



THE AKRON GARDEN CLUB

May, 14, 2021

Mayor Dan Horrigan
Suite 200 Municipal Building
166 South High Street
Akron, OH. 44308

Dear Mayor Horrigan,

I'm writing on behalf of the Akron Garden Club to endorse the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's proposal to purchase 45 acres of land on Theiss Road in Merriman Valley from the City of Akron for the purpose of permanent preservation.

The Akron Garden club is a volunteer nonprofit organization with a mission, in part, "to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement." We have a history of taking positions on clean air and water to ensure the preservation of critical resources that benefit the land and community.

The Theiss road property's small stream ravines, wetland terraces, and wooded acreage impact the Cuyahoga River watershed, Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The property intercepts over 6 million gallons of rain water annually, reducing flooding and saving over \$49,000/year in stormwater collection and treatment costs. The tree canopy removes pollutants and sequesters and stores carbon.

This property is also contiguous to land owned by Summit Metro Parks and West Creek Conservancy. Protecting it would help establish a regional conservation corridor in the Mud Creek subwatershed providing essential and well-connected habitat critical to the survival of numerous endangered plants and animals that call this area home.

The Akron Garden Club hopes the City of Akron will preserve this important property for future generations, and accept the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's proposal. We appreciate your consideration and support of this request to protect one of Akron's last major greenfields.

Sincerely,

Tracy Wiesner
Conservation Committee Chairman
Akron Garden Club

cc: Akron City Council Members
Shelley Pearsall, Preserve the Valley
Rich Cochran, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, President

Member, The Garden Club of America