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LOCAL **Black Swamp Conservancy donates**

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12 acres of land, marsh, shoreline to **Ottawa parks** Property donated by Black Swamp Conservancy USA TODAY NETWORK

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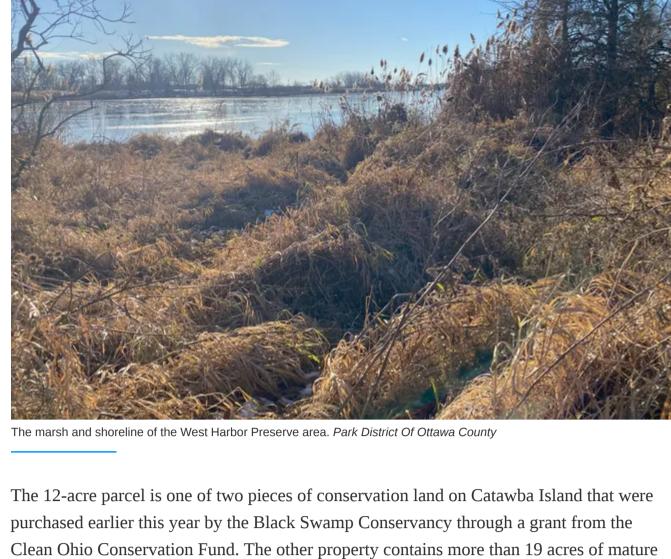
PORT CLINTON – Regional land trust, the Black Swamp Conservancy, donated an

habitat.

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.



hardwood forest and will be retained by the Conservancy for migratory bird and wildlife

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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

Park district now owns property

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."

"On Dec. 21, 2023, we had a milestone moment for the Park District. It has been 31 years

County, in the release. "Working with the Black Swamp Conservancy has been a great



The Park District of Ottawa County, established in 1992, will issue a request forproposals Advertisement

(RFP) for a park master plan and preliminary engineering design, Wilson said.

Park district formed in 1992

pressures.

Development of the West Harbor Preserve will take up to two years, during which time the

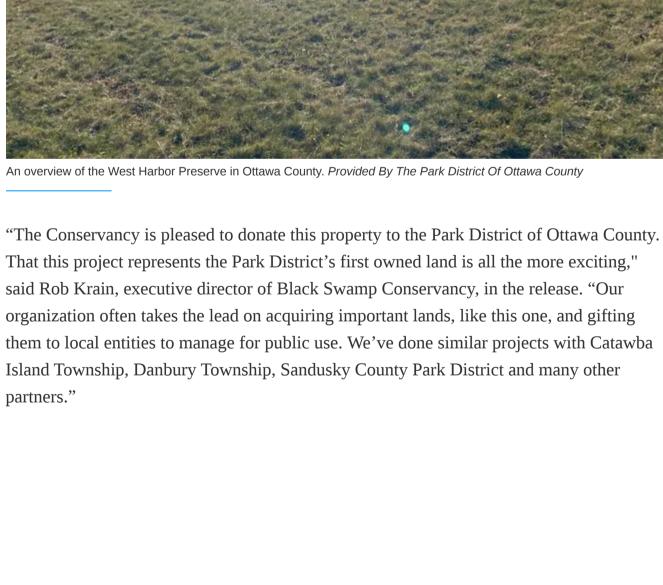
preserve will not be publicly accessible. Located in Catawba Island Township on a body of

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



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