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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West Harbor Preserve expands to include more than 28 acres

Catawba Island Township, OH, May 13, 2026 – The Park District of Ottawa County continues to make strides in its mission to preserve the county’s natural and recreational resources.

The West Harbor Preserve, a 12-acre area that includes a broad marsh and quarter mile of shoreline on Lake Erie’s West Harbor, has expanded to include an additional 16.36 acres of adjacent property, for a total of 28.36 acres of protected land. The Park District utilized Clean Ohio Conservation Funds to purchase the additional acreage. The 12-acre parcel was donated to the Park District of Ottawa County by Black Swamp Conservancy.

The West Harbor Preserve Master Plan will be updated to include the new 16.36 addition, aptly called the West Harbor Preserve Phase 2 Expansion Project. Overall plans for the property call for a kayak launch, birding amenities, parking, habitat restoration, and a trail system compatible with the native landscape. The Catawba Park Areas Master Plan is available to view on the Park District of Ottawa County’s website, <https://ottawacountyparksoh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Catawba-Park-Areas-Master-Plans-2025-11-14.pdf>

Directly connected to Lake Erie, West Harbor is a waterfowl stopover area hosting a variety of native and migratory flora and fauna.

“The 16.36-acre addition to the West Harbor Preserve will significantly expand the Park District’s efforts to protect valuable coastal habitat while creating new opportunities for outdoor recreation,” said Jannah Wilson, executive director of the Park District of Ottawa County. “We are especially grateful for the strong local taxpayer support which makes important grant-funded

projects like this possible, along with the substantial financial assistance provided through the Clean Ohio program.”

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.

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