



Lake Metroparks

Lakefront Path Project - Phase III

ODOT PID 122421

Virtual Open House



Project Description

- 10-foot-wide ADA-accessible asphalt path
- Multi-use (pedestrian, bicycle)
- Phase I – Completed in early 2024
 - Trail spans 2,300 feet along the Lake Erie shoreline beginning at Painesville Township Park
- Phase II – Completed in fall 2025
 - Extends the trail an additional 800 feet
- Phase III – Engineering and design in progress
 - Will extend the trail an additional mile along the Lake Erie shoreline
 - Connector trails will be constructed to tie into the location of future planned parking areas.

Schedule and Funding

- Phase III trail engineering and design in progress
- Construction anticipated to begin in fall 2026 with final completion in summer 2027.
- Preliminary estimated cost of \$2,328,780.60
- Funds administered by ODOT
- Funding contributions by Lake Metroparks, NOACA, and FHWA



Preliminary Plans

- Phase III will begin at the endpoint of Phase II and extend the trail an additional 9,500 ft. including connector trails.
- Entrance drive and parking areas from Fairport Nursery Road to be constructed under a separate project.





Environmental Impacts

- The project area, formerly known as the Diamond Shamrock Painesville Works, historically operated as a chemical production plant before its closure in 1977.
- Remediation has been completed in the areas covered by the planned trail, including the installation of a clean soil cover over the land to address contamination from past land uses.
- Under the supervision of Ohio EPA, extensive soil and groundwater testing has been conducted at the property and the Ohio EPA continues to monitor ongoing conditions at the site.
- Design and Construction will be completed in strict accordance with Ohio EPA restrictions and guidelines.

Section 4(f)

Protects recreational properties and historic sites

- Publicly-owned parks and recreation areas
- Publicly-owned wildlife and waterfowl refuges
- Public and privately-owned historic sites
- This project will not include work on parks, refuges, or historic sites

Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1968 amended Department of Transportation Act of 1966 to include 4(f) language:

The Secretary shall not approve any project which requires the “use” of land from a public park, recreation area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or historic site, unless:

- (1) There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of such land, and;
- (2) Such program includes all possible planning to minimize harm

Potential Benefits

- Further extends ADA-accessible route for visitors to take in the sights of Lake Erie
- Lays the groundwork for future phases connecting Fairport Harbor and Painesville
- Offers scenic views of Lake Erie, historic Fairport Harbor Lighthouse and the Painesville Township Park pier
- Increased recreational opportunities for birding, biking, and fishing



Submit Comments by February 18, 2026

- Comments will be reviewed by Lake Metroparks
- Responses can be seen on the Lake Metroparks' website 14 days after the comment period closes



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