

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2021-0202

<p>Sponsored by: Councilmember Simon on behalf of Cuyahoga County Planning Commission</p> <p>Co-sponsored by: Councilmember Stephens</p>	<p>A Resolution supporting an application for funding under the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program available through the Ohio Public Works Commission on behalf of Western Reserve Land Conservancy for the conservation of ecologically significant areas in the Shelter Hill Forest Springs in the Village of Hunting Valley; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.</p>
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County has received a request from Western Reserve Land Conservancy for a Resolution supporting an application for funding under the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program available through the Ohio Public Works Commission on behalf of Western Reserve Land Conservancy for the conservation of ecologically significant areas in the Shelter Hill Forest Springs in the Village of Hunting Valley; pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 164.23; and

WHEREAS, Western Reserve Land Conservancy seeks to request Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation program funding to acquire and preserve in perpetuity approximately 75 acres of open space and riparian corridor located in the Village of Hunting Valley in eastern Cuyahoga County. Shelter Hill Forest Springs ("the Property") consists of forested upland habitat with hemlock ravines, wetlands, and cold-water streams that drain to the Chagrin River.

The Shelter Hill Forest Springs project will involve the acquisition and preservation of 75 acres by Western Reserve Land Conservancy, restoration/site improvements with support from partner organizations, and public access with educational programming. Restoration and site improvements will include invasive species management and reforestation, demolition of existing structures, and maintenance of the walking trail. Public access will be achieved with improvements to the walking trail and educational programming by Western Reserve Land Conservancy's staff. Additionally, the protection of this property will add to the continuous block of approximately 2,100 acres of a conservation corridor in the Chagrin River Valley; and

WHEREAS, the project is known as "Shelter Hill Forest Springs" and is located in County Council District No. 6; and

WHEREAS, the total estimated project cost is \$6,000,000.00, of which \$500,000.00 is estimated for the Clean Ohio application; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 164.23 provides that “an entity seeking a grant for a project that is eligible for funding shall submit an application to the natural resources assistance council with geographical jurisdiction over the proposed project area;” and, Ohio Revised Code Section 164.23(B) further provides that “in addition to the application, an applicant for a grant for a project shall include a copy of a resolution supporting the project from each county in which the proposed project is to be conducted;” and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Public Works Commission provides financial assistance to Natural Resources Assistance Councils for the purpose of preserving open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors; and

WHEREAS, the applications for the fifteenth-round funding under the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program are due on October 15, 2021 to the Cuyahoga County Natural Resources Assistance Council; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order to meet the application deadline required by the Cuyahoga County Natural Resources Assistance Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby supports the submission of an application for funding under the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program available through the Ohio Public Works Commission on behalf of Western Reserve Land Conservancy for the conservation of ecologically significant areas in Shelter Hill Forest Springs; pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 164.23 and known as “Shelter Hill Forest Springs” Project.

SECTION 2. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health, or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by Ms. Simon, seconded by Ms. Stephens, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas: Stephens, Simon, Baker, Miller, Sweeney, Tuma, Gallagher, Conwell and Jones

Nays: None

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County Council President	Date
_____	_____
County Executive	Date
_____	_____
Clerk of Council	Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: September 14, 2021
Committee(s) Assigned: Education, Environment & Sustainability

Additional Sponsorship Requested: September 22, 2021

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