



CITY OF CLEVELAND
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Ohio and City of Cleveland Plan to Transfer Cleveland Lakefront Park Back to City Proposed to Legislature

COLUMBUS, OH – A proposal developed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the City of Cleveland to transfer the operations of the Cleveland Lakefront State Park back to the City of Cleveland has been submitted to the Ohio General Assembly for its approval as part of Governor John Kasich’s FY 2014-2015 state budget.

“It’s been a privilege for ODNR to manage the Cleveland Lakefront State Park for the City of Cleveland for more than three decades, and as both the state and the city look ahead at our future goals and priorities, it’s clear that now is the right time for park management to return to the city,” said ODNR Director James Zehringer. “It’s not only consistent with the city’s long-term vision for the Lake Erie waterfront but also in the best financial interest of Ohio, and that win-win is reflected in the good agreement we’ve reached with the city. While our role is changing, ODNR remains committed to the future health and growth of the park and will work closely with the city to help ensure that going forward.”

“The Cleveland Lakefront State Parks are a tremendous asset for the City of Cleveland,” said City of Cleveland Chief of Staff Ken Silliman. “We want to thank Governor Kasich and ODNR for the opportunity to expand upon the growth already established in this area over the past 35 years.”

In 1978, ODNR assumed the responsibility of managing the Cleveland Lakefront State Park. Since that time, this park has become one of the most popular destinations in the Ohio State Parks system. The unique blend of beauty that this area provides in a predominately metropolitan area has provided recreational opportunities to countless park visitors throughout the years.

The proposal provides \$14 million in FY 2013 to operate upgrade and transfer Cleveland Lakefront State Park to the City of Cleveland. This enables the state and the city to work in tandem to enhance the experience of park visitors through improvements to facilities as well as access to one of Ohio’s greatest natural resources, Lake Erie. ODNR and the City of Cleveland will work together to ensure that the public safety and the overall experience of park visitors will not be disrupted during this transition.