



PUBLIC COMMENTS RESPONSE SUMMARY

Lakefront Trail Phase III, PID 122421

Project Name: Lakefront Trail Phase III

Project ID (PID): PID 122421

Meeting Date: Virtual, posted January 19, 2026

End of Comment Period: February 18, 2026

Outreach Conducted:

- Project website (virtual presentation/fact sheet)
- Social media posts (2)
- Local news coverage

Public Comment Period

January 19, 2026 – February 18, 2026

Opposed to Project: 12

Supportive of Project: 11

Uncommitted: 3

Conditional: 6

Comments Submitted via:

- Project Website: 0
- Phone: 0
- Email: 32
- Social media: Comments disabled to encourage email

Comment Summary:

On January 19, 2026, Lake Metroparks invited the public to comment on Phase III of the Lake Metroparks Lakefront Trail. A total of 32 comments were received via email to provide feedback on the project.

Questions:

- Location of proposed access road connection to Fairport Harbor; why location was chosen over alternative sites.

Recommendations:

- Alternative parking area location
- No/lower development area
- Fencing/restricted areas to minimize disturbance to wildlife
- Native planting
- Lighting
 - Environmentally sensitive lighting
 - Lower angle for solar lights along the trail
- Park amenities – Design considerations
 - Overlooks
 - Educational signage
 - Shade/seating area
 - Play area
 - Flush Restroom

Concerns:

- Impacts to native bird species and grassland habitat
- Trespassing concerns
- Safety concerns during winter conditions
- Environmental concerns regarding construction and location of parking areas and access drive [outside of PID 122421 scope].
 - Impacts to native bird species and fragmentation of grassland habitat.
 - Multiple respondents opposed construction of the parking lot and access drive and/or their proposed locations. These features are separate project components of Phase III not included within the scope of work for the ODOT trail project. Among the comments received, some opposed the parking area and access roads, but were supportive of the ODOT Phase III trail project, while others were opposed to any new development.

Social Media Engagement Statistics

FIRST POST — 01/19/2026

Facebook – Lake Metroparks

Views: 5,982

Engagements (Reactions, Shares, Clicks): 218

Facebook – Painesville Township Park

Views: 20,290

Engagements (Reactions, Shares, Clicks): 1,107

Instagram

Views: 2,835

Engagements (Likes, Saves, Shares): 75

X

Views: 194

Engagements (Likes, Reposts, Clicks): 4

SECOND POST — 02/03/2026:

Facebook – Lake Metroparks

Views: 6,441

Engagements (Reactions, Shares, Clicks): 244

Facebook – Painesville Township Park

Views: 2,219

Engagements (Reactions, Shares, Clicks): 153

Instagram

Views: 2,282

Engagements (Likes, Saves, Shares): 86

X

Views: 205

Engagements (Likes, Reposts, Clicks): 8

Local News Coverage:

- NEWS 5 [Visits Growing Along with Shoreline Trail in Lake County](#) PUBLISHED: June 6, 2025
- CLEVELAND.COM [Lakefront trail expansion underway at Painesville Township Park](#) PUBLISHED: August 14, 2025, at 1:28 p.m.
- THE NEWS-HERALD [Lake Metroparks opens Hemlock Ridge Park, adds to Lakefront Trail](#) PUBLISHED: November 16, 2025, at 6:00 a.m.
- THE NEWS-HERALD [Lake Metroparks to continue work on new park projects in 2026](#) PUBLISHED: January 2, 2026, at 6:00 a.m.
- THE NEWS-HERALD [Lake Metroparks negotiates agreements for new amenities along Lake Erie](#) PUBLISHED: January 20, 2026, at 6:00 a.m.

Comment Number	Nature of Comment	Comment	Response
1	Support	<p>I think this path is a great idea. I would like to see it go all the Way to Fairport Harbor. It gives people a much safer travel from Fairport to Painesville Township park. We get to enjoy the nice path. I love nature. I love the lake front. It would be nice to even see another restaurant built in this area of the Lake and more activities in this area. More informational activities like bird walks etc. Snowy Owls hang out this area in this area. There could be a Winter Hike series. Make a place for a bonfire. I hope this helps. I would Love this walking path to go all The way to Fairport.</p>	<p>Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback and offer your support. We're very excited about moving forward on the third phase of this project. We anticipate a connection to Fairport Harbor in a future phase.</p>
2	Feedback	<p>Just wanted to submit input on phase III of the Painesville township park path.</p> <p>Mostly love everything about the park, and all the natural plants/flowers. It's been really well designed so far and we have visited many times.</p> <p>The solar motion lights, it would be great if they can be angled down slightly... they tend to be blinding as you walk by. I'm about 5'7". We spend a lot of time due to our schedules walking in the evenings.</p> <p>One safety issue I feel needs addressed is along the patio area at the bottom of the hill to the entrance of the phase I trail. There is a rather big drop off the edge of that patio area - maybe extend some planters around that edge. It's hard to see the drop off and almost took a tumble a couple times.</p> <p>Other than that - it's a great park and really enjoy when we get to visit. Looking forward to the new phase!</p>	<p>Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback and offer your support. We're very excited about moving forward on the third phase of this project. We'll take a look at the lighting and patio area.</p>

3	Support	<p>I absolutely love everything about this path, and I'm so excited to see the third and final phase.</p> <p>We are so lucky to have this incredible vantage point of the lake, and I'm glad that it's a longer trail. I'm excited about running/walking the whole distance when it's done.</p> <p>Good job, Lake Metroparks!</p>	<p>Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback and offer your support. We're very excited about moving forward on the third phase of this project, as well.</p>
4	Support/ Feedback	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Phase III of the Lakefront Trail Project. I am very supportive of this project and appreciate the continued efforts to expand access to Lake Erie.</p> <p>I would like to share a few suggestions as the project moves forward. Educational markers along the trail highlighting facts about Lake Erie, local history, wildlife, and native plants would add meaningful learning opportunities. Pairing these with native landscaping would enhance the experience while supporting local wildlife and environmental stewardship.</p> <p>Seating areas placed at regular intervals, with shade provided through shade structures, would make the trail more comfortable and accessible for visitors of all ages. In addition, small, thoughtfully designed play areas for children at select points along the trail would make the space more welcoming for families.</p> <p>Finally, providing restroom facilities at frequent intervals beyond what is required, along with drinking water and hand-washing stations, would greatly improve usability and comfort for visitors spending extended time on the trail.</p> <p>Thank you for considering these comments and for your work to enhance public access to the Lake Erie shoreline.</p>	<p>Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback and offer your support. We're very excited about moving forward on the third phase of this project. I believe all of the items you mention are also design considerations we are working to include.</p>
5	Support	<p>I read the article regarding Lake Metroparks trail expansion in this morning's News-Herald and am excited to see progress.</p>	<p>Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback and offer your support on the Lakefront Trail Project, as well as our proposed west entrance into Lake Erie Bluffs. In addition, thanks for providing your perspective as an adjacent</p>

		<p>This email is to reflect my support of the trail expansion on the former Diamond Shamrock property as well as connectivity of Lake Erie Bluffs to the intersection of Lake Road & Bacon Road.</p> <p>As a 20+ year resident of the Lake Erie Shores development, I look forward to being able to access my favorite walking trail from my front door instead of having to conduct an 11.8 mile round trip. This will provide important access to the thousands of residents who have moved to the Bacon Road corridor over the past several decades.</p> <p>In the interest of increased connectivity and pedestrian safety, I would also like to submit for consideration the construction of a bike path or 5-foot sidewalk along Bacon Road from Lake Road to North Ridge. Walkers, joggers, and bicyclists, can be encountered at practically any time of day on what has become a busy roadway. While this is not within the Lake Metroparks purview, I hope this comment would encourage though on how it dovetails with the currently planned projects of enabling access from Lake Erie Bluffs to Fairport and connects with currently available public transportation.</p>	<p>neighbor. That will be helpful as we continue our planning efforts.</p>
6	Feedback	<p>It be great to have fishing access where the old boxcars were.</p>	<p>Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback. Shoreline fishing access is definitely something we are looking to incorporate into the project.</p>
7	Feedback/ Question	<p>Greetings, I live in Fairport Harbor close to where the west end of the proposed trail would end. Why build an entrance to the trail in the middle off of Nursery Road? The bike walking trail in Painesville Concord Geauga has 1 or 2 access points. Walkers and riders can access the end point, near HTP Marina with a little roadwork and some easement east of the fence that people walk around or through it now anyway. This access point would help patronize the local business located at the Marina and may even expand what is there now. Also, wouldn't the proposed entrance off Nursery Road create</p>	<p>Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback on the Lakefront Trail Project. We're very excited about moving forward on the third phase of this project. We continue to work with Fairport Village officials to identify a suitable and viable access point into the village. We hope that we will ultimately be able to accomplish this in a way that has a positive effect on the local businesses. We also want to provide an access opportunity to visitors that may just want to enjoy a great view of the lake and harbor from their vehicle or to take a shorter walk than may be reasonable from either end point.</p>

		trespassing opportunities to the off limits Sheriff patrolled areas of Mariana Properties?	
8	Support/ Feedback	I do not know the long term plans for this project but I would love to see the trail continue to the beach and then connect to the greenway corridor via trail or a dedicated/separated bike lane. It would be great to be able to ride from painesville township park all the way to middlefield, including the beach, with no or very minimal road riding. I believe this would have a significant positive impact on fairport, painesville city, and the entire lake county community. Look at the number of people who leave lake county to bike the Ashtabula greenway or the maple highlands trail because of the biking miles available without road riding.	Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback on the Lakefront Trail Project. While we engineer this third phase of the Lakefront Trail, we continue to have conversations with partners such as the Village of Fairport Harbor and Painesville City on ways to make these connections. We certainly appreciate you sharing your vision.
9	Support	I have been reading about the extension of the trail and saw that the Metro Parks were looking for feedback on it. As a local resident, I have visited the trail a number of times and have been very impressed with it. I am really looking forward to connecting the trail to Fairport Harbor, so there is a destination when biking on the trail. I am a big fan and user of the Lake MetroParks, and I appreciate the organization and all you do for the county, keep up the good work.	Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback on the Lakefront Trail Project. We're looking forward to getting this third phase under construction and eventually linking to Fairport Harbor. Happy to hear that you're using and enjoying your parks.
10	Support	I'm writing to share my support for the Lakefront Path Project – Phase III. I've always appreciated the work Lake Metroparks does, and this project is a great example of why. Expanding access to the lake in a thoughtful way says a lot about the community we live in. I honestly believe that how we care for our land reflects who we are, and projects like this show that we value it enough to share it responsibly with others. Making the shoreline more accessible, especially through an ADA-friendly trail, gives more people the chance to experience Lake Erie and enjoy what makes this area special. Creating space to walk, bike, or just take in the view is a real quality-of-life improvement, and I'm glad to see it continuing.	Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback on the Lakefront Trail Project. We're looking forward to getting this third phase under construction. Happy to hear that you're using and enjoying your parks and couldn't agree more about getting residents out to experience them in person.

		Thank you for the work you do and for continuing to invest in public spaces like this. I fully support the project.	
11	Question	<p>I was inquiring about the new trail along lakefront. I see that the plan does not include access to Fairport Harbor. I was wondering if someone could tell me why it will not be coming through to the village, but instead, looping around with access on Fairport Nursery Road. Is the issue related to property owners along Fairport’s eastern most side? If so, who was approached and what was their response?</p> <p>I’m really hoping we can get access to the trail within the village of Fairport Harbor. It would be a great addition to the town.</p>	Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback on the Lakefront Trail Project. While the section of trail currently being designed does not include access directly into the Village of Fairport Harbor, we do anticipate that we will make that connection in the future. We have had a number of conversations with Mayor Manross as well as the current (and past) village administrator. The primary challenge is that the connection points – end of Third Street, end of Second Street, and the HTP Marina – are all in private ownerships currently. We are more than happy to further discuss this with Village representatives and will continue to evaluate options and alternatives.
12	Support	<p>I am a huge fan of Lake Metroparks. I have hiked or fished in many of them and have always had good experiences. My wife and I have walked the initial trail that starts at Painesville Park. We did so on a wonderful summer evening and sat in the small bench with the overhang shelter.</p> <p>Lake Erie is Northern Ohio’s greatest asset. Creating parkland and public access is extremely important so that we may all enjoy this natural wonder. For people to understand and appreciate nature they must have access to it. Developers and rich people would like to own our shorelines and lock it away behind No Trespassing signs. It is vital to share the small remaining areas that aren’t in private hands for all the people of Lake County and Ohio.</p> <p>Consider this Lake County long term resident solidly in support of the additional trail.</p>	Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback on the Lakefront Trail Project. We’re looking forward to getting this third phase under construction. Happy to hear that you’re using and enjoying your parks and couldn’t agree more about getting residents out to experience them in person. We certainly appreciate the support.

13	Support	<p>I am writing to voice my strong support for the Lakefront Path Project Phase III.</p> <p>I have personally walked the existing portions of the Lakefront Path and have seen firsthand how valuable this resource is to our community. The path provides safe, accessible public access to Ohio's lakefront, allowing residents and visitors alike to experience the natural beauty of the shoreline while promoting outdoor recreation, health, and well-being. Expanding the path through Phase III will further enhance connectivity along the lakefront, creating additional opportunities for walking, biking, and enjoying the outdoors. Projects like this not only improve quality of life, but also contribute to economic vitality by attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, and increasing the overall appeal of our region.</p> <p>Equally important, the Lakefront Path is an investment in equitable public space. It ensures that our lakefront remains accessible to everyone—not just a privilege for a few—while preserving and celebrating one of Ohio's most valuable natural assets.</p> <p>I strongly encourage continued support and funding for the Lakefront Path Project Phase III and appreciate the commitment to improving public access, safety, and environmental stewardship along our lakefront.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	<p>Thanks for taking the time to provide feedback on the Lakefront Trail Project. We're looking forward to getting this third phase under construction. Happy to hear that you're using and enjoying your parks and couldn't agree more about getting residents out to experience them in person. We certainly appreciate the support.</p>
14	Question	<p>Will this trail eventually connect all the way to Fairport Harbor - or is this as far as it is planned to go?</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to comment on the Lakefront Trail Phase 3 project. It is our hope and intention to connect into the Village of Fairport Harbor at some point in the hopefully not too distant future. Where that connection is made has not been determined.</p>
15A	Support/ Question	<p>Has any thought gone into putting an access such as a gate from the west end of trail for Fairport use? That way you avoid people walking/biking on Fairport Nursery Road to get to the trail. This is an amazing project for generations of people to use. I look forward to its completion.</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to comment on the Lakefront Trail Phase 3 project. We share your interest in trail access directly to Fairport Harbor. It is our hope and intention to connect into the Fairport Harbor at some point in the hopefully not too distant future. Where that connection is made has not been determined.</p>

15B	Reply	Do you have any idea when a decision on the connection point might be made? Just curious.	Unfortunately, I don't. Feel free to check back periodically.
16	<p>Environmental Concern Supportive of ODOT Trail Project; Opposed to parking and access drive project [outside of PID 122421 scope]</p>	<p>Hello. I am an avid birder and have some concerns about proposal. Trail in that location sounds great however the drive and parking lot locations do not look great at all. That area is very special because it's very unique habitat and having 2 parking lots in the middle of it will very much interfere. A lot of unique species use that area and I know they will decrease in numbers if the land is used as planned. The species in that area specialize in prairie or tundra. Prairie habitat is pretty much non-existent in Ohio today since the importance compared to wooded lots has not been recognized in my opinion. This area in particular brings in horned larks, Lapland longspur, snow buntings, shrikes, northern harriers, snowy owl, short eared owls and upland sandpipers. This makes this habitat very special but I can promise they will not come with addition of parking lots through the middle of the area.</p> <p>Parking lot and drive should be placed on very edge of property on the west side in my opinion to not interrupt the special habitat. This is a forever decision and I think this will be best for our wildlife and compromise with needs of the park and new trails.</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback on Phase 3 of the Lakefront Trail project. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. Past land use at the site also limits our flexibility in design, making use of the existing access drives important. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests. We will continue to evaluate limits on which areas are publicly accessible areas after construction is complete.</p>
17A	<p>Environmental Concern Not opposed to ODOT Trail Project; Opposed to parking and access drive project [outside of PID 122421 scope]</p>	<p>I have been made aware of the proposal for the lakefront trail project and it progressing into its further phases and would like to offer comments.</p> <p>As I get started, I would like to share a bit about myself in order to better qualify my comments and where they are coming from. First of all, please know that I am from the local park districts and always have been. I appreciate what you do and value what parks provide. I am an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing, backpacking, and much more. I'm also an avid birder and wildlife photographer. I value conservation,</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback on Phase 3 of the Lakefront Trail project. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. Past land use at the site also limits our flexibility in design, making use of the existing access drives important. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests. We will</p>

	<p>preservation, but also utilization of resources when it makes sense to do so. I also own and operate an outdoor oriented business that relies heavily upon access to lands and fisheries and so I come to you today from this position.</p> <p>I have had my ear to the ground regarding the further development of the Diamond Shamrock (Mariana Properties) as it is a very unique piece of property. I watched earlier phases for these lakefront trails get completed and was excited to hear that the trail would eventually extend from Painesville Township Park to Fairport. Having access all along that lakefront would be amazing and provide amazing views both of the lake and prairie areas adjacent to it.</p> <p>As I'm sure you are already aware, the Diamond Shamrock area has become an important prairie environment located in a very strategic corridor along Lake Erie that wildlife, especially birds, rely heavily upon. The raptors and passerines that utilize this area are amazing and can often times be found there when they can't be found anywhere else. Especially when it comes to the owl species such as Short-eared Owls and Snowy Owls.</p> <p>After looking at the proposal presented to us, I will admit that I have some concerns and my concerns are not with any trails proposed. I think the trails proposed are fine and I recognize that most, if not all, follow existing roads / roadbeds and I'm sure this was strategic and perhaps even required by the EPA so as to not disturb the remediation that has taken place across this area. That being said, my concern is entirely with the potential fragmentation of this property that will occur due to a massive increase in vehicular traffic across this open prairie space and the parking areas proposed.</p> <p>It is my understanding that there is a very good chance that the Diamond Shamrock (Mariana Properties) on the south side of route 535 (Fairport Nursery Road) could become a solar farm. If this is to happen, it will be devastating to this prairie environment as a whole. And if that were to ever take place, I</p>	<p>continue to evaluate limits on which areas are publicly accessible areas after construction is complete.</p>
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feel it becomes so much more important that your team take this into consideration with your proposal to prevent the further fragmentation of this valuable piece of prairie that will only become more valuable to the wildlife if a solar farm goes in across the road.

Take use by the general public out of the equation and just look at the sometimes fanatical “birder” sector and that alone can raise concern. I’m not sure how familiar you are with the birding world, but being in the position you are in, I feel you have to have some awareness. But birders and photographers can get quite fanatical at times and when given an inch, some will take it mile...or more. Just considering that group of users, I worry greatly about how many people will infiltrate the heart of that prairie area if and when unique or rare birds were to show up due to the access being so easy. Fill the parking areas and line the roads with cars, which will happen, and now we have made a grave impact on the heart of that property that I believe will negatively affect the wildlife’s willingness to use, nest, and/or roost in those habitats moving forward. I’d much rather people be required to walk in and come dressed to stay awhile if needed, instead of being able to drive right to the heart of it all possibly disturbing unique and special species that may be present.

My sincere hope was that the foot trails would be installed allowing access along the lakefront and perhaps internally where it could be afforded to us, with a couple of strategically located elevated viewing platforms looking out over the prairie. I also hoped that parking and the access to parking areas would be relegated to the east side at Painesville Township Park or on the west side in Fairport where 2nd Street accesses the property and a parking area (or developed area) already exists. I was very hopeful that the existing internal roads would become defunct or only used as “authorized vehicle only” access for park personnel when needed thereby protecting the preservation aspect of the majority of the prairie area as much as possible.

		<p>Some will say that access east and west makes for a long trail and the access isn't easy enough, but in this special environment, I really do feel that if we want to use it, it should be foot traffic only and not inundated with road access and parking internally. There are times I'm all about use and access. But in this situation I think we need to access carefully, respectfully and do all that we can to conserve, preserve and protect the prairie that has been birthed out of a once desolate industrial space.</p> <p>I sincerely pray that these thoughts and suggestions will be seriously considered and are not just the checking of a box in the sequence of moving this project forward as is.</p>	
<p>17B</p>	<p>Reply</p>	<p>Thanks so much for your response. I understand the constraints that you need to work within especially as a taxpayer funded organization. I have worked with other parks over the years and have seen the same need to provide access to all abilities and across various outdoor interests. So I somewhat expected your response.</p> <p>I'd like to ask one more question though if I can. As it pertains to balancing public access and the ease of it on the site, is there a reason why the access could not be on the west end of the property instead of in the middle? My proposed location It is only 600 yards difference from your proposed west end parking area and would still be significantly closer than coming in from the Painesville Township Park end. Furthermore, there shouldn't be any issue due to past land use either, as it's already established roads and finished surfaces within the site property which you said you said limited your flexibility in design and use. The attached photo shows the location in question and it's only 130 yards from the trails that LMP proposed on the property. I see this as a very viable solution that meets the requirements for access without putting a lit parking area in the middle of the prairie that has been developed. I think this would be a win-win scenario for the</p>	<p>Thanks for taking the time to reach back out regarding access, parking and the Lakefront Trail project and the thought you've put into your reply. Regarding your proposed parking lot location, the section of roadway to the west of your proposed parking area (closest to) is a private road servicing the condos in Fairport Harbor. At one time it was public and served as an entrance to the Diamond Shamrock facility, but no longer. The end of Third Street was also privatized at some point. Also, this lot would be in close proximity to a number of residences to the west. That being said, we do envision some sort of pedestrian access from Fairport Harbor at some point.</p> <p>The point of access off of Fairport-Nursery Road that we are planning to use for vehicular access will follow the existing drive over the railroad tracks taking advantage of the current gravel base as much as possible. The park district's proposed parking area is situated in a location that will be at a crossroads of the trail network while also affording a tremendous view of the harbor for the many visitors we expect to get that may not be able to travel far, if at all, from their vehicle.</p>

		<p>protection of the natural resource and balanced access for the public. I guess we could say that it's a bit less invasive in nature. I'd love to hear your thoughts on this solution to your proposed west parking area if you would be so kind.</p>	
17C	<p>Reply</p>	<p>Thanks once again for your response. I was afraid that some of what you shared might be the case, so thanks for confirming. Sometimes there just aren't other ways and I get that. And I appreciate you taking the time to explain the reasoning. We'll just have to hope that the additional developments and traffic won't negatively affect the frequency of use by some of the aforementioned species.</p> <p>Once things are in and ready to be used by the general public, it would be great to see some naturalized perches and such put throughout the prairie for the various raptors to utilize. And I sincerely hope the prairies will continue to be maintained in a manner that will be conducive to Short-eared Owls being willing to roost in them moving forward.</p> <p>Again, thanks for your time both in responding and for serving us!</p>	
18A	<p>Environmental Concern Concerns regarding development along Lake Erie, particularly Parking proposed parking areas [Outside of PID 122421 Scope]</p>	<p>As a nature enthusiast with a biology degree and an a beginner birder, it seems like there is very very little natural coast area left in ohio. Certainly in northeast Ohio, and I am concerned that developing this area and installing two parking lots will affect migratory shorebirds and other migratory birds that count on stopping in these types of areas to refuel along their paths...</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback on Phase 3 of the Lakefront Trail project. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. Past land use at the site also limits our flexibility in design. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests. We will continue to evaluate limits on which areas are publicly accessible areas after construction is complete.</p>

18B	Reply	<p>I think a lot of folks are more worried about construction and habitat the parking lots will be destroying, than evaluating "limits on which areas are publicly accessible areas after construction is complete." A lot of birders are worried about the construction itself, so I would urge you to evaluate loss of habitat on bird populations and the type of habitat this is before construction-- afterwards is too late---How big are these parking lots. I'm afraid your comment doesn't make much sense to me. Evaluating something after it is built is unhelpful... No?</p>	<p>We understand the concerns of the birding community, as expressed by yourself and others, include the parking lot construction as well as which areas will be accessible to the public. The parking lots as currently designed, and if built to their maximum size, would cover less than 2 acres of the 100+ acres north of Fairport-Nursery Road. As part of Lake Metroparks' mission, we care a great deal and spend a lot of time, effort and money to protect, expand and enhance bird habitat.</p>
18C	Reply	<p>Thx! This is a very helpful response. And I am hoping slash assuming that there are many natural escaping tabs of where Critters are going and what will divide up territories</p>	
19A	<p>Environmental Concern/ Feedback Supportive of ODOT Trail Project; Opposed to parking and access drive project [outside of PID 122421 scope]</p>	<p>Thank you for inviting public comment on the Phase III construction of the Lakefront Trail Project. I am happy at the prospect of opening this wonderful piece of land to public access but I do have concerns.</p> <p>It provides unique habitat for birds such as grasshopper sparrows and bobolinks. In the wintertime it hosts northern harriers, short-eared owls, and sometimes snowy owls. I would like to see the open fields protected by some kind of fencing, to minimize disturbance to wildlife, even if it's just post and cable type similar to what is used at Mentor Headlands to discourage people from walking on the dunes. Signs to stay on the trails will not be sufficient to keep people on the trails. A physical barrier of some kind would be helpful and doesn't have to be unattractive.</p> <p>I hope that you plan to keep parking lot and driveway lighting "dark sky friendly" so that light pollution is kept to a minimum.</p> <p>An observation tower would be an awesome addition to this plan!</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback on Phase 3 of the Lakefront Trail project. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. Lighting is another area where we're balancing dark-sky efforts with security concerns. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests. We will continue to evaluate limits on which areas are publicly accessible areas after construction is complete. We'll also have the presence of our Ranger Department to discourage ATV and snowmobile use.</p>

		This area has been attractive to ATV riders and snowmobilers in the past, so I hope that the sheriff's department and metroparks rangers will be vigilant to keep that kind of activity off the property.	
19B	Reply	Thank you for your response! I've always felt that Lake Metroparks does a very good job walking that fine line between making natural areas publicly accessible and also protecting them. (and I've noticed that your rangers are always out and about checking on things, which I really appreciate!) As a birder who has long been jealous of the small group of privileged people who have been able to access that property for years, while the rest of us have been shut out, I'm excited that it's being opened for public access and can't wait to visit once it's ready!	
20	Environmental Concern Opposed to further development along Lake Erie	I am commenting in favor of no further construction or development along the Lake Erie frontage in the Fairport Harbor/ Sunset beach area. I am an avid birder and wish to see the natural habitat preserved. This area is an important shoreline habitat used by owls, raptors, grassland and other song birds for migration, nesting, and hunting. Loss of undeveloped land leads directly to loss of bird populations. These birds are important contributors to a healthy diverse ecosystem that should be protected for everyone's health and enjoyment. Thank you for your attention to this issue.	We appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback on Phase 3 of the Lakefront Trail project. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. Past land use at the site also limits our flexibility in design. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests. We will continue to evaluate limits on which areas are publicly accessible areas after construction is complete.
21	Environmental Concern Opposed to parking and access drive project [outside of PID 122421 scope]	Please select an alternative to or abandonment of the planned parking lots and adjoining drive in the grasslands area on the North side of Fairport Nursery Rd. The disruption and fragmentation of this grassland area will be detrimental to grassland nesting birds and migrating birds that use this habitat as critical stopover habitat. This will also be detrimental to recreational wildlife and bird observation.	We appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback on Phase 3 of the Lakefront Trail project. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. Past land use at the site also limits our flexibility in design. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those

		<p>We have lots of parking lots, but fewer and fewer grasslands. Leaving this land as grassland habitat is the best possible use of the land, and even a small reduction or fragmentation of it's area will degrade the integrity of the entire system.</p>	<p>with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests. We will continue to evaluate limits on which areas are publicly accessible areas after construction is complete.</p>
22	<p>Environmental Concern Supportive of ODOT Trail Project; Opposed to parking and access drive project [outside of PID 122421 scope]</p>	<p>I am writing to provide feedback regarding the proposed trail extension on the lakefront property along Fairport Nursery Road.</p> <p>While I support the trail extension along the lake as it provides valuable public access, I believe access to the grassland areas should be prohibited to protect the habitat. Observation of these areas can be successfully accomplished from the trail itself.</p> <p>Additionally, I am opposed to the construction of parking lots, an access drive, or further extension trails on this specific property. These should not be included in future plans. Instead, I suggest including educational signage along the trail to inform the public about the importance and rarity of lakeside grassland habitats.</p> <p>If future extensions to Fairport Harbor are planned, I recommend placing adequate parking at both ends of the trail rather than on the property itself. I understand the need for public access to Metroparks property, but it must be balanced with habitat protection.</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback on Phase 3 of the Lakefront Trail project. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. Past land use at the site also limits our flexibility in design. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests. We will continue to evaluate limits on which areas are publicly accessible areas after construction is complete.</p>
23A	<p>Support/ Feedback</p>	<p>I wanted to leave some comments about the phase III project West of Painesville Township Park.</p> <p>I'm super excited about this development! I'm so proud of the way lake metroparks always keeps wildlife and native plants front and center of these projects.</p> <p>I would love to see fencing off of the paved path that would prevent people or dogs from scaring off birds. Also, please</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback on Phase 3 of the Lakefront Trail project. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. Lighting is another area where we're balancing dark-sky efforts with security concerns. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public. We will continue to evaluate limits on which areas are publicly</p>

		consider using minimal lighting in the design to minimize light pollution.	accessible after construction is complete. Fencing will be considered and we will patrol the property like our other parks to control dogs off leash.
23B	Reply	<p>Sounds like a great plan. I grew up in Painesville Township Park in the 90s and I'm so proud of all the work the metroparks have put into the area.</p> <p>I have seen people posting on birding groups with concern that this is native grasslands and that breeding birds will be disturbed.</p> <p>I was under the impression that this land was contaminated and has since been remediated. Can you confirm that the current area is more like a remediated field, not necessarily native grassland? I just want to help explain to people that the parks would be putting in native plants and that this will be a positive change for the birds in the long run.</p>	<p>You're correct. This area is a remediated field. It has a 2-4 foot cover of soil fill and was replanted with what we assume are non-native grasses. It's hard to identify species because it gets mowed frequently. It's our intention to do some areas of habitat restoration along with our partners in the future.</p>
24	<p>Environmental Concern Opposed to further development along Lake Erie</p>	<p>I am expressing my opposition to the proposed Lake Metroparks Phase III construction and expansion of the Lakefront Trail Project (Lakefront Trail PID 122421). My concerns include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high potential for disruption to wildlife in that area, which is not limited to bird or mammal species. The fragmentation of the habitat (fields) will certainly have unfavorable outcomes that may not be known until after the development has commenced. Even a short-term disruption may have long-term effects. • Changes to the existing landscape, as well as disturbances created during construction, will result in a negative impact on that unique lakefront habitat. • During extended winter periods, the trail is closed for safety due to icy conditions on the stairs and trails, so the proposed extension likely won't be a year-round trail; only seasonal accessibility would be available. 	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback on Phase 3 of the Lakefront Trail project. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests.</p>

		<p>What I would love to see is the nurturing of an expansive prairie instead of the planned road, parking lots, and development of the existing spaces.</p> <p>I find it very interesting that in the Spring 2026 edition of Lake Metroparks Parks Plus states "the trail will eventually connect Painesville Township Park to Fairport Harbor along..." without mentioning that an approval process is still underway.</p> <p>Thank you for accepting public comments on this project!</p>	
<p>25</p>	<p>Environmental Concern Opposed to further development along Lake Erie, particularly parking area project [outside of PID 122421 scope]</p>	<p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Phase III development, specifically the expansion of parking areas and installation of shelters within the existing grassland habitat.</p> <p>The grassland proposed for fragmentation is one of the very few intact, high-quality grassland ecosystems remaining in Northeast Ohio. Grassland birds are among the most rapidly declining bird groups in North America due primarily to habitat loss and fragmentation. Large, continuous tracts of grassland are essential for nesting success and survival.</p> <p>This site provides critical habitat for species including Short-eared Owls, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Bobolinks — all grassland-dependent birds whose populations have declined significantly. In addition, rare and locally significant species such as Upland Sandpipers and migrating Whimbrels utilize this area. The Lake Erie shoreline corridor is a vital migratory pathway, and this open habitat serves as a layover site during migration and one of the only remaining nesting areas for some of these species in Northeast Ohio.</p> <p>Fragmenting this habitat with additional pavement, parking lots, and structures will reduce its ecological integrity. Grassland birds are especially sensitive to edge effects — increased predation, disturbance, and habitat avoidance near developed areas. Even seemingly small intrusions can render otherwise suitable habitat unusable.</p> <p>There are many places to add recreational infrastructure. There are almost no places left like this grassland.</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to comment on the Lakefront Trail project. We understand the concerns of the birding community, as expressed by yourself and others, to include the parking lot construction as well as which areas will be accessible to the public. The parking lots as currently designed, and if built to their maximum size, would cover less than 2 acres of the 100+ acres north of Fairport-Nursery Road. As part of Lake Metroparks' mission, we care a great deal and spend a lot of time, effort and money to protect, expand and enhance bird habitat. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests.</p>

		<p>Lake Metroparks has long positioned itself as a steward of natural resources. I respectfully urge you to reconsider the scale and placement of this development and explore alternatives that avoid encroaching on intact grassland habitat. At minimum, a thorough breeding-season and migration-season wildlife assessment should be conducted before any expansion proceeds.</p> <p>Protecting rare and declining species should be a priority, especially when the habitat in question is irreplaceable at the regional scale.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	
26	<p>Environmental Concern Opposed to connector trail portion of ODOT Trail Project; Opposed to parking and access drive project [outside of PID 122421 scope]</p>	<p>I believe fragmenting this property to build two parking lots and an access road in addition to a paved lakefront trail would be detrimental.</p> <p>Unleashed dogs and people walking off trail through the grassland will further disturb wildlife. There is no other habitat quite like this anywhere in our state.</p> <p>I am against future connector trails to be constructed to tie into the location of future planned parking areas. It would be detrimental for the wildlife. How about a parking area on the south side just down from the trailer just south west of the driveway. Then a path east along the all fence to the gate on the north side where there is already a driveway north to the paved trail along the lake (walking path only with a rail fence to prevent people wondering off the path).</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to comment on the Lakefront Trail project. The parking lots as currently designed, and if built to their maximum size, would cover less than 2 acres of the 100+ acres north of Fairport-Nursery Road. As part of Lake Metroparks’ mission, we care a great deal and spend a lot of time, effort and money to protect, expand and enhance bird habitat. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. We’re committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests.</p>
27	<p>Environmental Concern Opposed to further development along Lake Erie</p>	<p>I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed extension of the current lake front trail. The area this trail and the proposed parking lots will be built on is critical habitat for many migratory and over-wintering birds. I feel this area should not be subject to additional development.</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to comment on the Lakefront Trail project. The parking lots as currently designed, and if built to their maximum size, would cover less than 2 acres of the 100+ acres north of Fairport-Nursery Road. As part of Lake Metroparks’ mission, we care a great deal and spend a lot of time, effort and money to protect, expand and enhance bird habitat. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. We’re committed to working with project</p>

			partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests.
28	<p>Environmental Concern Opposed to further development along Lake Erie, particularly parking area project [outside of PID 122421 scope]</p>	<p>I am writing of my concern about the development of the Lakefront Trail PID 122421 along the lakefront north of Route 535. I think the proposed access road and parking lots will be detrimental to the habitat used by wildlife.</p> <p>I realize the area had been a toxic waste dump decades ago, but the habitat has become ideal for wildlife that needs open grasslands. A few years ago, I was an invited guest to the property in January. We were able to observe Short-eared Owls. When someone slammed a car door, the owls startled and flew away in a panic. I think cars and activity in parking lots will scare away owls and other wildlife that won't have anywhere else to go. Also, Lake Metroparks manages public parks rather than wildlife preserves and allows people to wander anywhere in their parks rather than encouraging the need to stay on trail. People walking their dogs, even on leash, will further terrorize the birds.</p> <p>I support Lake Metroparks and always vote in favor of your levies, but I am against this project.</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to comment on the Lakefront Trail project. The parking lots as currently designed, and if built to their maximum size, would cover less than 2 acres of the 100+ acres north of Fairport-Nursery Road. As part of Lake Metroparks' mission, we care a great deal and spend a lot of time, effort and money to protect, expand and enhance bird habitat. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests.</p>
29	<p>Environmental Concern Opposed to paved ODOT trail and parking areas, potentially supportive of lower impact development.</p>	<p>Before I go any further, I'd like to commend you on the work you've done with the park system – I think, as people become more and more disconnected from the natural world, having green space available for the community is vital.</p> <p>That being said, I'd like to voice my dissenting opinion regarding the trail extension, at least certain aspects of it. The habitat that the extension would pass through is quite distinctive, and thus of critical importance for a number of avian and mammalian species.</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to comment on the Lakefront Trail project. The parking lots as currently designed, and if built to their maximum size, would cover less than 2 acres of the 100+ acres north of Fairport-Nursery Road. As part of Lake Metroparks' mission, we care a great deal and spend a lot of time, effort and money to protect, expand and enhance bird habitat. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site</p>

		<p>While I love the idea of having trails throughout the county, I do think it's essential to also consider the impact our human activities have on the local flora and fauna. I could be on board with perhaps an unpaved connector trail, but I'd be pretty strongly opposed to a wide, paved trail plus additional parking lots. While I certainly understand the potential difficulty in balancing natural preservation and providing recreational opportunities, I think this is a situation where less is more, and protecting the uniqueness of this habitat should outweigh more trails.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide input – please feel free to reach out if you have any additional questions!</p>	<p>while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests.</p>
<p>30A</p>	<p>Environmental Concern Opposed to further development along Lake Erie, particularly parking area project [outside of PID 122421 scope]</p>	<p>As a Lake County citizen for over 2 decades I thank you and the park staff for our many metroparks. I visit them several times a week in all seasons. I especially appreciate your recent project to swap out yard space for native plantings.</p> <p>When it comes to phase III of the lakefront trail I implore you to consider the needs of your largest group of constituents who are frequently overlooked in the planning phase: Wildlife Watchers. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, in 2022, there were 148 million wildlife watchers and 96 million birders in the United States — 37 percent of the population. In comparison to participation in similar outdoor activities: 39.9 million people fish and 14.4 million hunt. (See: National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (FHWAR) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)</p> <p>The vast acres along Fairport Nursery Road have been used for decades by birders and wildlife photographers to view wildlife from a stationary vantage point so as not to disturb their breeding and feeding activities. This expansive habitat is free of light pollution, roads, and trails making it the perfect place to enjoy the northern lights and to photograph the moonrise and sunsets free of man-made obstacles along the lakefront. There is no place quite like this anywhere else in the state,</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to comment on the Lakefront Trail project and to visit our parks. As part of Lake Metroparks' mission, we care a great deal and spend a lot of time, effort and money to protect, expand and enhance bird habitat. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests.</p> <p>In the next couple days, I'll send along annual costs on fish stocking and other fishing-related costs.</p>

making it a rare gem to attract tourism to Lake County as long as the sanctity, the very things that make it special, are preserved.

We ask that you consider the majority of your stakeholders and refrain from adding parking lots, light posts, lawn grass and/or ornamental plantings, and trails in the middle of the habitat and instead utilize the east and west ends of the property for parking and perhaps a small viewing platform where folks can enjoy wildlife at a distance. Alternatively a small lot along the road/fence line which does not intrude and divide the habitat could also serve the same purpose. These suggestions will save taxpayers costs around snow plowing, mowing, electricity, and fuel. They are also ADA compliant and a safer alternative for our citizens and pets alike from coyotes who den in these hills. Again, coyotes, like all the animals who call this place home, are a huge draw to photographers.

From a bird perspective, two state endangered birds that require very large contiguous grasslands are photographed here annually. The Upland Sandpiper and Northern Harrier could even nest here if the land is nurtured and not fragmented. (See https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/ohiodnr.gov/documents/wildlife/state-listed-species/Pub%205356%20Ohio%20Listed%20Species_R0722.pdf)

From a federal perspective, following are at risk birds which breed here:

Bobolink: The 2025 State of the Birds report lists Bobolink as an Orange Alert Tipping Point species, meaning that it has lost more than 50% of its population in the past 50 years and has shown accelerated declines within the past decade. According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, this species declined by an estimated 1.7% per year between 1966 and 2023, resulting in a cumulative decline of 63% over that period.

		<p>Common Nighthawk: populations declined by over 1% per year between 1966 and 2019, for a cumulative decline of about 48%, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.</p> <p>Savannah Sparrow: declined by about 45% between 1966 and 2019, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.</p> <p>Grasshopper Sparrow: populations declined by about 2.5% per year between 1966 and 2015, resulting in a cumulative decline of 72% over that period, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.</p> <p>Eastern Meadowlark: Populations fell approximately 2.6% per year between 1966 and 2019, resulting in a cumulative decline of 75%, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey.</p> <p>Sedge Wren: The North American Breeding Bird Survey estimates that Sedge Wren populations fell sharply between 1993 and 2015. They estimate an annual decline of 3.35% per year, which represents a 54% cumulative decline over that period.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this public input. While I do not request a reply, if one is provided, will you please also include the annual costs Lake Metroparks spends on stocking fish and all other annual fishing related expenditures?</p>	
<p>30B</p>	<p>Reply</p>		<p>Regarding your inquiry about park district fish stocking/fishing-related expenditures, over the past three years, Lake Metroparks has spent an average of \$46,500 annually on our fish stocking program. In addition, we've held an average of 29 programs per year with an average of 610 participants. Let me know if you have any other questions.</p>

<p>31</p>	<p>Environmental Concern Opposed to further development along Lake Erie</p>	<p>I began avidly birding about four years ago, during the covid pandemic. Birding at parks in both Lake and Geauga County have added numerous birds to my life list, and I'm grateful for these natural preservations. I want others to experience the same joy of birding in parks throughout our communities. However, the proposed extension of the Painesville Township Park into the grassland north of Fairport Nursery Road would harm the birds and the people that value them. In this location, I saw my first Snowy Owl in December of 2024. Many others were able to observe this beautiful bird, and it is one of the only reliable locations to see the species in Ohio every winter. This area also supports Short-eared Owls, Northern Shrikes, and Snow Buntings during the winter months. In the summer, many threatened or declining species, such as Henslow's Sparrows, Upland Sandpipers, and Common Nighthawks, use the habitat for breeding. Many of these species are experiencing substantial declines, especially the Snowy Owl. Turning this vital habitat into parking lots and a busy path would not only discourage birds from spending the winter or nesting here, but would also prevent the public from seeing some of these uncommon species. There's also no guarantee that people wouldn't venture into the undeveloped parts, especially with dogs, further harming wildlife. Additionally, this location is a great spot for people to view the northern lights, when we are granted the opportunity. The open field with the lake to the north, along with the lack of artificial light, makes for a beautiful picture. But adding multiple parking lots and other infrastructure would almost certainly come with bright street lights, prohibiting people's viewing of the aurora. Rather than adding a wide paved path and parking lots with an access road, a small trail connecting the Lakefront Park with the rest of the existing Township Park would reduce impact. This would minimize disruption to the vital habitat that many animals call home, and allow others to continue to bird at this amazing location. On behalf of myself and many others who value wildlife, I respectfully ask that you reconsider the plan. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to comment on the Lakefront Trail project and to visit your local parks. As part of Lake Metroparks' mission, we care a great deal and spend a lot of time, effort and money to protect, expand and enhance bird habitat. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests.</p>
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<p>32</p>	<p>Environmental Concern Opposed to further development along Lake Erie</p>	<p>I am writing to voice my disagreement with the proposal to continue the Lake Metroparks Lakefront Path Project - Phase III. This project will endanger fragile bird species that rely on the prairie habitat. One of the benefits mentioned for this expansion is for the birding community, but if birds will be displaced through loss of prairie habitat, there will not be many birds to observe. Prairie habitat is the most endangered habitat we have, with most lost in the state of Ohio. Please don't add to the destruction of this rare habitat. There are many bird species that depend on it. We do not need another pathway for people and dogs that will disrupt the ecology of this area. All birders who I speak with are in agreement with me. Think before you lose this vital habitat and cause irrevocable harm to the birds who call this home.</p>	<p>We appreciate you taking the time to comment on the Lakefront Trail project. As part of Lake Metroparks' mission, we care a great deal and spend a lot of time, effort and money to protect, expand and enhance bird habitat. Our design efforts to-date, as with most of our parks, have focused on balancing public access, which is not currently available at the site, with protection of the natural resources. We're committed to working with project partners to enhance and maintain the habitat on-site while also providing access to the general public, including those with mobility issues and those with various outdoor interests.</p>
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