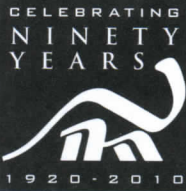


Cleveland Museum of NATURAL HISTORY



December 20, 2012

Waite Hill Land Conservancy
9494 Smith Road
Waite Hill, Ohio 44094

RE: Strong Endorsement for Proposed Merger of Waite Hill Land
Conservancy with Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Dear Waite Hill Land Conservancy Trustees,

We strongly endorse the proposal to merge the 292-acre Waite Hill Land Conservancy with Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Placing conservation easements on the Waite Hill Land Conservancy preserve, bordering the eastern shore of the Chagrin River, will provide stronger, long-term protection for the outstanding forests, floodplain meadows, high-quality wetlands and wet meadows now protected within the preserve.

The diversity of forest communities on the property is outstanding. These include near-virgin forests dominated by sugar maple, beech, hemlock and black cherry, mature secondary forests dominated by sugar maple, red oak and tulip, bottomland floodplain forests dominated by American Sycamore, black walnut, tulip and American elm and upland mixed oak forests dominated by red oak and white oak.

The most outstanding feature on the property is the large channel pond surrounded by an outstanding emergent marsh dominated by swamp loosestrife and water smartweed. The complex of bog species including American larch, high-bush blueberry, cinnamon fern, royal fern and black chokeberry represents one of the rarest natural communities in Ohio, the glacial ice-age bog community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Evalyn Gates
Executive Director

Dr. James K. Bissell
Director of Natural Areas