

4/19/24

Public Involvement Comment and Response for West Creek Greenway – Coventry to Broadview, CUY West Creek Greenway Trail (PID 118940)

The public comment period was active on Cleveland Metroparks' website from March 14, 2024 to April 15, 2024. Letters were also sent to 97 neighboring parcels on March 14, 2024. The following is the only comment received from any source during the period.

Comment Received via email to Christopher Papp, Civil Engineer, on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 10:27:57 AM. Commentor name, email, and identifying information has been removed.

I am writing on behalf of my son and daughter in law regarding the above mentioned project.

We are big supporters of the Cleveland Metroparks. There is not a finer or more professional land management organization to be had.

...

The new Greenway is wonderful project and a vital jewel in the link to the canalway and beyond.

We have no opposition to the project but would like to address a concern regarding the safety and security of the residents of the Camelot rd and adjoining neighborhood. As well as the safety of the users of the Greenway itself.

A few questions have been raised among ourselves. I have no idea what other residents may be thinking or concerns you may have already recieved.

The Greenway will connect a very vibrant area of Broadview road to a very quiet residential area. During the day this sounds wonderful. However, after dark what plans are in place to restrict movement of people and vehicles at night? Will there be fences or gates closed at dusk? What about pedestrian traffic that could use the Greenway after dark and potentially get off the path and get mired in the wetlands? There is also a large animal population in this valley. Many large bucks call this area home. Will they behave well towards humans during the rut? I have photos of coyote on the driveway to 7381. Will there be a patrol of this area? Will security cameras be put in place? Lighting? What protections can the residents expect from people with mal-intent who can easily park at Giant Eagle and walk the path to Camelot and commit crime and flee into the dark with easy access?

What plans are in place to keep people from parking at the end of Camelot? Will there be emergency phones available? Crime and privacy aside, personal safety is of vital importance.

We would appreciate some response to the above concerns and the Metroparks security plans. Will there be any public meetings or community involvement regarding this project?

Thank you for taking the time to consider our thoughts and questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Response via email from Sara Byrnes Maier, Principal Planner, Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 1:03 PM

Thank you for your kind words about Cleveland Metroparks and your family's involvement. I appreciate your questions and concerns about safety of the neighborhood and trail users. I've pulled out your questions and have provided responses to each and would be happy to talk with you further if you would like. This phase of the West Creek Greenway is similar to others we have in our 25,000 acres. I understand that there are unique qualities about each situation, but I want to preface that these answers are borne out of years of experience with trails.

Q1: After dark what plans are in place to restrict movement of people and vehicles at night?

A1: The trail is not lit, which tends to remove a lot of demand to use the trail at night. This is typical with the majority of our trails throughout the Park District. Our parks are closed from 11pm-6am.

Q2: Will there be fences or gates closed at dusk?

A2: There are not any fences or gates, as is the case with the vast majority of our trails. Fences and gates can limit access for emergency services as well as regular maintenance vehicles, and are installed sparingly and typically if there are demonstrated issues such as cars accidentally entering a trail in which case it is typically a center bollard or collapsible delineator that is used. Again, our parks are closed from 11pm-6am.

Q3: What about pedestrian traffic that could use the Greenway after dark and potentially get off the path and get mired in the wetlands?

A3: Without being lit this tends to limit use after dark. For any bicyclists using the trail after dark they are required to use a light. Additionally, a lot of runners and walkers utilize headlamps, but this is a personal decision. Like all of our trails and park areas, guests are asked to respect the wildlife and sensitive areas and the majority stay on the trail especially in areas that are wet. In addition, Cleveland Metroparks Regulations prohibit going into or hiking in areas that are not so designated.

Q4: There is also a large animal population in this valley. Many large bucks call this area home. Will they behave well towards humans during the rut? I have photos of coyote on the driveway to 7381.

A4: This trail is similar to many others we have and there are animals throughout the Park District and, increasingly, more deer in our neighborhoods. Users of the trail will need to exercise the same caution as they would anywhere within Cleveland Metroparks. Our park management staff, police, and volunteers are proactive in noting issues and concerns as well.

Q5: Will there be a patrol of this area?

A5: Yes. This area will be monitored and patrolled as part of the West Creek Reservation.

Q6: Will security cameras be put in place?

A6: No security cameras will be installed at this time.

Q7: Lighting?

A7: There is not lighting associated with this project. The majority of our trails are not lit unless they are serving more of a commuting purpose.

Q8: What protections can the residents expect from people with mal-intent who can easily park at Giant Eagle and walk the path to Camelot and commit crime and flee into the dark with easy access?

A8: The area will be patrolled and monitored as part of the reservation. Additionally, there are mutual aid agreements in place with surrounding municipal police departments should an emergency arise. We also simply have not had the situation you are proposing occur with similar trails.

Q9: What plans are in place to keep people from parking at the end of Camelot?

A9: There are already parking restrictions in place with no parking on the hydrant side of the street and a maximum of 2-hour parking during 7am-4pm during school days. Parking enforcement will be a function for the City of Parma. If there ends up being an issue, we can work with the City to place additional signage. We believe this trail will be used primarily by people in the neighborhood and or as part of the larger network that is being developed. We have purposefully not designed it as a trailhead since there are parking areas within the reservation and the Seven Hills recreation center campus has ample parking and already serves as a de facto trailhead for the portion of the trail already in place.

Q10: Will there be emergency phones available?

A10: There are no emergency phones being installed as part of this project.

Q11: Will there be any public meetings or community involvement regarding this project?

A11: There are not any public meetings planned for this phase of the West Creek Greenway trail. Letters were sent to surrounding neighbors to the project and information has been posted to Cleveland Metroparks' website at <https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/about/planning-design/planning-and-design-projects/projects/west-creek-greenway-coventry-to-broadview> and your questions and these responses are all part of the community involvement process. The concept and routing for the West Creek Greenway Trail was developed through extensive community involvement during the West Creek Greenway Plan (see <https://westcreek.org/project/the-west-creek-greenway/>), Cuyahoga Greenways Plan (<https://www.countyplanning.us/projects/cuyahoga-greenways/>), and Cleveland Metroparks' West Creek Greenway Reservation Plan Update (see <https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/getmedia/d02f9a2f-7263-4544-a818-2ad49ba1a66e/Cleveland-Metroparks-Reservation-Plans.pdf.ashx>). All three of these planning processes included many meetings with stakeholders and the public, public surveys, and online and in-meeting comments that were used to refine the concepts to position them for the design we are embarking on now.