



Community, City to highlight lake restoration progress

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Contact: Karen DeMasi, CityWide Development Corporation, 937-853-2555

On October 11, community leaders including Mayor Nan Whaley, Ohio AFL-CIO President Tim Burga, neighborhood volunteers and labor representatives will kick-off the installation of new amenities at West Dayton's Lakeside Lake while celebrating progress in restoration of the historic attraction. A media and community update event is scheduled for 1 p.m. (Parking will be available at the RTA turnaround across from 3512 Lakeview Blvd.)

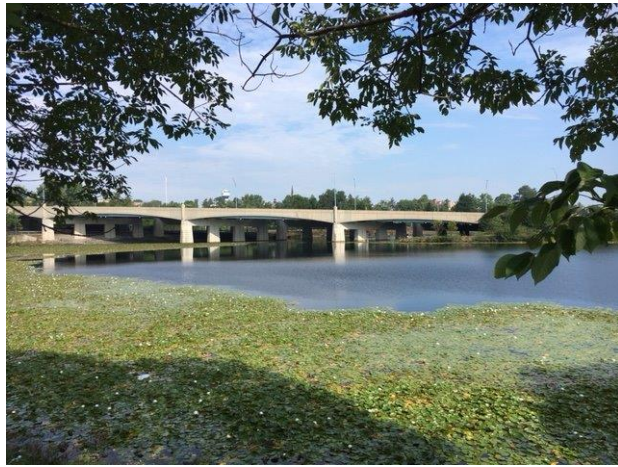
Amenities to be installed following the event include a fishing pier (courtesy of the Ohio AFL-CIO and the Union Sportsmen's Alliance) and two iron benches (courtesy of Ironworkers Local 290).

Background

The effort to restore and improve Lakeside Lake is one part of a broad framework for redevelopment of West Dayton, coordinated by CityWide Development Corporation, the City of Dayton's development partner. CityWide began community organizing in the Pineview neighborhood in 2016 by meeting with neighborhood leaders, walking the community, evaluating housing conditions, and identifying potential partners in investment. Almost immediately, CityWide staff began hearing about Lakeside Lake and its importance to the community. Working with Pineview residents, CityWide began to build a plan to restore the lake.

The Lake

Lakeside Lake borders the Pineview neighborhood and is directly across the street from the Dayton VA Medical Center, one of Dayton's largest employers. The spring-fed, approximately 10-acre lake was once part of Lakeside Amusement Park, opening in 1890, and was an attraction for visitors to the Dayton Soldiers Home (today's VA Medical Center), created by President Abraham Lincoln just weeks before his death. Lakeside Amusement Park closed in the mid-1960s.



Many Dayton residents have fond memories of visits to the lake, which offered fishing and a beautiful vista. However, over the years honeysuckle and other invasive plants have marred the beauty and blocked the view of the lake from homes in Pineview, which sits at one of the highest elevations in the city. CityWide has made restoration of the lake part of its community development strategy, believing that its beautification is essential to community confidence and the ability to attract additional investment to West Dayton.

Restoration Plan

Initial efforts by CityWide staff and Pineview residents got a significant boost when the restoration effort was selected by the Union Sportsmen's Alliance and the Ohio AFL-CIO for their annual conservation project, bringing funding and labor from union members throughout the state to help.

"The Ohio AFL-CIO is pleased to advance the mission of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance that celebrates the great outdoors and supports local communities," said Ohio AFL-CIO President Tim Burga. "We are grateful to Mayor Whaley, the local building and construction trades, the local labor council, union volunteers and City employees making this project a reality for all to enjoy."

The first phase of the restoration project was to clear out invasive honeysuckle and trash along the water's edge. Four cleanups have been held with resident volunteers and AFL-CIO members over the last six months. The second phase adds benches, a fishing pier, a small parking lot and improved pathways and signage. The initial cost of these phases is estimated to be \$150,000.

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Project Partners/Key Contacts

Pineview Neighborhood Association
Lisa Rucker, president
937-572-6029

Ohio AFL-CIO

Jeanette Mauk, field director
500 S. Front St. Suite 700
Columbus OH 43215
614-224-8271 ext. 7144; 937-260-2599

Union Sportsmen's Alliance
Robert Stroede, conservation manager
235 Noah Dr. Ste. 200
Franklin, TN 37064
roberts@unionsportsmen.org; 615-831-6770
www.unionsportsmen.org

City of Dayton
Fred Stovall, director, Department of Public Works
frederick.stovall@daytonohio.gov; 937-333-4261

CityWide Development Corporation
Karen DeMasi, director, community development
KDemasi@citywidedev.com; 937-853-2555

