

Advertisement - scroll for more content

LOCAL

Black Swamp Conservancy donates 12 acres of land, marsh, shoreline to Ottawa parks

Property donated by Black Swamp Conservancy

USA TODAY NETWORK

Published 5:18 a.m. ET Jan. 9, 2024 | Updated 5:18 a.m. ET Jan. 9, 2024



PORT CLINTON – Regional land trust, the Black Swamp Conservancy, donated an undeveloped 12-acre parcel of land to the Park District of Ottawa County (PDOC), that includes a broad marsh and a quarter mile of shoreline on Lake Erie’s West Harbor.

The parcel, located in Catawba Island Township, will be site of a park maintenance facility and will include a kayak launch, walking trails, parking area and habitat restoration projects. It is the first park area owned by the Park District of Ottawa County and will be named the West Harbor Preserve, according to a press release.



The marsh and shoreline of the West Harbor Preserve area. Park District Of Ottawa County

The 12-acre parcel is one of two pieces of conservation land on Catawba Island that were purchased earlier this year by the Black Swamp Conservancy through a grant from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. The other property contains more than 19 acres of mature hardwood forest and will be retained by the Conservancy for migratory bird and wildlife habitat.

Advertisement

We're always working to improve your experience. [Let us know what you think.](#)

Park district now owns property

“On Dec. 21, 2023, we had a milestone moment for the Park District. It has been 31 years since the inception of the Park District, but we can now say we own property to develop our first park area,” said Jannah Wilson, executive director for the Park District of Ottawa County, in the release. “Working with the Black Swamp Conservancy has been a great experience and we look forward to a strong partnership for years to come as we work together to reestablish the natural riparian habitat. Most importantly, we are grateful for the support from Ottawa County taxpayers.”



From left are: Jack Madison, board member for the Park District of Ottawa County, Mike Shadoan, board member for the Park District of Ottawa County, Jannah Wilson, executive director of the Park District of Ottawa County, Rob Krain, executive director of Black Swamp Conservancy, and Ellie Schiappa, conservation associate for Black Swamp Conservancy. Provided By Park District Of Ottawa County

“Projects such as this are made possible through the Park District’s 10-year, 0.6-milloperating levy that was passed by Ottawa County voters in November 2020,” she said. “The levy will continue to support the Park District as we develop amenities and maintain the property now and in the future.”

Park district formed in 1992

The Park District of Ottawa County, established in 1992, will issue a request for proposals (RFP) for a park master plan and preliminary engineering design, Wilson said.

Advertisement

Development of the West Harbor Preserve will take up to two years, during which time the preserve will not be publicly accessible. Located in Catawba Island Township on a body of water known locally as “the inner harbor,” the protection of the 12 acres prevents the land from being lost to development, said Ellie Schiappa, conservation associate for Black Swamp Conservancy, in a West Harbor Preserve Documentation Report. Preserving this open space for perpetuity ensures this essential property is protected from development pressures.



An overview of the West Harbor Preserve in Ottawa County. Provided By The Park District Of Ottawa County

“The Conservancy is pleased to donate this property to the Park District of Ottawa County. That this project represents the Park District’s first owned land is all the more exciting,” said Rob Krain, executive director of Black Swamp Conservancy, in the release. “Our organization often takes the lead on acquiring important lands, like this one, and gifting them to local entities to manage for public use. We’ve done similar projects with Catawba Island Township, Danbury Township, Sandusky County Park District and many other partners.”

The News-Messenger/News Herald



Advertisement

Port Clinton News Herald

Part of the USA TODAY Network

About

- Staff Directory
- Careers
- Accessibility Support
- Site Map
- Legals
- Our Ethical Principles
- Responsible Disclosure
- Subscription Terms & Conditions
- Terms of Service
- Privacy Policy
- [Your Privacy Choices](#)

Support

- Contact Us
- Support Local Businesses
- Advertise Your Business
- Advertising Terms and Conditions
- Buy and Sell
- Help Center
- Subscriber Guide
- Give Feedback
- Licensing & Reprints

Stay Connected

- Subscribe Today
- Newsletters
- Mobile Apps
- Facebook
- X
- eNewspaper
- Archives

Our Partners

- Jobs
- Cars
- Homes
- Classifieds
- Education
- Reviewed
- 10Best
- LocalIQ Digital Marketing Solutions