



February 9, 2022

Attn: Lorain City Council
Lorain City Hall
200 West Erie Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052

125 S Wacker Drive
Suite 2125
Chicago, IL 60606

312.453.0230
gl.audubon.org

Re: Cromwell Park

Dear Lorain City Council,

I am writing in support of habitat protection at Cromwell Park, part of the Black River-Mouth Important Bird Area.

For more than a century, Audubon has built a legacy of conservation success by mobilizing the strength of its network of one million members and supporters, 463 local chapters, 41 Audubon centers, 23 regional offices, and dedicated professional staff to connect people with nature and the power to protect it. A powerful combination of science, education and policy expertise combine in efforts ranging from protection and restoration of local habitats to the implementation of policies that safeguard birds, other wildlife, and the resources that sustain us all—in the U.S. and across the Americas.

The Important Bird Areas program, administered by Audubon in the United States, is part of an international effort to designate, identify, prioritize, and support conservation action at sites that provide significant breeding, wintering, or migratory habitats for specific species or concentrations of birds. 2,838 sites totaling over 400 million acres across the US have been designated based on specific and standardized criteria and supporting data.

The Black River-Mouth Important Bird Area is one of 70 Important Bird Areas in the state of Ohio. It was recognized due to its value for migratory waterbirds such as Red-breasted Merganser and Bonaparte's Gull which congregate in significant numbers along the river mouth and harbor. These nearshore habitats provide foraging grounds for rare and declining species and the riparian forests along the river, like Cromwell Park, provide important migratory stopover habitat for a wide variety of species migrating across Lake Erie. Impressively over 300 bird species have been recorded in this Important Bird Area, utilizing these coastal and riparian habitats to rest and refuel. Many of these species travel thousands of miles and depend on natural habitat along the way, whether it be in rural areas or urban stopover sites.

Audubon's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. Cromwell Park is part of an Important Bird Area and thus it is critical that its habitat is maintained and enhanced. We recognize that connecting people to natural areas is one of the most important components to safeguard these important places. We urge Lorain City Council to protect the important habitat at Cromwell Park.

We thank you for reviewing our letter and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Miller".

Nathaniel Miller
Sr. Director of Conservation, Great Lakes & Upper Mississippi River
National Audubon Society
Email: Nathaniel.Miller@Audubon.org