

# Metro Parks



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## Park Commissioners

JB Hadden

Jim McGregor

George McCue

## Executive Director

Tim Moloney

## Your Metro Parks:

Battelle Darby Creek

Blacklick Woods and  
Golf Courses

Blendon Woods

Chestnut Ridge

Clear Creek

Glacier Ridge

Heritage Park  
and Trail

Highbanks

Homestead

Inniswood Metro  
Gardens

Pickerington Ponds

Prairie Oaks

Rocky Fork

Scioto Audubon

Scioto Grove

Sharon Woods

Slate Run Farm  
and Park

Three Creeks

Walnut Woods

May 24, 2021

Franklin County Commissioners  
373 S High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Franklin County  
Mando Petition Ditch Project

Dear Commissioners;

The Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks (Metro Parks) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Mando Ditch Petition located in Brown Township, Franklin County. Surface drainage is an important function in recharging the subsurface water table for private wells systems and for the natural habitat and water quality of Big Darby Creek, a National and State Scenic River in which Metro Parks is dedicated to protect.

Several items need to be addressed as the outlet of this project will have a direct impact to Metro Parks property as the existing tributary flows onto Metro Parks properties west of Amity Rd and into Big Darby Creek. Treatment of stormwater for both quantity and quality prior to reaching Amity Road is needed

A site visit was conducted on May 17<sup>th</sup> with representatives from the Franklin County Engineers office, Scenic River Division of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Metro Parks to review the tributary west of Amity Road. This tributary would be the receiving stream of the Mando Petition Ditch project. Several areas of erosion were identified in this area, including a deeply cut stream channel. The stream then enters a former quarry pond (Bradley Lake) with a severely eroded and damaged outlet culvert, which is less than 400' from Big Darby Creek.

Our main concerns with this project are its potentially negative effect on the already eroded tributary which will carry water to Bradly Lake, the eroded tributary and damaged culvert from the exit point of Bradly Lake, and the accelerated discharge of drained water directly into Big Darby Creek. The potential speed and volume of runoff carried by this project has the potential to create further erosion issues, and to increase the sediment and nutrient loads into Big Darby Creek.

We would also like to alert the County to the fact that federally endangered mussels' species (northern riffleshell and clubshell) have been introduced by US Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with The Ohio State University, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Columbus Zoo, into riffles just downstream of where runoff from this project would discharge into Big Darby.

Thank you again for allowing Metro Parks to provide comment.

Sincerely,

Tim Moloney,  
Executive Director