

Tiffin University Nature Preserve

- ∞ Construction of wheelchair and handicapped-accessible pedestrian trail from parking lot.
- ∞ Construction of an accessible gazebo, accessible picnic area, and resting benches.
- ∞ The Tiffin University Nature Preserve is an additional development of the Seneca County Park District and forever open to the public.
- ∞ Fruition of project will include paved parking lot with handicap spaces funded elsewhere.
- ∞ Future amenities and educational programs will follow.

A. **Description:** This 29 acre nature preserve at the west edge of the City of Tiffin has Wolf Creek running through it. Property is owned by Tiffin University, but legally subject to a conservation easement which makes the property accessible to the public in perpetuity for recreational and educational purposes. Please see the attached, recorded Conservation Agreement with highlighted sections on Pages 2 and 3, which provide for access to the public in perpetuity. The conservation easement for permanent public access was accepted by The Ohio Public Works Commission and Natural Resources Assistance Council in order to receive public money from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. Internet citation is found at www.pwc.state.oh.us/clean_ohio.htm click "Funded Projects" and you will find it listed as CPAAD-Forrest Nature Preserve....Grant \$74,064. The **highlighted agreement** and drawing of the Nature Preserve are on the next pages.

B. **Barriers:** Existing gravel parking lot, trails and bridge approaches prohibit disabled visitors from enjoying the tranquility and beauty of this natural wooded, creek & wetland preserve.

C. **Unique Features:**

Paved trail from parking lot into the Nature Preserve will make it immediately accessible to nearby residents, students, and visitors with disabilities.

Accessible Gazebo & Accessible picnic area within sight of the other will contribute to a sense of community and camaraderie for all visitors.

Woodlands and wetlands areas accessible by the paved accessible trail are beyond the planned gazebo, picnic area, & existing ball fields so a tranquil experience is possible.

Resting benches throughout the vast 29 acre nature preserve is necessary.

D. **Inclusive Participation:** The western edge of the city limits includes neighboring commercial and residential areas. In addition to the university students and families in the area, there are three large retirement housing units. Visitors will easily find it.

E. **Ongoing Maintenance:** Tiffin University has experienced employees and equipment available for maintaining the nature preserve and proposed accessible improvements.

F. **Budget:**

- \$ 15,000 Gazebo with picnic area
- \$ 5,000 Resting benches
- \$ 3,000 Interpretive signage
- \$ 8,000 Paved trail from parking lot to gazebo and picnic area.
- \$ 20,000 Engineering
- \$ 25,000 Grading
- \$76,000 TOTAL**

G. **Timeline:** Completion before March 31, 2009