



NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PARMA'S CLEVELAND METROPARKS WEST CREEK RESERVATION PROJECT BEGINS NEXT WEEK

(PARMA) – West Creek Reservation in Parma, originally opened in 2006, will receive a \$12 million face lift beginning in March 2011 with a fall 2012 completion date. A ground-breaking is scheduled for Monday, March 7 at 10 a.m. at the 325-acre reservation.

The project includes: a novel Watershed Stewardship Center with innovative exhibits, reserved group picnic facility, operation facility, trails - including 1.7-miles of all purpose trail, interpretive overlooks and a new entry drive.

“This 300-plus acre park will be a jewel, not only our residents but for all Greater Clevelanders,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “We take pride in partnerships like this that make good things happen for communities like Parma. The park will become a one-of-a-kind destination point for northern Ohioans – a place where they can visit, enjoy and learn.”

“Cleveland Metroparks is pleased to preserve and restore this geologically-unique and biologically-diverse reservation,” said Brian Zimmerman, Cleveland Metroparks executive director. “This project would not have been possible without our partners: Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the City of Parma and West Creek Preservation Committee.”

The Watershed Stewardship Center will have a variety of interactive exhibits that will invite visitors to identify their impact on the West Creek watershed. Using West Creek as an example, impacts on urban streams, like impervious surfaces, storm water and pollution, will be interpreted and discussed. Center visitors will be able to share their insights as they participate in a simulated decision-making planning process that illustrates impacts on the West Creek Watershed.

The 1.7-mile trail includes a loop around an existing meadow and bridges that crisscross the 9-mile West Creek, a centerpiece of the reservation.

(more)

Fechko Excavating, Incorporated of Medina will be responsible for all the site improvements including trails, roads, overlooks, and parking lots. Seitz Builders, Inc. of Broadview Heights will construct the Watershed Stewardship Center and Park Operations buildings.

For more information contact Jane Christyson: 216-635-3229 / 216-780-9592 or Bob Rotatori: 216-635-3263 / 216-339-1699.

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