



The City of Lorain, Ohio

Jack W. Bradley

Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

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Recreational Section 4(f) de minimis – Public Notice

Press Release

The City of Lorain, in coordination with ODOT, is proposing construction of the Oakwood Connector- South Lorain Library Trail, an 11- foot- wide multiuse path that will provide a safe pedestrian and bicycle connection between Lorain Public Library and Oakwood Park. The project includes installation of a sidewalk, curb ramps, and a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) within Oakwood Park. This project extends beyond ODOT right-of-way and into Oakwood Park, where a small portion of park land will be permanently incorporated into the transportation corridor, requiring a change-of-use plat from the park to ODOT. This will be required just north of E. 36th Street, west of the driveway into Oakwood Park located directly north of Oakwood Ave. A graphic representing this take is included below. Access to Oakwood Park will be maintained throughout construction, but access from the southern entrance will be impacted during construction. All other park entrances will remain open, and the park will remain accessible to the public. This improvement will enhance overall public access to the park by creating a direct connection to the public library. Construction is anticipated to begin July 2027 and continue until December 2027.

Oakwood Park is a recognized recreational property and is provided protection from adverse impacts associated with federal-aid transportation projects.

The City of Lorain consulted with Ms. Mindy Stoyka, City of Lorain Parks & Recreation Superintendent, in regard to project impacts and received concurrence that the project will not adversely affect the recreational activities, features or attributes that qualify the property for protection. The following measures to minimize harm are being implemented as part of the project:

- Access to Oakwood Park shall be maintained at all times during construction activities via flagging operations and/or an approved detour
- Temporary construction fencing shall be installed along proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities to protect the existing Section 4(f) property and the public
- Appropriate signage shall be installed to alert users of Oakwood Park of construction activities, access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points
- The contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with ODOT and the City of Lorain prior to the start of construction activities

Due to the permanent acquisition of land from Oakwood Park, the City of Lorain is seeking public input regarding the proposed impacts. Please provide comments to Ms. Veronica Newsome, P.E., at the contact information below.

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Comments must be received by April 1, 2026