

ORDINANCE NO.**Executive Summary****Legislative Request:**

Authorizing the Director of Community Development to apply for and accept a Clean Ohio Fund – Green Space Conservation Program grant in an amount up to \$250,000, from the Ohio Public Works Commission, for construction of the Morgana Bluff Nature Preserve and Learning Center. Authorizing the Director of Community Development to enter into one or more contracts with the Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland, or its designee, to implement said project, and to enter into any other agreement necessary to implement the grant project, the cost of which will be paid from the grant.

Purpose:

To allow the Director of Community Development to apply for and accept a Clean Ohio Fund – Green Space Conservation Program grant in an amount up to \$250,000, and then to allow the Director of Community Development to contract those funds with Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland (or designee) to implement the Morgana Bluff Nature Preserve and Learning Center.

Once home to the Cleveland Woolen Mills, which attracted the much of the Eastern European population from which the neighborhood derives its name, the site has been vacant or partially vacant for the past 61 years due to the closing of the mills and a subsequent fire that destroyed the complex. In 2011, the portion of the millworks that comprises the project site was remediated and capped.

Since that time nature has been allowed free reign. A pioneering wood has sprung up on the steep hillsides. Wetlands developed along the edges and a meadow emerged at the bottom of the bowl-like site. Habitat for the endangered species of bird and bats may now be found on site. Sharp-shinned Hawks, a species of concern in Cuyahoga County, have been documented on site. This project intends to preserve, restore, and enhance these developing ecosystems and protect these rare species.

The site will be accessible to the public via ADA compliant trails and boardwalks. A gathering space for teaching, observing, or simply enjoying will be located in or adjacent to each. In the more hardy zones of the wood and meadow and at the forebay of the wetlands will be well-defined interactive areas to allow visitors, especially children, to safely explore nature.

Project Implementation and Budget

The project will be implemented by Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland, under contract with the City of Cleveland. The parcels making up the site are owned by the City of Cleveland, which intends to donate the property to the project through future legislation, and by the Cleveland Municipal School District, which will grant a conservation easement.

The project cost is estimated at \$489,400, which will be borne by the Clean Ohio Fund – Green Space Conservation Program grant and a grant from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (to be applied for).

Use	Amount	Source
Property Acquisition	\$15,000	Clean Ohio Fund
Design and Engineering	\$106,000	Clean Ohio Fund
Site Improvements	\$128,400	Clean Ohio Fund
Green Infrastructure	\$240,000	NEORSD Fund
Total Est Cost	\$489,400	