

OUTLOOK

THE HILLSIDE TRUST

Spring, 2020

Volume XXXIX Issue I

Restoration Begins on Reemelin Road Acquisition

Following its acquisition of 13+ acres of green space on Reemelin Rd last December, The Hillside Trust began restoration work on the property in January. Presently, the land consists of a young post agricultural forest located in a highly urbanized area within Green Township. The property was either farmed or pastured up until around the 1970s, after which it began reverting to woodland cover, including invasive honeysuckle.

Restoration and enhancement goals consist of eradicating the honeysuckle and other invasive woody species, and supplemental plantings of native trees, shrubs, grasses and plants. Small colonies of Black Cherry, Slippery Elm, Sugar Maple and Chinquapin Oak were found striving to re-emerge on the property. Care was taken to protect these vulnerable species by surgically removing honeysuckle from these locations with chainsaws and hand tools so as not to trample them. In areas with larger swaths of honeysuckle, a mechanized bush hog was used to cut down and shred the invasive.

Beginning in the Spring, and continuing into 2021, a variety of native trees and shrubs will be



Wild turkeys make their presence known after the eradication work

introduced to the property, including Hickory, Walnut, Sycamore, Oak, PawPaw, Redbud, Dogwood and Plum. These will be planted through a combination of bare-root installations and seed broadcasts. Native grasses, sedges and plants will be brought in including Canada Wild Rye, Bottlebrush Grass, Wild Oats, Indian Grass, Joe Pye Weed, Foxglove, Wingstem and Coneflower, all of which will be installed as seed.

The Hillside Trust is utilizing the professional services and expertise of Jacob Bartley,

owner and operator of Plum Hill Ecological Resources, LLC based in Alexandria, KY. Jacob has worked with The Hillside Trust on other restoration projects since 2007, most notably the Wilaray Terrace wetland property in Mt. Washington. Jacob utilizes seed and plant material that is raised within a 50-mile radius of Cincinnati. During the Reemelin Rd eradication phase, Jacob partnered with Groundwork Ohio River Valley, utilizing both their expertise and their trained and experienced workforce.

Date Set for First Annual Pope Coleman Awards

Mark your calendars for The Hillside Trust's First Annual Pope Coleman Awards Ceremony on October 15, 2020 at the Anderson Pavilion on the Banks downtown. The purpose of the annual ceremony is to recognize builders, architects, engineers, citizens, and/or organizations for sensitive hillside development, hillside protection, and/or hillside advocacy efforts.

The award is named after the late Pope Coleman, one of Cincinnati's foremost urban activists and preservationists. Among his numerous civic accomplishments, Pope formed the Cincinnati Institute in 1971, where he initiated multiple civic and arts-related projects. Notable among these was his successful grant application to the National Endowment

for the Arts in 1973. This grant incorporated earlier Cincinnati hillside studies spearheaded by Pope that lead to the adoption of Cincinnati's Environmental Quality Hillside District Guidelines in 1976. These guidelines form the basis of Cincinnati's current Hillside Overlay District

(HOD) zoning. The 1973 grant also was used to establish The Hillside Trust in 1976.

Details and costs of the ceremony are in the planning stages. Invitations will be mailed out during the month of September. For more information please call 513-321-3886.



Cincinnati Parks Anderson Pavilion

Columbia Parkway Update

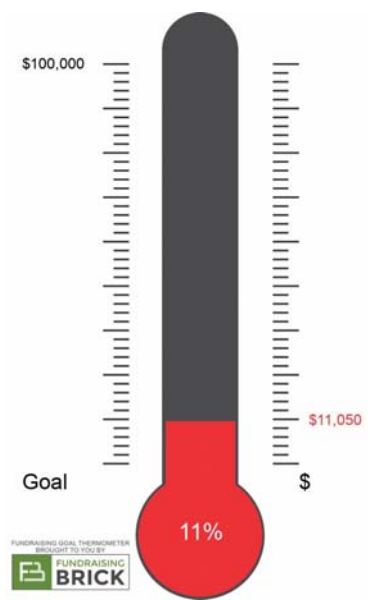
Those living adjacent to Columbia Parkway, as well as those who regularly travel this thoroughfare, have undoubtedly noticed the extensive clearing work done in early February. This is part of the two-year, \$17 million stabilization effort by the City to help prevent future landslides along the Parkway.

The recent vegetation removal between Torrence Parkway and Kemper Lane, also included some re-grading work to alleviate overburden that threatens more slippage. The Hillside Trust noted in social media posts late last year that this clearing and re-grading work was required in order to prepare the slopes for the

installation of soil nails. This stabilization method involves drilling reinforced concrete piers laterally into the slope, and anchoring them into bedrock. A rebar mesh is fastened to the caps of the piers that protrude beyond the surface of the slope. A geo-mat is fixed on top of this mesh whereby vegetation can eventually re-establish itself.

This hillside is going to be in a state of transition for some time. It will be several years before vegetation shows signs of re-establishing itself. The City determined that soil nailing was more cost-effective and geotechnically sound than raising the heights of the existing walls.

Please help The Hillside Trust reach its goal of \$100,000 in 2020



Funds raised as of March 6, 2020

Spotlight on Quarry Street Preserve

In the Summer of 2003, The Hillside Trust acquired a little over 13 acres of wooded hillsides in the Cincinnati neighborhood of Northside. At the time, it was one of the largest acquisitions The Hillside Trust has ever made within the city of limits of Cincinnati. In time it has become one of its most prominent ones as well.

The property is located at the northern end of Leeper Street, on a rather steep extension of undedicated right-of-way named Quarry St. It is bounded by Chapel Ridge Dr to the west (in Mt. Airy) and Badgeley St and Robley Ave to the east (in Northside). The donor of the property, who wished to remain anonymous, grew up on the land in the 1920s and 1930s. He noted that Quarry St was given its name, due to the quarrying activity that took place on the upper reaches of the property during the 1930s. Lime-



Steffen-Russo family hiking the Quarry St Preserve

stone was quarried from the hillside and used in the construction of the massive stone retaining wall that lines the northern side of Colerain Avenue from Northside to Mt. Airy.

Former Hillside Trust board member, Agnese Brienza had approached the donor in the early 1980s about preserving the hillside. At the time, he was considering development options on the property. As recently as 2000, six high-end home sites had been laid out, with views of the Mill Creek Valley and surrounding hillsides. After considering all of his options, he decided the highest and best use of the land was to preserve it in its natural and undeveloped state.

This acquisition represented one of the largest single undeveloped tracts of land remaining within the City of Cincinnati. When estimating its value, former board member and realtor, Stuart Prall could not find anything comparable.

During the 1970s, land adjacent to this property was systematically acquired by eminent domain for the purpose of connecting brand new I-74 with Colerain Ave. For the next 25 years, community activists and preservationists fought diligently to stop this roadway from happening. Finally they prevailed and the land sat vacant for another decade. Around 2002, the Cincinnati Park Board acquired 9 acres of this land from Ohio's Department of Transportation, utiliz-



North-facing slope of Preserve

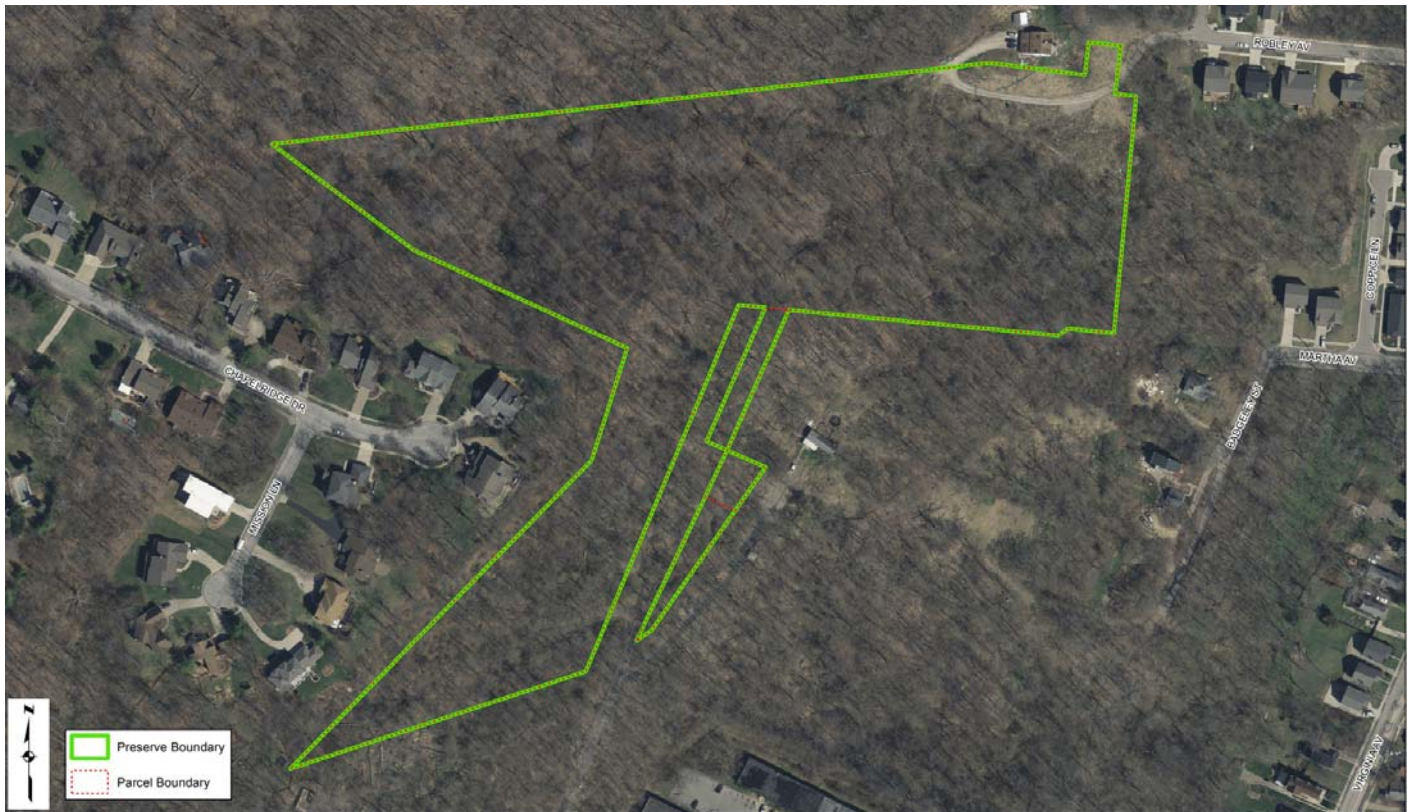
ing a grant from the State's Clean Ohio Fund. Garbage and debris were removed, and an old dump site was cleaned up. Honeysuckle was eradicated, and trails and foot bridges were established.

Nearby neighbors relished the opportunity of connecting The Hillside Trust property with the 9-acre Cincinnati Park land. They began assisting with honeysuckle removal and other tasks. When Tom Uhlman and Mary Kay Carson moved next to the preserve in 2006, they voluntarily constructed steps up steep slopes, introduced native plants and continued the ongoing elimination of invasive plants on the Trust property. Now, visitors routinely enjoy a beautiful hike on 20+ acres of Cincinnati Park and Hillside Trust greenspace, that possesses striking views and a wonderful spacious feeling in nature.



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



Quarry Street Preserve—Northside