



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CLEVELAND METROPARKS WEST CREEK RESERVATION PROJECT BEGINS THIS WEEK

West Creek Reservation in Parma, originally opened in 2006, will receive a \$12 million face lift beginning in March 2011 with a fall 2012 completion date. A ground breaking was held Monday, March 7 at 10 a.m. at the 325-acre reservation.

The project includes a novel Watershed Stewardship Center with innovative exhibitry, reserved group picnic facility, operation facility, trails - including 1.7-miles of all purpose trail, interpretive overlooks, and a new entry drive.

The Watershed Stewardship Center will have a variety of interactive exhibits that will invite visitors to identify their impact on the West Creek watershed. Using West Creek as an example, impacts on urban streams, like impervious surfaces, storm water and pollution, will be interpreted and discussed. Center visitors will be able to share their insights as they participate in a simulated decision-making planning process that illustrates impacts on the West Creek Watershed.

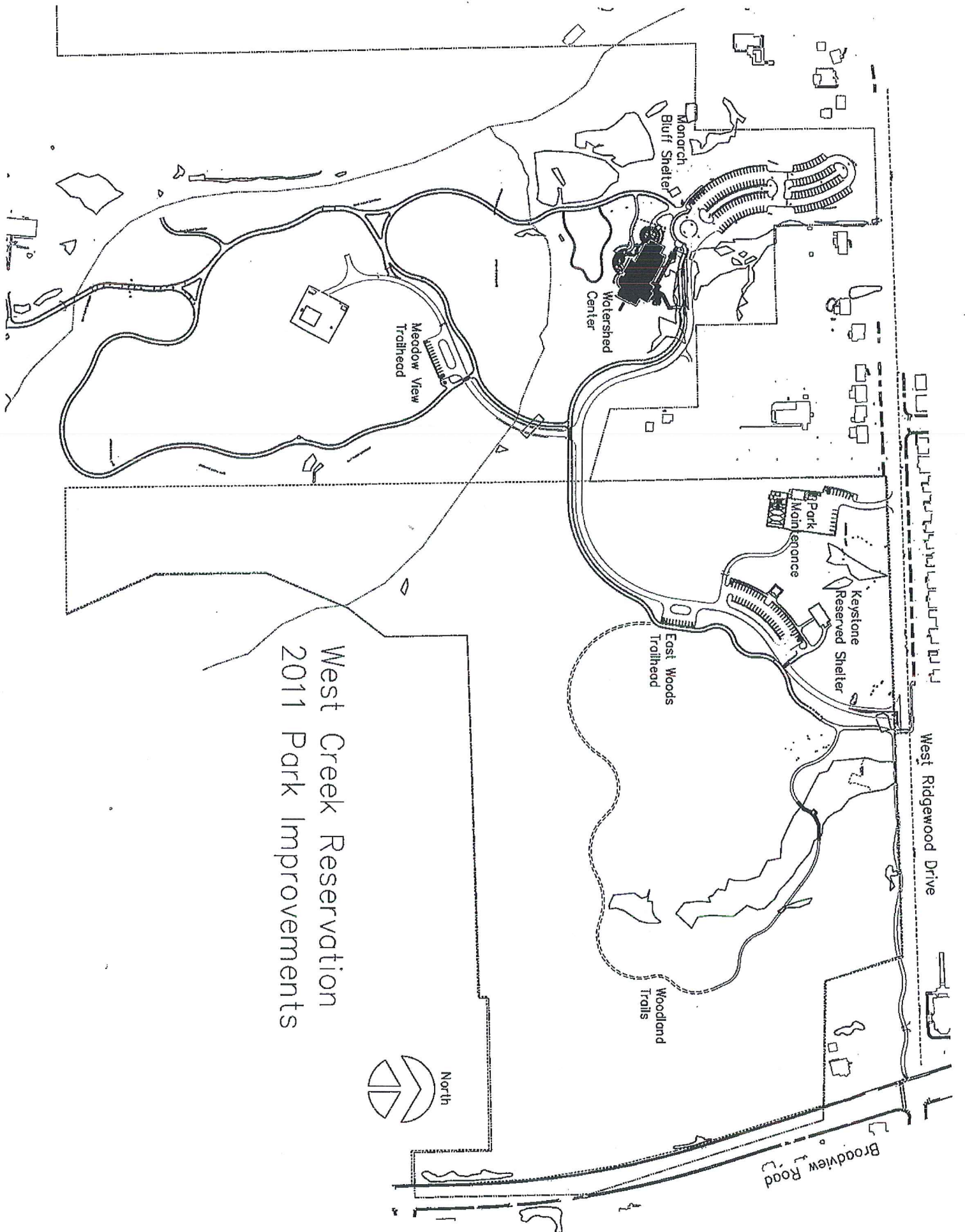
The 1.7-mile trail includes a loop around an existing meadow and bridges that criss-cross the 9-mile West Creek, a centerpiece of the reservation.

"Cleveland Metroparks is pleased to preserve and restore this geologically-unique and biologically-diverse reservation," said Brian Zimmerman, Cleveland Metroparks executive director. "This project would not have been possible without our partners: Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the city of Parma and West Creek Preservation Committee."

"Each of us lives in a watershed and the Sewer District is committed to the public education that will be provided at The Watershed Stewardship Center," said Julius Ciaccia, Executive Director, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. "As awareness of watershed-related issues grows, the public will begin to truly understand the importance of regional stormwater management and its impact to the environment."

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West Creek Reservation
 2011 Park Improvements

