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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Davenport Memorial Woodlands is the Park District of Ottawa County's newest park

Catawba Island, OH, May 20, 2025 – The Park District of Ottawa County (PDOC) is excited to announce its newest property, Davenport Memorial Woodlands, a 17-acre parcel of woodlands located on Catawba Island.

The Park District was successful in receiving grant funding from the Clean Ohio Fund to make this acquisition a reality. The sellers, siblings John M., Jerry M., Jordan M., and Janet M. Davenport, agreed to a \$25,000.00 donation at closing to the Park District of Ottawa County as part of the naming rights request. Davenport Memorial Woodlands is planned to be an addition to the Park District's Islander Woods and Trailhead property, acquired in March 2024.

"This incredible piece of property is now forever preserved for the benefit of nature and our communities," said Park District of Ottawa County Executive Director Jannah Wilson, "We look forward to developing walking trails compatible with the natural environment, public programs, wildlife viewing, and birding opportunities."

Both Islander Woods and Davenport Memorial Woodlands are currently closed to public access with all Park District Rules and Regulations in place. The purchase of the property is a cost share between the Ohio Public Works Commission Clean Ohio Fund and the Park District of Ottawa County (PDOC). The Park District received a disbursement of \$552,485.00 from the Ohio Public Works Commission Clean Ohio Fund for the purpose of purchasing the Davenport property for conservation and public use. The remaining funding for the acquisition came from the Park District's tax levy funds allocated for land purchases.

The naming rights and the purchase were approved at the April 1, 2025, public meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners. Closing took place on April 30, 2025.

Construction and engineering plans call for habitat restoration, trails, signage and the installation of an area for parking, among other amenities. The Park District of Ottawa County is grateful to all those involved who helped save these parcels of wooded land from development and commercial use. The Park District of Ottawa County is dedicated to preserving, enhancing, and connecting Ottawa County's natural and recreational resources for the enjoyment and benefit of all. To learn more about the Park District of Ottawa County, visit ottawacountyparksoh.org and follow the Park District of Ottawa County at www.facebook.com/parkdistrictofottawacounty.