



Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners
Board Meeting Agenda
October 15, 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 September 17, 2026, Meeting Minutes

III. Information / Updates / Action Items

A. Planning & Design Update

Travis Miller, Division Manager, P&D

1. Action Item: Glenway Park Renovation Implementation

- Urban Canopy Impact Statement – Glenway Park Renovation

2. Action Item: Glenway Park Playground Installation

B. Action Item: Capital Budget Transfer: Sinton Renovation

Jason Barron, Director

C. Monthly Finance / IT Division Highlights

Herta Fairbanks, CFO

D. HR Update

Derrick Gentry, HR Manager

E. Action Item: Grants Application / Acceptance

Jason Barron, Director

- ODA – Spotted Lanternfly Community Control Grant
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: California Woods Stream Restoration
- U.S. Forest Service – Cincinnati Biochar Project

F. Action Item: Acceptance of QTR2 In-Kind Contributions
and Annual Endowment Distributions

Jason Barron, Director

IV. Director's Comments

V. Open Commissioner Discussion & Comments

VI. Executive Session*

VII. Next Regular Meeting Date: Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 9:00 AM

VIII. Adjournment

* To consider the appointment, employment, or compensation of a public employee or official.



Date: October 15, 2026
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Jason Barron, Director
Subject: Action Item Agenda

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Rocky Merz
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Travis Miller
Division Manager

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

Action Items

- **Approval of the September 17, 2026, Meeting Minutes**
- **Glenway Park Renovation Implementation**
Staff request approval to proceed with a construction contract with Prus in the amount of \$832,559.20 with an additional \$83,250 (10%) contingency to construct the new entrance path with integrated bench seating, continuing concrete loop path, lighting, and demolition/removal of wooden steps and existing playground.
- **Glenway Park Playground Installation**
Staff request approval to proceed with a construction contract with PES in the amount of \$272,060 with an additional \$27,200 (10%) contingency to install playground facility at Glenway Park.
- **Capital Budget Transfer for Sinton Facility Renovation Project**
Staff respectfully request approval to reallocate \$1,067,052.26 from the Riverfront Parks Stabilization capital account to the Sinton Facility Renovation capital account. City Council will need to pass an ordinance to complete the transfer.
- **Grant Application / Acceptance**
Staff respectfully request the Board approve the application and acceptance of grant funds from the Ohio Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$15,000, from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the amount of \$100,000, and from the U.S. Forest Service in an amount up to \$500,000.
- **Acceptance of In-Kind Contributions and Annual Endowment Distributions from Cincinnati Parks Foundation**
Staff respectfully requests the Board approve acceptance of in-kind contributions donated by the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in the amount of \$53,490.85 and permanent endowment distributions of \$160,332.00.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

September 17, 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: President Molly North, Vice President Kick Lee, Commissioner Susan Castellini, Commissioner Phyllis McCallum, and Commissioner John Neyer. President North called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

President North acknowledged one in-person public comment regarding deer management and land management in Parks, as well as public comments received via email regarding Drake Park, the Burnet Woods lake, artificial turf, and bird-friendly lighting.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Approval of the August 20 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the August 20, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION / UPDATE

Summer in Cincy: 2026 Results

Parks Director Jason Barron presented a summary of Parks' contributions to the 2026 edition of "Summer in Cincy," the City Manager's initiative to provide family friendly, teen specific activities during the summer months. The presentation covered the activation of the Sawyer Point skating rink with teen-specific programming, hundreds of community events and summer programs throughout Parks, efforts to employ teens through teen workforce initiatives, and the 2,300 volunteer hours contributed by teen Counselors-in-Training at Parks summer camps.

ACTION ITEMS

Eden Park Steps

Director Barron respectfully requested Board approval of the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$717,164 from the Arn & Neil Bortz Families and the Ed & Pat Sheppard Trust, for the Eden Park – Playhouse in the Park Steps project, and to award the project to Towne Construction Services in the amount of \$731,663.98. Commissioner Castellini motioned to accept the donation and award the contract as outlined. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ohio River Bike Trail

Director Barron outlined plans to reconstruct the multi-use trail that runs through Sawyer Point & Yeatman's Cove. The project includes removal of hazardous rail crossings, drainage improvement, and integration with regional riverfront trail plans. Director Barron requested approval to proceed with a professional services contract with Arcadis US, Inc. in the amount of \$339,103, with an additional 10% contingency, to provide construction documents. Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve award of the contract to Arcadis in the specified amount. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Ault Park Discovery Trail and Playscape

Director Barron shared an overview of work to design a nature-themed discovery trail connecting the new Ault Park playground to the existing trail system. The trail was developed by Parks, the Ault Park Advisory Council, Wimberg Landscaping, and other partners. Staff requested the Board approve the award of a contract to Wimberg Landscaping in the amount of \$129,096.75, with an additional 10% contingency, to provide and install hardscape and landscape material for the project. Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the award of the contract as outlined. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION / UPDATES

Monthly Finance / IT Division Highlights

Herta Fairbanks, Division Manager of Finance & IT, presented a new reporting format aligning spending with operational functions in an effort to improve transparency. The Commissioners and Staff discussed adding a column showing target spend for the year.

HR Update

Director Barron shared an overview of new hires and open positions with recruitment underway, and shared the date of the fall All Staff celebration, which will take place on November 5 at 11:30am. Commissioner Neyer requested a presentation on the basic steps of the civil service hiring process at a future meeting.

ACTION ITEM

Grants Application / Acceptance

Director Barron outlined two grant opportunities:

- From an anonymous donor: \$1,700,00, to be used for a comprehensive forest restoration effort in French Park over five years.
- From the Parks Foundation: \$4,500, to be used for transportation / busing assistance for schools and youth groups visiting nature centers.

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the acceptance of grant funds from the anonymous donor and from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Barron presented the following updates, and shared a video highlighting the work of Greenspace Horticulturalist Ricci Sena:

- Krohn's Fall Show, *A Living Museum of Botanical Splendor*, runs now through September 27, and celebrates the beauty and diversity of plant life
- The ReLeaf tree giveaway program is back this year, thanks to a partnership with the Parks Foundation, MadTree Brewing, and Dynegey
- Paul Tonnis of Parks Planning & Design team officially became the longest tenured employee not only at Parks, but at the City of Cincinnati, celebrating 65 years with Parks
- Parks met with community members to gain feedback on McEvoy Park renovation plans
- Events throughout Parks in late September and early October.

OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

Commissioner Castellini requested an update on deer population management and population density in Parks. Commissioner McCallum acknowledged the public comment

received via email regarding Drake Park, and asked Parks Staff to look into and address the noted concerns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President North stated that the Board would adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §121.22(G), to discuss the appointment, employment, and compensation of a public employee or official. Commissioner Neyer motioned to adjourn into Executive Session. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board returned from Executive Session at 10:33am. President North adjourned the meeting at 10:33am.

The next regular meeting date is Thursday, October 15, at 9:00am.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT _____ DIRECTOR _____



Date: October 15, 2026

To: Board of Parks Commissioners

From: Travis Miller, Division Manager, Planning & Design

Subject: Planning & Design Monthly Update

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Action Items:

Glenway Park Renovation Implementation:

Bids were received for the Glenway Park entrance and accessible path project in September. The City's Department of Economic Inclusion and Procurement (DEIP) reviewed the bids and determined that 3 were complete and responsive. Prus was the winning bidder with a bid in the amount of \$832,559.20.

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation requested that Parks work with PES to develop the plan for the playground as a condition of their \$290,000 donation to the project. Staff worked with PES to develop a plan for the playground. Parks presented that plan to the community for input and revision. The final plan for the playground (included in the packet) has a budget of \$272,060.

The total for the two projects is \$1,104,619. Parks has previously allocated \$790,082 for Glenway Park, including \$150,000 and \$300,000 from the FY25 and FY26 capital budgets, \$290,000 from the Parks Foundation through an anonymous donor, and \$52,082 from a state grant. This leaves a funding gap of \$314,537.20. Staff proposes using uncommitted fund balance from Parks FY25 Infrastructure and Rehabilitation funding to complete needed funding.

Fund	Available Resources	Amount
262030	Glenway Park Renovation	\$ 300,000
262051	Glenway Park Improvements - Foundation	\$ 290,000
252042	Glenway Park Improvements - ODNR	\$ 50,082
252000	FY25 I&R Budget Previously Approved	\$ 150,000
252000	FY25 I&R Budget - Uncommitted Balance	\$ 314,537
	Total	\$1,104,619

Action Item 1:

Staff requests approval to proceed with a construction contract with Prus in the amount of \$832,559.20 with an additional \$83,250 (10%) contingency to construct the new entrance path with integrated bench seating, continuing concrete loop path, lighting, and demolition/removal of wooden steps and existing playground.

Action Item 2:

Staff requests approval to proceed with a construction contract with PES in the amount of \$272,060 with an additional \$27,200 (10%) contingency to install playground facility at Glenway Park. This facility will include multiple playground elements, play surface, and timber edging for play mulch.

Work Underway:

Sinton Campus/Biochar Facility: Procurement is finalizing bid packet materials and expect posting before end of October.

Owl's Nest Park: staff received and has provided comment on the 50% design documents provided by KZF and their subconsultant team. Materials have been shared with the Cincinnati Parks Foundation to confirm consistency with donor expectations. The next milestone will be 90% construction document review by December 2. Final design documents will be delivered January 2027.

Smale Lot 23 Enhancements: The project is substantially complete. All of the new stone is installed, with donor engravings nearing completion. New plantings were installed at the East Overlook ahead of the BLINK event, with remaining plantings at the Race street donor wall being installed by the time of this board meeting. Project closeout and contractor demobilization will occur over the coming weeks. The full construction contingency has been utilized for repairs and cleaning associated with Lot 23 Phase 1 conditions. Planning is underway for a ribbon-cutting event, with a date anticipated to be finalized for late October or early November.

Mt. Airy – Everybody's Tree House: Was completed in September with opening in time for September 26 Mt Airy Forest Trailfest event.

Inwood Park Master Plan – RFP: The RFP was posted September 17 with submittals due by 3pm today, October 15. A pre-bid meeting was held September 29th in the park with 18 firms represented. Staff expects a recommendation for your consideration by your December meeting.

McEvoy Park: A community survey was conducted through September and is being summarized. Staff is coordinating with DOTE to evaluate one of the community suggestions to consider parking options along Daly Road. Staff will prepare schematic level design of various park components for sharing with the community and continuing to gather input in December.

Burnet Woods Updates: Repaving at the Clifton Ave entrance and area repairs surrounding the bandstand are underway. Separate contracts are being prepared for both the Bandstand roof and ceiling and for the production of construction documents for pond edge walk.

Sawyer Point Playground: MKSK continues to refine site context design for the playground holding a collaborative meeting this week with Midstates/Earthscape playground consultant. The next significant milestones for the Playground include final 3D modeling delivery this month followed by CAD and cost estimate delivery in November.

Ohio River Way Bike Trail – Sawyer Point and Yeatman's Cove: Contract preparations remain underway with Arcadis for construction documents for this project with a kick-off targeted for early November.

California Woods Hydrological Plan: Stantec delivered 60% design development of stream restoration plan and the con-span structure last month. Staff is reviewing plans and providing comments to be incorporated into the 90% plan set, the next major deliverable in December.

Ault Park Discovery Trail and Playscape: Contract preparations remain underway with Wimberg for the construction of this project with installation expected during Q1 of 2027.

Eden Park Steps: Construction is currently underway. The majority of the concrete is in place including the stairs, walls, and lower plaza area. This project remains on schedule and anticipated to complete in mid-December.

Bramble Park Trail: The bid packet has posted and a pre-bid meeting will be held October 20th at the park. Bids are due October 27 and construction recommendations are expected by the December Board meeting. Staff will share the project details and timeline with the Madisonville Community Council this evening at the Madisonville Recreation Center.



Date: October 15, 2026

To: Board of Parks Commissioners

From: Travis Miller, Division Manager, Planning & Design

Subject: Urban Canopy Impact Statement – Glenway Park Renovation

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Background

Glenway Park renovation project includes multiple components across the Park and has involved community and stakeholder engagement beginning in 2025 and progressing through 2026. Improvements planned include a new park entrance at the southeast corner including walls with integrated seating flanking a new walkway at lessened slope for improved accessibility; a continuous concrete walkway loop integrating a portion of existing walkway with new walkway; new lighting fixtures; a new playground amenity; and removal of existing playground and ballfield.

Urban Canopy Impact Statement

Glenway Park has extensive canopy around the perimeter of the entire park helping to create a natural oasis within the West Price Hill neighborhood. Glenway is the home to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Champion *Cedrela sinensis* (Chinese Toon) along with several specimen oak varieties. The design of each component has contemplated existing tree locations within the park, and new elements have been integrated to have minimal impacts to the existing canopy. Specific examples include:

- Alignment of the new concrete walking path was designed to be outside of existing canopy which is primarily around the perimeter of the park.
- The grading design to accommodate the new park pedestrian entrance intentionally avoids an existing Oak specimen tree near the entrance at the south perimeter of the park.
- Tree protection zones have been delineated in the project construction documents.

One Maple and a clump Locust tree will be removed in order to accommodate the new accessible entrance design and its required grading. The Maple tree is in declining health with a partially dead canopy and the Locust clump is also of low canopy value.

Following construction, a minimum of 3 trees will be planted in the park. These will be incorporated within the new entrance feature and along the new walkway loop. Specific species and locations will be identified in collaboration with Parks' horticulturalist, Divisions of Natural Resources and Planning & Design staff.

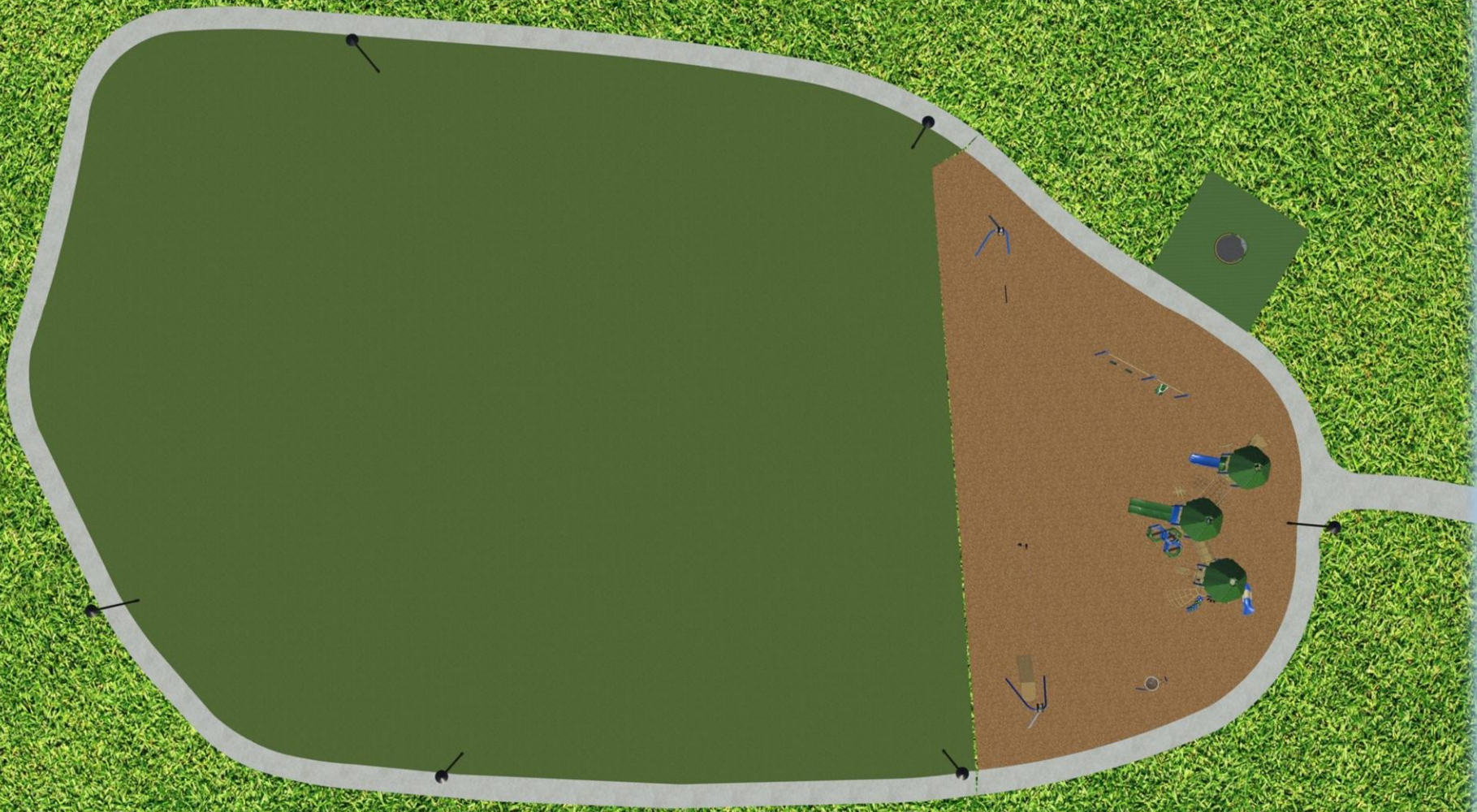


Playground Design for Glenway Park – Cincinnati Parks









FOR KIDS AGES
2-12
YEARS

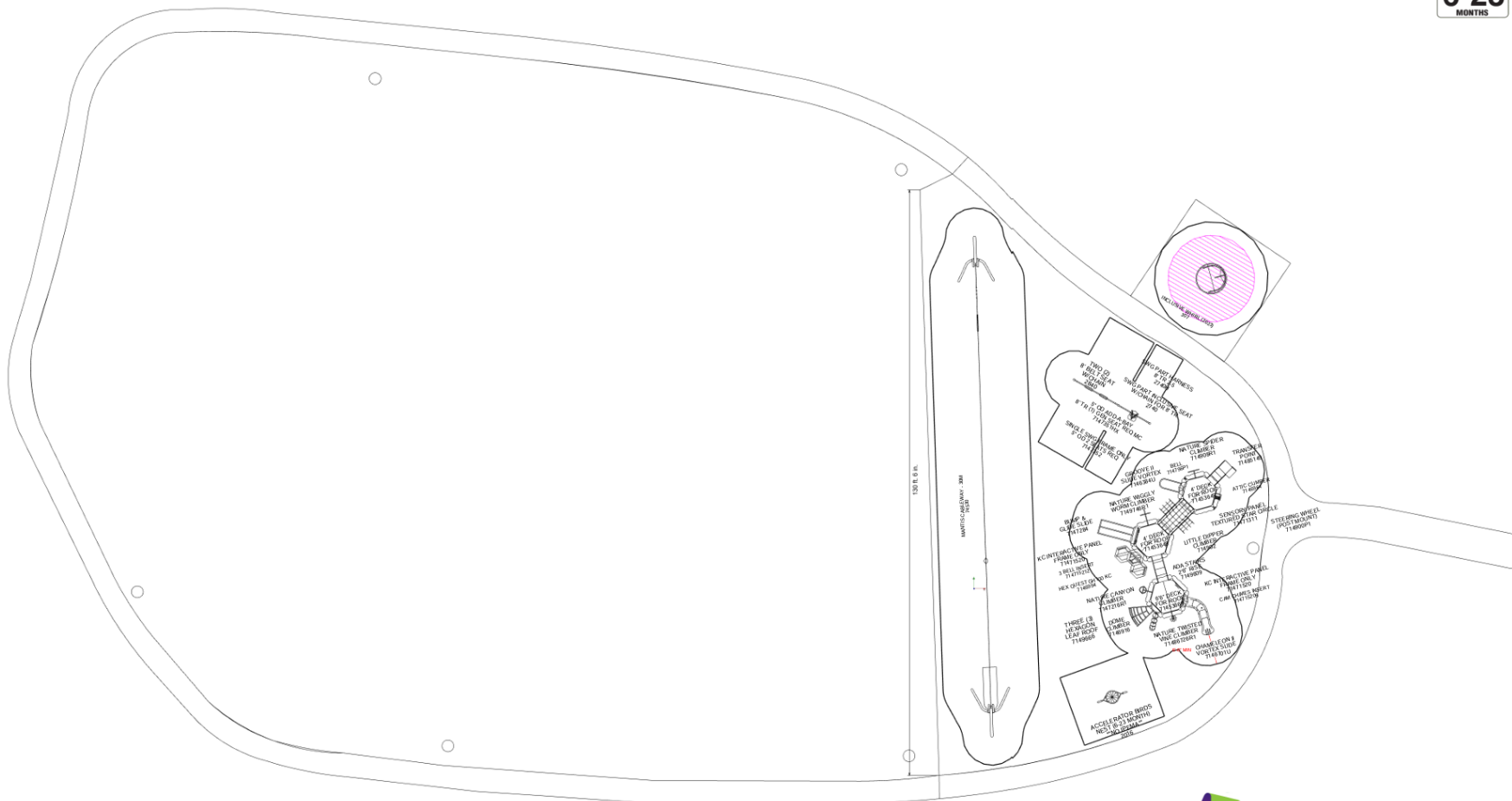
AGE GROUP:	2-12_ASTM
ELEVATED PLAY ACTIVITIES - TOTAL:	0
ELEVATED PLAY ACTIVITIES ACCESSIBLE BY TRANSFER:	0 REQ'D 0
ELEVATED PLAY ACTIVITIES ACCESSIBLE BY RAMP:	0 REQ'D 0
GROUND LEVEL ACTIVITY TYPE:	0 REQ'D 0
GROUND LEVEL QUANTITY:	0 REQ'D 0

Glenway Park V1
Cincinnati OH

AGE GROUP:	5-12_ASTM	
ELEVATED PLAY ACTIVITIES - TOTAL:	12	
ELEVATED PLAY ACTIVITIES ACCESSIBLE BY TRANSFER:	12	REQ'D 6
ELEVATED PLAY ACTIVITIES ACCESSIBLE BY RAMP:	0	REQ'D 0
GROUND LEVEL ACTIVITY TYPE:	5	REQ'D 3
GROUND LEVEL QUANTITY:	9	REQ'D 4

FOR KIDS AGE
5-12
YEARS

FOR KIDS AGE
6-23
MONTHS



Playground Equipment Services

3460 Oakmeadow Lane
Cincinnati, OH-45239

PHONE NO: (513) 9232333

EMAIL: scott.hill@playgroundequipmentservices.com

PROTECTIVE AREA: 0 x 0

GROUND SPACE: 368'-6" x 154'

DRAWN BY: Scott Hill

DATE: 10/01/2026

26012922

To promote safe and proper equipment use by children, Miracle recommends the installation of either a Miracle safety sign or other appropriate safety signage near each playsystem's main entry point(s) to inform parents and supervisors of the age appropriateness of the playsystem and general rules for safe play.

14
AN ENERGY ABSORBING PROTECTIVE
SURFACE IS REQUIRED UNDER & AROUND ALL
PLAY SYSTEMS

Play Structure Tower:

- Developmentally appropriate for children ages 5-to-12-years
- Provides hands-on-activities and engaging activities across developmental domains (cognitive, gross motor, fine motor)
- Allows adults and children to play together because adults have access to all levels of the play structure
- Children are able to play in the same area at one time. This builds their social interaction skills, social skills, language skills, and peer relationships.
- Adults are able to view all areas of the play structure from the ground level for behavior management purposes













Mantis Cableway***

This 20m long zipline-like glider gives kids an exciting opportunity for fun and sensory development on the playground. Whether they sit or stand on the suspended platform, kids will love the rush of flying down this thrilling structure.

*****Note:**

**Total pricing includes 3 extra
Mantis Cableway seats**





Inclusive Whirl

All members of your community can go for a spin with Inclusive Whirl! The decking is designed to be level with surrounding surfacing, so those in wheelchairs can easily roll on the equipment to the ADA-compliant parking space. Its spacious design also features a seat built into the arched handrail, so users of any ability level or age can enjoy the ride together.





Bird's Nest Swing

Caregivers can use Bird's Nest to comfortably rock children. Thanks to its basket-like design, children can easily settle in the seat and enjoy the fun and excitement that swinging instills. For young children especially, Bird's Nest provides a great opportunity to develop the vestibular system.





Swings and Inclusive Swing Seat

This snug, supportive seat offers all children a high-flying ride while helping them coordinate head and eye movements, stay upright against gravity, develop balance equilibrium and coordinate actions on the right and left sides of the body.

Swing sets are one of the most iconic playground features. Many kids love the thrill of soaring into the sky from the safety of their swing. Now everyone can join in on the fun of this favorite playground experience regardless of their abilities or needs with the Inclusive Swing Seat from Miracle® Recreation. The inclusive swing set offers a secure seat and the ability to attach a harness when needed to provide a safe swinging experience for all.





Toadstool

C Major Diatonic

The Toadstool brings the magic of the woodland floor to outdoor musical spaces. Inspired by the familiar fungi found in forests and gardens, this whimsical instrument encourages curiosity, imagination, and musical exploration through simple hands-on play.

Players tap or press the white spots on the toadstool caps to create clear, gentle tones. With eight notes arranged in a diatonic scale, children can explore familiar melodies, experiment with patterns, and discover the joy of making music without the need for mallets. Its charming appearance and intuitive playability make the Toadstool a natural addition to woodland-themed play spaces, children's gardens, libraries, and outdoor learning environments.



Butterfly

C6–C7 Diatonic Scale

The Butterfly is a captivating outdoor musical instrument that combines nature-inspired design with engaging, hands-on play. Modeled on the iconic Monarch butterfly, it invites children and families to explore music through movement while encouraging curiosity about pollinators, migration, and the natural world.

Hidden within the Butterfly's colorful wings are eight bells tuned to a C6-C7 diatonic scale. Each wing contains a pair of bells arranged in parallel fifths, producing bright, resonant tones with a rich, harmonious character. Simply push or press the wings to activate the bells - no mallets required. Easy to play and visually appealing, the Butterfly encourages sensory exploration, creativity, and musical discovery for visitors of all ages and abilities.



Ladybug

C Major Pentatonic

The Ladybug is a colorful outdoor musical instrument that combines nature-inspired design with engaging hands-on play. Perched on a green leaf and supported by a stainless-steel stem, this cheerful garden visitor encourages children to explore music, creativity, and the natural world through touch and discovery.

Players simply press the Ladybug's six black spots to create bright, harmonious tones. The intuitive layout makes it easy to play, while the pentatonic tuning ensures every note sounds pleasing together, helping young children build confidence through musical exploration. With no mallets required, the Ladybug is perfect for early years environments, libraries, family attractions, and nature-themed play spaces.



Street Congas Trio

Unpitched Percussion

The Street Congas Trio transforms outdoor spaces into vibrant hubs of rhythm, creativity, and social interaction. Featuring three brushed stainless-steel drum heads, it offers a broader range of tones and encourages collaborative play, making it a natural focal point for parks, plazas, and community spaces.

Combining the energy of communal music-making with the appeal of interactive public art, the Street Congas Trio invites people to gather, experiment, and connect through rhythm. Its durable stainless-steel construction is designed for demanding urban environments, while its sculptural appearance enhances streetscapes, civic spaces, and placemaking projects.



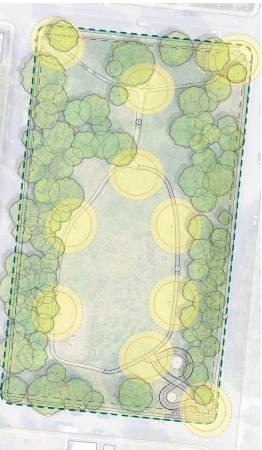
Pricing:

Play Equipment	\$151,901
Installation	\$68,355
Freight	\$6,093
Musical Equipment	\$14,661
Turf (around Whirl)	\$17,375
Borders	\$5,750
Performance Bond @ 3%	\$7,925
TOTAL	\$272,060

*****Mulch provided by Cincy Parks**

*****50% down at time of order**





Glenway Park

Action Item 1







Glenway Park

Action Item 2





Mt. Adams Steps

Eden Park



Everybody's Treehouse

Mt. Airy





Date: October 15, 2026

To: Board of Parks Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Parks Director

Subject: Capital Budget Transfer for Sinton Facility Renovation Project

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Background

At the July Park Board meeting, staff presented the renovation plans for Parks' Sinton Operations Facility Campus, including Parks' biochar production facility. Parks staff has prepared all the components of the bid package for the project and the City's Department of Economic Inclusion and Procurement (DEIP) is releasing the Invitation to Bid for the project in October.

Description

Parks staff has been identifying capital funding sources for the project based upon the estimates from project architects, KZF Design. Staff proposes reallocating \$1,067,052.26 from existing Parks capital account 232027, Riverfront Parks Stabilization – GFCO to existing Parks capital account 252034 Sinton Facility Renovation bringing the total of that account to \$2,767,052.26.

The Riverfront Parks Stabilization funding was requested in 2022 as a potential stop gap project to shore up the river bank along Smale Park, in advance of the larger Smale River's Edge project in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers. At this time, it is not anticipated that a stop gap measure will be needed in the short term. In addition, the Smale River's Edge project is several years off based upon federal timelines and the need for Congressionally Directed Spending appropriation.

Once the bids for the Sinton Facility Renovation project are received and reviewed by DEIP, staff project presenting the winner bidder to the Board for consideration at the December or January Board meeting. This transfer will redirect funding to better position Parks to fund the Sinton Renovation Project.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully request approval to reallocate \$1,067,052.26 from the Riverfront Parks Stabilization capital account to the Sinton Facility Renovation capital account. City Council will need to pass an ordinance to complete the transfer.



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

Date: October 15, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Herta Fairbanks, CFO

Subject: Finance / IT Update – September 2026

This month, the Finance Team focused on efforts to cross-train individuals to ensure continuity of services during staff absences. Providing cross training allowed for identification of some potential efficiencies which is an ancillary benefit of having fresh eyes on existing processes.

The Finance Team has also been continuing support of internal teams with navigating the bidding and request for proposal processes with the City's newly combined Department of Economic Inclusion and Procurement (DEIP). We continue to have a strong collaborative relationship with our buying team which has helped with ensuring our purchasing process is as efficient as possible. The City has been working on executing contracts using the state contract process which has provided us with greater flexibility with vendor selection and access to needed goods. This should help in the coming years in allowing expedited purchasing for our operations teams.

The City is also implementing a major upgrade to the financial system which will change the platform of the system. We have been participating in provided trainings so that when the new system is up and running, the transition will hopefully be seamless to our daily operations.

On the IT side of the house, a major lift was preparing the IT capital budget for 2027. This is the first step in the lengthy capital budgeting process that used to start in October but now begins with this step in July. In prior years, the City has only requested new capital outlays for IT efforts but this year the request included identifying all IT needs including existing software subscriptions, equipment purchases, and peripherals from monitors and keyboards and mice. As you can imagine, this was a heavy lift for our IT team, but it was completed well and within the deadline.

Another accomplishment for the IT group was working with Altafiber to deploy public Wi-Fi at the skating rink at Sawyer Point. Originally, Altafiber wanted Parks to purchase an additional stand-alone internet service that would include managed Wi-Fi. This would have resulted in an additional cost of \$125-\$150 per month. The team was able to identify utilizing an existing underground conduit that connects the pickleball building with the skating building, leveraging our existing infrastructure to save this ongoing cost. As part of this project, AltaFiber deployed four new access points, including upgrades to the two existing access points at the pickleball building. In total, we now have two outdoor and two indoor access points. The deployment provides nearly complete Wi-Fi coverage throughout both the indoor and outdoor spaces in the area. Coverage doesn't weaken until the farthest pickleball courts and the beginning of the tennis courts.



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Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Phone (513) 352-4080
Fax (513) 352-4096
www.cincinnati-parks.com

Date: October 15, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Derrick Gentry, Supervising Human Resources Analyst

Subject: HR Status Update

Key Updates

Parks HR continues to advance full-time staffing and appointment activity while expanding employee engagement and development efforts.

Full-Time Staffing Snapshot

Based on the current full-time hiring tracker, twelve positions remain open. The table below separates positions with selected candidates already moving through appointment processing from positions that still require recruitment, selection, or other next-step action.

Position Title	Total	Status
Facility Maintenance Specialist	2	On Hold
Administrative Technician - Krohn	1	Step 4 – Interviewing
Supervising Accountant	1	Step 4 - Interviewing
Horticulturalist – Warder & East	2	Step 3 – Examination in progress
Senior Landscape Architect	1	Step 4 – Application Review
Senior Engineering Technician	1	Step 4 – Application Review
Service Area Coordinator – Nature Education	1	Step 1 – Classification Review – City HR
Laborer - (2) East & (1) West	3	Step 2 – (1) Requisition in progress Step 5 – (2) Conditional Offer
Total Open Positions	12	

HR Initiatives

Post-Hiring Season Priorities

As Parks HR transitions out of peak hiring season, we will shift our focus to strengthening the internal systems and employee support that sustain effective operations throughout the year. HR will review and improve internal processes to increase efficiency, clarify ownership, reduce avoidable delays, and provide managers with more consistent visibility into staffing, payroll, training, and employee-relations activities.

We will also refine the Parks safety-training program by aligning required training with employee classifications, job duties, and operational risks, while improving completion tracking and manager accountability. In addition, HR will finalize and cascade a new Parks Policy Manual, so employees and

supervisors have clear, accessible guidance on expectations, procedures, and available resources.

Leadership development will be another priority. Parks HR will develop a leadership-training program that equips supervisors and managers with practical tools for communication, accountability, performance management, employee relations, safety, and team development. Finally, we will revisit the employee-engagement initiative to ensure Parks remains a workplace where employees feel supported, connected to the mission, proud of their contributions, and motivated to build long-term careers serving our community.



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Travis Miller
Division Manager

Date: October 15, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Grant Application/Acceptance – Ohio Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service

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

1. \$15,000 – ODA Spotted Lanternfly Community Control Grant

Grant will be used to remove invasive trees of heaven, perform herbicide treatment to prevent regrowth, identify and remove egg masses, and facilitate community engagement activities to help control the invasive Spotted Lanternfly.

Staff request approval to apply for and accept, upon award, the grant listed below from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

1. \$100,000 – FY27 National Fish Habitat Partnership Funding Opportunity: California Woods Stream Restoration

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

Staff request approval to apply for and accept, upon award, the grant listed below from the Forest Service:

1. \$500,000 – USFS 2026 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program

Grant will be used for the startup costs and the first year of operation of the facility, including workforce development and collaboration opportunities for the Cincinnati Biochar Project

Recommendation

Staff respectfully request the Board approve the application and acceptance of grant funds from the Ohio Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$15,000, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$100,000, and from the U.S. Forest Service in an amount up to \$500,000.



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Phone (513) 352-4080
Fax (513) 352-4096
www.cincinnatiiparks.com

Date: October 15, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Spotted Lanternfly Community Control Grant – Ohio Department of Agriculture

Grantor

The Spotted Lanternfly Community Control Grant is administered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Grant Requirements

The Spotted Lanternfly Community Control Grant provides up to \$15,000 in reimbursement funds to remove trees of heaven, perform herbicide treatment to prevent regrowth, identify and remove egg masses, and facilitate community engagement activities to help control the pest. Match for this grant project includes in-kind staff time to conduct the program. Parks applied for these funds at the end of September.

Notification

Parks applied for \$15,000 on September 30, 2026, and notifications are expected in late October/early November.

Timeline

The project is planned to commence immediately upon award announcement, and funds must be expended by July 31, 2027.

Project Description

With the rapid emergence of Spotted Lantern Fly over the past two years, the Cincinnati Parks Conservation & Land Management (CLM) team has ramped up efforts to treat and remove Tree of Heaven, an invasive plant and the pest's host tree. CLM staff have identified approximately 25 priority Tree of Heaven population sites within high-value natural areas or high use areas across the park system. Grant funding will be used to conduct Tree of Heaven suppression activities within natural areas, preserves, and conservation lands throughout the park system. Funds will be used for herbicides, application supplies, personal protective equipment, monitoring materials, GIS documentation, and educational outreach associated with Tree of Heaven and Spotted Lanternfly management.



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Date: October 15, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: FY2027 National Fish Habitat Partnership Funding Opportunity –
California Woods Stream Restoration

Grantor

Federal funding is available through the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) and is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Grant Requirements

The Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership (ORBFHP) is accepting proposals for FY27 National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) funding to protect, restore, and enhance priority habitat for fish and mussels in the watersheds of the Ohio River Basin for the benefit of the public. Up to \$100,000 per project is available in reimbursement funds through NFHP. A 1:1 non-federal match is required. Funding is contingent on congressional appropriations, NFHP and Department of the Interior (DOI) review, and completion of federal award requirements.

Notification

The application was submitted on October 6, 2026 and will go through a series of reviews from the ORBFHP, NFHP, and Department of Interior. Anticipated award announcements will be June-August 2027.

Timeline

The project is planned to commence immediately upon execution of agreements with the funder. The project period is up to two years from the start of the federal award.

Project Description

Parks is contracting with environmental consultant, Stantec, to develop a design for the restoration and enhancement of Lick Run Creek in California Woods. 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. Funding from this grant program will be used alongside other pending or potential funding for this project.



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www.cincinnatiiparks.com

Date: October 15, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant
Program – Forest Service: Cincinnati Biochar Project

Grantor

The Forest Service is a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). All grant funded work will support USDA and Forest Service priorities.

Grant Requirements

Individual award funding is up to \$500,000. The program seeks practical, creative, and replicable projects that help communities establish or expand wood-utilization efforts. All applicants must demonstrate a 1:1 match of federal funds to non-federal funds, which may be in the form of cash, services, or in-kind contributions.

Notification

The application was submitted by the deadline of October 12, 2026 and the anticipated award date is December 12, 2026. Depending on the number of proposals received, the full review and award process may take up to six months.

Timeline

Once an application is selected, the applicant must work with the Forest Service to successfully execute an award agreement to receive and begin spending funding. All award activities will be completed within three years and may be completed in fewer than three years. Awards may be extended an additional two years with prior Forest Service approval. Funding agreements will not be extended beyond 5 years.

Project Description

Cincinnati Parks has been planning and preparing for biochar production for several years. The focus of this grant project is on the startup costs and the first year of operation of the facility, including workforce development and collaboration opportunities.



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Date: October 15, 2026

To: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Jason Barron, Director

Subject: Acceptance of In-Kind Contributions and Annual Endowment
Distributions from Cincinnati Parks Foundation

Background

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

Description

Staff is requesting approval to accept \$53,490.85 of in-kind contributions for the third quarter of 2026. The detail of the contributions is provided in Attachment A. Staff is also requesting approval to accept \$160,332.00 in permanent endowment distributions for FY27 to the Park Board.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully requests the Board approve acceptance of in-kind contributions donated by the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in the amount of \$53,490.85 and permanent endowment distributions of \$160,332.00.

Attachment A – In-Kind Donations QTR3 2026

Attachment B – Permanent Endowment Distributions FY27

Attachment A - In-Kind Donations Qtr 3 2026

Donation	Donation Value	Purpose of Donation	Date of Donation
ROZZI, INC. - Ault Park July 4 fireworks - bal due on contract	\$9,438.00	Parks Events	7/9/2026
EVENT ENTERPRISES - Inv-03647 roof & stage system Ault Park fireworks	\$3,075.00	Parks Events	7/9/2026
RollKall Technologies - Inv I-070526-71 Ault Park Fireworks July 4 security	\$912.68	Parks Events	7/9/2026
Panera Bread-Park Board Social Breakfast	\$209.52	General Support	7/26/2026
RollKall Technologies - Inv 1-072226-6433 July 4 Ault Park fireworks	\$7,554.33	Parks Events	7/31/2026
Evan Seurkamp - Sawyer Pt Summer Concert 8/14 performance	\$500.00	Parks Events	8/13/2026
Rachel Toney - Summer Concert - Sawyer Pt 8/14 performance	\$400.00	Parks Events	8/13/2026
National Flag Co. - Inv 238068 193 UN flags, 1 US for Theodore Berry Park	\$7,695.45	General Support	8/13/2026
ROZZI, INC. - Sawyer Pt Summer concert Inv 15202 Meet NKY show 7/3/26	\$10,000.00	Parks Events	8/24/2026
Verdin Company - Inv -OHCI388 Fix for Piano at Smale Park - deposit	\$9,156.00	General Support	8/24/2026
Amazon-Sawyer Pt Summer Concert various supplies Camp lights and Storage Duffle Bag etc.	\$74.66	Parks Events	8/26/2026
Global Industrial-Water Bottle Fountain for Sawyer Point Park Pickleball Courts	\$3,172.95	General Support	8/26/2026
Palmer Orchids-Orchids for Krohn Conservatory	\$392.50	Horticultural Supplies	8/26/2026
Baron Identification Products - tree tags	\$59.50	Horticultural Supplies	9/9/2026
Amazon-Lets Grow Local various supplies - Metal Fence Posts, Zip Ties, Gloves, Trash Bags, mesh	\$850.26	Horticultural Supplies	9/26/2026
	<u>\$53,490.85</u>		

Attachment B - Permanent Endowment Distributions FY27

Donation	Donation Value	Purpose of Donation	Date of Donation
Permanent Endowment Distributions 2026 - Drackett Ault	\$50,755.00	General Support	9/22/2026
Permanent Endowment Distributions 2026 - Oliver Foun	\$50,000.00	General Support	9/22/2026
Permanent Endowment Distributions 2026 - Womens Comm	\$27,334.00	General Support	9/22/2026
Permanent Endowment Distributions 2026 - LaBoiteaux Woods	\$12,486.00	General Support	9/22/2026
Permanent Endowment Distributions 2026 - Burnet Woods Diggs Foun	\$6,000.00	General Support	9/22/2026
Permanent Endowment Distributions 2026 - Smale anniversary garden	\$5,037.00	General Support	9/22/2026
Permanent Endowment Distributions 2026 - Carter's Grove	\$5,000.00	General Support	9/22/2026
Permanent Endowment Distributions 2026 - Trailside Nature Center	\$1,914.00	General Support	9/22/2026
Permanent Endowment Distributions 2026 - Alms Comisar	\$1,306.00	General Support	9/22/2026
Permanent Endowment Distributions 2026 - Marion Spencer Statue	\$500.00	General Support	9/22/2026
	<u>\$160,332.00</u>		