

Consideration of Recreational Opportunities

Ottawa Creek Preserve on Reservoir Site 2

During the preliminary engineering phase, the city offered to provide passive recreational opportunities on the property as part of the overall project if local residents were in support of these facilities. To gauge public support, a public opinion poll on the concept plan was taken during the first two open house meetings in July 2006 and October 2006. The opinion poll data and the overall findings were shared with the Delaware County Commissioners and Thompson Township Trustees in January 2007, and the City requested that the Commissioners review the information and formulate a final desired course of action.

In July 2007, cultural resources artifacts potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places were found to be present on a portion of the property being considered for passive recreation. Although this area must not be disturbed, it is feasible that the park facilities could incorporate this recent finding into the park theme and provide educational opportunities associated with the artifacts.

In August 2007, the Delaware County Commissioners endorsed use of the land near Reservoir Site 2 for use as a park to be named the Ottawa Creek Preserve. Preservation Parks of Delaware County will maintain the park, and the only amenities provided will be for passive activities including walking, running, biking, fishing, picnicking and a child playground area.

These park facilities will not be constructed and available for public use until sometime in 2014 after the reservoir construction is completed. The park will be open only during daylight hours.

Other Recreational Opportunities desired in the Project Area

Scioto River Canoe Portage: The Scioto River in the project area is considered a navigable river and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will require that access be provided around the proposed inflatable weir. Signage and Safe Portage will need to be provided when the inflatable weir is operational. When the weir is deflated and lying flat on the river bottom, it will not interfere with navigation of the river by recreational boaters.

Scioto River Canoe Portage/Access: ODNR also desired that a new access point for canoe access be provided downstream of the inflatable weir. Columbus currently owns land near the confluence of Ottawa Creek and the Scioto River east of SR 257, which will serve this purpose and provide off street parking at this location.

Union County Bike Path: The Union County/Marysville Economic Development Partnership is planning to expand the current Scenic Bikeway network using County/ Township roads, and are interested in a route linking Richwood to Magnetic Springs. The City was contacted in the fall of 2006 to see if any land would be available for lease to provide a rest stop area on Fulton Creek Road north of Smokey Road and south of SR 4.

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Water Beyond 2000

Upground Reservoir Project

Marion County Park District: In November 2006, the Marion County Park District contacted the City to learn more about the recreational use opportunities that might be available for the Reservoir Project. The Marion County Park District is very interested in preserving and promoting the counties natural resources and providing passive recreational opportunities for residents in the county. The Park District is working to promote recreational activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing/kayaking and they are currently in the process of developing two recreational trails on the western and southern ends of the county.

The Director of the Marion County Park District has indicated that the district has support for the development of recreational opportunities in the area and they wish to partner with any groups that could mutually benefit the park district and/or associate groups.



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Please submit your comments on the project at:

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