

For Immediate Release
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Save Horseshoe Lake Supporters File Lawsuit Against Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights

CLEVELAND, OHIO-- Friends of Horseshoe Lake (FOHSL) filed a lawsuit today against the cities of Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights to prevent the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District from permanently destroying Horseshoe Lake. The lawsuit comes after FOHSL issued demand letters to Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights, based on violations of their lease agreement with the City of Cleveland.

“The lease requires Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights to preserve the existing conditions, which encompasses the dam and lake, perform dredging and cleaning, and assume responsibility for any necessary improvements to maintain the park. The Sewer District’s proposed destruction of the lake is a blatant violation of several provisions within that lease,” said Attorney Anthony Coyne, a land use legal expert with law firm Mansour Gavin who is leading FOHSL’s legal effort and was recently named to the 2023 Best Lawyers in America list.

When the Sewer District announced plans to destroy the Lake and dam two years ago, FOHSL worked with engineering and dam experts TRC to develop a [Horseshoe Lake Restoration Plan](#) that saves the lake while also addressing environmental, safety, and cost concerns. FOHSL has presented the plan to the Sewer District and the Cities numerous times and made repeated attempts to find a reasonable solution. Despite this, the Sewer District has charged forward with their original plan to destroy the lake, stating publicly that they won’t consider any alternative that replaces the dam and restores a lake in the same area.

“We had hoped that our recently issued demand letters to [Cleveland Heights](#) and [Shaker Heights](#) would create an opportunity for FOHSL, the Cities and the Sewer District to work together on finding a mutually agreeable plan for Horseshoe Lake. Unfortunately, the Cities sent a joint response that refuted the lease violations, leaving us no choice but to take the next step in our legal plan. We are asking the courts for necessary injunctive relief to save this treasured asset,” said Coyne.

To learn more, please visit www.SaveHorseshoeLake.com.