

Spring/Summer, 2016

## Planning grant lays groundwork for future restoration in the watershed

Imagine taking in a Lake Erie sunset at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve while standing on a footbridge crossing an estuary at the newly restored mouth of the Doan Brook. Envision pausing on a bike ride to watch birds playing above an oxbow meander of the Doan at newly renovated Sowinsky Park, a section of Rockefeller Park, before heading toward University Circle to see the Doan flowing freely where check dams used to restrict its course. Think of golfers teeing up beside a remediated Doan Brook instead of a trench at Canterbury Golf Course.

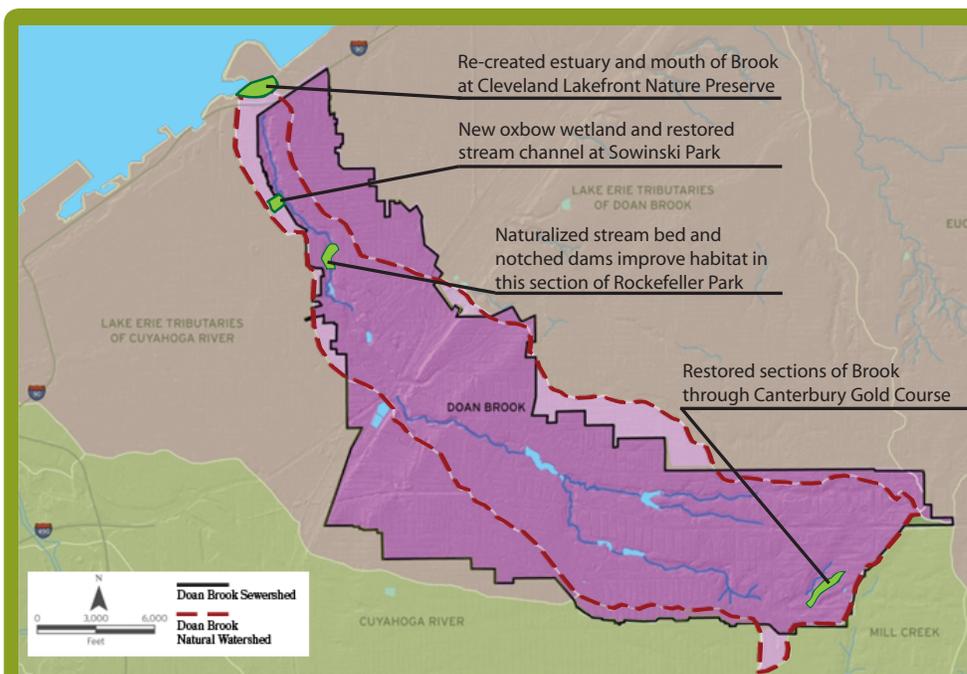
These visions are the result of restoration planning we were able to undertake with the help of a

\$50,000 grant from Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). For many smaller organizations like ours, long-range planning amid the day-to-day realities of programming and managing the organization can be a challenge. When major grant funding becomes available, it is critical to have plans ready at short notice. This GLRI grant allowed us to prepare plans for four targeted restoration interventions along the Brook.

It's important to reemphasize that, although we are excited about these potential restoration sites, these plans are not yet projects. This study showed that these four concepts are plausible, but it will take more study, more discussion with stakeholders, and, of course, more grant funding

to move forward with any of them. Indeed, the plans, which were prepared by Environmental Design Group, are only at a 30% design level detail.

A guiding idea behind the development of these plans was to improve the Doan Brook in order to meet delisting targets set by the International Joint Commission. These four concepts address five different beneficial use impairments, including loss of fish and fish habitat, degradation of aesthetics, eutrophication and undesirable algae, and degradation of benthos. Don't know an AOC from a BUI? See page three for more about how environmental policy shapes the watershed world.



*Left: GLRI grant funding allowed us to prepare plans for remediation at four sites throughout the watershed. We're happy to share details; contact us to learn more!*

### Inside this edition of Brooknotes

- Connect with our summer outreach events calendar
- Learn the latest about educational signage installed in Rockefeller Park
- See how international environmental policy meets the Doan Brook
- Thank you to all our donors!

Check out all the ways to connect with your local watershed this season. See our website or Facebook page for more information, recently added programming, and registration.



Looking for service projects to do with a volunteer group, scout troop, or office? We are happy to coordinate group volunteer days! Contact us at 216-325-7781 for more information.

## Storm Drain Stenciling

Spread the word about stormwater pollution

- June 18, 9:30 am
- Sept. 10, 9:30 am



## Join us this spring and summer!

### Rain Barrel Workshops with the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

- May 11, 6 pm. Rockefeller Park Lagoon Gazebo
- May 17, 6:30 pm
- Cleveland Heights Community Center
- May 19, 6:30 pm. Nature Center at Shaker Lakes



Want to be kept in the loop about upcoming events? Sign up for our email newsletter on our website, [www.doanbrookpartnership.org](http://www.doanbrookpartnership.org).

### Hikes with Dr. Roy Larick

Learn about local history and geography *in situ*

- June 4, 2 pm
- July 30, 2 pm
- October 8, 2 pm



### 15<sup>th</sup>-annual Family Fishing Day

Enjoy a day of fishing and family fun. The first 300 kids get fishing rods and reels at this totally free event.

- July 9, 9 am to 1 pm. Rockefeller Park Lagoon



### Take to the Lake

Paddle Lower Lake on a beautiful summer afternoon. Bring your own boat or borrow one of ours. Instruction provided by Cleveland Metroparks.

- August 20, noon to 5 pm. Lower Shaker Lake



## Rockefeller Park signage now installed

Recreational opportunities in Cleveland's Rockefeller Park range from biking and fishing to playgrounds and tennis courts. Now, thanks to support from Holden Parks Trust, the Partnership is adding education to the park's mix of activities.

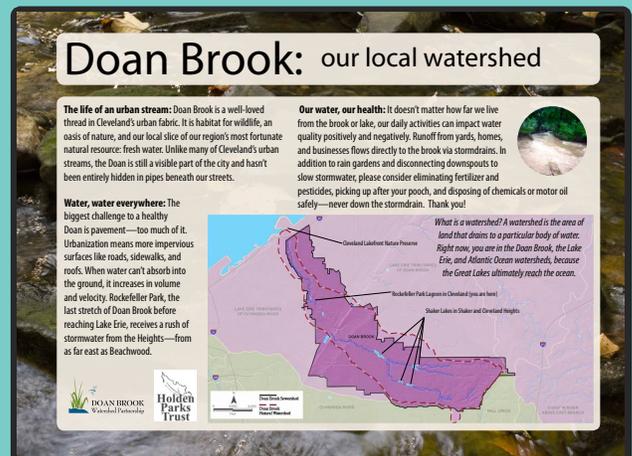
Two educational signs were installed this spring around Rockefeller Park Lagoon, and one more sign went up near the bioswale at E. 105 Street and MLK Drive.

These signs have information about the Doan Brook watershed, safe fish consumption, and green

infrastructure. The signs are the latest addition to the Lagoon area, a place that has seen considerable improvement in the last few years, starting with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's Doan Brook Enhancement Project in 2014.

Be sure to stop by Rockefeller Park this summer to enjoy one of Cleveland's great public spaces in the

heart of the city, and check out our signs while you're there!



Above: this sign, one of three now installed in Rockefeller Park, introduces the Doan Brook and its watershed.

# DBWP and the AOC: Working to improve our Great Lake

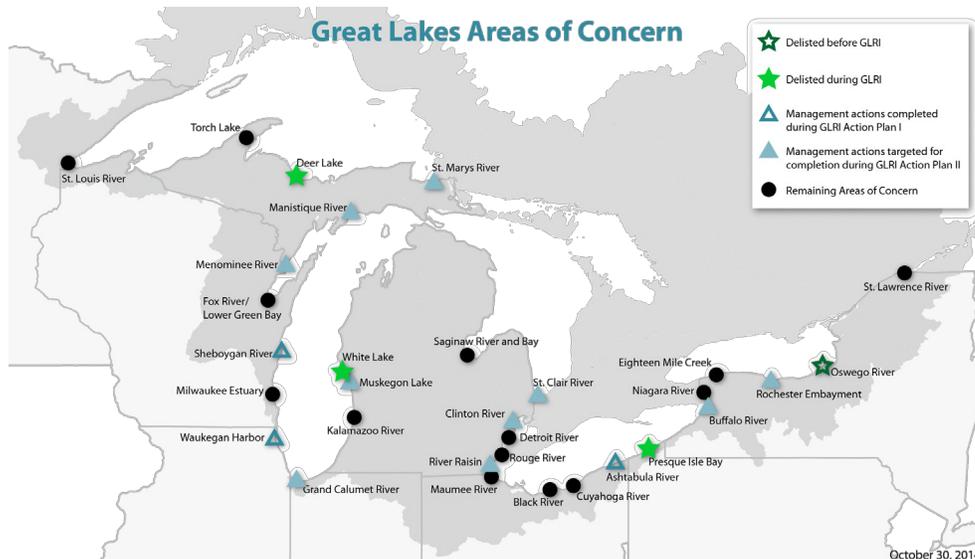
Many Clevelanders are acutely aware of the role the Cuyahoga River played in igniting support for the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972. Lesser known, however, is another landmark piece of environmental policy enacted in 1972: The US-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The structures set up by this international agreement continue to shape policy and grantmaking, and they have a big impact on how we at the Partnership approach restoration projects.

This agreement established 43 areas of concern (AOCs) within the Great Lakes watershed. What makes an area concerning? These are watersheds that fail to meet the standards of the agreement because they have one or more beneficial use impairments (BUIs). Even though the Doan Brook and Cuyahoga River are separate watersheds, the IJC included the Doan Brook in the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern, and there's a good reason for that:

Many of the same issues that affect the Cuyahoga are at play here in the Doan Brook watershed, and the Doan and the Cuyahoga flow to the same place—Lake Erie. Both the Doan and the Cuyahoga are affected by multiple BUIs, including degradation of aesthetics, loss of fish habitat, eutrophication, and public access and recreation impairments. Neighboring Euclid Creek and Dugway Brook are also included in the Cuyahoga AOC.

The ultimate goal for the IJC is to improve the quality of the Great Lakes, and that involves addressing the issues in each AOC. Several AOCs throughout the Great Lakes have been delisted, meaning that they now meet environmental standards, but the highly urbanized nature of the Cuyahoga River AOC makes delisting a long-term goal. Nevertheless, remediation projects, such as the four the Partnership is studying with help from the GLRI grant (see page one), are considered with an eye toward addressing BUIs.

*Below: The Cuyahoga Area of Concern is one of 43 Great Lakes AOCs. The Cuyahoga River AOC includes the lower 46.5 miles of the Cuyahoga River and its tributaries, beginning from the Gorge Dam pool in Akron and running to the mouth of the river. The AOC also includes the lakeshore from the western border of Cleveland to Euclid Creek on the east, an area that includes the Doan, Dugway, and Euclid Creek watersheds.*



## Watershed Lingo

Like any profession, the watershed world has its own jargon. Wow your friends by tossing these watershed terms into a conversation:

- **AOC:** Area of concern. The Cuyahoga River area is one of 43 in the US and Canada. The other Ohio AOCs are the Ashtabula, Black, and Maumee rivers.
- **Benthos:** Benthic macroinvertebrates, which are small animals—usually the immature stages of insects—that live in the substrate of streams and rivers. They are very sensitive to changes in water quality and serve as indicator species. Doan Brook has a degraded benthic community because of high flows during storms and poor water quality.
- **BUI:** Beneficial use impairment. A condition that results from the physical, chemical, or biological degradation of a water body. There are a total of 14 BUIs; eight are applicable to the Doan Brook.
- **HUC:** Hydrologic unit code. A numerical designation system for watersheds. Doan Brook is part of a HUC-12, which is a twelve-digit code for a sub-watershed.
- **IJC:** The International Joint Commission, the body responsible for overseeing transboundary environmental issues in the Great Lakes watershed. It was founded in 1909 as part of the Boundary Waters Treaty between the USA and Canada.
- **RAP:** Remedial action plan. Developed to address BUIs within an AOC, this document charts a path toward delisting a watershed, including actionable goals and monitoring targets.
- **WAP:** Watershed action plan. This document lays out a vision for improving the health of a watershed.

## 2015-16 Supporters of the Doan Brook

Thank you to the many community members who gave "Doan-ations" during our annual fund drive to support watershed restoration projects and programs. Listings reflect contributions made from our annual meeting on November 17, 2015, through March 1, 2016. If we have an incorrect listing, please contact Graham Welling at 216-325-7781.

Sandra Albro  
Beth and Steven Cagan  
Susan and Richard Coyne  
Binne Douglas  
Daniel and Chris Fuller  
Andrew and Lois Gross  
Nina and James Gibans  
Geoffrey Hare  
Peter and Jan Hollinger  
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Torrey McMillan  
Trent and Irene Meyerhoefer  
Katheryn Mook  
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Mary Zenisek

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