

**AKRON URBAN DESIGN AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING OF JULY 16, 2024 - 9:00 A.M.**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**166 S. HIGH STREET**

**(1) CORRECTION and APPROVAL of Minutes of April 2 and June 11, 2024.**

**(2) NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **UD-2024-03- REV** – Architectural review of Brittain Road Reservoir replacement.

**(3) HEARING EXAMINER:**

A. **UD-2024-04-HD** – Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish a portion of the former Firestone Tire and Rubber building at 1200 Firestone Parkway.  
**THE HEARING EXAMINER RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.**

B. **UD-2024-01-HD** - Akron Historic Landmark Status for The Brown Family Home At 242 Lake Street.  
**THE HEARING EXAMINER RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF ITEM A4.**

KJ/emd

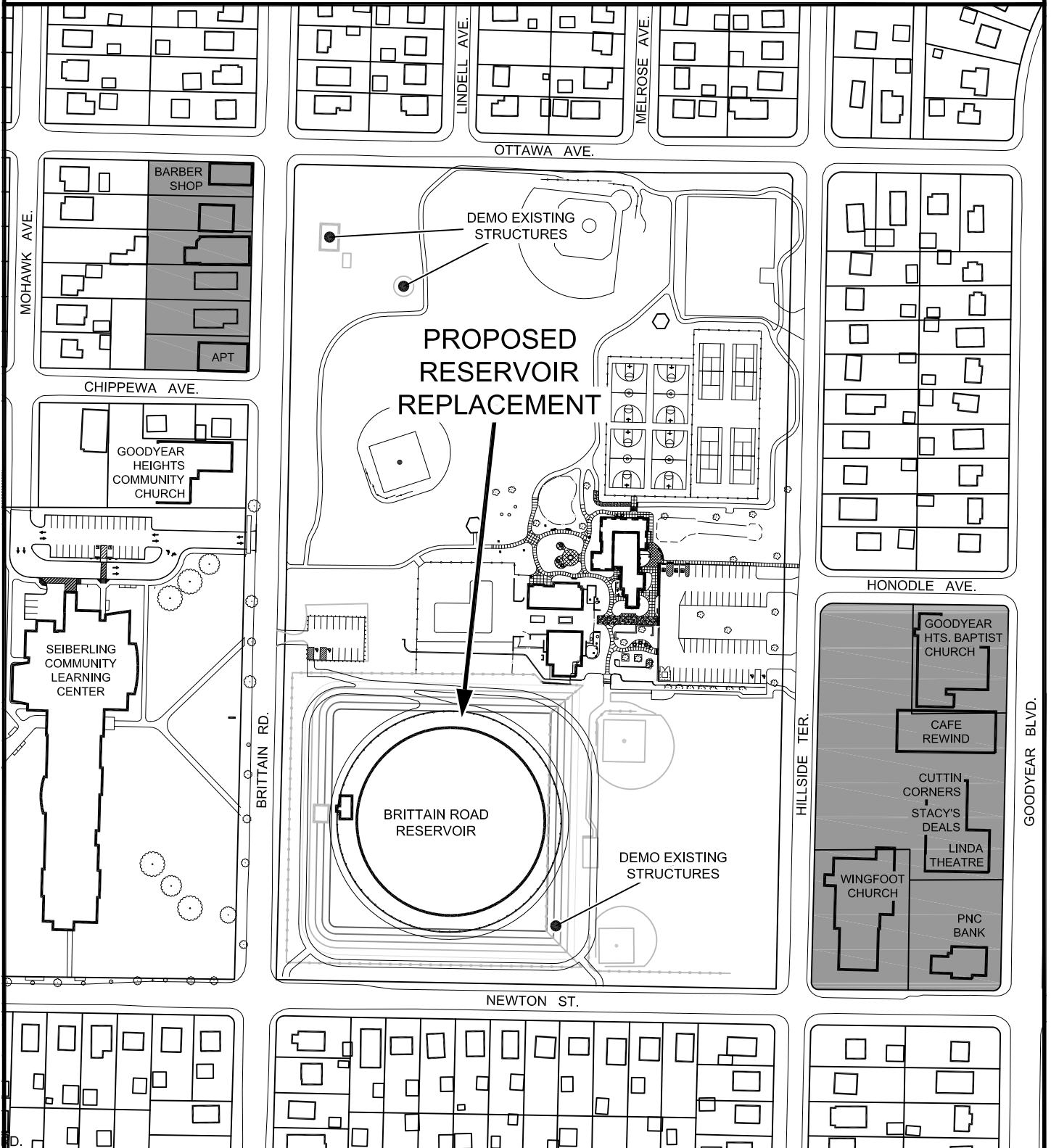
# UD-2024-03-REV

Architectural review of Brittain Road Reservoir replacement

- U1 Single Family Residential
- U3 Retail Business



0 200'  
Created 07/03/2024 jwh  
Revised 07/03/2024 jwh



## MEMORANDUM

**TO: AKRON URBAN DESIGN AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**      **ITEM #2A  
UD-2024-03-REV**

**FROM: DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE: JULY 16, 2024**

**SUBJECT: UD-2024-03-REV – Architectural Review of the Brittain Road Reservoir Replacement**

### **COMMENTS:**

The Brittain Road Reservoir is located within Reservoir Park, at the northwest corner of Newton Street and Brittain Road in the Goodyear Heights neighborhood. The City of Akron Water Supply Bureau is proposing to demolish the existing earth-covered water reservoir and replace it with a new concrete water storage tank.

The Brittain Road Reservoir was constructed in 1913, as part of an effort to bring clean, reliable water service to the city. Prior to 1913, Akron got much of its drinking water from private wells and from Summit Lake and Mannings Pond. But the wells were not able to keep up with the water demands of the growing city, and the lakes were becoming increasingly polluted. In response, the city built the Lake Rockwell reservoir in Portage County and pumped this water to the concrete storage reservoir constructed at Reservoir Park, one of the highest points in the city. The existing Brittain Road reservoir lies under a 320-foot by 320-foot mound covered by topsoil and grass that rises 24 feet above grade. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 20 million gallons of water. A pump station building and water tower on the north end of Reservoir Park were completed in 1920. These two structures are no longer in use and have been decommissioned. The reservoir mound and the water tower have been prominent features of the neighborhood since their construction.

According to the Akron Water Supply Bureau, after over 100 years in service, the reservoir has reached the end of its useful life. It suffers from structural deficiencies and operational inefficiencies. Due to deterioration of the reservoir's concrete ceiling, rainwater and organics are infiltrating into the reservoir, diminishing water quality. The proposed project will include demolishing the existing reservoir, as well as demolition of the adjacent pump station and water tower.

The reservoir will be replaced with a circular, precast, prestressed concrete storage tank, 270 feet in diameter, with a domed roof. The tank will be located on a 19-foot-high earth mound, which is approximately 5 feet lower than the existing reservoir mound. The new water tank will have precast concrete walls that project approximately 20 feet above the top of the new mound. A precast concrete dome roof

will rise an additional 27 feet above the perimeter walls. The new tank will have a water storage capacity of 12.4 million gallons.

The tank will incorporate a brick façade to complement the appearance of the Seiberling Community Learning Center, which sits directly across Brittain Road from the tank location. Final design of the brick façade will occur once the specific tank manufacturer has been selected in early 2025. A one-story, 715 square foot operations building will stand on the west side of the tank facing Brittain Road. The operations building will be clad in face brick and have a standing seam metal roof. A black, 8-foot-high steel security fence will be installed at the perimeter of the new water tank. A 10-foot-wide multi-purpose trail will also encircle the reservoir. The water tank embankment will be planted with grass.

The design of all buildings and sitework located on City property is required to be reviewed by the Urban Design and Historic Preservation Commission. The project is using Federal funding, so it is subject to National Historic Preservation Act review (also known as Section 106 review) to consider the proposed construction's effect on the historic Reservoir Park properties. The Ohio EPA, in consultation with the State of Ohio Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), has determined that Reservoir Park is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and that the Brittain Road Reservoir, pump station, and elevated water tower are contributing resources to the park. Per SHPO, the proposed demolition of these resources constitutes an adverse effect to historic properties. The structures at Reservoir Park are eligible for the National Register, but they are not currently listed on the Register, and they are not designated as City of Akron Local Landmarks. Therefore, a Certificate of Appropriateness is not required. The Urban Design and Historic Preservation Commission is being asked to review the design of the project and make recommendations to the City Administration.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Planning Staff and the Office of Integrated Development defer to the expertise and input of the members of the Urban Design and Historic Preservation Commission on this matter.

DD/emd