

OFFSITE FIELD TRIPS – SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022

9:00 am to Noon: ***Worked over but Working; Transforming Post-industrial Sites to Functional Landscapes (bus tour)***. Paul Kovalcik and Jeff Jowett, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Cleveland, Ohio. Email: kovalcik@neorsd.org , jowettj@neorsd.org

Fieldtrip participants should meet in the parking lot at Manakiki at 9:00 am to load the buses. Parking is limited or non-existent at most of the sites. Attendees are strongly encouraged to use the transportation that has been provided. Masks should be worn while in vehicles.

As part of its Project Clean Lake Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) control and Green Infrastructure Grant programs, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) has overseen or funded the installation of over 50 green infrastructure projects throughout greater Cleveland. This field trip led by NEORS staff, will visit several of these projects, which have been designed to remove stormwater before it enters the combined sewer system. Given the urban nature of the area, many of the sites have a legacy of industrial or residential use, and required considerable work to remove abandoned infrastructure, buildings, and trash before functioning green infrastructure facilities could be constructed. While none of the sites can be deemed “restored”, they now provide valuable services such as pollinator habitat, and the capture and filtration of stormwater runoff.



From Manakiki, the bus will travel to the Morgana Run and Kingsbury Run watersheds/sewersheds to the Fleet Avenue basin. From there the bus will make a brief stop at the Morgana Bluff Stormwater Wetland, and then proceed on to the Urban Agriculture Green Infrastructure and Woodland Central green infrastructure sites. Next the vans will travel to East Cleveland and visit the E.140th Green Infrastructure sites, which are in the Nine Mile Creek watershed/sewershed. Other local restoration and green infrastructure projects will be pointed out along the route. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about NEORS’s CSO Control Program and efforts to repurpose post-industrial sites into functioning landscapes. Local lore and infamous historic Clevelanders will be discussed along the way. The tour will be suited for attendees who are not comfortable walking long distances, but appropriate walking footwear is recommended. The buses do not have restroom facilities, so please use them prior to departure.

9:00 am to 11:00 am (transportation time not included): ***Valley View Restoration – 100 years in the Making (presentation & walking tour)***. Mike Johnson, Summit Metro Parks, Akron, Ohio. Email: mjohnson@summitmetroparks.org

Field trip participants should meet at Valley View Conservation Area, Summit Metro Parks (1212 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH) at 9:00 am. This site is approximately 45 – 50 minutes from Manakiki. Valley View Conservation Area is the newest acquisition of the Summit Metro Parks. This former 200-acre golf course is being restored to a natural area. The completed project restored over 2,000 feet of headwater streams, nearly 1-mile of the mainstem of the Cuyahoga River, 80-acres of floodplain, and 30-acres of wetlands. The majority of the site will be forested but will also include some open area habitats. In addition to the ecological restoration, the site is being planned for outdoor recreation. Portions of the project have been completed via a Clean Ohio Grant from Ohio Public Works and also through National Oceanic Atmospheric Association and the Great Lakes Commission. The presentation will discuss project planning and ecological design, cultural resource preservation, funding, public participation, project implementation, and monitoring. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars for viewing wildlife. Please wear clothes and shoes suitable for hiking in moderately rugged terrain. Golf carts will be provided to enable seeing more of the project area. Participants should also bring a reusable water bottle.



10:00 am to 12:30 pm (transportation time not included): ***Rehabilitating Landscape Legacies to Restore Ecosystem Resilience for the Future (walking tour)***. Constance Hausman, PhD, Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, Ohio. Email: ceh@clevelandmetroparks.com

Field trip participants should meet at Harper Ridge picnic area in South Chagrin Reservation (Hawthorne Parkway, Solon, OH) at 10:00 am. This site is approximately 20 minutes from Manakiki. Cleveland Metroparks will feature two very different restoration projects that each provide natural resource resilience from the impacts of climate change. Both projects are located at South Chagrin Reservation in the Sulphur Springs subwatershed, a tributary to the Chagrin River. The first legacy site was a private runway surrounded by mature, forest and wetland mosaic. After acquisition,



the partners worked with a consultant to disrupt unnatural drainage ways and daylight a small stream. The second legacy site was a former cattle pasture that had converted to a mature dense red maple forest. Recent timber harvest treatments were applied to stimulate young tree regeneration and to promote better species and structural diversity. The partners will describe ongoing monitoring and invasive plant control that will enhance the forest management activities. Participants should wear layered clothing and comfortable shoes and bring a reusable water bottle. Site one may be wet and includes some off trail walking, but the ground is relatively level.

9:00 am to 12:00 pm (transportation time not included): ***Coastal Wetland Restoration at Mentor Marsh.*** David Kriska, PhD, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio. Email: dkriska@cmnh.org



Field trip participants should meet at Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve (5185 Corduroy Rd., Mentor, OH) at 9:00 am. This site is approximately 25-30 minutes from Manakiki. As one of the most species-rich sites on the Great Lakes shoreline, Mentor Marsh is a National Park Service-designated National Natural Landmark (1966). The Marsh was named Ohio's first State Nature Preserve in 1971 and is a National Audubon Society Important Birding Area. This 806-acre wetland suffered dramatically in 1966 when salt-mine tailings leached into Blackbrook Creek. By 1973 most of the swamp forest trees and marsh plants had died, and the 4-mile-long wetland basin was overtaken by reed grass (*Phragmites australis*), a 15' to 24' tall nonnative invasive plant from Eurasia. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History began the large-scale restoration of Mentor Marsh in 2015. Guided by Museum restoration ecologists, the *Phragmites* monoculture was sprayed with an aquatic-safe herbicide and then physically mashed flat to allow native plants to grow. Over 180 species of native plant species have been documented sprouting from the soil seed bank, including 3 state-listed plants. Rare marsh birds—such as American and Least Bitterns, and Virginia, King and Sora Rails are nesting, and wading birds and waterfowl are now frequent. Yellow Perch fingerlings are now using the Marsh as a nursery and Northern Pike are spawning. Participants will discuss restoration challenges while visiting the West Basin that reached maintenance mode in 2020 and the East Basin where restoration was recently initiated and is mid-recovery. This field trip will be outdoors, so dress accordingly for cold weather and anticipated rapidly changing conditions given the immediate proximity to Lake Erie and its infamous Snow Belt lake-effect snow.

10:00 am -12:00 pm: ***“Behind the Scenery”- Acacia Service Project (volunteer workday)*** Josh Philipps, Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland, Ohio. Email:jjp1@clevelandmetroparks.com

Field trip participants are responsible for their own transportation. The location of this field trip is the Acacia Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks. The field trip will be a hands on opportunity to contribute to the ongoing restoration activities at the former golf course transformed to natural area and park. Activities may include installing live stakes around constructed wetlands or repairing cages that protect young trees from deer browse pressure. We will walk through several different areas of the reservation and discuss opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned from the day to day management of a golf course restoration in an urban environment. Participants should dress accordingly for the weather and be prepared to travel off trail. Work gloves will be provided, although feel free to bring your own.

