



Letter of Support for Theiss Road Property Conservation

Preserve the Valley, a citizen action coalition dedicated to protecting and planning for the future of the Cuyahoga Valley, would like to express its support for all conservation proposals that would set aside 100% of the Theiss Road property for conservation.

The Theiss Road property has been called "the last major greenfield in the City of Akron" (*Akron Beacon Journal*, September 18, 2020). We believe that conserving 100% of the 43 wooded acres located between Theiss and Hardy Roads is critical for the following reasons:

- 1.) This property is located in close proximity to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and adjacent to a county Metropark (Hampton Hills Mountain Bike area, 2092 Theiss Road).
- 2.) The wooded acreage of this property plays an important role in protecting the Cuyahoga River watershed and nearby tributaries. This region is a current Area of Concern (AOC) according to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.
- 3.) This property's centralized location means it offers promising potential for recreation and environmental education for urban youth and families from Akron and surrounding areas.

Preserve the Valley has heard from many citizens who want to see the Theiss Road property set aside for conservation. Residents have written hundreds of messages to Akron City Council members and sent numerous opinion letters to local newspapers. A Change.org petition "Save Akron's Last Major Greenspace," created in October 2020, has garnered nearly 12,000 signatures from residents locally and around the nation.

We believe that the voices of these citizens should be heard and that this Akron greenspace deserves conservation protection now and for the future. Preserve the Valley also looks forward to the establishment of a master planning process for the Cuyahoga Valley where we can share our vision of the Valley as a thriving place for tourists and residents alike because of its wide range of natural and recreational resources.

Preserve the Valley Citizen Action Group