

An Update Regarding Camp Mowana



LOMO Fireside News

July 13, 2018

"Bringing people together to experience Christ through natural settings and programs"

On July 12th the Clean Ohio Fund District 16 Natural Resource Advisory Council (NRAC) has approved funding the grant proposal request for Camp Mowana to become a land conservancy.

The grant proposal includes the following information:

- The Richland County Park District will become the long-term steward of the land.
- The new name for Camp Mowana when it becomes a land conservancy will be The Fleming Falls Preserve
- The Fleming Falls Preserve will be open to the public from dawn until dusk every day of the year.
- The grant project schedule is:
 - Planning and implementation from September 30, 2018 to October 1, 2019;
 - Land acquisition and easements by September 30, 2019;
 - Site improvements through June 30, 2020
- 183.47 acres in Mifflin Township. This property preserves 10,319 LF. of high quality stream and 4.48 acres of Category 2 and 3 wetlands. The headwater stream preservation includes Fleming Falls Creek, designated as warm water habitat by the Ohio EPA. The ODNR has a record of state potentially threatened species within the Fleming Falls Creek riparian corridor; this species, *Taxus canadensis* (Canada yew) was identified on-site in subsequent biological surveys. The Fleming Falls Preserve also includes rocky gorges, offering potential habitat to federally endangered and threatened bat species. The rolling topography and varied plant communities offers habitat for both upland, riparian and wetland (obligate) species. Over 180 herbaceous and woody plant species have been identified on-site.
- Some of the existing camp infrastructure including parking lots and trails can easily transition to Park District use, ensuring minimal impact on the natural area.
- Structures and facilities that are determined to be non-essential for conservation and facilitation of recreational use and enjoyment will be removed and sites restored to the natural condition utilizing native plants and invasive species control. The existing structures may be used by Richland County Park District staff for on-site storage, maintenance and/or

restoration activities. Should the Park District determine that there is no value to the existing structures they will be removed from the property.

- The Richland County Park District understands that all Clean Ohio encumbrances are permanent in nature and are to be recorded as a deed restriction. The land will be preserved in perpetuity.
- The Richland County Park district will own, maintain and operate the property once it is acquired. The Park District will provide the management, maintenance and resource stewardship of the property.

Next steps:

1. Environmental Study to determine if there is any hazardous waste. Mitigate any hazardous waste that is found.
2. Title work to make sure there are not any title issues.
3. Plans for Opportunities for Celebration and Service summer of 2019 at Camp Mowana:

- Family Camp Weekend – June 28-30, 2019 - Full programming for all ages
- Mowana Servant Week – August 2019 (date to be determined) for adults to assist in removing all camp personal property from the camp (anything that is not a permanent structure)
- Celebration of Ministry through Camp Mowana – August 2019 (date to be determined) Saturday afternoon through Sunday Morning Worship for people of all ages with time for memories, auction, fellowship, campfire and worship.

Mowana Memorial Plans – creating displays for Camp Luther and LMC, Mowana archives to ELCA region and Richland County