

Chapter 4

Resource Inventory

Historical Resource Inventory

The National Park Service recognizes “nationally distinctive landscapes” as those containing regional and national stories and related natural, cultural, and historic resources that retain integrity. This connection between story and existing resources provides visitors and residents the ability to understand their own and the region’s heritage in the context of the nation’s heritage. The historical and cultural resources of the Western Reserve are significant and varied, and many retain the integrity required to show the historic importance of this area of Ohio.

The historical resources are, in fact, so rich in this region that the challenge lies not in identifying or inventorying what is available but rather in exemplifying the depth and breadth of what exists in a manageable inventory. The preceding chapters in this plan have described and classified numerous heritage sites, history museums, historic towns and cities, and other resources that fit within the themes of Western Reserve. This

section focuses on the breadth of heritage resources existent in the heritage area boundaries, evidenced by inventories and lists generated for purposes such as the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places “is the official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation” (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/about.htm>). Properties must be old enough (generally 50 years or older) and of national significance for their related stories, architecture, engineering, industry, or archaeology. In addition, enough historic fabric must remain to evidence that nationally significant element(s). The Western Reserve contains 1,005 National Register of Historic Places, including 17 National Historic Landmarks within the counties that comprise the heritage area. These landmarks include:

- Jay Cooke House, Gibraltar Island
- Johnson’s Island Civil War Prison, Marblehead
- NASA Spacecraft Propulsion Research Facility, Sandusky
- Thomas A. Edison Birthplace, Milan

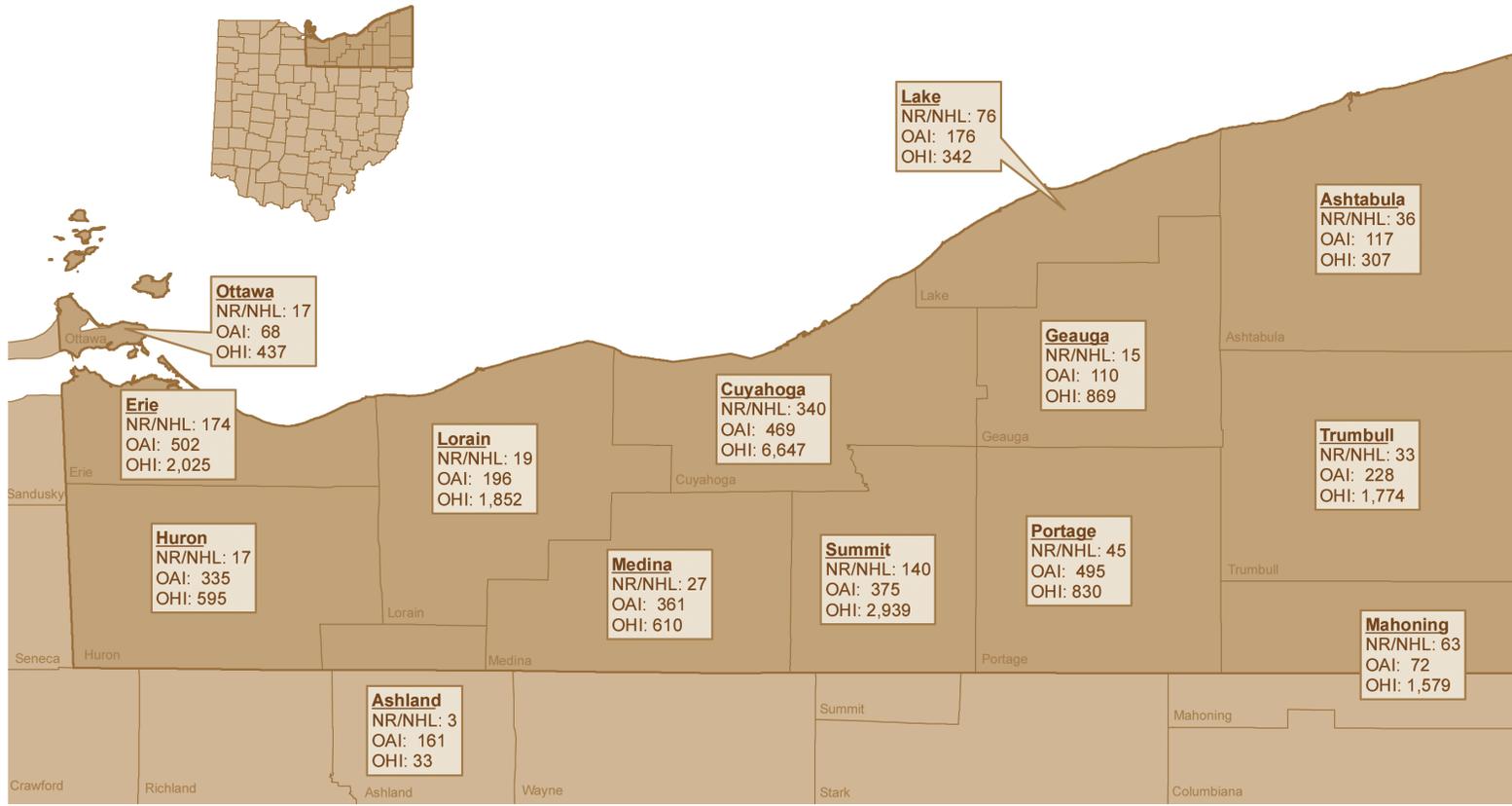
- Wilson Bruce Evans House, Oberlin
- John Mercer Langston House, Oberlin
- Oberlin College, Oberlin
- Stan Hywet Hall, Akron
- Ohio and Erie Canal
- NASA Zero Gravity Research Facility, Cleveland
- U.S.S. COD, Cleveland
- Cleveland Arcade, Cleveland
- Kirtland Temple, Kirtland
- James A. Garfield Home, Mentor
- William H. McGuffey Home, Coitsville
- Harriet Taylor Upton House, Warren
- Joshua Reed Giddings Law Office, Jefferson

The Ohio Historic Inventory is a listing of surveyed and reviewed structures, buildings, or objects that have some historic, architectural, or engineering interest. The inventory program was developed to serve as an accurate and continuing record of the architectural and historic properties currently existing in the state. The properties in the listing have not yet been determined to have national, state, or local significance, but they are



OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study Area with Ohio Historic Preservation Office Inventories



- Western Reserve
- County Seats
- County Boundaries

Map produced by:
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Figure 4 National Register, National Historic Landmark, and Ohio Historic Inventory Sites

a pool of resources with merit. To be placed on the Ohio Historic Inventory, a property must be surveyed and described in an application that is submitted for review and acceptance by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. Criteria addressed on the form include category or theme, year built, architect or style, and condition of property, to name a few. There are 20,839 Ohio Historic Inventory listings within the Western Reserve.

The map to the left illustrates these National Register of Historic Places and Ohio Historic Inventory significant properties.

The telling of the region's story happens within and through many organizations—small, medium, and large—and in many communities.

These organizations are museums, historic sites, history collections at libraries, downtown/Main Street committees, and the like, and they are reflected in the constituency of the Ohio Local History Alliance. The directory of local history organizations for the counties encompassed by the Western Reserve lists more than 220 organizations of this kind. A list of these organizations is included in Appendix B.

Cultural Resources Inventory

National and international events triggered waves of domestic and international migration into the Western Reserve since the initial land survey in 1796. Migrants to all areas of the Western Reserve—rural and eventually urban,

major metropolitan areas—transplanted traditions, beliefs, customs, food ways, and folk life from virtually every corner of the globe, including Europe, Africa, Asia, Russia, and other regions of the United States. These cultural traditions took root, and today continue to define the ever-changing character of the Western Reserve's rural and urban landscapes. Evidence of the diverse mix of ethnic influences survives throughout the region in places, neighborhoods, museums, festivals, street corners, restaurants, places of worship, fashion and architecture, historic sites, cemeteries, and social clubs.

Pre-1796

Several thousand years before the American Revolution and the onset of European settlement in the region, American Indians occupied the land. The story of prehistoric inhabitants and the history of American Indians in the Western Reserve through the late 18th and early 19th centuries, when treaties pushed what remained of the native tribes out of the region and opened the area up for European settlement, can be explored at various places throughout the Western Reserve, include the following:

- Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- Firelands Archaeological Research Center, Firelands
- Lake County Indian Museum, Willoughby

The Firelands Museum

Since 1857, the Firelands Historical Society in Norwalk has collected the stories and material culture of the historic Firelands of the Western Reserve. This half million-acre portion is located at the far west of the Western Reserve and was first called the Fire Sufferers Land. In 1792, Connecticut's legislature gave this tract of land to the citizens of nine towns—Norwalk, New Haven, East Haven, Greenwich, Danbury, Ridgefield, Groton, New London, and Fairfield—that were invaded and burned by the British during the American Revolution. Though the war ended in 1781, the land wasn't surveyed until 1808, resulting in most the original sufferers being gone or too old to travel. Early settlers were instead seekers of affordable land and milder winters.

When settlement took hold, agriculture was the primary industry. After the railroads were built, the Firelands also became known for manufacturing. It remains a mix of the two, and many of the towns still evidence New England heritage, architecture, and in some cases, Connecticut town names. Today, the public can visit the historical society to see the museum displays, conduct research, attend events, or conduct meetings.



These organizations discover, document, and conserve archaeological sites; conduct field, laboratory, statistical, and literature review activities; disseminate knowledge on the subject of archaeology; and engender an appreciation in the general public of the importance of archaeology in understanding the human history of the Lake Erie region.

1790-1860

The Western Reserve is particularly rich in museums, historic sites, archives, and experiences that explore the early rural traditions and activities of migrant and immigrant groups that came to the area, including migrants from New England and New York primarily of English descent, and immigrants from England, Scotland, German states, and Ireland. During this period, about three-quarters of families living in the Western Reserve were engaged in agriculture. Within the last 15 years, the region has experienced a resurgence of interest in sustainability and locally grown foods, small farms, and a plethora of urban, suburban, and rural farmer's markets, a movement that makes the agrarian heritage of the region all the more relevant today, both regionally and nationally.

- **Hale Farm & Village, Bath** – This is an outdoor living history museum in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park that tells the story of the early settlement and

development of the Reserve. The museum uses 32 historic structures – houses, offices, barns, and a church – pastures, crop fields, historic gardens, a maple sugar bush, and early crafts and trades demonstrations, to tell the story of rural life during the 19th century.

- **Century Village, Burton** – This fully restored Western Reserve village is the jewel of the Geauga County Historical Society. Century Village consists of 22 historic buildings, including five historic homes, church, jail, and a one-room schoolhouse depicting pioneer life during the 19th century.
- **Strongsville Historical Society, Strongsville** – Located on two acres in the center of town, the Strongsville Historical Society and Village consists of four historic



Hale Farm & Village

homes, a general store, doll museum, academy, log cabin, and barn that span the era from 1816 to 1917. Exhibits of local and Ohio history feature artifacts from Strongsville's original founders, furnished period rooms and more.

- **Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin** – Three preserved historic sites tell powerful stories about this nationally significant community where people have done extraordinary things since the town and college were founded in 1833. Visitors learn about the Underground Railroad, student life, women's history, as well as the development of aluminum.
- **Donauschwaben German-American Cultural Center, Olmsted Township** – The Danube Swabians are Germans who settled along the rich farming lands of the Danube River Valley during the 18th century. The museum displays donations from members and friends including folk costumes, relics, furniture, tools, books, prints, and photographs.
- **Countryside Conservancy, Peninsula** – This small farm reclamation initiative in the Cuyahoga Valley is dedicated to reconnecting land, farming, food, and community, and is poised to help establish Northeast Ohio's farms and community markets as a leader in local food production.



During this period, as the region's economy began to falter, it still managed to gather one of the most diverse groups of immigrants in its history.

- **West Side Market, Cleveland** – The market dates to 1840, making it Cleveland's oldest publicly owned market. Today the market is home to more than 100 vendors of great ethnic diversity. Products include meats and fresh vegetables, fresh seafood, dairy, cheese products, and fresh flowers.
- **Lake Erie Fishing and Maritime Heritage** – Communities along the lakeshore have a long history of dependency on Lake Erie. These communities reflect their fishery and boating traditions.

1870-1914

The most substantial and diverse migration to the Western Reserve occurred from 1870-1914 during which many Southern and Eastern Europeans came to the U.S., among them Poles, Italians, Slovenes, Slovaks, Jews, and Russians. This massive exodus was fostered by shortages of land in the

home countries, more liberal emigration policies, increased military conscription, and religious and political persecutions. Food, religious, and social customs of these ethnic groups in particular continued to define the cultural landscape of the Reserve throughout most of the 20th century.

- **Polish American Cultural Center, Cleveland** – The center is dedicated to the promotion of Polish culture, traditions, language, history, literature, arts, music, theater and education. The center provides an organizational structure for all who desire to be in touch with Polish heritage.
- **Little Italy, Cleveland** – Little Italy is an urban neighborhood that preserves the traditions of the area's Italian-American population. Restaurants, social clubs, churches, street scenes, festivals, and urban architecture reflect the region's large Italian population and a century of influencing the region.
- **Czech Cultural Center of Sokol Greater Cleveland, Cleveland** – The museum/library is located in historic Bohemian National Hall, built in 1897. The history of the Czech immigrants who built the hall and lived in the area is presented and on display are costumes, artifacts and photos. The gift shop offers garnet jewelry, pottery, books and toys imported from the Czech Republic.
- **The West-Side Irish American Club, Olmsted Township** – This social club preserves and promotes the area's rich Irish cultural heritage in song, dance, literature, sports, and traditions.
- **Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Museum, Cleveland** – The museum houses a collection of historical costumes, folk art, fine art, and items showcasing the history of Hungarian-Americans in Cleveland. The museum has an extensive library with more than 6,000 books, an archival section and a gift shop featuring decorative items, books and CDs.
- **Finnish Heritage Museum, Fairport Harbor** – Dedicated to preserve and perpetuate Finnish heritage and cultural traditions.
- **Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, Beachwood** – Introduces visitors to the beauty and diversity of that heritage in the context of the American experience by promoting an understanding of Jewish history, religion, and culture and builds bridges of appreciation, tolerance, and understanding with those of other religions, races, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds, serving as an educational resource for Northeast Ohio's Jewish and general communities.

20th Century

During World Wars I and II, African Americans in increasing numbers migrated to the region from the South, drawn by opportunities to work in wartime industries. During the 1920s, the first cohesive group of Spanish-speaking immigrants from Mexico came to the area, drawn by manufacturing opportunities in the automotive industries. During this period, as the region's economy began to falter, it still managed to gather one of the most diverse groups of immigrants in its history. The relaxation of restrictions on Asian immigration brought Chinese, Koreans, Indians, and Pakistanis to the region, attracted initially by the area's colleges, and later by the growth of its medical and research industries. Cultural influences from these communities continue to define the region's cultural landscape, with food, festivals, religion, and political influences increasingly important to the region's cultural fabric, with a plethora of ethnic specialty food restaurants throughout the region, annual ethnic festivals, and places of worship present throughout the Reserve in all corners.



- **The Latino Heritage Festival** – An annual event that celebrates the rich Hispanic culture and its musical traditions at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum (Cleveland).

- **Asiatown, Cleveland** – Cleveland's Asiatown, roughly bounded by Superior, Payne, East 29th and East 39th Streets, is small but colorful. Located just east of downtown, the neighborhood features interesting architecture, delicious and varied restaurants, and unique Asian shopping, social, cultural, and aid societies, as well as Chinese language schools.

- **African American Archives of the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland** – The Archives was established in 1970 as the Black History Archives Project. Its purpose is to collect, preserve and make accessible historic documents, memorabilia, art, and artifacts pertaining to African-American life, history and culture in Northeast Ohio and beyond. The collection includes manuscripts, photographs, microfilm, and newspaper collections from the Archives/Library of the Western Reserve Historical Society. The artifacts are specific to the African-American experience and cover a wide range of topics and categories of primary importance to the body of Black history.

- **The Akron Urban League, Akron** – The Akron Urban League seeks to improve the economic, cultural, social, educational, and recreational conditions affecting all citizens of Summit County, particularly African-Americans, other minorities,

and those most in need. As an affiliate of the National Urban League, it reaches nationwide audiences and partners with more than 100 affiliates making it a strong proponent for programs that can be replicated across the country.

Natural and Recreational Resource Inventory

The natural resources of the Western Reserve are diverse and extensive, illustrating the environmental importance of this area. In relating the natural and recreational resources to the themes of the heritage area, a clear link to Lake Erie and its resulting natural environments, waterways, scenic views, trails, fertile soils, flora, and fauna can be made. This chapter provides an illustrative overview of those resources with references to more comprehensive listings or maps.

Today the landscape of the Western Reserve is the result of human use of the natural environment. This was, and still is, influenced by the geological formation of the region and the utilization and exploitation of the natural resources.

Deposits from ancient inland seas formed the bedrock that is the origin of oil, gas, salt, and coal. Shales, limestones, sandstones, and conglomerates of the Appalachian Plateau are

visible as bluffs along the many rivers that cut into these formations throughout the Western Reserve, especially the spectacular cliffs along Tinkers Creek Gorge National Natural Landmark. Many of the structures within the Western Reserve were built from locally quarried sandstone and limestone. Amherst sandstone, known for its quality, durability, and rich texture, has been used across our nation and throughout the world. Clay and shale were processed into brick, pottery, and tile at a number of facilities throughout the region. Layered rock salt that underlies the Western Reserve supplies the salt industries in Cleveland and Fairport Harbor.

Glaciers contoured the landscape of the Western Reserve. A continental drainage divide was defined by the retreating Wisconsin Glacier resulting in many of the rivers of the Western Reserve draining north to Lake Erie and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, while others drain south to the Ohio River. Natural lakes, most notably Lake Erie, are a feature of the glaciated landscape. A series of glacial lakes preceded Lake Erie, leaving behind a flat lake plain with ancient beach ridges.

Lake Erie is the southernmost, shallowest, and warmest of the Great Lakes. It is the 12th largest freshwater lake in the world. It provides shelter and nourishment to countless species, including

Ashtabula Harbor

An active shipping and recreational port today, Ashtabula's story is similar to others along Lake Erie. Ships brought ore and influences from ports beyond to coastal communities, and then they left filled with coal and other goods, including ideas, from the Western Reserve and beyond. Immigrants arrived first for jobs at the dock, and then many found jobs with the railroads. Those from Sweden and Finland were most prominent in Ashtabula, but it is Western Reserve surveyor Moses Cleaveland who is deemed the city's founder when he surveyed the port in 1796.

When George Hulett, a Conneaut inventor, created the Hulett bucket to unload cargo faster, harbor business flourished. A Hulett bucket is preserved at Ashtabula Harbor, within walking distance from the Ashtabula Marina Museum with its panoramic views of the shipping docks and its impressive collection of Great Lakes memorabilia.

Spanning the Ashtabula River is the Bascule Lift Bridge, designed by the engineer who designed the Eiffel Tower elevator. "Mother Hubbard's Cupboard," also known as the Hubbard House, once harbored runaway slaves who walked less than a half mile to the family's warehouse along the river where they were quickly stowed aboard boats to Canada. The Hubbard House is open for tours. The inner harbor preserves much of the character of its early days with cobblestoned streets and ornate architecture.

11 million people who rely on it for drinking water every day. It is the most biologically productive of all the Great Lakes, producing more fish for human consumption than the other four lakes combined. Its fishery is economically important to communities throughout the region. Eleven major ports serve the nation and world from Lake Erie, and water provided by Lake Erie is used for waterborne commerce, navigation, manufacturing, and power production. Despite this industrial use, the lake is also of vital importance to the region's tourism and agricultural communities—two of its most important economic sectors.

The Western Reserve contains a variety of plants, animals, and natural habitats. Natural systems of forests, fens, kettle lake bogs, marshes, old fields, streams, and lakes are interspersed with cities, villages, orchards, and croplands. The region lies on a biological crossroads in the transition zone between the Appalachian Plateau to the east and the Central Lowlands to the west. The Portage Escarpment forms the boundary between these two provinces. The Western Reserve transects three regions: Lake Plains, Glaciated Plateau, and Unglaciated Plateau. The result of this convergence is a great diversity in plants and animals and a textbook example of forest communities and habitats.

Some of Ohio's larger mammals, almost eliminated by settlement, have made a strong comeback within the Western Reserve. Most noticeable in the area are beaver, coyote, and white tailed deer. Migratory birds, such as great blue herons, are returning to the region as water quality improves and habitat is preserved. A complete listing of 2300 species of vascular flora and 350 species of vertebrate fauna of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, representative of the Western Reserve, can be found in the Environmental Assessment of CVNRA, 1976.

The State of Ohio has identified 56 species of mammals, 200 species of breeding birds, 84 species and subspecies of amphibians and reptiles, 170 species of fish, 100 species of mollusks, and 20 species of crustaceans of interest as endangered, threatened, species of concern, special interest, extirpated, or extinct. Because of the landscape diversity of the Western Reserve, most of these species can or have been identified within the region's boundaries. Those within the Western Reserve often play an important role in protecting these species, such as the research efforts at Stone Laboratory on the Lake Erie watersnake that has led to increased populations and its proposed federal delisting.

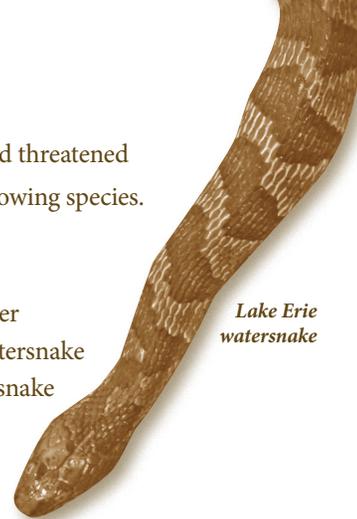


Federal endangered and threatened species include the following species.

- Indiana myotis
- Piping plover
- Kirtland's warbler
- Copperbelly watersnake
- Lake Erie watersnake
- Scioto madtorn
- Fanshell
- Purple catspaw
- White catspaw
- Northern riffleshell
- Pink mucket
- Clubshell
- Hine's emerald dragonfly
- Karner blue butterfly
- Mitchell's satyr
- American burying beetle
- Paddlefish
- Wapiti
- Orange-footed pearly mussel
- Rough pigtoe
- Fat pocketbook
- Winged mapleleaf
- Cracking pearly mussel

Parks and Recreation Sites

There are approximately 1,415 parks, beaches, and trails within the boundaries of the Western Reserve. These include those owned and operated by counties, cities, state, townships, private organizations, nonprofit organizations, and regional park districts to name a few.



Lake Erie watersnake

County park districts provide conservation, recreation, and education programs in valued open space in nearly every Western Reserve County. Many of these park districts are in the planning stages for acquiring and/or providing additional recreational and natural areas.

- Ashland County Park District has 10 parks
- Geauga Park District has 20 parks
- Portage Park District has 10 parks
- Metroparks, Serving Summit County include 16 parks
- Cleveland Metroparks include 16 parks
- Mill Creek Metroparks include 5 parks
- Erie MetroParks includes 12 parks
- Lorain County Metro Parks includes 22 parks
- Lake Metroparks includes 29 parks
- Medina County Parks District has 28 parks
- Ashtabula County Metroparks has 2 parks
- Trumbull County MetroParks has 4 parks.

State Parks

The mission of Ohio's Department of Natural Resources parks program is "To enhance the quality of life through exceptional outdoor recreational experiences and sound resource management" (<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/resources/aboutus/tabid/90/Default.aspx>). The parks seek to provide fun, safe, and clean places for recreation and natural area enjoyment. There are more than 15 Ohio Department of Natural Resources parks in the Western Reserve. Some are waterfront properties, such as Headlands Beach,

Geneva, or Kelleys Island. Others are inland, such as Tinker's Creek, Findlay, or Mosquito Lake.

More than 20 state nature preserves are located within the Western Basin and protect a variety of landscapes and habitat, from shoreline to wetlands, forests to tributary floodplains. There are seven National Natural Landmarks within the region, including Tinkers Creek Gorge, Mantua Swamp, Glacial Grooves State Memorial, Mentor Marsh, Holden Natural Areas, White Pine Bog Forest, and Arthur B. Williams Memorial Woods.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park covers 33,000 acres along the banks of the Cuyahoga River. Twenty-two miles of the river wind through the Cuyahoga Valley at the heart of the park. The park includes a wide range of natural environments and resources:

- Cuyahoga River and its riparian habitat
- Deciduous mixed-mesophytic forests
- Wetland habitats
- Active agricultural lands



Northern cardinal

- Field habitats in stages of succession
- 900 plant species are found in the park
- 194 species of birds
- 91 aquatic macroinvertebrates
- 43 fish
- 32 mammals
- 22 amphibians
- 20 species of reptiles

This unique physical environment was formed at the convergence of two diverse geographic regions—the Appalachian Plateau and the Central Lowlands—and was modified by the comings and goings of multiple glaciations. In addition to the conservation purpose it serves, the park provides extensive recreation and solitude for Ohio's residents and visitors. Located just a short distance from Cleveland and Akron, it is a popular destination coupled with the Ohio & Erie Canalway (see below).

Ohio & Erie Canalway

The Ohio & Erie Canalway is a National Heritage Area designated to help preserve and celebrate the rails, trails, landscapes, towns, and sites that grew up along the first 110 miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal. The heritage area includes three modes of transportation/recreation:

- **Towpath Trail** – Along the path where mules hauled the canal's barges, runners, bikers, and hikers now enjoy more than 80 miles of multipurpose trail. Ultimately,

the Towpath will extend from Cleveland's Canal Basin Park, at the historic northern terminus of the canal, south to Dover and New Philadelphia in Tuscarawas County.

- **Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad** – The railroad serves passengers with excursion rail service through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in authentic climate controlled coaches built circa 1940. Round-trip destinations include Peninsula, Hale Farm and Village, Quaker Square, Inventure Place, Akron's Northside, the Canal Visitor's Center, and Rockside Road.
- **The Ohio & Erie Canalway Byway** – This roadway takes drivers through the landscapes and settings that tell the stories of regional growth and development. Travelers find easy access to the Towpath trailheads and the Scenic Railroad passenger stations from the byway.



Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve

Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve

Old Woman Creek is the only Great Lakes freshwater estuary in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. It is a rare example of a natural estuary. As a transition zone between land and water, the site contains a variety of habitats including marshes and swamps, upland forests, open water, tributary streams, and barrier beach. The Reserve supports a diverse assemblage of native plants and animals representative of freshwater estuaries. The Reserve is managed as a cooperative partnership between NOAA and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife. Old Woman Creek is also an Ohio State Nature Preserve. Wetlands and watershed research is conducted at the site, and a visitors center interprets the value of wetlands and Lake Erie.

Conserved Lands

The Nature Conservancy in Ohio has worked since 1958 to protect more than 56,000 acres of natural lands in partnership with other organizations. Two of the six Nature Conservancy preserves that are open to the public are in the Western Reserve: Herrick Fen and Morgan Swamp.

The Killbuck Watershed Land Trust preserves more than 4,500 acres of farm land, forests, wetlands, and open spaces in Ashland, Coshocton, Holmes, Richland, Tuscarawas, and Wayne counties.

The Gates Mills Land Conservancy preserves the natural, recreational, and scenic resources of the Village of Gates Mills and the Chagrin River Valley by acquiring land and conservation easements. About 469 acres have been protected thus far.

The Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation preserves and protects the Little Beaver Creek watershed through land acquisition and conservation easements, citizen education, historic preservation, and other environmental management activities. To date, it has protected 4,343 acres.

The Mahoning River Consortium works to restore the environmental health of the Mahoning River and its surrounding landscapes. It also supports efforts to improve the social, recreational, and economic development occurring in the communities located along the river.



Photo courtesy of Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

The Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy encourages conservation and protection of natural and agricultural land on the Lake Erie Islands. Its efforts have protected in excess of 50 acres to date.

The Western Reserve Land Conservancy is a merged organization covering the region from Sandusky Bay to the Pennsylvania border and from Lake Erie to Wayne County. Since 2006, the Land Conservancy has preserved 13,402 acres through conservation easements, which are permanent legal covenants prohibiting certain changes to properties.

Scenic Rivers

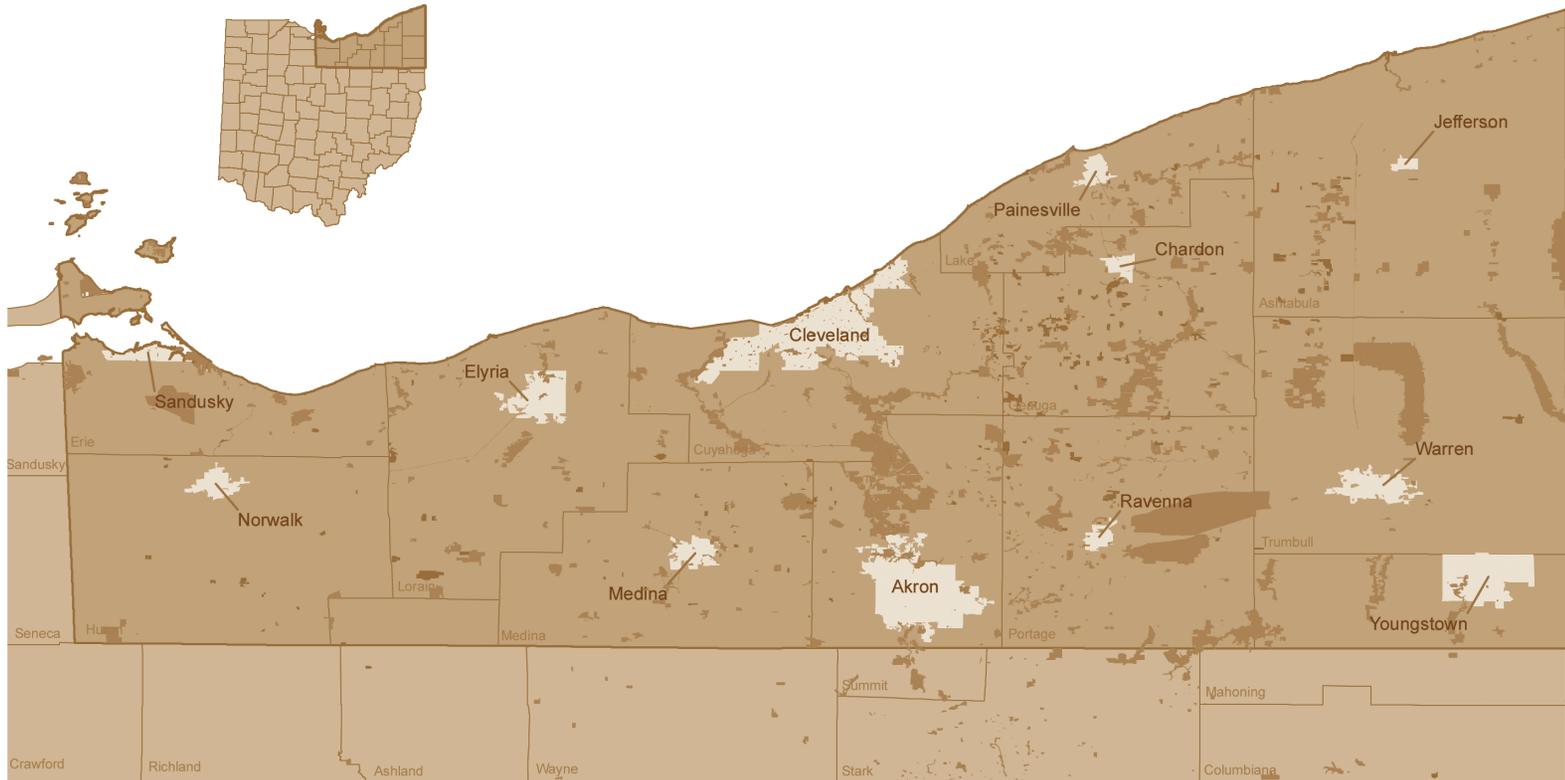
The five designated state scenic rivers in the Western Reserve include 219 miles of the region's streams and rivers. Ohio was the first in the United States to pass a scenic rivers act in 1968. The act created a statewide program to protect Ohio's remaining high quality streams that retain most of their natural characteristics. The river corridors are narrow and dynamic, linear natural systems (a few hundred feet wide but many miles long). Diverse and abundant plant and animal life is found within these corridors. The map below shows the location of the state's scenic rivers, including those in the Western Reserve:

- Ashtabula State Scenic River
- Chagrin State Scenic River
- Conneaut Creek Wild and Scenic River
- Grand Wild and Scenic River
- Upper Cuyahoga Scenic River



OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Western Reserve Heritage Feasibility Study Area



-  WRLC Protected Properties
-  Parks and Managed Areas
-  Western Reserve
-  County Seats
-  County Boundaries

Map produced by:
 Ohio Historic Preservation Office
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Figure 5 Western Reserve Parks and Protected Properties

Socioeconomic Characteristics

To create a context for the proposed project, the following information summarizes socioeconomic characteristics of the region.

Population and Race

In the 2010 Census, the total population of the 14-county Western Reserve was estimated at 3,548,553, a decrease of three percent from the 2000 census data. The Western Reserve is a diverse region, and the profile of the area has changed from 2000 to 2010. According to the 2000 census, the region was 80 percent White, 16 percent Black, one percent Native American, two percent Hispanic and one percent Other. The estimated 2010 Census data indicates a shift in the ethnic makeup with 79 percent White, 14 percent Black, one percent Native American, two percent Asian, three percent Hispanic and one percent Other.

Average Age and Income

The average age of an individual in the Western Reserve increased from 2000 to 2010 by 2-1/2 years from 37.5 to 39.9 years. The average Median Housing Value increased 15 percent from 2000 to 2010 from \$112,240 to \$130,613. Also, average Median Household earnings increased by 14 percent from 2000 to 2010 from \$44,128 to \$50,827.

Education

The education statistics of the Western Reserve also experienced significant changes from 2000 to 2010. The number of high school graduates, including those obtaining degrees through equivalency testing, decreased from 2000 to 2010 from 852,246 to 839,763 or two percent. The number of residents holding bachelor's degrees increased from 2000 to 2010 from 348,767 to 385,589 or 10 percent. The number of residents who have obtained master's degrees increased 20 percent from 2000 to 2010, from 123,299 to 155,805. Doctorate degrees-holders increased from 2000 to 2010 from 17,733 to 20,036 or 12 percent.

Ethnicity

One of the distinct characteristics of the study area – and one that has a direct connection to the story of the Western Reserve – is the prominence of ethnic representation among the region's population. Cleveland, alone, is home to more than 117 ethnic groups speaking more than 60 languages.

The role of foreign migration in shaping the region is best examined by comparing Census data of foreign-born residents in three Ohio cities (including Cleveland) with that of the whole United States. Please note that the decline that begins in the 1930s in Cleveland is due, in part, to suburbanization.



Summary

While the overall population of the Western Reserve is declining, the region's ethnic population continues its tradition of becoming more diversified. Educational growth is mixed; although more residents are obtaining undergraduate and advanced degrees, the number of high school graduates is declining.

Visitor Readiness Inventory

National Park Service guidelines for national heritage areas do not focus on visitor infrastructure as a criterion for successful designation; however, the Western Reserve evidences a present ability to serve visitor needs within its boundaries. Visitor infrastructure across the heritage area includes thousands of rooms, restaurants, shopping venues, and more.

Transportation options include all modes, from major airports and Amtrak stations to water ferries and buggy rides. The ability of every county in the heritage area to support visitors is illustrated with a short description below.

Ashland County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

Ashland County offers 554 hotel rooms and 1796 campsites. The county also provides a range of attractions and entertainment, downtown shopping, retail, dining, sports, and recreation.

Ashland County is dissected by approximately 15 miles of I-71; 71 miles of US routes 30, 42, 224 and 250; and 172 miles of State Routes 3, 39, 58, 60, 89, 95, 96, 179, 302, 511, 545 and 603. The City of Ashland is located in the middle of the county and is roughly equidistant from Cleveland, Columbus, and the Akron-Canton area. The Ashland County Airport is publicly owned and includes about 135 flights per day.

Ashtabula County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

Ashtabula County has 640 hotel beds and another 660 beds in motels, bed and breakfasts, and lakeshore cottages. The county also boasts 1,900 campsites, both primitive and full hook-up.

The Ashtabula County Convention & Visitors Bureau has seven distinct business membership

types: recreation, shopping, dining, wineries, lodging, camping, and services. Their membership ranges between 350 and 400 across those types, offering a variety of retail, dining, and other commercial experiences to visitors. A number of these are located in the county's historic downtowns, which are organized by six different downtown merchant associations. The GaREAT Sports complex, major development near the 534 corridor, and planned Wine and Culinary Center (construction in 2012) offer major attractions.

Ashtabula County has five intersections along Interstate 90 within its borders. Located on the waterfront, it also boasts nine marinas along Lake Erie for boaters.

Cuyahoga County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

Positively Cleveland, the greater Cleveland Convention and Visitors Bureau, lists 97 different accommodation providers. A visitor center in Public Square in downtown Cleveland provides information to travelers about attractions and services in the area. Attractions include a rainforest and botanical garden, a historic district of 25 nationality gardens and sculpture ("Cultural Gardens"), an auto museum at the Western Reserve Historical Society, a science center, natural history museum, river cruises, and a rock and roll and hall of fame. The metro region boasts

endless dining options as well as microbreweries and wineries.

The county is well-served by interstates 90, 71, and 77 as well as the loops and bypasses (271 and 480, for example). Two airports—Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport—provide a full range of flight options into and out of the region. Train service and public transit are also available, as well as a plethora of car rental agencies both at the airports and in the region at large.

Erie County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

Erie County offers 5,760 hotel rooms, 52 bed & breakfast rooms, 209 campsites, and 517 vacation rental units.

Erie County collaborates with neighboring Ottawa County to promote the region as Lake Erie Shores & Islands. Welcome Centers located in Sandusky and Port Clinton are resources for visitors seeking information on lodging, attractions, restaurants, and outdoor recreation areas in the region. Erie County is the home of Cedar Point, one of the country's oldest and most visited amusement parks. This region is also the gateway to the Lake Erie Islands, including three islands that promote and depend economically on tourism experiences. Ferry transportation is available to the islands

from Port Clinton, Catawba, Marblehead, Sandusky, and Lorain. There are also three major indoor waterparks. The region's travel planner lists nearly 100 attractions, 51 dining establishments, 23 marinas/boating operations, four outdoor recreation providers, 37 retail businesses, and 18 coordinating organizations (Main Street associations, for example).

Erie County is well-covered by transportation networks, including passenger airports, passenger train service, ferries, and interstate highway access. I-80/I-90 both intersect the county as well as Interstate 2. Sandusky is the county seat and sits on the waters of Lake Erie, with access to water transportation. Ferries run from downtown Sandusky and provide service to Kelleys and South Bass islands.

Geauga County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

There are no hotel beds in Geauga County, but there are three campgrounds plus a county park system that offers primitive camping. There are several inns and bed & breakfasts, the largest of which is Punderson Manor Lodge & Conference Center with 34 rooms and cabins. Others include Bass Lake Tavern & Inn in Chardon, The Farm House in Middlefield, and Stonewall Bed & Breakfast in Parkman.

Geauga County also encompasses a diversity of visitor-serving businesses. Dining includes upscale dining to small family-owned restaurants and specialty locations like Tea Rooms/Coffee Houses to privately scheduled Amish Dinners in Amish homes. Retail encompasses a few “big box” stores in a couple of townships and many more small, privately owned businesses offering giftware, hunting goods, clothing, and groceries, to name a few. Amish “in home” businesses are also popular. The county's attractions are concentrated in three areas: Amish, history, and maple sugaring. Geauga County is home to a small airport in Middlefield, operated by the Geauga County Airport Authority; the airport includes one runway 3500 feet long by 65 feet wide, two T-hangars, one private hangar, two community hangars, and a pilot lounge and restroom facility. Precious Cargo Transportation in Newbury offers charter bus services. Interstate 90, Route 422, and several state highways cut through the county.

Huron County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

The Huron County Visitors Bureau lists one local accommodation: The Victorian Lady Bed and Breakfast. Attractions include golf, Amish furniture, heritage, and motorsports. Dining options include coffee, pizza, and Mexican, among others.

Interstates 80 and 90 provide easy access, and several smaller routes also service the county. There is a small airport, the Norwalk-Huron County Airport, just east of Norwalk.

Lake County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

Lake County boasts 36 accommodation providers. It claims Ohio's largest winery district and is home to a Frank Lloyd Wright home. Other attractions include a nature center, lighthouse, historic districts, museums, galleries, and the National Park Service's James A. Garfield National Historical Site.

The county is well-served by interstates 90, 71, and 77 as well as the loops and bypasses (271 and 480, for example). Two airports—Cleveland Hopkins International Airport and Cleveland Burke Lakefront Airport—are in neighboring Cuyahoga County and provide easy access to flight options.

Lorain County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

The Lorain County Visitors Bureau includes in its membership 19 hotels/motels/inns, five bed and breakfasts, and five campgrounds. The county also boasts a diversity of attractions and services, such as the Oberlin Heritage Center, lighthouses, Allen Memorial Art Museum, bicycling.

Lorain County is served by a variety of transportation options, including Amtrak trains

from Elyria, county transit (busses) service to/from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport to Elyria and Oberlin College, Greyhound busses, Lorain County Regional Airport, and car rental agencies.

Mahoning County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

Mahoning County offers accommodations through 25 providers. Dining options are numerous and include both national chain/franchise restaurants as well as unique locally owned and operated options. Local favorites like Antone's Italian Café, Wedgewood Pizza, Bruno's, Alberini's, and Belleria Pizza give a glimpse into the strong Italian heritage of the county. Attractions range from the Mastropietro Winery to Mill Creek Park, from the Butler Museum of American Art to the Southern Park Mall.

The county is easily accessible from all directions by interstate highways 80, 680, 76, and 11.

Medina County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

Two bed and breakfasts, 13 hotels/motels, and seven campgrounds offer visitors places to overnight. Dining is offered by family restaurants, a tea room, coffee shops, casual dining, and more. History museums and a butterfly experience are among the attractions in the county.

Medina County is served by interstates 71, 271, and 76.

Youngstown Area Historic Architecture

Mahoning County, particularly the Youngstown area, is a region rich with historic architecture that reflects the time period of the Western Reserve heritage area. These range from a small, early 19th century log house in Austintown to a grand, early 20th century, McKim, Mead, & White-designed building that houses the Butler Institute of American Art. A small selection includes the following:

- 1846 Lanterman's Mill, a mill within Mill Creek Park (see below)
- Mill Creek Park Historic District, a late 19th century neighborhood that includes many residences and the nation's second-largest urban park
- Wick Park Historic District, a collection of significant early 20th century mansions and residences plus the Beaux Arts Stambaugh Auditorium, which surround the historic 34-acre Wick Park
- 1925 Kress Building, a terra cotta downtown commercial structure
- 1929 Central Tower Building, an art deco high rise in downtown
- 1931 Jones Hall, a Gothic Tudor administration building on Youngstown State University's campus

In downtown Youngstown and nearby neighborhoods, visitors to the city can experience a wealth of significant architecture, much of which reflects industrial-era prosperity.



Ottawa County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

Ottawa County offers 1,894 hotel rooms, more than 100 bed and breakfast rooms, more than 2,000 campsites, and more than 800 vacation rental units.

Ottawa County collaborates with neighboring Erie County to promote the region as Lake Erie Shores & Islands. Welcome Centers located in Sandusky and Port Clinton are resources for visitors seeking information on lodging, attractions, restaurants, and outdoor recreation areas in the region. Ottawa County is the home to South Bass Island

and the Village of Put-in-Bay, one of Lake Erie's most visited islands. There are seven state parks in Ottawa County as well as Ohio's only federal wildlife refuge, the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. There are six chambers of commerce in the county and one Main Street community within the City of Port Clinton. The region's travel planner lists nearly 100 attractions, 51 dining establishments, 23 marinas/boating operations, four outdoor recreation providers, 37 retail businesses, and 18 coordinating organizations (Main Street associations, for example).

Western Reserve Historical Society

The Western Reserve Historical Society is a not-for-profit educational institution that preserves and uses its collections, historic sites, and museums to inspire people to explore the history and culture of Northeastern Ohio and place that regional experience within the larger context of state, national, and global history.

Collections and exhibitions focus on the Western Reserve. Both permanent, and especially changing, exhibitions place the region in its larger historical context. The Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum collections illustrate the history of the automotive industry in the Western Reserve as well as nationally and internationally. At Hale Farm & Village, the Historical Society's premier outdoor living history museum in Bath, schoolchildren, adults and families experience life as it was in the Western Reserve during the 19th century.

The Society's collections and exhibits serve as a major educational resource for library and museum users, including school children, the general public, and scholars. In order to communicate effectively with these audiences, exhibits, whenever appropriate, employ modern interactive technologies and techniques. The Society seeks to make its research materials, exhibits, and programs accessible to a diverse and inclusive audience, including the handicapped.

Interstate 2 runs the length of the county, which also features the Erie-Ottawa Regional airport as well as airports on South Bass and Middle Bass Island. Ferry service to South Bass, Middle Bass, and Kelleys islands. There are also inter-island ferries.

Portage County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

Portage County provides accommodations at locations like the Rocking Horse Inn in Ravenna. Restaurants like Eastpark provide casual dining.

The county is served by interstates 80 and 76. Two airports—the Portage County Airport and the Kent State University Airport—provide air service for small crafts.

Summit County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

Summit County has 1,875 full service hotel rooms, 3,458 limited service hotel rooms, and 30 bed and breakfast rooms. The Akron area alone has a number of culturally-significant attractions, including The University of Akron, the Akron Art Museum, and the National Inventors' Hall of Fame. There are many restaurants, including the putative inventors of the hamburger, The Menches Brothers, as well as other local favorites such as The VegiTerranean, Luigi's and Tangier.

The Akron-Canton Airport, which has the lowest average fare in Ohio, provides convenient air travel. The Cuyahoga Valley Railway Company is located on Main St in Akron. The interstate highways accessible are I76, I77, I80, I271, I277, and I480.

Trumbull County Visitor Infrastructure Profile

Trumbull County provides accommodations through 26 hotels/motels, six bed and breakfasts, and seven campgrounds. The county boasts a rich heritage and a strong Amish presence, especially in Mesopotamia. Other attractions include historic districts, stately homes and mansions from the 1800s, golf at 25 local courses, the Western Reserve Greenway, and antique and small town specialty shops. Dining options include national chains and family-owned restaurants as well as local diners and eclectic eateries; the Saratoga Restaurant, for example, is a local family-owned option.

Trumbull County is accessible through interstate 80 and nearby interstate 11. Route 422 runs through Warren and is a heavily traveled highway in the region. The Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport is east of Warren.