



Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners  
**Board Meeting Agenda**  
**January 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 December 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes

**III. Information / Updates / Action Items**

A. Riverfront Event Fees and Charges

1. Action Item: Approval of Increase in Event Fee Structure for Sawyer Point

B. Urban Forestry Update

Jason Barron, Director

1. Action Item: Amendment to the 2027 Urban Forestry Assessment

C. Planning & Design Update

Travis Miller, Division Manager, P&D

D. Monthly Finance / IT Division Highlights

Herta Fairbanks, CFO

E. HR Update

Derrick Gentry, HR Manager

F. Grants Application / Acceptance

Jason Barron, Director

1. Action Item: Mt. Storm Property Land Acquisition

2. Action Item: Cincinnati Conservation Corps

**IV. Director's Comments**

**V. Open Commissioner Discussion & Comments**

**VI. Next Regular Meeting Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 9:00 AM**

**VII. Adjournment**



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

BOARD OF PARK

COMMISSIONERS

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

### Action Items

Molly North  
*President*

Kick Lee  
*Vice President*

Susan F. Castellini

Phyllis McCallum

John E. Neyer

- **Approval of the December 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes**
- **Approval of Increased Event Fee Structure for Riverfront Parks**  
Staff respectfully request the Board of Park Commissioners' approval of the proposed adjustments to the Riverfront Parks Events and Rentals fee structure as discussed and / or amended to go into effect immediately.
- **Amendment to the 2027 Urban Forestry Assessment**  
Staff respectfully request the Board of Park Commissioners approve the revised 2027 (FY28) Urban Forestry Street Tree Program budget and work plan.
- **Parks Foundation Grant: Mt. Storm Property Land Acquisition**  
Staff respectfully request approval to apply for and accept a grant from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in an amount up to \$5,000 to conduct an appraisal and cover other preliminary costs associated with exploring the viability of acquiring land adjacent to Mt. Storm Park.
- **Ohio EPA Grant: Cincinnati Conservation Corps**  
Staff respectfully request approval to apply for and accept a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency in an amount up to \$50,000 to fund service-learning opportunities focused in Mt. Airy Forest for teens and young adults.

Jason Barron  
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Rocky Merz  
*Division Manager*

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**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
**December 18, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners was held on this day at 950 Eden Park Drive. Commissioners present: President Molly North, Vice President Kick Lee, Commissioner 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 public comments received via email regarding Burnet Woods accessibility, conservation, and snow removal.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

**Approval of the November 20 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the November 20, 2025, meeting minutes. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**INFORMATION / UPDATES**

**Cincinnati Zoo Update**

Mark Fisher, Vice President of Facilities, Planning, and Sustainability for the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, and Zoo Director, David Jenike, shared a presentation on recent growth and capital projects at the Cincinnati Zoo, which is located on Parks-owned land. The Commissioners and Zoo staff discussed progress in the training and care of animals, and investments the Zoo has made and continues to make in the Avondale neighborhood.

**Women Veterans Memorial**

Kathryn Dierckes of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America presented a proposal to design and erect a memorial to women who have served in our country's armed forces. The memorial would be placed in Eden Park, near a small existing marker, with a goal of unveiling the new memorial on Veterans Day 2026. The Commissioners and Ms. Dierckes discussed concerns about time constraints and continued maintenance after installation, and agreed updates would be provided along the way.

**Urban Forestry Assessment Update**

Garrett Dienno, Supervisor of Urban Forestry, shared an overview of Parks' Urban Forestry program, including core functions, current staffing, and the primary funding mechanism – the annual Urban Forestry Assessment. Staff provided a detailed explanation of the front footage assessment methodology and a breakdown of the steps in the assessment process, and presented a proposed budget and work plan for 2027.

**ACTION ITEM**

**Urban Forestry Assessment Approval**

Staff respectfully requested the Board recommend to City Council a 2027 Urban Forestry front footage assessment of \$0.31 per foot – the current rate - to maintain service levels through FY28. Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **INFORMATION / UPDATES**

### **Planning & Design Update**

Director Barron shared updates on projects including Smale Lot 23, the Mt. Airy Bike Skills Course and surrounding area, the Ault Park playground, Parks' Sinton campus and biochar facility, Everybody's Treehouse in Mt. Airy, the Sawyer Point playground, Glenway Park, the Sherman Recreation Area bioswale project, stormwater projects in Mt. Airy and Eden Park, and the Alms Park pergola.

### **Finance / IT Update**

Herta Fairbanks, Division Manager of Finance and IT, outlined recent efforts to analyze the monthly finance reports to flag areas where improvements can be made or more detailed notes could be provided. These include updates to the Target Percentages, Revenue, and Available Spend Calculation reports.

### **HR Update**

Director Barron gave an overview of full-time staffing and HR initiatives including updates to the Parks policy manual, work to partner with Marketing to improve recruiting efforts, Parks Academy, and work to assess and strengthen Parks' culture.

### **Capital Budget & 3-Year Plan Presentation**

Director Barron briefly outlined the City's Budget process and provided a summary of Parks' FY27 capital budget request totaling \$7,149,000. The total includes \$3,599,000 for Parks Infrastructure Rehabilitation projects, and \$3,550,000 for four additional projects – McEvoy Park Renovation, Mt. Airy Adventure Playground, Warder Nursery Renovation, and Smale Concrete and Granite Rehabilitation.

## **ACTION ITEM**

### **FY27 Capital Budget Request**

Staff respectfully requested the Board approve the proposed FY27 Parks Capital Budget Request as outlined. Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve the budget request. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Director Barron presented the following updates:

- Parks 3-Year Project Plan has been updated through Q4 2028
- Krohn's spring show, Moonlight Menagerie, runs January 17 – April 19
- Parks Operations team worked hard to clear early December snowfall
- Parks has two teams participating in Adopt A Class at Mt. Airy and Cheviot schools
- The Ault Park Playground officially opened Friday, December 12
- Events in Parks throughout December and early January

Director wished the Commissioners and team a safe and happy holiday season and thanked everyone for their time, efforts, guidance, and support throughout the year.

## **OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION & COMMENTS**

Commissioner McCallum thanked volunteers and the Foundation for their partnership on the CPAC program, and shared that she will be a member of the art selection committee for the Women Veterans Memorial.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President North adjourned the meeting at 11:06am.

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

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_ DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_



Date: January 15, 2026  
To: Board of Parks Commissioners  
From: Jenny Mobley, Deputy Director  
Subject: Approval of Increased Event Fee Structure for Riverfront Parks

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Travis Miller  
*Division Manager*

## **Background**

The riverfront parks area including Sawyer Point, Yeatman’s Cove, and Smale Riverfront Park are often recognized as the front door to Cincinnati, attracting over 1 million visitors every year to participate in passive and active health and wellness programs, interact with and enjoy our natural resources, and serve as a magnet to both attract residents and businesses and retain them as well. This area also serves as an attractive venue for a variety of events, walks, runs, special events, etc.

These events are managed by staff in the Riverfront and Special Events Division. Their role is to provide excellent and equitable guest relations and experiences, which includes developing events, marketing events and assisting event producers (renters) with the development and execution of the event or program.

All events at the Riverfront are provided with an array of services from staff to help make their entire interaction and event successful. These services include a staff coordinator to assist with their reservation and guide them through the application process, providing them with clear cost estimates and critical logistical details. In addition, maintenance staff prepares the venue by providing technical support, including but not limited to electrical support, sanitation management, crowd control, and parking services. This comprehensive guest-experience-first approach, with attention to detail contributes to many successful and returning events for Cincinnati.

## **Findings and Strategy**

It’s important to not become complacent with past success, and to review operations, procedures, guest feedback and pricing on a regular basis to ensure the best guest experiences and opportunities to maximize revenue are realized. Staff have recognized the need for a comprehensive review every 3 to 5 years to ensure the items above are achieved. The last review occurred in 2019.

Based on staff experience, revenue report data and market research the Riverfront staff is recommending adjustments to the Riverfront Parks Rental fee structure. The goals of the recommended adjustments to the fee structure are:

- Maintain high-level standards of exceptional guest relations, experiences, and service.

- Provide competitive / market-rate pricing.
- Provide support to cover staffing fees and overtime.
- Increase the economic impact and revenue opportunities for the City Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Park Board.

**Description**

Staff recommend the following adjustments to the Riverfront Parks Events and Rentals fee structure:

**Sawyer Point / Yeatman’s Cove**

	<b>Current Structure</b>	<b>Recommended Structure</b>
Base Rate	\$425 (5-hour min)	\$500 (5-hour min)
Additional Hour	\$85/hour	\$100/hour
<b>Additional Staffing Fees</b>		
1,001 - 3,500	\$50	\$125
3,501 – 6,000	\$100	\$175
6,001 – 10,000	\$150	\$225
10,001 +	\$200	\$275

**Revenues**

	<b>FY25 Event Revenue</b>	<b>Projected Event Revenue</b>
Sawyer Point	\$327,162	\$384,743

**Recommendation**

Staff respectfully request the Board of Park Commissioners’ feedback and approval of the proposed adjustments to the Riverfront Parks Events and Rentals fee structure as discussed and / or amended to go into effect immediately.



Date: January 15, 2026  
To: Jason Barron, Director of Parks  
From: Garrett Dienno, Supervisor of Urban Forestry  
Subject: Cost of Tree & Sidewalk Conflicts to Urban Forestry Program

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## **Background**

Tree–sidewalk conflicts create significant and recurring expenses for municipalities and property owners. Direct costs include sidewalk repair or replacement, root pruning or tree removal, and ongoing maintenance such as grinding lifted panels or installing root barriers. Additional indirect costs can include liability claims from trip hazards, emergency repairs, and the loss of tree benefits when mature trees are removed.

To better understand the direct and indirect costs of tree-sidewalk conflicts to the Cincinnati Urban Forestry Program we have prepared this report which details the direct and indirect costs for the period of 12/1/2024 until 12/31/2025.

## **Findings**

### Direct costs

1. **Tree Removals-** \$84,055.00
2. **Stump Grinding** - \$11,195.00
3. **Replacement Planting** – \$33,320.00

The cost of these contractual services, which totals \$128,570, represents 9.3% of our average annual budget for contractual services within the Urban Forestry section (~\$1,386,000 using data from FY23, 24, & 25).

### Indirect Costs

1. **Trees Lost-** total of 56, with 23 being from low canopy neighborhoods
2. **Loss of Tree Value-** estimated at \$263,734.91

## **Solutions**

Tree–sidewalk conflicts can often be managed without removing the tree by using design and engineering solutions that accommodate root growth. Alternatives include sidewalk grinding, raising or ramping blocks, installing root barriers, and selective root pruning when possible. Additional options include flexible paving materials, structural soils, suspended pavement systems, or redesigning sidewalks to curve or widen around tree roots. These approaches allow for correction of the sidewalk issues while also preserving mature trees and their long-term environmental and economic benefits.

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Travis Miller  
*Division Manager*



Date: January 15, 2026  
To: Board of Park Commissioners  
From: Garrett Dienno, Supervisor of Urban Forestry  
Subject: Amendment to the 2027 Urban Forestry Assessment (FY 2028)

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### **Background**

At the December 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting, the Commissioners approved the proposed FY28 Urban Forestry assessment, budget, and work plan. Following further evaluation of the operational impacts of Urban Forestry’s newly established internal tree crews—and the productivity achieved during their initial three months—the budget has been resubmitted to include an additional \$150,000 for the tree planting contract.

This increase is primarily funded through anticipated savings in emergent and preventative maintenance contractual expenses. The additional \$150,000 allocated to planting is expected to support the installation of approximately 300 additional trees beyond the originally approved budget.

### **Recommendation**

Staff respectfully request the Board of Park Commissioners approve the revised 2027 (FY28) Urban Forestry Street Tree Program budget and work plan.

Attachments – Revised 2027 Budget; Revised 2027 Workplan

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**Recommended 2027 ASSESSMENT BUDGET (FY28) - revised January 2026**

Urban Forestry Street Tree Program

Cincinnati Park Board Division of Natural Resources

Assessment rate: \$0.31/ft

EXPENSES		Proposed FY 2028 Budget	Comments
Personnel		\$1,522,298.40	Calculated from top salary of positions multiplied by 40% to account for benefits and future COLA Held for possible truck replacement, otherwise will be added to the reserve. Contractual services for FY 23, 24, and 25 were \$1,469,363.25, \$1,260,844.67, and \$1,428,962.78 respectively.
Capital Equipment		\$70,000.00	
Contractual Maintenance		\$1,595,000.00	
Emergency	\$500,000.00		Having inhouse crews do all <20" prunes and removals could save up to \$152k annually based on current contract pricing. In FY 25 Forestry expended \$568,633 on EM services, avg of \$47,386 per month.
Preventive	\$570,000.00		Neighborhoods of Clifton, East Westwood, English Woods, Millvale, South Cumminsville, North Fairmount, South Fairmount, Villages at Roll Hill, Avondale, North Avondale, East Price Hill, and Lower Price Hill. Initial cost estimates came back between \$860k & \$625k (when trees >8" are removed). In house crews are already beginning to work on PM work in these areas.
Stump Grinding	\$75,000.00		FY 25 was \$106,116.80; YTD FY 26 \$70,576.42
Planting	\$450,000.00		Expended \$484,635.07 in FY 25. \$450k will pay for ~900 trees at current contract prices.
Materials & Supplies		\$163,000.00	
Training + Travel	\$14,000.00		
Fleet (Repair + Fuel)	\$40,000.00		
Utilities+Phones	\$23,000.00		
Advertisement	\$3,000.00		
Office Supplies	\$5,000.00		
Hort.+Small Equip	\$10,000.00		
CAGIS Annual Licenses	\$28,000.00		
Maximo(?)	\$40,000.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,350,298.40</b>	
REVENUE @\$0.31/FF		\$3,502,139.75	
Anticipated Delinquencies		(\$100,000.00)	
Fund 792 assessment revenue		\$3,402,139.75	
Reserve		\$51,841.35	

**2027 (FY28) Street Tree Program  
Recommended Budget Report  
Revised January 2026**

**Expense Descriptions:**

**Personnel – \$1,552,298.40**

Salary and fringes for 25% Division Manager of Natural Resources, 25% Senior GIS Analyst, Urban Forestry Supervisor, four Urban Forestry Specialists, one Administrative Technician, one part-time Park Specialist for administrative assistance, and the Urban Forestry tree crew (Maintenance Crew Leader, one Lead Arborist, two Arborist 2's, and two Arborist 1's, one part-time Park Specialist)

**Capital Equipment – \$70,000.00**

Capital equipment – Held for possible replacement pickup truck, otherwise will be added to the reserve.

**Contractual Maintenance**

Emergency – \$500,000

Emergency response and routine street tree maintenance between pruning cycles. Majority of removals and prunes less than 20" diameter will be completed by in-house tree crews.

Preventive – \$570,000

Conduct routine pruning cycle for neighborhoods of Clifton, East Westwood, English Woods, Millvale, South Cumminsville, North Fairmount, South Fairmount, Villages at Roll Hill, Avondale, North Avondale, East Price Hill, and Lower Price Hill. Prunes less than 8" diameter will be completed by in-house tree crews.

Stump Grinding - \$75,000

Contractual stump grinding of approximately 400 stumps annually.

**Planting & Young Tree Maintenance – \$450,000**

Comprehensive Planting – replace trees removed in all communities and conduct targeted plantings in communities of need as determined by the 2020 Urban Tree Canopy Analysis (900 plantings est.).

**Materials and Supplies – \$163,000**

Municipal Garage costs, fuel/fleet repairs, utilities, training, office supplies, tree care equipment and materials for crews, CAGIS & MAXIMO licenses.



Date: January 15, 2026  
To: Board of Parks Commissioners  
From: Travis Miller, Division Manager, Planning & Design  
Subject: Planning & Design Monthly Update

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Please review the monthly update from Parks' Division of Planning & Design (P&D):

BOARD OF PARK

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### 2026 Quarter 1 Plan of Work Underway Projects

Molly North  
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**Mt. Airy Everybody's Treehouse:** Megen Construction has continued work on the maintenance renovations, and the project is on schedule and on budget for a spring reopening.

#### **Mt. Airy Area 23 Bike Skills Course:**

- **ADA Pathway** - Staff is working to proceed with Prus Construction through a City term contract to complete the ADA concrete walkway and associated work, including the drop-off area and comfort station entry area. A proposal will be presented in February.
- **Mt. Airy Area 23 Bike Skills Course Building Maintenance Renovations and Amenities Upgrades** - Staff is working to proceed with Megen Works through a City TPA contract to complete renovations to the comfort station and overlook, and deferred maintenance upgrades. A proposal will be presented in February.

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

**Sawyer Point Playground:** The contract with MKSK for landscape architecture design services has been reviewed by Law, and Staff is working toward contract execution. Schematic Design will be completed by April. Design Development and Construction Documents will be completed in late summer / early fall 2026.

**Biochar and Sinton Campus:** 90% plans were received by KZF in December, and a review of the construction plans across various divisions of the Parks team began this week. Construction drawings will be finalized in the next few months, with plans for the RFP process through City Procurement to begin by spring of this year. Biochar 90% plans will be delivered near the end of January, coinciding with the KZF contract amendment.

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**Glenway Park:** Parks Facilities & Maintenance team have identified recommendations for street and site lighting. P&D will continue to coordinate with Facilities as a design is prepared. A professional services contract was sent to Von Euw Tetraault on 12/31/2025. Once a signed contract is returned, it will be routed for signatures.

### **Priority Maintenance & Repair Projects**

**Multi-site Plumbing Repairs:** being scoped at Mt. Airy, Rapid Run, Inwood, and the Ault Park Playground Restroom.

**Mt. Airy Stormwater Improvement Change Order:** being developed to address armoring around inlet, repairs to separated storm pipe, and armoring a roadside channel that is eroding.

**Bronze Sign Restoration Project:** A vendor has been identified to create a cast for manufacturing posts.

**Mt. Airy Arboretum Septic Repairs:** An Invitation to Bid (ITB) has been conducted and Queen City Mechanicals was selected to proceed with the repair project. The project and budget was approved in the August 2025 Board of Park Commissioners meeting in an amount up to \$64,995, including contingency.

**Admin Building Roof Repairs:** Last week, Kramer Roofing addressed 12 locations under material warranty. Staff will continue to monitor.

**Vehicle Gates at Mt. Echo, Bellevue, Fairview, and Mt. Storm:** New gates are being installed to be operated by the Police Department in the morning / evening to eliminate park access during closed times. Staff is proceeding with procurement for early 2026 construction.



Date: January 15, 2026  
To: Board of Park Commissioners  
From: Herta Fairbanks, Division Manager / CFO  
Subject: Finance / IT Division Highlights – Preliminary

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## **Table of Organization**

Part of the Financial Realignment is to look at salaries, wages, and benefits and ensuring that they are being charged correctly. This undertaking has been a several month-long holistic review of all positions within Parks to ensure they are coded to the correct fund and bureau. This process has been in collaboration with Parks Operations, Parks HR, Parks Finance, Central HR and City Budget. We are happy to report that the final step of corrections should be completed by City Budget by the end of the week which will ensure that the forecasted salaries and benefits for the FY27 budget are in the correct place and the rest of FY26 will also hit in the right locations. Special thanks to Kirby McCloy, Jenny Mobley, Derrick Gentry, City HR and Budget for their support and time to bring this across the finish line!

## **December Financial Reports**

The monthly reports rely on the closing of the City's books. This is usually completed by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month at which time the monthly reports are available. Due to the early nature of the January meeting, coupled with the holidays and the calendar fiscal year of MSD, City Finance is behind on completing the December month end close. The monthly board reports will be updated as soon as the City's monthly reports are available.

## **FY27 Budget**

We are preparing for the FY27 budget cycle to begin in early February. Parks Operations and Natural Resources has been diligently looking at their FY26 budgets to identify any necessary changes and will be working with Parks Finance prior to the release of budget instructions expected on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **IT Updates**

Parks IT team has been spending time looking at our billing for communication and technology from City ETS and CTS to ensure that we are only being billed for active technology. This review may take several weeks as they locate equipment, verify users, and communicate adjustments to CTS and ETS. We anticipate some cost savings as we work through this process.



Date: January 15, 2026  
 To: Jason Barron, Director of Parks  
 From: Derrick Gentry, Supervising Human Resources Analyst  
 Subject: HR Status Update

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This memo provides an overview of current vacancies and the recruitment process for Parks.

**Full Time Overview**

Molly North  
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 John E. Neyser



**Full - Time: 171**  
**Part - Time: 79**



**Retirements:0**



**Job Postings: 5**

Parks currently has 171 full-time employees, 79 part-time employees, and 9 vacant positions, and we are moving swiftly to prepare for another season of work to keep Cincinnati Parks Beautiful.

**Job Postings**

There are five part-time job postings available the week of January 13, 2026:

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

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FULL-TIME VACANT POSITIONS		
Position Title	Total	Notes
Administrative Technician	1	On Hold
Arborist 2	3	On Hold
Supervisor of Maintenance	1	On Hold
Service Area Coordinator	1	On-Hold
HVAC Specialist	1	On Hold
Truck Driver	2	On Hold
<b>Total vacancies</b>	<b>9</b>	

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## **HR Initiatives**

### **Safety-Related Collaborative Operations Training:**

Parks HR, in partnership with Recreation and the Public Services Departments, is implementing the Employee Safety, Safety-Related Collaborative Operations Training (SafeR-COT) program to strengthen and formalize safety training for new part-time operations employees. SafeR-COT establishes a standardized, two-phase training model that includes an initial safety orientation followed by field-specific instruction to ensure compliance with OSHA and PERRP requirements. This program promotes consistent safety practices across departments, supports early hazard awareness, and ensures employees receive the required safety and equipment training necessary to perform their duties safely while reinforcing a shared, citywide culture of safety.

### **Seasonal Hiring Recruitment & Marketing Efforts:**

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

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

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



Date: January 15, 2026  
To: Board of Park Commissioners  
From: Jason Barron, Director  
Subject: Grant Application/Acceptance –Parks Foundation and OEEF Grants

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## **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 \$50,000 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 by OEEF.

## **Description**

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

### **1. \$5,000 – Mt. Storm Property Land Acquisition**

Grant will be used to conduct an appraisal and cover other preliminary costs associated with exploring the viability of acquiring land adjacent to Mt. Storm Park.

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

### **1. \$50,000 – 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.

## **Recommendation**

Staff respectfully request the Board approve the application for and acceptance of grant funds made to the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in an amount up to \$5,000 and to the Ohio EPA in an amount of up to \$50,000.

Jason Barron  
*Director*

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*Division Manager*

Herta Fairbanks  
*Division Manager*

Rocky Merz  
*Division Manager*

Travis Miller  
*Division Manager*

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



Date: January 15, 2026  
To: Board of Park Commissioners  
From: Jason Barron, Director  
Subject: Cincinnati Conservation Corps OEEF Grant Overview

BOARD OF PARK

COMMISSIONERS

Molly North  
*President*

Kick Lee  
*Vice President*

Susan F. Castellini

Phyllis McCallum

John E. Neyer

## **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 \$50,000 to implement projects that raise awareness and educate the public about important environmental issues that impact the state. The match for this grant project includes in-kind staff time to conduct the program.

## **Notification**

The application is due January 16, 2026, and Parks will request up to \$50,000. Parks will be notified by April 30, 2026, if our application is awarded.

## **Timeline**

The project is planned to commence immediately upon execution of agreements with the funder but no earlier than June 1, 2026. 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.

Jason Barron  
*Director*

Jenny Mobley  
*Deputy Director*

Crystal Courtney  
*Division Manager*

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# CINCINNATI PARK BOARD

## Financial Presentation Month ending December 31, 2025

### BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Molly North      Susan F Castellini  
Kick Lee         Phyllis McCallum  
John Neyer

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

# Finance and IT Significant Accomplishments December 2025

## Finance Team

- Finalized Table of Organization changes to support bureau/unit realignment
- Quick Stats:
  - \$1.9m in new encumbrances processed
  - 340 payments processed
  - 89 cash receipts processed
  - 25 ServiceNow tickets closed

## IT Team

- In process of inventorying iPads and MIFIs
- Deactivated 5 MIFIs
- Working with Anderson Pavilion for AV needs
- Coordinating with vendor on scheduling installation of security cameras for Krohn Conservatory

## In Development

- Correcting bureau/unit designations in CFS –finalizing expenses, working on revenues
- Consolidating some Parks' funds (326, 330, 332)
- Installation of security cameras at Krohn Conservatory
- Preparing for FY27 budget process

# Year to Date Expenses By Expense Type As of December 31, 2025

Category	YTD Expended	Budget	Target Spend %	Actual Spend %	Variance
Chemicals	\$ 17,558	-	42%	0%	-42%
Cleaning & Waste Removal Services	\$ 693,915	2,762,074.00	50%	25%	-24%
Communication & Travel Service	\$ 124,263	190,366.00	53%	65%	12%
Credit Card Fees	\$ 54,100	77,130.00	52%	70%	18%
Employee Benefits	\$ 2,585,580	5,127,722.00	53%	50%	-3%
Employee Salaries	\$ 7,181,450	13,877,808.00	51%	52%	1%
Equipment	\$ -	54,070.00	48%	0%	-48%
Expert Services	\$ 615,432	979,380.00	50%	63%	13%
Insurance	\$ -	31,624.00	0%	0%	0%
Materials	\$ 147,868	216,994.00	42%	68%	26%
Printing Services	\$ 63,152	203,194.00	44%	31%	-13%
Rent	\$ 103,417	400,562.00	53%	26%	-27%
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 245,697	608,288.00	42%	40%	-1%
Sundry Fixed Charges	\$ 962,357	1,027,539.00	96%	94%	-2%
Supplies	\$ 933,236	2,445,479.00	42%	38%	-4%
Utility Services	\$ 474,519	869,948.00	48%	55%	7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$14,202,542</b>	<b>\$28,872,178</b>			

# Year to Date Expenses by Fund As of December 31, 2025

Fund Name	Expenses	Budget*	Target % Spend^	Actual % Spend	% Variance
General Fund	\$ 9,581,734	\$ 12,139,550	66%	79%	13%
Cincinnati Stormwater Fund	\$ 47	\$ 1,954,190	18%	0%	-18%
Street Construction Maintenance	\$ 204,105	\$ 532,560	52%	38%	-14%
Income Tax-Infrastructure	\$ 1,078,401	\$ 1,653,130	49%	65%	16%
Sawyer Point Fund	\$ 349,269	\$ 1,516,597	29%	23%	-6%
Park Miscellaneous Revenue & Special Activity	\$ 281,147	\$ 1,900,174	41%	15%	-27%
W.M. Ampt Free Concerts Fund	\$ 10,308	\$ 17,380	50%	59%	9%
Groesbeck Endowment Fund	\$ 7,970	\$ 20,440	50%	39%	-11%
Cincinnati Riverfront Park Fund	\$ 115,440	\$ 1,647,860	50%	7%	-43%
Park Lodge / Pavilion Deposits	\$ 9,274	\$ 284,120	11%	3%	-8%
Krohn Conservatory	\$ 945,361	\$ 2,510,620	43%	38%	-6%
Urban Forestry	\$ 40,655	\$ 335,080	43%	12%	-31%
Parks Private Endowment	\$ 304,657	\$ 1,131,037	43%	27%	-16%
Forestry Assessment	\$ 1,274,175	\$ 3,229,440	46%	39%	-6%
	<b>\$ 14,202,542</b>	<b>\$ 28,872,178</b>			

\*unspent dollars returned to the City

^target increases monthly

# Year to Date Revenue As of December 31, 2025

<b>Fund Description</b>	<b>FY26 Revenue</b>	<b>FY26 Budget</b>	<b>Target % Revenue</b>	<b>Actual % Revenue</b>	<b>% Variance</b>
318 - Sawyer Point	\$915,840	\$648,500	61%	141%	80%
326 - Parks Donations and Special Activity	\$1,072,398	\$715,250	47%	150%	103%
329 - Smale Fund	\$618,974	\$1,431,000	44%	43%	-1%
330 - Park Lodge/Pavilion Deposit	\$44,153	\$282,630	76%	16%	-60%
332 - Krohn Conservatory	\$801,869	\$1,805,000	40%	44%	4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,453,235</b>	<b>\$4,882,380</b>			

# Year to Date Available Spend As of December 31, 2025

## Cincinnati Park Board *Available Spend Calculation*

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>December 2025</b>	<b>Remaining Expenses</b>	<b>Remaining Revenue</b>	<b>Recommend Reserves</b>	<b>Available for Spend Dollars*</b>
318 Sawyer Point	\$1,937,994	\$1,167,328	(\$267,340)	\$450,000	\$53,326
326 Park Donations and Special Activity	\$1,121,746	\$1,619,027	(\$357,148)	\$400,000	(\$1,254,429)
329 Cincinnati Riverfront Park	\$3,266,367	\$1,532,420	\$812,026	\$800,000	\$1,745,973
330 Park Lodge/Pavilion Deposits	\$2,142,650	\$274,846	\$238,477	\$200,000	\$1,906,281
332 Krohn Conservatory	\$1,779,215	\$1,565,259	\$1,003,131	\$700,000	\$517,087
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>\$10,247,973</b>	<b>\$6,158,880</b>	<b>\$1,429,146</b>	<b>\$2,550,000</b>	<b>\$2,968,239</b>

*\*Remaining Revenue is Budgeted Revenue less Revenue collected to date. Based on the shifting of expenses between funds for the financial realignment, revenue projections need to also be shifted. Therefore, the Available for Spend Dollars should be viewed on an overall Parks basis until the revenue projection realignment is completed.*

# Park Board Fund Balances As of December 31, 2025

## Cincinnati Park Board *Fund Balances*

Fund	Name	Balance as of						
		Beg of FY 24	Beg of FY 25	Beg of FY 26	End of 1st Qtr	10/31/25	11/30/25	12/31/25
318	Sawyer Point	\$1,230,729	\$1,235,689	\$1,493,885	\$1,532,227	\$1,443,256	\$1,558,006	\$1,937,994
326	Park Misc Revenue & Special Activity	\$1,172,721	\$1,077,492	\$497,768	\$561,397	\$477,150	\$662,432	\$1,121,746
327	WM Ampt Free Concerts	\$12,942	\$24,322	\$20,780	\$14,431	\$11,072	\$10,472	\$10,472
328	Groesbeck Endowment	\$149,396	\$173,596	\$175,140	\$175,140	\$167,170	\$172,170	\$172,170
329	Cincinnati Riverfront Park	\$3,578,882	\$3,037,841	\$2,889,213	\$2,998,575	\$3,094,812	\$3,225,829	\$3,266,367
330	Park Lodge/Pavilion Deposits	\$1,716,918	\$1,844,989	\$2,126,319	\$2,140,726	\$2,117,941	\$2,117,033	\$2,142,650
332	Krohn Conservatory	\$1,779,215	\$1,456,623	\$1,477,001	\$1,562,233	\$1,347,415	\$1,245,352	\$1,128,118
335	Schmidlapp Endowment	\$2,717	\$4,312	\$5,393	\$5,393	\$5,393	\$5,393	\$5,393
403	Yeatman's Cove Park Trust	\$724,010	\$611,709	\$629,451	\$634,631	\$634,631	\$634,631	\$642,593
428	Urban Forestry	\$583,324	\$533,628	\$699,244	\$681,240	\$683,731	\$673,460	\$1,547,337
430	Parks Private Endowment	\$924,214	\$860,715	\$503,162	\$327,502	\$254,827	\$1,381,195	\$1,394,555
706	Ampt Trust	\$138,440	\$126,987	\$130,446	\$133,229	\$133,229	\$133,229	\$136,610
707	Groesbeck Trust	\$56,147	\$38,688	\$36,964	\$38,536	\$38,536	\$38,536	\$39,475
708	Schmidlapp Music	\$51,112	\$50,703	\$51,115	\$51,544	\$51,544	\$51,544	\$52,196
752	Permanent Capital Improvement	\$1,031,248	\$928,991	\$1,135,395	\$1,168,869	\$1,195,041	\$1,201,302	\$1,238,053
792	Forestry Assessment	\$3,239,177	\$3,966,880	\$4,431,444	\$3,979,093	\$3,689,210	\$4,405,268	\$4,220,522
<b>Total All Funds</b>		<b>\$16,391,192</b>	<b>\$15,973,165</b>	<b>\$16,302,721</b>	<b>\$16,004,767</b>	<b>\$15,344,959</b>	<b>\$17,515,852</b>	<b>\$19,056,253</b>

# Park Board Endowment Fund Summary

## As of December 31, 2025

### Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners

#### Endowment Fund Summary

Fund Name	EO FY22 Balance	EO FY23 Balance	EO FY24 Balance	EO FY25 Balance	Sep-25 Balance	Oct-25 Balance	Nov-25 Balance	Dec-25 Balance
<b>Trustee</b>								
Bettman	\$2,227,929	\$2,470,657	\$2,794,919	\$3,074,940	\$3,116,799	\$3,161,829	\$3,167,831	\$3,178,129
Drabner	\$1,145,614	\$1,280,297	\$1,459,107	\$1,579,007	\$1,547,359	\$1,686,698	\$1,697,449	\$1,697,083
Fleischmann Endowment	\$745,006	\$807,308	\$875,328	\$907,388	\$890,616	\$965,979	\$972,136	\$971,916
Fleischmann Garden	\$2,701,141	\$3,017,938	\$3,156,963	\$3,417,351	\$3,348,948	\$3,732,216	\$3,755,998	\$3,755,405
Geier	\$1,708,506	\$1,908,824	\$2,175,241	\$2,353,904	\$2,306,812	\$2,514,965	\$2,530,996	\$2,530,449
Miles-Edwards	\$3,864,459	\$4,245,084	\$5,139,297	\$5,448,247	\$5,427,673	\$5,663,994	\$5,868,097	\$5,844,251
Levy	\$32,395	\$36,682	\$43,339	\$48,738	\$49,906	\$50,813	\$50,958	\$50,941
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$12,425,051</b>	<b>\$13,766,790</b>	<b>\$15,644,194</b>	<b>\$16,829,577</b>	<b>\$16,688,113</b>	<b>\$17,776,494</b>	<b>\$18,043,464</b>	<b>\$18,028,172</b>
<b>Beneficiary Only</b>								
Hauck- Sooty Acres	\$486,533	\$502,506	\$542,363	\$566,509	\$590,219	\$594,825	\$597,882	\$598,776
Hauck - Fountain Sq	\$1,380,434	\$1,390,504	\$1,510,557	\$1,582,237	\$1,617,411	\$1,661,260	\$1,669,799	\$1,672,296
Meyer	\$4,299,811	\$4,476,736	\$4,845,413	\$5,073,835	\$5,288,236	\$5,330,136	\$5,358,138	\$5,366,828
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$6,166,778</b>	<b>\$6,369,747</b>	<b>\$6,898,333</b>	<b>\$7,222,580</b>	<b>\$7,495,866</b>	<b>\$7,586,221</b>	<b>\$7,625,819</b>	<b>\$7,637,901</b>
<b>Endowment Total</b>	<b>\$18,591,829</b>	<b>\$20,136,537</b>	<b>\$22,542,527</b>	<b>\$24,052,157</b>	<b>\$24,183,979</b>	<b>\$25,362,715</b>	<b>\$25,669,283</b>	<b>\$25,666,073</b>
Commissioner Fund 430	\$287,536	\$924,214	\$860,715	\$479,910	\$309,327	\$254,827	\$1,381,195	\$1,394,555
Commissioner Money Market Acc	\$1,704,458	\$1,488,098	\$1,615,023	\$225,359	\$1,177,497	\$1,341,778	\$573,720	\$355,146
Commissioner Investment Acct (4	\$3,003,382	\$1,586,535	\$1,663,058	\$1,132,404	\$1,143,115	\$987,417	\$991,280	\$994,452
<b>Total Commissioner Dollars</b>	<b>\$4,995,376</b>	<b>\$3,998,846</b>	<b>\$4,138,796</b>	<b>\$1,837,673</b>	<b>\$2,629,939</b>	<b>\$2,584,022</b>	<b>\$2,946,194</b>	<b>\$2,744,154</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$23,587,205</b>	<b>\$24,135,383</b>	<b>\$26,681,323</b>	<b>\$25,889,830</b>	<b>\$26,813,918</b>	<b>\$27,946,737</b>	<b>\$28,615,477</b>	<b>\$28,410,227</b>

# Appendix - Fund Descriptions

## **FUND 318 – SAWYER POINT**

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

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

## **FUND 326 – PARK MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE AND SPECIAL ACTIVITY**

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

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

## **FUND 327 – W.M. AMPT FREE CONCERTS FUND**

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

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

## **FUND 328 – GROESBECK ENDOWMENT FUND**

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

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

# Appendix - Fund Descriptions

## **FUND 329 – CINCINNATI RIVERFRONT PARK FUND**

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

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

## **FUND 330 – PARK LODGE/PAVILION DEPOSITS**

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

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

## **FUND 332 – KROHN CONSERVATORY**

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

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

# Appendix - Fund Descriptions

## **FUND 428 – URBAN FORESTRY**

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

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

## **FUND 430 – PARKS PRIVATE ENDOWMENT**

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

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

## **FUND 752 – PARK BOARD PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND**

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

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

## **FUND 792 – FORESTRY ASSESSMENT**

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

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

# Appendix - Fund Descriptions

## **Additional Funds supporting Parks Activities:**

### **050 – City of Cincinnati General Fund**

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

### **107 – Cincinnati Stormwater Fund**

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

### **301 – Street Construction Maintenance**

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

### **302 – Income Tax Infrastructure**

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