

## History

The Cleveland EcoVillage is a community response to urban sprawl, disinvestment, and environmental degradation. Founded in 1998 through a partnership between Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization (DSCDO), other nonprofit organizations, the City of Cleveland, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA), private developers, and residents, it integrates green building, community building and transit-oriented development.

This section of the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood was settled in the early 20th century by Irish and German immigrants. Polish and Hungarian immigrants established the second oldest Jewish cemetery in Cleveland here. In 1996, environmental groups of citizens commissioned a study, managed by EcoCity Cleveland, of potential ecological development in Northeast Ohio. Countering the trend of new-build ecovillages, the study recommended



developing the existing community around the W. 65th-Lorain Rapid Station. DSCDO and the environmental groups introduced the EcoVillage idea to the area's block clubs, church leaders, and organizations. The positive response motivated a conceptual plan by City Architecture with community input to guide development.

Today the EcoVillage is racially and socio-economically diverse, pedestrian friendly, and community-oriented. Residents are within walking distance of the West 65th-Lorain Rapid Station and the Michael J. Zone Recreation Center. Two major transit lines, the Red Line and the 22 Lorain Avenue bus, serve the area. The area has both

renovated and new housing, including the city's first LEED Platinum home and permanent tiny houses. The EcoVillage also includes schools, historic churches, parks, and community gardens. Residents support each other in neighbor groups, recreation leagues, workshops, cleanups, community-supported agriculture, and celebrations.

The culture of the EcoVillage is rooted in community organizing. Two watershed events shaped and defined the area.

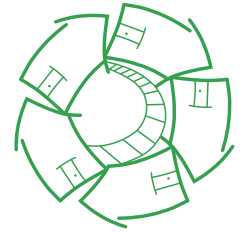
In 1966, the Ohio Department of Transportation proposed the Parma Freeway, a \$30 million highway connecting the Shoreway (Route 2) with I-90 and I-71. These plans would have demolished property between West 55th and West 58th, from Lake Erie to Lorain Avenue. Residents organized and voiced their opposition for years. In 1979, Councilwoman Mary Zone led City Council to pass emergency resolution No. 2589-79, urging the abandonment of construction and using land acquired for the interchange for a recreation center instead. The Michael J. Zone Recreation Center was built in 1982. A \$3.5 million green-space redevelopment was completed at the Recreation Center in 2012 with native plants, rain gardens, bio-retention areas, playing fields, and a multi-purpose path.

In 1998, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority announced a need to close the local Rapid Station due to funding cuts and reduced ridership. A community meeting held at St. Colman Church drew 150 people objecting to the closure. RTA changed its plans and obtained federal funding to build a new station. DSCDO worked with RTA to facilitate community meetings to design a new station using green building principles. Re-christened the West 65-EcoVillage Station, its gabled roof complements housing in the neighborhood, and the green color matches the copper patina of St. Colman Church.

The EcoVillage has drawn nearly \$50 million in investment since 1998. A culminating, transit-oriented project is DSCDO's 2019 completion of Aspen Place, a 40-unit Low Income Housing Tax Credit development immediately adjacent to the Rapid Station. Each household in Aspen Place receives a free monthly RTA transit pass.

## Welcome Guide

# Cleveland EcoVillage



Welcome to this vibrant, diverse community!

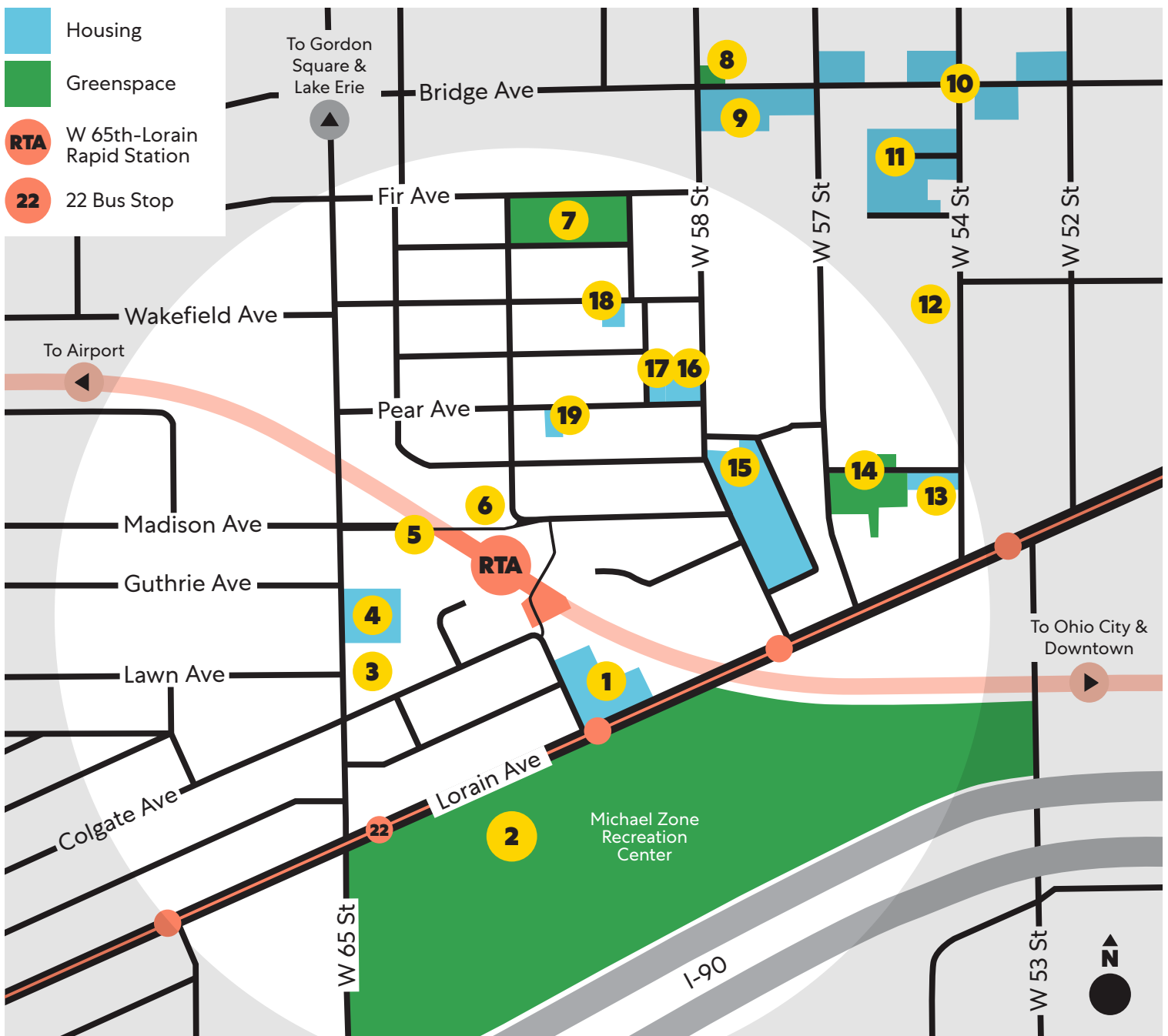
The Cleveland EcoVillage is located within a quarter-mile walk of the RTA West 65th-Lorain Rapid Station in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, two miles west of Downtown Cleveland and minutes away from Lake Erie, the Cuyahoga River, and the Gordon Square Arts District. Using sustainability and transit-oriented development as a planning strategy, the EcoVillage community seeks to retain and support residents in the urban core.



## detroit shoreway

Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization (DSCDO), partners, and residents have implemented projects in four core areas in the Cleveland EcoVillage: green building and affordable housing, transportation infrastructure, greenspace and local food, and community involvement.

[learn more at detroitshoreway.org](https://detroitshoreway.org)



### Walking Tour

- RTA W 65-Lorain RTA Rapid Station**  
W 61 St & Lawn Ave  
Green materials and passive solar system, 2003
- 1 Aspen Place**  
6016 Lorain Ave  
40 energy efficient units, 2019
- 2 Zone Recreation Center**  
6301 Lorain Ave  
Green spaces and ecological landscaping, 2012
- 3 St. Colman Church**  
2027 W 65 St, marble interior  
Built 1918 by Irish immigrants
- 4 Colman Court Senior Housing**  
2025 W 65 St  
Nonprofit, 33 units, 2004
- 5 Madison Ave Pedestrian Bridge**  
Madison Ave from W 61 to W 65  
ODOT project, 2014
- 6 EcoVillage Gateway Pocket Park**  
6104 Madison Ave  
Native plants, community-maintained, 2015
- 7 Fir Street Cemetery**  
Second oldest Jewish cemetery in Cleveland, 1877
- 8 Simmons Park**  
Environmental remediation site of former gas station, 2009
- 9 Waverly Station Townhomes**  
5703-5725 Bridge Ave  
23 energy efficient units, 2014
- 10 Bridge Square Townhomes**  
Bridge Ave, W 52 to W 58  
32 energy efficient units, 2006
- 11 Courtland Court Townhomes**  
W 54 St, south of Bridge Ave  
23 energy efficient units, 2007
- 12 St. Stephen Church**  
1930 W 54 St, Gothic style  
Built 1881 by German immigrants
- 13 Building America House**  
1974 West 54 St  
U.S. DOE prototype, 2000
- 14 Ithaca Court Community Garden**  
30+ community-maintained plots, strawbale shed, rentable accomodation house
- 15 EcoVillage Townhomes**  
1983-2021 W 58 St  
30 energy efficient units, 2004
- 16 Citizens Tiny House Experiment**  
1958 & 1962 W 58 St  
2 energy efficient units 2017
- 17 Green Cottage**  
5810 Pear Ave  
LEED Platinum, 1 unit, 2008
- 18 EcoVation House**  
5909 Wakefield Ave  
Cleveland's first green rehab, 1 unit, 2004
- 19 Habitat for Humanity House**  
6017 Pear Ave  
1 unit, 2012