

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

May 15, 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, Commissioner Susan Castellini, and Commissioner Phyllis McCallum. Commissioner John Neyer attended virtually. Vice President Kick Lee was not present. President North called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

President North acknowledged five in-person public comments regarding Parks' deer hunting program, staffing of the Conservation and Land Management team, federal policies on the environment and conservation, and the Burnet Woods dog park. President North also acknowledged public comments received via email.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Approval of the April 17 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner McCallum motioned to approve the April 17, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Kerry DePietro to Parks' Investment Committee

Commissioner Neyer briefly shared the background and qualifications of Kerry DePietro. President North shared her support and thanked Ms. DePietro in advance for her service. Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve Ms. Depietro for membership on Parks' Investment Committee. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

INFORMATION/ UPDATES

Planning & Design Update

Division Manager Joel Gross briefed the Board on a number of projects, including the grand opening of Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park, the Lytle Park comfort station, the Burnet Woods dog park, Smale Lot 23 enhancements, the Mt. Airy bike skills course, ADA pathway, and comfort station, Everybody's Treehouse repairs, the California Woods hydrological plan study, the Sinton Operations center, Inwood Park, and renovations to P&D's headquarters at Hauck Botanic Gardens. The Commissioners and Staff discussed combined sewer overflows and sinkholes at Burnet Woods, and Parks' general approach to managing combined sewer overflow events.

Finance / IT Division Highlights

Herta Fairbanks, CFO, presented an overview of recent significant accomplishments, improvements to processes, staffing assignments, and the general activities of Parks' Finance and IT Division as the end of FY 2025 approaches. Commissioners and Staff discussed having the Investment Committee present to the Board in a meeting prior to the Board's evaluation of the Commissioner Fund budget in early FY 2026. The Commissioners and Staff also discussed Parks technology funding and needs.

HR Update

Director Jason Barron provided a high-level update on new full-time hires and the hiring process, as well as an overview of part-time vacancies by division. The Commissioners and Staff discussed staffing needs and President North proposed having the Division of Natural Resources provide an update on the needs of the Conservation and Land Management team sometime in the next few months.

ACTION ITEMS

Sawyer Point Playground Vendor Selection

Director Barron shared an update on progress towards remedying damage caused by the November 1, 2024, fire at Sawyer Point, and the process of selecting a potential vendor to reimagine and rebuild the playground destroyed by the fire. The Commissioners and Staff discussed plans for community engagement as a significant component of the custom design process. Parks Staff recommended selecting Midstates Recreation to design and build the playground, featuring a custom Earthscape play feature(s). Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve Midstates Recreation as the vendor, and authorized up to \$50,000 as the downpayment for the custom Earthscape play equipment. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Acceptance of In-Kind Contributions from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation

Director Barron requested the Board approve acceptance of Q1 2025 in-kind contributions from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in the amount of \$9,376.82. Commissioner Castellini motioned to accept Q1 2025 in-kind contributions. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Barron presented the following updates:

- Recent improvements to Fleischmann Gardens and Diggs Plaza
- Krohn's Conservatory's annual butterfly show, *Gothica Botanica*, is open and receiving rave reviews
- A video highlight of the work the volunteers with Friends of French Park are doing to manage invasives and educate the community about their important work
- Summer kickoff events throughout Parks

OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

Commissioner McCallum shared her excitement about the grand opening of Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park.

ADJOURNMENT

President North adjourned the meeting at 10:15am.

The next regular meeting date is Friday, June 20, 2025, at 9:00am.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT  DIRECTOR 

[External Email] Oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods

From Aileena Dangerfield <team@speak4.co>
Date Tue 4/22/2025 7:00 AM
To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Park Commissioners,

I'm deeply concerned about the inequitable plan to allocate significant funds from our tax dollars to establish a dog park in Burnet Woods, despite overwhelming opposition from the majority of the community.

It's important to note that this project is catering to the interests of a small group of affluent individuals, rather than addressing the pressing needs of other communities that are in desperate need of resources to improve their parks.

We must stand together to ensure that our tax dollars are allocated in a fair and responsible manner, addressing the needs of all members of our community. Let's work together to oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods and advocate for the equitable distribution of funds to support the enhancement of our community parks for the benefit of all residents.

Sincerely,
Ms. Aileena Dangerfield
3050 Gilbert Ave #9,
Cincinnati, OH 45206
leenasophia1981@gmail.com
513-780-3737

[External Email] Oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods

From Beauford Martin <team@speak4.co>
Date Thu 4/17/2025 7:00 AM
To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Park Commissioners,

I'm deeply concerned about the inequitable plan to allocate significant funds from our tax dollars to establish a dog park in Burnet Woods, despite overwhelming opposition from the majority of the community.

It's important to note that this project is catering to the interests of a small group of affluent individuals, rather than addressing the pressing needs of other communities that are in desperate need of resources to improve their parks.

We must stand together to ensure that our tax dollars are allocated in a fair and responsible manner, addressing the needs of all members of our community. Let's work together to oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods and advocate for the equitable distribution of funds to support the enhancement of our community parks for the benefit of all residents.

Sincerely,
Mr. Beauford Martin
619 central Ave Apt 411,
Cincinnati, OH 45202
martinbeauford49@gmail.com
513-919-2358

[External Email] Dog park

From BONBON SEWS <bonniecurrens@gmail.com>

Date Thu 4/17/2025 7:42 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

[You don't often get email from bonniecurrens@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

External Email Communication

Just saw the protesters that are against the dog park on the corner of Clifton and Ludlow. Just wanted to say that I think a dog park in Burnett woods is a great idea and 100 percent support it.

Bonnie Currens

Sent from my iPhone

[External Email] Oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods

From bryant waller <team@speak4.co>

Date Sun 4/20/2025 7:00 AM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Park Commissioners,

I'm deeply concerned about the inequitable plan to allocate significant funds from our tax dollars to establish a dog park in Burnet Woods, despite overwhelming opposition from the majority of the community.

It's important to note that this project is catering to the interests of a small group of affluent individuals, rather than addressing the pressing needs of other communities that are in desperate need of resources to improve their parks.

We must stand together to ensure that our tax dollars are allocated in a fair and responsible manner, addressing the needs of all members of our community. Let's work together to oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods and advocate for the equitable distribution of funds to support the enhancement of our community parks for the benefit of all residents.

Sincerely,

Mr. bryant waller

2955 w mcmicken ave,

Cincinnati, OH 45225

beardisgreat73@gmail.com

513-975-3866



[External Email] Public Comment 5/15 - Who is responsible for Woodward Park?

From Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 5/14/2025 3:52 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Betts, Daniel <daniel.betts@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 7 attachments (30 MB)

processed-8950CD14-6C78-4533-A7ED-2EC7EAD76A52.jpeg; processed-EF563E3E-E0BC-4B27-9B4C-7CA772A66AB6.jpeg; processed-36F31790-22E5-4413-B102-C43C52F989A1.jpeg; processed-10960FCF-CF8C-4CC9-B69C-1E1BCFD0AB93.jpeg; processed-CBD63AD3-9A81-4EB5-91EE-D8EF95AD1122.jpeg; processed-1BA5009F-0B2E-4AA5-A236-31C366AAEC7F.jpeg; original-2CC895CE-0837-4D88-B1C6-CD3013591946.jpeg;

External Email Communication

I would like to call attention to both the Commissioners of Cincinnati Parks and the Director of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission to the condition of Woodward Park, and determine who is responsible for letting this park, which abuts a residential district and a main thoroughfare (to contribute to its activation) fall into shocking condition from its former state.

On finding the ONLY social media post about this park on Cincinnati Parks Facebook Page from 2016 with a historical photo of an activated community park and statement that it is a CRC property, I checked CRC media to find no reference to the site whatsoever. On visiting the park from the point where Google Maps indicates an entrance, there is one Cincinnati Parks sign blocked by garbage and brush, no public access points of entry and no sign of an actual park. Is this another example of Cincinnati Parks letting a property fall into deep neglect in preparation for sale to a developer?

Photos attached. Who is responsible for Woodward Park? Why is it not being taken care of?

Cynthia Duval

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)





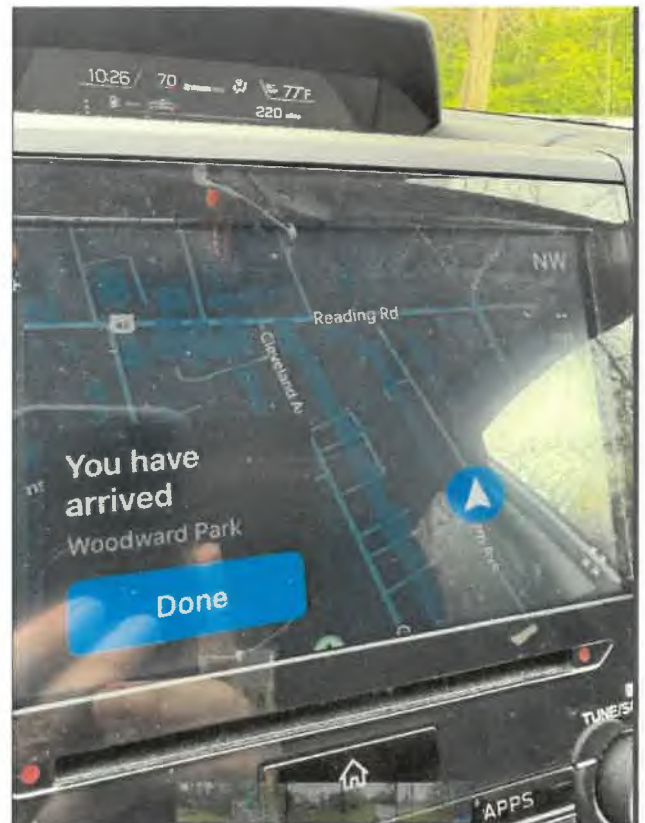
Cincinnati Parks

October 13, 2016

#TBT Woodward Park!! Belongs to the Cincinnati Recreation Commission!!



4



[External Email] Oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods

From christina wagers <team@speak4.co>
Date Wed 4/23/2025 7:00 AM
To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Park Commissioners,

I'm deeply concerned about the inequitable plan to allocate significant funds from our tax dollars to establish a dog park in Burnet Woods, despite overwhelming opposition from the majority of the community.

It's important to note that this project is catering to the interests of a small group of affluent individuals, rather than addressing the pressing needs of other communities that are in desperate need of resources to improve their parks.

We must stand together to ensure that our tax dollars are allocated in a fair and responsible manner, addressing the needs of all members of our community. Let's work together to oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods and advocate for the equitable distribution of funds to support the enhancement of our community parks for the benefit of all residents.

Sincerely,
Ms. christina wagers
835 oak street apt 201,
Cincinnati, OH 45206
nevermore122024@gmail.com
513-304-1452

[External Email] Public Comment 5/15 - Request for public records audit and ADA Compliance Office assignment

From Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 4/30/2025 9:30 AM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 1 attachment (275 KB)

September 2023 Public Feedback to the Board of Park Commissioners.pdf;

External Email Communication

In review of materials received pursuant to a public records request, reconciliation revealed that the three comments in the "public feedback" file in the screenshot attached to this email never made it into an attachment to the meeting minutes for the relevant public meeting or subsequent meetings.

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cincyparks/about/public-meetings/minutes-9212023/>
<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cincyparks/about/public-meetings/minutes-10192023/>

While these mistakes are likely innocent administrative errors, failure to properly record these emails with the meeting minutes contribute to a trend of gatekeeping 'what is a public comment' and failures in Parks record keeping regarding written public records/public feedback over several years. Feedback has previously been sent to Parks and City Council regarding -

- attachment of the wrong monthly files to Park Board meeting minutes
- failure to attach any files to Park Board meeting minutes
- failure of Commissioners to recognize written public comments or even any public comments as part of their meeting minutes
- biased equivocation of amounts of public comments received on specific topics
- concern over the ability of Commissioners to alter the public record of correspondence received regarding public business through their use of personal email addresses for Park Board Commissioner business. Use of these addresses allows for discretion of record retrieval and deletion

Citizens should be able to have confidence in submitting written public comment to any city board that the comment will be properly recorded and retained.

As such, I would like to request an audit of all correspondence received through Cincinnati Parks public portals of email and U.S. Postal Service mail over Cincinnati Parks designated records

retention period, to include Commissioner emails, to identify public comments and feedback, with public statement and correction to all records found in discrepancy. The revolving door of Parks Directors and Administrative staff over the period further legitimizes the need for review of public records handling procedures being maintained in accordance with city requirements.

Among these specific comments are yet another concern about Cincinnati Parks failures to observe authentic ADA compliance as part of initial design in new park amenities. While the attached comment is in regard to the already litigious Lytle Park revision, you may recall that Cincinnati Parks recently decided that the marketed as “universally accessible” dog park in Burnet Woods could proceed without accessible parking, without being universally accessible throughout the park, and that basics of curb cuts and safe pedestrian access could be added later (we all know that means never) to save money and force the project to fit the poor site choice. In fact, the new dog park will be less accessible than 3 or the 4 dog parks already within a 5-mile radius of this half-million dollar project. Apparently, not everyone gets to enjoy the magnificence of Cincinnati Parks after all: <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/politics/2024/02/23/real-estate-exec-nominated-to-replace-cincinnati-park-board-member/72712328007/>

Further, **I would like to request that City Council appoint a special ADA Compliance officer to oversee new, existing, and in-flight projects at Cincinnati Parks** as Parks commitment to accessibility has proven inconsistently applied, unreliable even when commitments are made, and possibly negligent in terms of the ADA.

Regards,

Cynthia Duval

Hello Jim,

On your question about Commissioner feedback, this month so far, we've gotten 1 general feedback message and 2 public comments for the board meeting (as you know they tend to spike in the day or 2 before the meeting date).

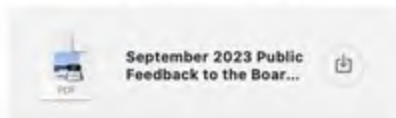
In terms of timing, we have been sending twice per month about 2 weeks apart. One batch comes at the end of the month and includes all of the monthly general feedback directed to the Commissioners from the cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov address (the latest batch is below). The second batch will come after 5 PM tomorrow and constitutes the all the written public comment for the monthly meeting.

Hope this helps, glad to chat further.
Rocky

From: Parks, Cincy
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 11:59 AM
To: Jim Goetz ; SUSAN CASTELLINI ; mnorth@neyer.com ; kickleecincyparks@gmail.com ; phyllismccallum@hotmail.com
Cc: Kim Marshall ; Mary Briggs ; Mobley, Jenny ; Sherman, Craig ; Merz, Rocky ; Courtney, Crystal ; Gross, Joel ; Barron, Jason
Subject: Cincinnati Parks Public Feedback for September 2023
Hello Commissioners,
Please see the attached public feedback received during the month of September 2023.

Hope you have a lovely week,

--EDMessagePart-1745172701190--EDMessagePart-1745172701190



Text of Public Comment from Bob Santoro in attachment re accessibility:

[External Email] Lytle Park Bocci Ball ADA

Bob Santoro <bob.santoro24@gmail.com>

Sat 9/2/2023 8:17 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Cincinnati Park Board,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the accessibility of the Bocci Ball court at Lytle Park. The current setup of the court does not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, which is a matter of utmost importance in ensuring equitable access to recreational facilities for all members of our community.

The ADA is a landmark piece of legislation that mandates equal access and opportunities for individuals with disabilities. It is crucial that public facilities, including recreational areas like Lytle Park, adhere to these guidelines to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone.

Several aspects of the Bocci Ball court at Lytle Park currently present barriers to individuals with disabilities. These issues include the lack of accessible pathways, uneven terrain, and inadequate seating options. These challenges prevent individuals with mobility impairments from fully participating in this popular recreational activity.

I strongly urge the Lytle Park Board to prioritize the necessary modifications to make the Park fully ADA compliant by its opening this fall. This could include installing accessible pathways, providing designated accessible seating areas, and ensuring that the court surface is smooth and even to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility aids.

I would appreciate if you could take the necessary steps to ensure that the Bocci Ball court at Lytle Park becomes ADA compliant before it opens to avoid delays and negative press. If any assistance or support is needed in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to the grand opening of Lytle Park.

Bob Santoro
400 Pike Street, #721
Cincinnati
513-328-2218

[External Email] Lytle Park Bocci Ball ADA

Bob Santoro <bob.santoro24@gmail.com>

Sat 9/2/2023 8:17 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

You don't often get email from bob.santoro24@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Cincinnati Park Board,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the accessibility of the Bocci Ball court at Lytle Park. The current setup of the court does not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, which is a matter of utmost importance in ensuring equitable access to recreational facilities for all members of our community.

The ADA is a landmark piece of legislation that mandates equal access and opportunities for individuals with disabilities. It is crucial that public facilities, including recreational areas like Lytle Park, adhere to these guidelines to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone.

Several aspects of the Bocci Ball court at Lytle Park currently present barriers to individuals with disabilities. These issues include the lack of accessible pathways, uneven terrain, and inadequate seating options. These challenges prevent individuals with mobility impairments from fully participating in this popular recreational activity.

I strongly urge the Lytle Park Board to prioritize the necessary modifications to make the Park fully ADA compliant by its opening this fall. This could include installing accessible pathways, providing designated accessible seating areas, and ensuring that the court surface is smooth and even to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility aids.

I would appreciate if you could take the necessary steps to ensure that the Bocci Ball court at Lytle Park becomes ADA compliant before it opens to avoid delays and negative press. If any assistance or support is needed in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to the grand opening of Lytle Park.

Bob Santoro

400 Pike Street, #721

Cincinnati

512 222 2212

Sent from my iPhone

[External Email] Burnet Woods

sh218708@gmail.com <sh218708@gmail.com>

Sat 9/2/2023 11:51 AM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

[You don't often get email from sh218708@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

External Email Communication

Good afternoon,

I've communicated in the past regarding the current development plans for Burnet woods, and I'd like to again communicate my displeasure with the Board's mishandling of the city's green spaces.

I believe the board is entrusted with the protection of our natural green spaces and parks, and they do our city a great disservice by allowing developers to demolish a natural green space and cover it in artificial turf for a "dog park." Burnet woods provides a natural habitat to many plant and animal species, it acts as a carbon sink for CO2 in our atmosphere, it provides cooling shade that both humans and animals can shelter under, allowing the heat of the sun to dissipate into the ground, it also allows rainwater and runoff to percolate into the soil, replenishing our groundwater sources and cutting down on flooding from rainwater falling on impermeable concrete services in the city. Installing artificial turf and tearing down native species in the park destroys ALL of these benefits and more. Those in charge of this development should be ashamed. They act as though they are beholden to private contracted interests only, and not the good of the city and the people.

Had I the power to do so, I would move to have those in charge of this initiative removed from the park's board. It is a scandal that they would allow such egregious misuse of our natural green spaces. Burnet woods is already a "dog park. Dogs are free to roam the shaded grasses and defecate and play in soil that does not need regular cleaning or maintenance. Artificial turf requires the city to hire someone to clean and replace that turf regularly, at cost to the city.

I realize that my words will most likely fall on deaf ears. The proposed initiative has too much money backing it, and members of the parks board are in their pockets, having lost all integrity befitting the office they currently hold.

Let the record show that I and others in the community dissent.

Time will eventually reveal the error of this proposal. And the city will grieve the loss of one more piece of its natural green space.

-a constituent of Cincinnati

-Steve Heglin

[External Email] FOX19 Media Inquiry

Mary LeBus <Mary.LeBus@fox19now.com>

Thu 9/21/2023 10:42 AM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

You don't often get email from mary.lebus@fox19now.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Hello!

Mary LeBus, here, with FOX19 in Cincinnati. We got a press release about a protest that occurred this morning regarding the Burnet Woods Dog Park - a story I've covered several times in the past. The people who are protesting made several claims about the potential park as to why they are protesting, and I was wondering if someone from Cincy Parks could answer the following for me:

- 1) The group says that this project did not go through a professional community engagement process. Is that true - yes or no? If that is not true, in what ways did Cincy Parks receive community engagement?
- 2) The group claims that there is an environmental issue when it comes to the dog park. Based on a few studies, researchers say one of those reasons is dog feces, damage to plants, soil degradation, and erosion. How will this new dog park prevent those things from becoming an issue?
- 3) Noise, parking and safety are also a concern among residents. Are there certain features or accommodations the park is willing to create?
- 4) Anything else you'd like to add?

Thanks in advance,
Mary LeBus

[External Email] Public Comment 5/15 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

From Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 5/14/2025 12:29 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 2 attachments (1 MB)

processed-38028367-F1AD-49B5-8A2F-E8104267D92D.jpeg; original-1BEF3B5C-0278-44E8-A0B8-A560DA455E2C.jpeg;

External Email Communication

Two awareness items to share with the Commissioners in this email regarding the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods.

1. The singular non-profit, Clifton Pop-Up Puppy Party, that Cincinnati Parks and Cincinnati Parks Foundation have aligned themselves with cancelled their April meetup. This was the first meetup of the year, and one of only 6 scheduled for 2025. This is significant as the nonprofit has cancelled events in prior years specifically for lack of volunteers and does not appear to have significant volunteer support to host events. The Commissioners may recall this group committed volunteerism to support the dog park and Commissioner McCallum noted she hoped that supporters of the dog park would start showing up. Their social media post and low engagement evidence that they don't even show up for their own events and cannot be relied on to volunteer at the proposed dog park. \$450,000 seems an extravagant expense for a group that won't meet 6 times this year, can't prove commitment to their own organization in events and failed to hit fundraising goals for this project.
2. Messaging is being transmitted through local animal shelters not to bring their dogs to Burnet Woods because of the sewer overflow bacteria permeating the lower valley where parks Summer Camps are held, and directly across from the proposed dog park location. This doesn't bode well for messaging in the extended dog ownership community about the safety of Burnet Woods for health of dogs. Perhaps Parks should reconsider their focus on prioritizing an unnecessary and ill-sited development over public health.

Photos evidencing both points attached.

Cynthia Duval

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

12:02



<  **The Cincy Disc Golfers**

Jeff Joy · 1d · 



I saw this in another group. <https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/research-by-uc-students-finds-alarming-levels-of-human-e-coli-in-burnet-woods-park>



Like



Comment



Send



4

Newest ▾



Cynthia Duval

Yup. This is the second study released in the last 6 months. Luckily the DGC doesn't touch the lower valley or flooded areas behind the lake. Parks is addressing a blocked sewer line underground between 17-18.

23h Like Reply



Cynthia Duval

The blocked sewer line is a completely separate issue and won't fix the flooding, just to be clear. Thanks for sharing the information.

23h Like Reply



Jeff Joy · [Add friend](#)

 Author

[Cynthia Duval](#) That is good to hear. I saw this originally from Cincinnati Animal Care and saying don't take any of their dogs on day trips there.

1h Wow Reply

1 🤔

[View 1 reply...](#)



Write a reply...



Write a comment...



Clifton Pop Up Puppy Party - PUPP

16h · 



Oh darn, no PUPP on Monday 4/28. Sorry doggies.



🤔 1



Like



Share

[External Email] Public Comment 5/15 -Disparity at McEvoy Park

From Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 5/14/2025 4:14 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 6 attachments (25 MB)

processed-DC2A1E95-1507-443F-8AA2-1DEF959C82DF.jpeg; processed-6DC730F2-8872-45CE-8754-140409329CC5.jpeg; processed-2DF49F41-5E2B-4DEB-B7CA-2B200BCCA157.jpeg; original-0F9D1C94-8487-461A-B39F-A882BA0FF353.jpeg; processed-2737899E-4EDB-47D4-8AB4-5BD621F6F762.jpeg; processed-98D24243-503E-4374-8C70-A3DB5B71555C.jpeg;

External Email Communication

I would like to call attention of City Council and the Cincinnati Parks Board of Commissioners to disparity between the conditions of McEvoy Park as compared to many other Cincinnati Parks.

On arriving to McEvoy Park on an April morning, there are deep potholes and ruts, a severely warped picnic table chained to a light post immediately next to the road (so kids coming to get food could run into the park street) by the playground and one warped bench. The comfort station was closed and locked. And consider that as Cincinnati Parks gave away and discarded HUNDREDS of tulip bulbs from Smale and Riverfront Parks (as they do every year purely for aesthetic purposes), there was not one flower to be found in the name of horticulture at McEvoy Park.

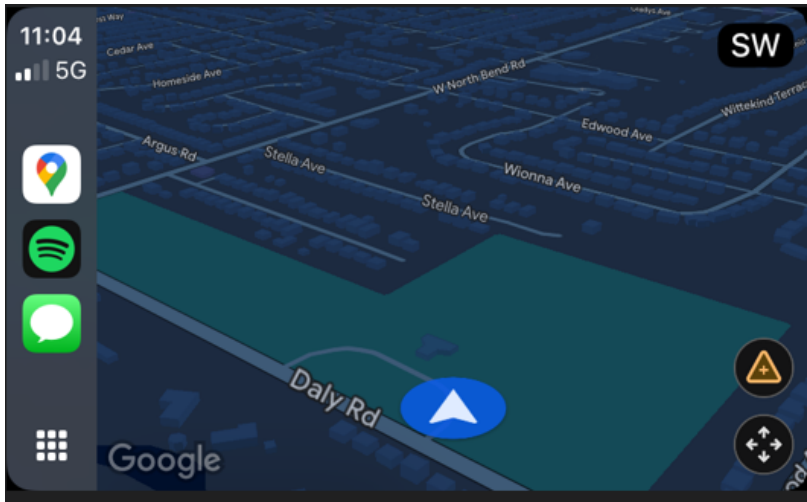
Are the residents and users of McEvoy Park not worthy of a decent picnic table and some Spring tulips? Parks is busy blowing extravagant spending on unnecessary amenities that the overwhelming community majority doesn't even want in Burnet Woods and discarding thousands of dollars' worth of bulbs while ignoring long neglected maintenance at Burnet, McEvoy and many others.

It's not a reach to notice that the demographics of communities surrounding Inwood Park, McEvoy Park, Woodward Park, and Burnet Woods fall into a different category than the Parks which are getting regular maintenance, ornamental horticultural attention, and community engagement. Decision makers at Cincinnati Parks, who even asked in the last meeting 'Where is Jackson Hill Park?' have no sense of equity or social justice, and it reflects in where they spend taxpayer dollars. This Board is not making decisions for ALL of its residents. Why?

Photos of McEvoy Park attached.

Cynthia Duval

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



[External Email] Public Comment 5/15 - Inwood Park

From Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>

Date Tue 5/13/2025 9:41 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc Betts, Daniel <daniel.betts@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 6 attachments (22 MB)

processed-4DB86BA2-7C84-44CB-AFDB-821287591B6D.jpeg; processed-112F5F1D-BF5B-4077-831A-187896D75227.jpeg; processed-BAA022D4-6B0B-4473-B298-1CDA089DAEFE.jpeg; processed-023902E5-9FDC-46C0-9FB5-EC58A99C07B9.jpeg; processed-D15D11A5-E000-42E7-A96E-DBCD295B6EEC.jpeg; processed-B6DDD606-3DCF-4357-9E5E-5CB9200D1ECB.jpeg;

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cynthia_lough@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

I would like to share with Commissioners photographs of the current state of Inwood Park's basketball court construction. The Commissioners will be able to find in prior meetings about Inwood Park's property sale and renovation the emphasis placed by fmr. Commissioners Goetz and Thomas on the importance of the basketball courts to the community.

As it stands two(?) years later, the construction site is unsecured and appears abandoned in an unfinished state. There is only one hoop. Fencing construction banners are removed and the gates are wide open. Two couches and shopping carts have been discarded. The site is unusable.

The message in action to the community, while closed door planning meetings supposedly continue, is that Cincinnati Parks does not care about this eyesore they've created in this highly visible location now that they've profited from the sale of part of the park to a fellow developer. Is whatever endless planning that is taking place going to move the half- built basketball courts? Why can't this project be completed or at least cleaned up to not appear as a blight? Additional photo of the lake at Inwood included and its condition on the same day. Please let come to mind how many times each year Mirror Lake is drained and scrubbed when you view this and consider the disturbing disparity in equitable maintenance between the two parks. What part of Inwood Park are the Commissioners planning to sell next?

Cynthia Duval

W

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)













[External Email] Oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods

From Dorvis Sweeten <team@speak4.co>
Date Fri 4/18/2025 7:00 AM
To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Park Commissioners,

I'm deeply concerned about the inequitable plan to allocate significant funds from our tax dollars to establish a dog park in Burnet Woods, despite overwhelming opposition from the majority of the community.

It's important to note that this project is catering to the interests of a small group of affluent individuals, rather than addressing the pressing needs of other communities that are in desperate need of resources to improve their parks.

We must stand together to ensure that our tax dollars are allocated in a fair and responsible manner, addressing the needs of all members of our community. Let's work together to oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods and advocate for the equitable distribution of funds to support the enhancement of our community parks for the benefit of all residents.

Sincerely,
Mr. Dorvis Sweeten
128 Louis Avenue #4,
Cincinnati, OH 45220
junglejung1970@gmail.com
513-227-8809

[External Email] Burnett Woods Comment: Former devoted animal rescuer

From Erin Schurenberg <ohioering@gmail.com>

Date Wed 5/14/2025 9:50 AM

To Parks, Cincy <Cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

You don't often get email from ohioering@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Hello,

I spent 20 years as a volunteer, or as a paid shelter director, in local Cincinnati animal welfare. Because I rescued dogs and fostered them in my own home, I learned quite a bit about canine behavior. Most of my friends who are similarly informed never take their dogs to dog parks. It's too unpredictable. There are far too many people who think a dog park is a chance to just let an unreliable dog run free in the enclosure while the humans scroll on their phones or talk to other humans. These folks are not paying enough attention to their animals, often to deleterious effect.

Before proceeding with ground breaking for this park, you probably have looked into the incidents of dog attacks and dog deaths in dog parks. But I know it suddenly feels different when it happens to somebody you know. I know the people whose young dog was killed at Otto Armleder dog park. They were devastated. I also know a retired policeman who is a frequent attendee at that same park and has intervened in some rather high stress or dangerous interactions because someone brought a dog that has no business being in a dog park around happy go lucky pups. My dog was attacked by another dog and while it didn't happen in a dog park, I am familiar first hand with the emotional stress & expense of responding to such an event.

I know this process is pretty far along, but ground has not been broken. It's not too late to change course. It's possible to love dogs, but not build a dog park. The best way that I have read and seen and experienced a well adjusted dog is by taking the dog(s) on long, leashed walks.

I'd also like to add that I am frequently in Summit Park walking. I walk right past their dog park enclosure, and most of the time there are no dogs in there. Occasionally, there will be a few. It seems like one either has a situation where there is high incidence of behavior problems like at the Otto A park, or too little use.

Please change course and cancel the installation of this dog park.

Sincerely,
Erin Schurenberg
City of Cincinnati resident

[External Email] Oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods

From kenneth alexander <team@speak4.co>
Date Tue 4/22/2025 7:00 AM
To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Park Commissioners,

I'm deeply concerned about the inequitable plan to allocate significant funds from our tax dollars to establish a dog park in Burnet Woods, despite overwhelming opposition from the majority of the community.

It's important to note that this project is catering to the interests of a small group of affluent individuals, rather than addressing the pressing needs of other communities that are in desperate need of resources to improve their parks.

We must stand together to ensure that our tax dollars are allocated in a fair and responsible manner, addressing the needs of all members of our community. Let's work together to oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods and advocate for the equitable distribution of funds to support the enhancement of our community parks for the benefit of all residents.

Sincerely,
Mr. kenneth alexander
5212 Holland Dr,
Cincinnati, OH 45232
quontezta56@gmail.com
513-970-8756

[External Email] Public comment for May 15, 2025 meeting of the Park Board of Commissioners

From Haglund, Lisa (haglunla) <HAGLUNLA@UCMAIL.UC.EDU>

Date Wed 5/7/2025 6:32 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Barron, Jason <jason.barron@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Leonard, Deb <deb.leonard@cincinnati-oh.gov>; info@burnetwoods.org <info@burnetwoods.org>; president@burnetwoods.org <president@burnetwoods.org>

 2 attachments (3 MB)

APPROVED_BPAC_Resolution_May_7_2025 2.docx 2.pdf; BW_CSO_April_2025_final.pdf;

Some people who received this message don't often get email from haglunla@ucmail.uc.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Please find attached a resolution passed today by the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council, plus a supporting document entitled "Evaluation of Human E. coli in Burnet Woods Soil after Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)."

This resolution offers suggestions for mitigation of combined sewer overflows, and requests community engagement for long-term solutions. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Lisa Haglund
Chair, Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council

For Consideration by the BPAC on May 7, 2025 - APPROVED

Dear Cincinnati Parks Board Commissioners,

We are, for the most part, volunteers who have spent hundreds (and in some cases thousands) of hours volunteering in Burnet Woods. Whether picking up litter; removing invasive species; planting native species; helping coordinate events like Spring Fest and Fall Fest, bird walks, tree and wildflower walks, Pride celebrations, 150th Anniversary Re-enactment walks; rapid response mulch spreading to support park staff meeting a deadline for an event with Cincinnati Children's Hospital; or simply raising awareness in the community; we love Burnet Woods and have worked to preserve it as the green heart of Cincinnati for ALL people.

Because we spend so much time in the park, we have intimate knowledge of the stormwater management problems. Our ongoing concerns about public safety stemming from these issues were further validated last month when an undergraduate research project by Environmental Studies students at the University of Cincinnati found unacceptably high *E. coli* CFUs in the soil after a known Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) event. Please see figure to the right for CFU counts after the overflow which, to our understanding occurred during the last few minutes of April 2 and the first few minutes of April 3, bearing in mind that 200CFUs/100mL is the threshold at which beaches close.

While we recognize that fully resolving this issue will take extensive cooperation with MSD, there are steps Parks can take on its own and more immediately including:

- Cancel the controversial dog park project. The project will remove greenspace and add impermeable surface upstream of the CSO. The dog park also will add additional bacterial and viral risks within the system. Instead, allow the existing greenspace to remain as-is so it can continue to mitigate stormwater runoff as low-maintenance green infrastructure.

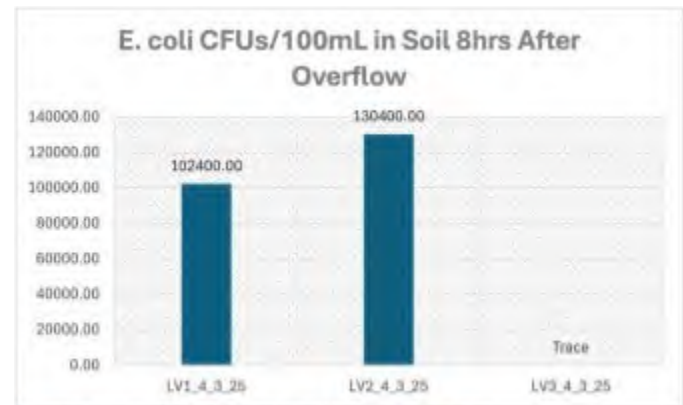


Figure 1. Soil *E. coli* levels at 8hrs after CSO

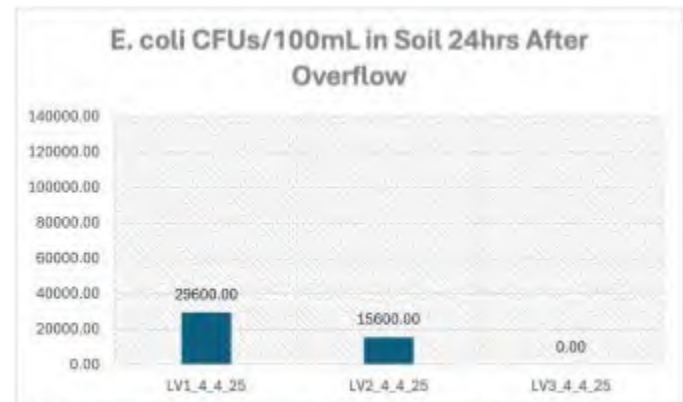


Figure 2. Soil *E. coli* levels at 24hrs after CSO



Figure 3. Soil *E. coli* levels at 72 hrs after CSO

- Identify additional areas, particularly on hillsides, that do not need to be mowed or otherwise managed and can be left to naturalize, thereby slowing the flow of stormwater through the natural and built systems.
- Address the crumbling roadways throughout the park. The deteriorating roadways result in asphalt washing into the sewer system, reducing their capacity. In some cases, addressing this issue will require roadway repairs. Elsewhere, between the bollards at the center of the park, the crumbling asphalt can be removed and green infrastructure added instead defragmenting the habitat, increasing stormwater percolation, and reducing hydrostatic pressure at a critical point in the combined sewer system.
- Repair the gutters and downspouts on Trailside Nature Center.

Closing the area during and after a CSO is necessary and appropriate given the risks raw sewage poses to health and safety. However, the impact of the CSO on stakeholders' ability to enjoy Burnet Woods and its existing amenities can not be understated. The closure encompasses an entire swath of the park (highlighted in red in the image to the right) which contains many of the amenities the community loves, including:

- The iconic and historic WPA-era stone slide
- A swing set
- A picnic shelter
- Several grills and picnic tables used for family picnics and community potlucks
- An open field of the lower valley used for a wide variety of activities, including cricket games, soccer, kickball, etc.
- Portions of hiking trails

In addition to taking the above steps, we urge you to hire a third party, professional community engagement firm, jointly selected by the Park Board and the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council, to conduct a robust community engagement process that identifies shared community values and preservation priorities to be pursued through the conceptualization and engineering planning processes for correcting combined sewer overflow, sinkhole and flooding issues occurring within Burnet Woods.



Figure 2. The area in red will, ostensibly, be closed to park visitors for up to ten days after CSO events.

Sincerely,

Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council

Enclosures:

[WCPO coverage of combined sewer overflows](#)

Science Report: *Evaluation of Human E. coli in Burnet Woods Soil after Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)*
 Student Researchers: Isabel Bowling, Courtney Clark, Katlyn Colegate, Rylee Jennings, Rachel Klein, Peter Niemeyer; Faculty Collaborators: Ken Petren and Bob Hyland

Evaluation of Human *E. coli* in Burnet Woods Soil after Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)

Impact Statement

Mounting evidence indicates CSOs into the soils of Burnet Woods leave behind human *E. coli* bacteria at levels which can pose a public health risk. In spring 2025, students performed a temporal investigation of *E. coli* counts in the soil after a known CSO event. Results from this project agree with what's found in the research literature, and show human *E. coli* at levels which underscore the years-long pleas from parks volunteers and advocates for the Cincinnati Parks Board of Commissioners to remediate the problem immediately.

Background

A cursory review of the research literature helps contextualize and underscore the public's concern surrounding CSO events in Burnet Woods. Soil retention of bacteria from resurfaced sanitary sewer water can be a concern with the presence of *E. coli* in heavily recreated spaces. Lee et al. (2019) looked at factors that decrease soil retention, and how that creates a land area more susceptible to the negative bacterial effects on the soil from CSOs. Owolabi et al. (2022) showed that CSOs have detrimental impacts on the quality of air, water, and soil. A microbial risk assessment in the Lower Passaic River showed that CSOs contaminated sediments with *E. coli*, *Giardia*, and *Cryptosporidium* at levels that could put publics at risk of gastrointestinal illness (Donovan et al., 2007). Research in Atlanta, GA established the relationship between CSO events and increased emergency department (ED) visits for gastrointestinal illness, as well as the role of infrastructure improvements in mitigating those risks. In Cincinnati, Brokamp et al. (2017) had similar results for increased risk of GI-related emergency department visits in children who reside near a CSO and following CSO events. Another investigation compared antibiotic-resistant bacteria (ABR) *E. coli* presence in small-flow CSO discharges (like those in Burnet Woods) to wastewater treatment effluents and found CSOs contained significantly higher concentrations. The authors concluded that managing CSOs, particularly small-flow events, is important for reducing spread of ABR bacteria (Honda et al., 2020). Lang et al. (2017) described the survival of *E. coli* bacteria declined as soil temperature increased and soil moisture decreased. Additionally, Li et al. (2023) found *E. coli* is at peak concentrations in warmer conditions and had a higher concentration in sites with CSO events than those without, a concern given recreational spaces are more likely to be used in warmer conditions as well.

Project Description

This project focused on evaluating the presence of human *E. coli* Colony Forming Units (CFUs) in the soils of Burnet Woods' lower valley at approximately 8, 24, and 72 hours after a known CSO. This high-traffic urban park includes picnic shelters and other gathering spots, potentially increasing the likelihood of *E. coli* exposure when CSO events occur. Samples were taken at three locations, each at increasing distance from the point source of the CSO, using sterile spatulas and 50 ml. conical vials. After collection, samples were bagged, recorded, put on ice, transported to the lab, and analyzed using a standard filtration method within a couple hours of collection from the field. The primary aim of this project is to educate decision makers without the requisite expertise so they can realize the need to (re)prioritize resource allocation in order to put public safety first. The project also aims to support the public's right to know.

Preliminary Results

The data show *E. coli* colony forming units (CFUs) per 100mL of water at levels as high as 130,400CFUs. Results indicate a spike in CFUs at 8 hours after the CSO event, and an expected but incomplete decline in CFUs after 24 and 72 hours. Figures 1, 2 and 3 display the CFU counts at 8, 24, and 72 hours, respectively.

Implications and Recommendations

Human *E. coli* in soils of a neighborhood park at levels ranging from 800CFUs/100mL to 130,400CFUs/100mL is extremely alarming. These results agree with those found in the literature on the role of small-flow CSO discharges creating conditions that can threaten the public health. More research should be conducted in Burnet Woods, as well as other Cincinnati Parks with non-enumerated CSOs, to better understand the scope and severity of the risk, as well as the rate of CFU decline under different conditions. Until such research is conducted or the CSOs are eliminated, it would be advisable not to exacerbate the CSOs by increasing runoff upstream through replacement of greenspace with impermeable surface. Furthermore, Cincinnati Parks should be transparent and proactive in conducting professional community engagement on the matter in order to serve the public's right to know, and to decrease liability for the City.

Student Researchers: Isabel Bowling, Courtney Clark, Katlyn Colegate, Rylee Jennings, Rachel Klein, Peter Niemeyer

Faculty Collaborators: Ken Petren and Bob Hyland

References

- Brokamp, C., Beck, A.F., Muglia, L., Ryan, P. (2017). Combined sewer overflow events and childhood emergency department visits: A case-crossover study. *Sci Total Environ.* 607-608, 1180–1187. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2017.07.104>
- Donovan, E. P., Staskal, D. F., Unice, K. M., Roberts, J. D., Haws, L. C., Finley, B. L., & Harris, M. A. (2007, December 21). Risk of gastrointestinal disease associated with exposure to pathogens in the sediments of the lower passaic river. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, 74(4), 1004-1018 <https://doi.org/10.1128/AEM.01203-07>
- Honda, R., Tachi, C., Yasuda, K., Hirata, T., Noguchi, M., Hara-Yamarua, H., Yamamoto-Ikemoto, R., and Watanabe, T. (2020) Estimate discharge of antibiotic-resistant bacteria from combined sewer overflows of urban sewage system. *npj Clean Water*, 3(15). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41545-020-0059-5>
- Lang, N. L., Bellett-Travers, M. D., & Smith, S. R. (2007). Field investigations on the survival of *Escherichia coli* and presence of other enteric micro-organisms in biosolids-amended agricultural soil. *Journal of Applied Microbiology*, 103(5), 1868–1882. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2672.2007.03489.x>
- Lee, J.M., Tan, J., Gill, A.S. et al. Evaluating the effects of canine urine on urban soil microbial communities. *Urban Ecosyst* 22, 721–732 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11252-019-00842-0>
- Li, R., Filippelli, G., & Wang, L. (2023). Precipitation and discharge changes drive increases in *Escherichia coli* concentrations in an urban stream. *The Science of the Total Environment*, 886, 163892–163892. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.163892>
- Owolabi, T. A., Saeed Reza Mohandes, & Zayed, T. (2021). Investigating the impact of sewer overflow on the environment: A comprehensive literature review paper. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 301, 113810–113810. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2021.113810>

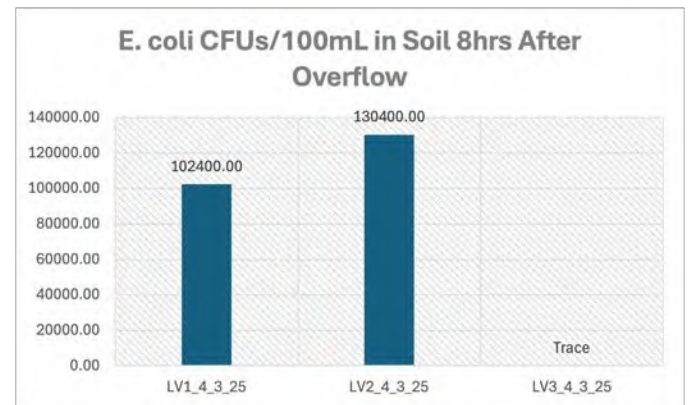


Figure 1. Soil *E. coli* levels at 8hrs after CSO

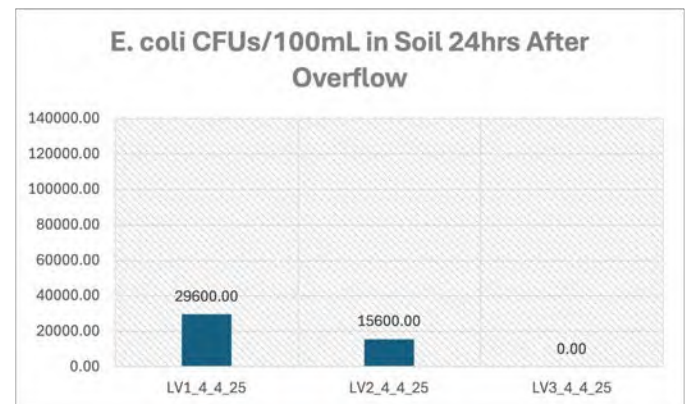


Figure 2. Soil *E. coli* levels at 24hrs after CSO

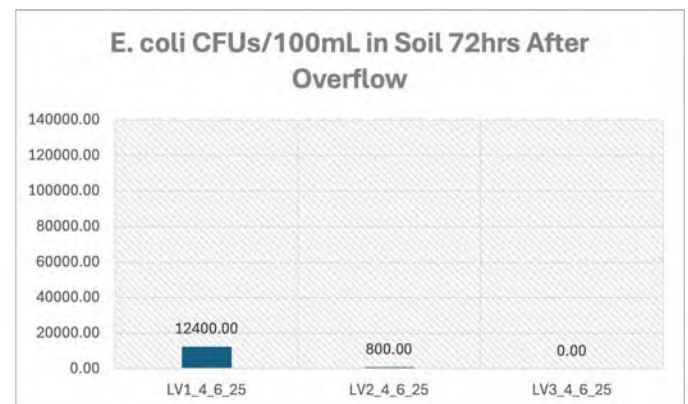


Figure 3. Soil *E. coli* levels at 72 hrs after CSO

[External Email] Public Comment May 15 2025

From Marijo Fraley <marijo.fraley@gmail.com>
Date Wed 5/14/2025 12:47 PM
To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Park Board Commissioners,

I implore you all once again to stop the the dog park in Burnet Woods. It is not too late to stop this wasteful and unnecessary project.

The news regarding e-coli contamination from sewage run-off is reason alone to redirect park funds to appropriate remediation of this issue. How is it that the area where there are shelters and playground equipment, designating a play area for children and families continues to have drainage issues. At the same time, the pristine green play space in Pleasant Valley is getting destroyed for dogs to use as a piss/poo pad!

I'm sure if you think it through, the priority should be safe spaces for people who utilize the park over dogs.

Please stop this craziness! Put an end to the dog park and fix the sewer ! Please!

Marijo Fraley O'Connell

[External Email] Oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods

From nadia lundy <team@speak4.co>

Date Mon 4/21/2025 7:00 AM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Park Commissioners,

I'm deeply concerned about the inequitable plan to allocate significant funds from our tax dollars to establish a dog park in Burnet Woods, despite overwhelming opposition from the majority of the community.

It's important to note that this project is catering to the interests of a small group of affluent individuals, rather than addressing the pressing needs of other communities that are in desperate need of resources to improve their parks.

We must stand together to ensure that our tax dollars are allocated in a fair and responsible manner, addressing the needs of all members of our community. Let's work together to oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods and advocate for the equitable distribution of funds to support the enhancement of our community parks for the benefit of all residents.

Sincerely,

Ms. nadia lundy

4902a hawaiian terrace,

Cincinnati, OH 45223

nadiagrants89@gmail.com

513-370-7235

[External Email] Oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods

From Nefenia Hearst <team@speak4.co>

Date Fri 4/18/2025 7:00 AM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Park Commissioners,

I'm deeply concerned about the inequitable plan to allocate significant funds from our tax dollars to establish a dog park in Burnet Woods, despite overwhelming opposition from the majority of the community.

It's important to note that this project is catering to the interests of a small group of affluent individuals, rather than addressing the pressing needs of other communities that are in desperate need of resources to improve their parks.

We must stand together to ensure that our tax dollars are allocated in a fair and responsible manner, addressing the needs of all members of our community. Let's work together to oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods and advocate for the equitable distribution of funds to support the enhancement of our community parks for the benefit of all residents.

Sincerely,

Mr. Nefenia Hearst

2016 Baymiller Street,

Cincinnati, OH 45214

nefeniahearst@gmail.com

513-972-1606

[External Email] Public comment 5/15/25

From sara walters <walters.sara.lou@gmail.com>

Date Tue 5/13/2025 1:24 PM

To Aftab, Mayor <aftab.pureval@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from walters.sara.lou@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

External Email Communication

>

> Dear Mayor, city council, and park board,

>

> As a long time democrat I always believed we were the party of morals. I thought the people had power on the left while the rich had power on the right. The current dog park issue in Burnet woods has shown me the opposite. While thousands signed petitions, voiced opposition, and a community banned together the people could not defeat the money. The dollar means more to our party than the people. Maybe you think it's not a big deal, it's just a dog park after all. The big deal is we have lost our morals. I was certain the oligarchs in the park board must have been placed there by Republicans. My research saddened me. I laughed as Trump chose Pete and RFK for high level positions they had no business doing, only to find out it's happening in my city too, in my party too, in my park too. Be the change you wish to see in the world. Give the power back to the people, give the parks back to the naturalists and the environmental experts. Why would we need developers in the park board? You've seen the chaos the park rangers have started in the national parks, maybe even cheered for it. As you watch the footage of the resistance please recognize your own role on the side of the oppressor. I know money speaks and politicians listen but you can turn this around. You can start in the park board and you can look at all the ways to fix this morally bankrupt system. I understand you have to play the game to be in your seat, but people are tired. We want reform. Save the park, save the planet, save the party, be the seed that grows a rich forest of change.

>

> Respectfully,

> Sara Walters

> Sent from my iPhone

[External Email] Public Comment 5/15/25

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Sat 5/10/2025 11:18 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Cincinnati Leadership and Park Commissioners,

I know that you are aware of the CSO contamination in Burnet Woods and we owe a tremendous thanks to our UC Students, educators and volunteers for shining a light on just how dangerous the situation is for visitors to Burnet Woods.

The signage alerting visitors to the danger is appreciated, but fixing the problem is the goal.

I'm writing to ask again if you might consider halting the removal of the soil from the park to replace it with concrete and decomposed granite to install a dog park that the community is overwhelmingly against.

Use that money to repair and make accessible what we already have.

The area chosen unilaterally by the Park Commissioners is not the right location, and I believe it would be more beneficial for the community to retain the natural stormwater mitigating valley that they have slated for destruction.

It's not too late.

Perhaps City Council could vote to designate the 150 year old historic Park entrance, designed by world renowned landscape architect Adolph Strauch, as a registered historic site?

Surely you could find a way to protect the health and safety of the community.

Parks is failing to prioritize public safety over an unnecessary pet project.

Please right this wrong.

Sincerely,

Shari Frost

Burnet Woods volunteer

Please include attachment in public comment

This is why you don't have to water native plants. And those roots act like sponges to control flooding.



[External Email] Public Comment 5/15/25

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Sun 5/11/2025 6:16 AM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 1 attachment (67 KB)

IMG_9883.jpeg;

External Email Communication

I am opposed to the fencing off of the only accessible greenspace in Burnet Woods.

Sorry to say that picnicking on the corner of MLK and Clifton doesn't sound very relaxing.

If we have a chance for some authentic community engagement we might discuss the topography and layout of the park and how we might work together to make it more welcoming for families and visitors who have mobility challenges. Maybe my lived experience would be helpful for you to see things from a different perspective.

For the record, your callousness towards the people who rely on this space for their mental wellbeing has been almost as disheartening as the loss of a beloved greenspace.

Shari Frost

Include attachment in public comment

It is very important to go out alone, to sit under a tree — not with a book, not with a companion, but by yourself — and observe the falling of a leaf, hear the lapping of the water, the fishermen's song, watch the flight of a bird, and of your own thoughts as they chase each other across the space of your mind. If you are able to be alone and watch these things, then you will discover extraordinary riches which no government can tax, no human agency can corrupt, and which can never be destroyed.

[External Email] Public Comment 5/15/25

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Mon 5/12/2025 7:36 AM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Parks



Good News

Good Talks

Good Gifts

The Old-Growth Forest Network, dedicated to protecting trees in the U.S., has officially recognized 32 acres of centuries-old forest near one of the largest metropolitan areas in America.

The grove is found in Humbug Marsh, which is just south of the Welcome Center in the [Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge](#), remarkably located only 20 miles from downtown Detroit.

[External Email] Public Comment 5/15/25

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Mon 5/12/2025 3:15 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Sending a link to an additional article that speaks about the Old Growth Forest Network and how lucky we are in Ohio to still have so much unspoiled woodland.

Please 🙏 sign the paperwork to get Burnet Woods added to the list. It will be another feather in the cap for Cincinnati Parks!

Sincerely,
Shari Frost

Here is the link

<

https://www.ideastream.org/2023-10-18/ohio-now-has-more-old-growth-forests-than-any-other-state-heres-why-that-matters?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR7_2gl0O3F2cGzs7TPgZvwglj5N3TOpdJ1a1FgslvJEsc5irWOtPLfnhxVLi_w_aem_uGqW_gNpiUVMEeOexnwy4A >

[External Email] Public Comment 5/15/25

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Tue 5/13/2025 3:56 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear City Leaders,

Burnet Woods needs you to be a hero right now more than ever.

Please nix the removal of habitat in our state's smallest IBA in order to replace the soil with hardscape development.

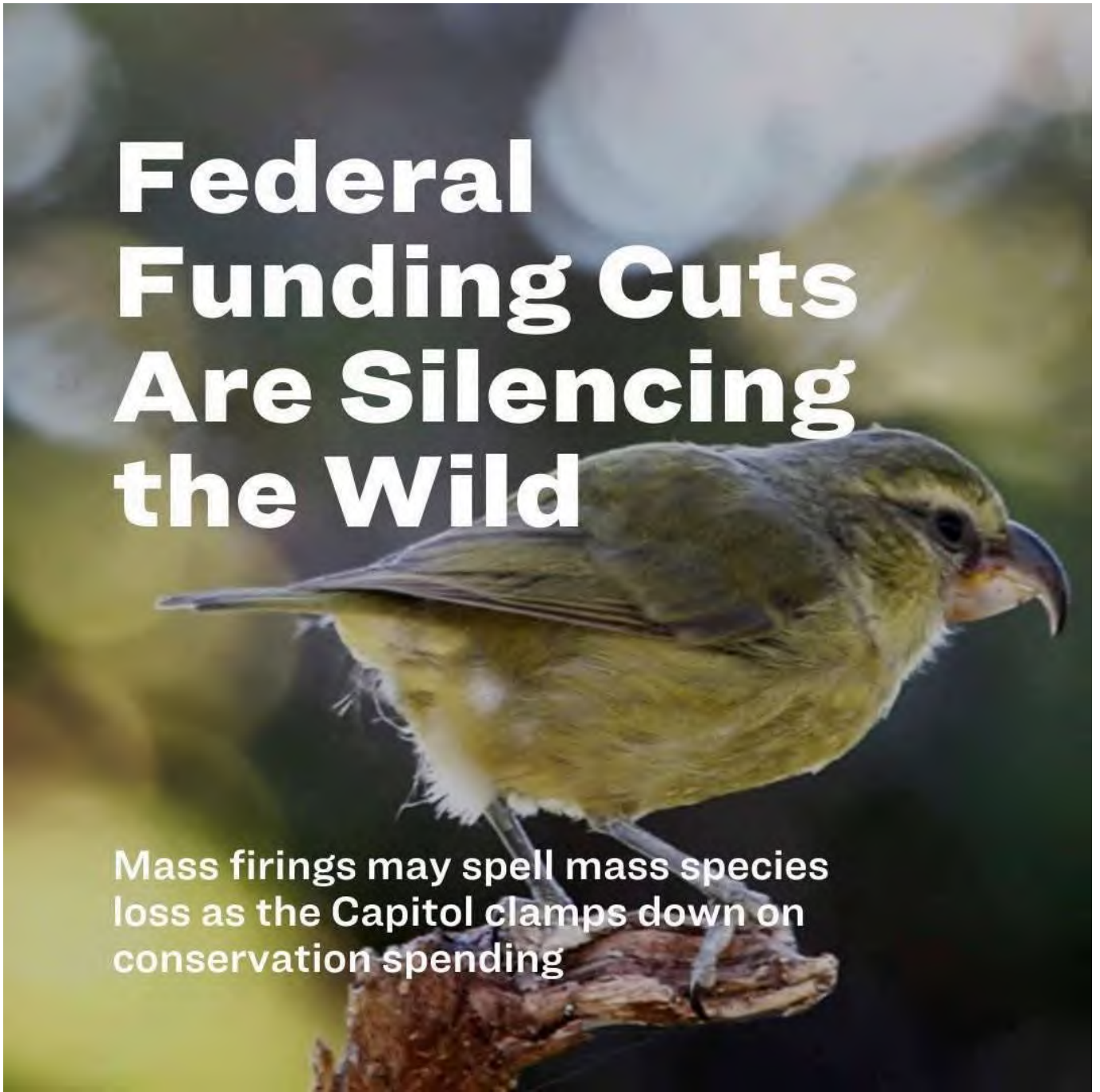
The forests need the birds as much as the birds need the forest and without them, humans cannot survive.

Attached photo from the Sierra Club's social media page.

Sincerely,
Shari Frost

Federal Funding Cuts Are Silencing the Wild

**Mass firings may spell mass species
loss as the Capitol clamps down on
conservation spending**



[External Email] Public Comment 5/15/25

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Tue 5/13/2025 8:02 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

The residents are asking to retain the natural beauty of our public land in Burnet Woods. Corryville residents and Park Stakeholders deserve to have a voice in what happens in their community.

Sincerely,

Shari Frost

Include photo taken 5/13/25

It's not too late to do the right thing.



[External Email] Oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods

From walter williams <team@speak4.co>

Date Sat 4/19/2025 7:00 AM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Park Commissioners,

I'm deeply concerned about the inequitable plan to allocate significant funds from our tax dollars to establish a dog park in Burnet Woods, despite overwhelming opposition from the majority of the community.

It's important to note that this project is catering to the interests of a small group of affluent individuals, rather than addressing the pressing needs of other communities that are in desperate need of resources to improve their parks.

We must stand together to ensure that our tax dollars are allocated in a fair and responsible manner, addressing the needs of all members of our community. Let's work together to oppose the establishment of the dog park in Burnet Woods and advocate for the equitable distribution of funds to support the enhancement of our community parks for the benefit of all residents.

Sincerely,
Mr. walter williams
2500 Kemper Ln,
Cincinnati, OH 45206
wlee678482@gmail.com
513-486-8184



May 15, 2025

Cincinnati Parks' false statement to the Enquirer's reporter May 13, 2025 article titled "Pleasant Ridge woman fights Cincinnati Hall and Often wins."

Millie P. Schafer, PhD, Executive Director

In regard to deer birth control methods to reduce deer populations, a parks spokesman stated "that the Ohio Depart. Of Natural Resources (ODNR) does not allow that approach".

Facts: **Ohio 1531.06 ODNR Chief of division – powers and duties (k)** "The Chief shall adopt rules establishing standards and guidelines for the administration of contraceptive chemicals to noncaptive wild animals, etc., shall issue permits for the administration of contraceptive chemicals to noncaptive wild animals."

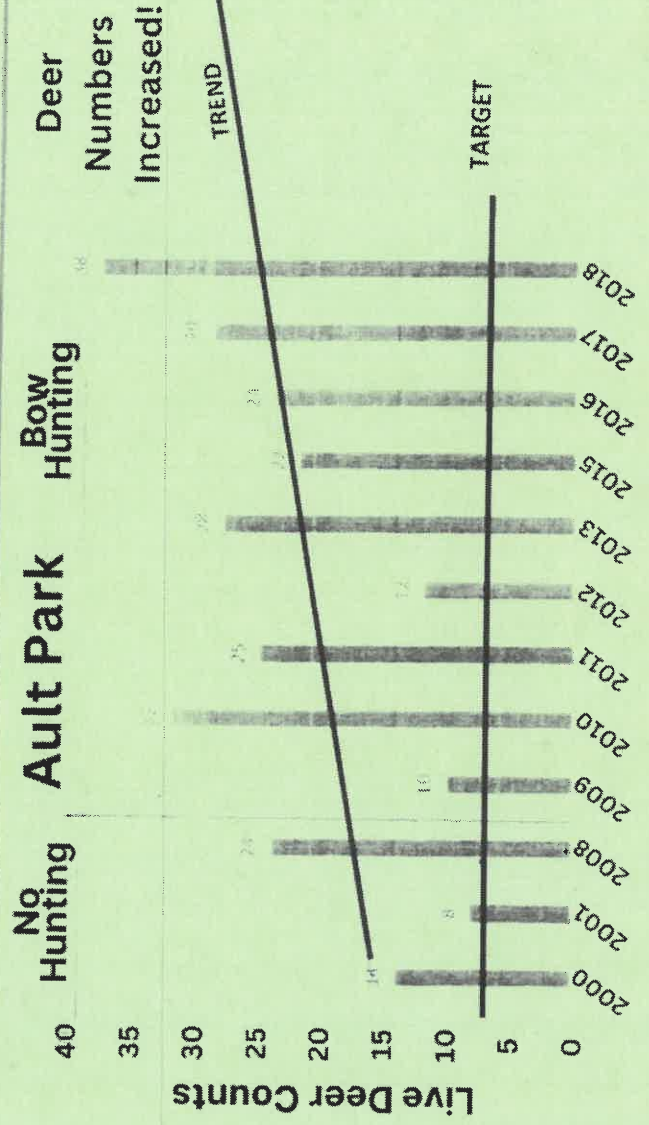
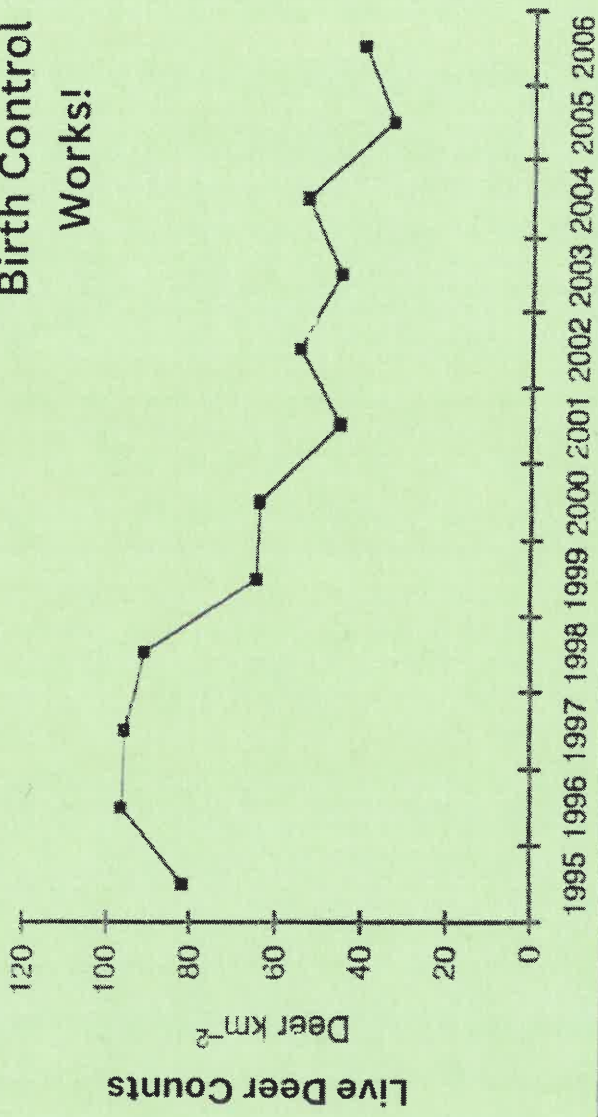
Also, **1501:31-25-01 (G)Wild animal permit regulations:** "persons may request permission from the chief of the division of wildlife to use contraceptives for scientific research. The chief may issue a conditional permit after a person has submitted in writing the proposal which outlines the scientific project".

These regs permitted the Cliton Parks birth control project after we worked hard to stop the proposed bow hunting. At the request of the park supervisor in 20i7, an in-depth deer birth control research project with the support of national and international experts was prepared. But park personnel changes blocked the proposal from moving forward. The new park supervisor in 2019 had agreed to aggressively support the bow hunting program when accepting that position. **Via surveillance**, we know park hunters do hunt on adjoining private properties – **which is illegal**. Also, Cincinnati parks have no right to be using baiting methods to deliberately draw deer living on private properties into the parks for bow hunters to kill. **People are angry. ODNR Jeff Westerfield** clearly has stated: "I shouldn't have any right as a state agent to say you don't get to have deer on your property because someone else doesn't want them," We city residents have the legal right to decide how we want deer managed – which is why ODNR recommends this be a community decision. Lastly recreational bow hunting is not a population control method, has failed to do that, has inflicted a lot of cruelty on the deer and their fawns and has traumatized people who love them. See **ATTACHEMNT:**

Population control in deer by contraception

The deer were not captured. They were remotely darted.

Birth Control Works!



Email to: CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov
Subject: City Budget Public Input - Cincinnati Parks

Dear Councilmember,

I'm writing today to request **additional funding for the hiring of more full time Natural Resource Specialists in the Conservation & Land Management team** within the Natural Resources division of the Cincinnati Parks Board. The purpose is to **improve accessibility to and achieve more conservation in natural areas** to heal Cincinnati Parks' native ecosystems for the benefit of all.

The Conservation & Land Management team has made great progress in its four years of existence - winning statewide awards - but **they are severely understaffed**. Instead of the desired full time-equivalent ratio of 1 specialist per 300 acres, Parks is operating with 1 full time-equivalent specialist per 741 acres. **Reaching a 1:300 ratio requires an additional 9.5 full time equivalent staff.**

Personally, in 2024, I volunteered 115 hours in the preserves of Buttercup Valley, Parker Woods, LaBoiteaux Woods and California Woods. I am a qualified Trained Service Person, thanks to the expertise and commitment of the **Conservation & Land Management team** who regularly sacrifice their weekends to expand and support the forest restoration work of volunteers in the over 20 Preserves within Cincinnati Parks.

I enjoy and support the Parks' work in City Parks, that have received substantial, critical funding over the years, but want to call your attention to the less "manicured", ecosystems of the preserves.

Our parks include **3,800 acres of natural areas**. Active land management is necessary to restore degraded areas and to protect existing precious habitats. Simultaneously, the CLM team is tasked with managing the Parks' **65 miles of trails**, and many parks need new trail systems to be sustainable and accessible.

The work of CLM and volunteers shows invasive species can be pushed back and healthy habitats saved and created. Park visitors feel safer, and communities respond with positivity and support. We ask City Council to please support creating healthy and safe preserves.

Sunday, April 13, 1:00-2:30 p.m. at the Stanford Avenue entrance to Buttercup Valley, you are invited to a guided Spring Wildflower Walk. You will experience acres of spring ephemerals, emerging and flourishing in an (almost) honeysuckle-free forest.

Thank you,

Claire Darley
1531 Barvac Ave 45223