

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

January 16, 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 F. Castellini, and Commissioner Phyllis McCallum. Commissioner John Neyer attended virtually. President North called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

President North acknowledged public comments received via the Cincy Parks email address, regarding Burnet Woods, the Burnet Woods dog park, and a potential skate park. President North acknowledged one in-person public comment about the Burnet Woods dog park.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Approval of the December 19 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the December 19, 2024, meeting minutes. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment of Walter Lynch to the Park Board Investment Committee

Commissioner Neyer provided a brief overview of Mr. Lynch's background and qualifications. President North thanked Mr. Lynch for his public service. Commissioner Neyer motioned to appoint Walter Lynch to the Park Board Investment Committee. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

INFORMATION/ UPDATES

Volunteer Program Update

Volunteer Program Manager Christyl Johnson provided an overview of Parks' volunteer program in the year 2024, which included 3,701 volunteers contributing a total of 53,400 hours of work at an estimated value of \$1,655,012. Program Manager Johnson shared a breakdown of the categories of work volunteers engaged in, types of volunteers (occasional, long-term, youth, corporate, etc.), partnership with new and established CPACs, and recognition and appreciation efforts to show volunteers how important their work is to the Parks team. Program Manager Johnson also shared a video highlighting the Krohn Crafters, a group of volunteers who have been creating holiday ornaments and decorations for Krohn Conservatory since 1933.

Commissioners and Staff discussed increasing efforts to recruit more high school volunteers. President North thanked volunteers for their tremendous efforts and thanked Staff for creating these opportunities. Director Jason Barron thanked Program Manager Johnson for her long service with and dedication to Parks, and outlined recent improvement to the staffing structure of the Parks volunteer program.

Planning & Design Update

Division Manager Joel Gross provided an update on the status of multiple projects, including the Division of Natural Resources service garage, the Ault Park Valley Trail restoration project, the completion of the Art Museum Drive improvements in Eden Park, Smale Lot 23 improvements, the Mt. Airy bike skills course, and Everybody's Treehouse. Commissioners and Staff discussed next steps for the development of the biochar project, soil investigations at Inwood Park, work to

repair sanitary sewer systems at Burnet Woods and Mt. Airy Forest, updates on renovations at Hauck Botanic Gardens, and preliminary work to replace the Sawyer Point playground.

HR Update

Director Barron provided an overview of current staffing, vacancies, hiring, new appointments, and ongoing efforts to improve Parks Academy and the Safety Program.

ACTION ITEMS

Acceptance of Q4 2024 In-Kind Contributions

Director Barron requested approval to accept Q4 2024 In-Kind Contributions from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation in the amount of \$91,490.64. Commissioner McCallum motioned to accept the contributions. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Barron presented the following updates:

- Krohn's Spring Show, *Emerge*, runs January 18 – April 20.
- The Friends of LaBoiteaux Woods CPAC has been working with the Parks team to clear invasive species at LaBoiteaux Woods Nature Preserve.
- Several volunteer events are scheduled for the annual MLK Day of Service on January 20. Parks may cancel, reschedule, or move projects indoors based on weather.
- Thanks to the Parks crews who worked to deal with the significant snow event of January 5. The Parks team not only worked to clear our park roads and sidewalks, but supplemented DPS crews around the City and cleared multiple CPD lots.
- A contingent of staff will be attending the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association's annual conference in Sandusky, OH from February 2 – 5.
- Upcoming events in Cincinnati Parks through January and into early February 2025.

OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

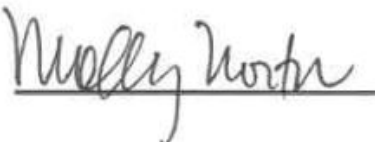
Commissioner Neyer expressed appreciation for Director Barron's consciousness of the importance of developing and nurturing career paths for Parks employees.

ADJOURNMENT

President North adjourned the meeting at 10:06am.

The next regular meeting date is Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 9:00am.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT  DIRECTOR 

[External Email] Public Comment Noise Ordinance

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Sun 12/22/2024 3:57 AM

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

External Email Communication

- A) No person shall create noise or sound, or permit the creation of noise or sound in such a manner as to disturb the peace and quiet of a neighborhood, having due regard for the proximity of places of residence, hospitals or other residential institutions and to any other conditions affected by such noise.
- (B) No person operating a restaurant, hotel, summer garden or other place of refreshment or entertainment shall permit, nor shall any person in or about such restaurant, hotel, summer garden or other place of refreshment or entertainment engage in, the playing or rendition of music of any kind, singing, loud talking, amplification of sound, or other noises on or about the premises, in such a manner as to disturb the peace and quiet of the neighborhood, having due regard for the proximity of places of residence, hospitals or other residential institutions and to any other conditions affected by such noises.
- (C) It shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section if any such noise listed in subsection (A) or (B) exceeds the following sound level limitations tested by

a sound level meter by receiving zoning district, time of day and day of the week:

Maximum permissible sound levels Leq dB (A)—
A sound meter reading taken over a minimum of a six minute period producing an average reading of the limits listed in Tables 1, 2 and 3 below, and shall be measured at or within the boundaries of the receiving or affected property or immediately adjacent to the property of the noise source. When instrumentation cannot be placed within these boundaries, the measurement shall be made as close thereto as is reasonable. The day the 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. time period falls on shall be determined by the day that corresponds with the 7 p.m. time.

The maximum permissible sound levels in Planned Development (PD), Hillside (HS), Urban Design (UD), Interim Development Control (IDC) or Historic (HD) Districts shall be assigned by designated members of the Department of City Planning and Buildings upon the District's creation, taking into account the surrounding neighborhoods and their correlating maximum permissible sound levels as indicated in the tables herein. Any PD, HS, UD, IDC, or HD District existing at the time of passage of this ordinance shall have its maximum permissible sound levels assigned by the designated members of the Department of City Planning and Buildings within 30 days of passage of this ordinance.

Table 1. Sunday through Wednesday

Receiving or Affected Property Zoning District	7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday	7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday through Wednesday	2 a.m. to 7 a.m. Sunday through Thursday
--	---	---	--

Single Family (SF), Residential (RFR, RM or RMX), or Institutional (IR)	60	55	55
Commercial (CC, CG, CN or RFC), Downtown Development (DD), Urban Mix (UM) or Office (OL or OG)	70	65	65
Manufacturing (MA, ML, MG, ME or RF-M)	75	70	70

Table 2. Thursday

Receiving or Affected Property Zoning District	7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday	7 p.m. to Midnight Thursday	Midnight. to 7 a.m. Friday
Single Family (SF), Residential (RM or RMX), or Institutional (IR)	60	55	55
Commercial (CC or CN) Downtown District (DD) or Office (OL or OG)	70	75	65

Manufacturing (ML, MG, ME or RF-M)	75	70	70
--	----	----	----

Table 3. Friday through Saturday

Receiving or Affected Property Zoning District	7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday through Saturday	7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday through Saturday	2 a.m. to 7 a.m. Saturday through Sunday
Single Family (SF), Residential (RM or RMX), or Institutional (IR)	65	60	60
Commercial (CC or CN) Downtown District (DD) or Office (OL or OG)	75	75	70
Manufacturing (ML, MG, ME or RF-M)	75	70	70

The performance of one or two street musicians on unamplified musical instruments between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. or between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., for no more than a single period of 90 consecutive minutes in the vicinity of a single location and not closer than any of the following: a) 20 feet to a pedestrian crosswalk; b) 20 feet to a street vendor; and c) 100 feet to an open market as

such are defined in [section 845-3 CMC](#), shall not constitute a violation of this section.

(Ordained by Ord. No. [289-2010](#), § 1, eff. July 30, 2010; a. Ord. No. [411-2010](#), § 1, eff. Dec. 17, 2010)
Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor

misdemeanor. Whoever violates this section

~~three or more times within~~ a one-year period is

~~guilty of a fourth degree misdemeanor. For~~
~~purposes of this section, three or more times~~
~~within a one-year period shall be determined~~
Burnet Park Commissioners have made the unilateral decision to install a dog park in Burnet Woods in close proximity to residents and businesses. The measurements shown on their FAQ page are inaccurate because they are not measuring from the outer edge of the dog enclosure.

Corryville already has a higher burden of noise pollution due to the hospital's ambulance corridor.
based on the dates of the violations.

Adding the additional nuisance of large groups of dogs barking from the proposed dog park would certainly violate the above cited noise ordinance.

Please nix the project and find a more suitable location. 85% of the people who responded to parks one question survey are opposed to the Burnet Woods location.

Sincerely,

Shari Frost

[External Email] Public Comment Jan 2025

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Tue 12/24/2024 7:54 AM

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

External Email Communication

Dear Commissioners,

Only 66 IBA's exist in the State of Ohio. The open grassy area vista that we lovingly call, Pleasant Valley, is vitally important for the health and wellbeing of us all, but especially our migratory birds.

Please nix the dog park project and find a more suitable site. Mount Storm is greatly underutilized and they have an entrance that is flat enough for an ADA compliant dog park. That location also has water. Please consider moving the project there instead, if the community decides that they want a dog park.

Sincerely,

Shari Frost

Below is what is written on the birding hotspots website regarding Burnet Woods.

Burnet Woods Important Bird Area

About Burnet Woods Important Bird Area

Burnet Woods is a special category IBA. It is deemed important because of the migration ecology studies done in an urban park migrant trap. It is a City of Cincinnati Park, consisting of a matrix of woodlands and lawn, with a small lake and nature center.

This is a documented urban migrant trap. Duncan Evered's, master's thesis (1990), "The Influence of Weather on Landbird Ecology During Spring Migration in a Cincinnati Park") demonstrates that migrants recaptured (using mist nets) had gained weight. Results demonstrate the importance of urban stopover for energetic restoration and successful continued migration by neotropical migrants. Burnet Woods, holding a mixture of mature deciduous woodland, scrub areas (and lawn with trees and a pond), appears to have been an urban migrant trap for woodland birds for many years. Worth Randle confirmed reports of unbelievable numbers of migrants by the Stephenson sisters, naturalists with the City of Cincinnati Parks. More than 10 years of formal bird inventories during spring migration have been documented by Stephan Pelikan and David Styer.

[External Email] Public Comment/ Bald Eagle Protection

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Wed 12/25/2024 9:01 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 2 attachments (322 KB)

IMG_5692.png; IMG_5693.png;

External Email Communication

To all Cincinnati leadership,
Bald Eagle have been spotted in Burnet Woods.
There are ordinances in place to protect their habitat.
Could anyone please enforce the protections and prevent our Park Commissioners from disturbing
Burnet Woods vital habitat by installing a dog park that would certainly disrupt the wildlife who rely
upon Burnet Woods for survival.
Sincerely,
Shari Frost
Attached are screenshots of the sightings and ordinances.

5. **Bald Eagle**

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

1 11 May 2019 Cole DiFabio

Burnet Woods

6. **Common Goldeneye**

Bucephala clangula

1 3 Feb 2019 yann kemper

Burnet Woods

7. **Red-breasted Merganser**

Mergus serrator

1 10 Apr 2018 Jordan West

Burnet Woods

8. **Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*

1 21 Dec 2017 Brian Wulker

Burnet Woods

9. **Sandhill Crane**

... [or any golden eagle], alive or dead, or any part (including feathers), nest, or egg thereof."

The Act defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb."

Regulations further define "disturb" as "to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior" ([50 CFR 22.6](#)).

In addition to immedi [Help improve this site](#)

[External Email] Public Comment Jan 2025 including attachment

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/14/2025 7:52 AM

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

External Email Communication

Dear City Leaders,

Please figure out an alternate solution to the plan for removing greenspace in Burnet Woods. Removing the soil, and compressing the area with decomposed granite and concrete will not help keep the community cool as the earth continues to warm.

Please take your position seriously and be good stewards over our shared inheritance.

Burnet Woods is not private property.

Deem the area a place of historical significance and protect it from development.

An Adolph Strauch design is something valuable and irreplaceable, other cities celebrate having such an important historical asset.

It's a win for the environment and for not only Corryville, but our entire City, to protect it.

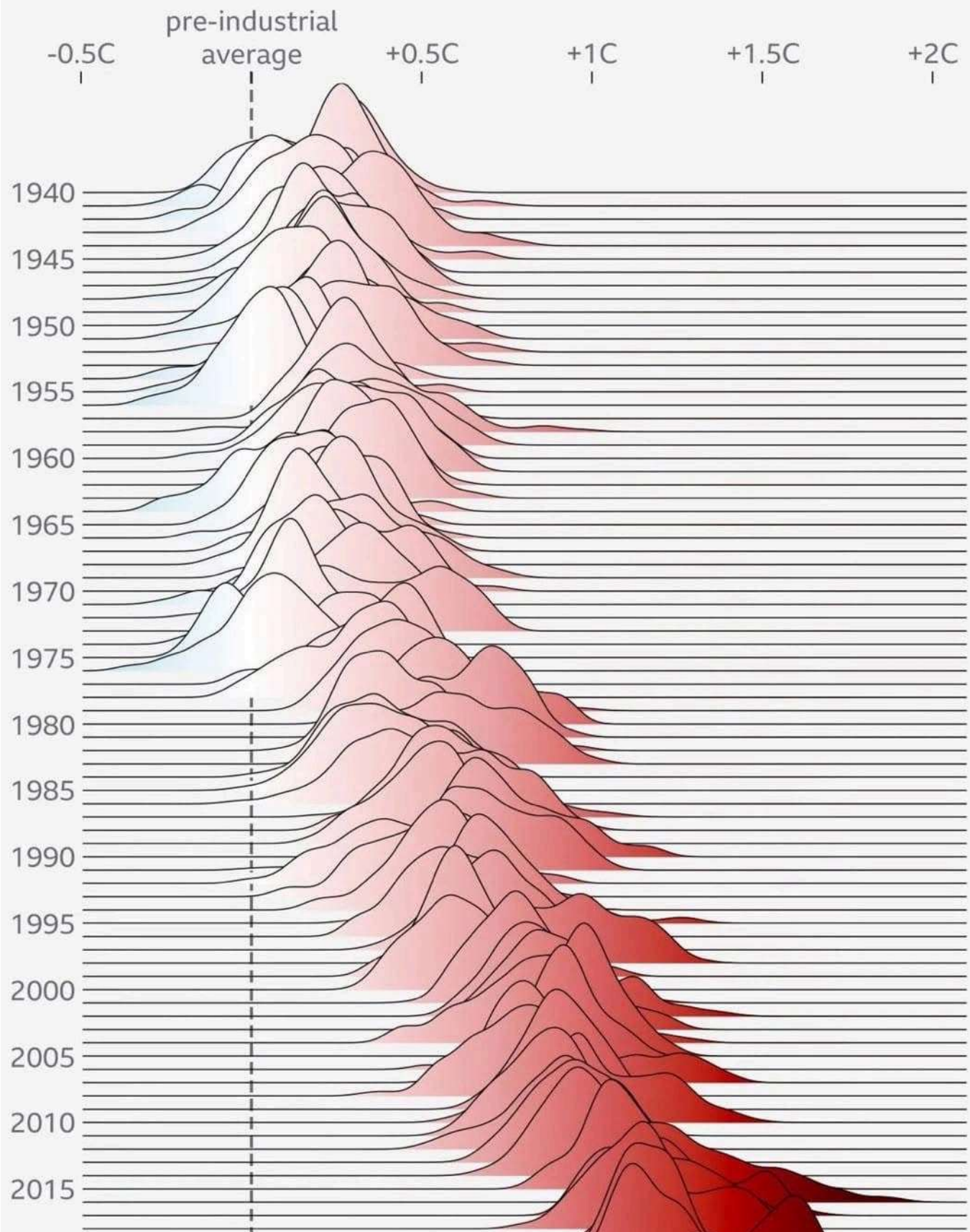
Please reconsider and find a less impactful location for the dog park requested by Clifton residents.

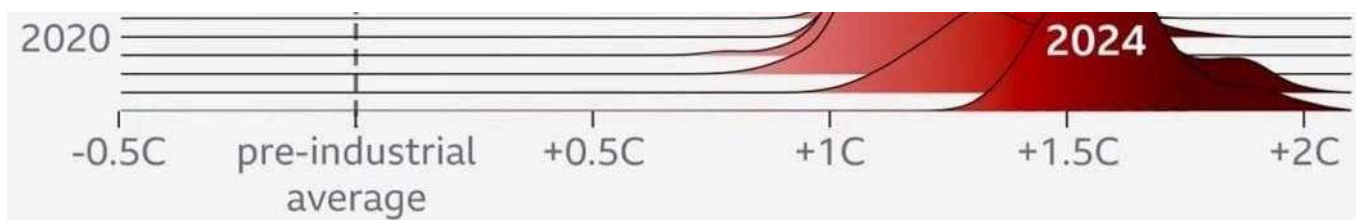
Sincerely,

Shari Frost

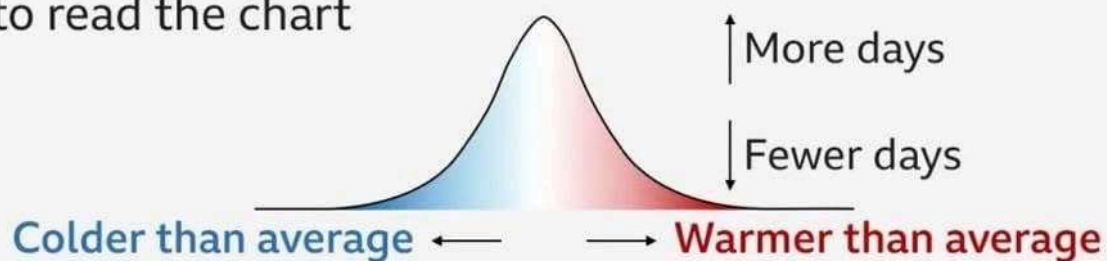
Most days in 2024 exceeded 1.5C warming

Distribution of daily global air temperature differences from the pre-industrial average (1850-1900), 1940-2024





How to read the chart



Source: ERA5, C3S/ECMWF

BBC

[External Email] Public Comment 1/16

From Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 1/15/2025 1:48 PM

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

 7 attachments (16 MB)

processed-685BB8D5-47A1-4D99-946B-69B6B51BC927.jpeg; processed-D53E4417-B059-48AC-9802-918C314DCB7C.jpeg; processed-F2994EC7-6832-4636-AF27-F4DE82ACBC7E.jpeg; processed-8CA68F68-0ECA-41F8-9FE7-8BE25729AE06.jpeg; processed-6FA3D5C5-4551-4861-BC7C-90694E0D491B.jpeg; processed-0CC1127A-472C-4C5C-B7F0-983D30452322.jpeg; processed-A07929E2-76A6-4C40-B64B-EAC41271BB14.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

Cincinnati Board of Parks Commissioners -

1. Minutes from the December Park Board meeting fail to acknowledge written public comments received by the Commissioners, again undermining credibility that the Commissioners receive and actually read written comments.
2. People lie. Snow doesn't. Please see the attached photos evidencing that the continuing narrative being perpetuated by one Commissioner that Burnet Woods is not activated or utilized by the surrounding community is false. In the most voluminous snowfall of the season, every hill in Burnet was marked by sleds, cross-country ski tracks, snowpeople and footprints. It is a dangerous fabrication to imply this park, at the nexus of 3 business districts, 5 hospitals, and 3 colleges, is not active because the Commissioners don't choose to utilize it and choose not to maintain it properly.
3. Director Barron has not completed the repairs to Burnet Woods which he assured city council, in open testimony, would be completed before groundbreaking the proposed dog park.
4. It's not too late to exercise some common sense and reverse the dog park decision. You wouldn't run your businesses alongside leadership making decisions this poorly or wish to explain them to your shareholders. Continuing to double-down with wasteful spending and thumbing your noses at any environmental acumen highlights the out-of-touch nature of your relationships to regular park users and paints your city council counterparts with the same brush. You've walked through a bad choice made for the wrong reasons by a Commissioner no longer on the Board or suffering the consequences. In language easily understood by this Board, "Walks will haunt." The stench of this dog park will follow this Board's legacy.

Cynthia Duval

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)















[External Email] Public Comment: 1/6/25

From Evan Walker <cincinnati skate park project@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/15/2025 4:59 PM

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

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

External Email Communication

Board of Park Commissioners,

I wanted to make sure that you saw the feature story in the Enquirer about the growing interest in a skatepark at Sawyer Point: <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2024/12/23/could-skateboard-park-go-into-sawyer-point-park/76965047007/>

We have received so much support from the community, especially from families looking for a safe place for their kids to learn skateboarding. The unfortunate fire at Sawyer Point provides an opportunity, but we are open and interested in discussing other skatepark site options. Our goal is to finally have a place for people to skate safely in Cincinnati.

We'd love the opportunity to discuss ideas further.

Thank you,
Evan Walker
513-515-4120