

# About the Morgan Preserve



## Portage Park District

### **Acquisition**

The Portage Park District acquired the Morgan Preserve from the estate of Burton D. Morgan in 2009 with the assistance of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and several other partners. The 504 acres in Shalersville is on the watershed boundary between the Lake Erie and Ohio River basins. Once slated for development, this beautiful property contains hundreds of acres of high quality forest and wetlands that are home to several rare and endangered species. Now it will be conserved forever to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and scenic landscapes.

Funding for the purchase came from the Ohio EPA's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program, with sponsorship funds directed to the site from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. The State's Clean Ohio Conservation Fund and the Burton D. Morgan and Margaret Clark Morgan Foundations provided additional grant funds. The Northeast Ohio Native Plant Society, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Davey Resource Group volunteered natural resource inventories which were necessary for grant funding.

### **Management and Use**

The grant funds used to acquire the property restricted certain activities in order to protect the conservation values. Agriculture has been replaced by wetlands and forest restoration and management techniques to improve wildlife habitat. Hunting is currently prohibited, although wildlife populations will be monitored and managed if needed.

Because the Portage Park District is a small agency operating without a tax levy it doesn't have the resources to manage the property as a park open to the public on a regular basis. However, occasional guided hikes will be offered and it will be made available to schools and colleges as a research and education site.

*Volunteers are welcome to assist with this or other parks, trails and preserves across the county. Contact the Portage Park District for more information.*

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