

# ≈ Friends of Big Creek ≈

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## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Bob Gardin  
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### Partners Undertake Big Creek Trail Alignment Study Through the City of Brooklyn

Cleveland, Ohio August 24, 2007 - Friends of Big Creek, Cleveland Metroparks, and the cities of Cleveland and Parma join the City of Brooklyn as co-sponsors for a \$75,000 trail alignment study funded by the federal Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) grant program through NOACA. The \$60,000 grant (with a \$15,000 local match) was awarded on August 10, 2007. The City of Brooklyn will administer the grant.

The study will develop preferred alignments for a three mile all-purpose trail expansion that will connect the Metroparks Brookside Reservation to the Big Creek Reservation south of Brookpark Road. This trail alignment, first envisioned by Metroparks founder William Stinchcomb in 1917, will create a major link in the Metroparks greenway system and increase access for more than 40,000 Brooklyn, Cleveland and Parma residents and employees living or working within one mile of its route. Many thousands more will be able to access the amenities of the outer reaches of the Big Creek Parkway on one end, and the Zoo, the Towpath Trail and other destinations via the other.

In 2004 the City of Brooklyn commissioned the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission to undertake a Citywide Master Plan. The plan incorporated the Planning Commission's Greenspace Plan concept of the trail expansion through the city with linkages to its neighborhoods. By 2005 the non-profit Friends of Big Creek (FOBC) was formed to advance this concept and to act as the watershed stewardship organization for Big Creek. After a series of public meetings and deliberation with its partners, FOBC asked the City of Brooklyn to act as the administrator for the TLCI grant program.

The local match requirements for the grant are from the cities of Brooklyn (\$4,500) Cleveland (\$2,000) and Parma (\$2,000), Cleveland Metroparks (\$6,000), and Friends of Big Creek (\$500). Other project partners include Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan, Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, and West Creek Preservation Committee.

For further information also contact:

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