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# WESTERN CUYAHOGA AUDUBON SOCIETY

CONNECT › EDUCATE › CONSERVE

January 28, 2022

Dear Mayor Bradley and Lorain City Council Members,

This letter is on the behalf of Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS) Board and members in regard to the proposed sale of the Cromwell Park property to McCrone Motor Sports for the development of kart racing tracks. As a conservation organization, we would like to see the park remain as a 'green space' for wildlife, for the health of the Black River and more importantly, for the citizens in the neighborhood, nearby communities and visitors to the City of Lorain. Cromwell Park can be an incredible asset.

With the COVID pandemic, it has been shown that outdoor places to walk, bike and have passive recreation, are ways to connect with nature and decompress. With the Lorain harbor, the Black River, and nearby French Creek Nature Center, Cromwell Park would fit into creating a contiguous "green ribbon" for all-purpose trails, picnic areas, etc. This has been done successfully with a number of projects around Cleveland and the Cuyahoga River - connecting people and nature, connecting communities with nature, and connecting communities, period! Conservation, civic, religious, and neighborhood organizations could be brought together to make the area a showcase of habitats for birds and wildlife, as well as for people.

Developing a kart track will become a liability for the city and for the environment. Being a former steel site, has testing been done for heavy metals and toxic materials in the soil? Those would be exposed should karts or other vehicles have dirt tracks where dust would be in the air to be inhaled, settle on nearby vegetation, get into the river, and into neighborhoods. In addition, the noise of motorized vehicles, the fumes from gas-powered engines (certainly not reducing the carbon footprint), and the increase in traffic - bringing in people from all over - could overwhelm the infrastructure, not to mention the safety forces. In the article in the Morning Journal of December 7, 2021, even the consultant from Sortis Designs, says, "It's a beautiful piece of land out there. It's really pretty." Has the City of Lorain considered working with land conservancies in the area, such as Western Reserve Land Conservancy, West Creek Conservancy, or even the Lorain Metro Park District? Funds are available to preserve green space!

The sale of Cromwell Park would destroy a natural legacy for the citizens of Lorain, present and future. Please, if you care about the residents and neighborhoods of the City of Lorain, we ask that the City Council Members and Mayor Bradley preserve Cromwell Park as a natural area for all.

Sincerely,

The Board and Members of Western Cuyahoga Audubon  
[info@wcaudubon.org](mailto:info@wcaudubon.org)



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