



*Shaping the future for birds*

February 2, 2022

Mayor Jack Bradley  
200 W Erie Avenue - 7th Floor  
Lorain, OH 44052

Dear Mayor Bradley:

I am writing regarding the proposed sale of the Cromwell Park property to McCrone Motor Sports for the development of a kart racing track. I would strongly encourage you and city leaders to reconsider this decision. The site is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and serves as a stopover site for migratory birds.

This IBA is home to 115 species of birds including 43 nesting species as well as hundreds of nests in a great blue heron rookery nearby the proposed project site. The Great Lakes are a major flyway as birds migrate through the region in spring and fall. The park's location provides much needed greenspace as these birds make their journey. It provides food, shelter and a place to rest along their way.

A recent study estimates that we have 3 billion fewer birds in North America than we had 30 years ago. Loss of habitat and stopover sites are major contributors to this decline. Cromwell Park is special place for birds and the people that enjoy birding and the outdoors.

The COVID pandemic has only increased the need for public green spaces. Cromwell Park is one of the last remaining large green spaces left in the city. The park deserved protection and enhancement rather than development for commercial purposes. I ask you to preserve Cromwell Park as a natural area for your citizens and the wildlife it supports.

Sincerely,

Shawn Graff  
Vice President, US & Canada