

**APPLICATION FOR THE CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND**

**9/27/01**

**SUMMARY SHEET**

Application deadline is 4:00 pm on July 14, 2006 – No Exceptions

**IMPORTANT: Please consult the "Instructions for Completing the Project Application" for assistance with this form.**

**APPICANT:** The Hillside Trust **CODE #** PENDING  
(If Unknown Call OPWC)

**DISTRICT NUMBER:** 2 **COUNTY:** Hamilton **DATE** 7 /11 /06

**CONTACT:** Eric Russo **PHONE #** (513 ) 321-3886 (THE  
PROJECT CONTACT PERSON SHOULD BE THE INDIVIDUAL WHO WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING BUSINESS HOURS AND WHO CAN BEST  
ANSWER OR COORDINATE THE RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS)

**FAX:** ( 513 ) 321-3824 **E-MAIL:** hillsidetrust@fuse.net

**PROJECT NAME:**  
Wilaray Terrace Greenspace Acquisition

OFFICE OF NEW BURLINGTON  
COUNTY ENGINEER  
2006 JUL 14  
PM 1:35

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANT**

(Check Only 1)

- A. County (1)
- B. City (2)
- C. Township (3)
- D. Village(4)
- E. Conservancy District (6)
- F. Soil & Water Conservation District (7)
- G. Joint Recreational District (8)
- H. Park District/Authority (9)
- I. Nonprofit Organization (10)
- J. Other \_\_\_\_\_ (11)

**PROJECT TYPE**

(Check Largest Component)

- A. Open Space (7)
- B. Riparian Corridor (8)

**PRIMARY PROJECT EMPHASIS** 11  
(Choose a category from Attachment A which most closely describes your primary project emphasis.)

**ESTIMATED TOTAL**

**PROJECT COST** (from 1.1f): \$202,000.00

**CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION**

**FUNDING REQUESTED:** (from 1.2e) \$139,380.00

**NRAC APPROVAL - To be completed by the NRAC Committee ONLY**

**GRANT:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR OPWC USE ONLY**

**PROJECT NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED FUNDING:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Participation** \_\_\_\_\_ %

**Project Release Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Clean Ohio Fund Participation** \_\_\_\_\_ %



**1.2 PROJECT FINANCIAL RESOURCES:**

(Round to Nearest Dollar and Percent)

	DOLLARS	%
a.) In-Kind Contributions (Please define) _____	\$ _____ .00	
b.) Applicant Contributions (Local Funds)	\$ 62,620 .00	31%
c.) Other Public Revenues		
Nature Works	\$ _____ .00	
Land Water Conservation Fund	\$ _____ .00	
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	\$ _____ .00	
Ohio Water Development Authority	\$ _____ .00	
Community Development Block Grant	\$ _____ .00	
Ohio Department of Natural Resources	\$ _____ .00	
OTHER _____	\$ _____ .00	
d.) Private Contributions	\$ _____ .00	_____
<b>SUBTOTAL LOCAL RESOURCES:</b>	\$ 62,620 .00	
e.) <b>CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND:</b>	\$ _____ .00	
<b>Funds from another NRAC</b>	\$ _____ .00	_____
<b>SUBTOTAL CLEAN OHIO RESOURCES:</b>	\$ 139,380 .00	69%
f.) <b>TOTAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES:</b>	\$ 202,000 .00	100%

**1.3 AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL FUNDS:**

**Attach a statement signed by the Chief Financial Officer listed in section 4.2 certifying all local share funds required for the project will be available on or before the earliest date listed in the Project Schedule section.**

Please list any partnership with other sources. (ie; is this part of a larger project or plan):

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If the project is multi-jurisdictional, information must be consolidated in this section.

*Please check here if additional documentation is attached.*

**2.1 BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION - (Sections A through E):**

**A: SPECIFIC LOCATION:** Please attach a map.

**PROJECT COUNTY:** Hamilton

**PROJECT ZIP CODE:** 45230

**B: PROJECT COMPONENTS:** Please describe the various project components.

See Attached

**C: PROJECT EMPHASIS AS DEFINED BY SECTIONS 164.22 (A) (B) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND LISTED IN APPENDIX A:** Please describe.

See Attached

**D: DEFINE TERMS OF EASEMENTS:**  
**PLEASE REFER TO SECTION 164.26 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE.**

See Attached

**E: INFORMATION REGARDING PUBLIC ACCESS**

Where is the access located? Is it open to the general public or are there restrictions? What are the hours of availability? Will the general public be given the opportunity to participate in the planning of the project?

See Attached

**2.2 OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT/OPERATION:** Please address.

See Attached

## 2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

### 2.2 BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

#### A. SPECIFIC LOCATION

The parcel is identified as 2100 Ronaldson Ave. It is located between Ronaldson Ave., Wilaray Ter., Claudia Ct., Honeysuckle Ln., Corbly's Grant, Beechcrest Pl., Sands Montessori School and Mt. Washington Methodist Church (please see EXHIBIT 1 - LOCATION MAP - WILARAY TERRACE GREENSPACE AERIAL). With the exception of the school and church, all adjoining land consists of well-established residential neighborhoods.

**PROJECT COUNTY:** Hamilton

**PROJECT ZIP:** 45230

#### B. PROJECT COMPONENTS

The proposed project involves the fee simple acquisition of a 3.97 acre forested wetland and hillside parcel. The area was surveyed on February 26, 1990 by Mark Agricola, a Field Biologist with the Army Corps of Engineers, and it was deemed to be a naturally occurring wetland. Sixty percent of the dominant plant species were typical of those found in wetlands, meeting the hydrophytic vegetation criterion that define a wetland. The Army Corps noted that the ground surface was saturated with surface water to a depth of 3 inches. At the time, the property was owned by a private individual who never pursued federal wetland designation.

The property was further inspected on December 11, 1990 by Stanley Hedeem, PhD, Professor of Biology at Xavier University, and by William S. Bryant, PhD, Professor of Biology at Thomas More College. Dr. Hedeem reported that the site is notable as a rare wooded wetland, a remnant of the Illinoian Glacier that advanced into what is now Mt. Washington approximately 400,000 years ago. The red maples, hop hornbeam trees and elderberry shrubs, among others, are typical of plants that tolerate poor drainage conditions found in wetlands. The change in land elevation across the property allows a diversity of organisms to co-exist within a small area. According to Dr. Hedeem, the property includes "the single Cincinnati remnant of a depression red maple woodland. For purposes of scientific research and the environmental education of elementary, secondary and college students, this unique and important site henceforth should be protected as an ecological preserve."

Dr. William Bryant noted, "this red maple forest remnant in Mt. Washington appears to be an uncommon forest type in Hamilton County and suggests the glacial influence on present vegetation. It has the potential for use by local schools as an outdoor classroom. It certainly shows the interactions of botanical, zoological, hydrological and geological processes."

Jim Farfsing, a Nature Educator with Cincinnati Parks, noted the diversity of wildlife present after visiting the property in April, 2006. He reported calls of many migratory birds, some of whom roost for a matter of days, others of whom nest on the property long enough to raise hatchlings. There were deer tracks and evidence of raccoons. The property contains vernal

ponds, providing critical habitat to frogs, salamanders, crayfish, and spring peepers. There is also an abundance of bats, which help to keep the mosquito population in check. None of these bats however are of the endangered variety.

In April of 2006, Dr. Hedeem addressed a meeting of the Mt. Washington Wetlands Preservation Trust. He exclaimed, "this type of land was rare in Hamilton County even 300 years ago. Today, it is almost extinct. There is only one other area in Hamilton County with this type of vegetation/ecology." Dr. Hedeem was referring to the Mill Creek area, which was designated by American Rivers in 1997 as "the most endangered urban river in North America."

Nearly everyone involved in determining the future of Mt. Washington (including planners, legislators, Cincinnati Public School staff, students and parents, property owners, and business owners) have little or no knowledge of the rare and unique resource present in their own backyard. Preservation of this property in perpetuity will allow the site to be used as an educational venue within walking distance of the Cincinnati Public School District's Sands Montessori School (off Corbly Rd. right next to the property) and Mt. Washington Elementary (located several blocks away on Mears Ave). Science classes, scouting, and community groups can easily access the site for use as an outdoor classroom. Neighbors, as well as the general public, will also have access to the property.

In January, 2006, Blackhawk Development, LLC purchased the 3.97 acre tract, with the express purpose of developing it into 16 single family homes. Unless the property can be bought out, which only is possible with assistance from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, this unique ecological treasure will be forever lost.

With funds secured from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, supplemented with local and private funds, The Hillside Trust will purchase, hold title to, and manage the property in perpetuity. A purchase agreement has been signed by the owner ( Please see EXHIBIT 2 - PURCHASE AGREEMENT), wherein Blackhawk Development has agreed to sell the land for \$175,000, plus \$1,500 a month in non-refundable earnest money until closing.

**C: PROJECT EMPHASIS:**

The proposed 3.97-acre greenspace and wetland is a significant natural asset to the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and especially to the community of Mt. Washington (please see EXHIBIT 3 - WILARAY TERRACE GREENSPACE) which includes topography and soils information). Land preservation will provide a wealth of opportunities and public benefits, including:

- \* an opportunity to eliminate encroaching honeysuckle and re-vegetate with native plant species.
- \* preserving a high-quality, viable habitat for both plants and animals.

- \* helping preserve a significant natural feature that not only contributes to quality of life, but which is a vanishing remnant in Hamilton County and southwest Ohio.
- \* incorporating ecologically appropriate design with the development of a walking trail through the property for use by students and the general public.
- \* enhancing educational opportunities to adjacent Sands Montessori School and Mt. Washington Elementary for purposes of student education, research and enjoyment.
- \* providing public access to a rare and endangered natural area that is surrounded on all sides by dense development, and which will result in recreational and aesthetic preservation benefits, not to mention the economic benefits of increasing the property values of surrounding neighborhoods.
- \* preserving water quality and the aquatic biological communities that depend on this wetland for their very survival.
- \* preserving native vegetation and adjacent habitat that live in and around the wetland and greenspace.
- \* preserving an existing high-quality wetland that provides flood and erosion control for the area by soaking up excess rain water and melting snow runoff, and which helps purify groundwater and surface water by filtering out contaminants.
- \* providing for the permanent acquisition of a watershed area and forested greenspace and hillside for benefit to the community of Mt. Washington.
- \* providing an opportunity to enhance the quality of this wetland and greenspace by planting additional native plants and trees on the property.
- \* preserving a headwater stream that flows into nearby Clough Creek (please see EXHIBIT 4 - WILARAY TERRACE WATERSHED).

**D. TERMS OF EASEMENT:**

The Hillside Trust will conform to the long-term ownership of the property. A conservation easement will be recorded by The Hillside Trust with an appropriate entity, in this case The Cincinnati Park Board (please see EXHIBIT 5A - LETTER OF SUPPORT).

**E. INFORMATION REGARDING PUBLIC ACCESS:**

Typically, the site will be open to the general public during daylight hours. In rare instances, it is anticipated that special nighttime access, with prior approval from The Hillside Trust, will also

be utilized by small groups and individuals interested in examining populations of bats, salamanders and/or spring peepers.

Public access will be available by way of Ronaldson Avenue which dead-ends into the greenspace. This is where the majority of honeysuckle clearing will take place in order to "open up" the property. Smaller, more informal access will be available to local neighbors from such locations as Wilaray Ter, Claudia Ct, Honeysuckle Ln, and Corbly's Grant.

### **2.3 OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT/OPERATION**

The Hillside Trust has inspected this property and has deemed it a viable and critical habitat worthy of preservation. The Hillside Trust will own the property and preserve it in its "forever wild" state, while conforming to the requirements of a conservation easement. Since its founding in 1976, The Hillside Trust has preserved over 200 acres of hillside lands and valleys in Hamilton, Clermont, and Boone Counties. It has accomplished this by way of fee simple acquisitions (117 acres) and acquisitions of conservation easements (87 acres).

Before the property is officially opened, several initiatives are required to ready it for public access. One, an abandoned cottage will be raised and carted away, and its foundation filled in by Evans Landscaping. Evans will also lay out a trail system that will approximate an existing network of deer trails that will be widened for pedestrian access. The trail will be comprised of wood chips. Three, honeysuckle will be removed and native plants will be re-introduced to the area. The design layout and supply of these native materials will be provided by Habitats Native Plant Nursery. Habitats, LLC is a small locally-owned wholesale native plant nursery located in Northern Kentucky. It supplies local-genetic native seeds, plants, and services for restoration and native landscaping projects in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky.

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission has agreed to provide infrastructure assistance in the way of equipment to help maintain the trails, and personnel to help supervise volunteer labor (please see EXHIBIT 5B - LETTER OF SUPPORT). The Hillside Trust will coordinate volunteer initiatives, drawing from Sands Montessori and Mt. Washington Elementary Schools, and from the community at-large to provide any additional support and upkeep as needed.

### **3.0 PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

Planning and Implementation:	2/2006 to 5/2006
Land Acquisition:	9/2006 to 10/2006
Site Improvements:	10/2006 to 9/2007

#### 4.0 PROJECT OFFICIALS:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

Eric Russo, Executive Director  
The Hillside Trust  
710 Tusculum Avenue, Alms Park  
Cincinnati, OH 45226-1770  
phone: 513/321-3886  
fax: 513/321-3824  
email: hillsidetrust@fuse.net

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:

Michael W. Burns, Board President  
City Manager, Village of Indian Hill  
6525 Drake Rd  
Cincinnati, OH 45243  
phone: 513/561-6500  
fax: 513/561-8137  
email: mburns@ci.indian-hill.oh.us

PROJECT MANAGER:

Eric Russo, Executive Director

## 5.0 ATTACHMENTS/COMPLETENESS REVIEW:

In order that your application may be processed in a timely fashion, please submit your application on 8 2 by 11 white paper with dark ink so that it may be copied for others. It is understood that some items may not conform to this request such as large maps and photographs. Please feel free to include these items.

Confirm in the blocks [ ] below that each item listed is attached.

- A certified copy of the authorization by the governing body of the applicant authorizing a designated official to sign and submit this application and execute contracts. This individual should sign under 6.0, Applicant Certification, below.
- A certification signed by the applicant's chief financial officer stating all local share funds required for the project will be available on or before the dates listed in the Project Schedule section.
- A formal detailed estimate of the project's costs provided by an architect, landscape architect, or other professional. For land acquisition, an appraisal by a State-certified general real estate appraiser, as defined under ORC 4763 for the type of land being appraised will need to be submitted to the NRAC prior to closing.
- A cooperation agreement (if the project involves more than one entity) which identifies the fiscal and administrative responsibilities of each participant.
- Resolution of Support (Please refer to section 164.23(B)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code for guidance.)
- Identification of any participation by state agencies that will provide to this particular project and that will provide assistance with respect to the project.
- Information concerning the coordination of the project among local political subdivisions, state agencies, federal agencies, community organizations, conservation organizations, and local business groups.
- Supporting Documentation: Materials such as additional project description, photographs, and/or other information to assist your NRAC in ranking your project. Be sure to include supplements which may be required by your *local* NRAC.
- Have you reviewed your NRAC's methodology to see that you have addressed all components?

## 6.0 APPLICANT CERTIFICATION:

The undersigned certifies: (1) he/she is legally authorized to request and accept financial assistance from the Ohio Public Works Commission; (2) to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, all representations that are part of this application are true and correct; (3) all official documents and commitments of the applicant that are part of this application have been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant; and, (4) should the requested financial assistance be provided, that in the execution of this project, the applicant will comply with all assurances required by Ohio Law, including those involving Buy Ohio and prevailing wages.

**Applicant certifies that the project, as defined in the application, has NOT resulted in any transfer of title or rights to land or begun any type of physical improvements prior to the execution of a Project Agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission. Action to the contrary will result in termination of the agreement and withdrawal of Ohio Public Works Commission funding.**

Certifying Representative (Type or Print Name and Title) Eric Russo, Executive Director

Eric Russo 7/11/06  
Original Signature/Date Signed

**ATTACHMENTS**

## ATTACHMENT A

### PROJECT EMPHASIS

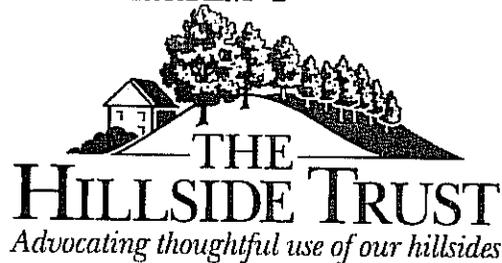
NOTE: IF THE PROJECT HAS MORE THAN ONE EMPHASIS, PLEASE PLACE A #1" IN THE CATEGORY THAT IS THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS, A #2" IN THE CATEGORY WITH SECONDARY EMPHASIS, AND A #3" IN THE CATEGORY WITH THIRD EMPHASIS.

### OPEN SPACE

- 1. Protects habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species
- 2. Increases habitat protection
- 3. Reduces or eliminates nonnative, invasive species of plants or animals
- A5 4. Preserves high quality, viable habitat for plant and animal species
- 5. Restores and preserves aquatic biological communities
- 6. Preserves headwater streams
- 7. Preserves or restores flood plain and stream side forest functions
- A4 8. Preserves or restores water quality
- 9. Preserves or restores natural stream channels
- 10. Preserves or restores functioning flood plains
- A1 11. Preserves or restores wetlands
- 12. Preserves or restores stream side forests
- A2 13. Preserves or restores other natural features that contribute to quality of life and state's natural heritage

### RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

- 14. Fee simple acquisition of lands to provide access to riparian corridors or watersheds
- 15. Acquisition of easements for protecting and enhancing riparian corridors or watersheds
- 16. Reforestation of land
- 17. Planting vegetation for filtration
- 18. Incorporates aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design
- A3 19. Enhances educational opportunities and provides physical links to schools and after school centers
- 20. Acquisition of connecting corridors
- 21. Supports comprehensive open space planning
- A6 22. Provides multiple recreational, economic and aesthetic preservation benefits
- 23. Allows proper management of areas where safe hunting and trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve balanced natural ecosystems.
- 24. Enhances economic development that relies on recreational and ecotourism in areas of relatively high unemployment and lower incomes



**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR GRANT  
FROM THE CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND**

**BY THE BOARD:**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of The Hillside Trust have reviewed and considered the merits and components of acquiring the tract of land known as the Wilaray Terrace Greenspace; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of The Hillside Trust desire financial assistance under the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission, in order to enable the Trust to purchase real property between Wilaray Terrace and Ronaldson Avenue, and listed in the Hamilton County Auditor's Book 1, Page 2, Parcel 143, comprising 2.809 acres, and Book , Page 3, Parcel 308, comprising 1.16 acres; and

**WHEREAS**, The Hillside Trust has executed an agreement with the owner of said property through a neighborhood group known as the Mt. Washington Wetlands Preservation Group, subject to receipt of a grant from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund of an amount equal to 69 percent of the project costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes that the estimated total project costs for this purchase will be \$202,000.

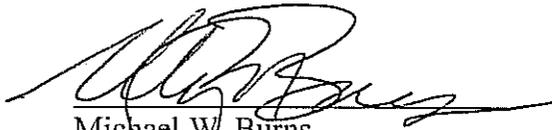
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of The Hillside Trust that an application for a grant from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund shall be submitted for the Wilaray Terrace Greenspace Acquisition, being the property on Wilaray Terrace and Ronaldson Avenue listed in the Hamilton County Auditor's Book 1, Page 2, Parcel 143, and Book 1, Page 3, Parcel 308, which has an estimated total project cost of \$202,000.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Trustees agree to obligate the funds that are required to satisfactorily complete this project in order to be eligible for the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund financial assistance in the amount of 69 percent of the total project costs; and

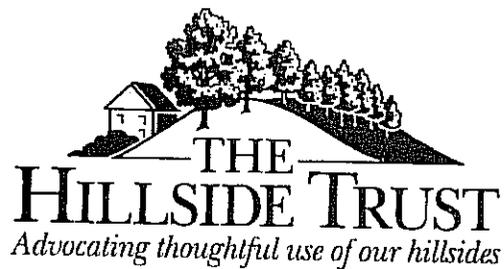
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Executive Director of The Hillside Trust is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file applications with the Ohio Public Works Commission, and to enter into any agreements that may be appropriate and necessary for

obtaining the financial assistance from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, and to provide all information and said documentation required in said application for submission to the Ohio Public Works Commission.

ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Trustees of The Hillside Trust on the 9th day of June, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Burns", written over a horizontal line.

Michael W. Burns  
Board President  
The Hillside Trust



Clean Ohio Conservation Fund  
Wilaray Terrace Greenspace Acquisition  
Hillside Trust Project Match: \$62,620 (31 percent of project total)

**CERTIFICATE**

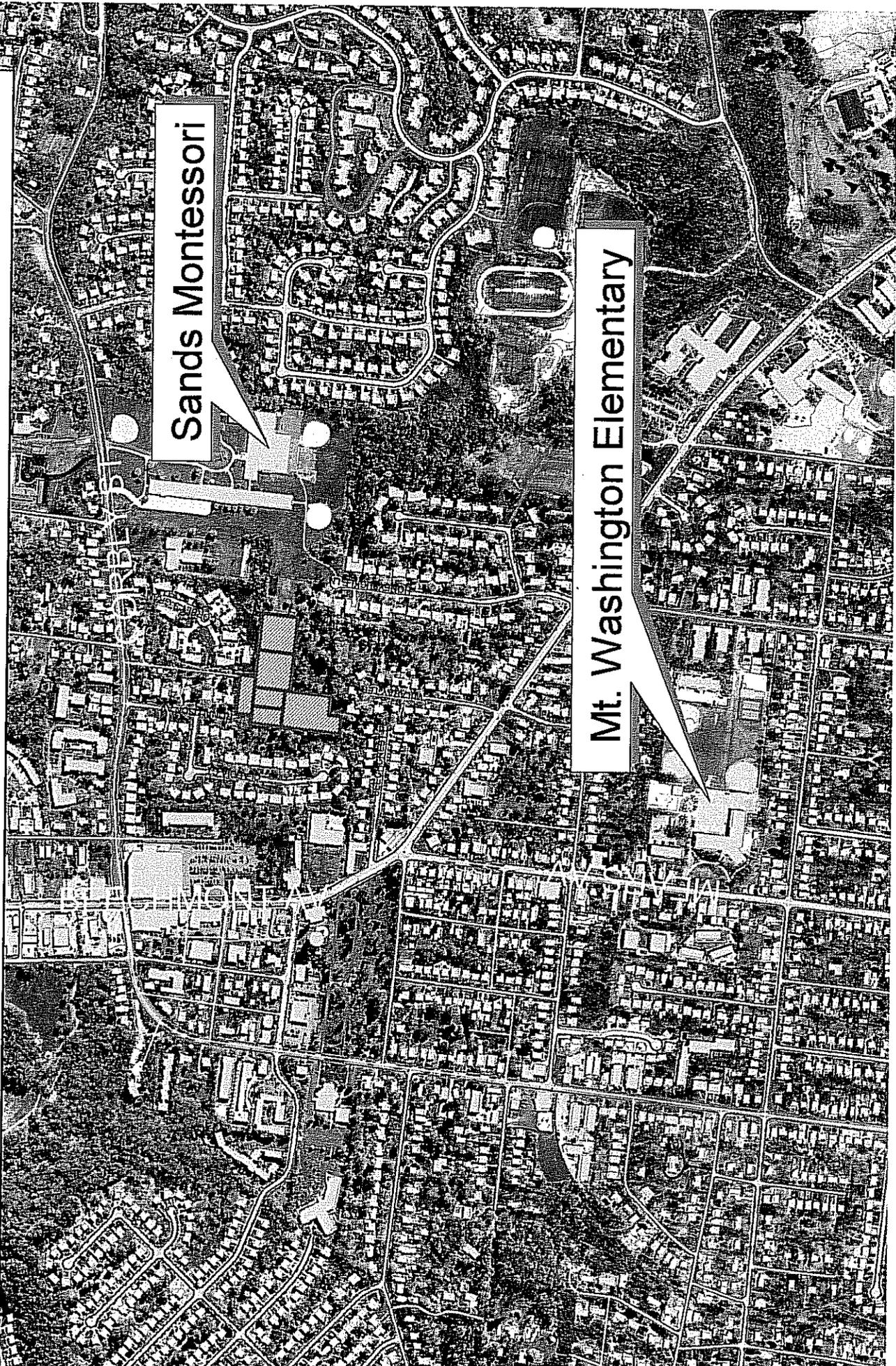
I hereby certify that the money required to meet the above obligation has been lawfully appropriated for such purposes, and is in the treasury, or in the process of collection to be credited to the proper fund and free from any previous or outstanding obligation, encumbrance or certification as required by Section 5705.41 Ohio Revised Code.

Michael W. Burns  
Board President  
The Hillside Trust

Date: July 10, 2006

**EXHIBITS**

# Wilaray Terrace Greenspace Aerial



Sands Montessori

Mt. Washington Elementary

**Blackhawk Land Development, LLC**  
**11224 Cornell Park Drive, Suite B**  
**Cincinnati, Ohio 45242**  
**(513-936-9300)**  
**Fax (513-936-9322)**

June 20, 2006  
Via fax

Timothy M. Burke, Esq.  
Manley Burke, LPA  
225 W. Court Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202-1098

Re: Ronaldson Avenue Property

Dear Mr. Burke,

I am in receipt of your recent letters. We have completed some investigation and have come to the decision to make an offer to your client, the Mt. Washington Wetlands Preservation Trust.

This letter is to inform you that Blackhawk Land Development, LLC, will sell the property it owns on Ronaldson Avenue for \$175,000. In addition, non refundable earnest money in the amount of \$1,500 per month shall be paid to Blackhawk, until closing, to cover our interest expense. Closing must take place within 90 days of the date of this letter.

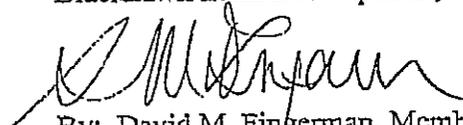
The purpose of this offer is to give your group time to talk to the City to see if it will contribute to the purchase price. If your group is not interested in this transaction, be advised we will continue with our plans to develop the property. It appears the property is encumbered with a delineated wetland of .44 acres. The rough sketch of our development proposal would therefore indicate we may not be able to build on four of the proposed 16 lots. We are also investigating the sale of the .44 acre wetland to an identified wetland Bank.

Please inform me of your client's interest in the above offer to sell, if any. I must hear from you with an acceptance or rejection twenty days from the date of this letter, otherwise, the offer to sell is null and void, of no force and effect.

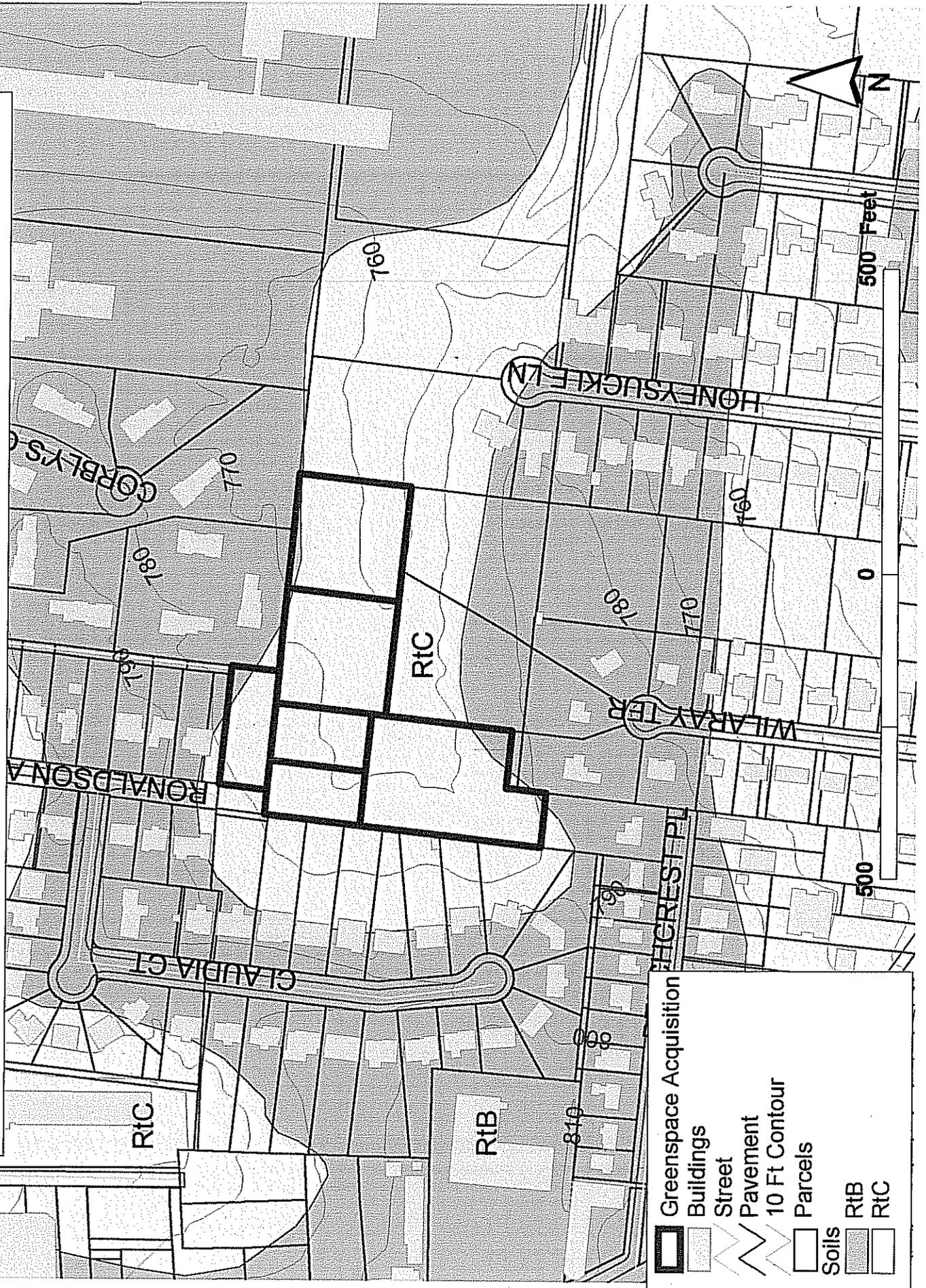
We will continue to work with the City of Cincinnati in all manner relating to the development or the sale of the property.

Very truly yours,

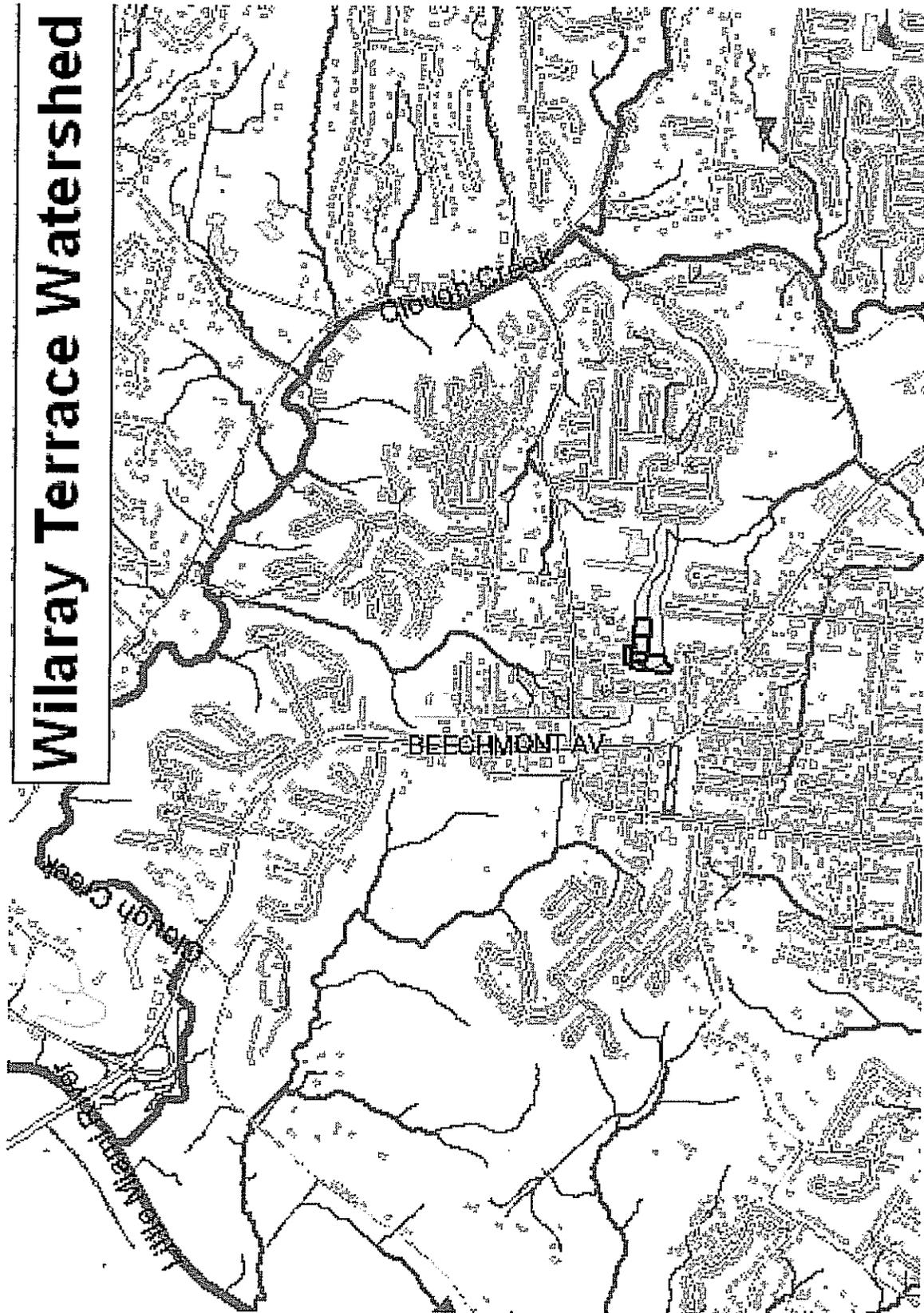
Blackhawk Land Development, LLC

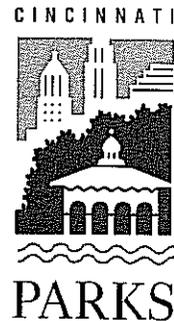
  
By: David M. Fingerman, Member

# Wilaray Terrace Greenspace



# Wilaray Terrace Watershed





BOARD OF PARK  
COMMISSIONERS

July 11, 2006

Marian J. Lindberg  
*President*  
Roscoe A. Fultz  
*Vice President*  
Walter M. Budig, Jr.  
Merri Gaither Smith  
Francis P. Russell

Mr. Eric Russo  
Director  
Hillside Trust  
710 Tusculum Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226-1770

Dear Mr. Russo:

This communication is sent to document the Cincinnati Park Board's agreement with Hillside Trust to be stewards of the conservation easement for the property located at Wilaray Terrance and Ronaldson Ave., in Mt. Washington. The agreement includes the Park Board's commitment to observe the area as a green space in perpetuity, in case the Hillside Trust is not a going concern entity at some point in the future.

Willie F. Carden, Jr.  
*Director*  
Gerald R. Checco  
*Superintendent  
Operations*  
Steven L. Schuckman  
*Superintendent  
Planning & Design*  
Lillian W. Horne  
*Manager  
Business Services*  
Marijane E. Klug  
*Manager  
Financial Services*

As you know, the proposed project involves the fee simple acquisition of a 3.97 acre forested wetland and hillside parcel. The acquisition of this wetland will provide a much-needed educational venue that will benefit many children, as well as the general public for years to come.

Again, this communication confirms our agreement. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact me at (513) 352-4079.

Sincerely,

Willie F. Carden, Jr.  
Director of Parks





805 Central Avenue • Suite 800 • Cincinnati, Ohio • 45202  
 InfoLine (513) 352-4000 • Fax (513) 352-1634  
 www.cincyrec.org

Denise M. Driehaus, President • Rev. Kazava Smith, Vice President  
 Roscoe A. Fultz • Catherine D. Ingram • Michael J. Moeddel

James R. Garges, CPRP, Director

*Inspiring Today. Strengthening Tomorrow.*

July 10, 2006

Mr. Eric Russo, Executive Director  
 The Hillside Trust  
 710 Tusculum Ave., Alms Park  
 Cincinnati, OH 45226-1770

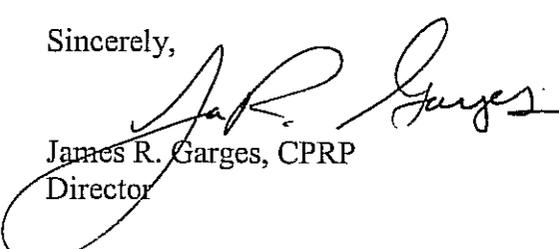
Dear Eric:

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) is in support of your application to the 2006 Clean Ohio Conservation Fund to purchase the two tracts of land between Wilaray Terrace and Ronaldson Avenue in Mt. Washington, collectively known as the Wilaray Terrace Greenspace.

If this acquisition is successful, CRC will provide equipment and personnel support as part of an ongoing operation and maintenance plan for trail upkeep through the property. We also understand that The Hillside Trust will be coordinating periodic volunteer support efforts that will connect local neighbors as well as parents and students of Sands Montessori School with the greenspace preserve.

On behalf of Cincinnati Recreation Commission, we wish you the best of success in this application to the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund.

Sincerely,

  
 James R. Garges, CPRP  
 Director



DWJ/est

RESOLUTION 35 - 2006

**EXPRESSING** Council's support for the Mt. Washington Wetlands Preservation (MWWP) Group in its application seeking funding from the Clean Ohio Fund for the acquisition of four acres of land located south of Ronaldson Road and North of Wilray Terrace.

**WHEREAS**, the MWWP Group was established by citizens of Mt. Washington to preserve rare, valuable greenspaces in their neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, the area that the MWWP seeks to acquire, hereafter known as the "Mt. Washington Wetlands and Greenspace", is a rare and valued greenspace that enhances the quality of life for the residents of Mt. Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, a reputable Xavier University biology professor has stated that, "for purposes of scientific research and the environmental education, this unique and important site should be protected as an ecological preserve."; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Ohio Fund, established in 2000, has set-aside \$150 million in grant funds for eligible conservation projects, including the purchase of open spaces; and

**WHEREAS**, the deadline for submitting funding applications to the Clean Ohio Fund is July 14, 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, Mt. Washington Greenspace has secured at least 40% of the acquisition costs necessary to qualify for the Clean Ohio grant; and

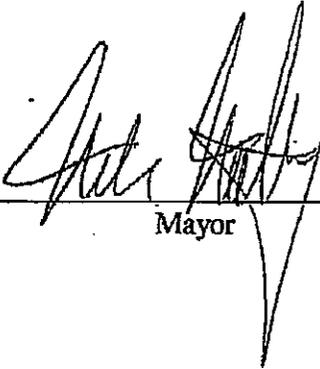
**WHEREAS** City Council is committed to preserving and enhancing the quality of life in Cincinnati neighborhoods; now, therefore,

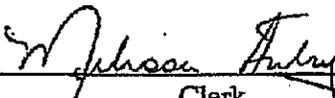
**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Cincinnati:

Section 1. That Council supports the residents of Mt. Washington in their pursuit of acquiring and preserving the Mt. Washington Wetlands and Greenspace.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and copies be sent to the Mt. Washington Wetlands Preservation Group, care of Roger Giesel, and the Hillside Trust.

Passed June 28, 2006

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Leslie Ghiz.

# Sands Montessori School

## Local School Decision Making Committee

May 25, 2006

Mt. Washington Wetlands Preservation Group  
c/o [laurag@cinticons.com](mailto:laurag@cinticons.com)

To Whom It May Concern:

On May 22 representatives of the Mt. Washington Wetlands Preservation Group met with the Sands Montessori Community Learning Center Planning Committee. The group advocates for the preservation of green space in Mount Washington and is currently working to preserve four wooded acres between Wilaray and Ronaldson Roads, near Sands Montessori School. Their purpose in presenting to the Community Learning Center Planning Committee was to explore the possibility of a partnership to provide a wetlands educational setting for students of Sands Montessori School as a part of the new Community Learning Center.

According to Dr. Stanley Hedeem, a professor of biology at Xavier University who studied the site in 1991, it "is most notable for the rare wooded wetland that covers the southeastern portion of the tract." More recently, Jim Farsing, a nature educator for the Cincinnati Park Board, visited the site and reported hearing the calls of many migratory birds and the presence of vernal ponds, which provide critical habitat for several frog species. The site also supports a large population of crawfish.

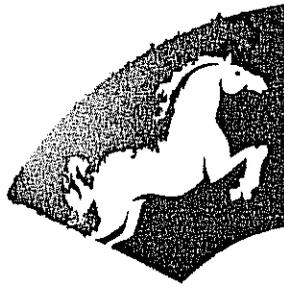
The members of the Community Learning Center Planning Committee enthusiastically supported the concept of a partnership with the Mt. Washington Wetlands Preservation Group. Teacher and parent members of the committee were excited about the possibility of using the site as an outdoor education lab. The members expressed interest in jointly seeking grants to support the school's involvement. The Sands Montessori Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC) concurs with the support of the Community Learning Center Planning Committee.

We wish you success in your efforts to preserve the area and ask that you keep us informed of your progress.

Sincerely,



Chris Humphrey  
Co-Chair  
Sands Montessori LSDMC



Mt. Washington School  
1730 Mears Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

May 24, 2006

Mt. Washington Wetland Preservation Trust:

Mt. Washington School would be very interested in using the Mt. Washington Wetland Preserve as part of our educational opportunities for the children at our school. If you are successful in creating this unique nature preserve in our community, the school would view it as an educational resource not only for the school but the entire neighborhood.

Please keep us apprised of your progress and we look forward to sending students to discover and explore this pocket of greenspace in the heart of Mt. Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey Brøkamp".

Jeffrey Brøkamp  
Principal

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark K. Celsor".

Mark K. Celsor  
LSDMC Co - Chair

# The Mt. Washington Savings & Loan Co.

2110 BEECHMONT AVENUE CINCINNATI, OHIO 45230

PHONE: (513) 231-7871

FAX: (513) 231-7872

13 July 06

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THE MT. WASHINGTON SAVINGS & LOAN CO.  
IS OPPOSED TO THE BUILDING OF HOUSES  
ON THE PROPERTY AT 2100 RONALDSON ROAD  
CINTI, OHIO. WE FEEL THAT BUILDING ON  
WETLANDS IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF  
THE HOMEOWNER AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY.

Yours deary Trul,

  
Secy

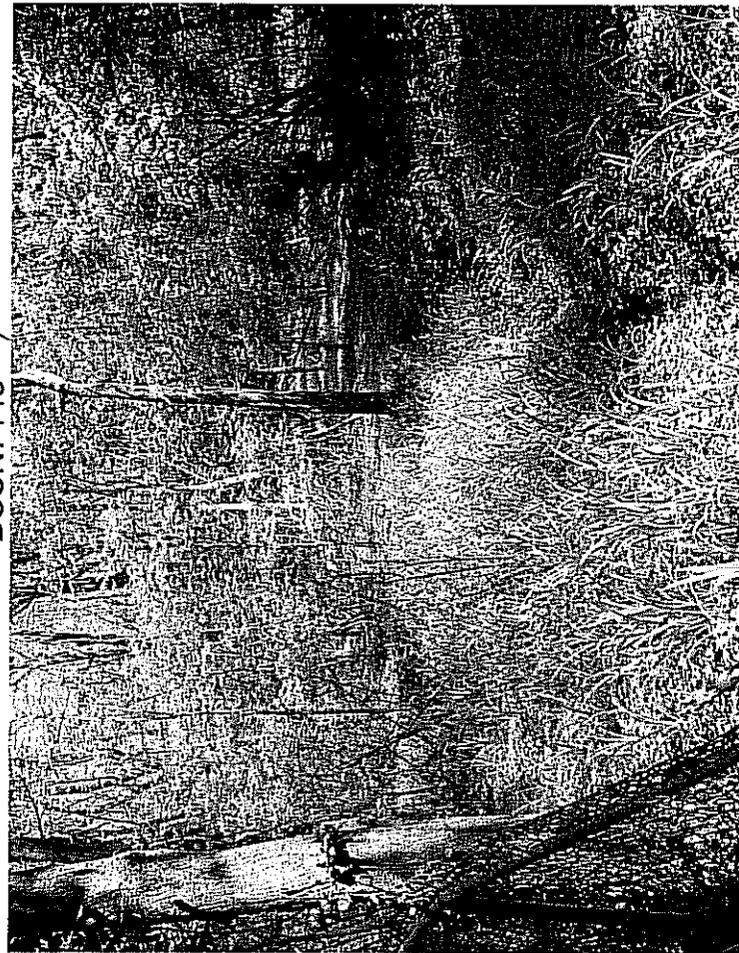


**PHOTOGRAPHS**

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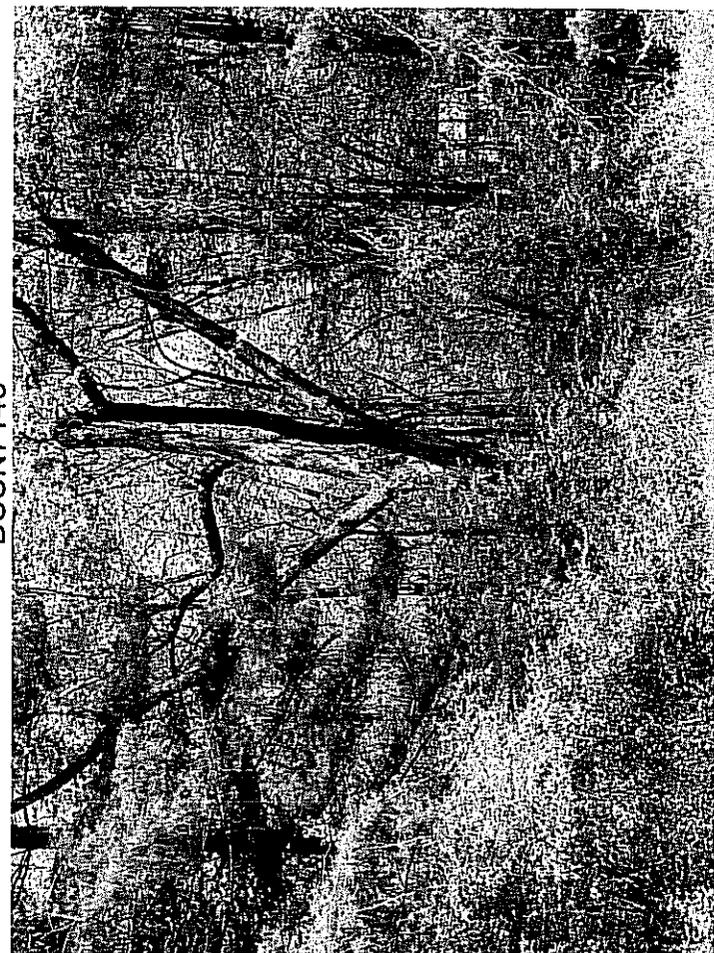
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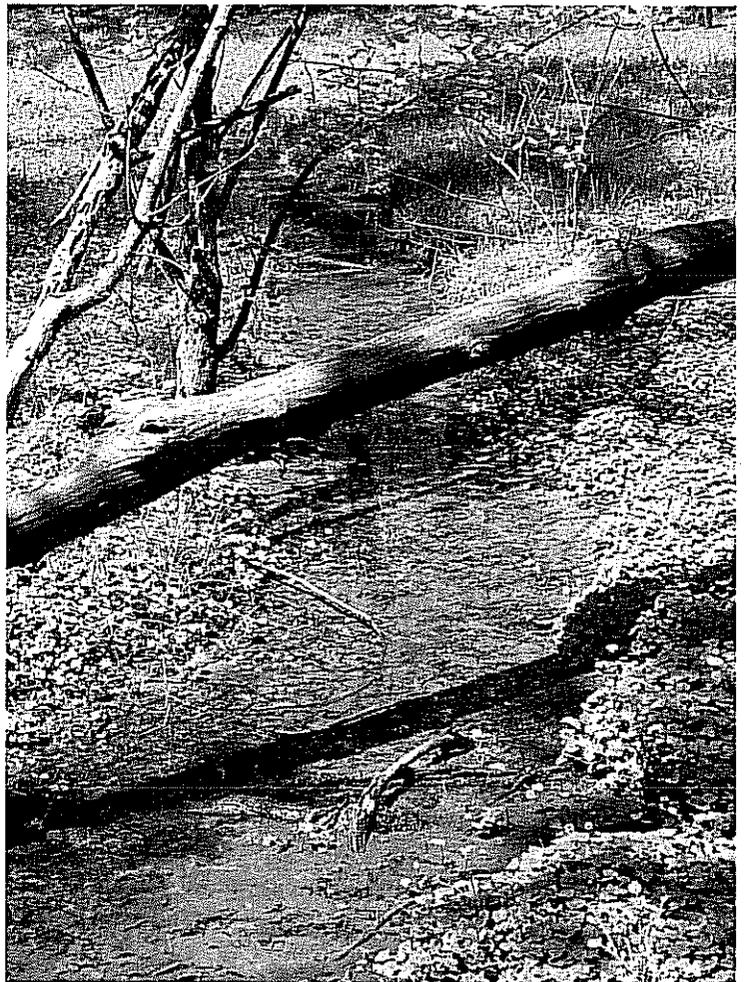


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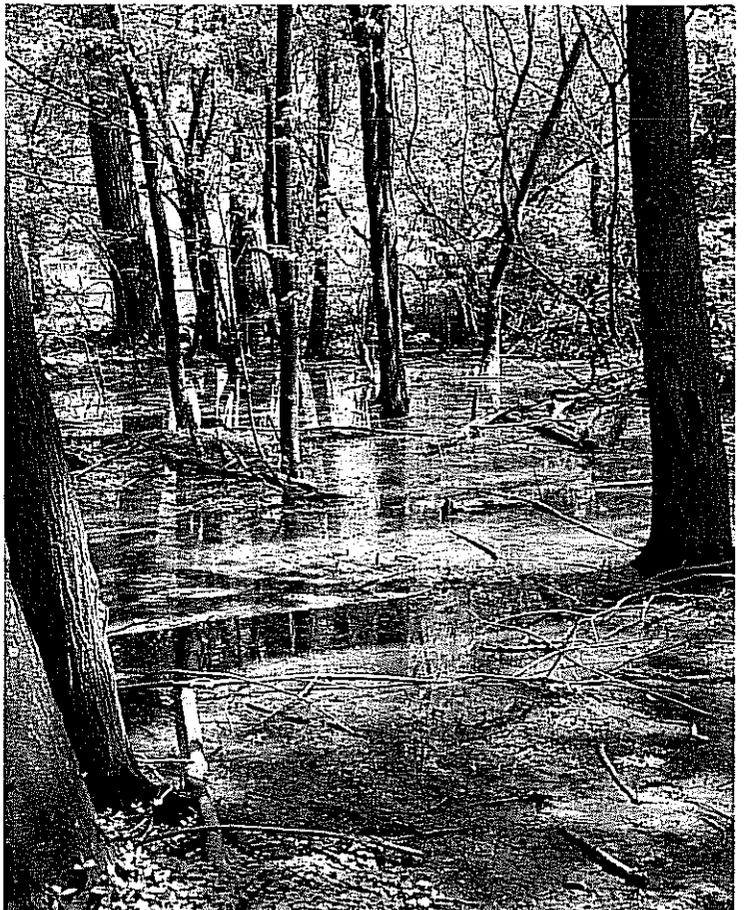
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