



# Board of Commissioners

## *PRESS RELEASE*

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**County Contact:** Jason W. Boyd  
440.350.2745  
[jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov)

### **Lake County Commissioners Approve use of ARPA Funds**

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, December 19, 2022– Lake County Commissioners approve the use of ARPA funds for the Lake Metroparks Lakefront Trail and the Chagrin River Riparian Corridor Stormwater Management and Water Quality Project.

Lake Metroparks is working to construct a two-mile multi-purpose trail along with Lake Erie coastline from Fairport Harbor to Painesville Township Park. Upon completion, the 10-foot-wide asphalt trail will link Painesville Township Park and to Fairport Harbor. Together, the parks attract over 500,000 visitors annually. This will be the longest Lake Erie lakefront trail in Ohio.

This trail will improve the health of our community and provide a catalyst for further economic development in the area. Creation of the trail will provide clean, safe access to outdoor recreation and a location for visitors to stay healthy by walking, running, or biking.

“The Metroparks have been a tremendous partner with this board, and the county in general. Our Metroparks are among the best in the state of Ohio. You often hear us talk about safety and our Metroparks are safe. They’re a key reason Lake County is somewhere you can live, work, and raise a family,” said Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

Commissioner Mark Tyler added, “it will be nice to see this project come to fruition in the near term. The views are breath-taking, and this is going to be another gem for our county once its complete. I can’t wait to see the end result.”

The City of Willoughby is partnering with two local non-profit agencies to acquire over 100 acres of floodplain adjacent to a city owned park to increase stormwater management infrastructure in the city. The Chagrin River Riparian Corridor Stormwater Management and Water Quality Project is eligible for ARPA funds under EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program (CWSRLF).

The floodplain will be planted with native trees to extend the nominal forested riparian buffer and prevent soil erosion. The improvements, to be secured conservation easements, will control peak runoff rates, improve water quality and manage runoff volume.

“Since the time I became Mayor, one of the things we focused on was improving lakefront and waterfront properties. Our freshwater is the biggest asset Lake County has,” said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich. “We need to protect that, and use these assets to attract residents and businesses to Lake County. This will be one of my primary goals as a County Commissioners.”

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