

# Extending a Commitment to Lake County:

A Partnership between Lake Metroparks  
& the Painesville Township Park Board





# YESTERDAY: 200 years of history

**IN 1807, SAMUEL H. HUNTINGTON TRADED** 300 acres of land in Cleveland for a large tract on the Grand River that included what is now Painesville Township Park. Elected the third governor of Ohio in 1808, Samuel H. Huntington's estate served as a family farm and remained in Huntington family ownership for at least a century. Colbert H. Greer, son of Cornelia (Huntington) Greer, sold 39.3 acres of land to the Board of Township Park Commissioners of Painesville on June 13, 1911.

Constructed as a community park that could provide a multitude of family-oriented activities, the allure of Lake Erie drew visitors to Painesville Township Park to enjoy beachfront swimming and sunbathing as well as baseball, dancing and picnicking along the bluff overlooking the water. In the early years, the park's activities centered on two very prominent building structures:

- The beach pavilion became the center of lakefront activity. Built at the edge of the steep bank, the pavilion served as the primary access point down to lake level. A giant slide and wooden stairway were uniquely part of the architectural design of the structure. Aside from the pedestrian circulation, the building housed the changing rooms, restrooms, and showers, and served as a prominent scenic overlook for spectacular western sunsets on Lake Erie. The structure eventually toppled due to ravaging storms and daily erosion of the bluff; only photographs and memories of the beach pavilion remain.

- The dance hall, a long, rectangular building with a barrel roof and windows half-a-wall high along the north and south sides, was originally constructed as an open-air summer structure with a 5,000 square foot wooden dance floor. The opening dance was held on Tuesday, June 22, 1926 featuring music by Ed Fisher and his orchestra, establishing the hall as a centerpiece of weekly activity at the park.

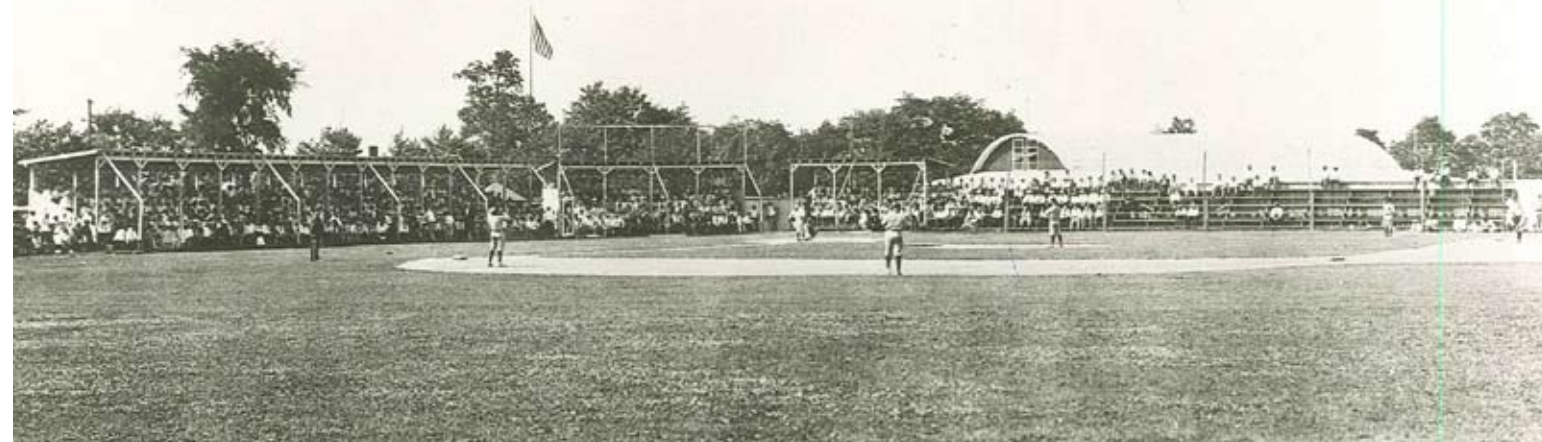
**DANCE HALL**



**BEACH PAVILION**



**BASEBALL**

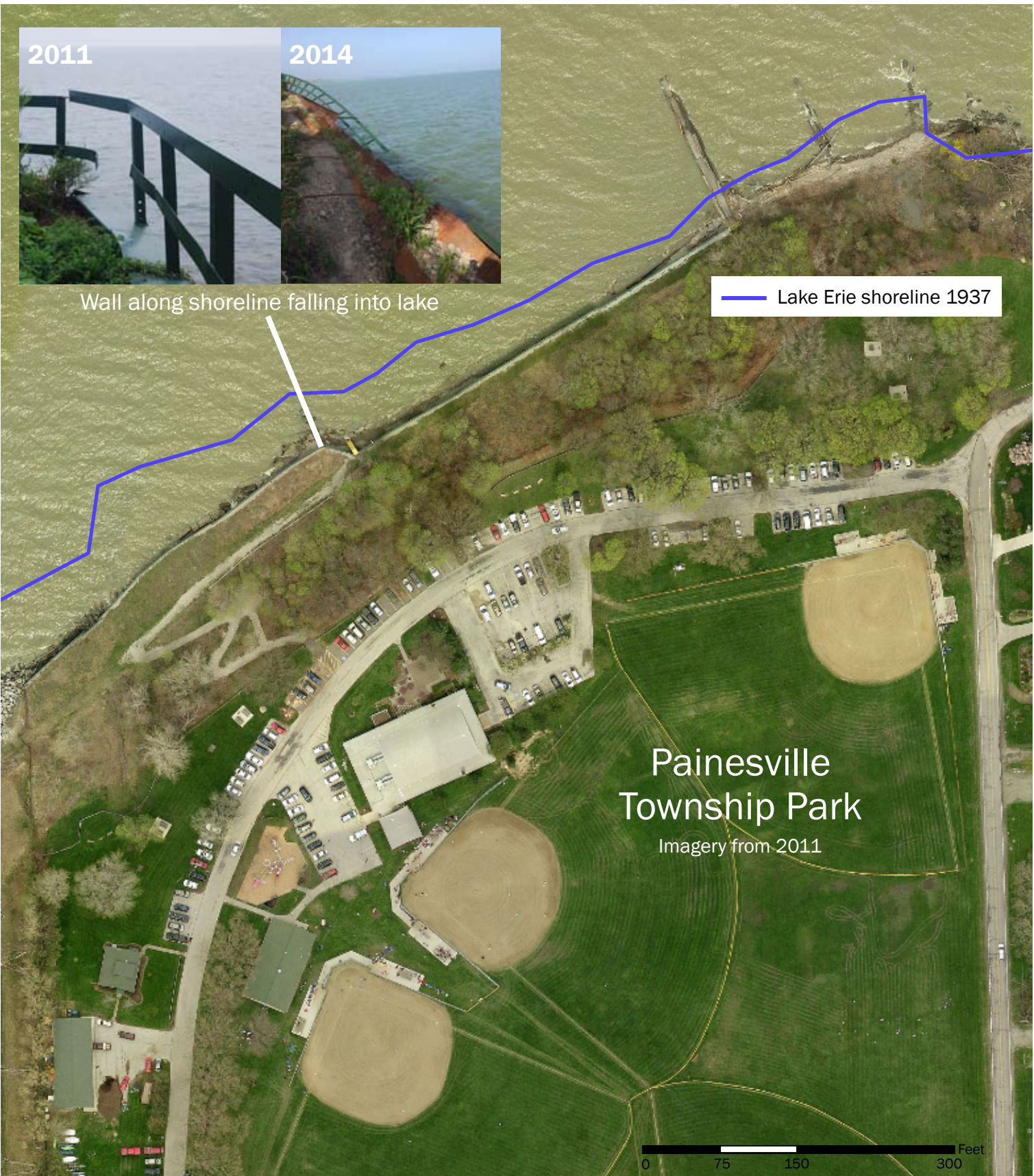




# TODAY: A great park facing a challenge

**IN 1991, LAKE METROPARKS ENTERED** a 25-year cooperative lease agreement with the Painesville Township Park board of commissioners to manage and operate the park. More than 2.3 million people visited the park during the past 23 years. Improvements made to the park include

extensive renovation of the dance hall, ball fields, additions of a storage building and playground, care and maintenance of the buildings and grounds, and ongoing efforts to control erosion along the lakeshore.

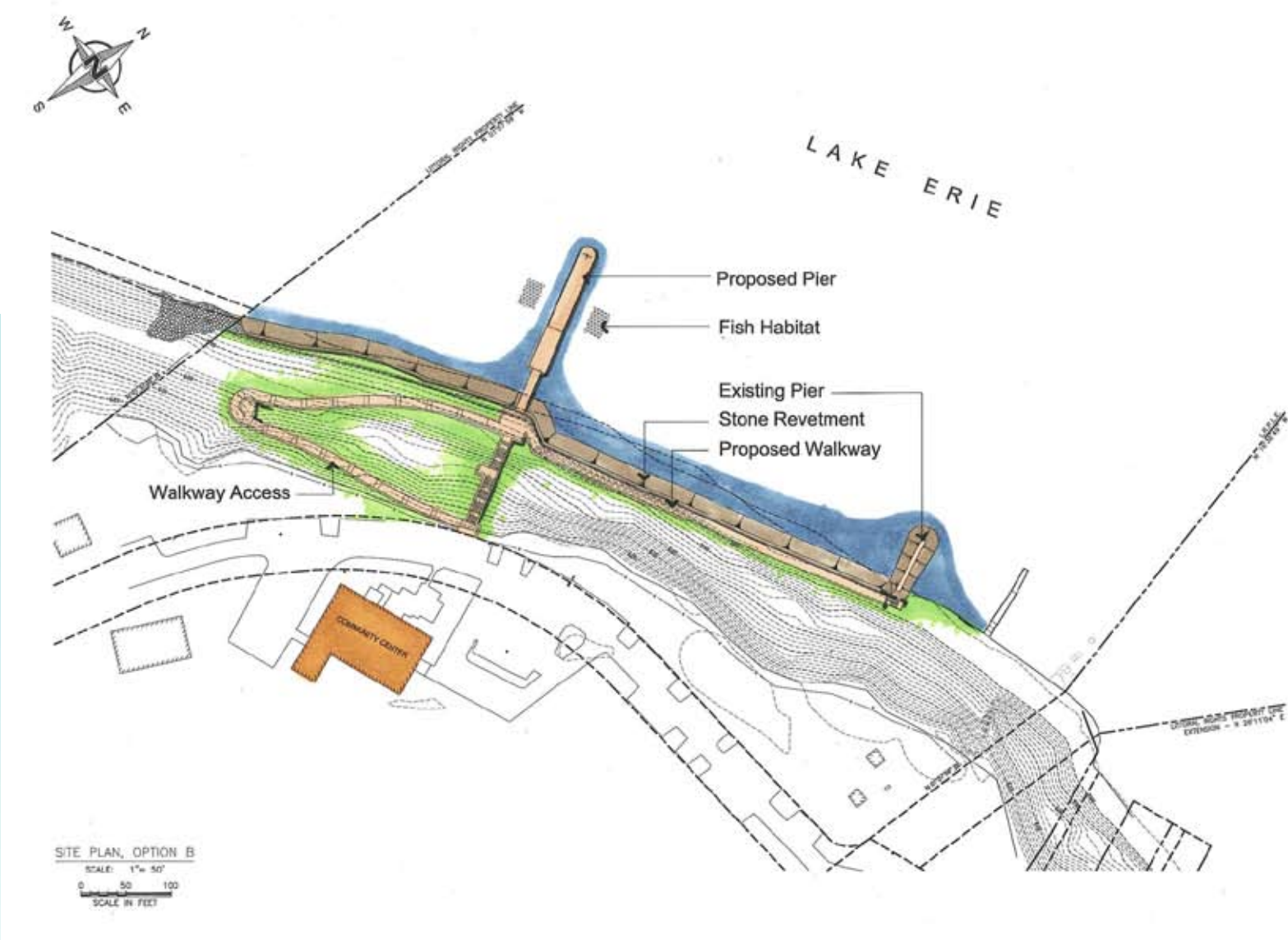
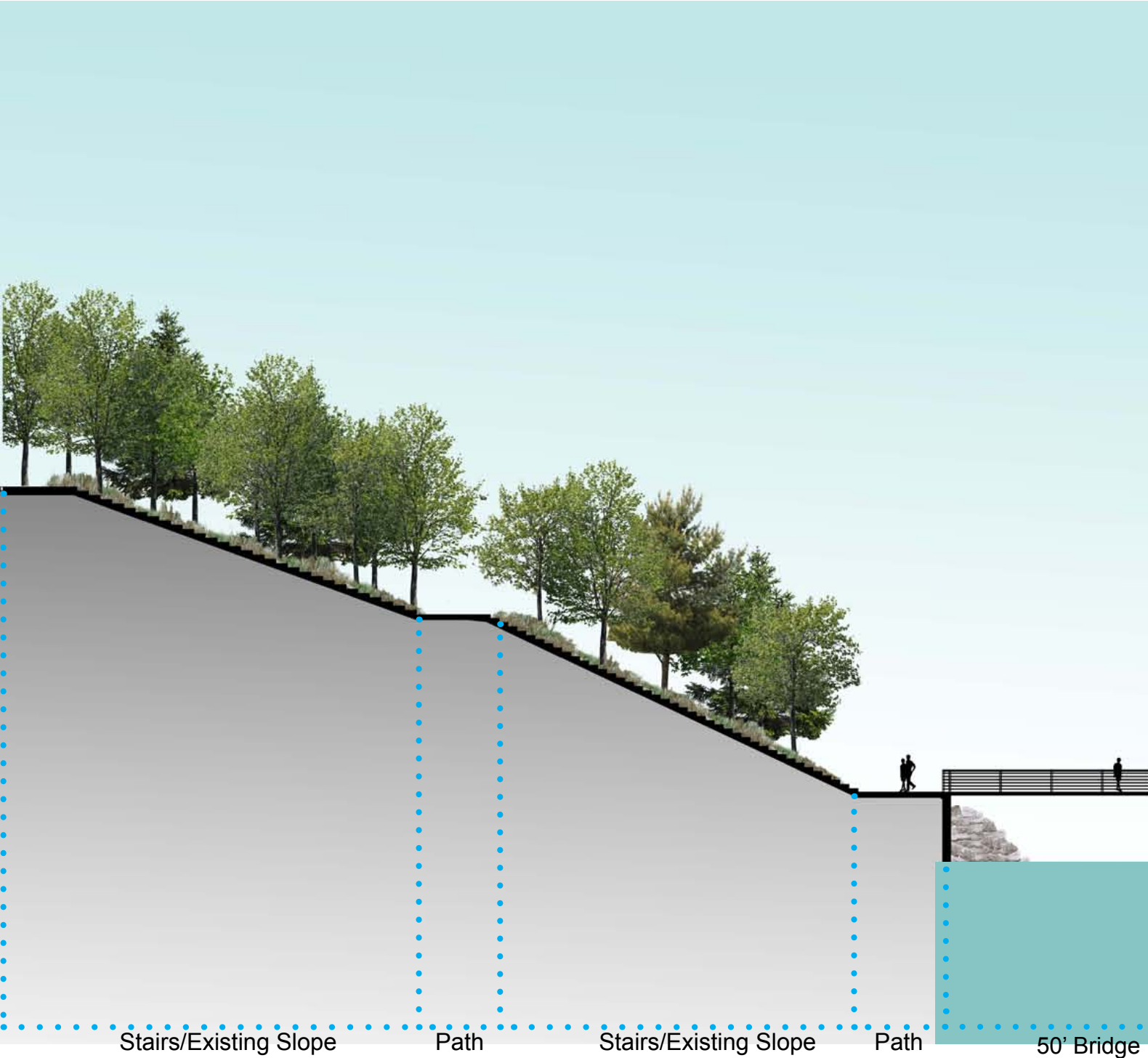




# TOMORROW: Connecting people with our greatest natural resource—Lake Erie

**LAKE METROPARKS AND THE PAINESVILLE TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD** have reached an agreement for Lake Metroparks to continue to manage Painesville Township Park for an additional 25 years. Both parties recognize that the ongoing shoreline erosion is having a devastating effect on

the park and must be addressed. Lake Metroparks and the Painesville Township Park Board are partnering on a shoreline project that will include protection of the shoreline, a 200' pier and ADA access to Lake Erie and its spectacular views, sunsets, fishing and summer breezes.







LAKE COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE  
Mark J. Bartolotta

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
Gretchen Skok DiSanto • Dennis E. Eckart • Frank J. Polivka

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Paul Palagyi

[LAKEMETROPARKS.COM](http://LAKEMETROPARKS.COM)

REVEREND JENNINGS