



Friends of Horseshoe Lake  
[info@savehorseshoelake.com](mailto:info@savehorseshoelake.com)  
savehorseshoelake.com  
P.O. Box 201252  
Shaker Heights, OH 44120-5200

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### **Independent Experts Find Viable Alternative to Save Horseshoe Lake**

SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO-- Friends of Horseshoe Lake (FOHSL), a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving Horseshoe Lake, has identified an alternative viable plan that would save Horseshoe Lake, provide flood control and a significant storm water benefit, all while costing less than the plan as estimated and presented by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS D).

FOHSL formed in November 2021 to explore alternatives to NEORS D's plan for the lake, asserting the Sewer District rushed the decision and did not thoroughly explore adequate options. At the time that Green Lake was repaired, the Sewer District intended to replace Horseshoe Lake Dam and had detailed plans in place to do so, but for unknown reasons did not follow through with that plan.

FOHSL worked with engineering firm TRC and their team of experts with decades of experience on dam projects to ensure the alternative proposed solution would be financially viable, environmentally conscious, and safe for those living near the lake, as well as result in less future maintenance for Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights and remain an asset to the region.

TRC identified a number of areas for improvements to reduce the costs of the NEORS D's plan and proposed a solution that protects the lake, effectively manages stormwater quality and quantity and minimizes flood risk, which were concerns raised by the Sewer District. "FOHSL prioritized safety, protecting natural resources, and cost management when considering our plan for Horseshoe Lake. We are committed to finding a better long-term option for Horseshoe Lake that works for everyone" stated Shawn McGee, Geotechnical Engineering Office Practice Leader at TRC.

"Our research included studying the ability to reclassify the dam, review of applicable studies and plans done for Horseshoe Lake by NEORS D and the Doan Brook watershed, analyzing hydrological models, site visits, and looking for more sustainable alternatives to the handling of the dredged material that are less costly and more environmentally responsible.

Our findings were two-fold. Efforts should be made to:

1. Have the dam reclassified from a Class 1 Dam; and
2. Construct a new dam with an adjusted spillway and new emergency spillway so that the Horseshoe Lake is maintained, albeit with a somewhat smaller footprint.

Our viable alternative plan meets or exceeds the Sewer District's requirements by providing a stormwater benefit to water quantity and flood control, preserves and protects the environment that has been in place for over 100 years, protects the historical aspects of Horseshoe Lake, and the overall aesthetic for one of the first of its kind suburban neighborhoods in the country," concluded McGee.

“We’ve heard from hundreds of families in both Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights that they want to keep Horseshoe Lake. It’s not just about the history of the lake, but it’s better for the environment and the birds, and is one of the reasons these communities are great places to live. We know our solution is a better alternative and works for Horseshoe Lake and the residents,” said Penny Allen, Cleveland Heights resident and member of FOHSL.

Shaker Heights resident and FOHSL member Hal Madorsky added, “The solution presented by FOHSL is one where everyone comes out a winner. Preserving the lake benefits the environment, residents of Shaker and Cleveland Heights, and both city governments as it is also a more cost-effective option.”

FOHSL has called on the Sewer District and is now calling on city leaders to consider this alternative plan and reconsider its support for the Sewer District’s original plan. FOHSL has requested meetings with the Mayors of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights and has requested the opportunity to present its findings and plan to both City Councils.

To learn more, please visit [www.SaveHorseshoeLake.com](http://www.SaveHorseshoeLake.com).

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