

Code	517016
Subject	Tim Dobeck
Date	6/19/2008
Interviewer	
Special Notes	West Creek Park, Metroparks, Tim Dobeck, city of Parma, wetlands,

minutes:

intro Tim Dobeck law director of Parma, West Creek Reservation "gem of
0 Parma" part of metro parks
small group of people, Dave Linchek, and others worked to block golf
course in park area, Dobeck acted as attorney to draft petition, passed by
1 citizens of Parma to keep green space
Sue Zorovckec (sp) Dave Vaseralli, Dorothy and Erv Hazel, Vaserelli
2 brings passion for conservation and finesse at working to
combination of great leadership and group energy, collected thousands of
signatures, door to door campaign, success at keeping West Creek as
3 low impact use green area, became 501 C3
newsletter by group, work governments and media for funds and loans
and Terry Gratehouse from TRI-C helped create watershed area for
4 educational use.
Project started in 1998, 2004 Mayor of Parma approached probate court
and board which oversees metro parks to develop West Creek area with
5 metroparks
Metroparks as respected, established entity, investing in West Creek and
adding trails and interpretive centers efforts to acquire funds to purchase
6 Genett (sp) property at 3 million dollars
idea is to connect West Creek, Independence, to Cuyahoga Valley
National park, full time grant writers and full time manager work for this
7 project want to acquire lands to add to park area
Dobeck is law director for city, and member of West Creek works on lease
issues, and adding land to lease, importance of civic leaders to West
8 Creek project
Dorothy Hazel former schoolteacher, made impact on council in regards to
9 issues regarding West Creek
many projects going on at one time, acquire oldest home in Parma, mostly
10 successful, minor setbacks, Parma not known as green area
Dobeck uses West Creek area, fly fishing, hiking, looking for owls, guided
11 walks by naturalists,
12 fishing and camping in Ontario with kids,
cont. Dobeck did not realize West Creek existed as child, much of area
culverted, old apple orchards existed before commercial development of
13 1970's
wildlife returning to Parma, image of Parma not always good, metropark
14 involvement will improve area image
clean water theme behind West Creek as tributary to Lake Erie, studies of
how water cleans itself through wetlands, West Park as educational tool
15 for teachers and general public, horseback rangers
creation of wetlands in West Creek area, Parma 7th largest city in Ohio,
good combination of green space and urban space, Parma as good
16 example for rest of area
17 West Creek development group accomplished a lot in a short time

cont. Metro Parks admired, interpretive centers to focus on theme of

18 clean waters

19 end

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60