Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

2045 Morse Road Bldg. H-3
Columbus, Oh 43229-6693
Jeffrey A. Johnson, Chief

Adam Wohlever
Northeast Region
11027 Hopkins Rd.
Garrettsville, OH 44231

June 23, 2026

Coventry Hills Homeowners' Association

Re: Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve – Boundary Encroachments/Visitation

Dear board members,

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, would like to bring to your attention concerns regarding recent encroachment issues associated with at least two residents of the Coventry Hills subdivision who share boundaries with the Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve.

In 1996, Shoreview Development donated 22.9 acres, known as Lot 77, to the ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves to be included as part of the Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve. Following the development of the Coventry Hills housing subdivision, there have been several instances of encroachment from private property into the preserve. It appears that there may be some misinterpretation by residents of the allowable uses of the preserve, namely activities associated with access of the preserve's open water via personal watercraft and the construction of boardwalks or similar structures that extend onto preserve property. Last year, division staff removed a 150' section of boardwalk built on state owned property and are currently addressing another more recent construction of a boardwalk and dock which has been investigated and is currently being removed.

As this has been a recurring issue, we want to ensure that the HOA understands that construction of any structure on state property by residents adjacent to the preserve is strictly prohibited. It is also unlawful for residents or neighbors of the preserve to make any access improvements from private property that extends onto state property to gain access to trails, lands or waters within the boundary of the state nature preserve.

Residents who share an open water boundary with the state property are permitted under state law to access the surface waters only within the state nature preserve boundary. However, activities such as fishing, hunting, swimming, or anchoring to the land below the water or vegetation along the edges of the water within the boundaries of the state property are also strictly prohibited. Additionally, residents who do not have clear open access to the water from their property are not

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permitted to build structures onto state property nor remove or cut vegetation on state property to create such access.

We kindly request that Coventry Hills HOA inform residents of the rules and restrictions governing the access and visitation to the state nature preserve. We also recommend that each resident verifies their property boundaries to ensure that any such future construction or improvement they intend to make does not encroach upon or impact the state nature preserve.

More information regarding our rules and regulations can be found by visiting the following website: https://ohiodnr.gov/rules-and-regulations/rules-and-regulations-by-division/natural-areas-and-preserves.

We appreciate your sincere consideration in this matter and encourage your residents to continue to appreciate and enjoy the natural beauty of the Jackson Bog State Nature Preserve. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves northeast regional office at (330)- 527- 5118.

Sincerely,

Adam Wohlever
Regional Preserve Manager
ODNR/DNAP