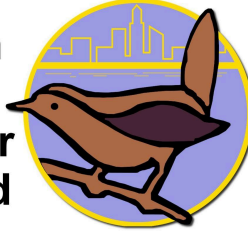




OLD-GROWTH FOREST NETWORK

"Connecting people with nature by creating a national network of protected, mature, native forests"

**Audubon
Society
of Greater
Cleveland**



April 30, 2024

Hach-Otis Nature Preserve inducted into The Old-Growth Forest Network

The Hach-Otis State Nature Preserve in Lake County was inducted into the national Old-Growth Forest Network on April 30. Brian Kane, Mid-Atlantic Manager of the Old-Growth Forest Network conveyed the distinction to the Dr. Jim Tomko, President of the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland (AGSC) and Jeff Johnson, Chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Areas and Preserves.

Nearly 20 acres of the forest contains specimens that are considered old-growth. The forest is a mixed deciduous hardwood complex and includes sugar maple, beech, tulip poplar, red oak, and Eastern hemlock among other species. The Hach-Otis Preserve features breathtaking views of the Chagrin State Scenic River valley.

The forest has been a birding sanctuary since 1944 when Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Hach deeded 26 acres to the Cleveland Bird Club. Harold T. Clark contributed 55 acres, formerly owned by N. G. Otis, to complete the Hach-Otis Sanctuary. In 1977 the AGSC dedicated the sanctuary as a state nature preserve. In 2020, an additional 48.6 acres was dedicated to the state by the AGSC, which is the managing agency of the dedicated Preserve.

Tomko said, "With its astounding vistas of the Chagrin River gorge, rugged ravines, and ancient trees, I've always considered our gorgeous Hach-Otis Sanctuary the crown jewel of Audubon's four sanctuaries making a perfect fit for the Old-Growth Forest Network."

Johnson said, "Not far from a major metropolitan area, Hach-Otis State Nature Preserve is a testament to the Greater Cleveland Audubon Society's foresight in choosing to protect the preserve's rich flora and fauna nearly 50 years ago,"



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He added, “Today, the preserve with its towering red oaks, beech, maple, and hemlocks will join 10 other Ohio state nature preserves in the Old-Growth Forest Network. With cooperative, conservation efforts such as these, Hach-Otis will endure as a place of natural beauty and wonder for generations to come.”

The Old-Growth Forest Network (OGFN) connects people with nature by creating a national network of protected, mature, publicly accessible, native forests. OGFN intends to preserve at least one forest in every county in the U.S. that can sustain a forest. OGFN works to identify forests for the Network, ensure their protection from logging, and inform people of the forest locations.

Founded in 2012 by Dr. Joan Maloof, the Network currently has over 235 forests across 36 states. OGFN also recognizes exceptional forest advocates, educates about the extraordinary ecological benefits of old-growth forests, and speaks out regarding immediate threats to specific ancient forests. Learn more at <http://www.oldgrowthforest.net>.

Kane said, “Ohio leads the nation in the quantity of old-growth forests dedicated to the Network. With 31 Ohio forests now in the Network, the Buckeye state shows its commitment to the preservation of old-growth forests and all the life that they support.”

Kane added, “We could not grow the old-growth network without our volunteer county coordinators, who help us with forest identification and observations. We also are very grateful to the Ohio Natural Resources staff who have helped us greatly in identifying candidate forests throughout the state.”

Interested volunteers are welcome to contact OGFN through the website: www.oldgrowthforest.net.

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