



# Cincinnati Park Board

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**WHO: Cincinnati Park Board and Owls Nest Advisory Council**

**WHAT: Owls Nest Park Reconstruction Underway**

For residents along Evanston's Fairfax Avenue and East Walnut Hills' Annwood Lane, an amazing transformation has been taking place at Owls Nest Park. Thousands of cubic yards of fill have been brought into the north end of the park, raising the grade of this side of the park over ten feet. What was once a low lying, and often wet area, below the level of the street, has now been brought up to sidewalk level. It is the first step in an ambitious master plan for the entire park which will tie together the Fairfax Avenue and Madison Road sides of the park with new walkways, landscape and lighting. Other features include a new ballfield, a basketball shooting court, park furnishings such as benches, drinking fountains and bike racks, and a new entrance and parking area off of Pogue Avenue.

The City of Cincinnati Park Board recently awarded a \$676,000 contract to the J. K. Meurer Company to construct the new park improvements. Work is starting this month and slated for completion this summer. The stage was set for this work, however, with the fill that was brought into the site by the Maxim Crane Works Company. The Park Board contracted with Maxim Crane to bring in over 30,000 cubic yards of fill and grade it and compact it. This work would have ordinarily been part of the park construction contract. Maxim Crane donated a portion of the cost of this work, a value of over \$245,000. The timing was right because Maxim had contracted with nearby Xavier University to remove fill from a University site, and some of this fill is what was brought to the park.

The community group that has been working with the Park Board on Owls Nest Park is delighted with the project. Rae Vuic, a member of the Owls Nest Park Advisory Council, cited the progress on park construction and the donated fill as "a wonderful example of civic mindedness and of a public-private partnership". The Owls Nest group spearheaded the development of a new plan for the park and led private fundraising efforts for the park which to date have brought in over \$200,000. The Park Board has contributed over \$700,000 toward the project and MSD is contributing \$40,000 toward rain gardens which are being built as part of the project. Last year, two volunteer-built playgrounds were installed in the park, one supported by the Madieu Williams Foundation and the other by the Cincinnati Academy of Leadership for Lawyers.

**WHEN:** Now

**WHERE:** Owls Nest Park, 1984 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH 45208

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