



Howard Marsh Metropark

Phase 2 Park Development



Howard Marsh Metropark: Acquisition Overview

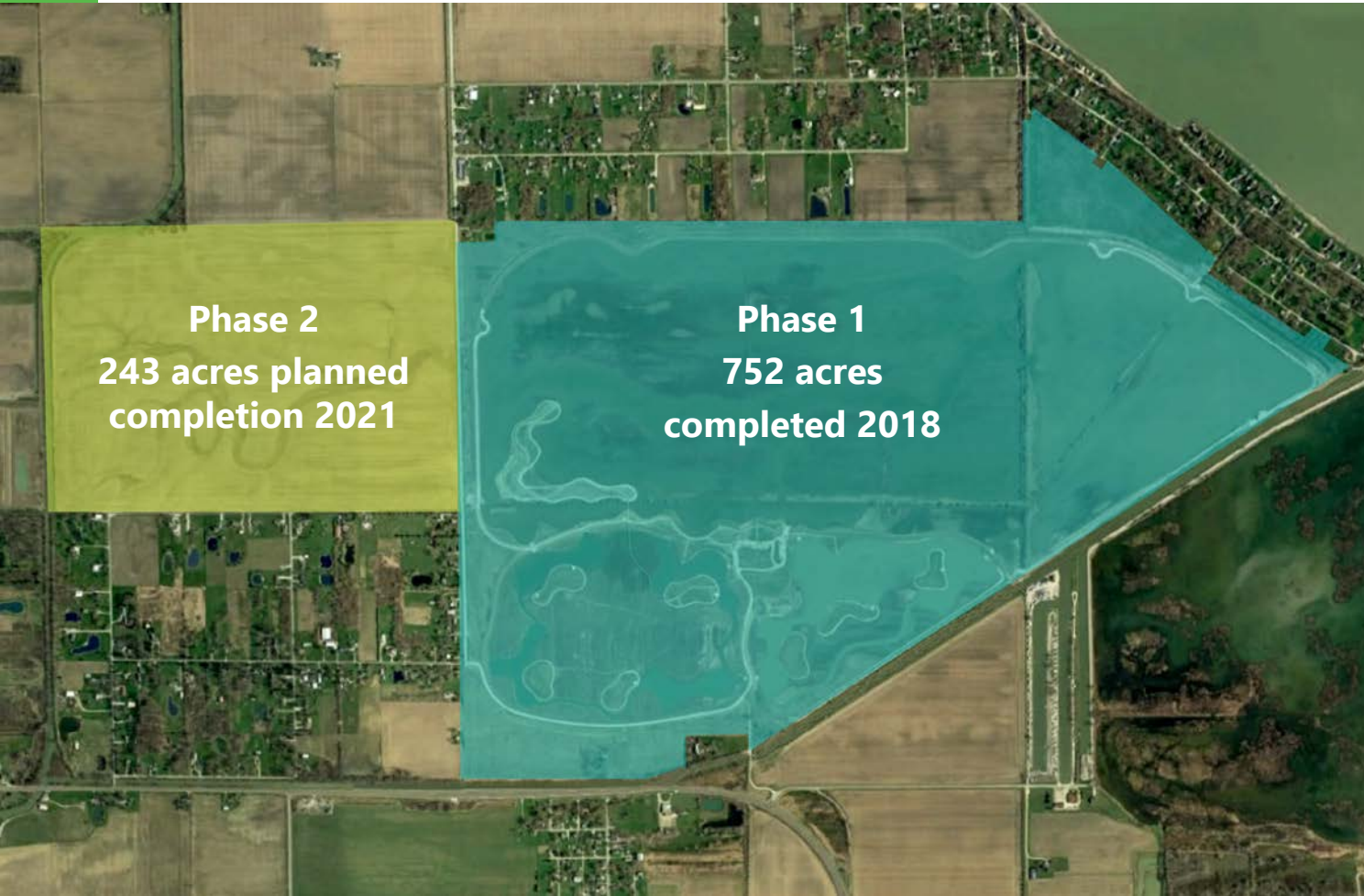
987-acre farm purchased by Metroparks in 2008 (current size: 995 acres)

Ohio Division of Wildlife	\$3.0 million
Clean Ohio Fund	\$1.8 million
<u>Metroparks Toledo Land Levy</u>	<u>\$1.2 million</u>
Total Cost	\$6.0 million





Howard Marsh Metropark: Park Development Overview



Phase 2
243 acres planned
completion 2021

Phase 1
752 acres
completed 2018

Project Emphasis

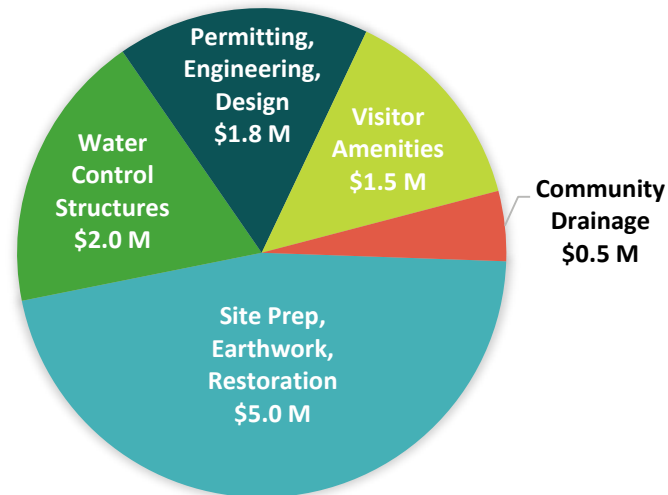
- Water Quality
- Habitat
- Visitor Engagement



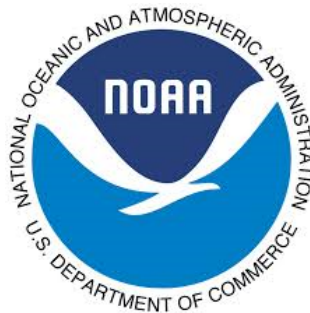
Howard Marsh: Phase 1 Park Development Overview

Design, Engineering, Permitting: May 2013 – May 2016
Construction: June 2016 – March 2018

Metroparks Toledo	\$ 4.0 million
Ohio Division of Wildlife	\$ 4.0 million
NOAA	<u>\$ 2.8 million</u>
Total Cost	\$10.8 million



**METROPARKS
TOLEDO**



SMITHGROUP





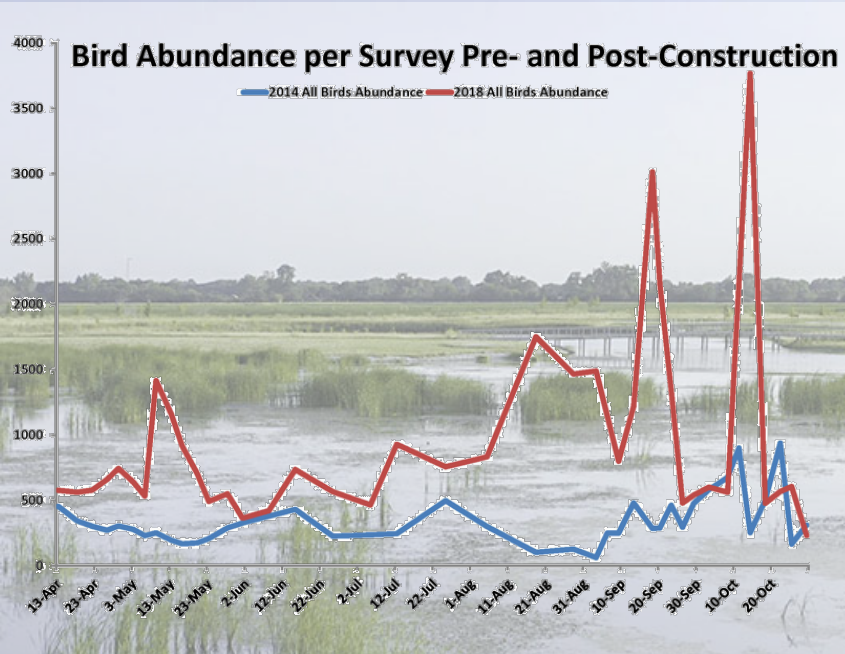
Howard Marsh Metropark Phase 1: Water Quality Benefits



- 750 acres of agricultural land draining into Lake Erie removed
- 400 acres of residential stormwater captured
- Hydrologic connection to Lake Erie for continued nutrient uptake



Howard Marsh Metropark Phase 1: Habitat Benefits



- 571 acres of coastal wetland & aquatic habitat restored
- 116 acres of upland forest planted
- 235 bird species documented since park opened in spring 2018
- Blanding's Turtles (Threatened in Ohio) documented in 2019
- 75 Common Tern (Endangered in Ohio) chicks fledged on nesting platforms in 2020





Howard Marsh Metropark Phase 1: Visitor Engagement



- 6.6 miles of new multiuse trails & accessible boardwalks
- Over 6 miles of accessible blueways
- Accessible kayak launch & kayak share locker
- Waterfowl hunting & fishing opportunities

Programs/Events

Park Visitors

2018	10 (2,444 people)	59,268 (19,024 during May bird migration)
2019	15 (274 people)	91,273 (26,584 during May bird migration)
2020	18 (39 people)	76,442 (14,442 during May bird migration)



Howard Marsh Metropark Phase 2: Park Development Overview

Design, Engineering, Permitting:

November 2018 – March 2021

NOAA

\$211,060

Ducks Unlimited

\$ 24,416

Total

\$235,476

Construction:

April 2021 – November 2021

NOAA (wetland restoration & permitting)

\$3,911,487 grant award to Ducks Unlimited*

Clean Ohio Fund (public access improvements)

TBD

*contract for construction awarded to Haynes Construction for \$2,487,150 (+10% contingency)

Hull & Associates selected for construction engineering oversight



Howard Marsh Metropark Phase 2: Park Development Overview



Current Condition

- 243 acres currently in agriculture
- Hydrologic connection to Lake Erie via Coolie Canal
- Contains former Cedar Creek channel



Howard Marsh Metropark Phase 2: Visitor Engagement



Philosophy for activation

Since Howard Marsh is a prime example of coastal wetland restoration, programs that take place at Howard feature educational messaging on wetland restoration, wetland management, habitat restoration and their importance to migratory pathways and safe recreation.

Examples of Proposed Programs:

- Boat and Bird (Kayaking and Birding)
- Marsh Madness
- Howard Marsh Eco-Tour
- Fitness Night Hike
- Stargazing
- 3 Mile sunset and Night Hike
- Sunrise Over the Marsh

A long wooden walkway with wire mesh railings extends from the left side of the frame towards the center, crossing over a body of water. The walkway is supported by wooden posts. In the distance, a small archway structure is visible on the walkway. The sun is setting on the horizon, creating a warm orange glow that reflects on the water. The sky is a mix of orange and blue.

QUESTIONS?