

# Brook Notes

A publication of the  
DOAN BROOK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

AUGUST 2005

## A Doan Brook Historic and Cultural Corridor?

The richness of historic and cultural resources along Doan Brook, from its origin in Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights, down through the City of Cleveland in University Circle and Wade/Rockefeller parks, may be



Reading from *The Doan Brook Handbook* (Gooch 2001), "By 1897, enough land had been granted or purchased to allow for the formation of a continuous park along Doan Brook from Lake Erie to Horseshoe Lake." This in itself was an historic accomplishment: land set aside to protect a stream and its adjacent riparian area.

Recently, the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership has considered whether treating the entire Doan Brook park corridor as one management unit might provide for greater promotion and

unequaled in the United States.

Within this almost continuous park and protected area along Doan Brook are the Cleveland Cultural Gardens, the stone-constructed Schweinfurth bridges, Wade and Rockefeller parks, the Shaker Historic District and the Liberty Row World War I plaques and pin oaks lining the route from lakeshore to the Heights.



Summer on Horseshoe (Upper) Lake, North Branch Doan Brook, looking east. The border of Cleveland Heights (left) and Shaker Heights (right) runs through the lake.

tourism to the area, while being beneficial for seeking grants to support preservation and restoration projects.

Linking protection and restoration of the brook itself with the local historic and cultural resources of the area certainly is an idea worth further consideration.

## Partnership Board Adopts *Development Plan 2005-2008*

The DBWP Board at its June meeting approved the Partnership's first Development Plan to guide fundraising for project, program and operational support for the next three years.

A committee chaired by Shaker Heights resident Rick Stuhan met regularly between February and May to draft the plan. First analyzing current revenue sources and annual expenses, the Development Committee considered future costs for undertaking work detailed in the *Action Plan for the Doan Brook Watershed*

(Sept. 2004). A three-year planning horizon was projected and a draft plan penned by Steve Cadwell and refined by the committee.

Plan highlights include:

- √ increasing current annual operating revenue from \$55,000 to \$90,000
- √ increasing annual support from individuals to \$9,000 (currently \$3,000)
- √ raising \$5,000 each year through events and/or a benefit

√ securing unrestricted operating funds from foundations and corporations of at least \$21,000 by 2008

√ securing project/program funds of at least \$50,000 annually by 2008

√ reducing Partnership reliance on city funding to a 50% level by 2008.

Thank you to all committee members, including board members Nancy Moore, Laura Gooch, Dorothy Adams and Nancy Dietrich.



# Director's Report

Moving along through this rather hot but welcome summer season, we have good things to report to our many supporters.

The Rockefeller Park Doan Brook Restoration Project has been delayed but is on the right path (see pg. 3). The City of Cleveland, Department of Port Control plans to rebid the project in the next few months to ensure a qualified stream restoration contractor can be found to do the entire project for the dollars allocated.

Our Ohio EPA Sec. 319 water pollution control grant work is well underway and will bring on-the-ground improvements to the upper South Branch Doan Brook in Shaker Heights (see pg. 4).

Due to sound financial management, we were able to request, and were granted, a reduced funding amount for operations this year from our three watershed cities: Cleveland Heights, Cleveland and Shaker Heights. The Partnership will receive \$13,500 from each city this year. Our \$55,000 annual budget is rounded out by individual partner contributions and agency and family foundation moneys.

Last year's Request For Doan-ations (our annual drive for operating funds to support the Partnership) raised \$3,000, a 42% increase over the previous year. Thank you for this show of support from 59 individual/family partners. Ten framed photographs of Doan Brook scenes and 14 copies of *The Doan Brook Handbook* were provided as incentives for giving at varying levels. Our 2005 Request For Doan-ations will be kicked off at our Annual Partners Meeting in October.

We are aggressively pursuing grant funds but are finding the terrain to be very competitive. Several applications have been made this year that were not selected, including to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to restore a

300-foot portion of the South Branch Doan Brook on the Shaker School District campus, and to the Great Lakes Commission for an education/outreach and signage project to compliment the Rockefeller Park Doan Brook Restoration Project. Recently we collaborated on a planning grant proposal through the Ohio Lake Erie Commission's Balanced Growth Initiative and submitted a proposal through the Lake Erie Protection Fund, again, for the Shaker School District Project (we're awaiting word on both proposals).

This spring we launched our own web site, hosted by the 'Neighborhood Links' program at Cleveland State University. You guessed it...[www.doanbrook.org](http://www.doanbrook.org)

Also this spring, our Watershed Education Committee coordinated two well-attended forums on the Doan Brook Watershed in partnership with CWRU's Center for Regional Economic Issues.

We remain involved with future plans for the Dike 14 site, under which Doan Brook flows through a box culvert before discharging to Lake Erie. The City of Cleveland and its prime consultant, Biohabitats Inc., has kicked off a planning and design process for improving the ecology and habitat of the site.

Recently, we welcomed Steve Cadwell as The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes' representative on our 11-member Board of Trustees. As many of you know, Steve began work in July as Executive Director, replacing Nancy King Smith who retired after 10 years at the helm of The Nature Center. Nancy's vision and leadership were instrumental in the late-1990s "watershed approach" focus on Doan Brook. With funding provided by the George Gund Foundation, Nancy and several others were the driving force behind formation of the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership. We wish Nancy

the best in her future endeavors, and hope Doan Brook draws her back after some much deserved time off.

Watershed education continues in partnership with The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, spearheaded by programs developed by Tori Mills and with the ongoing work of the Center's dedicated naturalists. Popular programs this year have included 'Laudable Lawns and Home Habitats' and 'Backyard Rain Barrel Construction.' The Nature Center also held its second annual native plants sale, an opportunity for area residents to infuse natives into their yard



beautification projects.

We continue to assist the City of Shaker Heights and residents of Green and Marshall lakes, with technical support from John Carroll University, on aquatic weed control and long-term lake management. The City is continuing its bioaugmentation treatments of the lakes this summer and has successfully reduced the resident Canada goose population, while other wildlife thrives. Development of lake management plans, a task the Partnership has committed to completing by April 2006, is underway.

In closing, while we are a small organization in terms of staff, the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership (board and staff) strive to provide service to our individual partners, watershed cities and myriad other stakeholders. If you have questions about our plans, ideas for improvements that we perhaps haven't yet thought of, or wish to volunteer or plug into our work through our committees or in other ways, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Keith Jones

Executive Director, DBWP





# City of Cleveland's Doan Brook Restoration Project—Rockefeller Park

Over two-miles of degraded stream channel will be restored in one of the largest natural stream restoration efforts to be undertaken, not only in Ohio, but in the country. In the planning and design stages for some seven years, the project is being rebid by the City of Cleveland and should go under construction in early-2006.

Project objectives include reducing flooding and bank erosion in Rockefeller Park (along MLK Jr. Blvd., from the Cleveland Museum of Art north to I-90), providing habitat for fish and wildlife, and improving water quality. The project will employ bioengineering techniques and natural channel design principles to create a

stable stream system. Adjustments in the design have been made to minimize effects to cultural resources, primarily the Cleveland Cultural Gardens.

The project is an important part of overall plans to protect and restore Doan Brook throughout its 12-square mile watershed. A Memorandum of Agreement crafted following negotiations between the community, the City, federal and state agencies, cultural preservationists, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, University Circle Inc., the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership and others commits parties to the long-term monitoring of the restoration project and to future park planning,

management and maintenance.

A benefit already realized through the project is the listing of Rockefeller Park, portions of the Rockefeller Greenhouse and the Shakespeare Garden, on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places in May 2005.

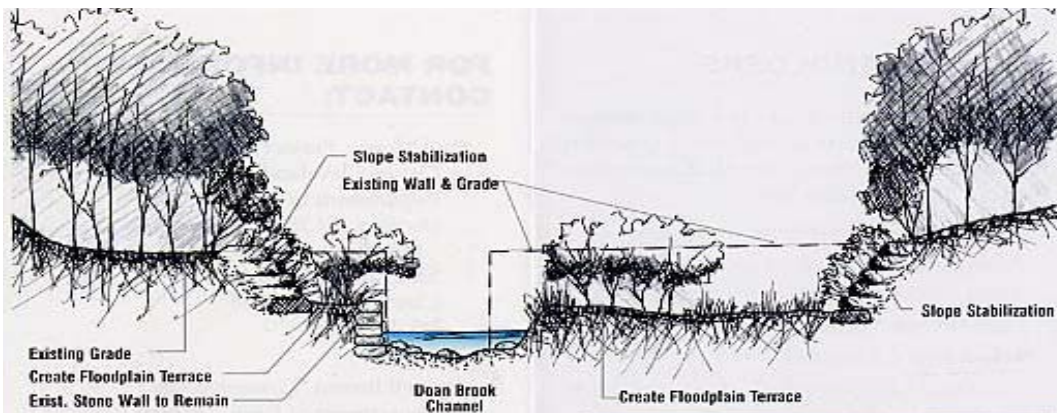


PHOTO ABOVE: Downstream (north) of Wade Park Avenue, in-channel concrete barriers and failed wall will be removed and the channel reconstructed similar to the schematic, shown below.

PHOTO RIGHT: Downstream of Superior Avenue, eroded areas behind walls will be excavated and wall removed, again as shown in the schematic, below.



PHOTO ABOVE: The project begins below the Cleveland Museum of Art and extends downstream (north toward Lake Erie) for 2-miles. Restoration here will add habitat, improve water quality, and help check erosion of the high bank below the museum.



ABOVE, typical schematic of the restoration project, showing existing vertical wall lowered (left) or removed (right), soil excavated and a channel and floodplain area created for a more stable and natural stream area. Many floodplain areas will be revegetated, primarily with native plants (as shown), while other floodplain areas will be planted with turf grass and mowed regularly.

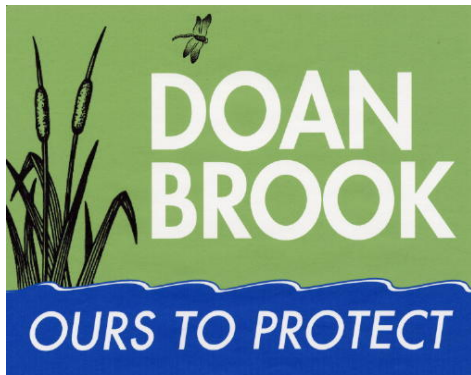


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*"The Doan Brook Watershed Partnership...  
 protecting and restoring Doan Brook  
 and its watershed"*

DOAN BROOK—OURS TO PROTECT

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Plans are proceeding to have this attractive 18" x 24" sign posted at 12 locations where heavily traveled roads cross over Doan Brook. Examples include on Attleboro Rd. in Shaker Heights (Green Lake inlet), Coventry Rd. in Cleveland Heights (below Lower Lake), and on Superior Ave. in Cleveland (on the

bridge over MLK Jr. Blvd). Our hope is to have the signs in place by year's end, however, we are short \$2,000 at this time in making this project a reality.

**Interested in making a targeted contribution to help this special educational project move forward? Please contact us.**

### **Fun Doan Brook Events Coming Your Way**

- ✓ **3rd Annual Jazz at the Rockefeller Greenhouse, Saturday Sept. 10, 1:00-3:30 pm (rain date: Sept. 17) . Take a free guided tour on Lolly the Trolley through lower Rockefeller Park anytime from Noon - 4:00 PM!**
- ✓ **Annual Partners Meeting, evening of Thursday Oct. 20 (details to follow)**

## Consultants Begin Work on Green/Marshall Lakes Subwatershed Project

Under contracts with the South Woodland Rd. and DBWP and funding from Van Aken Blvd.). Pollutant an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Sec. 319 nonpoint source grant (as well as contributions from the City of Shaker Hts., the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes), two consultants recently began work that will be completed within the next year.

Under one contract totaling \$112,900, the team of Oxbow River and Stream Restoration/Davey Resource Group is developing a detailed management plan for the watershed area draining into Green and Marshall lakes (generally, the area from Lee Rd. to in Beachwood, bounded by

projects constructed to control pollutants like sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus. The team's work also includes restoring an yet unidentified stretch of degraded stream channel to a natural, stable condition.

Our other contract totals \$15,340 and is with Burgess & Niple Inc.. B&N is investigating how to retain and treat stormwater runoff upstream of Shaker Heights Country Club. B&N also is assessing how municipal operations of the City of Shaker Heights affect the water quality of Doan Brook and the Shaker Lakes.