

CITY OF OBERLIN, OHIO

RESOLUTION No. R17-12 CMS

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PUBLIC LANDS ALONG PLUM CREEK AS THE 'PLUM CREEK GREENWAY'

WHEREAS, Plum Creek is the most extensive and environmentally significant natural water body in the City of Oberlin. It flows approximately 3.9 miles across Oberlin, from the western edge of the city, near the Oberlin Golf Club, to the eastern edge of the city, where it crosses East Lorain Street near the City's Water Environmental Protection Facility. More than 90% of the City of Oberlin is within the Plum Creek watershed which reaches as far north as Kendal at Oberlin and as far south as Hamilton Street (Exhibit 1). Plum Creek provides habitat to many native plant and animal species, as well as to various invasive species. Because most surface water runoff within the city eventually flows to Plum Creek, this makes the creek vulnerable to non-point sources of pollution, such as leaking oil from cars, excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides. The Ohio EPA has designated Plum Creek as a "non-attainment warm water habitat", signifying that habitat is impaired due to the presence of suspended sediment and bacteria. Since Plum Creek flows into the Black River and to Lake Erie, water quality in Oberlin has a proportional effect on these important freshwater resources; and

WHEREAS, Oberlin residents have been working for more than 100 years to conserve land and create a continuous park system along Plum Creek. This effort began when Adelia Field Johnston (1837-1910), a prominent Oberlin resident and the organizer of the Oberlin Village Improvement Society, dedicated the last ten years of her life to cleaning up Plum Creek and acquiring land for city parks through generous donations by Oberlin residents. Her work led to the creation and subsequent improvement of Wright Memorial Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, and Spring Street Park; and

WHEREAS, a century of effort building our park system has resulted in a nearly continuous publicly-owned greenway along Plum Creek from just east of Professor Street to the Donald J. Pease Memorial Bike Path, east of Spring Street. The existing parks along Plum Creek are a hub for community recreation, leisure, and education, contributing to an increased quality of life for Oberlin residents. The existing trail system along the public land adjacent to the creek consists of paved walking paths and grass-covered trails. The trail crosses city streets in four locations where pedestrian safety is a potential concern. No signs are present indicating the presence of Plum Creek or a trail system along the creek. The land along Plum Creek to the west is owned by Oberlin College, which maintains similar trails as part of the college arboretum, another popular open space in Oberlin; and

WHEREAS the City of Oberlin, City Council, and the Planning Commission have recognized the value of Plum Creek as an environmental and recreational resource, and have committed to linking recreational pathways and preserving green space along Plum Creek as part of the Comprehensive Plan's broader goals of connecting neighborhoods, encouraging sustainable

transportation, preserving and restoring habitat along the creek, increasing recreation areas inside and outside of the city, and managing stormwater in an environmentally sound way; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space and Visual Environment Commission with the endorsement of the Planning Commission and the Recreation Commission recommends that City Council and the City Administration support the commitments made in the Comprehensive Plan by preserving continuous publicly-accessible green space along Plum Creek and enhancing public access to this space.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Oberlin, County of Lorain, State of Ohio, a majority of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That Oberlin City Council does hereby designate the public lands along Plum Creek as the Plum Creek Greenway to highlight its significance as an environmental and recreational resource.

SECTION 2. That, as opportunities arise, the City may seek to acquire property and/or easements to provide public access to segments of land adjacent to Plum Creek that are not publicly owned.

SECTION 3. That the City shall maintain and seek to improve its public pathways, amenities and related infrastructure along the creek to provide additional recreational opportunities and aesthetic enhancements, including but not limited to informational signs or other means of wayfinding.

SECTION 4. That the City shall add, as opportunities arise and where feasible, designated crosswalks where the pathway along Plum Creek crosses city streets.

SECTION 5. That the City shall seek grant funding and/or partnerships with local conservation and recreation organizations to assist with implementation of the recommended actions.

SECTION 6. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning or relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this 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.

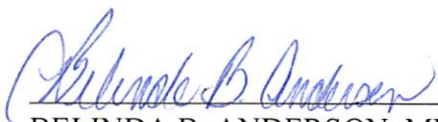
SECTION 7. That this Resolution shall take effect at the earliest date allowed by law.

PASSED: 1st Reading: August 21, 2017

2nd Reading: September 5, 2017 (Effective in 30 days)

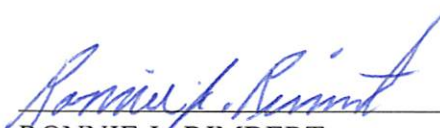
3rd Reading: _____

ATTEST:



BELINDA B. ANDERSON, MMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL

POSTED: 09/06/2017



RONNIE J. RIMBERT
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/05/2017