



Black River Audubon Society  
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February 2, 2022

Members of Lorain City Council  
Mayor Jack Bradley  
Safety Director Sanford Washington

Dear City Officials,

Over 250 signatures were collected in little more than a weekend to Save Cromwell Park. The names and comments are below. People care about this issue, and they come from all over.

If you have a vision for Lorain and value the environment—fighting climate change, preserving natural habitats, valuing green space—we ask that you do the right thing and preserve this Important Bird Area from development. I believe deep down, most of you know this is not the best location for this project. It takes courage, it takes hard work, but a city that should be accumulating assets, shouldn't be trading one for another.

I have a favorite quote from Wes Jackson, ""If your life's work can be accomplished in your lifetime, you're not thinking big enough."

Thanks again for your kind consideration.

Kind regards,

*Rob Swindell*

Rob Swindell, JD, MBA, BS  
President, Black River Audubon

## Save Cromwell Park

Black River Audubon Society, an environmental non-profit organization consisting of over 550 members throughout the Lorain County area of Ohio, **opposes the development of Cromwell Park for kart racing**. As one of the City of Lorain's last remaining areas of significant green space, the project includes the transfer of 204 acres of valuable natural habitat along the Black River, with the option to transfer more.

**Please read below to understand what's at stake, and sign our petition to voice your concern. The list of petition-signers will be shared with local government officials. The public comment period ends on February 7, 2022, so please sign this soon – and share it with others! Thank you for helping Lorain be the best that it can be - for nature and for people!**

### ***Why oppose the development of Cromwell Park for kart racing?***

The area along the Black River and Cromwell Park is a designated "Important Birding Area," home to over 115 species of birds. 43 species of birds are known to nest there. And it is an important resting spot for migratory birds during spring and fall migration.

The area is especially significant for the large number of Great Blue Herons that nest close to the proposed project site. Great Blue Herons nest in colonies: hundreds of them rely on this natural area. There are only a handful of heronries of this size in all of northern Ohio. Easily disturbed by people and loud noises, kart racing would likely be devastating to them.

The Black River through Lorain has in the recent past been a restoration and conservation success with millions of dollars spent on restoration. This river (riparian) corridor should continue to be maintained with a focus on nature and wildlife.

The City of Lorain has only a couple of precious large natural areas remaining in the city. Paving this area would make a gray city, more gray.

The COVID pandemic has made public green spaces even more sought out by families and the public. The World Health Organization reports that green space is essential to both the ecosystem and to the physical and mental health of citizens. Large parks promote active living, which can reduce the risk of diabetes and heart disease.

Urban green space is an environmental justice issue, given that in many cities, low-income neighborhoods and communities of color—places where public health challenges tend to be the most critical—often have relatively poor access to safe and well-maintained parks and other areas of wide-open spaces.

The racetrack may be a noise nuisance to area residents and decrease property values; whereas well maintained green spaces generally increase property values.

Once a natural area is dramatically altered, there's no going back. It takes decades to restore lost habitat.

The Lorain Port Authority River Tours would be a much different experience: this proposed KartTrack is right by Monkey Island and the quiet nature boat tour would soon have loud racing noise and not as much nature.

Birdwatching is second to gardening as the most popular outdoor activity in the United States. The US Fish and Wildlife Service reported in 2016 that there were 45 million birders generating almost \$96 billion in total industry output. Natural areas along Ohio's "North Coast" attract large numbers of birders annually who spend money locally.

**Name/City/State**

James Jablonski	Elyria	OH
Rob Swindell	Elyria	OH
Kitti Koziura	Lorain	OH
Aimee Arent	Graytown	OH
Gina Swindell	Lorain	OH
Kelly Kreuztke	Elyria	OH
Sharon Revennaugh	Vermilion	OH
Sherilyn Burns	Barberton	OH
Kshama Daphtary	Cleveland	OH
Robyn Miller	Wooster	OH
Laura Muhleck	Toledo	OH
Kari Warner	Concord	OH
Deborah Horn	Avon Lake	OH
Jodie Grasgreen	Akron	OH
Sandra Blease	Napoleon	OH
Andrew Delamatre	Cleveland	OH
Daryl Davis	Cleveland	OH
Dave Lengyel	Wellington	OH
Crystal Greene	CLEVELAND	OH
Leslie Simonson	Coldwater	OH
Kristina Monticue	Wilmington	NC
Kim Malobabic	Lorain	OH
SeEtta Moss	Canon City	CO
Allison Grady	North Ridgeville	OH
Matthew Grady	Columbus	OH
Julie Farr	Elyria	OH
Delaney Ryan		
Robert Evans	Erie	PA
Patricia A Serio	Oberlin	OH
Austin Ward	Corvallis	OR
James Kusmik	Spencer	OH
Lauren Carpenter	Elyria	OH
Hope Swindell	Grafton	OH
Christine LeBlanc	North Providence	

Charles Mesker	Westlake	OH
Marilyn Dewees	Avon Lake	OH
Linda Gross	Lorain	OH
Rick Lockhart	North Ridgeville	OH
Sandra Shudy	Wellington	OH
Ann Glime	Lorain	OH
Kathy dee	Chicago	IL
Jeannie Hill	North Ridgeville	OH
David Glime	Lorain	OH
Chad Wilson	Avon Lake	OH
Jessica Gillispie	Lorain	OH
Mary Wright	South Lebanon	OH
Scott DiLuciano	Elyria	OH
Barbara Griffith	Sheffield Village	OH
Linda Mitchell	Avon Lake	OH
Andrew Stanchak	Lorain	OH
Deborah Ackerman	Wakeman	OH
Debbie Parker	Sheffield village	OH
Jill Davidson	Cleveland	OH
Jonah Parsons	Lorain	OH
Alison Murphy	Sheffield Lake	OH
Barbara Shuster	Elyria	OH
Jeanne Williams	Elyria	OH
Pam Lubowicz	Avon	OH
Michael Sandy	Rocky river	OH
David Ellison	Cleveland	OH
Lisa Altobelli	North Ridgeville	OH
James Jablonski	Elyria	OH
Courtney Brennan	Cleveland	OH
Shelley Pearsall	Akron	OH
David Ligon	Salinas	
Brittany Lapka	Cleveland	OH
Denise Vankerkhove	Elyria	OH
Patty McKelvey	Cleveland	OH
Liz McQuaid	Cleveland	OH

Suzanne Kilbane	Cleveland	OH
Caitlin McCauley	Akron	OH
Ann Goas	Lorain	OH
Cherri Resar	Wellington	OH
James DeLamatre	Orange Village	MI
Kathryn Kennedy	Lorain	OH
Glena Nutter	Elyria	OH
U. Kurlich	Lorain	OH
Cynthia Corliss	Vermilion	OH
Maureen Kelsey	Aeroskobing	
Angela Born	Wakeman	OH
Alecia Gorski	Elyria	OH
Jeffery Walsh	Avon Lake	OH
Robert Dietrich	Elyria	OH
Brian Leahy	North Ridgeville	OH
Nick Cancilliere	Cleveland	OH
Samantha Koval	Charlotte	NC
Sue DiVaccaro	Avon	OH
Teressa Nemeth	Lorain	OH
Danielle Squire	Elyria	OH
Deidrea Otts	Avon Lake	OH
Kaitlin Kilbane	Lakewood	OH
Brett Safran	Cuyahoga Falls	
Sandra Brown	Corona	CA
Brandon J Wysocki	Lorain	OH
Brenda Liz COLLAZO	Cleveland	OH
Maryellen Guenther	Berea	OH
Elaine Moore	Brecksville	OH
Maureen Bailey	Wakeman	OH
Jennifer Weideman	Akron	OH
Wendy Ligas	Springfield	OH
Angel Rivas	Annandale	VA
Anna Zayas-Seckt	Detroit	MI
Deborah Miller	Tampa	FL
Charlotte Pachniuk	Lorain	OH

Jennifer Shields	Lorain	OH
Emily Griffith	Lakewood	OH
Nicole Greco	Berea	OH
Claire Blanca	Cleveland	OH
Nooney Dunklin	Huntsville	
Ms. Linda A. Heath	Grafton	OH
Greg Pasek	Cleveland	OH
Martha Burrows	Westlake	OH
Matt Valencic	Solon	OH
Bonnie Law	Wellington	OH
Mari Brosky	Cleveland	OH
Jenny Cinniger	Lorain	OH
Brenda Pandya	Lorain	OH
Robin McQuade	Batavia	OH
Ann Galloway	Cleveland	OH
Rebecca Dummitt	Elyria	OH
Mary Ann Wagner	Mentor	OH
Jamie Goldsmith	Vermilion	OH
Jessy Ramirez	Washington	
Tatiana Panas	Sandusky	OH
Mary Worthington	Oberlin	OH
Jessica Lahurd	Pittsburgh	PA
Isaac DeLamatre	Springfield	OH
Julie Swindell	Lagrange	OH
Barr Mary Jo	Lorain	OH
DAVID HILTABIDEL	Westerville	OH
Mark Miles	Cleveland	OH
Stephanie Pogachar	Avon Lake	OH
Dianne Morris	North Ridgeville	OH
Pogacnik John	Madison	OH
Johanna Hamm	Chagrin Falls	OH
Arlene Ryan	North Ridgeville	OH
Jill McDavid	Lorain	OH
Erika A. Lopez	San Gabriel	
Nicole Sugalski	Avon Lake	OH

Johanna Vine	Brunswick	OH
Catherine Podojil	Cleveland	OH
Chrissy Queen	Cleveland	OH
David Sonner	Oberlin	OH
Albert Stanley	Lorain	OH
Janet Kast	Avon	OH
Patricia Kellner	Cleveland	OH
Norma Young	Ashland	OH
Christine Saladin	Cleveland	OH
Mary Anne Romito	Cleveland	OH
Diana Picking	South Bend	IN
Ashley Hahn	Amherst	OH
Anton Yakymenko	Amherst	OH
Francine Demyan	Cleveland	OH
David Mckee	Norton	OH
Megan Hart	Painesville	OH
Cynthia Orseno	Amherst	OH
Marilyn Grigger	Medina	OH
Kristy Jenkins	Lorain	OH
Meridith Teehan	Ashland	OH
Patricia Brown	Munroe Falls	OH
Dayton Gibson	Palatka	
Cheryl Gendek	Lorain	OH
Patricia Brandau	Amherst	OH
Karah Cartwright	Bruceton Mills	
Matt Wisniewski	North Ridgeville	OH
Frances Geiger	Avon Lake	OH
Dana Campbell	Wellington	OH
Vicki OGrady	Elyria	OH
Channele Wysocki	Lorain	OH
Nancy Howell	Middleburg Hts.	OH
Toby Briskin	Cleveland	OH
Sheryl Kinser	Elyria	OH
Mark Raven	LAGRANGE	OH
Gary Gross	Lorain	OH

Linda Jacobs	Avon	OH
Kramer Laura	Avon	OH
Ann Bort	Lorain	OH
Ken Vinciquerra	Cleveland	OH
Dr. Garalynn Tomas	North Ridgeville	OH
Laura Siarkowski	Columbus	OH
Jesse Warman	Akron	
Haley P	Ballwin	MO
Susan Obral	Avon	OH
Marissa Wilson	Mt. Pleasant	
Kathleen Bradley	Parma Heights	OH
Allie H	Troy	
Amber Smith	Canon	
Qiuzhen Zhan	North Ridgeville	OH
DAWN ROCKAS	Avon Lake	OH
Elizabeth Clingman	Brook Park	OH
Dianne Green	Lorain	OH
Margaret Brown	Avon Lake	OH
Laura Kuennen-Poper	Oberlin	OH
Janice Denham	North Olmsted	OH
Nina Jones	Charlotte	NC
Paula Lozano	Lakewood	OH
Anna Kozlenko	Cleveland	OH
Zybin Sugathan	Schenectady	
Jolene Adkins	North Ridgeville	OH
Maria K	North Ridgeville	OH
Aries Caballero	Las Cruces	
Jesus Ornelas	San Jose	
Victor Cuero	Dallas	TX
Denise Bailey	Lorain	OH
Barbara DAngelo	Avon Lake	OH
Joseph Gardewin	North Olmsted	OH
Gerda C Carlson	Richmond Hts.	OH
Giselle Barrera	Los Angeles	
RANDOLPH LONGBRAKE	Avon	OH



Donald Burrows	Westlake	OH
John Golish	Cleveland	OH
Patricia Anderson	Akron	OH
Linda Gasparro	Dublin	OH
Jessica Boyd	Mankato	MN
Wysocki Stacy	Lorain	OH
Sally Fox	Vermilion	OH
Theresa Szczepanik	Amherst	OH
Polly Odelli	Lorain	OH
Susan Meyer	Sheffield Village	OH
Gaby Bernal	Inglewood	CA
Heather Forster	Columbia Station	OH
Tomasita Davis	Euclid	OH
Kayla Barile	Palo Alto	
Mariela Garcia	Naperville	
Melissa Doggett	Avon Lake	OH
Sam Willis	West Chester	
Eva Roca	San Diego	CA
Dillon Ingle	Waynesville	
Megan Friedl	Columbus	OH
Laurie Sistrunk	Fremont	OH
Deborah Campana	Oberlin	OH
Doreen Woods	Macedonia	OH
Janet Hicks	Sheffield Lake	OH
Judith Makowski	Richfield	OH
Stacey Pickering	Cleveland	OH
Caitlyn Appleman	Cuyahoga Falls	OH
Lily-kenina Phillip	Leominster	
Brieana Aylward	Southwick	
Alyce Casper	Lorain	OH
Heidi Weitz	Sandpoint	
Kyme Rennick	Dublin	OH
David Lewis	Akron	OH
Annette McCormick	Lucas	OH
Mary Cordray	Elyria	OH

Thomas Traut	Lorain	OH
Lisa Wisniewski	North Ridgeville	OH
Nancy Thelot	Maplewood	
Katie DiNardi	Cleveland	OH
Kathryn Walthall	Pittsburgh	PA
Joan Gottschling	Dallas	TX
Richard Nord	Sarasota	FL
Tom Fishburn	Berea	OH
Leslie Kasten	Avon	OH
Emily Pechaitis	Berea	OH
Kristy Miskimen	Cleveland	OH
James Stipkovich	Lakewood	OH
Carla Poyner	Wake Forest	
Nancy Morris	Sheffield	OH
Kathleen Birch	Strongsville	OH
Iola Schwinghamer	Mora	MN
Elizabeth Gunderloy	Rocky River	OH
Andrea Cook	Beachwood	OH
Kaleb Mckibben	Ravenna	

## Comments

"It disappoints me that this large green space is so easily being dismissed by council members. There are so many dilapidated areas in Lorain which would make a much better place so as not to take this natural habitat where wildlife and nature is helping to clean up and beautify this old landfill. I fear, once this first phase goes through, that there will be no stopping the removal of all of the green space in this area. Please reconsider the location of this awesome project that is simply in the wrong place."

"I visit Lorain specifically for it's birds and green space. Ecotourism, especially from bird watching, brings tourism dollars to towns during even the months which are considered the off season for many other entertainment activities along the lakefront. It is a shame to throw this gem away when there are so many other vacant / abandoned structures in Lorain that could be used for this purpose. The community could benefit from both with more intelligent planning."

"I value parks and green spaces on Ohio"

"I believe this area is mischaracterized as a wasteland, although it has been treated like one. The birds have been reclaiming it and as has been proven at sites such as the former Dike 14 in Cleveland, the restoration to productive habitat is not only possible but preferable."

"Wetlands have considerable value so should not be destroyed or degraded incompatible development nearby"

"The Cromwell Park area and the entire Black River has been recovering from past abuse as can be seen in the return of wildlife, in particular the heron rookery. The entire Black River and the land along it must be preserved to allow recovery to continue. Surely there must be other areas in Lorain in which this proposed project can be placed."

"I have birded there and making it a raceway would ruin it."

"This area is an important area for nesting and migratory birds. Environmental impact needs to be an intimate part of the discussion for sustainable and responsible development"

"Profit has no place in NATURE"

"Nature needs to be preserved"

"I'm signing this petition because there are many other areas of Lorain that have been built upon that are awaiting redevelopment, and it makes no sense to build on this beautiful green space. Please think long-term - in 100 years, will you great-grandchildren benefit most from the remains of a racetrack or a preserved wild space?"

"As a frequent visitor to Lorain County, I support the effort to "Save Cromwell Park" for its use as a green space, not a go-cart track."

"Walking in nature and enjoying the birds is very relaxing. During these stressful times it is important that families can enjoy nature together. Also, when a natural habitat is destroyed it is harmful to animals and to plants and upsets the balance of nature. Please let's save the precious outdoor spaces for our children."