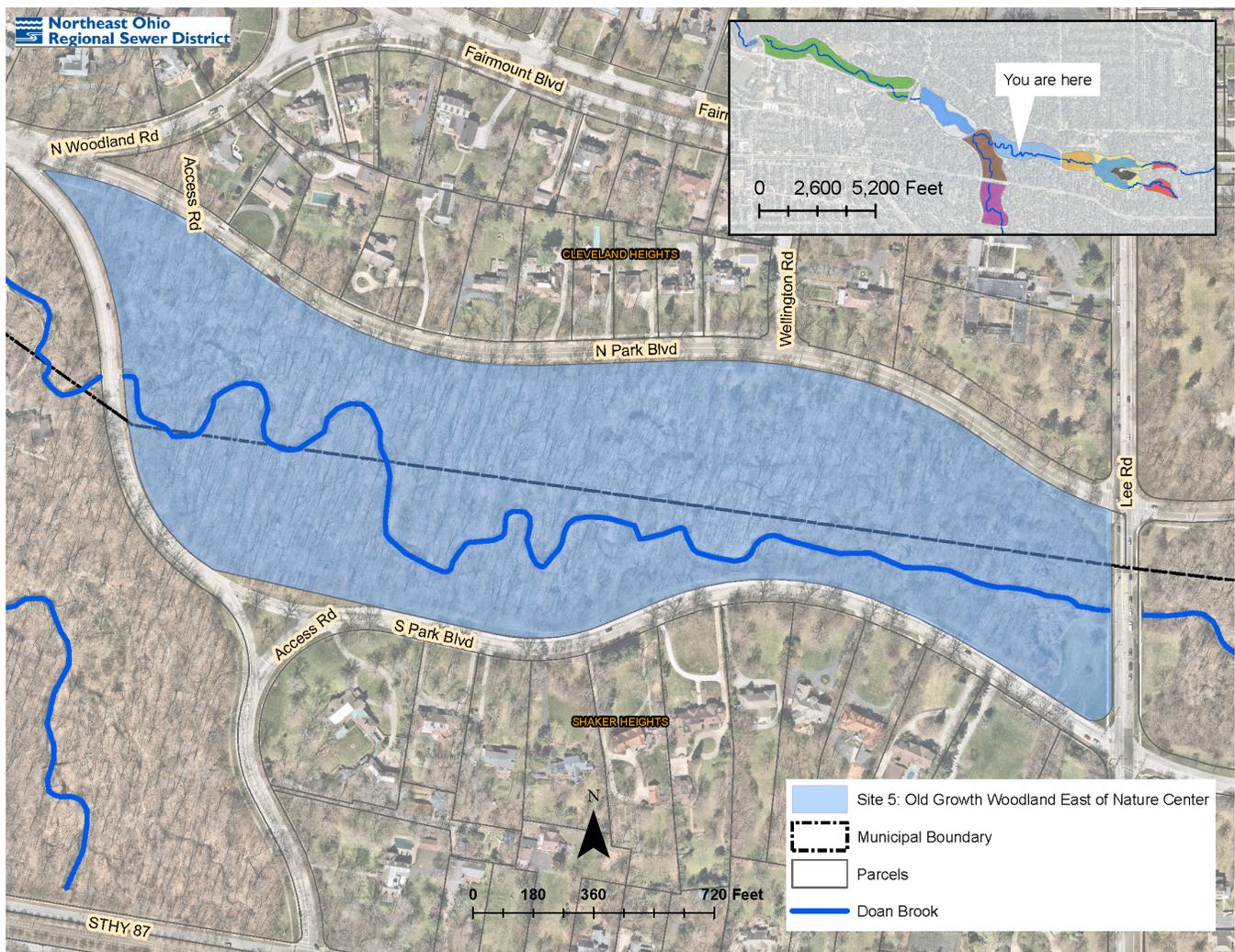
In addition to the General Policies, site specific policies include:

- The woodland within this area is preserved in a natural a state.
- Native plantings may be done to augment existing plantings, improve natural habitats, control erosion and limit access.

SITE #5 – PROTECTED WOODLAND EAST OF NATURE CENTER

Location

Site 5 is forested wildlife habitat preserve between North and South Park Boulevards west of Lee Road to the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes.



Usage

This land is a natural wildlife area with limited recreational use.

Management

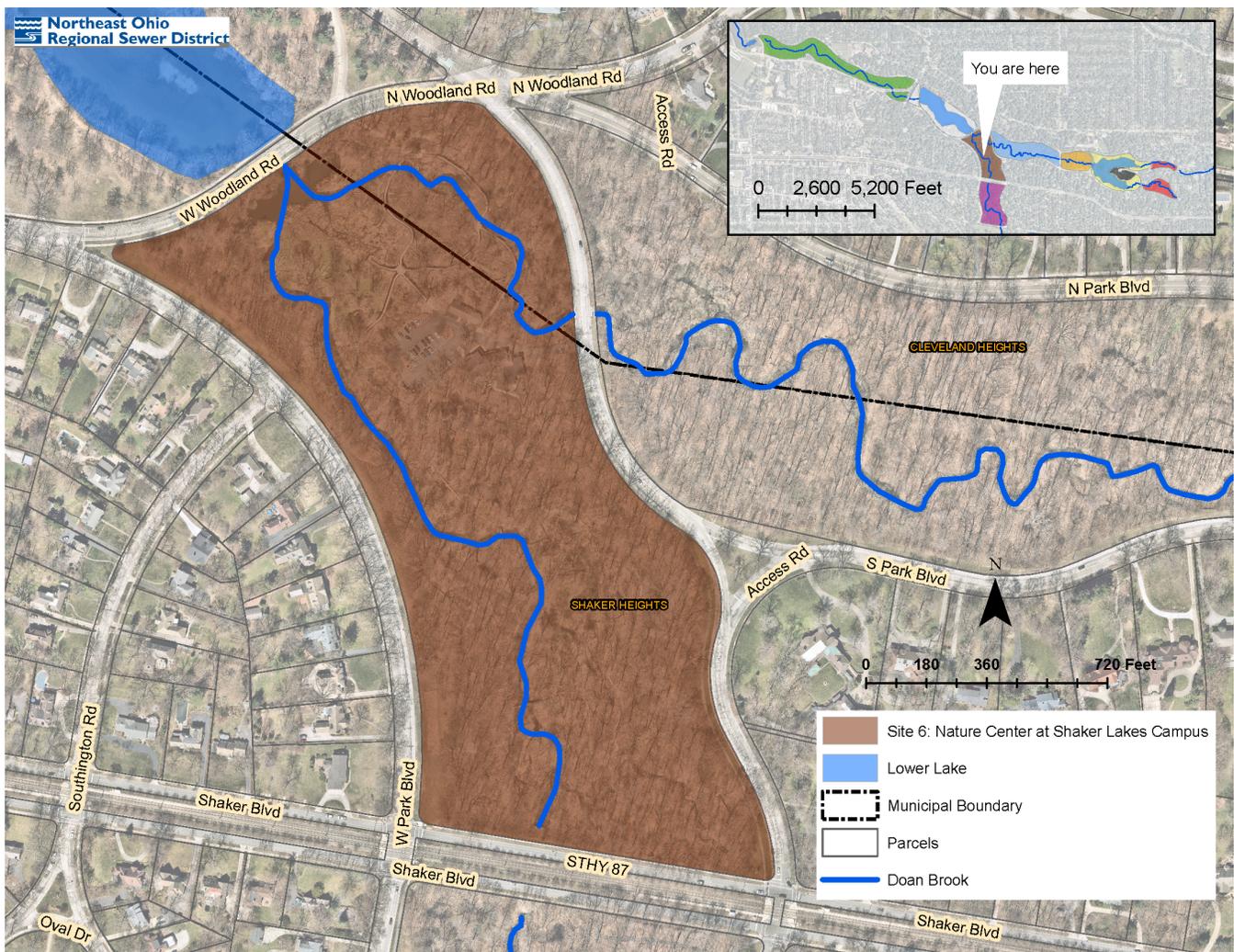
In addition to the General Policies, site specific policies include:

- The area is preserved in a natural state.
- Planting may be done to improve wildlife habitat, encourage reforestation, control erosion, remove invasive plants and animals and limit access.

SITE #6 –NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES

Location

Site 6 is in the immediate vicinity of the NCSL building, bounded by South Park, South Park Extension, Shaker and West Park Boulevards, and North Woodland Road.



Usage

This is the major educational use area for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. Passive

recreation, including hiking, bird-watching, sketching, etc., is permitted, as long as it does not interfere with the activities of the Nature Center.

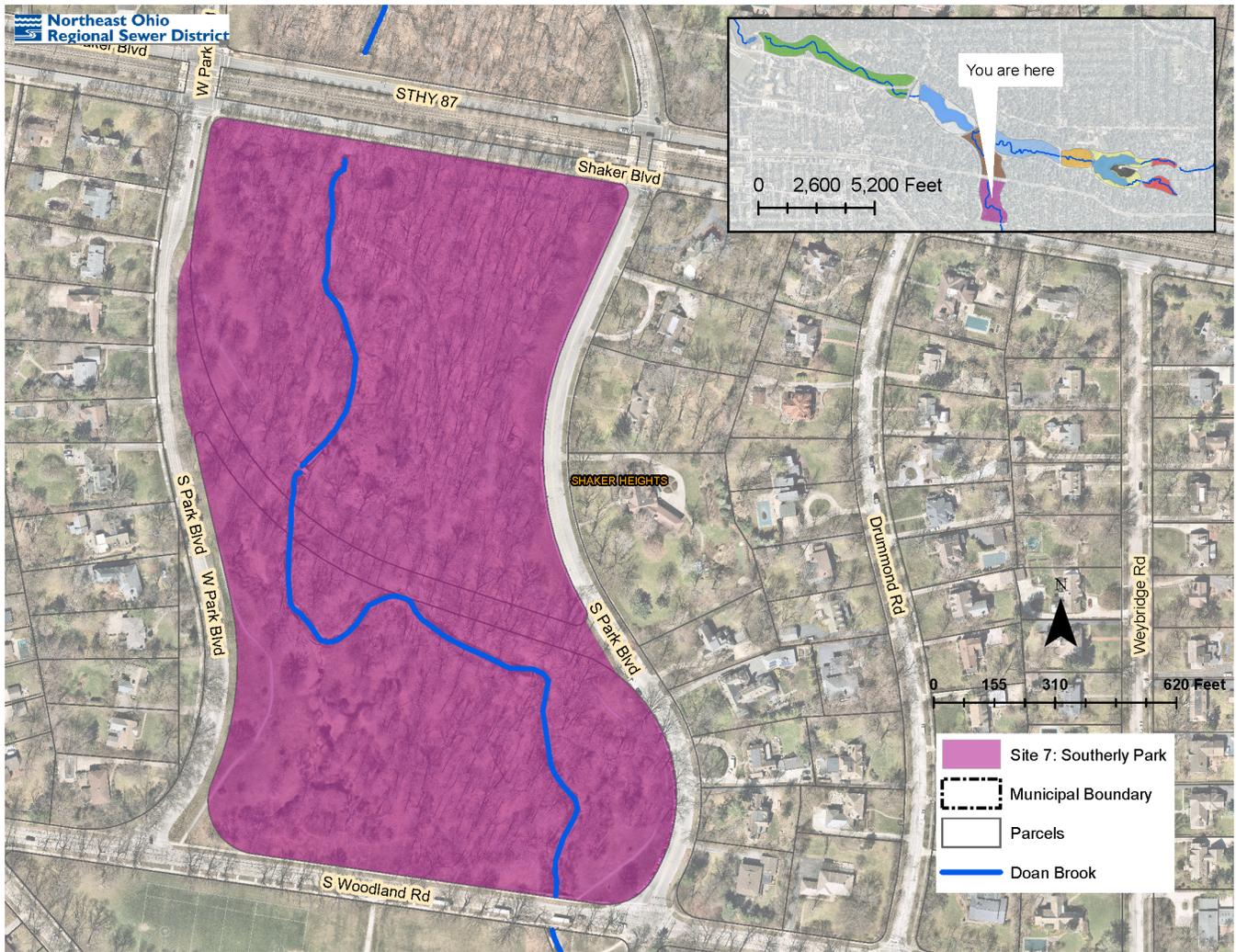
Management

- The entire area is maintained in an ecologically healthy state.
- Mowing will only occur on a seasonal basis for the prairie sections of the property. Mowing should take place in March/April every 2-3 years, weather and time permitting.
- Plantings should be restricted to native species and may be done to restore existing habitats for wildlife; control erosion; increase biodiversity; and improve water quality. Plantings on the perimeter of the parking lot will focus on Ohio natives. The planting of invasive species of any kind is prohibited.
- Pruning and removal of trees and shrubs may be done in accordance with General Policies, but the NCSL's policy includes leaving dead and fallen trees when appropriate for habitat.
- Trails should be carefully constructed to promote usage and to protect habitat.
- Man-made structures such as walkways, shelters, and signs may be constructed to facilitate public movement and education.
- Pets are not permitted on the NCSL grounds, with the exception of the Upper Rim Trail as there is currently no pedestrian walkway on the east side of West Park Blvd.

SITE #7 – SOUTHERLY PARK

Location

Site 7 is bounded by South Park Extension, South Woodland Road, West Park and Shaker Boulevards.



Usage

Compatible uses include recreation, education, and land management demonstration.

Management

In addition to the General Policies, site specific policies include:

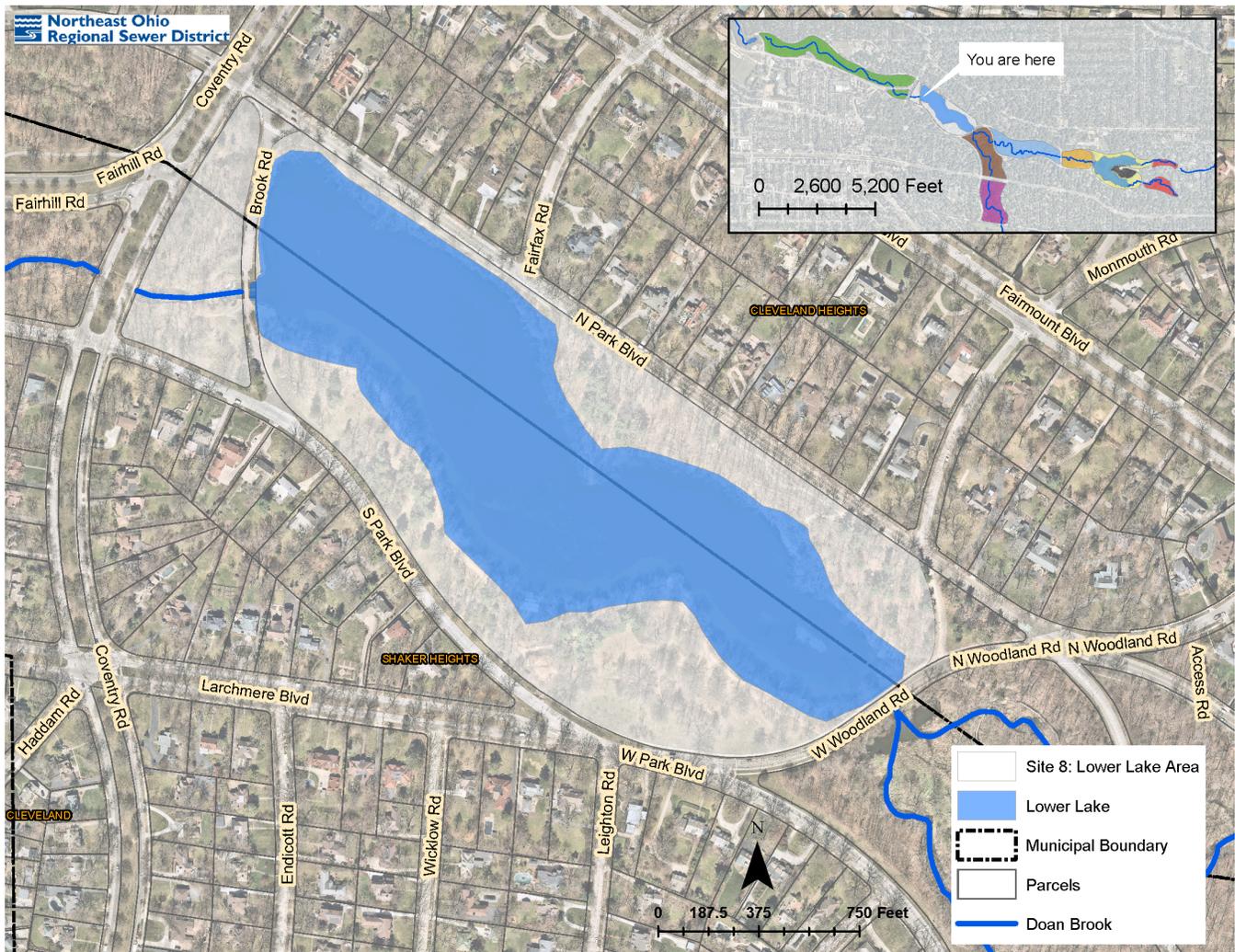
- Structures such as the fitness trail and blacktop bike trail should be blended into the natural setting.
- Native species to be planted to improve wildlife habitat, to provide demonstration plots, increase biodiversity, and to control erosion.
- Trails should be constructed to promote usage and to protect habitat.

SITE #8 – LOWER LAKE AREA

Location

Site 8 is bound by North Woodland Rd., South Park Boulevard, Coventry Rd., and North Park

Boulevard.



Usage

The parklands should be used for passive recreation and education.

Management

In addition to the General Policies, site specific policies include:

- Any plantings planned along roadways where Liberty Row Oaks exist should take into account the heritage status of those trees. Liberty Oaks exist along North Park Blvd. in Cleveland Heights.
- Paths on the south side of Lower Lake should be maintained with woodchips by Shaker Hts.
- Lake shoreline: A 2-3' No Mow Area is maintained to deter Canada Geese from grazing on its shores. The shoreline should be planted with tall vegetation such as wetland shrubs. At select scenic viewpoints of the Lake, tall marsh plants can be planted

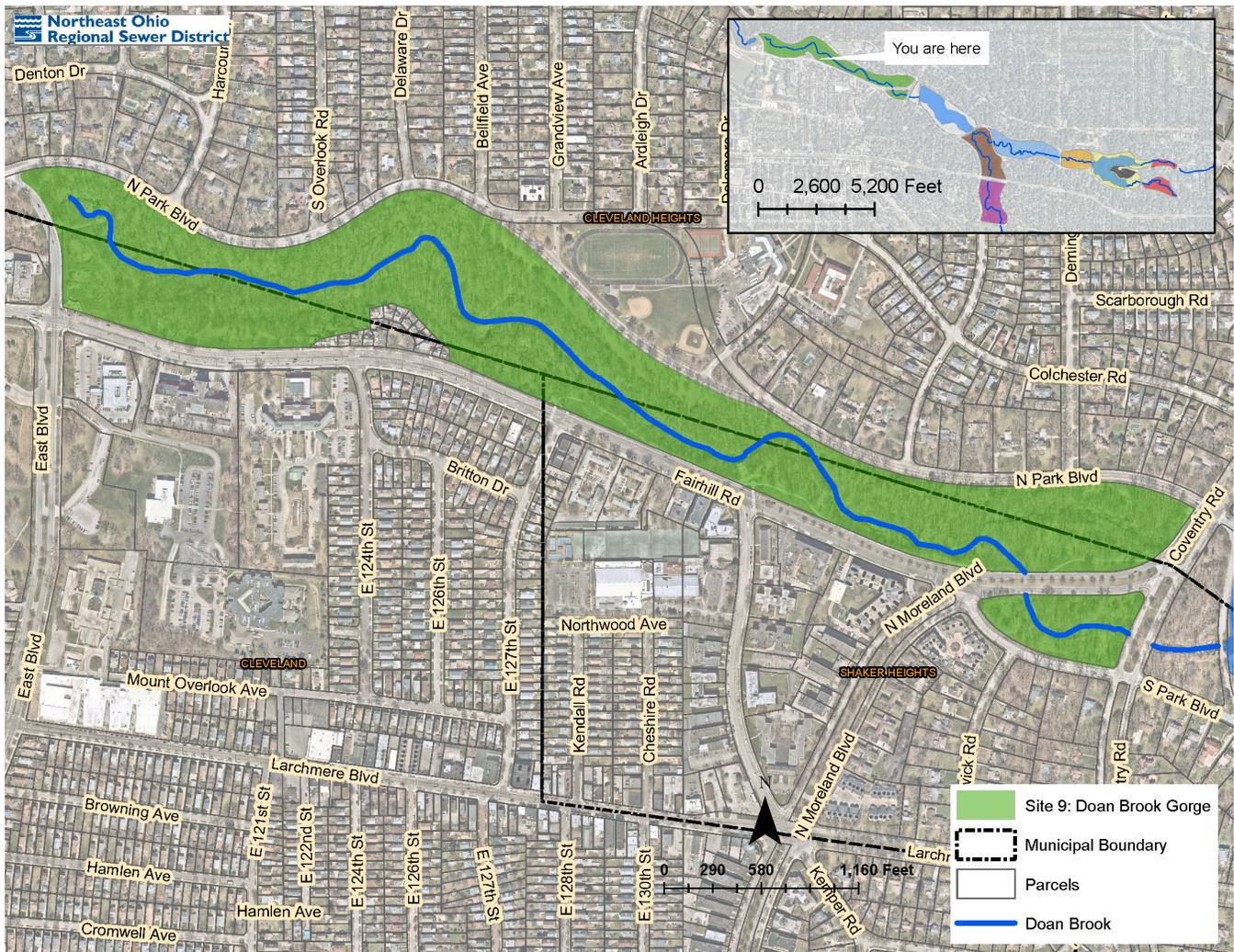
instead of shrubs.

- As per ODNR requirements, the dam and the spillway should be kept free of all woody vegetation and maintained to assure good grass coverage at all times.

SITE #9 – DOAN BROOK GORGE

Location

Site 9 is bounded by Coventry Rd., Martin Luther King Blvd., Fairhill Rd., and North Park Blvd.



Usage

This land is a preserve for wildlife, education and passive recreation.

Management

In addition to the General Policies, site specific policies include:

- This area is preserved in a natural state.

- Plantings should be restricted to native species and may be done to restore existing habitats for wildlife; control erosion; increase biodiversity, and improve water quality.
- Any plantings planned along roadways where Liberty Row Oaks exist should take into account the heritage status of those trees. Liberty Oaks exist along North Park Blvd. in Cleveland Heights.
- NEORS D monitors the debris rack, located 300 feet upstream from the MLK culvert, and periodically removes debris from the face of the rack.

SITE #10 – DOAN BROOK WATERCOURSE

Location

This site is the Brook itself and includes the North, Middle and South branches of the Doan Brook that flow through the Shaker Lakes Parklands, Horseshoe Lake, Lower Shaker Lake, the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and the mainstem of the Brook west of Coventry Road.

Usage

The Brook should be preserved and restored for aquatic & riparian wildlife and for enjoyment and education.

Management

In addition to the General Policies, site specific policies include:

- The stream bed should be left in a natural state, avoiding channeling and culverting.
- NEORS D may undertake projects to remove debris, stabilize stormwater-induced erosion, and rehabilitate the stream in accordance with Stormwater Service Agreements with the cities of Cleveland, Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights.
- Trash should be removed from the water on a regular basis.
- Streambanks should be vegetated.
- Debris which obstructs the flow of water through spillways and under bridges should be removed.
- Improved water quality should be fostered to promote a diversity of wildlife species with careful attention paid to the repair and maintenance of storm sewers, elimination of the inflow of sanitary sewage and prevention of non-point source pollution.
- Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) should be considered when managing or redeveloping property within the watershed. Examples of SCMs include permeable pavement, bioswales, rain-gardens, green-roofs, and bio-retention basins.

APPENDICES

1994-95 DOAN BROOK COMMITTEE

Joan O'Brian: Chair 1994
Judith Rawson: Chair 1995
John Becker
Val Bikerman
Spencer Caress
Randall E. DeVaul
Robert Downey
Jean Eakin
Catherine Fuller
Phillip Hentzelman

David Imbrogno
Ken Johnson
Linda Johnson
Walter Kelley
Peter Knittel
Robert Taylor
John Limbocker, Jr.
Kitty Makley
Alfred McNulty
Patricia Mearns
Betty Miller
Tom Morgan
James Pressler

Erika Reale
Robert Reeves
Normal Rodgers
Richard Santich
Billie Smith
Nancy King Smith
Neil Solstis
Florence Spurney
Terry Schwartz
Charlotte Vanstolk
Judith Vargo
Andy Vidra
Mrs. Robert Wright

2008 PARKLANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Bill Boag, Shaker Public Works
Kathy Bodnar, City of Cleveland Parks and Recreation
Sarah Cech, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
Karen Knittel, Cleveland Heights Planning Department
Victoria Mills, Doan Brook Watershed Partnership

2020 PARKLANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

John Barber, Friends of Lower Lake
Jeri Chaikin, City of Shaker Administration
Mary Dunbar, Cleveland Heights City Council
Jessica Gift, City of Cleveland Parks and Recreation Department
Paul Kovalcik, NEORSD Watershed Programs Department
Karen Knittel, Cleveland Heights Planning Department
Joe McRae, City of Cleveland Heights Parks and Recreation Department
Nick Mikash, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
Victoria Mills, Doan Brook Watershed Partnership
Nancy Moore, Shaker Heights City Council
Elizabeth Smith, Doan Brook Watershed Partnership
Andre Spencer, City of Cleveland Heights Parks and Recreation Department

2024 PARKLANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mo Drinkard, Doan Brook Watershed Partnership

John Barber, Friends of Lower Lake
 Jeri Chaikin, City of Shaker Administration
 Jay Rauschenbach, City of Cleveland Parks and Recreation Department
 Karen Knittel, Cleveland Heights Planning Department
 Mike Blair, NEORSD District Stormwater Representative
 Fransisco Rivera, Watershed Team Leader
 Nick Mikash, Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
 Nancy Moore, Shaker Heights City Council
 Kelly Ledbetter, CH, Dept Parks and Recreation
 Greg Van Neil, Friends of Doan Brook Gorge

INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES LIST

Some plants are unwanted because they are non-native to our eco-region and are a threat to a healthy habitat. Non-native plants can be aggressive and outcompete native species, threatening the life cycle of insects, birds, and mammals that are interdependent with them.

Some of the species in the following list are listed in Ohio Code 901:5-30-01 enacted on 1/7/2018, updated in 2023, that prohibits the sale, propagation, distribution, importation, and/or dissemination of any listed invasive plant. Many thanks to John Barber for his work in compiling this list. (This list updated February, 2024)

Existing plants should be removed, properly disposed of, and replaced with native Ohio species.

All of the following species are prohibited.

Common Name	Scientific Name	X*	Type
Trident Maple	Acer buergerianum – Trident Maple*		Tree
Hedge Maple	Acer campestre – Hedge Maple*		Tree
Amur Maple	Acer ginnala – Amur Maple*		Tree
Box Elder	Acer negundo – Box elder*		Tree
Norway Maple all forms incl K Crim	Acer platanoides – Norway maple*		Tree
Planetree/Sycamore Maple	Acer pseudoplatanus – Planetree/Sycamore Maple*		Tree
Silver maple	Acer saccharinum		Tree
Tartarian Maple	Acer tataricum – Tartarian Maple*		Tree
European Sweet Flag	Acorus calamus		
Horsechestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum - Horsechestnut		Tree
Quack grass	Agropyron repens		
Tree of Heaven	Ailanthus altissima – Tree of Heaven	X	Tree
Mimosa/Silk Tree	Albizia julibrissin – Mimosa/Silk Tree		Tree
Garlic mustard	Alliaria petiolata	X	
European Black Alder	Alnus glutinosa – European Black Alder		Tree
Porcelain Berry	Ampleopsis brevipenduclata	X	

Mugwort	Artemesia vulgaris		
Pinnate Mosquito Fern	Azolla pinnata	X	
Common Bamboo	Bambusa vulgaris – Common Bamboo		Shrub
Japanese Barberry	Berberis thunbergia - Japanese Barberry		Shrub
European Barberry	Berberis vulgaris - European Barberry	X	Shrub
Smooth brome	Bromus inermis		
Paper Mulberry	Broussonetia papyrifera – Paper Mulberry		Tree
Butterfly Bush	Buddleja davidii – Butterfly Bush		Shrub
Flowering-rush	Butomus umbellatus	X	
Nodding thistle	Carduus nutans		
Asian bittersweet	Celastrus orbiculatus	X	
Spotted knapweed	Centaurea maculosa	X	
Chinese Fringetree	Chionanthus retusus - Chinese fringetree		Tree
Canada thistle	Cirsium arvense		
Poison hemlock	Conium maculatum		
Lily of the Valley	Convallaria majalis		
Field bindweed	Convolvulus arvensis		
Crown-vetch	Coronilla varia		
Peking Contoneaster	Cotoneaster acutifolia – Peking cotoneaster		Shrub
Many--flowered Contoneaster	Cotoneaster multiflorus - Many-flowered cotoneaster		Shrub
Queen Anne's lace	Daucus carota		
Teasel, common	Dipsacus fullonum syn. D. sylvestris	X	
Teasel, cut-leaved	Dipsacus laciniatus	X	
Elodea (Brazilian waterweed)	Egeria densa Brazilian	X	
Anchored water hyacinth	Eichhornia azurea	X	
Russian Olive	Elaeagnus angustifolia – Russian Olive	X	Tree
Autumn Olive	Elaeagnus umbellate – Autumn Olive	X	Tree
Willow herb, hairy	Epilobium hirsutum	X	
Willow herb, small-flowered	Epilobium parviflorum		
Hardy Rubber Tree	Eucommia ulmoides - Hardy Rubber Tree		Tree
Burning Bush /Winged Euonymus	Euonymus alatus – Burning bush		Shrub
European spindletree	Euonymus europeaus - European spindletree		Shrub
Wintercreeper	Euonymus fortunei		
Leafy spurge	Euphorbia esula		
Japanese Knotweed	Fallopia japonica	X	
Meadow fescue	Festuca pratensis		
Lesser Celandine	Ficaria verna	X	
Forsythia	Forsythia sp.		
Buckthorn, glossy	Frangula alnus	X	

English Ivy (all forms)	Hedera helix		
Day-lily	Hemerocallis fulva		
Giant hogweed	Heracleum mantegazzianum	X	
Dame's rocket	Hesperis matronalis	X	
Hydrilla	Hydrilla verticillata	X	
European frog-bit	Hydrocharis morsus-ranae	X	
Indian Swampweed	Hygrophila polysperma	X	
Yellow Flag Iris	Iris pseudacorus	X	
Golden Rain Tree	Koelreuteria paniculate – Golden Rain Tree		Tree
African Oxygen Weed	Lagarosiphon major	X	
Shrub Lespedeza	Lespedeza bicolor - Shrub lespedeza		Shrub
Privet	Ligustrum amurense		Shrub
Privet	Ligustrum japonicum		Shrub
Border Privet, Common Privet	Ligustrum obtusifolium - Border privet/Common privet	X	Shrub
Privet	Ligustrum ovalifolium		Shrub
Privet	Ligustrum sinense		Shrub
Privet	Ligustrum vulgare		Shrub
Asian Marshweed	Limnophila sessiliflora	X	
Bush honeysuckles	Lonicera maackii, L. tatarica, L. morrowii, L. japonica	X	
Amur Honeysuckle	Lonicera maackii - Amur honeysuckle	X	Shrub
Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii - Morrow's honeysuckle	X	Shrub
Tartarian Honeysuckle	Lonicera tatarica - Tartarian honeysuckle	X	Shrub
Honeysuckle, showy pink	Lonicera x bella		
Bell's Honeysuckle	Lonicera x bella - Bell's honeysuckle		Shrub
Moneywort	Lysimachia nummularia		
Purple loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria	X	
European wand loosestrife	Lythrum virgatum	X	
European water-clover	Marsilea quadrifolia		
Sweet clover, white	Melilotus alba	X	
Sweet clover, yellow	Melilotus officinalis		
Nepalgrass	Microstegium vimineum	X	
Chinese silvergrass	Miscanthus sinensis		
Arrowleaf false pickerelweed	Monochoria hastata	X	
Heartshape false pickerelweed	Monochoria vaginalis	X	
White Mulberry	Morus alba – White Mulberry	X	Tree
Forget me Not	Myosotis sylvatica		
Parrotfeather watermilfoil	Myriophyllum aquaticum	X	
Eruasian water-milfoil	Myriophyllum spicatum	X	
Brittle waternymph/Lesser naiad	Najas minor	X	

Yellow floating heart	Nymphoides peltata	X	
Star-of-Bethlehem	Onithigalum umbellatum		
Duck Lettuce	Ottelia alismoides	X	
Empress Tree (Paulownia)	Paulownia tomentosa – Empress Tree	X	Tree
Mile-a-minute Vine	Persicaria perfoliata	X	
Reed canary grass	Phalaris arundinacea	X	
Amur Corktree	Phellodendron amurense – Amur Corktree		Tree
Japanese Corktree	Phellodendron japonica – Japanese Corktree		Tree
Common reed or phragmites*	Phragmites australis	X	
Golden Bamboo	Phyllostachys aurea – Golden Bamboo		Shrub
Yellow Grove Bamboo	Phyllostachys aureosulcata – Yellow Grove Bamboo		Shrub
Bissetii Bamboo	Phyllostachys bissetii – Bissetii		Shrub
Red Margin Bamboo	Phyllostachys rubromarginata – Red Margin Bamboo		Shrub
Bamboo	Phyllostachys, Pleioblastus, Pseudosasa, and Bambusa - Bamboo		Shrub
Water Lettuce	Pistia stratiotes	X	
Japanese knotweed	Polygonum cuspidatum		
Giant knotweed	Polygonum sachalinense		
Poplar	Populus		Tree
White Poplar	Populus alba – White Poplar		Tree
Curly pondweed	Potamogeton crispus	X	
Arrow Bamboo	Pseudosasa japonica – Arrow Bamboo		Shrub
Kudzu	Pueraria lobata	X	
Callery Pear (incl Bradford)	Pyrus calleryana – Callery Pear (including Bradford)	X	Tree
Sawtooth Oak	Quercus acutissima – Sawtooth Oak*		Tree
Korean Oak	Quercus dentata – Korean Oak*		Tree
English Oak	Quercus Robur – English Oak*		Tree
Celandine, lesser	Ranunculus ficaria	X	
Common Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica – Common Buckthorn	X	Tree
Glossy Buckthorn	Rhamnus frangula – Glossy Buckthorn		Tree
Jetbead	Rhodotypos scandens - Jetbead	X	Shrub
Watercress	Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum		
Dog rose	Rosa canina		
Multiflora Rose	Rosa multiflora - Multiflora rose	X	Shrub
Wineberry	Rubus phoenicolasius - Wineberry		Shrub
Arrowhead (non-native)	Sagittaria sagittifolia	X	
Willow	Salix		Tree
White Willow	Salix alba – White Willow		Tree
Crack Willow	Salix fragilis – Crack Willow	X	Tree
Common Salvinia	Salvinia minima	X	

Giant Salvinia	Salvinia molesta	X	
Bouncing bet	Saponaria officinalis		
Air-potato	Sioscorea batatas		
Johnson grass	Sorghum halepense		
Simple Bur-reed	Sparganium erectum	X	
Japanese Meadowsweet	Spiraea japonica - Japanese meadowsweet		Shrub
Water Soldier	Stratiodes aloides	X	
Pagoda Tree	Styphnolobium japonicum – Pagoda Tree		Tree
Japanese Snowbell	Styrax japonicus – Japanese Snowbell		Tree
Japanese Tree Lilac (Ivory Silk)	Syringa reticulata – Japanese Tree Lilac (Ivory Silk)		Tree
Korean Evodia	Tetradium daniellii – Korean Evodia		Tree
Water chestnut	Trapa natans	X	
Cattail, narrow-leaved	Typha angustifolia	X	
Cattail, hybrid	Typha x glauca	X	
Chinese Elm	Ulmus parvifolia – Chinese Elm		Tree
Siberian Elm	Ulmus pumila – Siberian Elm	X	Tree
Wayfaring Tree	Viburnum lantana – Wayfaring-Tree		Shrub
European Cranberry bush viburnum	Viburnum opulus – European cranberry bush viburnum		Shrub
Japanese/Chinese Snowball	Viburnum plicatum		
Periwinkle or myrtle	Vinca minor		
Black swallow-wort	Vincetoxicum nigrum	X	
Japanese Zelkova	Zelkova serrata - Japanese zelkova		Tree

*PROHIBITED IN OHIO (as of 2/2023)

**The planting of non-native maples and oaks should be avoided in general due to their capacity to abundantly reproduce and escape; there are numerous native maple and oak alternatives

When possible, [native plants should be considered for planting](#).