

OUTLOOK

THE HILLSIDE TRUST

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Landslide documentary debuts on September 7th

After two years of production, The Hillside Trust's is putting the finishing touches on its landslide documentary. It will debut this Fall on WCPO-TV Channel Nine, airing from 8pm to 9pm on Wednesday September 7th.

Produced by Peabody and EMMY Award-winning Director and producer Laure Quinlivan, the documentary will feature three parts. The first illustrates the reasons why the Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and Southeast Indiana region is prone to unstable slopes. The second part portrays the human costs of those who have experienced landslide damages directly. The final part presents actions that hillside property owners, and those interested in buying hillside property, can take to lessen the chances of suffering from costly if not catastrophic landslide damages.

In addition to the hour-long piece that will premier on Channel Nine, The Hillside Trust is creating shorter segments that highlight each of the three documentary segments. These approximately eight minute-long



Slope failure damages a retaining wall in Mt. Lookout

videos will eventually be available through The Hillside Trust's webpage and its YouTube Channel. The full documentary itself will be marketed to public television stations locally and nationally following its Channel Nine debut.

The Hillside Trust wishes to acknowledge all of the professional experts, public officials, and hillside property owners who participated in this documentary. More importantly, this production would not have been possible were it not for the gen-

erous support of the following foundations including: The H.B., E.W. and F.R. Luther Charitable Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee; The Maxwell C. Weaver Foundation; The Stephen H. Wilder Foundation; The William P. Anderson Foundation; The Louise Taft Semple Foundation; and The Oliver Family Foundation.

The Hillside Trust is excited to debut this important film, to bring a greater understanding of the landslide-prone nature of our region's hillsides.

Trail work begins on Goltra Preserve

One of the first property donations received by The Hillside Trust occurred between 1984 and 1987, with the ultimate acquisition of 14 acres on Brokaw Ave in the Cincinnati community of East Westwood. The first part of the donation was made by the Stulbarg family, and it was completed by the Goltra family whose name is now identified with the property.

In 2007, The Hillside Trust received an additional 36 acres of land from J-II Homes, after the developer aborted plans to build an apartment complex with access to Montana Ave. In 2019, The Hillside Trust purchased nearly 18 acres of land from another developer by way of Clean Ohio Fund grant money.

East Westwood Reaches Out

In early 2021, Kyle Rieser, a representative of the East Westwood Community Association reached out to The Hillside Trust, inquiring about creating greater public access to the property. Kyle recognized its underutilized potential, and wanted to encourage The Hillside Trust to consider opening trails through the property. In the late 1960s, East Westwood and neighboring communities lost hundreds of acres of greenspace when Interstate-74 was built through the southern portions of Mt. Airy Forest.

In the Summer of 2021, community folks, members of Groundwork Ohio River Valley, and the Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance (CORA) met with Eric Russo to get a better understanding



Goltra Preserve

of the topography and layout of the property. A second meeting was convened during the Winter of 2022 to determine possible trail locations.

Potential Bike Trails

In July, 2022 work began to create hiking trails through the property, many of which follow dear paths. This work is being performed by community volunteers, and by youth who are employed by Groundwork Ohio River Valley. Much of the effort involves cutting back honeysuckle and picking up branches. Equipment will also be used to trail blaze in more challenging areas.

While work continues, The Hillside Trust is exploring the costs of insuring the property for mountain biking use. If approved, mountain bikers would use the same trails as hikers. The mountain biking community has a solid reputation for be-

ing excellent stewards of the trails they ride. They are known to keep the trails clean and free of objects that could harm fellow cyclists and pedestrians alike.

The Goltra Preserve possesses a number of steep slopes with spectacular vistas, some of which encompass the Montana Avenue and the I-74 and West Fork valleys. Opening this property up, in the very least to hikers, is something that is very exciting to The Hillside Trust. It is a way of giving something important to the community.

Initial trail work is expected to take a number of months to complete. Additional trails are being discussed, including potential linkages to Cincinnati Public's Roll Hill School. Another linkage could connect the Goltra Preserve to Cincinnati Parks Brodbeck Nature Preserve, which is located off of Westwood Northern Boulevard.

Brookfield Development remains undecided

On July 15th, the Cincinnati City Planning Commission held its second hearing on the Brookfield Ln development in Mt. Lookout. The first one was heard on November 5, 2021. Once again, the developer was armed to the teeth with his team of professionals. Testimony lasted over three hours.

Multiple opponents of the project testified, including The Hillside Trust. Much of the opposition centered on the environmental impacts, and on the number of variances the developer is seeking.

The Hillside Trust made it very clear in its testimony that it is rare for the organization to come out completely against a project. This, however, is one of those situations where The Hillside Trust cannot find any room for compromise, agreement, or improvement.

This position caught the attention of the Planning Commission. It tabled its decision until the next hearing. In the meantime, it requested additional input from several City departments, and a full written analysis from The Hillside Trust.

Annual Meeting set for October 20th

For the first time since 2019, The Hillside Trust is convening its annual meeting in person. This year's event will take place on Thursday, October 20th at Turner Farm in Indian Hill.

Capacity seating for the facility is limited to only 50 guests. As a result, The Hillside Trust is still planning how it will facilitate this event. More details will follow as they become available.

Third annual Pope Coleman Awards

The Hillside Trust is pleased to announce a date for the Third Annual Pope Coleman Awards. It is Thursday, April 20, 2023 at the Anderson Pavilion on Mehring Way, opposite Smale Park.

The award is named after the late Pope Coleman, one of Cincinnati's foremost urban activists and preservationists. It was Pope's vision and inspiration that led to the creation of The Hillside Trust in 1976. The annual ceremony named in his honor recognizes civic and environmental leaders who have made significant contributions to their communities.

The 2023 honorees include Leonard H. "Mike" Fremont, Pam Middendorff, and H.C. "Buck" Niehoff. In the late 1960s, Mike Fremont was a founding member of the nationally-based Rivers Unlimited and

the locally-based Little Miami Conservancy. Pam Middendorff spearheaded the creation of the Indian Hill Equestrian Club in 2012, whose mission is to preserve the history and integrity of the Indian Hill bridle trails. Among his many accomplishments, Buck Niehoff helped establish the Niehoff Urban Design Studio through the University of Cincinnati.

Tickets for this event will go on sale in early 2023. Table sponsorships ranging from \$3000 to \$25,000 are also available. If you are interested in sponsoring the event at one of these levels, please contact Eric Russo at 513-321-3886. You may also email him at eric.hillside Trust@fuse.net.

The Hillside Trust is excited to honor these deserving individuals, and it looks forward to seeing you next April 20th. Thank

The Hillside Trust needs your support to reach its fundraising goal of \$220,000 in 2022.

GOAL: \$220,000



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Reflects funds raised through August 12, 2022



The Hillside Trust
710 Tusculum Ave, Alms Park
Cincinnati, OH 45226

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Aerial map of 68-acre Goltra Preserve in East Westwood, Cincinnati