

WOODLANDS FOR WATER, WILDLIFE, & PEOPLE

A Plan for the Woodlands

The Woodland Plan will help sustain area woodlands by providing landowners with information and natural resource professional assistance on how to improve their woodland benefits with a focus on 3 areas: woodland health, wildlife habitat, and water protection. The plan provides an area-wide framework for voluntary coordinated woodland management and a unified approach to addressing current and future woodland threats. Participation in the plan is voluntary and open to all area landowners however the focus of assistance is on small parcel landowners (2-10 acres). The Plan covers multiple communities and townships in northern Portage County (city of Aurora, city of Streetsboro, Freedom Twp., Hiram Twp., Mantua Twp., & Shalersville Twp.).

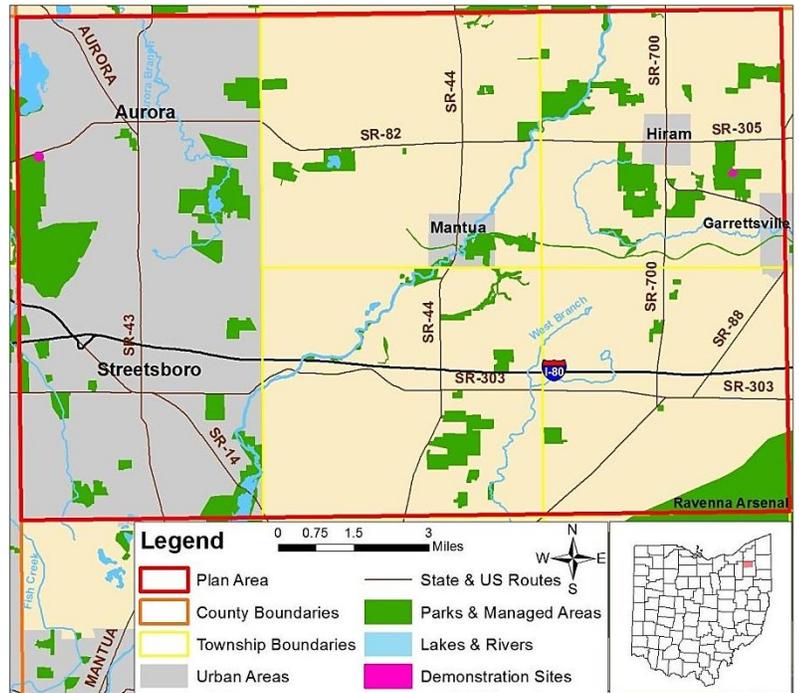


Figure 1. NW Portage County Woodland Plan (Ohio DNR Division of Forestry)

WHO DEVELOPED THE WOODLAND PLAN?

The plan is the result of a collaborative effort led by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry with help from local woodland owners, partners, and natural resource professionals.

WOODLAND BENEFITS & SERVICES

The woodlands of northwest Portage County provide the area with a scenic backdrop and an array of benefits: clean air & water, flood reduction, soil protection, wildlife habitat, privacy, recreation, energy (firewood & biomass), energy reduction (shade/windbreaks), property value, timber products, and non-timber forest products (herbs, mushrooms, nuts).

MAJOR WOODLAND ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN THE AREA

1. Forest Loss – The loss of woodlands and the benefits and services they provide is a real threat in the plan area given its proximity to major urban areas such as Cleveland and Akron.
2. Forest Fragmentation – The loss of woodlands often occurs in a haphazard pattern leaving the remaining forest fragmented and divided with diminished benefits and services.
3. Forest Degradation – Invasive insect pests, invasive plants, non-native diseases, over-abundant deer, poor woodland management, and lack of woodland management are all ways that a woodland can become degraded.



Figure 2. Invasive species, left to right: Amur Honeysuckle, Asian Longhorned Beetle Adult, Japanese Knotweed, Tree-of-Heaven, Emerald Ash Borer Larvae, & Garlic Mustard. (Photos: ODNR)

4. Water Quality & Flood Frequency – The loss of woodlands along rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands is a concern since woodlands in these areas help maintain high water quality, aquatic wildlife habitat, and reduce flood events.

5. **Wildlife Diversity** – The loss of woodlands is a concern because rare and high priority wildlife species found in the area need woodland habitats and/or the benefits they provide.



Figure 3. Rare species that benefit from woodlands in the area, left to right: Little Brown Bat (State Species of Concern), Northern Monkshood (Federally Threatened), Wood Thrush (OBCI highest priority bird species), Bobcat (State Threatened), Least Darter (State Species of Concern). (Photos: ODNR)

HOW WILL THIS PLAN ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?

By providing information to interested landowners on recommended woodland practices that support the goals of the NW Portage County Woodland Plan. Providing field days, workshops, and one on one field assistance for interested landowners. And through developing two demonstration sites that exhibit how to complete recommended woodland activities. More information is online at forestry.ohiodnr.gov/nwportagecountyplan

DEMONSTRATION SITE LOCATIONS:

Hiram College

James H. Barrow Field Station
11305 Wheeler Rd.
Garrettsville, OH 44231

City of Aurora

Aurora Wetlands
1049 W. Garfield Rd.
Aurora, OH 44202

WOODLAND PLAN GOALS

The 4 overall goals of the plan are: 1) expand woodlands, 2) maintain healthy and diverse woodlands, 3) promote coordinated woodland management, and 4) increase awareness of woodland benefits and woodland threats. For a copy of the Woodland Plan or additional information, call 440-564-5883, ext. 3, email Aaron.Kash@dnr.state.oh.us, or go online at forestry.ohiodnr.gov/nwportagecountyplan

CONTACTS & RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR AREA WOODLOT OWNERS:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES:

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM
www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqjp/eqjp2013.html
330-296-4311

LAND PROTECTION & PRESERVATION:

WESTERN RESERVE LAND CONSERVANCY
www.wrlandconservancy.org
440-528-4150, info@wrlandconservancy.org

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES:

CENTER FOR INVASIVE SPECIES & ECOSYSTEM HEALTH
www.invasive.org

OHIO INVASIVE PLANTS COUNCIL
www.oipc.info

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION:

PORTAGE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
portageswcd.org, 330-297-7633

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE
www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov, 330-296-4311

WATERSHED PROTECTION:

CHAGRIN RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERS, INC. (city of Aurora & Mantua twp.)
www.crwpa.org, 440-975-3870

TINKER'S CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERS (city of Aurora & Streetsboro)
www.tinkerscreekwatershed.org/information

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT:

ODNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE,
wildlife.ohiodnr.gov, Private Lands Biologist 330-644-2293

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT:

ODNR DIVISION OF FORESTRY
forestry.ohiodnr.gov

Small Woodlot Assistance (2-10 acres)
440-564-5883, ext. 3, Aaron.Kash@dnr.state.oh.us

Large Woodlot Assistance (10 ≥ acres)
440-564-5883, ext. 3, Aaron.Kash@dnr.state.oh.us

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM
www.treefarmssystem.org

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, CENTER FOR CONSERVATION
www.cmnh.org/discover/nature/conservation

CUYAHOGA RIVER RESTORATION
www.cuyahogariver.org

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION WOODLAND STEWARDS PROGRAM
woodlandstewards.osu.edu

PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT
www.portageparkdistrict.org

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/ohio

THE OHIO FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
www.ohioforest.org

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
www.fws.gov/partners

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
wildlifemanagementinstitute.org