
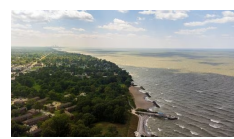
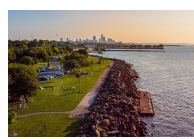
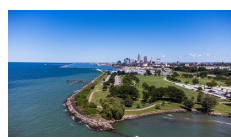
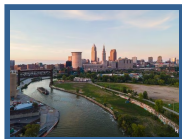




SUBSCRIBER 

Greater Cleveland Partnership launches online GIS mapping tool to track numerous waterfront access, development projects

Updated: Sep. 20, 2023, 9:24 a.m. | Published: Sep. 19, 2023, 9:00 a.m.



Greater Cleveland Partnership Launches online waterfront project mapping tool

By [Steven Litt, cleveland.com](https://www.cleveland.com)

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Cleveland and Cuyahoga County may now have more waterfront planning and development projects underway along Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River than at any other time in their history.

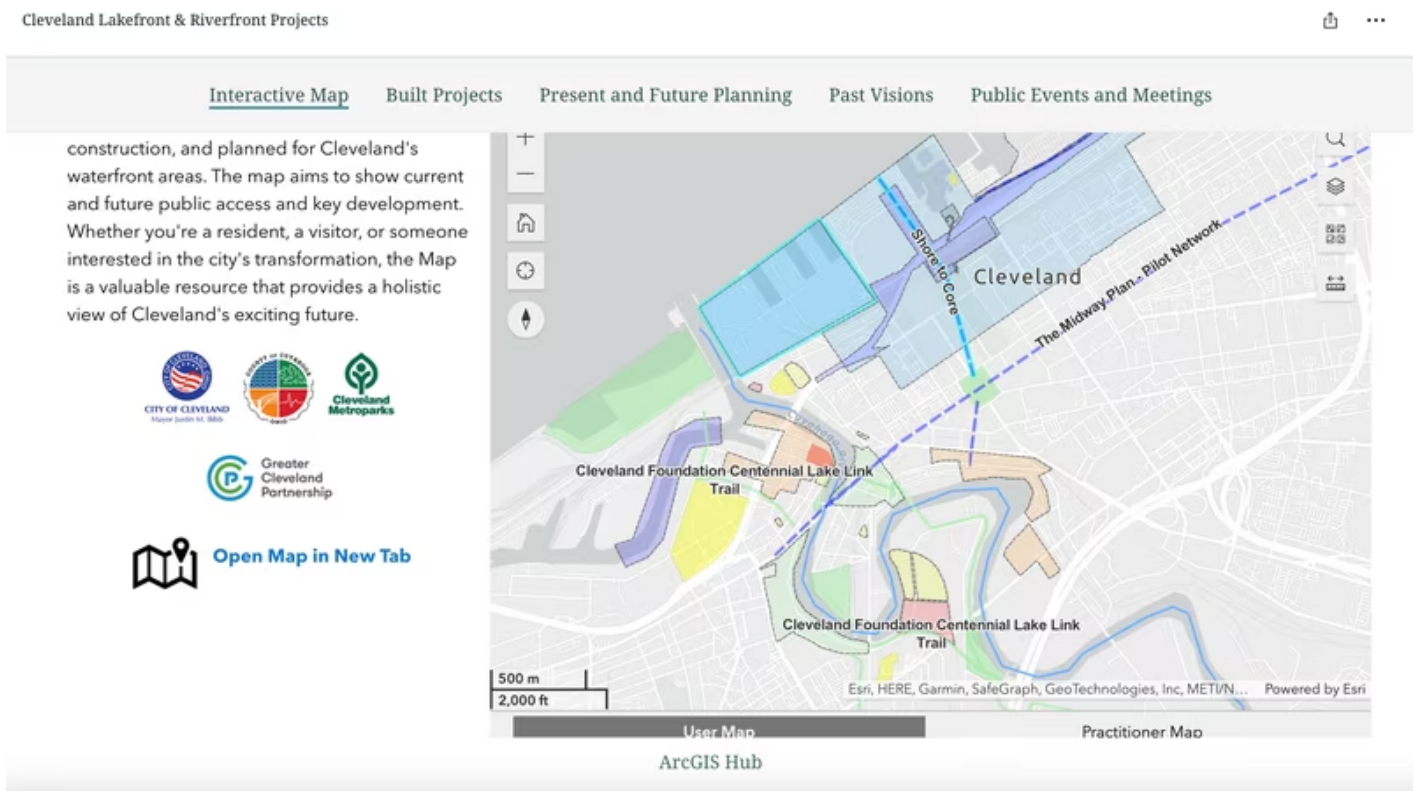
The projects range from early-stage designs for a downtown lakefront “land bridge” to proposals for new and improved parks and trails.

Over the next five to 10 years, the projects could transform Cleveland’s lakefront and riverfront, make the city a more livable, equitable place, and boost its economy.

There’s just one problem with all this activity: Keeping track of it all.

To help provide greater transparency, coordination, and accountability, the Greater Cleveland Partnership, the region’s chamber of commerce, is launching a new online tool on Tuesday, Sept. 19 aimed at giving everyone the big picture on waterfront planning.

The site is available at greatercle.com/lakefront-riverfrontprojects/.



The front page of the new Greater Cleveland online mapping tool for waterfront planning and development projects in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. Courtesy Greater Cleveland Partnership

The web-based tool combines Geographic Information System mapping with links to project websites and other data about all waterfront projects. The Greater Cleveland Partnership says it will monitor the projects and routinely update the website to ensure its relevance and accuracy.

The goal is to make sure everyone from residents to elected officials, business leaders and potential government grant-makers understand how individual waterfront projects relate to one another in timing, urgency, and shovel-readiness.

“Information and resources like this enable smarter, faster and more coordinated action,” said Baiju Shah, the partnership’s president and CEO. “It reduces the friction for development, ultimately increases the speed and possibilities of success for everything we’re working toward as a region.”

Allison Lukacsy-Love, the partnership’s managing director for waterfront and downtown projects, said Cleveland has received feedback from state and federal officials that Northeast Ohio’s priorities for waterfront projects sometimes haven’t been crystal clear.

At times, multiple local projects are competing for the same pot of money.

“What we have heard collectively is that we look uncoordinated when everyone in the region is putting forth a project,” Lukacsy-Love said. “Five different entities say that they are the priority, and they all have letters of support saying, ‘this [or that project] would be super impactful,’ and it’s all true, but we have to be more intentional.”

The new website will enable the region to be more deliberate in determining the timing and readiness of waterfront projects for funding, along with deciding which type of grants to pursue for which project, she said.

“It’s not up to the federal government to decide of those five applications which is truly the priority,” Lukacsy-Love said. “It should be us as a region making that determination.

Sean McDermott, the chief planning and design officer at Cleveland Metroparks, called the new mapping tool “a user-friendly way to showcase and bring awareness to the many coordinated initiatives underway along Cleveland’s waterfronts.” He said it “will foster meaningful public input and excitement as these impactful projects take shape.”

Trevor Hunt, senior project manager for lakefront projects at the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works, said “too often, we as a region talk about one project here and another there, without connecting the dots.” He said the new web-based tool “can start painting the big picture of where we are headed.”

The partnership developed the new tool at its own expense over the past six months after having had discussions with city and county officials about the difficulty of keeping track of myriad waterfront projects.

Patrick Arthofer, a native of Austria who recently earned a master's degree in planning and development from Cleveland State University, developed the new web tool while working as a fellow at the organization.

The website has tabs for "Interactive Map," "Built Projects," "Present and Future Planning," "Past Visions," and "Public Events and Meetings."

Under the "User Map" tab, a visitor can peruse information about 36 individual waterfront projects in various stages of development. The interactive maps show the physical relationship of one project to another and include summaries, project schedules, and slides from recent public presentations.

The "Practitioner Map" tab includes multiple layers including parcel boundaries, topography, census data, and historical maps.

Until now, anyone interested in getting the big picture on waterfront planning would have to gather that data by contacting each specific agency. The Greater Cleveland Partnership tool assembles that information in one place.

"The public, planners, government, and granting agencies can come to one place and see all the information they need to see," Shah said. "It's about making it easy for everyone involved."