

Outreach Efforts Reach Hundreds of Participants

From April 21 through the end of June 2002, over 2,000 persons were at least introduced to the “Goals for Dike 14” project through a number of special-interest-group or neighborhood meetings and six large-group events or meetings, listed below. The number who took notice or actually participated is of course much lower, but it is not unreasonable to estimate that 700 to 800 persons gave some amount of personal time and attention to the “Goals” project.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>21 April Earth Day Event
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
75-100 persons stopped at booth</p> <p>April-May “Connecting Cleveland”
A series of citywide Lakefront planning meetings sponsored by the City of Cleveland</p> <p>24 April Sagrada Familia Catholic Church (Detroit Ave.)</p> <p>30 April Slovenian National Home (St. Clair Ave.)</p> <p>7 May Cleveland Convention Center (downtown)</p> <p>9 May Seventh Day Adventist Church (E.105th St.)
Total attendance estimate 1,200</p> <p>1 May Kirtland Bird Club
25 attendees</p> <p>4 May Dike 14 “Open Gate” Tour
Day-long event sponsored by “Goals for Dike 14”
400+ attendees; 250 comment cards received</p> <p>8 May Neighborhood Environmental Coalition
Broadway Neighborhood
15 attendees</p> | <p>20 May City Council Briefing for members of Cleveland City Council’s Parks/Recreation/Properties Committee (with Scott Zody/ODNR)</p> <p>21 May Glenville Neighborhood Planning Meeting sponsored by City of Cleveland at Famicos Foundation/Notre Dame Academy (Ansel Rd)
30 attendees</p> <p>28 May The Sculpture Center
Sculpture Garden planning committee
10 attendees</p> <p>11 June Woods & Waters
sportsmen’s organization
30 attendees</p> <p>22 June Second Annual Burning River Fest sponsored by the Great Lakes Brewery and Cleveland Waterfront Coalition
450 persons attending; about 200 viewed Dike 14 display boards or handouts</p> |
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NOTES:

At each of these events, handouts were available and personal presentations or display materials invited comments and opinions on future land use at the Dike. Handouts included a list of possible land uses that had been suggested earlier in the “Goals” process:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| bird sanctuary & wildlife preserve | mini-golf course | fishing piers |
| play areas for neighborhood families | bike-hike paths | sculpture park |
| environmental education center | expansion for Gordon Park picnic & boat docking areas | |

In sharing their “future visions,” participants wrote their own comments and placed them in a suggestion box. Some responded directly to the list included in the handout. A few returned the handout with their preferences circled.

The smaller-attendance meetings listed above were specifically set up for the “Goals” process. At these, meeting notes were taken on large sheets of newsprint or on self-adhesive notes by project consultant Genevieve Ray. They paraphrase speakers’ comments and include direct quotations as much as possible.

Except for “New Ideas” on Page 3, comments received appear only once in this report. Apparent duplicates are actually different persons suggesting the same use, or are the same person submitting multiple versions of the same proposal (at large-group events, no action was taken to prevent suggestion-box “stuffing”). This report covers the period 21 April through 30 June 2002, with a smattering of early-July e-mails included. It does not duplicate information from Feedback Report #1 (January–March 2002) or Feedback Report #2 (most of April 2002).



Almost-Universal Dislikes Identified

Most participants in the late April-June round of events and meetings

expressed distaste for:

- paving
- concrete
- roadways
- private land ownership
- commercial development
- residential development, with one exception *
- too many (or any) structures, except at the southernmost portions of the 88-acre site.



Here is what participants said:

This area is open, belongs to the people, and should not be surrendered to elite developers.

NO condos, upscale housing, commercial/retail, jetports, parking lots, casinos

I want this land to stay with the people, not the rich developers.

Please not too much development.

Please keep it preserved. I am for people being able to use the land but with minimum development.

No development, just open those gates !! [ED]

No condos and shopping centers, ok?

NO additional dumping, roads-freeway, amusement rides.
NOT for strictly private uses (housing, commercial) [GLV]

I like the idea of development [to] keep it natural — no commercialism. Dog Park. Trails. Connect to Edgewater.

This area must be kept a natural habitat in some form. This is one of the few areas left on the Ohio shoreline that has not been converted into concrete of some form.

Keep it simple, undeveloped, inexpensive, low maintenance. [BRF]

* One participant proposed a limited amount of condominium development on the site. The ideas was offered as a suggestion to help finance public open space (see “New Ideas,” page 3).



Participants of all ages offered their opinions at the Dike 14 “Open Gate” event.

‘Whatever is planned, make sure it is a plan that gets DONE!!’

[GLV]

KEY to notes

In the pages that follow, individual entries may be followed by initials in brackets. Examples can be seen at the left, see [ED] and [GLV]. These indicate at which event the comment was received.

Most entries are followed by NO initials. These were received at the Dike 14 “Open Gate” tour.

Others are keyed as follows:

[BRF] = Burning River Fest

[CW] = CityWide Lakefront Planning Meetings (4 mtgs)

[ED] = Earth Day

[GLV] = Glenville neighborhood planning meeting

[KBC] = Kirtland Bird Club

[NEC] = Neighborhood Environmental Coalition

[SC] = Sculpture Center

[WW] = Woods & Waters

[Mail] = Mail or e-mail is denoted

New Ideas Emerge from Public Events

Meeting and event attendees who submitted their ideas for future land uses made frequent references to the uses already identified in handout and display materials. Some participants, however, introduced new schemes and ideas for how Dike 14 might contribute to the region's future. Ideas not listed in earlier reports or included in handouts are shown here (some are duplicates of items found on later pages of this report).

Natural Science Attractions

Observatory, Planetarium, Arboretum or Aquarium

How about a small telescope observatory (14-16" reflector telescope) at the north end for public use. Perhaps Case Western University could do it. The skies are good and dark over the lake.

[BRF]

Observatory/scenic outlook [GLV]

Aquarium/Planetarium [GLV]

Make it an arboretum.

Community garden

Community based learning program. Garden. Kids and adults can learn about gardening and produce and all the contents can go to poor people.

Bark Park

This would make a wonderful area for a dog park. Water dogs could swim in the lake and be allowed off-leash to run! Also a great biking/hiking area.

Bark park for dogs.

Bike hike park and dog park.

Bark Park for dogs. Bike hike from here to Edgewater Park like Chicago has or bird/wildlife preserve.

Outdoor Theatre

Outdoor theatre of 15-20,000 seats hooked to schools and others [CW]

Windfarm

Thank you for the opportunity! Personally, I'd like to see this area developed as a walk/bike park with emphasis on resources (landfill) and I would like to see a portion of the land used for **wind turbine park**.

Make it a windfarm.

Camp grounds.

Bikers need a place when going cross country.

Campground on the lake

Area for camp-over by sea kayak.

African American Cultural Garden

Residents' input is critical, not just organized groups. Educate them on what's there. Many are ignorant of their own resources. Shouldn't oversell the environment. Uses: The African American Cultural Garden should be located out on the Dike. [CW]



← Picnics, Prison, Garden, Birding

[One person who toured Dike 14 submitted a full plan for the Dike, replicated here.]

Area 1: fishing piers, picnic area, benches, homeless folks welcome during all daylight hours (no alcohol)

Area 2: Ohio PRISON, ultramodern/state of the art (not quite Alcatraz)

Area 3: community garden area, import non-industrial sewage sludge for fertility

Area 4 – bird habitat and bird viewing area (for people)

Active sports

Ice skating, roller-blading, dirt bike track, duck hunting, trap shooting/skeet, open fields for soccer, rugby, lacrosse

Park for nudists, naturists

Since the site is isolated and self-contained it would make a great place for nudist and naturist to experience the outdoors without offending the general public.

Specialized Parks

Cedar Point II [ED]; "A Kid's World of Games" [CW]; Theme Park or Golf Courses

RV Campground

(not the whole thing). [CW]

Community Center

This is dead land. The public will come. Make a community center at Dike 14 where people can come and congregate, bring thoughts and ideas about how to make the land better. Open to the public. [CW]

Condos to Support Open Space

Keep it simple — leave as open space with public access — hike and bike trails only, maybe leave a specified area set aside with no or limited access to accommodate birds. 2) Consider developing a small area with low-impact condos and use proceeds from sale of that parcel to develop remaining acres as open space/parkland.

Food

...restaurants ... refreshments

Green Space Favored, Many Prefer ‘Natural’ over ‘Manicured’ Look

Although participants differed over which land uses they preferred, or over how much public access should be given to open space, there is no question that open, green space was the preference of participants in this round of meetings and other opportunities for public comment.

Some, whose comments are found on later pages of this report, tend to favor a more traditional “park” appearance -- grassy, mowed lawns and distinct planting areas -- but a large number said they favored a more “natural” landscape treatment.

I'd like the Dike to be an “urban prairie”

Lots of GREEN!!!!

I think the site should be kept as attractive and friendly to migratory and local birds and wildlife as possible. I think there are enough places to fish. In line with the above I guess I would not object to swimming, playground and picnic.

I would like to see a park with an area of natural habitat (for birds). Make it a place for people.

1) Thanks for the opportunity.
2) Specific plans are beyond me, however, it is clear that it MUST be green space, not buildings, and it should be part of (or if sadly the only - ok) a large lake front expansion. Nature certainly must prevail.

Beautiful, natural – put your feet in water. [CW]

Plant some variety of trees.

Dike 14, Please keep it natural – no building except absolutely necessary.

Open this area to the public. Create a park like setting with some trails and paths (no auto traffic). Leave some, even most of the area natural.

I'd love to see a bike/hike path and Bird Sanctuary. It would be nice to keep the development to a minimum — a few picnic tables. Keep as much green as possible.

Leave it NATURAL – bird sanctuary and nature preserve. We already have enough of all of the other ideas (i.e. picnic grounds, fishing piers, etc.) but not enough natural places.

Natural area, enhance for viewing of natural scene without disrupting it. [GLV]

Keep it natural – make it a place to bike, picnic, a place to go for peace of mind [GLV]

1) Play fields, bike/walking/jogging paths. 2) Let it grow wild – Have another tour in 4 months or so. Nobody will recommend a beach on a day like today!

I like the idea of development [to] keep it natural — no commercialism. Dog Park. Trails. Connect to Edgewater.



Wild or managed, green wins.

No large buildings, bike-hike trails. As civilization grows, wildlife needs places to go – this is one of the places [NEC]

I would like to see this area open to public for: bird watching, limited bike trails, quiet hiking areas. NO marina, NO housing. Cleveland needs open green space for its people.

Please do not do any grand developments. Keep it natural for the birds. An education center would be good.

Play area + ‘natural’ park [GLV]

A more natural area will be cheaper than other uses, more economical (more developed parks have boats, skateboards, patrols, insurance) [KBC]

I'd hate to see the standard, ODNR design – all parking, e.g. at Euclid Beach the only interesting thing is the community built playground – Wildwood/Villa Angela [SC]

1) Picnic tables. 2) Gazebo. 3) Leave in natural state!!

I loved being a “city girl” walking through a wilderness. I would want to preserve as much natural habitat as possible. I can go to Euclid Beach or Edgewater for a beach and park but would treasure walking and listening in what looks primitive. I don't know about birds officially but was delighted by the variety we saw. Thank you!

Public Use & Site Access are Central Issues

Participants exhibit widely differing opinions about how much human access to the site is appropriate. Defining acceptable types, amounts, frequency, and impacts of human access is likely to be a key factor in reaching consensus on land use. Opinions are not at polar opposites, however: most participants in this round of meetings and events appear to agree that some level of public access to the site is desirable.

Some Participants Want Strict Access Limits to Protect Wildlife

It should be literally “for the birds.” No dogs. Minimal human impact.

My vision for Dike 14 is to leave it as a bird sanctuary and nature preserve. Do not add picnic grounds, play areas, fishing piers, boat docks or anything that would encroach on the wildlife that are taking advantage of this area. Their presence is a gift not only to us, but to our children and so on... Please leave this area wild for them.

A wonderful space that should remain wild with limited human invasion. I hope the city claims this and Whiskey Island as nature sanctuaries.

Please keep this as a birding area. No dogs, no bikes.

Some animals are adaptable to humans, some areas should be closed off. In Ottawa, next to the Crane Creek area, the bald eagle area mostly closed; Sheldon Marsh Nature Preserve has access: e.g. Piping Plover nesting area is controlled access [NEC]

I would like to see this 88 acres remain a bird sanctuary and nature preserve with a very minimum of improvement. Perhaps some latrines and picnic tables at the beginning – that’s it!

Retain natural habitats to allow continuation of migratory bird rest area.

Must be retained as a natural area. Human impact should be minimal. Put other activities on park land adjacent to dike.

Yes, a bird sanctuary/nature preserve, a quiet, contemplative space where human access is controlled, i.e. perhaps to specific times, number of days per years, etc. Of course, limited paths (walking, maybe bikes) would help folks feel affection for the space. A sense of awe & wonder.

Some protected areas for birds and wildlife are needed. [NEC] With a little work this area will provide a fine area for migratory bird stopover with some access for the public.

Bird / nature sanctuary with NO DOGS, skateboards, rollerbladers, etc. only BIRDS and people watching ‘em! Another advantage in a nature sanctuary is its low cost! Just leave it be!!



... At this point, I’m favoring keeping it as wild as possible — with just paths and maybe a few simple benches if you’re feeling like you want to rest, i.e. the bird/wildlife sanctuary idea. We’ve GOT a park next door with picnic tables, and places to do boating. Why not just keep it wild, a refuge for all of us urban souls?

‘One of the things that’s being debated here are these points of view:

maintenance of a natural site & integrate people and their works in it

versus

maintenance of natural site & limit people’s access to it.’

Kirtland Bird Club, 1 May 02

What would you HATE to see on Dike 14?

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| dogs | lawns |
| ballfields | playgrounds |
| bicycles | concrete |
| sculptures | boat piers/fishing piers |
| picnic tables | more access for boaters |
| invasive plants (alien) | |

What DO you want to see?

- | | |
|--|--|
| education about environment | Chicago - Aquarium - Isolated marsh (a la Sandy Ridge Metropark) |
| natural art works (Dirksen) | boardwalk - managed foot traffic |
| foot traffic only | |
| map of area at entrance (kiosk - info. station) | |
| statement of intent: what this is to accomplish (legacy to protect this jewel) | |

Public Use, cont'd

Affordable, Easy Access & Use Seen as Essential by Many

Need more shoreline access for the public. This would be a nice lakefront park for people. The birds have plenty of places around here. There is simply a need for public lakefront access.

It must be open to the public
[GLV]

What you have now at Dike 14 is an unplanned site. We want a designed, planned site - perhaps including areas for no-access. Need to design people into site.
[SC]

A lot will depend on whether the boulevard is done. Public transportation needed. Shuttle from Gordon Park – this is costly.

We need areas that are safe for kids/supervised.

Security is an issue.

You will have to address ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act requirements]. This cannot be ignored. [SC]

I want a place for people in the city where we don't have to pay for activities.

Bike/hike paths. Uses - definitely for public access.

Some people in our neighborhood don't have cars. Public transportation is needed, like a circulator bus. Maybe this could take people to the park.

This area has great potential [as] a park with hiking and bike trails.

Nature preserve with walk paths and trails and fishing locations

Put a boardwalk in to preserve wooded areas and provide safe surface for walking.

Bike-hike paths with preserve.

You've got to have access: if you don't have trails, you don't develop stewardship.

Bird sanctuary with hiking trails.

Leave property natural with minor trail improvements.

Remove invasive plants and rusting pipes.

It's a nice idea to have a natural area with birds and wildlife and education about the lakefront and natural resources. It needs to have good access for all sorts of people and uses. [WW]

Hiking/Biking Trails

The land should be left as wild as possible while still keeping trail access (bike, etc. but no motor vehicle).

Hiking, walking, biking nearby trails -- but low-impact trails, perhaps boardwalks, viewing platforms, educational signs.

The area, by all means, should be a nature park with hiking trails.

- 1) Public access — walk/bike path, nature trails.
- 2) Interpretive Center
- 3) Ponds 4) Fishing pier
- 5) Seasonal dock facilities.

I could even tolerate some "maintained" park. NO marinas!! People need an access to the Lake — for peace of mind, body, and spirit. [drawing of a bluebird]

The land should be left as wild as possible while still keeping trail access (bike, etc. but no motor vehicle).

Open very soon for some Public uses.

(continued on next page)

Bikes Get Mixed Reviews

Keep this area in its "natural" state. Add paths and include this park with proposed bike path connecting Wildwood Park and Edgewater Park. The plans already exist. Ask the city.



The Dike provides a breathtaking view of Lake Erie. The future: How about an animal sanctuary, representing a wide variety of unusual species. I'd like to see a small herd of deer, fox etc. Winding its way through the preserve would be a walking trail, 3 or 4 miles long, no bikers, no rollerbladers. The Metro[parks] are overrun with them, spoiling it for walkers, and hikers. And they are dangerous, lots of accidents in the Metroparks. Scenic overlooks would also be a nice addition.

Keep this space as natural as possible Access should be limited to walkers – no bikes, cars, etc.

Keep it natural. Bike and hike. No basketball courts.

No bikes speeding on edge [CW]

Public Use, cont'd

Some See Compromise Opportunity in Perimeter/Interior Use Split

Comments submitted at public meetings indicate that participants have done some thinking about how to take advantage of the Dike 14 site for human activities and avian habitat as well.

A number of participants have suggested that site design treat the interior acreage differently than the Lake-edge perimeter, or that different sectors of the 88 acres could be reserved for different purposes.



New views of Downtown Cleveland and the Lake are seen from the Dike's perimeter.

I would like to see a bike path around the perimeter with picnic areas. Hiking in the middle surrounded by trees, and a nature preserve.

At least part of the dike Nature Preserve [equal] to Shaker Lakes. Perimeter be access to water; inside preserve. Bike/hike paths along routes ABC [shown on May 4th 'Open Gate' map of the dike], hiking only in the middle.

Remain/turn into a state park. Keep it mostly how it is but with a developed perimeter trail and one or two trails crossing the middle. Preserve the wetlands that are on it.

Please maintain as much of the site as a natural area. Incorporate park activities in land around natural area. Maintain wetlands.

I would like to see a nature center with a continuation of the bike path on the perimeter.

Route the "bikepath" along the lake around the Dike 14 perimeter. Keep a section of the area as a bird sanctuary. Keep the Lakefront State Parks management.

Type of all purpose trail around perimeter to get lake view. Leave center for bird watching and hiking.

Keep the interior (majority) of the dike as it is, let nature do what it does best: reclaim! Have pedestrian access to the perimeter for hiking, walking, etc. No concrete unless absolutely needed. Same goes for asphalt.

Perimeter bike paths.

Try to balance public access with wildlife areas (paths around outside) [CW]

Bird Sanctuary. Nature Preserve. NO Picnicking. NO motors — ever! Maybe a perimeter paved bike path to tie in with lakefront path, to be known as "the Dike 14 loop."

Wildlife, bird preserve, perimeter paths, fishing piers. [BRF]

Affordable, Easy Access, continued from Page 6

Observation decks like the one at the Holden Arboretum.

Like at the Shaker Lakes — pathways, boardwalks, bridge you can walk over. [NEC]

After going through it I still think you should leave it as is but maybe have a hiking path or bike trail on the roads we walked on.

Bird sanctuary with walking Trails — wetlands where possible.

Wetlands and observation deck.

Bird Sanctuary / Hike-Bike path. [ED] [BRF]

Dike 14 Future — Remove fence — it will flow from adjacent parks. Birding habitat. Hiking. Maybe an observation tower Lake view area.

Bike/hike park with connections to east/west downtown. Thanks for opportunity to see Dike 14.

1979 Lakefront State Park Plan: Mix of Uses Holds Appeal

A palette of traditional recreational uses is seen in the Ohio Department of Natural Resource's 1979 Cleveland Lakefront State Park Master Plan and its subsequent updates. Twenty-three years later, some Clevelanders still find the plan's mix of active and passive recreational uses appealing.

The passage of time has had its effect on those traditional uses, though. Golf and roller-blading, sports not included in the old plan, are now mentioned by potential park-users. And proponents of the quiet uses of picnicking, lake-gazing and hiking now take notice that they may be joined by migratory birds enjoying the site.

Views, Family Time, Quiet Enjoyment Sought

"Quality of life" features can attract people to live here: green space, swimming, scenery – view the lake, activities, boat races, watch the wild waves, quiet places to get away, sit, kid's park Keep high activity off the Dike.

Wonderful Place. Great Edge to the lake. Hope it is not spoiled by development. Pedestrian access would be terrific.

Please make this a great passive recreation area – great views great location – potential for flora and fauna improvements.

I'd like to see a beautiful park made from Dike 14. [age 14]

We would love to see a park on this land.

Make parkland — for wildlife, walking trails, limited bike trails, NO ball diamond etc. Land should be a wildlife sanctuary with hiking trails so people can enjoy the beauty of nature. NO bikes. there are enough bike trails now — picnic areas at Gordon Park possible, not on the Dike area.

Suggestions for use: picnic grounds. No cars or parking. Pedestrian only. Dog area – fenced in. Remove all fences. No golf.

1) Clean up area, remove old pipes and tanks. 2) develop for park fenced area with picnic area. No public concession stands or nuisance.

Make it into a park. [Age 6]

Extensive habitat restoration, trails, sitting and eating areas.

My opinion when I saw it would suggest a nice landscape for wildflowers — something nice when you enter Cleveland (driving westbound on I-90).

I prefer hiking, birding, fishing and other quieter activities to playground, swimming and other noisy activities.

A community center for weddings, etc. [GLV]

Parkland — bird sanctuary and wildlife preserve if hiking and picnicking can occur.



Open grassy lawns, picnic and play areas are still appealing to some participants. Some others prefer a more "wild," less "manicured" landscape treatment. Still others hold that 88 acres is big enough to allow multiple landscape styles and accompanying uses.

Community Park - open for the families of the City, especially children in the Glenville area. [CW] [ED]

Another park – watch the fireworks from here. Make it a park with education, picnic ground, pavillion where you explain how this came about. [CW]

I would like to see it developed into a public park for families to use for picnics, playgrounds and whatever will bring them to the water's edge. [CW]

Being able to utilize the area for a four-season park, with areas designated as a wildlife preserve. We need more land designated for recreational usage. [BRF]

There's a need for better picnic facilities in Gordon Park [GLV]

Park, fishing, boating. [CW]

Dog Park [ED]

P A R K ! [CW]

Public park & picnic area [ED]

Enjoy the lake !!! If you're coming all day, kids need a place to stay [NEC]

(continued on next page)

1979 Plan, cont'd

Participants' Wish Lists Show Broad-Range Interests

I want a park like was promised in the 1970s.

It would be a good place for trap shooting / skeet [WW]

Complete the 1979 Plan.

Theme Park or Golf Courses.

Winter uses should be looked at – ice skating? – Maybe this goes at Gordon Park

Hiking/biking path on perimeter and by the lake. Bird sanctuary, with ponds (and some nature paths). These are main preferences but the ODNR's plans to make it more like Edgewater Park also could make sense and provide for East Siders access to the Lake.

Metroparks bridle path/hike trail, fishing access

Aquarium [ED]

Would make great Bike-Hiking-Roller Blading path and views of the Lake.

In 88 acres there should be a place for a beach — more direct access for kids to swim - to enjoy the lake [NEC]

Sport field.

Duck Hunting [CW, WW]

I'd like to see this site become a park. I think there should be a large fine for any littering. Also it would be nice to make part of the beach a public swimming area, so everyone can enjoy this site.

You should have picnic tables, putt-putt, play areas for kids.

Dike 14 was selected as one of five possible sites for our project called "A Kids World of Games." Information on this site previously researched years ago. Second lakefront site selected and first possible. [CW]

A Kid's World of Games, built from ground up. And animal protection also. [CW]

I swim here now. [ED]

Bike/skate [ED]

Park with everything — dirt bike track, beach, etc.

Beach / swimming facility. Bike path extension. Park extension to Gordon. Nature preserve. There are no beaches at the East Side of Cleveland. This presents with an opportunity to create a beach on level with Euclid or Huntington Beaches.

Getting Agreement Isn't a Slam-Dunk

In most meetings with neighborhood or special-interest groups, participants are asked to answer the questions, "What would you HATE and what would you LIKE to see on Dike 14?"

Even in a group as small as the Broadway area's "Neighborhood Environmental Coalition," the 14 persons in attendance on May 8 found several areas for lively conversation and debate.

What would you HATE to see on Dike 14?

What would you LIKE to see on Dike 14?

Golf

Nature Hikes

Swimming

Swimming

Commercial development

Pavilions & Shelters

Navy Pier (Chicago) type activities

Outside music parties

Housing

A butterfly area

Putt putt golf

Group outings & planned parties

Picnic Grills

Picnic Grills

Bike trails, beach, putt-putt, ice skating. [CW] [ED]

Recreational Park: Bike, Hike, Open Fields (Soccer, Rugby, Lacrosse) Swimming. Nature Park: Flowers, birds, grasses, plants.

Dike 14 would be a good place to watch the air show [GLV]

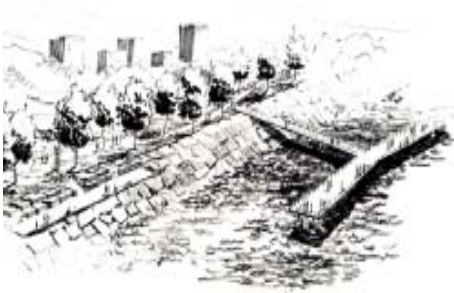


Participants express strong desires for connections to Lake Erie, but the Lake is barely visible from sections of the Dike where steel bulkheading looms several feet above grade. Birders point out, however, that this same high bulkheading affords protection to migratory birds.

1979 Plan, cont'd

Comments Show No Unanimity on '79 Plan

ODNR's 1979 Plan calls for fishing piers to be built off the Dike. Now fishing, swimming and other active recreational uses get mixed reviews from participants.



Although there is clear interest in some elements of the adopted Cleveland Lakefront State Park plan, it is apparent from comment cards and in-meeting feedback that opinions about the land uses called for in the 1979 and updated Plan are dramatically divergent.

Similarly, there are wildly and emotional differences over uses that were not included in the Plan but have been suggested as part of the "Goals for Dike 14" process.

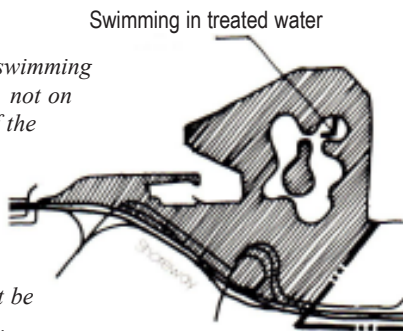
NO GOLF COURSES! That takes a tremendous amount of land for only a few people. Build more of them!

We don't need more Bar-B-Q parks. There's plenty of space in Gordon Park. [WW]

I like all the suggested uses proposed in the literature except the mini-golf [frowny face symbol].

Golf on the lake is good, but not here. [NEC]

The 1979 Plan shows swimming in an inland built lake, not on Lake Erie. Because of the configuration of the Cleveland Harbor, its continual dredging, and the construction of Dike 14 itself, a sandy beach would not be sustainable at this site.



Fishing/Swimming – vs. – No Fishing/No Swimming

We should prohibit fishing.

There should definitely be more and better fishing areas.

No fishing piers – unless access is limited to foot.

Better boat docking [ED]

Maybe fishing could be confined to an area where it won't interfere with the environment for birds and other wildlife.

Fishing area. Here, you can't get past private land to fish! I hate that about Ohio. In Pennsylvania, you can always get to the water.

NO access for automobiles. No boat docks for unlimited access.

Fishing Pier. 10-15 acre lake. People park. Boat access.

Keep the park for the birds.

Need safe places to take young children fishing! [CW]

Have some picnic tables but no fishing unless somebody is going to clean up. The E. 55 fishing area is FULL of garbage. Gross.

Fishing – Natural center – Pond for Birds – Fish – turtle [sic]

Birds like the areas where fishermen go. There might be a way you could put fishing off the eastern edge of the Dike. [WW]

Swimming would be nice. Kids in this area need a place to swim.

Fishing should be at edge, with no roads and no cars etc. (fishermen should walk). [NEC]

A People Park is needed on the east side. This land should be transformed into a park comparable to Edgewater Park.

I question fishing piers – aren't those fish by the shore loaded with heavy metals ??? [CW]

It would be nice to have the land become a Beach!

Look at fishing — how much investment goes in to fishing should reflect fish advisories, and people should be aware of fish advisories. [NEC]

Possible swimming area, fishing, etc.

Sandy beach at Gordon Park, same as Edgewater. [CW]

Where is fish habitat?

Edgewater. [BRF]

Forget about swimming and fishing. Go for the Bird Sanctuary/wildlife preserve and bike/hike paths. [BRF]

No nature center. Edgewater "East." Accessibility for all. Some "wild" areas and access to water.

No swimming!

Bathhouses with swimming.

Birding Interests Voice Wish to Protect Valuable Natural Resource

Participants in this round of “Goals for Dike 14” meetings have shown great interest in the presence of migratory birds and/or wildlife on Dike 14, and have expressed strong desire to assure that the habitat remains welcoming for these visitors. One factor that helps distinguish between different approaches to a bird and wildlife conservation area is the amount and type of human interaction with the site

‘Bird Sanctuary’ Given Highest Priority by Some



100% bird sanctuary.

It should also be used as an area for migratory birds.

Sanctuary for migrating birds!!!

Site should remain part of State Park – no large buildup.

More bird friendly plantings. Diversify vegetation. Dig a pond, create a marsh. No boomboxes or radios.

Please we need a bird sanctuary here!

Bird sanctuary and wildlife preserve – no multiple use items, there are plenty of them elsewhere. [CW]

Bird Sanctuary [BRF]

Birds Need a Home Too ! [ED]
There are enough places to fish, play golf and use the land. Let’s continue what is already being successfully accomplished. Bird Sanctuary gets my vote!

BIRD SANCTUARY.

Leave it a bird sanctuary. Hearing the birds sing is a greater gift than anything man can contrive for this precious pieces of earth. Bird Sanctuary, please.

Heron & Egret conservatory.

Preserve the area as a natural green space with enhancement for migratory birds — habitat enhancement.

Keep Dike 14 natural and keep as bird sanctuary. [CW]

Bird sanctuary — Involve groups like Audubon. [NEC]

Leave it as a Bird Sanctuary. [BRF] [ED]

Could tax check-off funds be used here (endangered species)? [NEC]

Please make it a nature preserve. Explore Dike 14 as a Scarlet Tanager breeding ground. [NEC]

I would like to see a bird and wildlife sanctuary and preserve. [NEC] [ED]

Maintain the Natural Bird habitat that has evolved. [ED]

Let the area remain undeveloped to preserve habitat for wildlife.

Keep the same use as a Bird Sanctuary and wildlife area.

Bird sanctuary. Nature preserve. Can the state take it over? They are doing a good job on lakefront parks.

A nature preserve for all the animals displaced by greedy suburbanites.

Spend what it takes for a nature preserve.

Lovely place — great birds too. I’d love to see this as a nature park. Hope it doesn’t get built up.

Nature preserver [sic] — as is with boardwalk trails.

Nature preserve with Boardwalk and education center.

Hiking Trails & bird watching. [ED]

I would like a bird sanctuary & wildlife preserve WITH fishing piers and bike/hike paths. [NEC]

Lots of birds reside here, would be a good place to watch birds.

I’m in favor of keeping Dike 14 as natural as possible with only hiking trails. Bird Sanctuary and Nature Preserve. NO DOGS.

‘This area has become important bird habitat, especially for migrating species. There [are] almost no suitable “staging areas” along the 80 miles from Huron to Mentor Marsh, except for this area.

There have been 277 species of birds observed at this site, including 23 species endangered in Ohio, and 52 species on the Audubon Society Watch List.’

Birding Interests, cont'd

Some Public Access Desired for Sanctuary

100% nature area for birds sanctuary with judicious public access.

Whatever is done, needs to be about the bird sanctuary first. Must have easy access to all people – from near and far.

Extend the Emerald Necklace to create a natural recreation and birding site.

I would like to see Dike 14 be left to nature to be a bird sanctuary and migration stopover area. There are very few natural areas left along the Lake Erie lakeshore, especially in the Cleveland area. These undeveloped areas are essential for the continued survival of eastern North America's avian population. The lakefront already has too many developed areas such as marinas and yacht clubs. Dike 14 would give the citizens of Cuyahoga county a close by area to experience nature.

Management of access should be flexible to respond to habitat needs. [NEC]



ODNR: Please make Dike 14 a nature preserve/bird sanctuary / message 2: Ohio Department of Natural Resources: Please make Dike 14 a Nature Preserve. [two submittals by same person]

Dike 14 is one of the few rare spots along the lake which serves as a resting and stopping-off place for migratory birds, which are declining due to loss of habitat. It should be preserved or modified as a bird sanctuary or nature preserve for current and future generations to enjoy.

‘Take only memories, leave only footprints. We must teach our children about nature and man’s impact on it. ‘

Bird sanctuary and wildlife preserve, environmental education center. This is a great place to view the lake and to understand the relationship between the lake and the land. Keep it somewhat wild — no motors, no litter, no trash, a wilderness in the city — literally from trash to treasure!

Wildlife refuge with bike or pedestrian access. [CW]

Dike 14 should attract birds who can live in cities. [SC]

NO DREDGING! Keep it as a bird Sanctuary — I’m sure the Cleve. Metroparks would love to do tours or birdwalks. Please don’t destroy it.

Bird sanctuary, nature preserve.

The area should be kept as a nature preserve, with minimum development.

Leave a lot of it wild — Bird sanctuary. Nature preserve. Also use for educational purposes. Limited recreational use.

Volunteer endorses proposal

[E-Mail from volunteer with Ducks Unlimited, 5/07/02]
Subj: **Dike 14 Use Position**

Ms. Martin has alerted me to the need for comment to you and your office in support of the League of Womens Voters proposal to develop Dike 14 as a natural area with “judicious public access.”

I am a volunteer with the Cleveland chapter of Ducks Unlimited. I have notified DU’s state representative, Mr. Tony SanGregory, of the nature of this planning project. The state representative and I see no reason why the corporate arm of DU will not support our efforts in supporting the League of Women Voters in this conservation effort. Once approval is given we shall submit a formal notification of support from DU for the enhancement of Dike 14 as a wildlife area.

DU has enjoyed a productive relationship with ODNR on wildlife and land related projects throughout Ohio. I believe that this relationship can be expanded into supporting urban land use proposals that result in habitat enhancements. This is especially true on the lake coast where available areas not commercially developed are at a premium.

I’m sorry, the May 7th meeting changes will not allow me to attend the “ODNR Working Review Committee for Dike 14 Public Input Process.” I look forward to meeting with you on this conservation issue.

Naturalist, others comment on landscape & habitat improvements

Controlling invasive, non-native plants and improving habitat and landscape were addressed as a need. Consistent with other comments, a more “natural” or “rustic” landscape approach appears to be favored by most.



The invasive reed phragmites is prevalent on Dike 14.

Through benign neglect, we have been able to establish a fantastic bird sanctuary. that should continue to be the primary use for this area. It can be cleaned, cleared as required to control non-native plants, and provided with walkway to ease access. But we should not spend public money here to endanger its status as a bird sanctuary. There are many other areas along the lake that can be devoted to the other uses suggested. (signed by a “cyclist who does NOT want bike paths at Dike 14”)

Keep it in a natural state. Burn off the invasive species, bring in native species (including endangered species), build hiking/biking paths, butterfly preserves, turn low points into marshes. Don’t over-develop, keep natural habitat first and foremost in mind.

Some of our best parks look like they “just happened” — they look that way because they were carefully designed. [SC]

Do a massive controlled burn and restore area with native species of trees and shrubs.

The Dike is beautiful and should be preserved as much as possible NOT privatized. If the soil is not contaminated I see no reason to dig it out and replace it with cement. Soils could be added on top of what is already there.

Also, if any cement is put in it should be in the form of a bike/jogging trail. This should only be done if it will not compromise the wildlife and natural flora of the area.

Maintain it as natural area. Allow succession to proceed on part [of the site] to develop more mature forest but maintain some early successional habitat to maximize bird diversity (and other species).

We saw sandpipers and other birds. There are enough picnic areas in N.E. Ohio! Suggest you contact Jim Bissell at the Natural History Museum and Consult with him about the vegetation that is native to our Lakeshore. Work with the Museum, Holden Arboretum, etc. to restore prairies or whatever would have been in this area. Preserve the wildlife.

‘Exquisite irony’ seen in having wild natural area in Cleveland

[Mail from Cleveland Metroparks employee] 22 May 02

I understand that you are collecting thoughts on what to do with Dike 14. As a local naturalist and birdwatcher, I’d like to put my vote in on keeping it a wild sanctuary for the community.

In Cleveland, we have very little wild-ness on the shoreline. Birds really need an oasis before and after they cross Lake Erie. How exciting it would be for our city to have a wild natural area on a lake that was once declared “dead.” How proud we could be if we attracted birders from across the nation to our city (like Magee Marsh does) to watch migrants — in a city where the river caught on fire! Look at the exquisite

irony in that scenario. Birders and nature lovers from Cleveland travel for hours to enjoy nature. Wouldn’t it be great to be able to stay right here and experience nature close to a major metropolitan city.

I would see a boardwalk — some paths to the shoreline and very little else. We don’t need picnic facilities — Gordon Park has that. We don’t need any structures except a boardwalk to keep visitors on a path (protecting the resource).

Cleveland Lakefront State Park seems like the natural administrator of this park — or State Nature Preserves. However, State Nature Preserves need to identify it as unique ...

Ecosystem restoration, good landscape design needed

[E-Mail from University Heights resident] 5/19/02

Subj: Dike 14 usage

I am a local Cleveland resident, in University Heights, and would like to comment on the planned usage of Dike 14.

This area has become important bird habitat, especially for migrating species. There is almost no suitable “staging areas” along the 80 miles from Huron to Mentor Marsh, except for this area.

There have been 277 species of birds observed at this site, including 23 species endangered in Ohio, and 52 species on the Audubon Society Watch List.

For 4 months in spring and 5 months in fall this area hosts migrant species; that is most of the year.

Dike 14 has a variety of habitats already, but needs considerable habitat improvement. I would suggest adding some ponds, increasing water levels in wetlands by pumping in lake water, controlling invasive species, adding many native species presently not occurring (particularly trees, understory, grasses, forbs, wetland plants like cattail). This could be done quite beautifully with good

landscape design coupled with expert, science-based ecosystem restoration.

There should be a network of paths giving access to observers (the public). Some should be wheelchair accessible.

This area presents an unparalleled opportunity to provide direct natural history education to Greater Cleveland students, especially from the City of Cleveland. A nature study center should be built for this purpose, with emphasis on preparing teachers in this area for instruction in nature observation and ecological sensibility. Some part of this area (a few acres) should provide picnic tables, restrooms, a playground and like facilities as a welcoming entry.

People need a restful, interesting place to wander among nature and restore their souls from the hubbub of a modern city and to reconnect with the the rest of life, which is to a large extent missing from our lives. This may represent a last chance to provide all of the above in our urban context.

Please don’t blow this golden opportunity.

Participants See Dike as Educational Resource

In numerous participating groups, from birdwatchers to boaters to sportsmen, participants have expressed interest in the Dike's potential as an educational tool or setting, especially for urban young people. For some, this resolves itself as a desire for an actual building placed at or near the Dike; for others, it involves programming only. Still others find themselves thinking about ecologically-friendly ways to develop the Dike itself.

Create some ponds. Increase water levels in wetlands (pump lakewater). Increase biodiversity greatly by selective reintroduction of native species esp. trees and understory, grasses, forbs. Suppress invasives. Reintroduce cattails, etc. Build nature education center, coordinate with schools.

A nature center could go in the south portion of Dike.

I would like to see a nature/ environmental education center in a parklike setting.

Nature / Educational Center. [GLV]

Sanctuary — nature workshop for children = low cost. [NEC]

Nature Reserve and Nature Center. Bike/hike path on perimeter with designated trails in interior.

Experimental site for biological projects. Site for collaborative projects across various fields — art and biology, etc.

Good nature education (lake evolution, wildlife, birds etc.) facility with hiking, bike (limited) and fishing areas.

I would like to see a nature center reserve for schools to come and use.

People are interested in education. 3-dimensional art can play a role in this. [SC]

Make Dike 14 into a natural Rock center. And make a wetland, and make stuff out of old things.

At the south edge of the site, an environmental center or something like the Horticultural Center at Washington Park — working with schools. [NEC]



Education for children and adults was listed as a goal by many.

Should be left in rustic area as bird sanctuary and education center. Have programs about the outdoors and some areas with benches, No Picnic Area. [Mail, 7 May 02]

Dike 14 is an asset [GLV]

This area should be preserved as a limited-access nature area — with a nature center at the edge.

Dike 14 could be a source of willows for Stream Restoration Projects. Bio-engineering Project.

Create side streams in addition to daylighting Doan Brook. Provide wind breaks in some areas but allow areas to experience the wind [sketch map provided showing staggered wind breaks, protected areas].

Environmental education.

Link up Dike 14 with Holden Arboretum and Cleveland Garden Center. [CW]

Educational - not open Park, not golf course - tours ok but not wide open for people to disturb wildlife. [CW]

Accessible nature preserve/ Environmental Center for Cleveland kids/City Schools. [ED]

Develop the west point of Dike 14 as an Environmental Education Center for both birds and fish (can be achieved with minimum impact on existing inhabitants); create a pond/ marsh in the center approximately 20 acres (would encourage additional bird migration); strategically place walking/jogging trails (would aid in effectiveness of Environmental Education Center and encourage additional use); build fishing decks along the north perimeter (would increase awareness and usage of the facility); incorporate an aquarium into the environmental education center. [CW]

Mixed Reviews for Audubon Center Idea

Deed it to Audubon for one of their urban nature centers, along the lines of the one they are building in Los Angeles.

[In a May meeting, Kirtland Bird Club members, asked to respond to the Audubon Center idea, gave the reactions below]

- There's not enough room
- Audubon has no budget for its centers — they have to raise funds locally
- We don't need more competition — there are local resources already: Shaker Lakes, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Great Lakes Science Center [KBC]

Ecotourism/Avitourism/Visitor Amenities Draw Interest

Opinions supportive of promoting Dike 14 as an eco-tourism or "avitourism" site have been expressed through comment cards, letters and submission of research materials. The subject predictably triggers thoughts of the "visitor infrastructure" needed to make tourist attractions successful.

Migrating birds might be a "draw" for visitors to come to Cleveland.

Turning Dike 14 into a natural preserve would rival Point Pelee Canada as a tourist/birder attraction.

This could be an eco-tourism site, along with Whiskey Island.

If it becomes a visitor attraction you need benches, water to drink, bathrooms, food/concession.

Education center, parking lots, bathrooms etc. at south portion of site. [NEC]

If you want this site to be visited, people-related infrastructure is needed: parking, bathrooms, refreshments, information - kiosks, signs, bird information, sculpture information; and administration/maintenance (this could be at watercraft security too). [SC]

Signs -- directions and information -- will be needed.

Nature Center is a place you could put a lot of needed things - schools would use it, you could also have food, bathrooms, information, bird museum, bike racks.

Tourism would be good for St. Clair-Superior area. Howard Johnsons could finally be reused.

Like Councilman Cimperman's idea for artists, live/work space This could be a similar idea, a parallel to the arts -- the "art economy" is parallel to "eco-economy."

Lake Erie Coastal Plan cited

[E-Mail from Kirtland Bird Club member, 2 May 2002]

I was at the Kirtland Bird Club meeting last night when you solicited input on the future of dike 14. I really take a very different slant on all of this and do not believe that we can require a piece of land to be set aside strictly for birding and wild things.

That is not good economics! We need to be reasonable in our requests and look at ways where all parties are satisfied, those that would use it and those that would manage it.

I suggest that it be promoted as an essential stopping point in the total Lake Erie Coastal Plan for Ecotourism. Please refer to this link: http://www.fermatainc.com/lake_erie/index.html

The executive director of this project is Melinda Huntley who's contact info I have attached. You will also find the plan on those pages in PDF format. If you look at the plan and designated areas very little of Cleveland is included. Dike14 is at the end of Martin Luther King Drive, a cultural area, or was.



Avitourism Economics

Below is information on birding ecotourism submitted to the "Goals for Dike 14" process by Audubon Ohio on May 2, May 8 & June 5, 2002

According to the most recent (2000) National Survey on Recreation & the Environment:

- 144 million people participated in nature viewing and photography
- 119 million visited nature centers and zoos
- 93 million view, photograph wildlife
- 70.4 million participate in birding
- Birding has grown by 155% since the early 1980's, making it the second fastest growing outdoor recreational activity.
- In 1985, there were 5 Birding & Nature Festivals. In 1997, there were more than 60. And in 2000, there were more than 200.

According to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, & Wildlife Associated Recreation (1996):

- In Ohio, we had over 2.8 million people participate in wildlife watching.
- Wildlife Watching is estimated to bring in over \$454 million in Ohio.

The American Birding Association has information on "The Economics of Birding" at: <http://www.americanbirding.org/programs/consecon.htm>

Other Related Site: www.watchablewildlife.org

Other: The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation / 2000 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE)
<http://federalaid.fws.gov/surveys/surveys.html>

Dike 14 would play a role in promoting ecotourism along the shoreline of Ohio. This may be something ODNR would be more interested in rather than just saving it for birders. In this way it would be part of a greater natural heritage/natural area plan.

Has Cuyahoga County Greenspace been contacted for their input? This is what they are all about too.

So, Genevieve, this is my two cents. There was just not enough time to introduce this slant last night.

Many Participants See Room for Multiple Uses on Dike 14

In almost every meeting or interview throughout the “Goals for Dike 14” Study process, at least one participant has asked, “Do we really have to choose just one use for the whole 88 acres?” That recurring question has led many participants in the late April-June round of Dike 14 and Lakefront Planning meetings to begin putting together

their own lists of uses that they think are compatible. Consistent with the “natural landscape” and “anti-paving” sentiment that has typified many participants’ responses, a preponderance of the participants’ lists to date include bird sanctuary and/or nature preserve. This may change in the final round of neighborhood outreach sessions.

Extend Lakefront Park – **nature preserve and bird sanctuary; nature center, environmental education** activities.

Fishing Pier, Bird Sanctuary, Bike and Hiking Path [ED]

Whatever your plans— They must go with the overall Waterfront idea, i.e moving shoreway, creating a “new” Lakefront. This site could be just what was envisioned in 1979—**beach, play areas, hiking/biking paths, maybe Tennis courts? fishing pier.** BUT does the Port want/need this still??

Bird sanctuary and wildlife preserve, boat docking areas, fishing piers, environmental education center.

Bird sanctuary and wildlife preserve, bike/hike paths, environmental education.

Large area – could be multi-use, i.e. **Bike paths and birding** area. NOT golf course or Cedar Point type devel.

Suggest a **Nature/Bird Sanctuary** with walkways, and an **interpretive center.**

This should be a **Bird Sanctuary, Nature Preserve, and/or sculpture park.**



4 May 2002
First Tour Visitors
through the Gate

Due to the amount of acreage available, a **multi-purpose** function is possible, provided however, that it is properly planned !

Bird sanctuary and wildlife preserve, bike/hike paths. Also shore **fishing.**

Please leave this as open space! I can see **appropriate mixed recreational use**, with priority at providing **migratory stopover** for birds. Great opportunity for **education (science/biology)** for Cleveland Schools. Priorities: **Nature conservation area, Education, Passive recreation (walking, biking, picnics, photography).**

I think a **Golf Course** with **fishing** access on the perimeter would attract convention business and \$ for Cleveland — the Golf Course would be home for the **birds** as it uses natural elements.

Bird sanctuary/nature preserve, bike hike paths (unpaved), limit educational activities/signposts **Bird sanctuary, nature preserve, hiking paths, nature center/environmental education activities.**

Do the walks AGAIN! **Multi-use park, minimal development, hiking, birdwatching, shore fishing.** Some **paths** and primitive **rest rooms. Picnic** area.

Beautiful place for a **nature preserve, and family hike, and picnic.**

Invite National Audubon to bring in the best nature designer — design a park that includes really **good habitat for birds and people [SC]**

I agree with the **Natural Preserve with boat ramps.** Let the area continue as is, a **bird sanctuary.** A gravel **path** around the perimeter would be nice. Possible a small area on the southeast side with **picnic tables** and a **latrine**, and possible a small **interpretive center** describing the different birds that frequent this area.

WOW! What an incredible resource for Cleveland! Please **open it for everyone** in the community to use and enjoy! I vote for NOT golf course! Keep it natural. An **env. ed. center** would be great as well as **trails**, maybe self-guided interp trail for **natural and cultural history** — celebrating **urban ecosystems!**

(continued on next page)

Multiple Uses, cont'd

Multiple Uses, cont'd from Page 15

Keep it part of the Park System with a **golf course/driving range** /shared with a **bird sanctuary** and **bark park**. It should be **1/2 developed for people**, and **1/2 should be left natural as a wildlife and bird sanctuary**.

Daylight Doan Brook! **Camping** area. **Evening fire areas**.

Wildlife refuge – **nature center** – **fishing** docks.

Swimming pond would be great. Lots of **biking/hiking/x-country ski** paths. No fences for **base-ball/football** fields. **Nature center** for study of forest succession.

Bird sanctuary, **nature pre-serve**, **nature center**, **environmental education** (no structures).

Nature Preserve with **bike** trails, **waterfront access**, nature **trails & [visitors] center** similar to canal towpaths. Future? Accommodate all three of these — 1) **Bird Sanctuary** for migratory birds. Flood part of area and plant feeding plants. 2) **Hike** and **bike** paths. 3) **Environmental education** ctr.

Bird Sanctuary. Trails for **walking** and **biking**, educational resource center, **limited picnic** (no grills) – tables only.

I think a **mix of bird/animal sanctuary and public park** is appropriate similar to the rest of the Emerald Necklace. ... I really am interested in the outer island idea, pretty pricey, eh?

Seven years ago the cry was to replace four acres at Donald Gray Gardens. Now we've got 88 acres — is not there room for **layers of uses?** There is habitat on Lakefront and more if managed for wildlife. [SC]

One **picnic** ground. **Bike/hike** parks. **Expand Gordon/Rockefeller** presence. **Fishing** pier. Low recreation use.

This was a beautiful property. A **Campground** and **mini-golf** would be nice, and definitely open some up for **biking**.

Bird sanctuary, **picnic** grounds, **fishing** pier, environmental **education** activities, **restaurants**, **beaches**

I would like to see the **Hulett**s have a good home on this site. Natural **boardwalk** [and] **bird** areas would be great. This area would be best kept simple to offset the inevitable growth of the city around it. Make it **foot-friendly** with **picnic** areas around the edges. Let the beauty of the **Erie coast** shine. [BRF]

Narrow all the roads into trails. Leave most of the area undeveloped. Designate a set number of **primitive campsites** (maybe 50-75). Cover outer wall and rocks (along shores) with dirt to create a nice **shore-line for fishing or swimming**.

We need to change the game to **win-win**, it has been win-lose so far. [SC]

Sculpture Park explained as 'cultural overlay'

If there's any single message we want to get into this process, it is this: the Sculpture Park is not being proposed as single, exclusive use of the Dike 14 site. Rather, it is compatible with almost all other uses. [SC]

We view the Sculpture Park as a "cultural overlay" after other uses are determined; Sculpture Parks have great variety Call Dike 14 a setting for sculpture; You should list "multi-use" on the flier, to suggest that sculpture could be integrated with other uses [SC]

The only thing we're fighting is the sentiment that there should be minimal human use of the site. [SC]

Sculpture Center group meeting 28 May 02:

What would you HATE to see at Dike 14?

- a facility inaccessible to people
- the site as it is now – ugly, not an attraction
- a place where my kids aren't welcome – at the open house I felt dirty looks coming my way, I felt like they were saying, "keep your kids' mouths shut."
- commercial/residential development (bickering plays into their hands)
- place that won't attract people from whole area
- entrance fees

Other comments on multi-use & artwork at Dike 14

Putt-putt -or- mini-golf course with **artistic sculptures** (one acre or less). [ED]

How about a **bird** sanctuary/nature **preserve** with **rotating sculpture?**

No bad art. [CW]

Public **Art** is now an expected **component** of most developments. [SC]

Sculpture Garden.

NO SCULPTURE GARDEN. That would be better nearer to a neighborhood which could benefit from that type of improvement.

Use the area for a **SCULPTURE PARK**.

Audubon and Sierra Club should be involved. **Birds, parks, sculpture** and **people** are all compatible. [SC]

(continued on next page)

Multiple Uses, cont'd

Multiple Uses, cont'd from Page 16

I would like to see **all of the items listed (on handout flier)** to be carried out, **except expansion of Gordon/Rockefeller Park**. I think that the area is a great terminal to the bike path on MLK. I would like to see the Shoreway, Navy [Coastguard] area and Burke relocated to make an **integrated Lake Front Park** with paths, benches, and outdoor theatre. This can be similar to Chicago's great lake front area.

88 acres is a lot of land — **ALL of these uses could fit**. [GLV]

Bike/hike paths, bird sanctuary and wildlife preserve, education center — all would work well together. [CW]

Bird sanctuary, Nature preserve, Bike paths, picnic [areas], expand Rocky [sic] outdoor theatre — you can have it all. [CW]

Campground, Organic 9 hole Golf or Bird Nature Center. NOT a Lakefront Parking Lot.

Trails, bike path, and picnicking areas. Boardwalks in the marsh areas. DO NOT bring a road and parking onto the dike DO NOT. — Keep parking as is. Start dumping new dredge to start a **new island**.

Beautiful Park — for **jogging, biking and running**, for **sculpture garden, for theater space for place and concerts**.

There's **enough room for many** uses: it took 1 1/2 hours to walk it (at open house). [GLV]

Bird Sanctuary, wildlife preserve, miniature golf, hiking, biking trails. [BRF]

Development should NOT be done close to shore, but should incorporate a "riparian" or shoreline setback/buffer to filter run-off and keep pollutants, to the greatest extent possible.

Due to the obvious presence of migratory birds on the site, a large area must be reserved as **habitat for these birds**. Again, the plan is the key, and adherence to it. **Bikeways, hiking trails and picnic areas** could easily be built into such a plan, while concurrently accommodating wildlife. **Native plant species** could also be introduced, once the invasive ones have been removed. The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland would be happy to participate in developing a plan for this property...

Minimal development with **wildlife/bird sanctuary and learning center**. Possible inclusion of **Hulett**s. [BRF] (1) **Lakeside overview** areas around periphery. (2) Natural areas for **birds** with viewing overlooks for people. (3) Limited **pedestrian/bike paths** through area. (4) Keep as public **park**. [CW]

Park, Hiking area and Bird sanctuary are compatible. [ED] With 88 acres, there is **room for other uses — play areas for kids and family fun, environmental education center and birds** — if planned, **picnic areas** would work ok with birds and Audubon. [NEC]

First, thank you ... for such an opportunity. I care and I have strong opinions. Please develop a **thoughtful solution** — marinas, playgrounds, picnic grounds we have already. **Creative uses** would involve the unique **location** (projection into the lake like at Port Clinton), **amazing wild life and plant growth** and what will develop as the area matures. I do believe it should be **multi-purpose**, however. **Bike trails** are okay, **jogging** and even a **different use of the north section** as opposed to the overgrown area abutting the park.

Firstly—This is a fine way to organize an informed opinion — we had a wonderful walk — and thank Ms. Ray for this opportunity — we would hope there would be a place for **human and wind propelled boats and bike paths** — the **swimming lake** also sounds good.

Bike/hike path around perimeter. 75% center and east left **wild** (sanctuary), west 25% developed for **recreation**. [BRF]

We need to change the game to win-win.

1) A **multi-purpose natural area** for **birds and flora**, with paths for **bicycles and hiking**, and opportunities for **fishing** off the breakwall. 2) The sandy soil along route C [on site map provided, May 4, 2002] in southeast corner differs from mud and landfills soils on northwest side and could be developed into a **sandy beach habitat** like Mentor Headlands for rare Ohio beach plants.

Would like to see the area remain as "wild" as possible, a **natural park**. Could have some facilities such as **rest rooms, picnic areas**.

Concerns Voiced over Contaminated Soils

Dike 14 is, and must continue to function efficiently as, a confined disposal site. Questions and concerns about the soils – related to humans and wildlife – are not uncommon.



Does contamination at the Dike mean that housing could be ruled out? What other uses might be ruled out?

Soil test to determine what can be done. [CW]

Please no playgrounds for children until we are POSITIVE that there is no risk to health!

Due to potential “brownfield” effects, how safe is this site for animal occupancy and human usage? Due to lake effect erosion how permanent is this site? Who pays for this nature preserve? Will pollution and ground contamination be mitigated? Who incurs permanent site maintenance costs?

Environmental studies should be done ASAP to determine what's feasible. Nasty stuff from the river needs to be explored: there's some evidence that native plants can act as filter. [NEC]

Soil Samples are important for safety (to assure proper utilization). [ED]

Answer toxin questions first

[E-Mail, Seven Hills resident]
Subj: **Question first:**

I would like to know the toxin levels of the Dike. Is there outgassing? If their leaching into any body of water or watershed? How is it contained and what is the lifespan of the containment materials? How stable is the Dike? Will it settle?

Assuming it is reasonable safe for infrequent exposure for humans and animals I think the following should be done:

Do not follow the 1979 plan. It is no longer necessary since the Marina and Lakefront parks border the Dike. Those types of recreation can be handled there.

In order of priority

1) Bird Sanctuary and Wildlife preserve

2) Environmental Education Center- On a modest scale. Do not take up the land with large buildings or structures.

3) Hike Path-possible interconnection to other existing trails in the area

4) Sculpture Garden-no really huge or wildly colored, glaring items. On a smaller scale suitable for the Sanctuary concept some well placed sculptures would be acceptable

5) Bike Path- on the perimeter only if absolutely necessary to ensure security of visitors and property protection. I really don't want this but it is cheap security if handled right.

Keep this land peaceful and serene. Do not make it a 3 ring circus of a constant flow of activities and mobs of visitors. It is not an amusement park. Be true to the word Sanctuary.

Thanks for the opportunity to offer feedback.

Learn impacts of toxins, heavy metals before deciding land use

[E-mail, Gates Mills resident 7/5/02]

Subj: Endocrine Disruption on Dike 14

Ever since my inquiry in April 2001 to Traci Clever, Biologist, of the Buffalo office of the US Army Corps, into the “Preliminary Restoration Plan” (Section 1136 - November 1999) conducted by the Corps for the TimesBeach CDF in Buffalo, I have been worried about the migratory bird population's exposure to the residual toxic chemicals and heavy metals inherent in the Cuyahoga River dredge that make up the ‘soil’ of Dike 14.

To quote from the Times Beach study:

“The rapid colonization of the CDF by flora and fauna has provided attractive habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife. Concern that contaminates at Times Beach may be potentially hazardous to wildlife utilizing the site prompted several bioavailability studies (Stafford et al. 1991; Maquine and Simmers 1984; Marquine et al. 1987). Results from Stafford et al. (1991) indicate that there are elevated metal concentrations in vertebrate and invertebrate taxa, thus confirming bioavailability of potentially toxic substances.”

The report goes on to explain that “high levels” of heavy metals such as cadmium and organo-chlorine compounds are present. One unique transmission is through the roots of the cottonwood trees which then deposit the harmful chemicals back onto the soil surface as annual leaf fall. The Corp's ecosystem restoration of Times Beach envisions geosynthetic clay liners and new topsoils among other remedial actions to protect and enhance the avian and fish species. They intend to restore approximately 50 acres at a cost of five million dollars.

My point here is that before any use for Dike 14 can be considered, it would seem to me that the Working Review Committee should be looking at these issues in great depth. As you know, I have been an advocate for some sort of ecological restoration of the site. This would certainly include a migratory bird sanctuary.

In good conscience, however, I am unable to support any plan that might endanger either people and/or wildlife as a result of inadequate attention to the very important concerns of the toxic nature of the dredge. Clean soil, healthy flora, and a habitat that can support, not harm, future generations should be the goal.

At an International Society for Ecosystem Health conference a couple of weeks ago in Washington, DC, I was able to speak with Theo Colborn who spoke at the conference and is best known for her ground breaking book, “Our Stolen Future.” Theo is an internationally renowned Developmental Biologist who has based her long career on the impacts of synthetic chemicals on the endocrine, immune, and nervous systems of people and wildlife. Much of her research has been based in the Great Lakes. When asked if she thought CDF's play a role in undermining the reproductive health of migratory birds, she responded in an urgent and deep voice: “Of course!”

We have an opportunity to do this right. We have very well intentioned and committed citizens who recognize the potential of this site both economically and ecologically. The use and restoration of Dike 14 starts with an even deeper recognition that the soils come first.

Thanks for all of the work you are doing on this very difficult project!

Positive Models Found in Other Locales

Comment cards and personal contacts offered leads to best practices and to inspired leadership by groups, governments and individuals.

Bird sanctuary and wildlife preserve, bike/hike paths. Strongly suggest someone contact **Toronto Harbour Authority** re: their 25+ year development of the lake **Ontario Waterfront**. Particularly ask about Leslie Spit a land reclamation project that is ongoing and has created a series of lagoons, bike paths, bird breeding sites, wildflowers and wildlife.

Bird watching sanctuary and some bike paths, minimum use, no other development. Think **Chicago** and **Toronto**.

It would be nice to have our own **Crane Creek State Park** with a **Magee Marsh Boardwalk**.

The sandy soil along route C [on site map provided, May 4, 2002] in southeast corner differs from mud and landfills soils on northwest side and could be developed into a sandy beach habitat like **Mentor Headlands** for rare Ohio beach plants.

A nature preserve with walks and benches, like **Kelley's Island**.

[I think the best use is] Wildlife Habitat, for bird migrations, with dirt trails thru woods (closest thing to that is **Mentor Headlands**). Also Picnic Areas, secluded.

I would hate to see the standard ODNR model. Instead, a good model is **Central Park** [SC]

Explore **Ottawa** as a model: Ottawa has dike system to raise and lower water level to attract species; also, Audubon paid for observation tower and binoculars. [NEC]

The **Windsor, Ontario**, Sculpture Park now has 25 employees, and busloads of students study artwork and nature: flora and fauna. [SC]

There could be an urban Important Bird Program - **Prospect Park in New York City** (Brooklyn) is an example. [SC]

Public access, hike/bike paths with separate fly-way areas for birds and wildlife (these areas would have no public access), i.e. **Chicago** model.



Boardwalks such as those used at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes are cited as an appropriate way to guide, direct and limit public access.

Canadian examples offered for green space development

[E-mail from former Toronto residents, 5/10/02]

Subj: **suggestions**

Last weekend my husband and I toured the dike and have the following suggestions to make.

We feel it should be made into a public park with multipurpose trails winding through and seating along the waterfront. Some fishing piers should be included. Picnic areas and an open field for unorganized games and kite flying could be included.

We don't favour major development, swimming pools, mini golf etc should not be included in any redevelopment. In our view, there is a need for green spaces that are just that. It should be a tranquil setting for people to relax and enjoy, away from commercial endeavors and their associated noise.

We moved here in 1999 from Toronto Canada. We feel that the Port Authority of Toronto should be contacted regarding a similar land reclamation project that is ongoing in the harbour area. The area is called Leslie Spit. Over twenty five years ago this spit, complete with lagoons and a small light house was created from controlled dumping of concrete, asphalt and other building/construction materials. Over time, plants colonized the area and it is now home to a myriad variety of plants, small animals and birds. The dumping continues, and more lagoons are being created. The area is open to the public for biking and walking (no motorized vehicles) on the weekends.

Another area that was recently reclaimed within the city of Toronto, is the lakeshore between the Humber River and Etobicoke. Again, concrete and other construction materials were dumped from the shore line out into lake Ontario. Small islands were created for bird nesting and a settlement lagoon was built to clean the water.

The expanded shoreline is now a linear park joining the Western beaches to several parks in Etobicoke. The original lakeshore which was built up with small motels and some private housing, has been redeveloped to include several condominium and townhouse complexes. The foreshore is all public parkland. It was a major undertaking and has worked extremely well.

We hope our suggestions are of some use.

'Open-Gate' Tour Produces Reactions, Suggestions & History



The preponderance of entries in this report come from comment cards placed in the suggestion box at the May 4 "Open Gate" tour of Dike 14.

Some visitors offered specific suggestions/reactions to the "Open Gate" event. Those notes are below. A number of visitors wrote to the project e-mail address following the event. Some of these letters are incorporated into other sections of this report, and the remainder follow below, together with a final, brief inquisitory e-mail from a person who responded to newspaper coverage of the event.

The non-guided approach to tours is ill-conceived. Would have liked information on vegetation/animals/history to base opinions on.

Next tour day: 1) How about optional interpretive tours leaving every hour or half-hour if interpreters can be lined up? 2) For everyone else, give them a copy of Sean's map, which indicates groupings of flora — that would have been nice to have along.

A nice walk — would love to have this as a destination on the Boulevard concept.

Opening it up for tours was a swell idea (how can you decide what should best be done with something — or someplace — you've never seen or visited?)

Bird sanctuary!! (60 species in 30 minutes this morning!)

Nature preserve. Environmental education for kids/adults/all.

Thank you for the Open Gate, why can't we have access all the time? I am very hopeful for a bird habitat — trails and boardwalks for all 88 acres.

Personal history addresses sunken ore boats

[Mail from former City of Cleveland employee Howard S. Bush, Sr.]
Received 14 May 02

... I stated [at the tour] that you would receive some further details in reference of my involvement in the history of Dike 14.

During my employment with the City of Cleveland in the Economic Development Department, I took on the task of convincing the U.S. Corps of Engineers to use dredging to incase two ore carriers and 27 thousand tons of City waste. The City was mandated to either remove the ore carriers and the waste or build a wall around them. The waste was leaching into the Lake Erie and the ore carrier wave barriers were less than effective. I prevailed upon the Corps Buffalo office to redirect the discharge from beyond the breakwall as planned to the Gordon Park site. I convened a public meeting that included the environmentalist and the City of Bratenahl. The strongest protest came from the Bratenahl spokes persons with two major surmised problems, (1) the stench from the dredged material. They stated that the summer heat would raise a foul smell wafting into their city. (2) Contamination of the lake water at and around the community would be unbearable.

The District Commander gave them two weeks to prove their case. Failing to bring proof beyond a reasonable doubt, the area at 79th and the lakefront would be the repository of 10 million cubic yards of sediment over the next ten years. The rest is history. I pushed mixed use, park and light industry. I now know that light industry was not the appropriate land use.

It is rather heady to think that Dike 14 could or would be named

The BUSH FAMILY PARK

I love Lake Erie, have had a motor and sail boat, docked at East 55th Marina, and my wife and I often watch the sun set from the East 55th Marina/Park. Include us in your efforts to add Dike 14 to the Lakefront State Parks Plan.

The Next Generation Speaks

I think you should make a play ground. [Age 7 1/2]

I think it should be a park where people can play ball and have like a petting zoo. [Age 9]

Zoo-Carnivale, stadem for boat show's, park. [sic] [Age 10]

I would like to see a play ground on Dike 14. [Age 11]

Playground. Forts. Play house. Bike path. Promenade on the lake. This is like the prairie. [Age 8].

The devil's in the details

[E-Mail from Bratenahl resident]
5/06/02
Subj: Congratulations

Thank you for planning and carrying out the plan for a fine day on Dike 14. I think it was wonderful that 400 people came, and the e-mail sites around the city are reverberating with bird lists. I heard nothing talked about as a goal except a nature preserve. The devil, of course, would reside in the details: a bit of sculpture here or there? (No/ Yes); a nature center near the entrance comparable to the Shaker Lakes RNC? (No/Yes).

My own personal goal would be a nature preserve with no sculpture anywhere except that carved by the wind and the rain. As to a nature center, I would need to listen to others' views of what its scope and purpose should be, what is the need, and would it lead to overuse of this special 88 acre site? Is it elitist to wish for a wild place so near to a large city?

Your map with Tour Routes and Instructions is (and was for the purpose Saturday) excellent, and I thank you too for setting up a special e-mail site so people could feel free to express their ideas to you. I didn't know about the threat of ticks until I reached home and read it in detail! ...

What's that again?

[E-mail from person who read post-event newspaper coverage]
Subj: Dike 14 tour
Date: 5/14/02
Genevieve,
pardon my ignorance, but what is Dike 14? ...

Miscellaneous Mail & E-mail

Commercial development unlikely, greenspace favored

[E-mail from Downtown Cleveland resident]
5/4/02
Subj: **Dike Visit**

My hat goes off to you for all your efforts on the dike 14 issue. How you ever pulled off getting the birders and other interested parties actually on the dike today was a major kudos!!

Regarding the dike, it's my understanding it's really not environmentally feasible to do typical commercial development on the land since it is in fact a sludge dump. There is plenty of other viable property within the corridor (MLK to Edgewater) that, with common sense prevailing, is or will become available for commercial development. As a member of the Scoping Committee reviewing the reconstruction of the Shore-way, I feel fairly comfortable in saying that common sense will prevail providing for additional greenspace and development opportunities.

Let's face the facts, Northeast Ohio is not exactly a booming metropolis and anything we can do to enhance the "livability" of the area by creating additional connected green spaces for it's downtown and near downtown residents is a win-win. I'm confident that Mayor Campbell, councilman Cimperman, City Council and the Downtown Cleveland Partners would agree.

The best use of the dike site is to become a multitude of things. An extension of Gordon Park, a connection to the Erie Canal bike/hike trail (4 miles to go) and, an another "downtown area " public space. With little to no greenspace downtown and Gordon Park being choked by the existing freeway system, Dike 14 as well as the redesign of Gordon Park and the Shoreway needs to be reviewed. The main question is what makes economical sense. I can't take credit for the idea, but as mentioned by one of the fellow visitors to the site today, birding throughout the country is a BIG draw and that equates to tourist dollars coming to our area. With the crowd of birders at the site today, I'd say you have many that would like to keep the dike a bird migration sanctuary. I loved the proposal that I saw at the earthfest at the Cleveland Zoo that incorporates boardwalks over the bogs and minimal "invasive" construction or structures on the site. Northeast Ohio has some of the best theatres, museums and amuzement parks. What the lakefront doesn't have is a connected greenspace for walking, hiking, and biking. Let's use the favorite five year old birthday present concept, a box. Keep it simple, cost-effective and easy. We really don't need more than that.

The commercial developments I typically get involved in are not public spaces. However, I suspect the minimal development concept of public boardwalks and restrooms to enhance what appears to be the current use as a bird migration area would, a) cost the least to construct, b) be the most ecological friendly use of the site c) be a natural connection to existing and/or proposed trails and greenspaces and c) be the least expensive to maintain. To me, this formula makes the most sense.

With our multitude of freshwater, our varied vegetation and natural migratory path over northeast Ohio, the answer as to "What To Do With Dike 14?" seems to be a no brainer! Let's use one of the greatest resources we have, Lake Erie!!! Let's not turn our back on the lake like again...

Equestrian trails added to wish list

[E-mail from Bratenahl resident]
5/6/02
Subj: Goals for Dike 14
Groups to be involved: [several Bratenahl agencies listed]

Uses I'd like to see at Dyke 14:
Wildlife preserve with nature trails ... Bike / Pedestrian / Equestrian Trails ... Occasional guided tours of the area.

Dike 14 'rustic' nature valued

E-Mail from Cleveland Resident
6/3/07
Subj: the extinction of natural areas in the city

Hello, I am writing because I am a citizen concerned about Cleveland. I truly enjoy the green spaces that exist in Cleveland, and I appreciate the efforts of maintaining these green spaces.

I am particularly interested in the Dike 14 site because it is a unique green space. While parks have a variety of nature in themselves, Dike 14 has a variety of nature that is truly unique for a Great Lake City.

The nature of Dike 14 is not one of mown grass, landscaped flowers, ball parks, playgrounds, or cement paths. All of which can be used and enjoyed by the people of Cleveland. Dike 14 is a more rustic natural area with the potential to be maintained and enhanced as a nature preserve.

The serenity and learning that may take place here offer will offer a unique experience for city dwellers ...

Sea Grant agent interested

[E-mail from Walt Williams,
5/30/02]
Subj: dike 14
Hello, I am the local Sea Grant Agent in Cuyahoga county. I'm interested in learning of some of the recommendations that came from your meeting.

(continued on next page)

[Wildlife]
'... their presence is a gift not only to us, but to our children and so on...
Please leave this area wild for them.'

Miscellaneous Mail & E-mail, cont'd

Migratory Bird Act cited in concern over public tour of Dike during nesting period*

[E-mail from "Goals for Dike 14" resource person Sean Zadar]
4 June 02

Subject: Dike 14 Tour — tentatively scheduled for 29 June 2002

I toured Dike 14 on Saturday, 1 June 2002, to access the vegetation status along the perimeter and proposed areas for public access for the tentatively scheduled tour of the site on 29 June 2002.

Along the tour route, vegetation height varies from ground level to two feet high. By 29 June, many areas will be thick with vegetation, with some plants reaching as high as a six feet or greater. Those areas, some of which extend around the Lake Erie perimeter, would be inaccessible to people.

To allow for safe public access to the site, tall vegetation would need to be removed in order to create adequate tour pathways.

The summer breeding season of migratory birds is now underway, and several species of birds are currently nesting, and/or are displaying behaviors that indicate the existence of a nest at Dike 14. Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) nests on the ground, often in sparsely vegetated areas, and performs a "broken wing" act to lure predators away from a nest site. This species is currently displaying this type of behavior along the outside perimeter, where the Army Corps of Engineers cleared paths last years, and in the western section of the Dike. Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), another shorebird species, nests on the ground under weeds, bushes or in grass. This species is now present at the Dike, and is most likely nesting. Other ground, or near ground, nesting birds include Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) and Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). Both species are currently present and are presumably nesting on site. By late June, Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*) will have active nests. The preceding three species use the open meadows and

grassland habitats at Dike 14 for nest placement. And there may be other migratory bird species that may nest in the newly vegetated paths and other areas that were cleared last year by Army Corps. These cleared pathways were used by the general public during the tour of the Dike on 4 May 2002.

There is a concern with the creation of mowed paths through critical nest areas of federally protected migratory birds. The deliberate destruction that is "knowingly" of "any part, nest, or egg of any such bird" would violate the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Also, the general public poses a potential threat to migratory bird nests, many of which are cryptically colored and placed directly on the ground. As a result, a nest may be trampled on and destroyed by human activity.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 states:

· Establishment of a Federal prohibition, unless permitted by regulations, to "pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry, or cause to be carried by any means whatever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird, included in the terms of this Convention . . . for the protection of migratory birds . . . or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird." (16 U.S.C. 703)

· Public Law 99-645, the 1986 Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, amended the Act to require that felony violations under the MBTA must be "knowingly" committed.

· P.L. 105-312 also amends the law to allow the fine for misdemeanor convictions under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to be up to \$15,000 rather than \$5000.

Source: <http://laws.fws.gov/lawsdigest/migtrea.html>
BIRDS PROTECTED BY THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

OF 1918
The following birds nest on or near the ground in open meadows and grassland habitats at Dike 14, have been observed there on 1 June 2002, and are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918:

· Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*
· Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*
· Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*
· Field Sparrow *Spizella pusilla*
· Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*
· Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

Source: <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/intrnltr/mbta/mbtandx.html>

There may be potentially other federally protected migratory birds

nesting in the newly vegetated areas located along last year's bulldozed areas and in the western section of the Dike, the 15-acre area immediately west of the Doan Brook culvert.

In the spirit of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the scheduled tour of Dike 14 on 29 June 2002 should be postponed or cancelled. The breeding bird period may extend into mid-September. Any public access should be scheduled no earlier than 1 October 2002. If you have any comments and/or questions please contact me ...

ODNR Wildlife staff respond to Migratory Bird Act concerns

[E-mail from: Scott.Zody@dnr.state.oh.us (Zody, Scott) 6/6/02
To: Sean T Zadar, copies to others]
RE: Dike 14 Tour — tentatively scheduled for 29 June 2002

Sean - I read your e-mail to Genevieve and took the liberty of forwarding it to our Division of Wildlife to review your concerns. The Division staff that reviewed your message were quite surprised by your theories.

The DOW's experience and interpretation of the Migratory Bird Act of 1918 varies from your literal interpretation. You hypothesize that mowing a path or paths on Dike 14 would be considered to be "knowingly" taking under the Act. The Division disagrees with that - in fact, if you were to extend the logic of that argument, none of us would be able to go home tonight and mow our yards, housing construction would cease, and gardening, farming, or other agricultural activities would be out of the question.

In addition, all of the species you listed in your message possess a high biotic potential, and mowing a walking path or two around Dike 14 would be extremely unlikely to negatively affect those species overall populations. In other words, everyone one of those species are common to very common species in Ohio, and will re-nest (sometimes multiple times per year) if a nest is damaged or destroyed. Also, most of the species you listed should be through nesting by the end of June.

I see no reason to postpone or cancel the Open House, especially until October. Besides, by that time, fall migration would be in full swing.

* [The public tour was not held on the tentative date because of other scheduling conflicts; it was rescheduled for later in the summer.]