



Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners
Board Meeting Agenda
March 19, 2026 9:00 AM
950 Eden Park Drive Cincinnati, OH 45202

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. Call to Order

A. Public Comments

II. Administrative Actions

A. Action Item: Approval of February 19, 2026, Meeting Minutes

III. Information / Updates / Action Items

A. Proposed Fee Increases: Krohn Conservatory Jenny Mobley, Deputy Director

B. Planning & Design Update Travis Miller, Division Manager, P&D

1. Action Item: Owl's Nest Design and Construction Administration Services

2. Action Item: Sawyer Point Walkway and Concrete Curb Repair

C. Action Item: FY27 Parks City Funds Operating Budget Jason Barron, Director

D. Monthly Finance / IT Division Highlights Herta Fairbanks, CFO

E. HR Update Derrick Gentry, HR Manager

F. Action Item: Amendment to Cincinnati Parks Foundation Jason Barron, Director
MOU: Reimbursement of Travel Expenses

G. Grants of Easement Jason Barron, Director

1. Action Item: Duke Energy Columbia Parkway Easement

2. Action Item: Duke Energy Magrish Preserve Easement

H. Action Item: Grants Application / Acceptance Jason Barron, Director

• Cincinnati Parks Foundation – Krohn Conservatory Butterfly Show

• ODNR – California Woods Stream Restoration

IV. Director's Comments

V. Open Commissioner Discussion & Comments

VI. Next Regular Meeting Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 9:00 AM

VII. Adjournment



Date: March 19, 2026
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Jason Barron, Director
Subject: Action Item Agenda

BOARD OF PARK

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Travis Miller
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This memo provides a summary of action items for the March 2026 Board of Park Commissioners Meeting.

Action Items

- **Approval of the February 19, 2026, Meeting Minutes**
- **Owl's Nest Design and Construction Administration Services**
Staff respectfully requests approval of an award of work to KZF Design in an amount up to \$393,780, to develop the 2024 Concept Design into Design Development, Construction Documents, Bidding & Permitting Documents, Public Bidding support, and Construction Administration Services.
- **Sawyer Point Walkway and Concrete Curb Repair**
Staff respectfully requests approval of an award of work to Adleta Construction in an amount up to \$119,940, with \$5,000 to be kept in reserve for contingencies.
- **FY27 Parks City Funds Operating Budget**
Staff respectfully requests the Board approve the proposed FY27 Parks City Funds Operating Budget.
- **First Amendment to the MOU between the City of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, and the Board of Park Commissioners**
Staff respectfully requests the Board approve the amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding as outlined.
- **Duke Energy Columbia Parkway Easement**
Staff respectfully requests the Board approve granting an easement to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for the installation and maintenance of underground utilities at Martin Drive and Columbia Parkway.
- **Duke Energy Magrish Preserve Easement**
Staff respectfully requests the Board approve the Grant of Easement to allow Duke access to utility equipment located at 2125 Elstun Road (Hamilton County Ohio Auditor's Parcel No. 0010-0005-0001).
- **Grants Application / Acceptance**
Staff respectfully request the Board approve the application and acceptance of grant funds made to the Parks Foundation in an amount up to \$24,620, and to ODNR in an amount of up to \$905,458.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
February 19, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners was held on this day at 950 Eden Park Drive. Commissioners present: President Molly North, Vice President Kick Lee, Commissioner Phyllis McCallum, and Commissioner John Neyer. Commissioner Susan Castellini was not present. President North called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

President North acknowledged that there were no in-person public comments, and no public comments were received via email.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Approval of the January 15 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner McCallum motioned to approve the January 15, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION / UPDATE

Parks FY26 Executive Performance Review

Parks Director Jason Barron shared Parks' FY26 Executive Performance Review presentation, which was created in collaboration with the Office of Performance and Data Analytics (OPDA) and shared with the City Manager's Office on February 6, 2026. The presentation covered department data snapshots, budget opportunities, and performance measures and achievements.

ACTION ITEMS

Mt. Airy Comfort Station and ADA Pathway

Division Manager of Planning & Design, Travis Miller, summarized planned work in Area 23 of Mt. Airy Forest to support the new Bike Skills Course, specifically renovations of the comfort station and historic overlook, and the creation of an ADA pathway with a drinking fountain, benches, and bike racks. Staff requested the Board approve the following:

- 1) Award of the comfort station renovation to MegenWorks in the amount of \$291,000, with \$15,000 to be kept in reserve for contingencies.
- 2) Award of the pathway project to Prus Construction in the amount of \$156,665, with \$10,000 to be kept in reserve for contingencies.

Commissioner McCallum motioned to approve the award of the projects as outlined. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

California Woods Hydrological Plan – Stream Crossing Design

Division Manager Miller updated the Board on work being done with Stantec to develop a plan of improvements to the stream system in California Woods. It has been determined a key cause of erosion problems is the spillway, which needs to be replaced with a new stream crossing. Staff recommended the contract with Stantec be amended via a change order to include the stream crossing design, and respectfully requested the Board approve an increase to the project budget in the amount of \$14,668. The Commissioners and Staff

discussed the overall project plan and budget. Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve the change order and budget increase. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION / UPDATES

Planning & Design Update

Division Manager Miller provided updates on capital projects including Parks' Sinton campus and biochar facility, Owl's Nest Park, Glenway Park planning and stakeholder engagement, and collaboration with DOTE on a paved trail at Bramble Park. The Commissioners and Staff discussed strategies to encourage competitive bidding on current and future projects.

Finance / IT Update

Division Manager of Finance & IT, Herta Fairbanks, shared updates on the operating budget submission process and timeline, as well as an overview of the Finance and IT teams' current initiatives, including IT's work with CPD to inventory and replace security cameras at the riverfront parks and Krohn Conservatory. The Commissioners and Staff discussed the monthly financial reports, and discrepancies between what is shown in the reports versus actuals. Staff agreed to work to add clarity to the reports to more accurately reflect Parks' financial position.

HR Update

Supervising HR Analyst, Derrick Gentry, shared an update on classifications, work to prepare for seasonal hiring, and Parks Academy, and announced that the spring All Staff celebration will be held on April 23. The Commissioners and Staff discussed performance evaluations and work to make sure they are completed in a timely manner.

ACTION ITEMS

Grants Application / Acceptance

Director Barron presented two grant opportunities to the Board:

- 1) A grant from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in an amount up to \$25,000 to be used to provide scholarships for 2026 summer camps for families with financial need, as well as bussing and programming for Nature Next Door.
- 2) A grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in an amount up to \$150,000, to be used for the removal of rails and ties and replacement of the existing asphalt, paver, concrete, and gravel along a section of the Ohio River Trail in Sawyer Point and Yeatman's Cove.

Staff respectfully requested the Board approve the application for and acceptance of funds from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and ODNR in a total amount up to \$175,000. Commissioner McCallum motioned to approve the application for and acceptance of the grants. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Acceptance of Q4 2025 In-kind Contributions

Staff respectfully requested the Board approve the acceptance of \$174,698.92 in in-kind contributions from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, provided in Q4 of 2025. Vice President Lee motioned to accept the in-kind contributions. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Barron presented the following updates:

- Parks staff did an incredible job clearing paths and walkways during recent snow
- The Riverfront team has been working hard to enhance hardscapes and get planting beds ready for spring at Smale.
- Josh Jump, Lead Arborist, was recognized as the 2025 Parks Employee of the Year.
- Parks attended the OPRA Annual Conference, and received a second place award for the Summer in Cincy Teen Skate Nights program (in collaboration with Skate Downtown Cincy).
- Volunteer opportunities and events in Parks throughout February and early March.
- Summer Camp registration opens on February 28.

OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

Commissioner Neyer and President North shared memories and their condolences on the loss of Steven L. Schuckman.

ADJOURNMENT

President North adjourned the meeting at 10:25am.

The next regular meeting date is Thursday, March 19, at 9:00am.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT _____ DIRECTOR _____



Molly North
President

Kick Lee
Vice President

Susan F. Castellini

Phyllis McCallum

John E. Neyer

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Date: March 19, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jenny Mobley, Deputy Director

Subject: Krohn Fee Increase

Background

The Krohn Conservatory is one of Cincinnati's cultural gems, hosting over 150,000 visitors each year to enjoy the flora and fauna displays and educational programs focused on conservation, health and wellness, and sustainability. Additionally, Krohn serves as an attractive venue for corporate events, weddings, and other social gatherings.

The Krohn staff focuses on different themes throughout the year to stay relevant and to pique the interest of many visitors. Their role is to provide excellent and equitable guest relations and experiences, which includes developing four different shows, educational programs associated with that show, and creating opportunities for family and friends to gather and create memories.

Findings and Strategy

It's important not to become complacent with past success, and to review operations, procedures and pricing on a regular basis to ensure the best guest experiences and opportunities to maximize revenue are achieved. Staff have recognized the need for a comprehensive review to occur every 3 years to ensure the items above are achieved. The last fee increase was approved in 2019, however with Covid the real implementation didn't take effect until 2021.

Based on market research, staff experience and pricing analysis, data staff is recommending adjustments to the Krohn Conservatory fee structure. Goals of the recommended adjustments to the fee structure are to:

- Provide competitive / market-rate pricing;
- Maintain the high-level standards of exceptional guest relations, experiences, and service;
- Generate sufficient revenue to cover the expenses of Krohn and help offset other Cincinnati Parks expenses; and
- Ensure resources are available to maintain the Krohn facility now and into the future.

Description

Below is a revenue comparison for the current and two proposed fee structures for general admission and membership fees. Option 1 is an across the board fee increase, maintaining a consistent admissions fee for all shows. Option 2 is a show specific admissions fee structure, with premium pricing for the signature Holiday and Butterfly Shows. In addition, we have proposed a new fee schedule for the Friends of Krohn membership program.

Krohn Conservatory Admission Proposals						
General Admission	Current		Option 1	Option 2		
	All Shows	Show Change	All Shows	Holiday & Butterfly	Spring & Fall	Show Change
Adult	\$ 10	\$ 7	\$ 12	\$ 15	\$ 10	\$ 7
Child	\$ 7	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 10	\$ 7	\$ 5
School Group	\$ 5	\$ 5	\$ 6	\$ 7	\$ 5	\$ 5
Friends of Krohn	Current	Proposed	Benefits			
Individual	\$ 40	\$ 55	1 adult			
Duo	n/a	\$ 80	2 adults			
Family	\$ 75	\$ 100	2 adults + children under 18			
Patron	\$ 100	\$ 200	2 adults + Children + 10% off at gift shop			
Founder	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	2 adults + Children + 10% off at gift shop + membership appreciation events			

Revenue Analysis

	Attendance	Current Price Structure		Option 1 - Unilateral Price Increase		Option 2 - Show Specific Price Increase	
Item Description	Estimated Attendees	Current Pricing	Revenue Estimate	Updated Pricing	Revenue Estimate	Updated Pricing	Revenue Estimate
Butterfly Show							
Adult	52,000	\$10	\$ 520,000	\$12	\$ 624,000	\$15	\$ 780,000
Child	11,000	\$7	\$ 77,000	\$8	\$ 88,000	\$10	\$ 110,000
	63,000		\$ 597,000		\$ 712,000		\$ 890,000
Fall Show							
Adult	9,000	\$10	\$ 90,000	\$12	\$ 108,000	\$10	\$ 90,000
Child	600	\$7	\$ 4,200	\$8	\$ 4,800	\$7	\$ 4,200
	9,600		\$ 94,200		\$ 112,800		\$ 94,200
Holiday Show							
Adult	41,000	\$10	\$ 410,000	\$12	\$ 492,000	\$15	\$ 615,000
Child	6,600	\$7	\$ 46,200	\$8	\$ 52,800	\$10	\$ 66,000
	47,600		\$ 456,200		\$ 544,800		\$ 681,000
Spring Show							
Adult	21,000	\$10	\$ 210,000	\$12	\$ 252,000	\$10	\$ 210,000
Child	2,200	\$7	\$ 15,400	\$8	\$ 17,600	\$7	\$ 15,400
	23,200		\$ 225,400		\$ 269,600		\$ 225,400
In Between Shows							
Adult	8,000	\$7	\$ 56,000	\$12	\$ 96,000	\$7	\$ 56,000
Child	800	\$5	\$ 4,000	\$8	\$ 6,400	\$5	\$ 4,000
	8,800		\$ 60,000		\$ 102,400		\$ 60,000
Friends of Krohn	Annual						
Individual	250	\$40	\$ 10,000	\$55	\$ 13,750	\$55	\$ 13,750
Family	900	\$75	\$ 67,500	\$100	\$ 90,000	\$100	\$ 90,000
Patron	200	\$100	\$ 20,000	\$200	\$ 40,000	\$200	\$ 40,000
Founder	10	\$1,000	\$ 10,000	\$1,000	\$ 10,000	\$1,000	\$ 10,000
	1,360		107,500		153,750		153,750
Total	153,560		\$ 1,540,300		\$ 1,895,350		\$ 2,104,350

Market Research

Item Description	Pricing	Description
Franklin Park Conservatory - Columbus Ohio		
Adult	\$25	\$24 + \$1.20 Culture Fee
Seniors	\$21	\$16.50 + \$0.83 Culture Fee
Child	\$17	\$20 + \$1.00 Culture Fee
School Groups	\$9	2 teachers per classroom free
Museum For All	\$4	SNAP, EBT, WIC and Medicaid Participants
Membership		
Individual	\$118.03 / \$167.72	Individual + 1 or 2 guests
Senior Individual	\$51 / \$97.83 / \$144.66	Senior individual, +1 or \$2 guests
Senior Duo	\$102 / \$148.83 / \$195.66	Senior Duo, + 1 or 2 guests
Duo	\$164.23 / \$211.06	Duo + 1 or 2 guests
Family	\$157.03	Two named adults + children/Grandchildren listed
Family Premium	\$217.03	Family Benefits plus free admission up to 2 guests
Phipps Conservatory - Pittsburg, Pennsylvania		
Adult	\$22.95	\$24 + \$1.20 Culture Fee
Seniors	\$20.95	\$16.50 + \$0.83 Culture Fee
Child	\$13.95	\$20 + \$1.00 Culture Fee
Students 19 +	\$22.95	Student ID required
School Groups	\$8.00	1 teachers for every 8 students free - \$17 for additional
Membership		
Individual	\$75	
Senior Individual	\$65	
Dual	\$99	
Family	\$115.00	Two named adults + 4 children
Grandparents	\$115.00	Two named adults + 4 children
Family/Household Plus	\$150	4 Adults + 4 children
Supporting	\$300	4 Adults + 4 children - six free one time passes
Sustaining	\$600	4 adults + 4 Children, 10 free one time passes
Benefactor	\$1,200	4 Adults + 4 children, 21 free one time passes
Cincinnati Museum Center		
3 Museums	\$19.50 - \$24.50	3 Museums - Dependent on day
Childrens Museum	\$12.50 - \$15.50	Childrens Museum Only - Dependent on day
Membership		
Individual	\$75	
Dual	\$120	2 Named Adults or 1 Adult + 1 child
Family	\$180.00	2 Named Adults + children
Family Premium	\$230	2 Named Adults + 1 guest and children

Recommendation

Staff respectfully presents the above admissions Krohn Conservatory fee structure proposal to the Board of Park Commissioners for feedback and consideration at the April Park Board meeting.



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Date: March 19, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Travis Miller, Division Manager, Planning & Design

RE: Planning & Design Monthly Update

Action Items

Owl's Nest Design and Construction Administration Services:

KZF has been identified to develop the 2024 Concept Design into Design Development, Construction Documents, Bidding & Permitting Documents, Public Bidding support, and Construction Administration Services.

Staff requests approval of \$393,780 to proceed with a contract for these services. KZF is poised to proceed and a Q4 of FY26 project kick off is anticipated.

The funding will come from our Cincy on Track FY26 capital budget appropriation for Owl's Nest Park.

Sawyer Point Walkway and Concrete Curb Repair

The central area of the exposed aggregate walkway in the Kroger Promenade Plaza has significant deterioration resulting in a trip hazard zone. Other needed maintenance in the vicinity of this area include a parking lot inlet and concrete curb along the parking lot. Adleta Construction provided an estimate totaling \$119,940 for all three projects.

Staff requests approval of \$119,940 with \$5,000 in reserve for contingency to perform this work. The Kroger Promenade pathway project will be funded from the \$199,348 Sawyer Point Improvement fund balance, which was provided by the Board of Visitors. The parking lot inlet and curb will be funded from Parks' Cincy on Track FY26 capital budget appropriation for infrastructure and rehabilitation.

2026 Quarter 1 Plan of Work Underway Projects

Mt. Airy Everybody's Treehouse Construction Change Order:

Renovation work on the Treehouse has continued through the winter. While replacing a support brace, Megen Construction identified a location of severe rot to a beam previously covered by the support. This location had not been previously known and addressing this particular beam was not anticipated or included in the scope. Staff will continue to expedite; however, reopening is now expected to occur in June.

The Construction Change Order to replace this beam will add approximately \$20,000 to the project. The Board previously approved \$25k for contingencies when the project was approved at the April 2025 Board Meeting. This increases the current contract amount of \$291,489 to \$311,489. The funding will come from

Parks' Cincy on Track FY26 capital budget appropriation for infrastructure and rehabilitation.

Smale Lot 23 Enhancements: Construction continues throughout the park. The majority of stone along Mehring Way has been installed, primary trellis structure has been installed, concrete formwork for the donor wall is underway, and multiple excavations for the remaining lawn components are underway. The project is on schedule and on budget for summer completion. A donor tour is scheduled for April 15, 2026.

Smale Cascades Repair: Staff has initiated discussions with architect of record to develop schematic design for permanent repairs of leakage issues. This work is targeted for late 2026.

Sawyer Point Playground: A kick-off meeting with MKSK for landscape architecture portion of this project is scheduled for the afternoon of the March Park Board meeting. They will begin to assist with the design of the playground with Midstates and Earthscape.

Biochar and Sinton Campus: Staff has provided comments to KZF on 90% plans for the Sinton Facility and the Biochar Building drawings. Construction drawings will be finalized at the end of March with revised estimates followed by an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for construction process with City Procurement in Q4 of FY26.

Glenway Park: von Ew Tetrault is scheduled to deliver the Concept Design for the ADA walkway this week. A stakeholder engagement event was held March 11 where critical input was gathered for the remaining design components including lighting, site furnishings, playground location. Staff will pursue a playground vendor Q4 of FY26.

California Woods Hydrological Plan: Staff is working with DNR as 60% design is being advanced with Stantec for stream improvements including crossing design and expanded floodplain grading.

Eden Park Steps: Human Nature has completed design for staff review. The design includes a Verdin Clock with a commitment to fund annual maintenance requirements. Construction is expected to begin in May.

Bramble Park Trail: Staff has partnered with DOTE staff to update construction estimate and prepare construction documents.

Priority Maintenance & Repair Projects

Lytle Park Concrete: Staff is working with Prus to replace these areas. Core samples are being evaluated to determine causes and to inform future concrete specifications.

Mt. Airy Arboretum Septic Repairs: Queen City Mechanicals is under contract, kickoff meeting held 2/26 and work will begin by 3/30.

Mt. Echo Vehicle Gates: Posts were set last week and gates will be installed once painting is complete.

Eden Park / WCPO Drainage: Televac have cleared mineral deposits. Additional scoping will occur following spring when hillside drains return to normal flow states. Work continues to clean inlets and jetting lines behind Playhouse and Mt. Adams Drive.



Owl's Nest

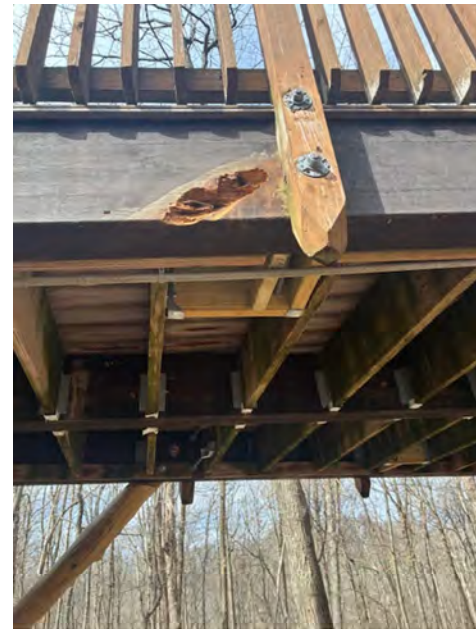
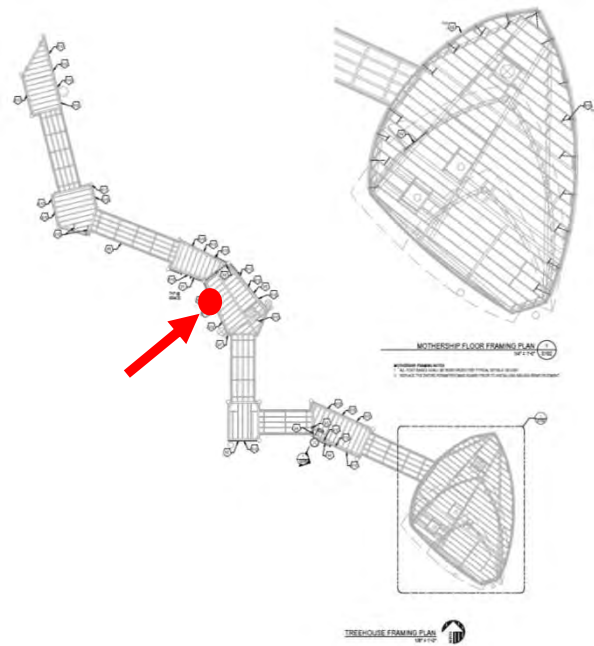


Sawyer Point Walkway Repair



Sawyer Point Walkway Repair

Everybody's Treehouse





Date: March 6, 2026

To: Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director

From: Jason Barron, Parks Director

Cc: Herta Fairbanks, Parks CFO
Chelsea Ahting, Division Manager, Budget and Evaluation

BOARD OF PARK

COMMISSIONERS

Subject: Cincinnati Parks FY27 Budget Submission

Introduction

Park Staff have been working with Budget and Evaluation on development of the FY27 Budget Update for the Cincinnati Parks. The following report includes:

- Summary of the FY27 Parks Budget Request
- Budget Exception Requests
- Budget Reduction Exercises

Summary of Parks City Funds Recommended Budget

The Approved FY26 Parks Budget was \$26,456,750. Parks Budget target for FY27 is \$28,688,390. The total increase from FY26 to FY27 is \$2,231,640. The increase is primarily due to labor contract increases, including cost-of-living adjustments and merit increases, and a 1% increase for non-personnel expenditures.

Parks FY27 Budget Submission is \$29,130,396. The difference of \$442,006 is accounted for in Parks non-appropriated funds. During FY26, Parks performed a realignment of the Parks Endowment Fund (430) and also performed an analysis of all revenue and fund balances in Parks non-appropriated funds to ensure that revenues are reflected in the proper funds and that related expenses are matched with revenues.

Parks is requesting exceptions to the target General Fund Budget in the amount of \$260,524 detailed below. The Parks total requested budget for FY27 is \$29,390,920.

Budget Exception Requests

Parks respectfully requests consideration of the following five budget exemptions totaling: \$260,254.

Improved Procurement Efficiency and Contract Compliance for Parks by adding an Administrative Specialist (Purchasing Expediter)

Impact to the General Fund 050 in FY27 – \$68,881.47

- o Parks currently has multiple employees who manage interaction with

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- o Procurement. This is inefficient because it leads to inconsistent application of procurement policies and communication confusion with the Office of Procurement. It results in rejected requests to the City Procurement Office, expired quotes, extensive back-end discussions, unnecessary contract expirations, and delays in implementing Cincy on Track projects.
- o By having a Purchasing Expediter embedded within the Parks Finance Team, we will have a single point of contact for all procurement-related issues. They will serve as the subject matter expert for the procurement for all of the diverse sections of Parks operations - from idea to implementation. They will track all existing contracts, including scope of service, price points, and expiration dates; review all requests to procurement to ensure applicability and completeness; ensure proper monitoring of purchases, contracts, change orders, and amendments; and ensure that Cincy on Track projects proceed as expeditiously as possible.
- o The total potential annual personnel cost, including benefits, for this additional position at the high end of the classification would be \$137,762.93. However, only a partial year is requested for FY27 to recognize the time needed for position creation and the hiring process. Therefore, the FY27 request is \$68,881.47 for 6 months personnel costs.

Improved Maintenance of Forests and Trails by adding a Natural Resource Specialist

Impact to General Fund 050 in FY27 - \$48,604.21

- o Cincinnati Parks manages over 4,000 acres of forested land and 60 miles of natural surface trail within the City of Cincinnati. Park Conservation and Land Management Section (CLM) is the only entity in the city responsible for the restoration of public forests and the maintenance of the natural surface trail system. This small team is currently comprised of one Crew Leader, 3 Natural Resource Specialists, and a few part-time staff, and therefore can only address a fraction of the work needed within these public forests. As a result, CLM developed the Cincinnati Conservation Stewardship (CCS) program to train volunteers to assist in invasive species removal. The program has been a huge success that is quickly gaining momentum as more volunteers are requesting these services for the public forests in their communities. Without additional support Parks will continue to fall further behind both in addressing invasive species and keeping our natural surface trails in good condition.
- o Adding a Natural Resource Specialist would allow us to expand our conservation work by 33%. By splitting our forests into 4 regions we would be better able to restore more acres of forest, remove more invasive species, reforest more areas of forest to prevent previously removed invasive species from resprouting, engage more trained volunteers, and hold more volunteer invasive removal events.
- o The total potential annual personnel cost, including benefits, for this additional position at the high end of the classification would be \$97,208.42. However, only a partial year is requested for FY27 to recognize the time needed for position creation and the hiring process. Therefore, the FY27 request is \$48,604.21 for 6 months personnel costs.

Liberty Street Greenspace Maintenance

Impact to General Fund 050 in FY27 - \$20,000

- o Several years ago, Liberty Street was renovated to narrow the street and add several horticultural planting beds along the sidewalks and in the median. These areas are in the Right-of-Way, and therefore under the management of the Department of Transportation and Engineering. Originally, 3CDC agreed to maintain the horticultural planting beds using resources from the OTR Special Improvement District (SID). 3CDC then contracted with Cincinnati Parks Greenspace Section to maintain the beds. Last year, 3CDC cancelled the contract with Parks, citing insufficient funds in the SID. With the contract

cancelled, Parks stopped maintaining the beds. The beds became overgrown and an eyesore, and the community complained. One-time resources were identified to maintain the beds for the remainder of FY26.

- o Parks proposes taking over responsibility for maintaining the horticulture in the Liberty Street horticultural planting beds on a permanent basis in order to ensure that they are properly maintained and serve as a beautiful amenity for the community. However, Parks Greenspace section is already stretched thin with existing responsibilities and limited resources. In order to take over the Liberty Street horticultural planting beds on a permanent basis, Parks requests an on-going budget exemption from the General Fund in the amount of \$20,000, split between \$13,400 in personnel costs and \$6,600 in horticultural supplies.

Summer in Cincy: Additional Teen Programming in Parks

Impact to General Fund 050 in FY27 - \$63,000

- o Last year, Cincinnati Parks worked with Skate Downtown Cincinnati to develop and execute a Friday teen skate night series at the Sawyer Point roller rink. There were also family skating events on Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer season. The programming was heavily subsidized by the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and other generous private donors, with Cincinnati Parks supporting, with seasonal staff and stretching Parks existing events budget. Those private resources are not likely to be available at the same level this year.
- o In response to the City Manager's challenge to further expand summer programming targeted for teens, Cincinnati Parks has developed a plan to expand our Summer in Cincy programming which will require an additional \$63,000 in General Fund dollars.
- o The plan would expand Summer in Cincy programming in Parks by:
 - 2 new Teen focused events in targeted neighborhood parks from 4 pm to 8 pm during daylight hours.
 - 23 additional DJs for skating event. This would ensure that all skating events have a live DJ. In addition, the DJs are local musicians, retaining those funds in the community.
 - One time purchase of new games and inventory, including cornhole sets, inflatable games, popcorn machine and hotdog roller, foosball, ping pong, etc. These games would help diversify the offerings at Summer in Cincy programming making them more attractive to teens, including teens who may not want to skate.
 - 50 additional sets of skates. This would allow Parks to support more skaters and allow Parks to loan sets of skates to CRC to support their programming.
 - 5 movie nights. This will add to the diversity of offerings at these events to attract a wider audience. Parks has the equipment but needs to pay for the movie rights.
 - Additional personnel expenses for seasonal staff to support and staff these events outside of Parks typical schedule. Last year, Parks supported these events with seasonal staff. However, in both FY25 and FY26, Parks was over-budget in seasonal staff, which was balanced by position vacancies. This year, with the additional position vacancy allowance that will be needed to balance the budget, Parks will not be able to support the additional seasonal staff without additional General Fund resources.

Parks Work Order System

Impact to General Fund 050 in FY27 - \$59,768

- o Cincinnati Parks has been working with the Office of Performance and Data Analytics and Enterprise Technology Solutions to get a work order system for the Parks Department.

After an extensive review, Parks has identified the work order system that is best able to track and manage Parks workflow and assets. The software is \$59,768 annually.

- o The City Manager's Office has implemented performance management and performance-based budgeting throughout City Government. The Parks Department has embraced performance management. However, Parks lack of a work order system severely impacts our ability to truly measure our work, and therefore our ability to use data to improve our efficiency and ultimately our service delivery to citizens and communities.
- o Parks requests a strategic, on-going, General Fund investment of \$59,768 for Parks to secure a work order system that will be a true game changer for how Parks manages operations across all sections, collects and analyzes data, and drives results for citizens and communities.

Budget Reduction Exercises

Due to a projected deficit in the FY27 City Budget, Parks has been asked to identify a potential 5.1% reduction to Parks Budget from the General Fund and potential 15% reductions to both the Parks Budget from the Streets, Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund and Parks Budget from the Income-Tax Infrastructure Fund.

Fund	Budget Target	Reduction	Reduction Amt
General Fund	\$ 13,529,718	5%	\$ 639,112
Income Tax-Infrastructure	\$ 457,973	15%	\$ 68,696
Street Construction, Maintenance and Repair	\$ 2,100,039	15%	\$ 315,006

General Fund Proposed Reduction Exercise: \$639,112

Parks FY26 Approved General Fund Budget was \$12,139,550. Parks FY27 General Fund Budget target is \$13,582,718. A potential 5% reduction to that budget is \$639,112. Parks recommends a combination of revenue enhancements and position vacancy allowance in order to meet the requested reduction target.

Nature Education Programming Fee Increases	\$ 100,000
Krohn Conservatory Admission Increase	\$ 150,000
Riverfront Parks Event and Rental Fee Increase	\$ 57,500
Parking Increased	\$ 50,000
Position Vacancy Allowance	\$ 281,612
Potential 5% Reduction Scenario	\$ 639,112

Nature Education Programming Fee Increases: \$100,000

Parks has not increased summer camp and nature education programming fees since 2019. A review of summer camp fees in the region revealed that Parks summer camp fees were 25% or more under market. The Park Board approved a fee increase that took effect in Q3 of FY26 and should provide some positive fund balance through the end of FY26 as well as enhanced revenue in FY27. In addition, Parks has need-based scholarships available to ensure that this increase does not have a negative impact on accessibility.

Krohn Conservatory Admission Increase: \$150,000

Krohn Conservatory has not increased admission fees since 2019. Parks proposes increasing the admission fee from \$10 to \$12, which is projected to produce an additional \$150,000 in revenue in FY27.

Riverfront Parks Event and Rental Fee Increase: \$57,500

The City's Riverfront Parks are the home of some of the City's biggest events. Parks event and rental fee schedule has not been updated since 2019. The Park Board approved an updated event rental fee schedule that took effect in Q3 of FY26 and should provide some positive fund balance through the end of FY26 as well as enhanced revenue in FY27.

Increase Parking Revenue: \$50,000

Parks receives significant revenue from the Parking Lots at Sawyer Point and the Public Landing that provide operating funding to help lessen Parks Budget needs from the General Fund. Parking revenue has been strong since the installation of a new ticketing and payment system in 2024. Parks will develop an updated parking rate schedule for the Sawyer Point and Public Landing parking lots that will generate at least \$50,000 in increased revenue in FY27.

Position Vacancy Allowance: \$281,612

Parks currently has several positions that are vacant. In FY26, Parks has kept several positions vacant during the realignment of several bureaus among Parks non-appropriated funds in order to ensure that adequate resources were available to cover all personnel expenses. Parks ability to deliver high quality service has been stretched during this period. Through the rest of FY26, Parks will need to begin filling some key vacancies.

If a 5% reduction is necessary in Parks General Fund Budget, Parks will commit to maintaining \$281,612 in Position Vacancy Allowance in the General Fund through a combination of maintaining current vacancies as well as vacancies that occur naturally throughout FY27.

Service Impact:

As noted above, keeping positions vacant has a noticeable impact on our ability maintain our beautiful greenspaces and facilities within the park system. Current vacancies are mostly on our Facilities Maintenance team, truck drivers, and on our Planning and Design team. The vacant Facilities positions will impact our ability to respond to emerging issues at critical park infrastructure like drinking fountains, restrooms, picnic shelters, and spraygrounds, among others. The vacant truck driver positions will impact our trash collection. And, of course, the vacancies on our Planning and Design Team will impact our ability to implement key Cincy on Track capital projects.

Streets, Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund: \$68,696 Reduction

In FY27, the Income Tax-Infrastructure Fund target budget is \$457,973. A potential 15% reduction to that budget would amount to \$68,696.

Parks Budget from the Streets, Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund supports Parks Greenspace Team, which is responsible for, among other things, maintaining public greenspaces owned by the State of Ohio along highways and other state roads. There are 15 different State of Ohio public greenspaces maintained by Parks, covering 25 acres. Most of those 15 public green spaces are at key, highly visible gateways to the city.

Service Impact:

Any reduction to Parks Budget from the Streets, Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund will severely impact our ability to maintain these state properties at current service levels, meaning less mowing, tending to landscaping and litter pick-up. These key gateways will become more overgrown and trash will collect, which contributes to a negative perception of the City by residents and visitors alike.

The Parks Greenspace Team is one of our smallest teams, relying heavily on seasonal staff to ensure we can maintain current service levels. If a 15% reduction is needed (\$68,696), Parks recommends achieving it through Position Vacancy Allowance. This fund includes funding for Grounds Maintenance and Horticultural Supplies; however, those funds are necessary for purchasing the mulch and plant material that will still be needed for these state public greenspaces, even if they are being serviced much less often.

Income Tax-Infrastructure Fund: \$315,006 Reduction

In FY27, the Income Tax-Infrastructure Fund target budget is \$2,100,039. A potential 15% reduction to that budget equals \$315,006. Parks Budget for the Income Tax-Infrastructure Fund is almost exclusively personnel costs, with only \$1,051 dedicated to supplies. In addition, there is only one vacant position in the fund, a Laborer: \$80,703. In addition, there is a Laborer at Krohn who is funded by the Income Tax-Infrastructure Fund, who could potentially be reimbursed from the Krohn Conservatory Fund (332).

In order to reach the potential 15% reduction scenario, Park proposes:

- Not spending the \$1,051 Supplies Budget in FY27.
- Keeping the Laborer position vacant in FY27.
- Reimbursing the filled Laborer's personnel costs out of the Krohn Conservatory Fund. This will put added pressure on the Krohn Fund. Parks is proposing increasing admission to Krohn to generate additional revenue and help balance the General Fund Budget.
- Not filling any positions that become vacant during FY27.

Supplies	\$ 1,051
Laborer	\$ 80,703
Laborer (Krohn) Reimbursement	\$ 93,369
Position Vacancy Allowance	\$ 139,883
Potential 15% Reduction Scenario	\$ 315,006

Service Impact:

The Income Tax-Infrastructure Fund Budget funds key Parks team members who care for our critical infrastructure and consistently maintain it to a level that keeps Cincinnati a top 10 Parks City in the country. These Parks team members perform critical maintenance functions, beautification work, and plantings allowing each of our parks, amenities, and services to be kept to the standards everyone has come to expect. A staffing loss this large will have deep and significant negative service impacts that citizens will notice. The staffing cuts will reduce the overall beauty of our parks as a result of decreased restroom maintenance, litter collection, mowing, general maintenance, garbage can emptying, and much more. This will further increase the burden on existing staff and increase the number of complaints and customer service requests, impacting Parks ability to achieve key metrics in our Performance Agreement. Additionally, these team members help staff events held in parks on evenings and weekends. These staff reductions jeopardize Parks ability to provide the necessary support needed for those events and, importantly, the revenue the events generate.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Board of Park Commissioners, Parks appreciates the opportunity to present the above budget recommendations. Parks recognizes the challenge of providing a balanced budget across the entire City Government and looks forward to continuing to engage in the

development of the FY27 Budget Update. Hopefully, strong revenue throughout the rest of FY26 and thoughtful budget discussions will allow us to achieve the shared goal of lessening any negative service impacts in the FY27 City Budget and maintaining first class public greenspaces that keep Cincinnati as a top 10 Parks City in the country.

Cincinnati Parks FY27 Budget Submission

Table 1: Cincinnati Parks FY27 Budget Summary.

Cincinnati Parks FY2027 Budget Summary	
Description	FY2027 Base Request
PERSONNEL SERVICES	14,688,050
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	5,076,745
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	2,165,715
FIXED CHARGES	1,355,916
FRINGE BENEFITS	5,760,095
PROPERTIES	70,000
Total FY2027 Expenses	\$ 29,116,522
Description	FY2027 Base Request
LAND AND BUILDINGS	5,500
INTEREST FROM TREASURY INVESTMENTS	262,000
CONTRIBUTIONS - SPECIFIC PURPOSE	421,130
RETAIL SALES & CONCESSIONS	268,000
EVENT RENTALS & FEES	1,093,250
PROGRAM FEES	406,924
PERMITS	39,150
RENTS	374,277
PARKING	956,785
ADMISSION FEES	1,800,000
CAM & MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FEES	761,588
CERTIFIED ASSESSMENT COLLECTIONS	3,535,000
COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES	25,000
Total Parks Generated Revenue	9,948,604
Fund 050 - General Fund	13,528,718
Fund 107 - Stormwater Management	1,954,337
Fund 301 - Street Construction & Repair	457,973
Fund 302 - Income Tax Infrastructure	2,100,039
Total City Provided Funding	18,041,067
Total Utilization of Parks Fund Balance	1,126,852
Total FY2027 Funding Sources	\$ 29,116,522

Table 2: Cincinnati Parks FY27 Budget - Explanations.

Cincinnati Parks FY2027 Budget Summary		
Description	FY2027 Base Request	Detailed Description
PERSONNEL SERVICES	14,688,050	Payroll: Regular Hours, Overtime, Deferred Comp, Reimbursements
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	5,076,745	Utilities, Training, Grounds Maintenance, Automotive & Equipment Repair, Expert Services (Legal, Musicians, Tree Trimming)
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	2,165,715	Gas, Tools, Horticulture Supplies, Cleaning Supplies, etc.
FIXED CHARGES	1,355,916	Machinery & Equipment Rental, Car Rental, Subscriptions & Memberships, Tax (Forestry Assessment for City Property, Property Taxes), Credit Card Fees
FRINGE BENEFITS	5,760,095	City Pension, Healthcare, Medicare, Dental/Vision
PROPERTIES	70,000	Vehicle Purchases, Equipment Purchases, Other Capital Spend (Mostly 980 / 712 items - occasionally a small piece of operational equipment)
Total FY2027 Expenses	\$ 29,116,522	
Description	FY2027 Base Request	Detailed Description
LAND AND BUILDINGS	5,500	Rent Collected by City and Sent to Parks
INTEREST FROM TREASURY INVESTMENTS	262,000	Interest on Fund Balance
CONTRIBUTIONS - SPECIFIC PURPOSE	421,130	Annual Parks Foundation Fund Distributions, BOV Annual Distributions, GCF Distributions
RETAIL SALES & CONCESSIONS	268,000	Krohn Gift Shop Sales + Event Beverage Sales Directly to the Public
EVENT RENTALS & FEES	1,093,250	Event Rental Fees (Waterfront events, PPE & Anderson Pavilion Payments, Picnic Shelter Rentals)
PROGRAM FEES	406,924	Explore Nature
PERMITS	39,150	Tree Permits, Deer Hunting Permits, Docking Permits, etc.
RENTS	374,277	Rents Collected by Parks (Moerlein, Montgomery Inn, Playhouse in the Park, cell towers, etc)
PARKING	956,785	Sawyer Point, Public Landing, Burnet Woods
ADMISSION FEES	1,800,000	Krohn
CAM & MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FEES	761,588	The Banks CAM charges, Greenspace Maintenance Contracts (3CDC, UC, Transdev, etc)
CERTIFIED ASSESSMENT COLLECTIONS	3,535,000	Urban Forestry
COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES	25,000	Urban Forestry
Total Parks Generated Revenue	9,948,604	
Fund 050 - General Fund	13,528,718	City Provided Funding
Fund 107 - Stormwater Management	1,954,337	City Provided Funding
Fund 301 - Street Construction & Repair	457,973	City Provided Funding
Fund 302 - Income Tax Infrastructure	2,100,039	City Provided Funding
Total City Provided Funding	18,041,067	
Total Utilization of Parks Fund Balance	1,126,852	Primarily Fund 428 - Urban Forestry, Fund 329 - Smale Riverfront Park, Fund 318 - Sawyer Point
Total FY2027 Funding Sources	\$ 29,116,522	Total Park Generated Funds + City Provided Funding + Utilization of Parks Fund Balance

Table 3: Cincinnati Park FY27 Budget by Fund.

Cincinnati Parks FY2027 Expenses by Fund		
Fund Number	Fund Description	FY2027 Base Request
50	GENERAL FUND	13,528,718
107	STORMWATER MANAGEMENT	1,954,337
301	STREET CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR	457,973
302	INCOME TAX - INFRASTRUCTURE	2,100,039
318	SAWYER POINT	1,281,124
326	PARK DONATIONS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITY	1,645,864
327	W. M. AMPT FREE CONCERTS	17,554
328	GROESBECK ENDOWMENTS	20,645
329	CINCINNATI RIVERFRONT PARK	1,589,152
330	PARK LODGE/PAVILION DEPOSITS	399,745
332	KROHN CONSERVATORY	2,058,967
428	URBAN FORESTRY	533,690
792	FORESTRY	3,528,713
Total FY2027 Expenses		\$ 29,116,522

Table 4: Cincinnati Park FY27 Budget by Bureau (Service Group).

Cincinnati Parks FY2027 Expenses by Operating Bureau	
Operating Bureau	FY2027 Base Request
Office of the Director	766,445
Operations Support	3,576,357
Waterfront & Downtown Districts	4,760,499
East District	3,035,550
Krohn Conservatory	2,066,683
West District	3,016,407
Facility Maintenance	2,363,404
Conservation & Land Management	937,066
Greenspace	926,540
Urban Forestry	3,874,285
Planning & Design	505,533
Finance & IT	1,111,191
Explore Nature	1,054,450
Communications, Engagement, & Volunteers	1,122,112
Total FY2027 Expenses	\$ 29,116,522

Table 5: Fund Balance Impact

Cincinnati Parks FY2027 Base Budget Park Funds Net Impact		
Parks Fund	Description	FY2027 Base Request
318 - Sawyer Point	Revenues	1,103,500
	Expenses	1,281,125
Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)		(177,625)
326 - Park Donations and Special Activity	Revenues	1,697,960
	Expenses	1,645,864
Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)		52,096
327 - W.M. Ampt Free Concerts	Expenses	17,554
Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)		(17,554)
328 - Groesbeck Endowments	Expenses	20,645
Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)		(20,645)
329 - Cincinnati Riverfront Park	Revenues	1,001,144
	Expenses	1,589,152
Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)		(588,008)
330 - Park Lodge/Pavilion Deposits	Revenues	518,000
	Expenses	399,745
Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)		118,255
332 - Krohn Conservatory	Revenues	2,048,000
	Expenses	2,058,967
Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)		(10,967)
428 - Urban Forestry	Revenues	45,000
	Expenses	533,690
Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)		(488,690)
792 - Forestry	Revenues	3,535,000
	Expenses	3,528,713
Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)		6,287
Total Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)		\$ (1,126,852)

Table 6: Cincinnati Park FY27 Budget Exceptions Requests.

Cincinnati Parks FY2027 Fund 050 Exceptions		
Fund	Description	Amount
Procurement/Contract Compliance Administrative Specialist		
050	Payroll + Benefits	68,825
Improved Maintenance of Forests and Trails		
050	Payroll + Benefits	48,554
Liberty Street Greenspace Maintenance		
050	Payroll + Benefits	13,362
050	Horticulture Supplies	6,638
	Total Expense	20,000
Summer In Cincy: Additional Teen Programming in Parks		
050	Payroll + Benefits	22,957
050	Advertising	1,000
050	DJs, Musicians, Movie Licensing, Etc.	15,500
050	New Skates, Additional Games, Etc.	23,543
	Total Expense	63,000
Parks Work Order System		
050	Software & Licenses	59,768
Total Additional City Funding Requested		260,147
Cincinnati Parks FY2027 Fund 326 Exceptions		
Fund	Description	Amount
Contractual Flushing of Fort Washington Way Flower Bed Irrigation Lines		
326	Contractual Service	12,000
French Park Invasive Species Cincinnati Parks Foundation Grant		
326	Contractual Service	94,400
Downtown Landscaping Cincinnati Parks Foundation Grant		
326	Payroll + Benefits	20,043
Total Fund 326 Non-Recurring Expense Request		126,443
TOTAL PARKS EXCEPTIONS		\$ 386,590

Exception Requests to the City Administration to add funding to Parks Budget from the General Fund.

One-time additions to Parks Budget with one-time funding sources to offset the expenses.

Budget Reduction Exercises

Table 7: Budget Reduction Exercises Summary

Cincinnati Parks FY2027 Reduction Scenarios					
FUND	Budget Target	5.1% 050 Reduction	15% 301+302 Reduction	050 + 301 + 302 Reductions	Total Reduction
50 - General Fund	13,528,718	12,889,606	13,528,718	12,889,606	(639,112)
301 - Street Maintenance	457,973	457,973	389,277	389,277	(68,696)
302 - Infrastructure	2,100,039	2,100,039	1,785,033	1,785,033	(315,006)
Total Expense Budget	28,688,390	27,969,349	28,304,688	27,665,576	(1,022,814)

Table 8: General Fund Proposed Reduction Exercise: \$639,112 Reduction

Nature Education Programming Fee Increases	\$ 100,000
Krohn Conservatory Admission Increase	\$ 150,000
Riverfront Parks Event and Rental Fee Increase	\$ 57,500
Parking Revenue Increase	\$ 50,000
Position Vacancy Allowance	\$ 281,612
Potential 5% Reduction Scenario	\$ 639,112

Table 9: Street Construction, Maintenance, and Repair: \$68,696 Reduction

Parks proposes using Position Vacancy Allowance to cover the \$68,696 budget reduction exercise.

Table 10: Income Tax-Infrastructure Fund: \$315,006 Reduction

Supplies	\$ 1,051
Laborer	\$ 80,703
Laborer (Krohn) Reimbursement	\$ 93,369
Position Vacancy Allowance	\$ 139,883
Potential 15% Reduction Scenario	\$ 315,006



Date: March 19, 2026
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Herta Fairbanks, Division Manager / CFO
Subject: Finance / IT Division Highlights

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Herta Fairbanks
Division Manager

Rocky Merz
Division Manager

Travis Miller
Division Manager

950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Phone (513) 352-4080
Fax (513) 352-4096
www.cincinnatiiparks.com

February Financial Reports

Parks is tracking with revenues and expenditures anticipated through February of the fiscal year. Spending is on target as a whole while some individual categories shown on the "Expenses by Type" report have minor fluctuations.

- Overall Expenditures are at 63% of Budget through 67% or 8 months of year.
- Payroll and Benefits are the biggest drivers of the budget at 65.8% of Parks Operating Budget. Payroll and Benefits currently are right on target at 67% through 8 months of the year.
- The other two largest budget categories Expert Services and Materials & Supplies are both tracking under at 42% and 52% respectively.
- The most significant fluctuations are seen in Communication & Travel due to the recent OPRA conference in Sandusky, and Equipment charges that are billed by City Fleet. Equipment charges are less predictable and fluctuate based upon real world conditions.

Additional Finance Team Accomplishments:

- Completed a total review of Parks' table of organization and identified positions requiring realignment;
- Completed an analysis of budget adjustments needed to ensure regular payroll & benefits, overtime, and part-time labor are properly budgeted for in FY27
- Quick Stats:
 - \$783k in new encumbrances processed
 - \$788k in payments processed
 - \$335k cash receipts processed
 - 31 ServiceNow tickets closed

Additional IT Team Accomplishments:

- Completed a permanent correction to the Projector Screen in Room B at Anderson Pavilion that has been managed with temporary work-arounds for the last 4 years
- Corrected a lighting issue at Anderson Pavilion resolving the sync issues by fixing the DMX
- Deployed BirdWeather at Bettman Nature Center as a test for broader use throughout Parks. The device continuously monitors sounds to identify the presence of various bird species
- Completed integration of cameras at Krohn Conservatory with the City's Genetec system at CPD.



Date: March 19, 2026
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Derrick Gentry, Supervising Human Resources Analyst
RE: HR Status Update

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Vice President

Susan F. Castellini

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John E. Neyer

Full Time Overview



Full -Time: 172
Part - Time:84



Requisitions: 3



Job Postings: 5

Parks currently has 172 full-time employees, 84 part-time employees, and 9 vacant positions, and we are moving swiftly to prepare for another season of work to keep Cincinnati Parks beautiful.

Open Requisitions

- Engineering Technician Supervisor – *Planning and Design*
- Administrative Specialist - *Human Resources (Reclassification)*
- Supervisor of Parks/Recreation Maintenance and Construction - *Facilities*

Job Postings

There are five part-time job postings available the week of March 16, 2026:

- Parks/Recreation Specialist – Camp Counselor/Programming
- Parks/Recreation Specialist – Customer Service (Office/Front Desk/Cashier)
- Parks/Recreation Specialist – Events and Audio
- Parks/Recreation Specialist – Horticulture Technician/Natural Resources
- Municipal Worker

Jason Barron
Director

Jenny Mobley
Deputy Director

Crystal Courtney
Division Manager

Herta Fairbanks
Division Manager

Rocky Merz
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Travis Miller
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FULL-TIME VACANT POSITIONS		
Position Title	Total	Notes
Administrative Technician	1	On Hold
Arborist 2	3	On Hold
Supervisor of Parks/Recreation Maintenance and Construction	1	Requisitioned
Service Area Coordinator	1	On-Hold
Supervising Engineer (Engineering Technician Supervisor)	1	Requisitioned
HVAC Specialist	1	On Hold
Laborer	1	On Hold
Facility Maintenance Specialist	2	On Hold
Truck Driver	2	On Hold
Total vacancies	13	

HR Initiatives

Seasonal Hiring Recruitment & Marketing Efforts:

Parks HR, in collaboration with the Communications team, is continuing our efforts to enhance our multi-channel marketing campaign to support seasonal hiring for the 2026 season. The campaign is designed to increase visibility, expand outreach, and strengthen applicant flow for seasonal positions. Key strategies include:

- “Parks Is Hiring” billboard placement,
- distribution of branded recruitment flyers across high-traffic locations,
- a targeted radio advertising campaign,
- and enhanced social media engagement through Instagram and Facebook.

Collectively, these efforts are intended to broaden awareness of seasonal employment opportunities, attract a diverse pool of candidates, and support timely staffing for seasonal operations.

Spring All Staff

We're excited to kick off the 2026 season with a Spring All-Staff gathering that will bring our team together to launch another successful year in Cincinnati Parks and warmly welcome our new employees. This event on Thursday, April 23, will set the tone for the season ahead celebrating the important work our staff do every day, reinforcing shared expectations around service and safety, and building connections across divisions and park locations. It's a great opportunity to recognize our returning team members, introduce new faces, and start the season with strong energy, clear alignment, and a collective commitment to serving our communities well.

**First Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding
BETWEEN THE CITY OF CINCINNATI, THE CINCINNATI PARKS FOUNDATION
AND THE CINCINNATI BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

This First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding is made by and between the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners (“Park Board”), the Cincinnati Parks Foundation (“Foundation”), and the City of Cincinnati (“City”) (jointly, the “Parties”).

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2018 the Parties entered into a memorandum of understanding through which they formally memorialized their working relationship;

WHEREAS, the Foundation desires to donate certain services and travel expenses to the Park Board and City;

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to amend the Agreement to allow for donation of services and to add the framework under which travel expenses may be advanced or reimbursed;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, the parties agree to amend the Agreement in the following respects (additions in underline), and in these respects only. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement, as previously amended, shall remain in full force and effect.

1. Section II.B.1. is amended as follows:

1. The Foundation may, in coordination with the Park Board, directly purchase certain items or services, including, but not limited to, durable goods, for donation to Cincinnati Parks.

2. The following section D. is added to section **V. Relationship Between the Foundation and the City of Cincinnati**:

D. Reimbursement of Travel Expenses.

1. The Foundation may advance or reimburse certain travel expenses for a City employee (“Traveler”) subject to the limitations of this Agreement. Items eligible for reimbursement are the same as those outlined in the City of Cincinnati Non-Local Travel Policy, attached hereto.

2. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 102-3-08(E), the travel must be related to the Traveler’s official duties and be ordinary, customary, and necessary, and must not exceed the lesser of the amount of travel expenses that the City allows to be reimbursed for travel to the destination, or the per diem rate set by the United States general services administration for travel to the destination that is in effect at the time of the travel.

3. Prior to the travel, the Traveler will submit a written request for permission to travel to the Foundation, describing the purpose of the travel, the location, the dates, the mode of transportation, and the estimated expenses. If the request is approved, the Foundation will provide written notice of the approval to Traveler. The Foundation may choose to pay for travel expenses in advance (such as purchasing airfare or lodging directly) or reimburse the Traveler upon provision of receipts/invoices. If any in-kind advanced payment is provided, Traveler will be required to provide all receipts/invoices and will return any amount provided by Foundation in excess of the actual travel expenses.
4. Travel expenses donated by the Foundation will be included on the Foundation's quarterly donation reporting described in this Agreement.

[Signature page follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Amendment on the dates reflected below.

CITY OF CINCINNATI

By: _____
Sheryl M. M. Long
City Manager

Date: _____, 2026

RECOMMENDED BY:

Jason Barron, Director of Parks

THE CINCINNATI PARKS FOUNDATION

By: _____
Lisa Diedrichs
Board Chair

Date: _____, 2026

Jennifer Hafner Spieser, President and CEO

**CINCINNATI BOARD OF PARK
COMMISSIONERS**

By: _____
Molly North
President

Date: _____, 2026

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Assistant City Solicitor



Date: March 19, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Martin Drive and Columbia Parkway Duke Easement

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Division Manager

Rocky Merz
Division Manager

Travis Miller
Division Manager

Background

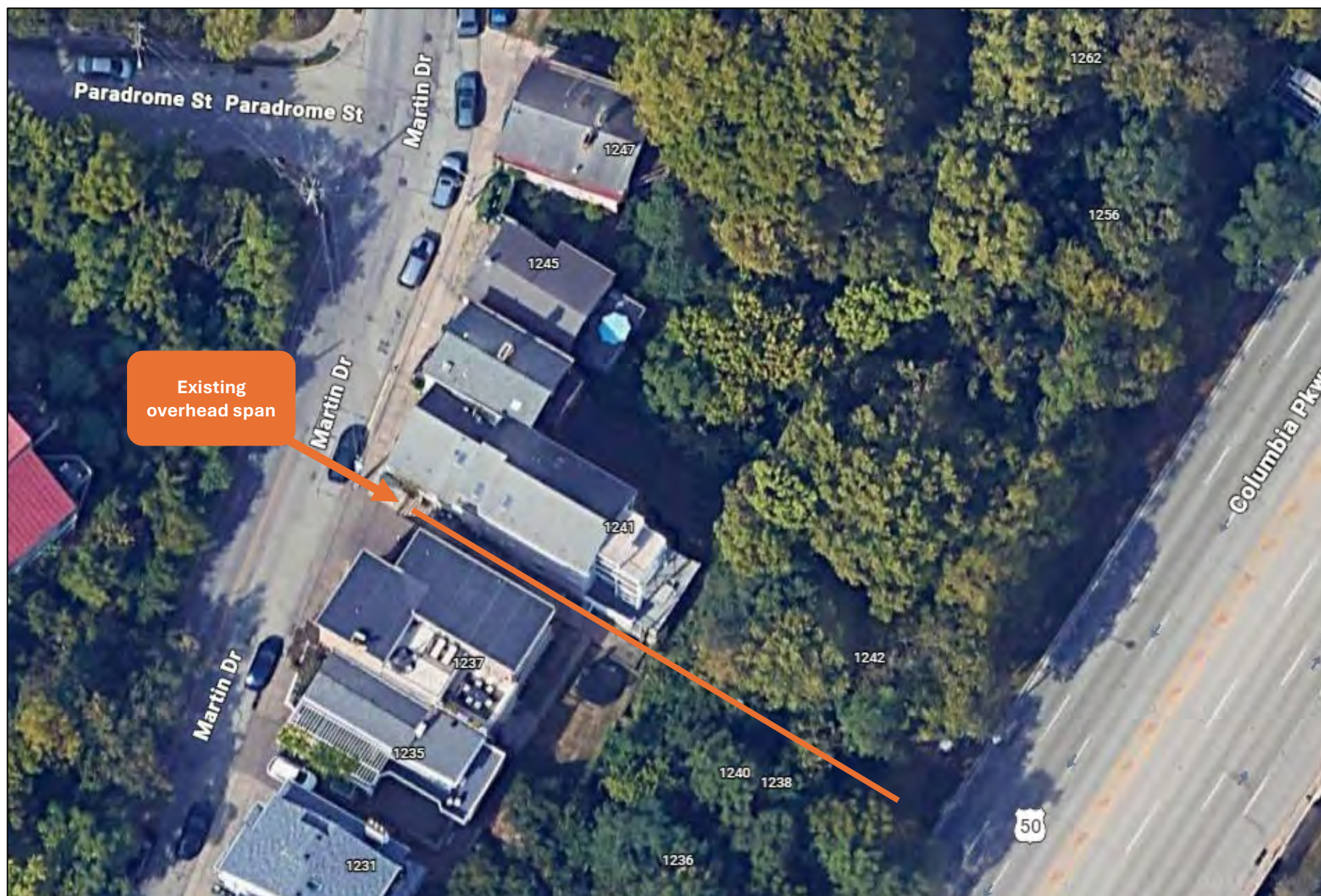
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke) maintains an overhead electric span that runs perpendicular to Martin Drive and Columbia Parkway in the corridor between private properties at 1241 and 1237 Martin Drive. Duke has an immediate need to eliminate this overhead span, as the existing pole lines are difficult to maintain and can pose a safety hazard. Duke is proposing to remove the existing overhead span and replace it with underground electric facilities, the majority of which will be installed on Parks property.

Description

Duke has requested to install underground electric facilities to serve City of Cincinnati streetlights currently fed from the existing overhead utility span. Duke will require an easement from Parks to convey the necessary right-of-way for the underground facilities to be installed on Parks property in connection with the project (Hamilton County Ohio Auditor's Parcel Nos. 072-0002-0206; 072-0002-0207; 072-0002-0208; 072-0002-0210; 072-0002-0213). The Board has been asked to approve the issue of an easement to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., to allow installation of the underground utilities and for future maintenance as required. It has been determined that the work will cause negligible damage to the existing tree canopy.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully requests the Board approve granting an easement to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for the installation and maintenance of underground utilities as described above.



Existing
overhead span





Molly North
President

Kick Lee
Vice President

Susan F. Castellini

Phyllis McCallum

John E. Neyer

Jason Barron
Director

Jenny Mobley
Deputy Director

Crystal Courtney
Division Manager

Herta Fairbanks
Division Manager

Rocky Merz
Division Manager

Travis Miller
Division Manager

950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Phone (513) 352-4080
Fax (513) 352-4096
www.cincinnatiiparks.com

Date: March 19, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Duke Energy Gas Pipeline EEOO Phase 2 – Additional Easement

Background

Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke) began work in 2023 to replace an underground gas pipeline running from Coney Island to the Beechmont Levy, affecting multiple right of way and park locations. The original Right of Entry (ROE) granting access to Parks owned parcels for the construction project was approved by the Board in the September 2023 Board of Park Commissioners meeting. Parks' Division of Natural Resources completed a tree appraisal for the project, and Parks was compensated by Duke for lost trees.

Description

The original ROE permitted Duke access to the property for installation and construction of the pipeline. Duke has requested a permanent easement for one parcel (Hamilton County Ohio Auditor's Parcel No. 0010-0005-0001) to provide for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the pipeline.

Parks' Division of Natural Resources does not object, but requests that the conditions pertaining to tree protection and compensation outlined in the original ROE, Sections 3(A) through 3(E), remain in effect.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully requests the Board approve the Grant of Easement to allow Duke access to utility equipment located at 2125 Elstun Road (Hamilton County Ohio Auditor's Parcel No. 0010-0005-0001).

DATE: January 5, 2026

TO: All City Departments

FROM: Trisa Wilkens Hoane, Real Estate Manager
Reneé Bunch, Senior Real Estate Specialist

COPIES: File

SUBJECT: **CR #2-2026 – Duke Energy Gas Pipeline EEOO Phase 2 Additional Easement
(related to CR #65-2024)**

This coordinated report is being circulated for an additional easement needed for Duke Energy Gas Pipeline EEOO Phase 2 on City property. Original easements requested in CR #65-2024.

It is requested that a response be made **on or before February 5, 2026**. If this is not possible, please respond with anticipated response date and cause for delay.

Please investigate and forward your comments to City of Cincinnati's CoordinatedReports email.

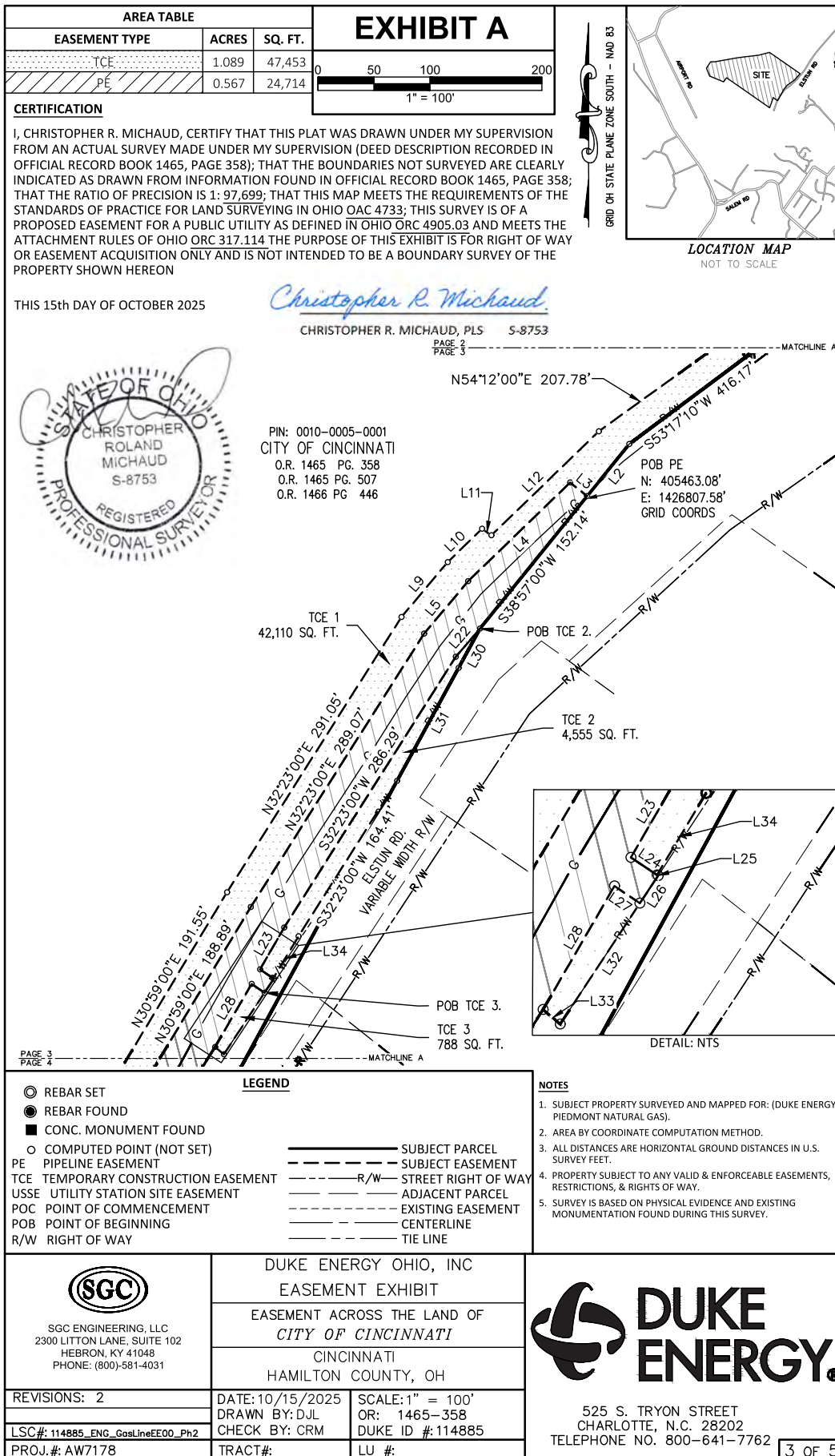
TWH/rb

Guide to Coordinated Report Responses by Departments/Agencies: responses fall under one of the three categories below. A department/agency may object and later change the response after working with the petitioner to clear the objection or objection(s). To help you determine which response best suits your needs, we've provided the explanations below. We hope the following will benefit you and your agency during periods of transition.

No Objection: The department/agency thoroughly reviewed the request and determined the request poses no issue/condition/conflict with department/agency's operations or programming. The request can move forward without any further action required by the petitioner.

Conditions: The department/agency thoroughly reviewed the request for any impact to its operations and/or programming and determined it approves the request based on conditions that can be resolved either prior to or reserved in the final legal instrument. The request may move forward without immediate further action required by the petitioner.

Objection: The department/agency thoroughly reviewed the request for any impact to its operations and/or programming and determined it cannot approve the request because of negative impact to the department/agency's operations or programming. An objection halts the request. For the request to move forward, the petitioner must work with the objecting department/agency to determine if the issue can be resolved.



AREA TABLE			EXHIBIT A
EASEMENT TYPE	ACRES	SQ. FT.	
TCE	1.089	47,453	
PE	0.567	24,714	

CERTIFICATION

I, CHRISTOPHER R. MICHAUD, CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT WAS DRAWN UNDER MY SUPERVISION FROM AN ACTUAL SURVEY MADE UNDER MY SUPERVISION (DEED DESCRIPTION RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORD BOOK 1465, PAGE 358); THAT THE BOUNDARIES NOT SURVEYED ARE CLEARLY INDICATED AS DRAWN FROM INFORMATION FOUND IN OFFICIAL RECORD BOOK 1465, PAGE 358; THAT THE RATIO OF PRECISION IS 1: 97,699; THAT THIS MAP MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR LAND SURVEYING IN OHIO OAC 4733; THIS SURVEY IS OF A PROPOSED EASEMENT FOR A PUBLIC UTILITY AS DEFINED IN OHIO ORC 4905.03 AND MEETS THE ATTACHMENT RULES OF OHIO ORC 317.114 THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXHIBIT IS FOR RIGHT OF WAY OR EASEMENT ACQUISITION ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE A BOUNDARY SURVEY OF THE PROPERTY SHOWN HEREON

CHRISTOPHER R. MICHAUD, PLS S-8753

THIS 15th DAY OF OCTOBER 2025

LOCATION MAP
 NOT TO SCALE

Line #	Length	Direction
L1	23.90	S55° 07' 50"E
L2	59.76	S38° 57' 08"W
L3	19.48	S51° 02' 52"E
L4	126.87	N45° 55' 26"E
L5	61.09	N40° 04' 28"E
L6	61.99	N20° 13' 29"E
L7	25.84	N55° 07' 50"W
L8	57.81	N20° 13' 29"E
L9	64.05	N40° 04' 28"E
L10	42.82	N45° 55' 26"E
L11	10.19	S55° 07' 50"E
L12	133.52	N45° 55' 26"E
L13	41.07	N57° 19' 54"E
L14	33.37	N38° 46' 26"E
L15	120.41	N51° 37' 20"E
L16	178.49	N41° 31' 42"E
L17	55.58	N53° 56' 46"E
L18	49.78	N46° 17' 17"E
L19	41.05	N18° 14' 37"E
L20	74.34	N45° 30' 38"E

Line #	Length	Direction
L21	8.53	S55° 04' 04"E
L22	33.22	S40° 44' 38"W
L23	43.05	S30° 02' 38"W
L24	14.31	S56° 01' 45"E
L25	0.59	S56° 01' 45"E
L26	15.00	S33° 28' 05"W
L27	14.01	N56° 01' 45"W
L28	65.02	S30° 02' 38"W
L29	30.46	N55° 07' 50"W
L30	39.96	S28° 37' 09"W
L31	114.93	S28° 37' 09"W
L32	65.99	S33° 28' 05"W
L33	10.20	N49° 42' 13"W
L34	43.61	S30° 59' 01"W

Curve #	Length	Radius	Delta	Chord Direction	Chord Length
C1	128.55	830.00	8.87	S28° 46' 40"W	128.43

LEGEND

○ REBAR SET

● REBAR FOUND

■ CONC. MONUMENT FOUND

○ COMPUTED POINT (NOT SET)

PE PIPELINE EASEMENT

TCE TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT

USSE UTILITY STATION SITE EASEMENT

POC POINT OF COMMENCEMENT

POB POINT OF BEGINNING

R/W RIGHT OF WAY

— SUBJECT PARCEL

- - - SUBJECT EASEMENT

- - - R/W - - - STREET RIGHT OF WAY

— ADJACENT PARCEL

- - - EXISTING EASEMENT

— CENTERLINE

- - - TIE LINE

NOTES

1. SUBJECT PROPERTY SURVEYED AND MAPPED FOR: (DUKE ENERGY / PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS).
2. AREA BY COORDINATE COMPUTATION METHOD.
3. ALL DISTANCES ARE HORIZONTAL GROUND DISTANCES IN U.S. SURVEY FEET.
4. PROPERTY SUBJECT TO ANY VALID & ENFORCEABLE EASEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS, & RIGHTS OF WAY.
5. SURVEY IS BASED ON PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AND EXISTING MONUMENTATION FOUND DURING THIS SURVEY.

SGC ENGINEERING, LLC
 2300 LITTON LANE, SUITE 102
 HEBRON, KY 41048
 PHONE: (800)-581-4031

DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC

EASEMENT EXHIBIT

EASEMENT ACROSS THE LAND OF

CITY OF CINCINNATI

CINCINNATI

HAMILTON COUNTY, OH

525 S. TRYON STREET
 CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28202
 TELEPHONE NO. 800-641-7762

REVISIONS: 2
LSC #: 114885_ENG_GasLineE00_Ph2
PROJ. #: AW7178

DATE: 10/15/2025
DRAWN BY: DJL
CHECK BY: CRM
TRACT #: 000.00

SCALE: NTS
OR: 1465-358
DUKE ID #: 114885
LU #: 00000000

5 OF 5

RIGHT-OF-ENTRY

Pursuant to Section 331-9 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code, the **CITY OF CINCINNATI**, an Ohio municipal corporation, the address of which for purposes of Right-of-Entry is 801 Plum Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 (the "**City**"), hereby grants to **DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC.**, an Ohio corporation ("**Grantee**"), the mailing address of which is 139 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, the right to enter upon certain portions of City-owned property more particularly identified and depicted on Exhibit A (Site Plan) hereto (collectively referred to herein as the "**Property**") for the purpose described below and for no other purpose and upon the terms and conditions set forth herein.

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Right-of-Entry is to permit Grantee, its employees, agents, contractors, and subcontractors the right to enter upon the Property to do all things necessary, including the right to access and re-access the Property and to lay down and store equipment and materials, to establish, install, and construct an underground pipe line for the underground transportation of gas, including associated equipment, appurtenances, and fixtures necessary for the underground transportation of gas, as more particularly detailed by the plans entitled [x] "*Line D000A & EE00 HCA Replacement Project Replacement EE00 and V000B Piping - AW3011*" Rev. 1, dated July 20, 2023 and including all approved amendments, revisions, and associated specifications made thereto from time to time; and [y] "*Line D000A & EE00 HCA Replacement Project Inlet (C371A) and Outlet (C371) Piping - AW3011*" Rev. 1, dated July 20, 2023 and including all approved amendments, revisions, and associated specifications made thereto from time to time, which plan sets are hereby incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof (the "**Facilities**"). The City grants this Right-of-Entry in anticipation of duly granted *Grants of Easement* to Grantee for the Facilities. All costs associated with the Facilities shall be borne solely by Grantee.

2. Due Diligence. Grantee acknowledges and agrees that it has conducted its own due diligence to familiarize itself with the physical condition and characteristics of the Property. The City makes no representations or warranties concerning the title, condition, or characteristics of the Property or the suitability or fitness of the Property for any purpose. Grantee acknowledges and agrees that it is not relying upon any such representations or warranties from the City. Without limitation of the foregoing, under no circumstances shall the City be responsible or liable for any pre-existing environmental conditions affecting the Property.

3. Conditions for Use of Park Board Controlled and Managed Property. Grantee acknowledges that the Property is under the management or control of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners, namely, the following Hamilton County, Ohio Auditor's Parcel Nos.: 021-0001-0001; 021-0001-0002; 021-0001-0003; 021-0001-0004; 021-0001-0005; 021-0001-0006; 021-0005-0001; 021-0005-0002; 007-0004-0038; & 007-0004-0036. Additionally, the City leases certain portions of the Property to Great Parks of Hamilton County, namely Hamilton County, Ohio Auditor's Parcel Nos.: 021-0001-0001; 021-0001-0002; 021-0001-0003; 021-0001-0004; 021-0001-0005; 021-0001-0006; 021-0005-0001; & 021-0005-0002. Notwithstanding anything in this Right-of-Entry to the contrary, the following additional conditions apply to the use of the portions of the Property identified under this paragraph:

(A) Notice. Grantee shall provide written notice to the Park Board and Great Parks before entering upon the Property.

(B) Site Protection. Grantee and its contractors shall meet and confer with Great Parks and the Park Board's staff, as applicable, to identify trees, shrubs, or other forms of vegetation that must be removed in connection with all activities authorized under this Right-of-Entry and to discuss proposed methods for preventing damage to any existing and remaining trees that may be impacted by such activities. All tree protection guidelines shall follow section 01-35-13, *Special Procedures for Working in Park Property*, as more particularly detailed on Exhibit B (Special Procedures) attached hereto. Grantee shall not remove any trees outside of construction limits. The Park Board and Great Parks shall confirm the trees that may be removed following the determination of the access path to the Property. Grantee shall place protective

fencing around all trees and landscaping to be protected within construction limits during construction. No equipment shall be run or parked within 10 feet of any live tree inside or outside the construction limits unless live trees are protected with mats or 6 inches of mulch. The protection of trees should be no less than 10 feet from the tree trunk with mats or 6 inches of mulch. Prior to mobilization Grantee and its contractors shall meet and confer with Park Board and Great Parks staff, as applicable, to review tree protection zones, and the order of operations to ensure access to the Property remains open to the public and trees remain protected throughout the duration of construction. In instances where Park Board owned access roads, pavement, curbs, utilities, and other infrastructure are disturbed as a part of this project, Grantee shall repair these items to pre-disturbance or better condition to the satisfaction of the Park Board in keeping with the latest approved version of applicable State of Ohio DOT and City of Cincinnati supplementary roadway specifications. Seed mix used to restore damaged areas shall be approved by Park Board staff before application.

(C) Invasive Species Control. To prevent the spread of invasive species, all equipment should be cleaned of soil and vegetative debris prior to mobilization onto and among the Property. For clarity, all equipment used along the Beechmont Levy in Otto Armleder Park and Recreation Complex shall be cleaned before being used at the Magrish Preserve along Canoe Court to prevent new invasive species from being introduced or spread among the several parcels constituting the Property. Plans should be in place to remove any plant debris found on equipment and left on site.

(D) Material Storage. If specifically directed by Park Board staff prior to commencement of on-site work, Grantee shall direct its contractors to place all materials, equipment, and excavated soil in such locations on the Property as the Park Board staff, in consultation with Great Parks, as applicable, may direct. Grantee shall review any changes to laydown areas between approved plans and actual needs with the Park Board before implementation of the change.

(E) Compensation. As a material inducement for the Park Board to grant this Right-of-Entry, Grantee agrees to compensate the Park Board for trees designated to be removed and that will not be replaced. Such compensation shall not exceed \$598,368.41 as outlined by the tree appraisal conducted by Park Board staff, attached as Exhibit C (Preliminary Tree Appraisal) attached hereto. The Park Board acknowledges that Grantee has intention to protect as many trees as possible. Grantee shall notify the Park Board in writing when construction of the Facilities is substantially complete at the Property (a "**Notice of Substantial Completion**"). Promptly thereafter, the Park Board and Grantee shall jointly inspect the Property and assess the presence and condition of the remaining trees at the Property and adjust the total compensation owed to the Park Board (the "**Final Tree Appraisal**"). Grantee hereby agrees to pay the amount of compensation outlined in the Final Tree Appraisal for the removal of trees impacted by the work at the Property within sixty (60) days after receiving an invoice therefor from the City. Such payment shall be made by check payable to the "City of Cincinnati - Treasurer" and mailed to: City of Cincinnati, 950 Eden Park Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, Attention: Director.

4. Term. The term of this Right-of-Entry shall commence on the Effective Date as defined on the signature page hereto ("**Commencement Date**") and, unless extended as provided herein, shall automatically terminate upon the occurrence of either of the following: (i) the one-year anniversary of the Commencement Date, or (ii) the execution of *Grants of Easement* by the City in favor of Grantee in connection with the Facilities (the "**Expiration Date**").

5. Sole Risk. Entry shall be at the sole risk of Grantee, its employees, agents, and contractors. While on the Property, Grantee shall not interfere with the rights of the occupants of the Property or anyone else having the right to be on the Property. If Grantee's activities cause damage to existing utility lines or other utility facilities belonging to a utility provider, Grantee shall immediately notify the appropriate utility provider. All costs of repairing such damage, including without limitation, all costs of replacing any damaged utility lines and facilities that are not capable of being properly repaired as determined by the applicable utility provider in its sole discretion, shall be borne by Grantee and shall be payable by Grantee within sixty (60) days after Grantee receives documentation substantiating such costs.

6. Indemnity. Grantee shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City, its employees,

agents, contractors, licensees, and invitees from and against any and all claims, causes of action, losses, injuries, damages, liability, costs, and Workers' Compensation claims whatsoever resulting from the entry upon the Property or work by Grantee, its employees, agents, and subcontractors, or in connection with the Facilities. Without limitation of the foregoing, Grantee waives all claims against the City for damage or theft of Grantee's equipment or other property that may from time to time be at the Property.

7. Insurance. Throughout the term of this Right-of-Entry, Grantee shall at its own expense maintain Commercial General Liability insurance with respect to its activities on the Property, which policy shall name the City as an additional insured, with limits of at least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence, combined single limit/\$2,000,000 aggregate. On or prior to the first day on which Grantee has the right to enter upon the Property, Grantee shall deliver to the City a certificate of insurance, in a form reasonably satisfactory to the City, evidencing such insurance.

8. Conditions for use of Property. Grantee shall, at its own cost, minimize damage to the Property related to the activities under this Right-of-Entry. Grantee shall maintain accessibility to the Property at all times, unless agreed otherwise, and promptly repair any and all damage to the Property and improvements thereon resulting from Grantee's entry upon the Property and shall use reasonable efforts to protect all trees and vegetation. Upon the completion of the Facilities, Grantee shall cleanup and restore the Property to the satisfaction of the Park Board and schedule a close-out meeting with Park staff to review cleanup and restoration activities.

9. Permits. Grantee shall obtain all requisite permits not provided by the City of Cincinnati.

10. Compliance with Laws. Grantee shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations and with such reasonable rules and regulations governing Grantee's activities on the Property as the City may impose.

11. No Liens. Grantee shall immediately remove, at Grantee's sole expense, any purported liens or encumbrances filed against the City or the Property as a result of Grantee's entry upon the Property.

12. Assignment. Grantee shall not assign its rights or obligations under this Right-of-Entry to a third party.

13. Default and Termination. In the event of Grantee's violation of any of the terms of this Right-of-Entry, the City may terminate this Right-of-Entry immediately upon written notice to Grantee. All obligations of Grantee under this Right-of-Entry that have accrued but have not been fully performed as of the termination hereof, including without limitation indemnity obligations, shall survive such termination until fully performed. If Grantee fails to compensate the Park Board for the sum outlined by the Final Tree Appraisal, or perform any other obligation under this Right-of-Entry within thirty (30) days after receiving written notice thereof from the City (herein, a "default"), the City, without limitation of the City's other rights and remedies hereunder, upon the occurrence of a default, the City may, but shall not be obligated to, cure or attempt to cure such default at Grantee's sole expense. Grantee shall pay to the City, upon demand, all costs and damages suffered or incurred by the City in connection with Grantee's default. Grantee shall pay the City within 60 days of the City's written demand an amount equal to all costs paid or incurred by the City in effecting compliance with Grantee's obligations under this Right-of-Entry. The rights and remedies of the City under this Right-of-Entry are cumulative and are not intended to be exclusive of, and the City shall be entitled to, any and all other rights and remedies to which the City may be entitled hereunder, at law or in equity. The City's failure to insist in any one or more cases on strict performance of any provision of this Right-of-Entry or to exercise any right herein contained shall not constitute a waiver in the future of such right.

14. Exhibits. The following exhibits are attached hereto and made a part hereof:

Exhibit A – *Site Plan*

Exhibit B – *Special Procedures*

Executed by the parties on the dates indicated below their respective signatures, effective as of the later of such dates ("**Effective Date**").

CITY OF CINCINNATI

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____, 2023

Approved By:

Jason Barron, Director
Cincinnati Park Board

Approved as to Form:

Assistant City Solicitor

Certified Date: _____

Fund/Code: _____

Amount: _____

By: _____

Karen Alder, City Finance Director

Accepted and Agreed to by:

DUKE ENERGY OHIO, INC.,
an Ohio corporation

By: Ebonny Wiggins
Printed name: Ebonny Wiggins
Title: Manager Land Services
Date: September 19, 2023



BOARD OF PARK

COMMISSIONERS

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President

Kick Lee
Vice President

Susan F. Castellini

Phyllis McCallum

John E. Neyer

Jason Barron
Director

Jenny Mobley
Deputy Director

Crystal Courtney
Division Manager

Herta Fairbanks
Division Manager

Rocky Merz
Division Manager

Travis Miller
Division Manager

950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Phone (513) 352-4080
Fax (513) 352-4096
www.cincinnatiiparks.com

Date: March 19, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Grant Application/Acceptance – Cincinnati Parks Foundation and H2Ohio Grant

Background

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation receives contributions to fund a variety of programs and improvements. For the Park Board to utilize those funds, staff will apply for funds through a grant application process.

H2Ohio is Governor Mike DeWine's initiative to ensure safe and clean water in Ohio. This grant program is state funded through Ohio's H2Ohio Rivers program and is administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources ("ODNR"). This is a reimbursement grant program that provides up-to-100 percent project funding for projects focused on water quality improvement within Ohio.

Description

Staff request approval to apply for and accept the grant listed below from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation:

- **\$24,620 – Krohn Conservatory Butterfly Show**

Grant will be used for engineering, fabrication and installation of the giant butterfly that will be hung outside of Krohn.

Staff request approval to apply for and accept, upon award, the grant listed below from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources:

- **\$905,458 – California Woods Stream Restoration**

Grant will be used to improve the stream function and ecological benefit of California Woods Nature Preserve.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully request the Board approve the application and acceptance of grant funds made to the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in an amount up to \$24,620 and to ODNR in an amount of up to \$905,458.



Date: March 19, 2026
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Jason Barron, Director
Subject: California Woods Stream Restoration
H2Ohio Rivers Program Stream Restoration Grant

BOARD OF PARK

COMMISSIONERS

Molly North
President

Kick Lee
Vice President

Susan F. Castellini

Phyllis McCallum

John E. Neyer

Grantor

H2Ohio is Governor Mike DeWine's initiative to ensure safe and clean water in Ohio. This grant program is state funded through Ohio's H2Ohio Rivers program and is administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources ("ODNR").

Grant Requirements

This is a reimbursement grant program that provides up-to-100 percent project funding for projects focused on water quality improvement within Ohio. Through the program, ODNR will allocate \$8M statewide to dam removal and stream or river restoration projects that help impaired waters meet Ohio's water quality standards.

Notification

The application was submitted on March 13, 2026. Parks requested \$905,458. Submissions will be evaluated immediately upon receipt for projects to begin in FY 2027.

Timeline

Parks is contracting with Stantec on design of the California Woods Stream Restoration project. Design will be completed by fall of 2026 with construction planned for early 2027. Completion of project is anticipated in early 2028. Parks has \$1.5 million in capital funding allocated for this project.

Project Description

California Woods Nature Preserve is a 113-acre forested park situated on a dissected glacial outwash terrace within the Little Miami River Watershed of Cincinnati, Ohio. The preserve is nationally recognized for its unique ecologic and geologic make up, old growth forest, and extensive trail network. Cincinnati Park Staff have found that the streams throughout preserve exhibit severe erosion, channelization, and active destabilization. Cincinnati Parks is contracting with environmental consultant, Stantec, to develop a design for the restoration and enhancement of Lick Run Creek. Our project proposes stream restoration and enhancement to improve stream function and enhance aquatic habitat.



CINCINNATI PARK BOARD

Financial Presentation Month ending February 28, 2026

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Molly North
Kick Lee
John Neyer

Susan F Castellini
Phyllis McCallum

Jason Barron – *DIRECTOR* Jenny Mobley - *Deputy Director* Rocky Merz - *DIVISION MANAGER*
Crystal Courtney - *DIVISION MANAGER* Herta Fairbanks - *DIVISION MANAGER* Travis Miller - *DIVISION MANAGER*

Finance and IT Significant Accomplishments

February 2026

Finance Team

- Completed a total review of Parks' table of organization and identified positions requiring realignment;
- Completed an analysis of budget adjustments needed to ensure regular payroll & benefits, overtime, and part-time labor are properly budgeted for in FY27
- Prepared for FY27 budget entry
- Quick Stats:
 - \$783k in new encumbrances processed
 - \$788k in payments processed
 - \$335k cash receipts processed
 - 31 ServiceNow tickets closed

IT Team

- Completed a permanent correction to the Projector Screen in Room B at Anderson Pavilion that has been managed with temporary work-arounds for the last 4 years
- Corrected a lighting issue at Anderson Pavilion resolving the sync issues by fixing the DMX
- Deployed BirdWeather at Bettman Nature Center as a test for broader use throughout Parks. The device continuously monitors sounds to identify the presence of various bird species
- Completed integration of cameras at Krohn Conservatory with the City's Genetec system at CPD

In Development

- FY27 Budget Entry
- Exploring consolidation of some Parks' funds (326, 330, 332)
- FY26 Final Adjustment Ordinance response

Year to Date Expenses By Expense Type As of February 28, 2026

Category	YTD Expended*	Budget	Target Spend %**	Actual Spend %	Variance
Communication & Travel Service	\$ 171,019	190,366.00	65%	90%	25%
Credit Card Fees	\$ 69,030	77,130.00	72%	89%	18%
Employee Benefits	\$ 3,406,097	5,119,725.00	65%	67%	2%
Employee Salaries	\$ 9,236,915	13,885,805.00	61%	67%	5%
Equipment	\$ 73,196	54,070.00	64%	135%	71%
Expert Services	\$ 1,574,750	3,735,349.00	65%	42%	-23%
Insurance	\$ -	31,624.00	54%	0%	-54%
Materials & Supplies	\$ 1,384,058	2,639,815.00	53%	52%	-1%
Printing Services	\$ 80,366	203,194.00	50%	40%	-11%
Rent	\$ 129,318	406,667.00	65%	32%	-33%
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 342,540	608,288.00	53%	56%	3%
Sundry Fixed Charges	\$ 1,046,333	1,077,137.00	98%	97%	-1%
Utility Services	\$ 620,176	843,008.00	64%	74%	9%
Grand Total	\$ 18,133,797	\$28,872,178	63%	63%	

* "Sundry Fixed Charges" includes the City's portion of the annual Urban Forestry Assessment paid out of Fund 050.

"Equipment" reflects charges from Fleet for equipment maintenance. The budget amount is based on equipment as of the end of the prior FY. Additions during the current fiscal year affect the actual charges but the budget is not adjusted to reflect equipment additions.

"Utility Services" exceeds the target spend due to an across-the-board inflationary adjustment by the City of 2% on non-personnel expenses during FY26 budget development. Actual utility expenses for energy have exceeded the 2% adjustment.

**target increases monthly, target spend % by category to be updated in FY27 as part of Phase II of Cincinnati Parks Financial Update Plan; overall target spend % is a weighted calculation of target % to total budget.

Year to Date Expenses by Fund As of February 28, 2026

Fund Name^		Expenses	Budget*	Target % Spend**	Actual % Spend	% Variance
050	General Fund	\$ 9,402,930	\$ 12,139,550	76%	77%	1%
107	Cincinnati Stormwater Fund	\$ 1,939,745	\$ 1,954,190	100%	99%	-1%
301	Street Construction Maintenance	\$ 257,639	\$ 532,560	61%	48%	-13%
302	Income Tax-Infrastructure	\$ 1,354,997	\$ 1,653,130	65%	82%	17%
318	Sawyer Point Fund	\$ 417,498	\$ 1,516,597	35%	28%	-8%
326	Park Miscellaneous Revenue & Special Activity	\$ 819,274	\$ 1,900,174	58%	43%	-15%
327	W.M. Ampt Free Concerts Fund	\$ 10,308	\$ 17,380	67%	59%	-7%
328	Groesbeck Endowment Fund	\$ 7,970	\$ 20,440	67%	39%	-28%
329	Cincinnati Riverfront Park Fund	\$ 153,299	\$ 1,647,860	67%	9%	-57%
330	Park Lodge / Pavilion Deposits	\$ 10,937	\$ 284,120	23%	4%	-19%
332	Krohn Conservatory	\$ 1,284,948	\$ 2,510,620	58%	51%	-7%
428	Urban Forestry	\$ 40,964	\$ 335,080	61%	12%	-49%
430	Parks Private Endowment	\$ 614,936	\$ 1,131,037	57%	54%	-3%
792	Forestry Assessment	\$ 1,818,352	\$ 3,229,440	62%	56%	-6%
		\$ 18,133,797	\$ 28,872,178			

*unspent dollars returned to the City

**target increases monthly, target spend % to be updated in FY27 as part of Phase II of Cincinnati Parks Financial Update Plan

^Funds 107, 301, and 302 are heavily based on reimbursements to Fund 050. Reimbursements are calculated at each pay period beginning in January of each fiscal year, therefore Target Spend is a levelized estimate but actual spend may vary due to pay period reimbursement requirements.

Year to Date Revenue As of February 28, 2026

Fund Name	FY26 Revenue	FY26 Budget	Target % Revenue*	Actual % Revenue	% Variance
318 - Sawyer Point	\$978,045	\$648,500	68%	151%	83%
326 - Parks Donations and Special Activity	\$1,181,292	\$715,250	66%	165%	100%
329 - Smale Fund	\$985,982	\$1,431,000	58%	69%	11%
330 - Park Lodge/Pavilion Deposit	\$44,153	\$282,630	81%	16%	-65%
332 - Krohn Conservatory	\$1,217,272	\$1,805,000	51%	67%	16%
Grand Total	\$4,406,745	\$4,882,380	59%	90.3%	31.3%

**Target increases monthly, target % revenue to be updated in FY27 as part of Phase II of Cincinnati Parks Financial Update Plan; overall target % is a weighted calculation of target % to total budget. Several revenue items were reclassified in FY26 to reflect the actual source of the activity however the revenue budgets do not adjust until FY27.*

Revenue Type	FY26 Revenue
Admission Fees	\$1,187,439
Common Area Maintenance Fee	\$732,437
Concessions	\$26,999
Contributions-Specific Purpose	\$930,136
Int From Treasury Investments	\$179,640
Miscellaneous Revenue, Noc	\$131,717
Parking	\$636,457
Permits	\$7,400
Program Fees	\$37,577
Rents & Reservations	\$536,943
Grand Total	\$4,406,745

Park Board Fund Balances

As of February 28, 2026

Cincinnati Park Board *Fund Balances*

Fund	Name	Balance as of						
		Beg of FY 24	Beg of FY 25	Beg of FY 26	End of 1st Qtr	End of 2nd Qtr	1/31/26	2/28/26
318	Sawyer Point	\$1,230,729	\$1,235,689	\$1,493,885	\$1,532,227	\$1,937,994	\$1,948,236	\$1,807,417
326	Park Misc Revenue & Special Activity	\$1,172,721	\$1,077,492	\$497,768	\$561,397	\$1,121,746	\$773,053	\$335,547
327	WM Ampt Free Concerts	\$12,942	\$24,322	\$20,780	\$14,431	\$10,472	\$10,472	\$10,472
328	Groesbeck Endowment	\$149,396	\$173,596	\$175,140	\$175,140	\$172,170	\$167,170	\$167,170
329	Cincinnati Riverfront Park	\$3,578,882	\$3,037,841	\$2,889,213	\$2,998,575	\$3,266,367	\$3,425,781	\$3,595,298
330	Park Lodge/Pavilion Deposits	\$1,716,918	\$1,844,989	\$2,126,319	\$2,140,726	\$2,142,650	\$2,141,839	\$2,140,987
332	Krohn Conservatory	\$1,779,215	\$1,456,623	\$1,477,001	\$1,562,233	\$1,128,118	\$1,240,264	\$1,206,637
335	Schmidlapp Endowment	\$2,717	\$4,312	\$5,393	\$5,393	\$5,393	\$5,393	\$5,393
403	Yeatman's Cove Park Trust	\$724,010	\$611,709	\$629,451	\$634,631	\$642,593	\$642,593	\$642,593
428	Urban Forestry	\$583,324	\$533,628	\$699,244	\$681,240	\$1,547,337	\$1,547,337	\$1,549,895
430	Parks Private Endowment	\$924,214	\$860,715	\$503,162	\$327,502	\$1,394,555	\$1,358,867	\$1,086,267
706	Ampt Trust	\$138,440	\$126,987	\$130,446	\$133,229	\$136,610	\$140,331	\$140,331
707	Groesbeck Trust	\$56,147	\$38,688	\$36,964	\$38,536	\$39,475	\$55,135	\$55,135
708	Schmidlapp Music	\$51,112	\$50,703	\$51,115	\$51,544	\$52,196	\$52,199	\$52,199
752	Permanent Capital Improvement	\$1,031,248	\$928,991	\$1,135,395	\$1,168,869	\$1,238,053	\$1,238,512	\$1,180,042
792	Forestry Assessment	\$3,239,177	\$3,966,880	\$4,431,444	\$3,979,093	\$4,220,522	\$3,938,023	\$3,630,873
Total All Funds		\$16,391,192	\$15,973,165	\$16,302,721	\$16,004,767	\$19,056,253	\$18,685,206	\$17,606,256

Park Board Endowment Fund Summary

As of February 28, 2026

Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners

Endowment Fund Summary

Fund Name	Jun-22 Balance	Jun-23 Balance	Jun-24 Balance	Jun-25 Balance	1st Qtr Balance	2nd Qtr Balance	Jan-26 Balance	Feb-26 Balance
Trustee								
Bettman	\$2,227,929	\$2,470,657	\$2,794,919	\$3,074,940	\$3,116,799	\$3,178,129	\$3,241,393	\$3,259,485
Drabner	\$1,145,614	\$1,280,297	\$1,459,107	\$1,579,007	\$1,547,359	\$1,697,083	\$1,729,155	\$1,748,321
Fleischmann Endowment	\$745,006	\$807,308	\$875,328	\$907,388	\$890,616	\$971,916	\$990,283	\$1,001,262
Fleischmann Garden	\$2,701,141	\$3,017,938	\$3,156,963	\$3,417,351	\$3,348,948	\$3,755,405	\$3,826,612	\$3,869,074
Geier	\$1,708,506	\$1,908,824	\$2,175,241	\$2,353,904	\$2,306,812	\$2,530,449	\$2,578,249	\$2,606,855
Miles-Edwards	\$3,864,459	\$4,245,084	\$5,139,297	\$5,448,247	\$5,427,673	\$5,844,251	\$5,992,222	\$6,207,778
Levy	\$32,395	\$36,682	\$43,339	\$48,738	\$49,906	\$50,941	\$51,493	\$51,403
Sub-total	\$12,425,051	\$13,766,790	\$15,644,194	\$16,829,577	\$16,688,113	\$18,028,172	\$18,409,407	\$18,744,177
Beneficiary Only								
Hauck- Sooty Acres	\$486,533	\$502,506	\$542,363	\$566,509	\$590,219	\$598,776	\$610,569	\$616,397
Hauck - Fountain Sq	\$1,380,434	\$1,390,504	\$1,510,557	\$1,582,237	\$1,617,411	\$1,672,296	\$1,705,247	\$1,721,518
Meyer	\$4,299,811	\$4,476,736	\$4,845,413	\$5,073,835	\$5,288,236	\$5,366,828	\$5,473,092	\$5,526,086
Sub-total	\$6,166,778	\$6,369,747	\$6,898,333	\$7,222,580	\$7,495,866	\$7,637,901	\$7,788,908	\$7,864,000
Endowment Total	\$18,591,829	\$20,136,537	\$22,542,527	\$24,052,157	\$24,183,979	\$25,666,073	\$26,198,315	\$26,608,177
Fund 430 - Private Endowment Fun	\$287,536	\$924,214	\$860,715	\$479,910	\$309,327	\$1,394,555	\$1,358,867	\$1,086,267
PNC Money Market Acct	\$1,704,458	\$1,488,098	\$1,615,023	\$225,359	\$1,177,497	\$355,146	\$361,173	\$376,302
PNC Investment Acct (4573)	\$3,003,382	\$1,586,535	\$1,663,058	\$1,132,404	\$1,143,115	\$994,452	\$996,373	\$999,446
Total Commissioner Dollars	\$4,995,376	\$3,998,846	\$4,138,796	\$1,837,673	\$2,629,939	\$2,744,154	\$2,716,413	\$2,462,015
Grand Total	\$23,587,205	\$24,135,383	\$26,681,323	\$25,889,830	\$26,813,918	\$28,410,227	\$28,914,727	\$29,070,193

Appendix – Fund Descriptions

FUND 318 – SAWYER POINT

“To account for receipts and expenditures in the operation and maintenance of the Bicentennial Commons at Sawyer Point, including the support of capital improvements, and all monies received from fees and contributions” – 6/18/88

- Appropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o BOV revenue
 - o rentals and permits in Bicentennial Commons

FUND 326 – PARK MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE AND SPECIAL ACTIVITY

“ For the purpose of accounting for revenue from various park programs and events for operating expenses related to parks ” – 10/30/2018

- Unappropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o Program revenue
 - o Event revenue
 - o Rentals and permits
 - o Concession sales
 - o Donations

FUND 327 – W.M. AMPT FREE CONCERTS FUND

“ To account for money received as income from Investment of bequest and expenditures for the costs of concerts in various parks ” – 7/1/28

- Unappropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o Investment income from endowment

FUND 328 – GROESBECK ENDOWMENT FUND

“ To account for money received from the investment of bequest and expenditures for the cost of concerts in Burnet Woods ” – 7/1/28

- Unappropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o Investment income from endowment

Appendix – Fund Descriptions

FUND 329 – CINCINNATI RIVERFRONT PARK FUND

“To accept donations, program funds, event funds, lease revenues, and common area maintenance (CAM) income from public and private entities to be used for park operations, maintenance, programs, events, and capital replacement of the Cincinnati Riverfront Park” – 9/22/09

- Appropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o Donations
 - o Program funds
 - o Event funds
 - o Lease revenues
 - o CAM charges
 - o Interest income on the balance of the fund

FUND 330 – PARK LODGE/PAVILION DEPOSITS

“To account for deposits made for the use of the lodges and the expenditure for the maintenance of the lodges, replacements of damages to the lodges and refunds of overages contained in the amounts collected” - 1937

- Unappropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o Donations

FUND 332 – KROHN CONSERVATORY

“To deposit and expend monies collected by the Park Board Volunteers through the Friends of Krohn organization” – 9/14/88

- Unappropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o Krohn gate admissions
 - o Krohn gift shop revenue
 - o Friends of Krohn memberships

Appendix – Fund Descriptions

FUND 428 – URBAN FORESTRY

“ To receive funds from the sale of forest products, donations, permit fees, and compensatory payments and to make such expenditures to maintain the Urban Forest Management Program ” – 10/14/81

- Unappropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o Revenue from the sale of forest products
 - o Donations
 - o Permit fees
 - o Compensatory Damage Payments

FUND 430 – PARKS PRIVATE ENDOWMENT

“ To account for revenue from various private endowments to be used for park operations, maintenance, programs, events, and capital projects at only Parks facilities ” – 10/30/18

- Unappropriated Fund
- Unrestricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o Endowment distributions

FUND 752 – PARK BOARD PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND

“ To account for the revenue received from the rental or sale of any park property. Expenditures may be made for maintaining and operating the property, including the payment of taxes, pending the use of the property for park purposes, and purchasing, constructing, or acquiring permanent improvements for park purposes, but only when specifically authorized by ordinance .” – 12/31/52

- Unappropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o Revenue from rental or sale of any park property

FUND 792 – FORESTRY ASSESSMENT

“To account for the deposits and expenditures of the Urban Forestry Program” – 1985

- Unappropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o Assessment revenue

Appendix - Fund Descriptions

Additional Funds supporting Parks Activities:

050 – City of Cincinnati General Fund

- Appropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o City Tax Revenue

107 – Cincinnati Stormwater Fund

- Unappropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o City Stormwater Fees

301 – Street Construction Maintenance

- Appropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o Ohio Motorvehicle Tax Revenue

302 – Income Tax Infrastructure

- Appropriated Fund
- Restricted Fund
- Revenue that goes into this account:
 - o Income Tax Infrastructure revenue