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RESOLUTION NO. 2026-263

First Reading Passage Requested
(B. Nelsen)

SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Mrs. Darrow

DATE October 5, 2026 COMMITTEE Public Works

A Resolution declaring the County of Summit's approval and support for the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program Application for the Rocky River Forest Preserve project, located in Richfield Township, in Council District 1, to be submitted by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy for funding under the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS**,** the State of Ohio, through the Ohio Public Works Commission, administers financial assistance for conservation purposes through the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program; and

WHEREAS**,** Western Reserve Land Conservancy intends to submit a grant application to the Ohio Public Works Commission and the District 8 Natural Resources Assistance Council for the conservation and preservation of the 89-acre Rocky River Forest Preserve with a conservation easement (the "Project"), which would preserve property along the East Branch of the Rocky River in Richfield Township, in Council District 1, for funding through the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program (the "Clean Ohio Grant"); and

WHEREAS, preservation of the Project will protect natural resources including habitat for diverse plant and animal species, natural riparian corridors, and high-quality wetlands, and will help protect and maintain ground water supplies and water quality in the area; and

WHEREAS**,** the Western Reserve Land Conservancy is pursuing a plan to conserve and protect the Project in a thoughtful, conscientious, and measured manner; and

WHEREAS, the County of Summit's approval and support is predicated on Richfield Township's support of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Clean Ohio Grant Application; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County of Summit to collaborate with Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Richfield Township in furtherance of conservation and preservation of the Project's natural resources; and

WHEREAS**,** this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit to declare its approval and support for the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Clean Ohio Grant Application to be submitted for funding through the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State of Ohio, that:

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SECTION 1

This Council hereby approves and supports the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Clean Ohio Grant Application, located in Richfield Township, in Council District 1, to be submitted to the Ohio Public Works Commission and the District 8 Natural Resources Assistance Council for funding through the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, in order to preserve with a conservation easement the Rocky River Forest Preserve Property's natural resources, streams, and wetlands.

SECTION 2

This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the County of Summit, and for the further reason to immediately provide a necessary prerequisite for the Western Reserve Land Conservancy to timely submit its grant application for grant funding.

SECTION 3

Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

SECTION 4

It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

INTRODUCED October 5, 2026

ADOPTED October 5, 2026

Signed by:
Monique Willis
CLERK OF COUNCIL

Signed by:
Erin Dickinson
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED October 5, 2026

for
EXECUTIVE

Voice Vote – YES: 11 – 0: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

ENACTED EFFECTIVE October 6, 2026