



Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners
Board Meeting Agenda
July 16, 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 the June 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes

III. Information / Updates / Action Items

A. Cincinnati Legends Putt House at Freedom Park Jeffrey R. Anderson Real Estate

1. Action Item: Banks Lot 18 - Property Acquisition and Lease

B. Ault Park Advisory Council Update

Ault Park Advisory Council

1. Action Item: Discovery Trail Donation Acceptance

C. Sinton Campus Renovation and Biochar Facility

Jason Barron, Director

D. Planning & Design Update

Travis Miller, Division Manager, P&D

1. Action Item: Washington Park Irrigation

2. Action Item: Smale Cascade Repair and Recirculation

E. Monthly Finance / IT Division Highlights

Herta Fairbanks, CFO

F. HR Update

Derrick Gentry, HR Manager

G. Grants Application / Acceptance

Jason Barron, Director

1. Action Item: Grants from Parks Foundation, Ohio EPA, OPWC

H. Donations Acceptance

1. Action Item: Acceptance of Donations from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation

2. Action Item: Acceptance of In-Kind Contributions from Parks Foundation

I. Parks FY27 Performance Agreement

Jason Barron, Director

IV. Director's Comments

V. Open Commissioner Discussion & Comments

VI. Next Regular Meeting Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 9:00 AM

VII. Adjournment



Date: July 16, 2026
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Jason Barron, Director
Subject: Action Item Agenda

BOARD OF PARK

COMMISSIONERS

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

Action Items

- **Approval of the June 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes**
- **Banks Lot 18 – Property Acquisition and Lease**
Staff respectfully requests that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the City's acceptance of title to Lot 18 from Hamilton County to be used for Parks purposes, and requests that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the lease of Lot 18 at the Banks to Jeffrey R. Anderson Real Estate Inc. or its affiliate entity.
- **Ault Park Discovery Trail Donation Acceptance**
Staff requests the Board approve the acceptance of funds donated by the Ault Park Advisory Council to Cincinnati Parks in a total amount up to \$150,000 for the completion of the Ault Park Discovery Trail.
- **Washington Park Irrigation**
Staff requests approval to proceed with a contract with Forevergreen in the amount of \$182,718.75, with an additional 10% for contingency, for irrigation repairs and upgrades at Washington Park.
- **Smale Cascade Repair and Recirculation Plan**
Staff requests approval to proceed with a contract with THP in the amount of \$52,220, with an additional 10% for contingency, for consulting services on the Smale Cascade.
- **Grants Application / Acceptance**
Staff requests the Board approve the application for and acceptance of grant funds made to the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in an amount up to \$9,500, the Ohio EPA in an amount up to \$2,025,000, and the Ohio Public Works Commission in an amount up to \$2,000,000.
- **Acceptance of Donations from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation**
Staff requests the Board approve the acceptance of donations from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation in the amount of \$19,178.48.
- **Acceptance of In-Kind Contributions from the Parks Foundation**
Staff requests the Board approve the acceptance of in-kind contributions donated by the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in the amount of \$214,583.64.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

June 18, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners was held on this day at 950 Eden Park Drive. Commissioners present: Vice President Kick Lee, Commissioner Susan Castellini, Commissioner Phyllis McCallum, and Commissioner John Neyer. President Molly North was not present. Vice President Lee called the meeting to order at 9:01am.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

Vice President Lee acknowledged one in-person public comment proposing additional statues at Ezzard Charles Park. Vice President Lee also acknowledged two public comments received via email.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Approval of the May 21 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner McCallum motioned to approve the May 21, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ACTION ITEM

Central Avenue Maintenance Facility Renovation

Division Manager of Planning & Design, Travis Miller, shared an overview of plans to renovate an existing Parks facility at 1221 Central Avenue, to be utilized for fleet maintenance. Staff requested approval to proceed with a contract with MegenWorks for design services in the amount of \$78,275, with an additional 10% for contingency. Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve a total amount of \$86,102.50 to proceed with the contract. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION / UPDATES

Planning & Design Update

Division Manager Miller provided an update on pavement work at Sawyer Point, specifically in the Kroger promenade area. The restoration work replaced critical sections of pavement that showed significant wear. Staff also updated the Commissioners on repairs Everybody's Treehouse in Mt. Airy Forest.

Parks Improvement Projects 3-Year Plan Update

Division Manager Miller and Parks Director, Jason Barron, shared an updated Parks Improvement Projects 3-Year Plan. The Commissioners and Staff discussed additions to the Active Projects section such as the California Woods Shelter, the Krohn Conservatory Historic Structure Report, and the Riverfront Boat Dock, as well as the timeline for the Glenway Park Renovations & Playground.

Finance / IT Division Highlights

Parks CFO, Herta Fairbanks, provided an update on end of fiscal year activities and deadlines, fund balances, and let the Commissioners know that financial reports might not be available for next month's meeting due to the annual year-end CFS shutdown.

HR Update

Director Barron gave an overview of full-time and part-time staff numbers, job postings, and vacancies, and highlighted HR's current focus on summer employment safety.

ACTION ITEM

Grants Application / Acceptance

Director Barron outlined three grant opportunities:

- American Heart Association: Cardiac Emergency Response Plan - \$17,500
 - To be used for the adoption of a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan and development of a Cardiac Emergency Response Team at Parks
- American Trails: Cincinnati Conservation Stewardship Program - \$15,000
 - To be used to provide funding for staff training and the development of a volunteer trail stewardship program.
- ODNR NatureWorks: Sawyer Point Playground - \$150,000
 - To be used towards the replacement of the 1000 Hands Playground

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the application for and acceptance of grant funds from the American Heart Association, American Trails, and ODNR in a total amount up to \$182,500. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Barron presented the following updates:

- The Urban Forestry team has been working hard to grind a citywide backlog of approximately 1,400 tree stumps.
- Parks Administration team refreshed the landscaping at 950 Eden Park with plantings designed by Horticulturalist Marie Songer.
- The Castle of Air at International Friendship Park has a new sign thanks to a generous donation from Neil Bortz of Towne Properties.
- The riverfront flag display at International Friendship Park now includes 18 American flags and all 193 United Nations members' flags.
- Events throughout Parks in late June and early July.

OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

Commissioner Neyer thanked the Urban Forestry staff for their quick response to the previous evening's storm.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Lee adjourned the meeting at 9:48am.

The next regular meeting date is Thursday, July 16, at 9:00am.

ATTEST:

VICE PRESIDENT _____ DIRECTOR _____



Molly North
President

Kick Lee
Vice President

Susan F. Castellini

Phyllis McCallum

John E. Neyer

Jason Barron
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www.cincinnatiaparks.com

Date: July 16, 2026

To: Board of Parks Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Banks Lot 18 – Property Acquisition and Lease – Cincinnati Legends
Putt House at Freedom Park

Background

Acceptance of Lot 18 at The Banks from the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio.

Lot 18 is the green space that is between Yard House and The Filson at the Banks. Pursuant to the longstanding Banks Cooperation Agreement between the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, the City may take possession of Lot 18 at the Banks at such time as it is ready to take over operations and maintenance of the property for Parks purposes.

The City is prepared to own, operate and maintain Lot 18 at the Banks, and to incorporate Lot 18 into the Central Riverfront Park, subject to approval by the Board of Parks Commissioners. Following approval by the Board of Parks Commissioners, the City will make written request to Hamilton County to transfer fee title to Lot 18 to the City for Parks purposes.

Approval of a proposed lease of City-owned property known as Lot 18 at The Banks to Jeffrey R. Anderson Real Estate Inc. or its affiliate entity.

Following the conveyance of fee title to Lot 18 from Hamilton County to the City under Parks control, the City has been asked to consider a lease of Lot 18 to Jeffrey R. Anderson Real Estate Inc. or its affiliate entity, for the temporary operation of a mini golf course for a period of up to 3 years. Jeffrey R. Anderson Real Estate Inc. owns The Filson restaurant.

Key Lease Terms:

- The lease will be for a term of three years.
- Jeffrey R. Anderson Real Estate has pledged \$100k annually to the Freedom Center.
- Mini-golf patrons will enter the course through The Filson restaurant.
- The design will include lights, trees, electric, drainage, sprinkler system, and other utilities to support the mini-golf course.
- Parks staff will have approval over the final design, not to be unreasonably withheld.
- Parks staff will have approval over certain aspects of the operation, such as hours of operation and standard of maintenance.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully requests that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the City's acceptance of title to Lot 18 from Hamilton County to be used for Parks purposes, and requests that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the lease of Lot 18 at the Banks to Jeffrey R. Anderson Real Estate Inc. or its affiliate entity.



AULT PARK
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Strategic Direction and Presentation of the Discovery Trail Project

July 16th, 2026

Agenda

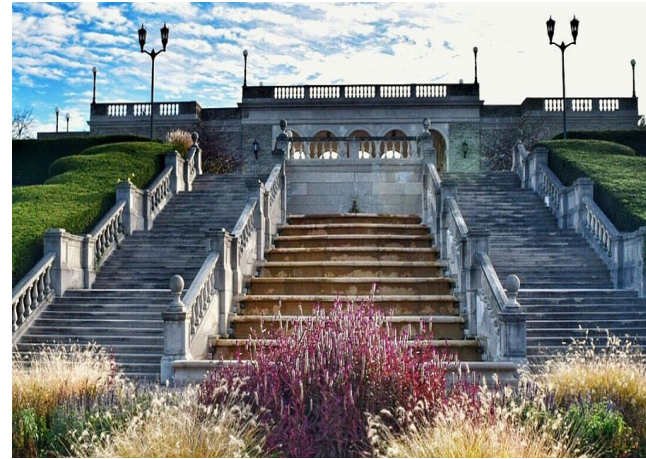
- APAC's impact on Ault Park
- Growing areas of concentration:
 - Nature education
 - The arts
- Areas of concern: crime
- The Discovery Trail

APAC's Impact on Ault Park

1970's



Today



- Ten Events Throughout the Year
- Park/Trail Maintenance
- Adopt-a-Plot Volunteer Gardens
- Invasive Species Removal Program
- Educational Nature Walks
- Acquisition of Vacant Wooded Land
- Trees for Your Yard Arboretum

Growing Areas of Concentration: Nature Education and the Arts



Nature Education

- Astronomy events with Dean Regas
 - Dedicated astronomy events: Telescope Fest and Supermoon
 - Adding astronomy education and viewing opportunities into APAC's other events
- The Discovery Trail



Bringing Arts to the Park

Picnic Performances: APAC and Parks partnership

- Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Contemporary Jazz Orchestra (2025 and 2026)
- Cincinnati Shakespeare Company (2026)
- Cincinnati Children's Theater (2027)



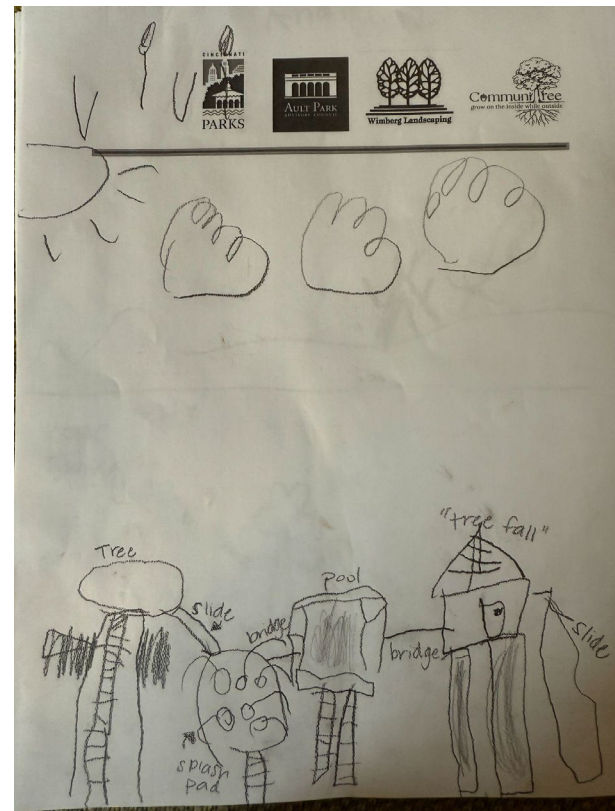
Areas of Challenge: Crime

Ault Park is not immune to crime.

- Nuisance and property crimes: Vandalism, Motorbike and E-Bike damage*
- More serious concerns: Indecent exposure (Feb. 2024 and July 2025), Gunshots (Aug. 2025), Arson (August 2025), Illegal parties (Summer 2025), Illegal party and subsequent car chase (May 2026)*
- APAC has forged a trust-based partnership with CPD
 - APAC appointed its first official liaison with CPD to streamline communication and reporting to District Two
 - District Two has undertaken proactive, preventative policing in Ault Park
 - Communication is robust and ongoing
 - Incidents are down and calls for service are down, but some problems remain
- APAC has coordinated with Parks to address property damage
- We look to Parks for strategies and help with proactive crime prevention

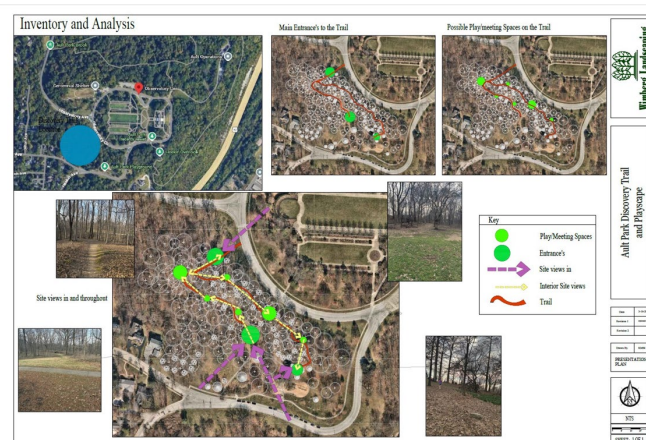
The Discovery Trail: Goal

By encouraging nature exploration from a young age, we want to inspire in children a lifelong love of both the environment and Cincinnati Parks

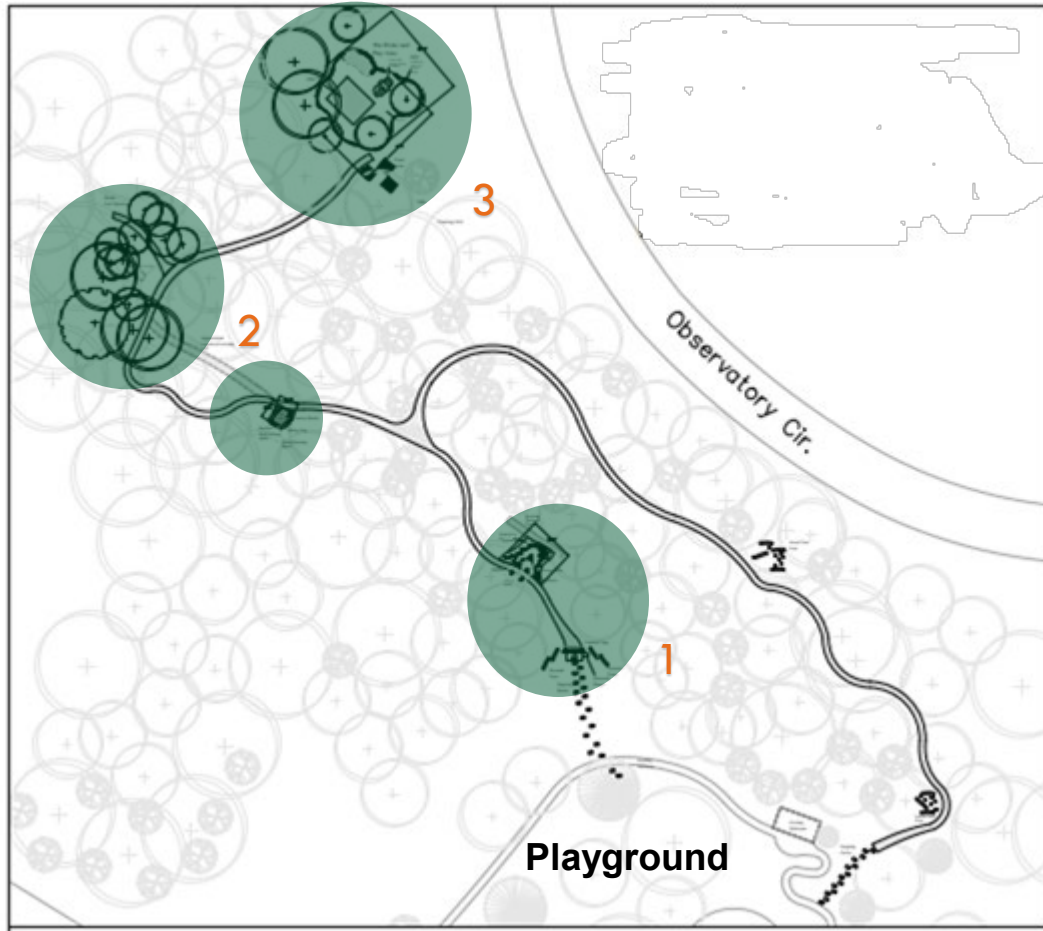


The Discovery Trail: Design Process

- Collaborative effort between APAC, Cincinnati Parks, Wimberg Landscaping, and CommuniTree Consulting, with additional guidance from the Cincinnati Nature Center
- The design has evolved based on:
 - Analysis of the site's natural ecology
 - Focus groups with children and their parents
 - Guidance from nature education specialists
 - Input from naturalists on minimizing impact on the natural environment

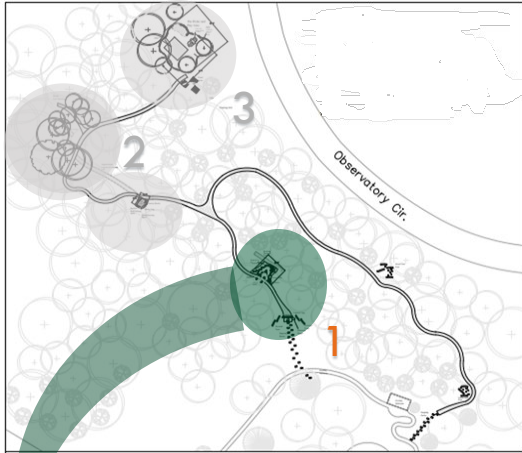


The Discovery Trail: Our Vision



- Provides a unique way for adults and children to engage with the natural world
- Complements established trails
- Elements along the trail encourage play, exploration, learning, and fun
- Emphasis on natural and reclaimed materials
- Easy, identifiable entrances and exits make starting and stopping easy, with clear wayfinding

The Discovery Trail: Entering through the Sound Garden



Stump walk near the trail's entrance

Sound features in this open area will draw children to the trail

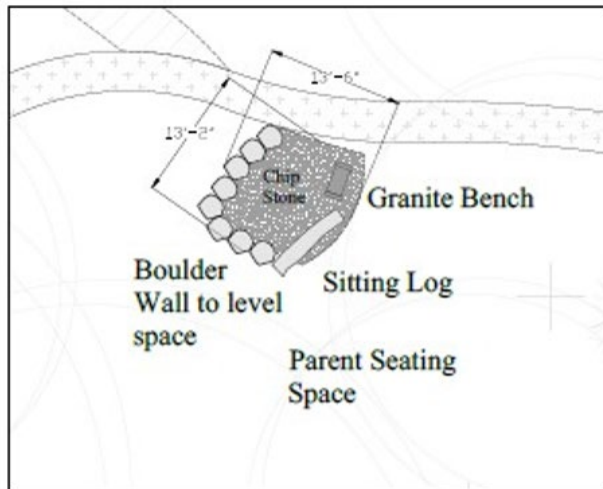


Thunder Drums



Amadinda or "Nature's Xylophone"

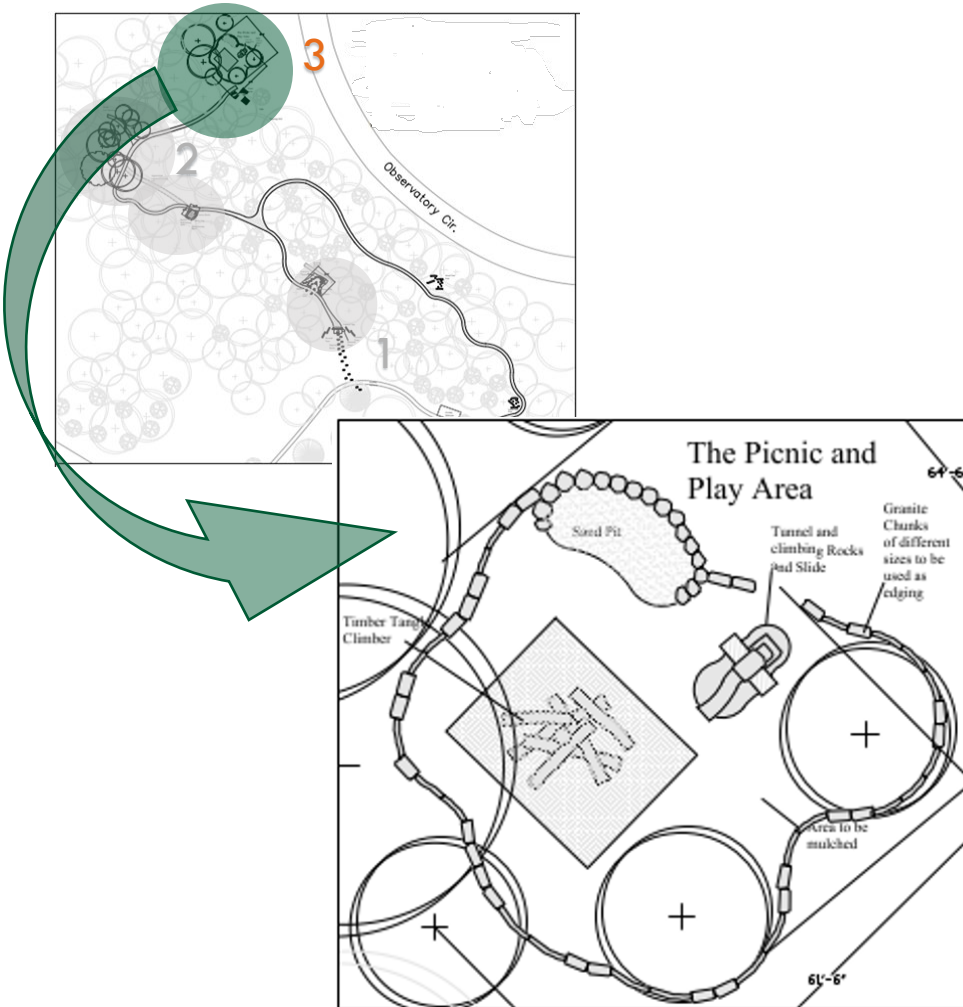
The Discovery Trail: Immersive Nature Exploration



Earnocular

- Amplifies the sounds of nature
- Unique feature—one of only two in the region
- Seating area allows parents to observe children playing from a safe distance
- Natural materials for seating blend into the surroundings

Discovery Trail: Picnic and Play



- Utilizes open area for larger features
- Timber triangle, stone tunnel, climbing rocks, slide
- Sand pit offers opportunity for play for kids of different ages

How else can APAC help Cincinnati Parks?

Appendix

Criminal Incidents in Ault Park (last 3 years)



Timing	Incident	Action
Feb 2024 & July 2025	Indecent exposure reported at children's playground area and multiple times along the Valley Trail.	Incidents reported to District Two. Undercover officers identified the vehicle involved and successfully made an arrest within the park.
Jan 2025 to present	Motorbike, E-Bike and bicycle vandalism was documented on the Valley Trail and throughout various open grass areas, including: • In front of and behind the Pavilion • The Commons field • The children's playground • Damage included turf destruction and unauthorized motorized vehicle activity	APAC has been reporting incidents to District Two Parks has had "No Bikes on Ault Park Trails" signs installed at the four access points to the Valley Trail.
Aug 2025	Gunshots were part of an after-hours gathering in the wooded area that resulted in significant property and safety concerns: • A fleeing vehicle caused extensive damage by destroying weeping cherry trees and a "No Hammocks" sign and post. • Gunshots were fired. Two victims reported being assaulted and sought help from a residence on Observatory, where 911 was contacted.	Follow-up with CPD investigators indicate no charges were pursued, per the victims' decision. Still awaiting ballistics analysis of shell casings and investigative outcomes.
	Arson occurred as a tree near the Valley Trail was intentionally set on fire.	The Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire on August 2, 2025.
Sept 2025	AED defibrillator vandalized at the Pavilion with the front plastic cover smashed and lights sensors flashing.	Incident was reported to District Two, and the unit's cover was replaced by the APAC Board.
May 2026	Spontaneous pop-up party driven by social media resulted in a large group gathering in the Park	Police arrived on scene in response to large group, illegal activity discovered and subsequent car chase occurred.

APAC 2026 Calendar of Events



ENJOY 2026 AULT PARK EVENTS!

MAR
28

Telescope Fest
7:00–9:00 PM
FREE

APR
24

Ault Vines & Fine Wines
music: Jeff Henry and The Necessary Evils
6:00–10:00 PM
\$30 in advance; \$40 at event

MAY
15

Havana Night
music: Son Del Caribe
6:00–10:00 PM
\$30 in advance; \$40 at event

MAY
29

Picnic Performance
*featuring: Cincinnati Contemporary
Jazz Orchestra and an ensemble
from the CSO*
6:00–8:30 PM
FREE

JUN
18

June Summer Music Festival
music: The Menus
6:00–10:00 PM
FREE

JUL
16

July Summer Music Festival
music: Mojo Rizin'
6:00–10:00 PM
FREE

AUG
14

Picnic Performance
*featuring: Cincinnati Shakespeare
Company, "Much Ado About Nothing"*
7:00–9:00 PM
FREE

AUG
20

August Summer Music Festival
music: The Remains
6:00–10:00 PM
FREE

SEP
17

September Summer Music Festival
music: DJ JonJon
6:00–10:00 PM
FREE

OCT
23

HallowEve Brew Bash
music: Gee Your Band Smells Terrific
6:00–10:00 PM
\$30 in advance; \$40 at event

Tickets and information at aultparkac.org/events
Proceeds from our events help support our beautiful Ault Park!
When you attend our events, you not only get to enjoy the company of your neighbors; you are investing in Ault Park.

Follow Us!



Scan QR for
event details.

Dates are subject to change as we continue to plan our 2026 events.





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Travis Miller
Division Manager

Date: July 16, 2026

To: Board of Parks Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: APAC Donation – Ault Park Discovery Trail

Background

The Ault Park Advisory Council (APAC), an independent non-profit organization run by a group of volunteers interested in preserving and improving Ault Park, has proposed the construction of a nature education themed trail linking the recently revitalized Ault Park playground to the existing trail network.

Description

The Ault Park Discovery Trail is intended to create an attractive and attracting linkage between the playground and the existing Kid's Tree Trail, to encourage children to experience and explore nature beyond the playground. The planning and design of the trail was a collaborative effort between APAC, Parks staff, Wimberg Landscaping, and CommuniTree Consulting, with additional guidance from the Cincinnati Nature Center.

Per the donor's request, a condition of this funding is that the design and installation of the Discovery Trail be completed by Wimberg Landscaping, with guidance from Parks.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully request the Board approve the acceptance of funds donated by APAC to Cincinnati Parks in a total amount up to \$150,000 for the completion of the Ault Park Discovery Trail project.

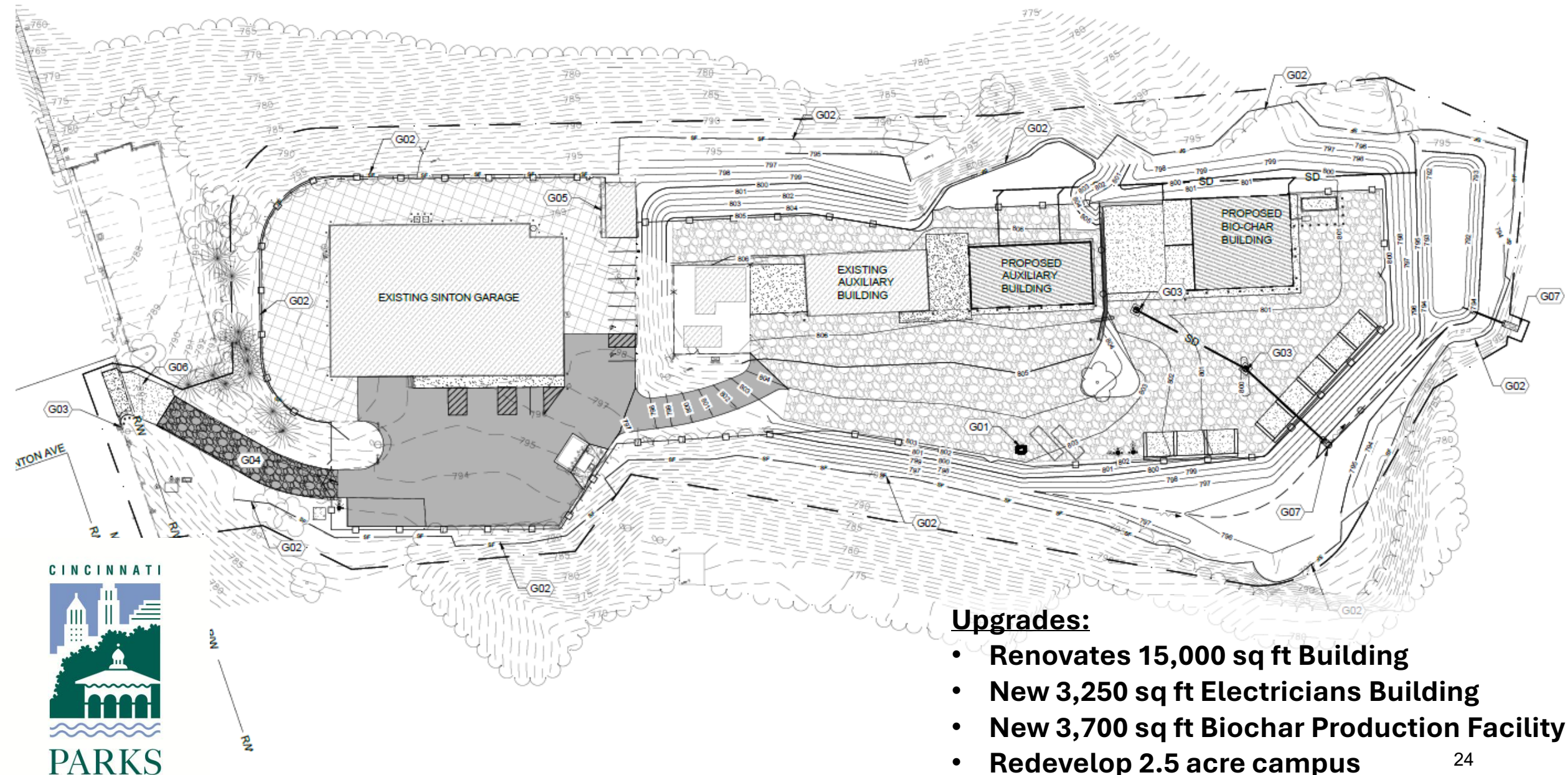


Sinton Campus

July 16, 2026



Sinton Campus / Biochar Facility



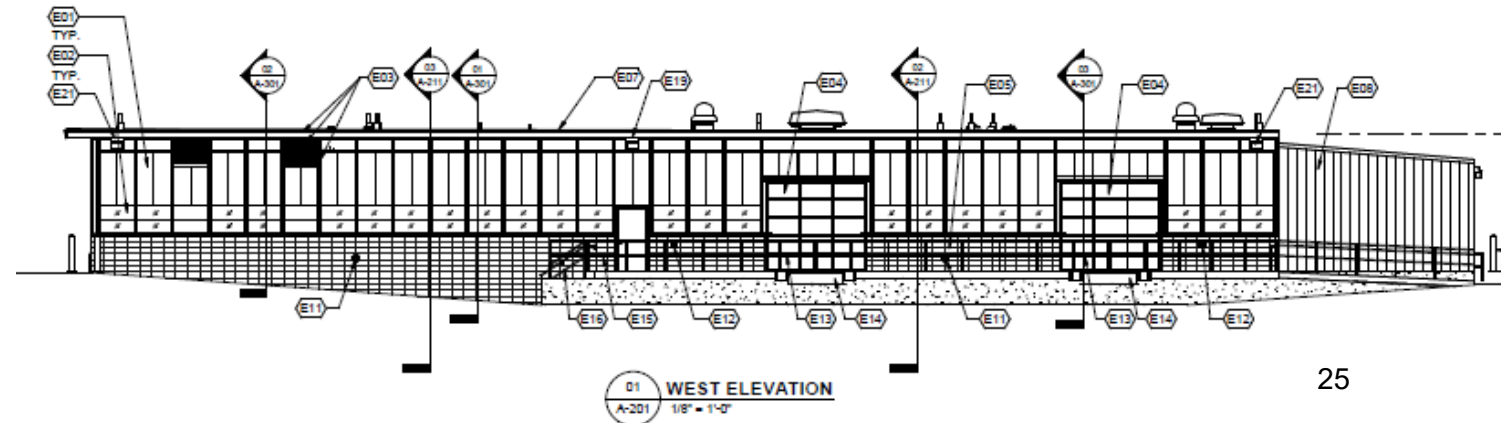
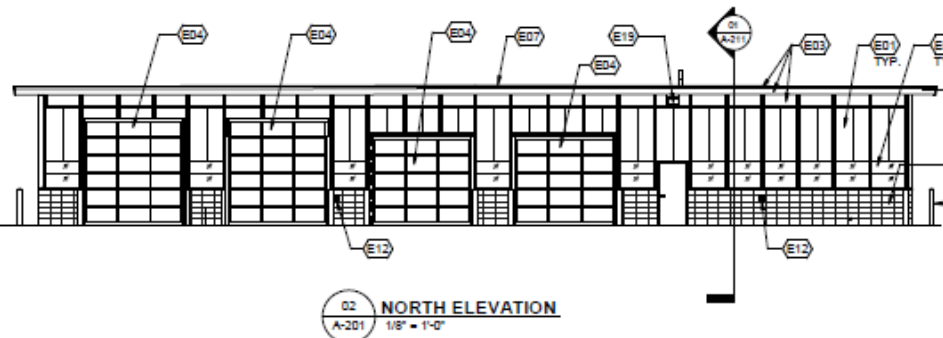
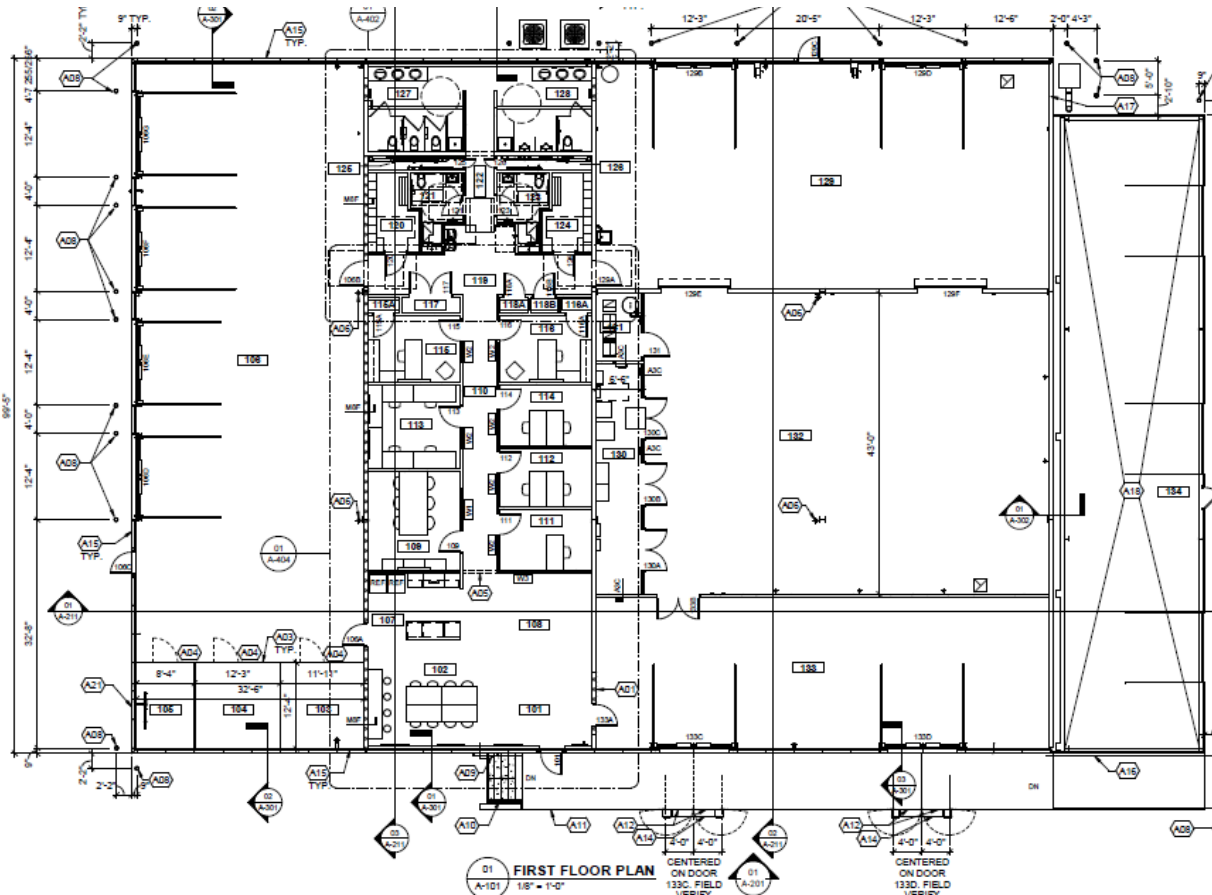
Upgrades:

- Renovates 15,000 sq ft Building
- New 3,250 sq ft Electricians Building
- New 3,700 sq ft Biochar Production Facility
- Redevelop 2.5 acre campus

Sinton Garage

Upgrades:

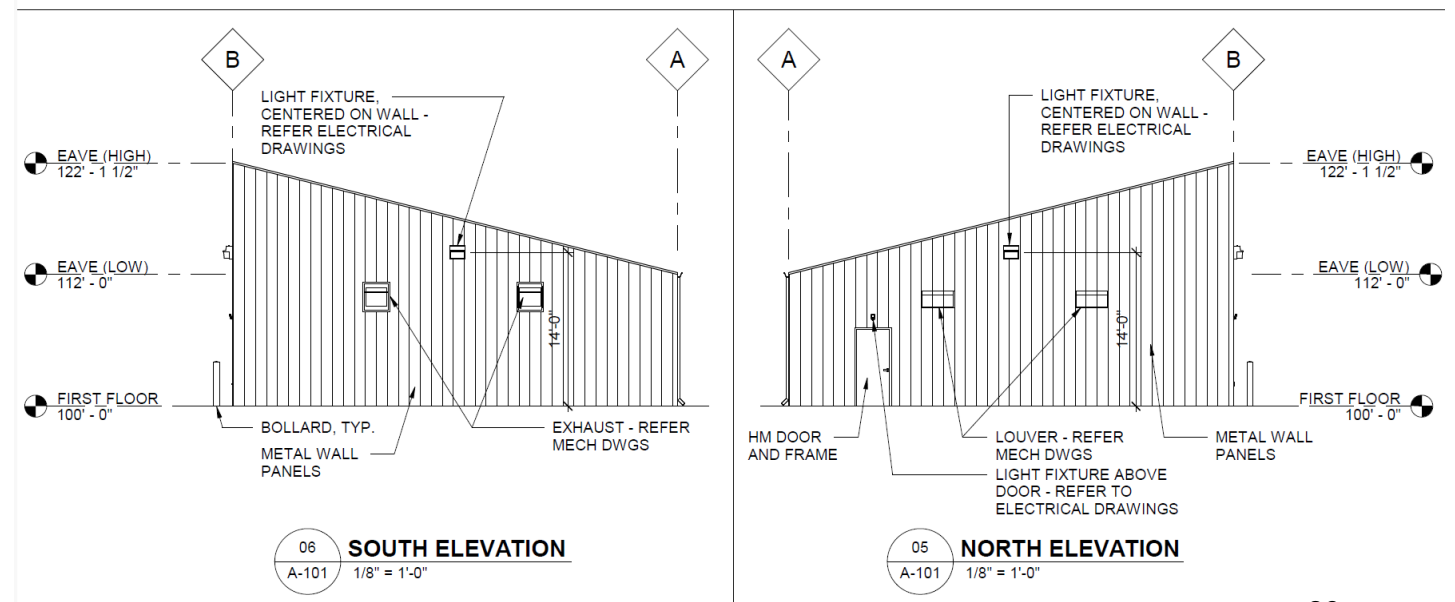
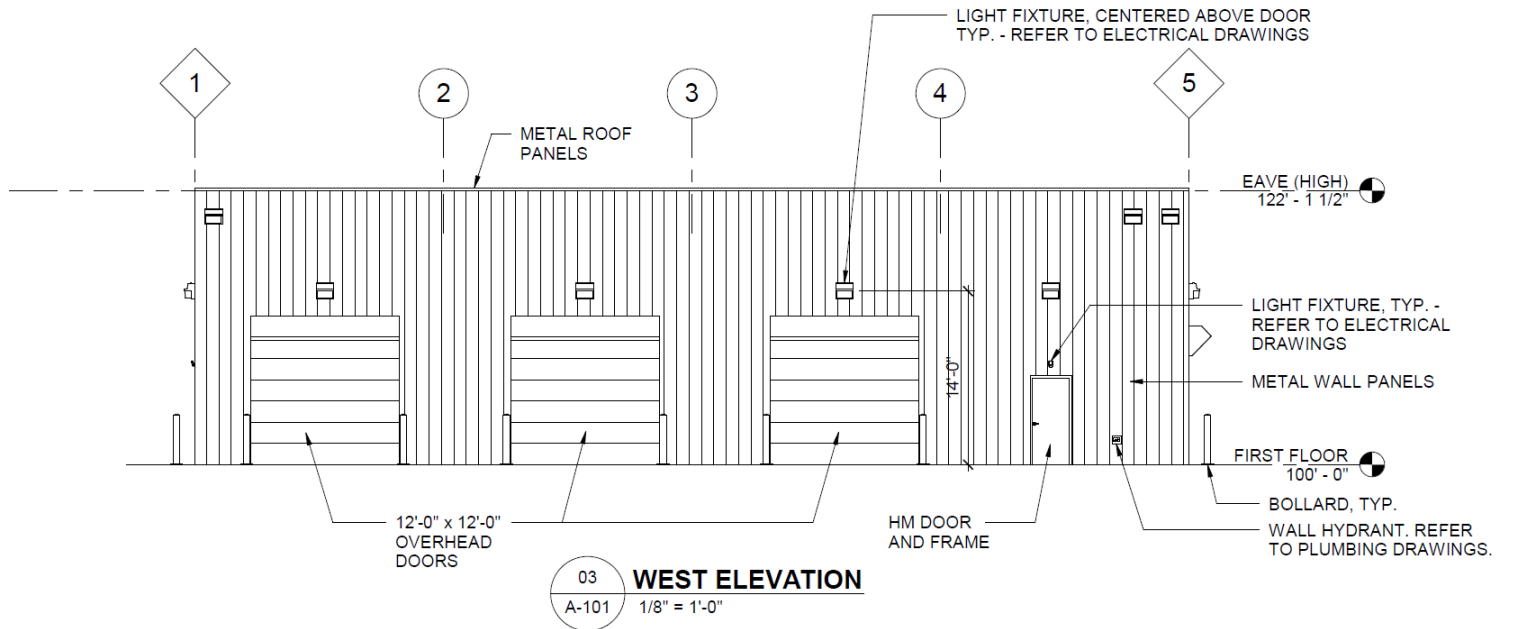
- Renovates original 1955 building - 15,000 sq ft.
- Will house East Operations & Facilities Maintenance.
- Replace building envelope.
- New HVAC – separate climate zones.
- New office space.
- Separated operations spaces, including dedicated woodshop.
- Expanded employee support facilities.
- Possible solar panels on the roof.



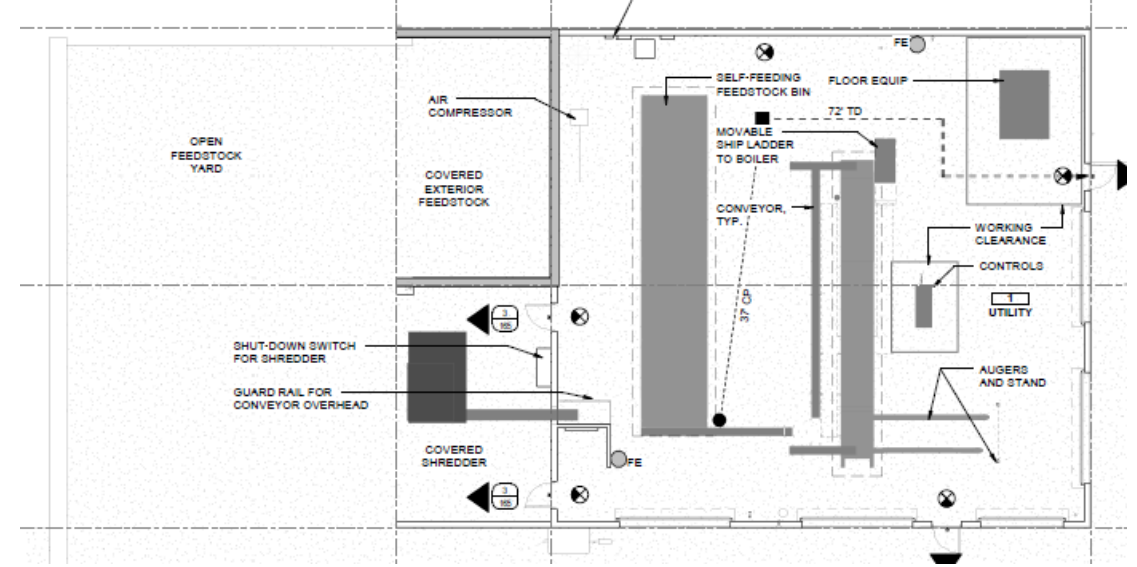
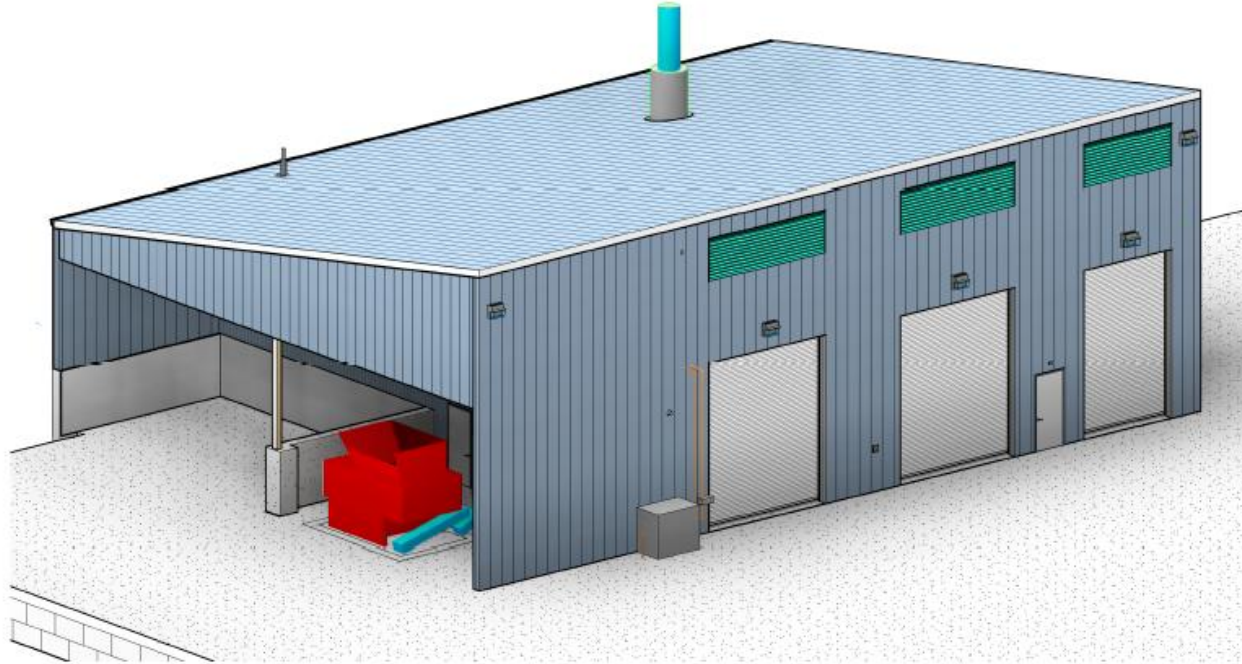
Sinton Auxiliary Building

Key Features:

- New 3,250 sq ft Electricians Building
- Electricians workshop and storage space.
- Overnight indoor parking for lift trucks
- Designed for maximum flexibility to meet future needs.

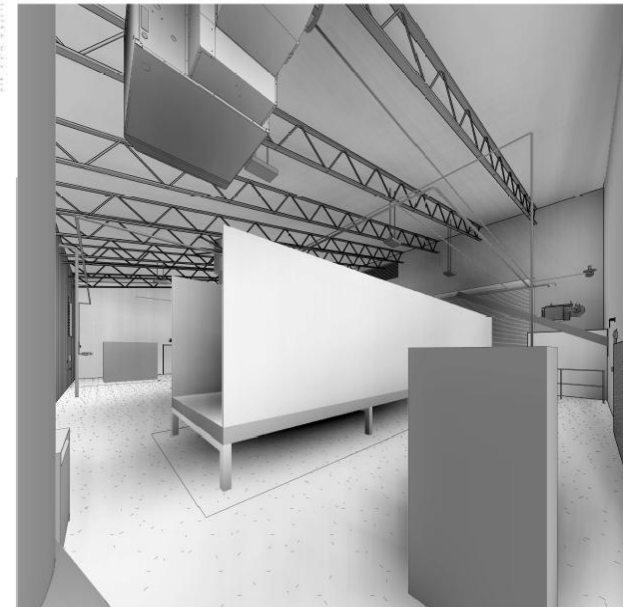


Biochar Facility

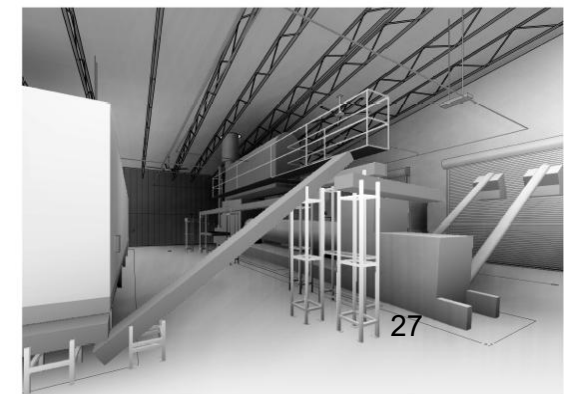


Key Features:

- New 3,700 sq ft Biochar Production Facility.
- Houses Biochar production equipment, including pyrolysis machine, feedstock bin, and conveyor system.
- Covered outdoor shredder.
- PRD – Electricity generator.

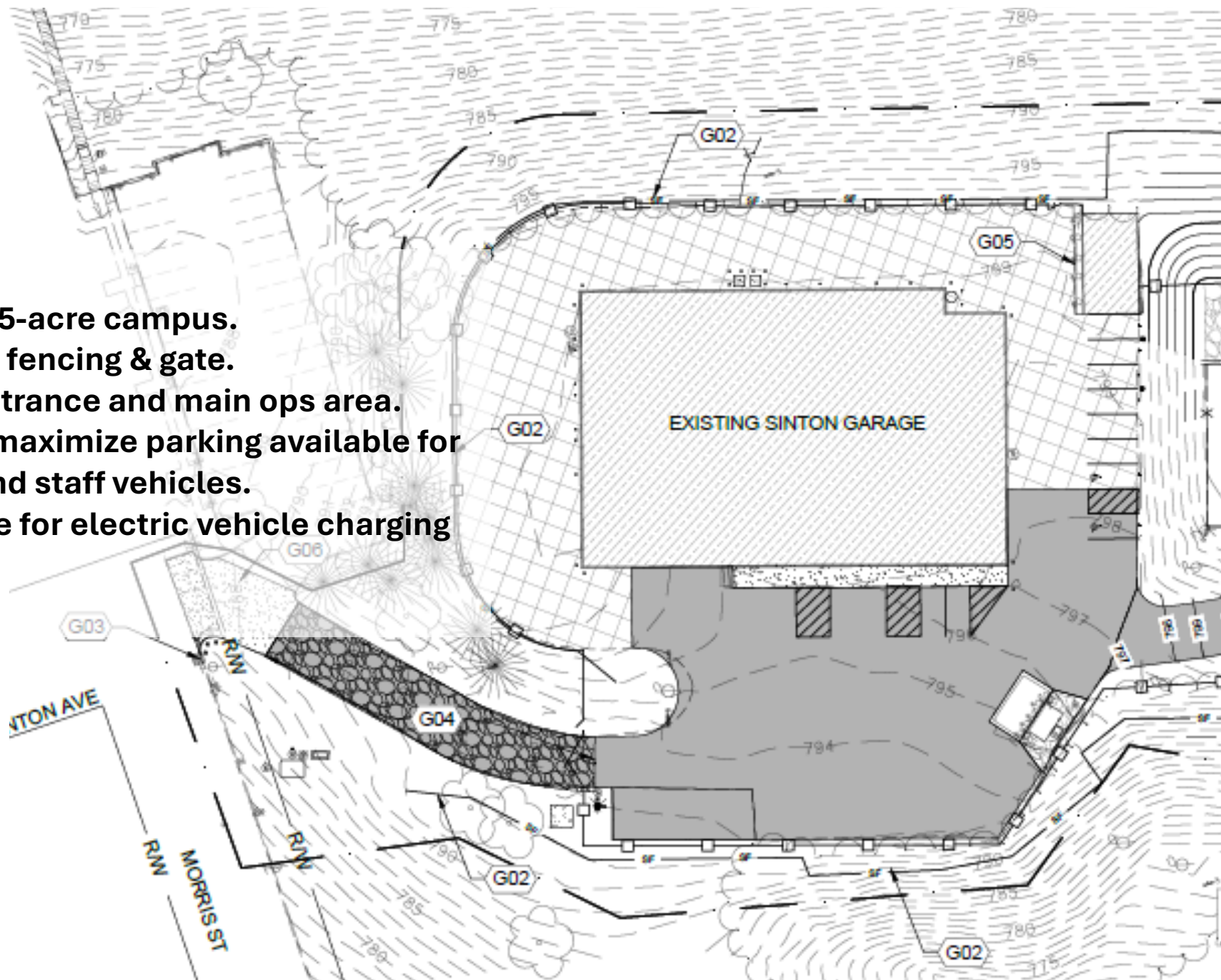


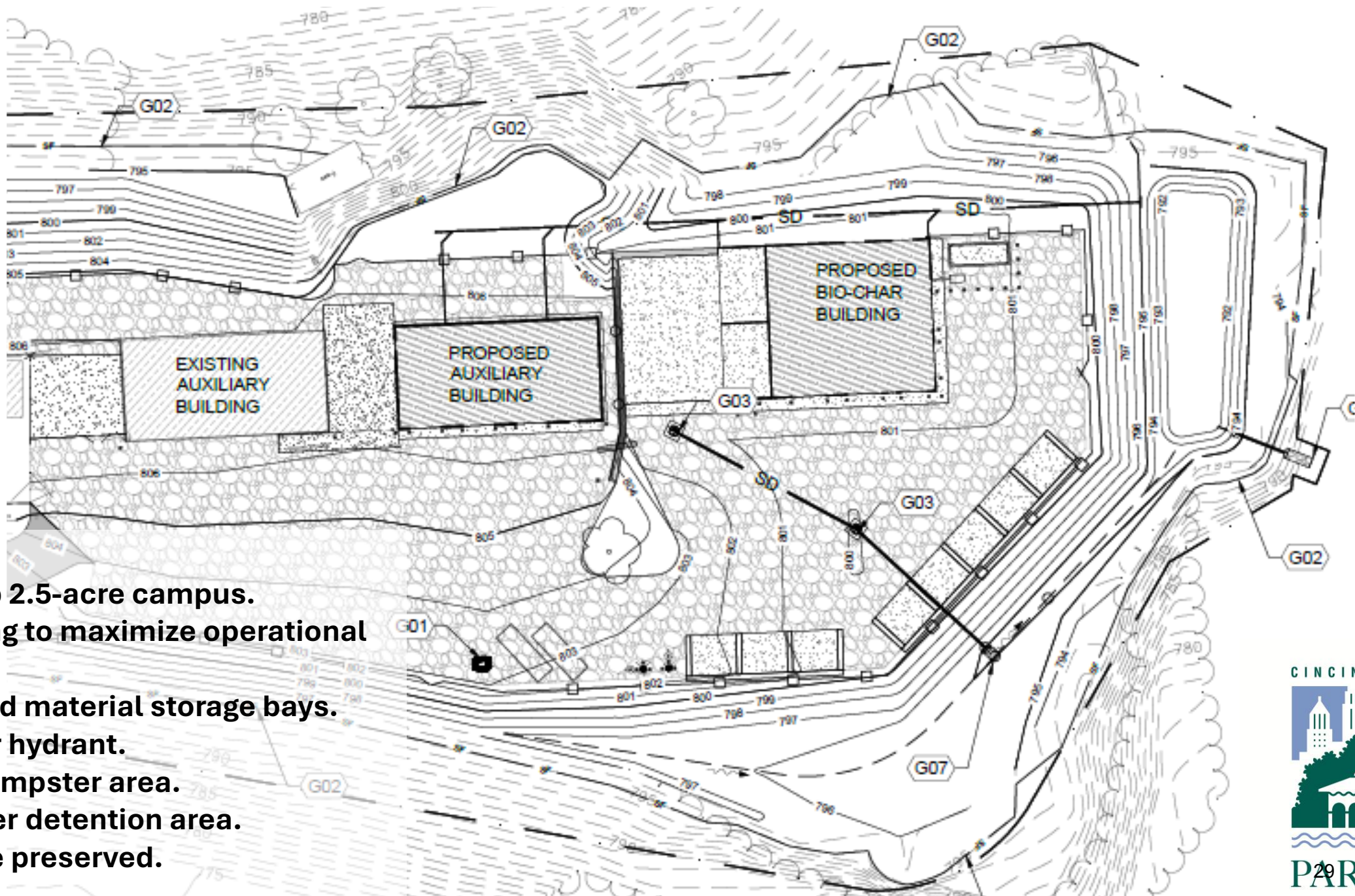
VIEW FROM ORC



Upgrades:

- Redevelop 2.5-acre campus.
- New security fencing & gate.
- Resurface entrance and main ops area.
- Designed to maximize parking available for both Parks and staff vehicles.
- Infrastructure for electric vehicle charging stations.





Upgrades:

- Redevelop 2.5-acre campus.
- Site grading to maximize operational space.
- 8 dedicated material storage bays.
- New water hydrant.
- Central dumpster area.
- Stormwater detention area.
- Shade tree preserved.



Date: July 16, 2026
To: Board of Parks Commissioners
From: Travis Miller, Division Manager, Planning & Design
Subject: Planning & Design Monthly Update

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Division Manager

Action Items

Washington Park Irrigation: Staff requests approval to proceed with a contract with Forevergreen for irrigation system repair and expansion/upgrades for Washington Park. These services will repair and upgrade 9 failed soaker hose zones to pop up sprinkler zones, extend 2 zones to enable additional coverage, and add additional sprinkler heads to zones to improve coverage. This work also includes new pipe installation, some bored beneath concrete.

Staff requests approval for \$182,718.75 contract amount with an additional 10% (\$18,272) for contingency.

This will be funded with Park Infrastructure Rehabilitation funding.

Smale Cascade Repair and Recirculation Plan: Staff requests approval to proceed with a contract with THP for consulting services to identify cause(s) of water leakage at the Smale Vine Street cascade, conduct feasibility analysis and identify required modifications for converting the existing geothermal fed supply of this cascade to a recirculating fountain. THP will be teaming with Waterline Studios on this project and anticipate finalizing this evaluation effort within 6 weeks of contract execution.

Staff requests approval for \$52,220 contract amount with an additional 10% (\$5,222) for contingency.

This will be funded with funds budgeted for Smale Riverfront Design with \$157,933 currently available.

Work Underway:

Sinton Campus/Biochar Facility: KZF delivered final construction documents for the Sinton Campus and Biochar Facility in June. Staff has reviewed all documents as well as construction estimates and is proceeding with bid package preparations.

Owl's Nest Park: A kick-off meeting with KZF and their subconsultant team was held July 2 and a consultant team site visit was conducted July 8. The next milestone will be the mid-September delivery of 50% plan documents for staff review. Final design documents will be delivered January 2027.

Glenway Park: von Euw Tetraault has submitted final construction documents for the ADA pathway/entrance feature. Staff is preparing solicitation package for Q1 FY27. Staff is facilitating a community engagement event in August to provide project updates and get input on playground design.

Mt. Airy – Everybody’s Tree House: Roof replacement will proceed once materials arrive. Roofing installation will occur through July/August.

Inwood Park Master Plan – RFP Development:

Staff is continuing to prepare content for a RFP solicitation process for renovation plan design services for Inwood Park. These services will include landscape architecture, preliminary engineering, site planning, and community engagement.

McEvoy Park: Staff is facilitating a design process for park improvements including vehicle circulation/parking improvements, playground upgrade, nature trail system, and forest restoration. A stakeholder group is being formed now with community engagement beginning in September.

Doris Day Dog Park: Staff is preparing plans and scope for improvements to the large dog run area to correct chronic mud issues at the entrance. This work will coincide with repairs to the comfort station plumbing project planned for this park.

Sayler Park Shelter: Staff has engaged with Sayler Park community to determine appropriate location, size and style of a new multiuse shelter structure.

Burnet Woods Updates: Burnet Woods Drive repaving will occur by August. Staff continues to gather estimates for Bandstand roof and ceiling repairs to occur this fall. Geotech analysis for pond walk is complete and reports no concerns. Staff is gathering estimates for pond edge walk plan and resurfacing.

Smale Lot 23 Enhancements: Remaining granite has been delayed resulting in final project completion delays. Staff has communicated with MEMI and continues to coordinate with contractor to ensure summer events are proceeding with minimal impacts. With these delays, construction is now projected to be completed in September 2026.

Sawyer Point Playground: Midstates and Earthscape continue to refine playground concept. A joint planning workshop among this team and MKSK is anticipated to occur in August.

California Woods Hydrological Plan: Stantec is proceeding with 60% design development of stream restoration plan and the conspan structure.

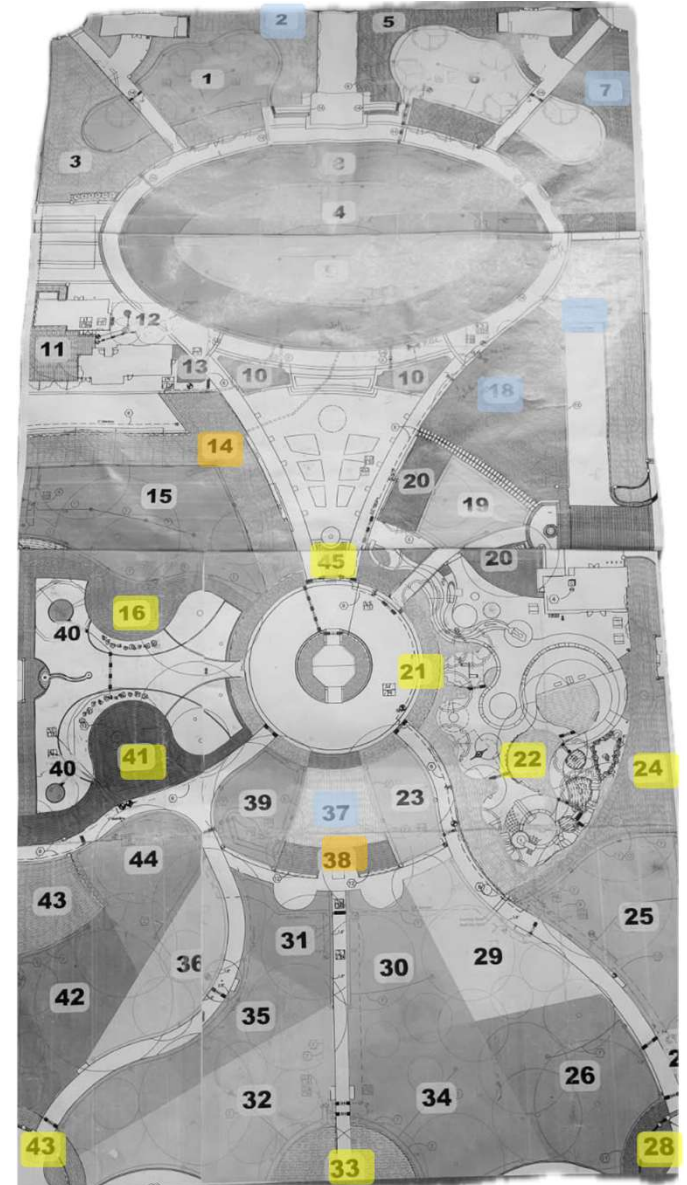
Eden Park Steps: An on-site construction kick-off meeting was held July 1 and Towne Construction is beginning site work this month.

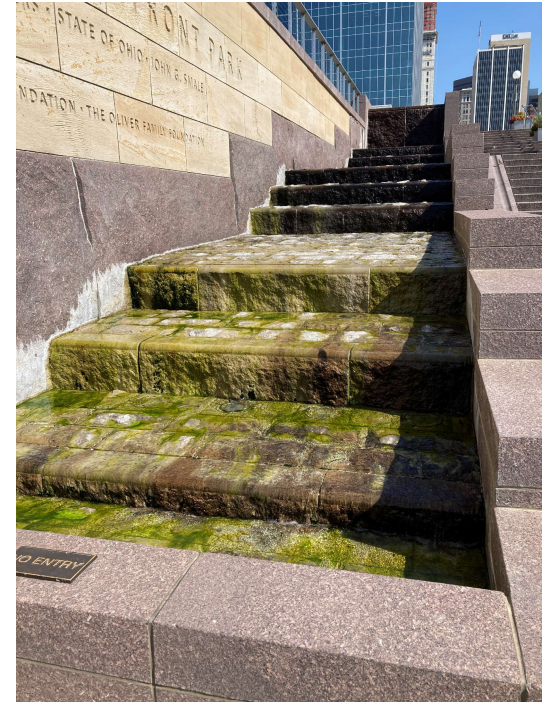
Bramble Park Trail: Staff continues to work with DOTE staff to prepare construction documents. We are currently at 70% design with alignment refinements currently being made. Staff plans to share an update with the community next month and construction is expected for fall.

Ault Park – Principio Comfort Station: Sewer line repairs began this week and will be completed in early August.



Washington Park Irrigation





Smale Cascade Repair



Date: July 16, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Derrick Gentry, Supervising Human Resources Analyst

Subject: HR Status Update

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This memo provides an updated overview of Parks HR activity, including current vacancies, recruitment activity, and the HR Division operating areas that support workforce management, employee relations, safety/training, payroll accuracy, SOPs, data, accountability, and the ongoing effort to finalize an updated Parks Policy Manual.

Key Updates

Parks currently has:

- **163** full-time employees
- **101** part-time employees
- **5** active job postings
- **17** full-time vacancies
- **839** part-time applications

Current Recruitment Snapshot

Part-time recruitment interest remains strong. The Municipal Worker posting has received 276 applications, and the Parks Specialist postings have received 352 applications, for a combined 628 applications.

Current Job Postings

Part-time postings:

- Parks Specialist – Customer Service / Cashier
- Parks Specialist – Events / Audio / Parking
- Parks Specialist – Horticulture / Natural Resources
- Parks Specialist – Summer Camp Counselor / Volunteer Coordinator
- Municipal Worker – Parks

Full-Time Vacant Positions Overview

The current total number of full-time vacancies is 17. The status view below helps distinguish vacancies that are moving through the hiring process from those currently on hold or awaiting next-step action.

Position Title	Total	Status / Notes
Administrative Specialist	1	Interviewing
Administrative Technician	1	Interviewing
Arborist I	3	Testing
Arborist II	1	Testing
Facility Maintenance Specialist	2	Requisitioned
Horticulturist	2	On Hold
Senior Engineer (Landscape Architect)	1	Requisitioned
Supervisor of Maintenance and Construction	1	Interviewing
Service Area Coordinator	1	On Hold
HVAC Specialist	1	On Hold
Laborer	2	On Hold
Truck Driver	1	On Hold
Total Vacancies	17	

Parks Policy Manual Update

Parks HR is finalizing an updated Parks Policy Manual, the first comprehensive update since 2019. The revised manual will consolidate current Parks-specific guidance into one practical resource for employees, supervisors, division managers, and leadership.

The update is intended to improve consistency, accountability, and operational clarity across divisions by aligning Parks procedures with City administrative regulations, Civil Service requirements, and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

Current focus areas include attendance, call-in procedures, core hours, breaks and lunch periods, overtime/flex/comp time, accident and equipment reporting, safety expectations, wardrobe/work gear, vehicle and equipment use, and employee conduct procedures. Where a collective bargaining agreement provides greater, different, or more specific rights, the applicable agreement will control.

Phase	Focus	Status / Next Step
Review Existing Materials	Use the 2019 manual, existing memos, SOPs, and current City references as the baseline.	In progress
Division Input	Confirm policies reflect operational needs across all divisions.	Ongoing
HR and Compliance Review	Align policy language with City policy, Civil Service expectations, and applicable collective bargaining agreements.	In progress
Leadership Final Review	Finalize policy language, communication plan, and supervisor expectations.	Next step
Implementation	Issue the updated manual and use it as a reference for training, onboarding, and accountability.	Following final approval

Next Steps

Parks HR will continue working with leadership and division management to complete the final review of the updated manual. Once finalized, HR will prepare a communication and implementation plan to ensure employees and supervisors understand the major updates, where to find the manual, and how to use it going forward. The goal is to provide a practical, consistent tool that reinforces fairness, safety, accountability, and clear expectations across the department.



Date: July 16, 2026
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Herta Fairbanks, CFO
Subject: Finance / IT Update – June 2026

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CFS is currently shut down for the fiscal year end process, therefore the June 2026 reports are not available as of the date of this memo. Parks Finance has been working with Administration to help develop seasonal labor budgets as we head into FY27 as well as ensuring that each operational group has their own budget and knows how to navigate it. For the first time in several years, the Endowment Fund Budget and the City Budget are available and have been rolled out at the same time. This is a major accomplishment resulting from the restructuring and streamlining of our financial data and reporting.

Parks Finance is still working with City Budget, Accounts & Audits, and Law to pursue the consolidation of three of our funds. Law is currently researching the original intent of the three funds (Parks Miscellaneous Revenue and Special Activity, Park Lodge/Pavilion Deposits, and Krohn Conservatory). Each of these funds represents self-generated revenue and donations and their associated expenses which are not recorded or tracked in any other funds. Maintaining them as separate funds adds unnecessary complexity to reporting and tracking. We were hoping this transition would happen as of the beginning of FY27; however, the demands of budget season resulted in delays on the city side in their review of the proposal.

In IT, City of Cincinnati (CoC) wireless has been installed at Hauck Botanic Gardens. This has solved a significant issue in connectivity for our Planning & Design group. The IT team is currently working with ETS on planning and deployment of CoC wireless at 13 other staffed locations. At this time, Parks IT has provided ETS with the necessary drawings and floorplans for their review. Parks IT has also updated the ID card printer at Krohn Conservatory which is used to produce both ID cards and Friends of Krohn membership cards. The old printer was more than 10 years old and had far exceeded its useful life. IT is also working with various operational groups to determine the value of a department-wide solution to horticultural planting design.



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Date: July 16, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Grant Application/Acceptance – Cincinnati Parks Foundation, OEEF Grant, WRRSP Funding, and Clean Ohio 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.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Office of Environmental Education is offering grant resources of up to \$25,000 in funding through the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) to implement projects that raise awareness and educate the public about important environmental issues that impact the state. General grants will be awarded for up to a two-year term and a minimum cash or in-kind match of 10% is required.

The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program is dedicated to environmental conservation including acquisition of green space and the protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors. The program provides grants for up to 75 percent of the estimated costs of the project.

The Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) exists to counter the loss of ecological function and biological diversity that jeopardize the health of Ohio's water resources. To achieve this goal, the WRRSP provides funding, capped at \$4 million per project with no match requirement, to implement projects that specifically target the protection or restoration of high-quality streams and wetlands.

Description

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

1. \$9,500 – 3's for Trees

Grant will be used to support the planting and caring of trees.

Staff request approval to apply for and accept, upon award, the grants listed below from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency:

1. \$25,000 – OEEF: Cincinnati Conservation Corps

Grant will be used for service-learning opportunities focused in Mt. Airy Forest for teens and young adults. The grant will fund STEM kits for field-based learning, curriculum development, teacher workshop stipends, and

public urban ecology signage. The match for this grant project includes in-kind staff time to conduct the program.

2. \$2,000,000 – WRRSP: California Woods Stream Restoration

Grant will be used for the restoration and enhancement of Lick Run Creek.

Staff request approval to apply for and accept, upon award, the grant listed below from the Ohio Public Works Commission:

1. \$2,000,000 – Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program

Grant will be used for the acquisition of green space and/or the protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully request the Board approve the application and acceptance of grant funds from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in an amount up to \$9,500, the Ohio EPA in an amount up to \$2,025,000, and OPWC in an amount up to \$2,000,000.



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Date: July 16, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Ohio Environmental Education Fund Grant Overview - Cincinnati Conservation Corps Program

Grantor

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) is administered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Office of Environmental Education.

Grant Requirements

The OEEF grant program provides up to \$25,000 to implement projects that raise awareness and educate the public about important environmental issues that impact the state. Match for this grant project includes in-kind staff time to conduct the program. Parks applied for these funds in January 2026 but were not successful. We have been encouraged to reapply the project for the upcoming round.

Notification

The application is due August 14, 2026, and Parks will request up to \$25,000. Parks will be notified by the fall of 2026 if our application is awarded.

Timeline

The project is planned to commence immediately upon execution of agreements with the funder. If the project is awarded, 90% of grant funds will be provided upfront when the contract is executed. The remaining 10% is held until the project is completed and all final reports and deliverables are submitted and approved by Ohio EPA.

Project Description

Parks will utilize the 1,400 acres of Mt. Airy Forest as a land lab and outdoor classroom for our new Cincinnati Conservation Corps program. This program expands our summer Green Team and our Counselor-In-Training programs into year-round, professionally led urban ecology and forest restoration service-learning opportunities following Ohio STEM and CTE learning standards. This program will allow students to learn from and work alongside conservation professionals while accruing service hours toward CTE credentials on diplomas or undergraduate credit. We will develop education material, including Parks ArcGIS Storymaps, to preface field trips to ultimately encourage green career pursuits and promote student and citizen science research. The grant will fund STEM kits for field-based learning, curriculum development, teacher workshop stipends, and public urban ecology signage.



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Date: July 16, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program Overview - California Woods Stream Restoration Project

Grantor

The Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) provides reimbursement funding and is administered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA).

Grant Requirements

The goal of the WRRSP is to counter the loss of ecological function and biological diversity that jeopardize the health of Ohio's water resources. To achieve this goal, the WRRSP provides funding to implement projects that specifically target the protection or restoration of high-quality streams and wetlands. WRRSP projects are evaluated based on the quality of the existing resource, effectiveness of action of the proposed project, proposed ecological lift of restoration activities, cost effectiveness of the project, and implementability and readiness to proceed of the proposed projects. Funding is capped at \$4 million per project nomination and there is no match requirement for this funding.

Notification

Parks submitted a pre-nomination form by the July 15, 2026, deadline. If approved to advance, the full application is due August 15, 2026, and Parks will request up to \$2,000,000. Parks will be notified by January 2027 if our application is awarded.

Timeline

The project is planned to commence immediately upon execution of agreements with the funder. The project will be placed on a one-year or two-year cycle depending on what is recommended for the project.

Project Description

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 reduce erosion, excess sedimentation, and nutrient loading while improving stream function and enhancing aquatic habitat. To address the impairments above we will implement dam remnant removal, removal of manmade barriers, and stream and floodplain improvements.



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Date: July 16, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program Grant Overview

Grantor

The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program provides reimbursement funding and is administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC).

Grant Requirements

The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program provides grants for up to 75 percent of the estimated costs for open space acquisition and/or related improvement, and the protection and enhancement of riparian corridors or watersheds. A 25% match is required and can be provided by private contributions, donated property, or through a reduction in purchase price from the landowner. It is anticipated that Round 21 of funding will have \$3-\$4 million available for District 2.

Notification

The application is due September 18, 2026, and Parks will request up to \$2,000,000. Parks will be notified by November 2026 if our application is awarded.

Timeline

The project is planned to commence immediately upon execution of agreements with the funder. Acquisition should be completed within one year of the agreement release and site improvements should be completed within 2 years.

Project Description

An opportunity is open to acquire about 27 acres or more of green space adjacent to Mt. Storm Park. The property proposed for acquisition is mostly wooded hillside and would add to the existing 73 acres of parkland. The project would protect green space in the neighborhood of Clifton with the potential to expand the trail network of Mt. Storm Park.

In addition, Parks is looking into the possibility of applying for stream restoration funding for the California Woods project. 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 reduce erosion, excess sedimentation, and nutrient loading while improving stream function and enhancing aquatic habitat. To address the impairments above we will implement dam remnant removal, removal of manmade barriers, and stream and floodplain improvements.



Date: July 16, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Acceptance of Donations from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation

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Background

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation holds donations to which Cincinnati Parks is the beneficiary. Two of these funds are the Joseph H. Vasey Fund and the Park Board Volunteers Fund. Board approval is needed to accept the 2026 donations.

Description

Staff is requesting approval to accept the following donations:

Joseph H. Vasey Fund	\$11,756.72
Park Board Volunteers Fund	<u>\$ 7,421.76</u>
Total Donation	\$19,178.48

The Joseph H. Vasey Fund is a fund established by Mr. Vasey in honor of Gertrude L. Vasey and Naomi Garnons Vasey, and is intended to fund the maintenance of the Green Garden in Mt. Airy.

The Park Board Volunteers Fund is intended to fund seasonal maintenance staff in Mt. Airy, Hinkle Gardens, and Ault Park.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully requests the Board approve acceptance of donations from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation in the amount of \$19,178.48.



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Date: July 16, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Acceptance of In-Kind Contributions from Cincinnati Parks
Foundation

Background

Board approval is needed to accept QTR2 2026 in-kind contributions.

Description

Staff is requesting approval to accept \$214,583.64 of in-kind contributions for the second quarter of 2026. The detail of the contributions is provided in Attachment A.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully requests the Board approve acceptance of in-kind contributions donated by the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in the amount of \$214,583.64.

Attachment A – In-Kind Donations QTR2 2026

Attachment A - In-Kind Donations QTR2 2026

Donation	Donation Value	Purpose of Donation	Date of Donation
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS - Reimbursement Jason Barron travel Women Comm NYC	\$452.67	General Support	4/14/2026
Michon Woods - reimbursement for plants - French Park	\$600.00	Horticultural Supplies	4/20/2026
NATORP LANDSCAPE SUPPLY - Inv 178996 Ault Park Rose Garden	\$996.35	Horticultural Supplies	4/20/2026
DECAL IMPRESSIONS - Inv 114618 Decals for Krohn metal butterfly	\$6,465.00	General Support	4/20/2026
Trusted Translations-Lets Grow Local Event	\$18.10	General Support	4/26/2026
McAllister's Deli-Lunch for Park Board All Staff Meeting	\$3,505.54	General Support	4/26/2026
Michon Woods - reimbursement French Park Spring planting	\$665.39	Horticultural Supplies	4/28/2026
David Nebel - Reimbursement French park spring planting	\$383.02	Horticultural Supplies	4/28/2026
Eason Horticultural Resources Inc. - Inv 3658270/80 plants Ault Park Rose garden	\$582.97	Horticultural Supplies	4/28/2026
Iron Belle Metal Design LLC - Inv -13 50% final pymt butterfly	\$25,000.00	General Support	4/28/2026
NATORP LANDSCAPE SUPPLY - Inv 181379 tree Alms Park	\$171.00	Horticultural Supplies	4/28/2026
Baron Identification Products - Inv 53220 tree plaque	\$21.75	Horticultural Supplies	4/28/2026
SEEMLESS DESIGN & PRINTING - Inv PC-158 LGL Spanish	\$45.00	General Support	4/30/2026
DIEFENBACHER GREENHOUSES, INC. - Inv 037567 plants for Ault Park rose garden	\$808.05	Horticultural Supplies	4/30/2026
APPLIED IMAGINATION, LTD - Inv 32616 50% deposit City Hall Model	\$17,500.00	General Support	4/30/2026
Neil Bortz Towne Properties - Mt Adams steps	\$131,927.42	General Support	5/12/2026
Cinti Special Events-Ault Park Fireworks Special Event Permit Fee	\$51.49	Parks Events	5/26/2026
Olivia Canada - reimburse for vet expenses Mt Lookout 452791	\$118.20	General Support	5/28/2026
Lasting Impressions Event Rental of Cincinnati - Inv 139782 Tent for Summer Camp Calif Woods	\$1,957.50	General Support	5/31/2026
First Student - Inv SF-557322 Adopt a Class Krohn 5/14/26	\$385.00	General Support	5/31/2026
ULINE Shipping Supply - order 51125813 hurricane signs for riverfront	\$2,055.40	General Support	5/31/2026
Praise Factory AV LLC - Inv 4308 DJ Festival lighting	\$1,600.00	Parks Events	6/9/2026
Kendrick & O'Dell - Inv 4887 Liberty Gardens maintenance 2026	\$7,400.47	Horticultural Supplies	6/9/2026
ASI Signage Innovations - Inv CINC 20139 2 court signs	\$963.00	General Support	6/16/2026
Rhinegeist Brewery - Spring Grove - Inv R-1825106 Beer for July 4th fireworks	\$1,503.20	Parks Events	6/22/2026
Cassette Junkies LLC - Ault Park 7/4/26	\$3,500.00	Parks Events	6/23/2026
Peerless Printing Co. - Inv 61986 Signs Ault Park fireworks	\$825.00	Parks Events	6/23/2026
Ohio Valley Productions - 2 hours yeatman's cove 7/3/26	\$2,200.00	Parks Events	6/23/2026
TrophyKits.com-Awards for Ault Park All American Birthday Bash	\$261.60	Parks Events	6/26/2026
LaRosa's Finneytown-Food for Park Board Volunteer Social	\$570.65	General Support	6/26/2026
Heidelberg Distributing Co., LLC - beer for July 4 Ault Park	\$1,553.92	Parks Events	6/30/2026
Pieczonka - Inv 119523 Ault Park 7/4 kids parade medals	\$345.95	Parks Events	6/30/2026
Peerless Printing Co. - Inv 62165 yard signs/ posters	\$150.00	Parks Events	6/30/2026
	<u>\$214,583.64</u>		

Cincinnati Parks

Performance Measures FY 27

July 16, 2026



FY26 Accomplishments

- **Accomplishment 1: Top 10 Park City**

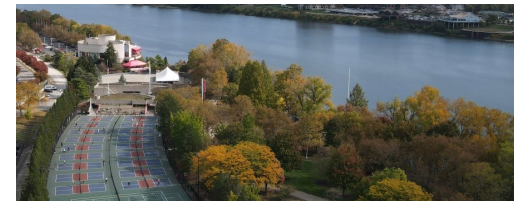
Cincinnati was ranked #5 in the nation for parks among the top 100 U.S. cities. The ranking is based on a detailed data analysis conducted by national experts at the Trust for Public Land. Cities are evaluated on a number of data points in 5 categories including Investment, Access, Amenities, Acreage, and Equity.

- **Accomplishment 2: Park Activation**

Through various initiatives and programs, thousands visited parks for organized community events and activities all throughout the city including: 503 community partnered events, 1,042 event rentals, 51 Parks produced events, and 970 nature education programs in 101 locations serving 32,229 individuals.

- **Accomplishment 3: Major Park Improvement Projects**

In the last calendar year, 7 major park improvement projects were completed highlighted by the restoration of International Friendship Park, opening the new Bike Skills Course in Mt. Airy, and fixing the Valley Trail and adding a new playground in Ault Park.



FY27 Parks Performance Metrics

City Goal	Service	Performance Goal
Excellent & Equitable Service Delivery	Communication/Engagement	85% of the previous fiscal year's engagements.
Thriving Neighborhoods	Nature Education (Explore Nature)	70% of participants Very Satisfied or Extremely Satisfied with programming.
	Operations/Park Beautification	Fewer than 30 litter CSRs (Litter in Parks and Can Overflowing in Parks) received per quarter.
	Urban Forestry, ROW, Tree Assessment	90% of all Urban Forestry CSRs are closed within 30 days.
	Volunteerism	Maintain at least 75% of previous year's volunteer base per quarter.

Glenway Park Restoration



Sinton Campus / Biochar Facility

