

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
**July 15, 2021**

**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 Jim Goetz, Vice President Linda Lee Thomas, Commissioner Susan Castellini, Commissioner Brad Lindner. Commissioner Molly North was in attendance via video conference. President Goetz called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

**Acknowledgement of Public Comments**

President Goetz acknowledged receipt of emailed public comments and there were no speakers registered to give comments in person or over video conference.

**Approval of June 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the June 17, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lindner seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Rule 25 – Swings, Hammocks, & Slacklines**

Director Kish introduced the suggested rule change and introduced Crystal Courtney to present. Crystal Courtney noted an observed increase in hammock use throughout the parks and explained the current *CPB Rule 25 – Swings*, prohibits use of hammocks outside of designated areas, which have never been determined. She explained the rule was difficult to enforce for this reason and described staff's methods for researching and determining updates to the rule, which would allow for safe use of hammocks on healthy trees. She described the guidelines for hammocks set within the revised *Rule 25 – Swings, Hammocks, and Slacklines*.

Details of permitted use of hammocks was discussed. Commissioner Castellini expressed opposition to the use of hammocks on public property due to concerns over safety and ability to enforce. Ms. Courtney explained the safety considerations within the revised Rule 25 and plans for public and staff education. Director Kish commented on the plans for public education in the form of signage and videos.

Vice President Thomas asked if it was reasonable for Parks to identify specific areas for hammock use. In response, Ms. Courtney considered staff resources, limitations on passive recreation, and potential liabilities associated with Parks designating areas for hammock use.

President Goetz asked how this revised rule measures up to other parks districts' policies. Ms. Courtney answered Parks' policy is very similar to Great Parks' and at the state level, there are not many regulations for hammock guidance. Ms. Courtney explained a main force in creating the guidelines was recent use of hammocks in the Ault Park cherry tree grove. She described methods for following up on the success of the revised rule. Commissioner Lindner expressed the need to communicate potential risks of hammocking and hazard trees in the public education campaign.

The inclusion of swings in the revised rule was clarified.

Commissioner Lindner motioned to approve the staff recommendation. President Goetz seconded.

Vice President Thomas asked how public education will be made available. Ms. Courtney explained signage will include basic regulations and include a QR code for an online educational video.

The motion passed by roll call vote. Commissioners Goetz, Thomas, Lindner, and North voted in favor. Commissioner Castellini voted in opposition.

### **FY22 Budgets: Capital – Recommended Parks’ Infrastructure Rehabilitation Budget Adjustment**

Director Kish summarized the four items comprising the budget presentation.

Ms. Kish presented background on the need to approve a revised allocation of Parks’ Infrastructure Rehabilitation (CIP) budget for FY22, as the Council-appropriated amount is less than the Board’s request. She presented the staff-recommended budget and projects recommended for external funding sources.

President Goetz clarified points of discussion and the budget attachment, beginning the discussion with proposed CIP spending. He reminded the Board the presented budget represents intended spending of the appropriation and does not imply approval of each line-item project. Mr. Goetz expressed appreciation for staff’s approach and consideration of Infrastructure Study needs.

President Goetz motioned to approve allocation in the budget as outlined in Attachment B, presented by staff, for proposed CIP spending.

There was clarification on general categories within the recommended budget.

Commissioner Lindner seconded the motion on the floor. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Director Kish explained the next item for discussion would relate to proposed Commissioners Fund spending and the source of that spending. President Goetz asked how these items are put in perspective with Fleet needs. Director Kish clarified this focuses on items previously approved in the Capital budget and recommends other funding sources.

### **FY22 Budgets: Commissioners Fund – Recommended Operational Budget**

President Goetz suggested discussing the Commissioners Fund. He explained Director Kish was asked to consider what operational and capital needs should be funded from the Commissioners Fund.

Director Kish presented the staff's recommendation for the Operational Budget for the Commissioners Fund. She explained the total FY22 operational budget of \$1,922,815 was approximately a quarter of a million dollar increase from the previous year and it addresses some of the Board's requests. She identified large-ticket items contributing to the increase. She described ways the budget has changed and improved in structure and implementation.

President Goetz noted the differences in the presented FY21 Operations Budget and FY21 Adjusted Budget, noting increases in professional services due to Parks Foundation funds for Lot 23/28. He asked for clarification on the major increase in Equipment, Supplies, and Horticulture Supplies from FY21 to FY22. Ms. Mobley explained these expenses include small equipment, plant material, and other supplies to support new florist staff and other staff in their daily work.

Vice President Thomas asked about plans to improve versus add floral beds. Ms. Mobley explained focus would be on improving the quality and maintaining existing beds with operational funds.

Trail improvements were discussed, and Commissioner North expressed need to understand how much the \$500,000 budgeted for comprehensive trail signage would provide. She expressed it would be helpful to understand broad expectations for the trail system, and a vision for a clean, safe, well-marked trail system and online accessibility of information.

President Goetz commented on the growth of the Commissioners Fund from investment accounts and noted about \$600,000 of available funding. He expressed spending this available funding continues to be a focus and is happy to see proposed spending from the Commissioners Fund. He commented on the \$1.9 million of operational needs not provided by the City's allocation.

President Goetz asked if there was a motion for approving the FY22 Commissioners Fund operations budget of \$1,922,815. Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve. Vice President Thomas seconded. President Goetz confirmed the Board's understanding of the motion. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

### **FY22 Budgets: Commissioners Fund – Consideration of Capital Expenses**

President Goetz introduced the need to discuss capital expense recommendations from the Commissioners Fund or City restricted funds. Director Kish provided an overview of available resources and staff-recommended capital expenses, which are largely operational in nature.

Ms. Kish commented on comprehensive trail signage and addressed Commissioner North's previous comments. She explained Parks' Trail Technician is currently using GIS to evaluate the trail system and data should be collected by September, which will be mapped and inform signage needs, cost estimates, and be available online.

Opportunities for expenses from the Commissioners Fund was discussed. President Goetz commented the staff-recommended capital project presented by staff would be considered and prioritized in the 3-year strategic plan and asked if there were recommendations for priority projects to be addressed immediately. Vice President Thomas expressed Krohn Conservatory would be a top

priority since the proposed repair work addresses safety. Director Kish agreed and explained the recommended source of funding is a restricted fund for Krohn.

Commissioner Castellini asked if all proposed Fleet purchases were needed today. President Goetz asked about money budgeted in FY21 for Fleet and Ms. Mobley explained vehicles budgeted for in FY21 are still not in service, and that dollar amount is not represented in the FY22 Commissioners Fund capital expense recommendation. She described the desperate need for vehicles and how the Fleet situation is impacting operations and morale. President Goetz commented allocated city funds are not enough to keep Parks' Fleet operational, expressed the need for additional vehicles for staff to do their jobs, and suggested asking City Council for reimbursement from any excess funds in the FY21 budget.

Commissioner Lindner asked if Parks' Fleet is generally underfunded. Ms. Mobley described the decrease in City funding since 2017 and the City's priority of first responder vehicles.

President Goetz commented one of the Park Board's responsibilities is making the City aware of needs. He expressed the recommendation for trail signage was a worthy expense and trails signage was discussed. Mr. Goetz suggested a presentation from staff regarding plans for signage in the future. He commented the needs recommended for Krohn Conservatory would also be needed. Director Kish explained with a little investment for Mt. Airy Arboretum, it could be revitalized in a very meaningful way. Mr. Goetz suggested not making decisions on funding a dog park until a decision is made. Proposed Commissioners Fund spending for Bettman HVAC was discussed.

President Goetz motioned to approve the items recommended for Proposed CF Spending totaling \$162,500 as well as the following Commissioners Fund Capital Expense Recommendations: \$724,000 for Fleet; \$500,000 for Trail Signage; \$25,000 for Mt. Airy Arboretum; and \$258,000 for repairs to Krohn Conservatory. Commissioner Lindner seconded.

Commissioner North asked how new Capital expenses are treated in the budget. Director Kish expressed an approach has not been established, but this can be addressed in the strategic planning process. Ms. North expressed a need for a proactive approach. President Goetz agreed and expressed the Board can also approve allocations as items come up and felt some items presented today were being funded proactively. Commissioner Lindner expressed the same for Mt. Airy Arboretum revitalization.

The motion on the floor passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Director Kish and President Goetz introduced the staff recommendation to approve the use of restricted City funds for projects requested but not included in the City allocation.

Vice President Thomas asked about the parking lot restoration at Sawyer Point and why it has not been included in the recommended budget. Director Kish explained there will be opportunity in the next few months to discuss plans for that area more holistically.

President Goetz asked about the estimated \$100,000 cost of the Mt. Airy bike skills area and ADA walkway. Director Kish explained the estimate. Mr. Goetz expressed comfort with the additional proposed other spending and funding sources.

President Goetz motioned to approve the items recommended for Proposed Other Spending totaling \$410,000. Vice President Thomas seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Director Kish thanked the Board for their support and for the additional investment in the Parks system and staff. President Goetz expressed appreciation for staff's recommendations, which allowed the Board to approve funding for meaningful items.

### **FY 22 Budgets: Capital – City-Issued Capital Projects**

Director Kish introduced the next item related to additional capital dollars appropriated by City Council, and staff's recommendation on expenditure of those funds.

President Goetz asked about \$750,000 for a trail system masterplan and clarified the actual masterplan would be estimated at \$75,000, and the cost of design and build would be the remaining \$675,000. He also referenced the \$150,000 for trails from Rapid Run to Dunham, which is new natural-surface trail, different from the larger paved trail project.

Director Kish explained the summary staff recommended expenditures are intended to provide accountability because of the vague nature of the City-Issued Capital Project allocation.

Commissioner Castellini asked about the Sawyer Point Tennis Courts Improvement and Director Kish clarified it is related to Pickleball Courts and seismic studies, which will inform a formal project recommendation.

President Goetz expressed his perspective that staff is looking for support of the recommendation from a budgetary standpoint, but the Board is not approving specific projects yet.

Commissioner North noted an opportunity for a marathon trail at Mt. Airy within the masterplan for the 30-mile trail redevelopment, which could be promoted and be a regional draw. President Goetz asked that the idea for a marathon trail be part of stakeholder discussions about trails in Mt. Airy.

The differences between the City-issued \$1,050,000 for Mt. Airy Trail Expansion and the "Proposed Other Spending" of \$100,000 for Area 23 bike skills area and ADA walkway were discussed.

President Goetz motioned to approve the staff recommended budget allocation. Commissioner Lindner seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

President Goetz expressed appreciation for everyone's hard work on the budget.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Clifton Dog Park Discussion**

Director Kish provided an overview of the discussion regarding a dog park in the Clifton community. She provided a staff summary of the project to-date and a description of seven viable sites. She referred to a graphic displaying the criteria including size, site fit, neighborhood, parking, proximity to homes, and access to water. She expressed the goal of the discussion was to narrow the list down to two or three sites allowing staff to create prototypes at each, collect feedback, and produce a recommendation to the Board next month.

President Goetz expressed appreciation for the work on the project. He commented the presented graphic includes subjective evaluations.

Commissioner North commented she had visited and studied each proposed site and concluded the Northeast Corner of Burnet Woods site was most appropriate. She presented her reasoning for wanting to elevate this site for consideration.

There was discussion regarding desirable site criteria, including water access, and significance of site location being central within Clifton.

Vice President Thomas expressed concern regarding the aesthetics of a dog park at Losantiville Triangle and commented MLK is her preferred site if water access can be made available. She also commented Dunore Park would not be a consideration from her perspective.

President Goetz commented he had visited the sites and expressed the MLK site did not appear favorable in person due to its size, access, topography, busy street, and users' inability to utilize the Good Samaritan parking lot adjacent to the site due to planned construction by Good Samaritan. The size, usable space, and topography of the site was discussed.

Commissioner Castellini commented on the number of comments received in opposition versus feedback in favor of a particular site. President Goetz echoed this sentiment, sharing a comment from a member of Clifton Town Meeting & Preserve Burnet Woods regarding messages of opposition to development in Clifton parks. He shared his opinions on the value of a dog park in Clifton and for the Park Board to be proactive as opposed to reactive.

Commissioner Lindner expressed his opinion on the benefits of the Burnet Woods Northeast Corner, including its central location and size. Commissioner Castellini expressed the Burnet Woods Northeast corner was a standout and staff should focus on it. The other Burnet Woods sites were discussed.

President Goetz expressed there is a clear standout site and there may not be a need to select a "Plan B."

Director Kish commented on the work that went into the narrowing down of sites by both staff and Board. She suggested including the project at the Northeast Corner site in the strategic plan and

identify funding at that point. President Goetz expressed the project timeline should not be extended further. He asked to move forward with staking the site and engaging the community for support and fundraising, then bringing a proposal with costs to the Board. There was discussion regarding getting cost estimates for water access and concepts for design and materials.

Vice President Thomas asked what immediate next steps were needed for useful discussion with the community. Director Kish explained now that there is consensus for an ideal site, staff can determine cost estimates and simultaneously invite qualitative feedback, and bring a proposal back to the Board next month. Commissioner Lindner expressed there may not be additional or differing feedback from the community. There was discussion about presenting a staff recommendation and concept to the community and inviting them to respond and assist with the project.

Commissioner North clarified next steps and including a concept and conceptual budget, identifying the Park Board's contribution, and what additional funding would be needed from other sources. She also expressed a need to understand the cost of ongoing maintenance.

Director Kish expressed at the August meeting, staff could present a report with information on what it would take to construct and maintain a dog park at the Northeast Corner of Burnet Woods. President Goetz expressed the Board is now looking for community input on the specifics of the project at this site, not on the site selection. There was discussion about preparing various proposals for different sizes and costs. It was clarified staff would deliver in August an estimate for a 20,000 square foot dog park with options for smaller, site concepts, and any barriers and costs for bringing water to the site. There was discussion about whether to notify project stakeholders that other sites were no longer considered, and it was determined this information would be reflected in the meeting minutes.

### **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Quarterly Update**

Director Kish presented the Capital Improvement Plan Quarterly Update which is maintained by the Division of Planning & Design and is intended to capture the status of current projects and expenditures within the CIP.

Commissioner Castellini asked for an update on the Boat Dock and Director Kish explained it is still under consideration by the Purchasing Department. The need to address timing issues and identify opportunities for improving the relationship with Purchasing and revisiting the MOU with the City was discussed. President Goetz expressed there is great interest in completing the Boat Dock and it may be a good time to revisit the MOU between Parks, the City, and the Parks Foundation to look for opportunities for improvement. Expectations were set for a staff proposal at the August meeting for improving the working relationship with Purchasing, as well as meeting with the City Administration and Parks Foundation regarding the MOU.

President Goetz provided feedback on the CIP report, providing suggestions for improvement and outlining inconsistencies in funding reports. He suggested reporting on the project budget, amount of funding received, expenditures, and remaining dollars for each project. He asked those figures be provided for Tom Jones Commons by next month.

Vice President Thomas commented on the monthly CIP narrative and CIP spreadsheet are not always consistent with one another. She requested more detailed next steps be provided in each update. Director Kish commented improvements will be made to the CIP report.

Commissioner Lindner asked about the inclinometers at Friendship Park. Director Kish expressed other City departments have been engaged as the ground movement will make any future projects at that site a much larger endeavor.

Commissioner Lindner commented given the community interest in Owl's Nest Pavilion and the Clifton Dog Park, there may be opportunity for fundraising. Vice President Thomas asked for an update on the Sawyer Point Fishing Pier but Planning & Design staff were not present to provide.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

Rocky Merz presented updates from staff. He explained all staff have resumed on-site or in-office work. He directed the Commissioners to the list of upcoming events on the provided calendar. He announced registration for ReLeaf, sponsored by Mad Tree, the Parks Foundation, and Macy's will begin in August. He explained the goal of 1,750 trees and the new priority registration for neighborhoods with lower tree canopy, based on the 2020 UTC data. Plans for announcing and distributing registration information was discussed.

Mr. Merz thanked Vice President Thomas for speaking at the Marian Spencer Statue dedication and recognized Parks staff Sarah Moskovitz and DeAndre Davis for documenting the project over the past year and creating a video. He announced the upcoming Tom Jones Commons ribbon cutting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Merz explained July is Parks and Recreation Month and staff asked park patrons and staff to share their Parks and Recreation stories. He shared one of the stories, recounting how Parks staff teamed up to search Smale Riverfront Park to find a young child's lost baseball glove. Vice President Thomas commended the work and impact of the CEV Division in collecting and sharing these stories.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Castellini asked about the Federal lobbyists. Director Kish provided an update, explaining there had been an advancement in the acquisition of USACE funding, which has not yet been appropriated, but was submitted through Senator Brown's office for Western Hills Viaduct and the River's Edge and is going through the budget process. She explained this is a top priority for the City and a focus of the City's lobbyist.

Commissioner North asked about the frequency of police reports at Park Board meetings and reporting on the response to the shooting incident occurring on July 4<sup>th</sup> at Smale. Jenny Mobley clarified the report is quarterly, however, Captain Swingley had a scheduling conflict this month. Ms. North asked for an update regarding safety at Smale Riverfront Park. Director Kish explained there had not been police resources for sustained efforts at Smale, however, this has shifted since the shootings on July 4<sup>th</sup>. She explained Parks is installing cameras that CPD will have access to

and CPD will distribute parking cones (provided by Parks) Fridays-Sundays as well as increased police patrols. She explained efforts of Parks staff and CPD are focused on other parks as well. Commissioner North asked that opportunities for the Board to support safety efforts be brought to their attention moving forward.

Commissioner Lindner commended the staff for their work on the budget development. He thanked Commissioner North for visiting the dog park site options to help focus the discussion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Goetz motioned to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G) to consider the employment, discipline, and compensation of a public employee. Commissioner Lindner seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

President Goetz explained he anticipated the meeting will adjourn and there will be no further action when the Board reenters the public meeting after Executive Session.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 11:25 A.M.

The Board reentered the public meeting at 12:45 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Castellini motioned to adjourn. President Goetz seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

ATTEST:

  
PRESIDENT

  
DIRECTOR

## [External Email] Public Comment: 7/15 Dog Park

Eric Urbas

Mon 6/21/2021 10:53 PM

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

Cc: Michelle Schwenkner

### External Email Communication

Park Board Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opinion in the proposed dog park options as explained in the Clifton Dog Park Analysis. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PWdClcSSkPsbeEGU-KLMA6YUAcwpiBxu/view?fbclid=IwAR39yj\\_CwOs23sdx1BTcLOvOI73Wau8nnXFnyuODmzmGwG\\_4mYFbx8MOTN8](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PWdClcSSkPsbeEGU-KLMA6YUAcwpiBxu/view?fbclid=IwAR39yj_CwOs23sdx1BTcLOvOI73Wau8nnXFnyuODmzmGwG_4mYFbx8MOTN8)

I think the park boards first priority should be to expand the park system when new uses are proposed. Rare and valuable parkland is a precious gift for us to take care of while we are here and to pass on in a better state once we are gone.

Option 1 - MLK is the only one that accomplishes this by adding new land as a park use. A water source could be added as part of work to build the dog park.

I am unfamiliar with the Losantiville Triangle location. If it is completely unused as a park space it is a more suitable option than the other park land spaces.

I am completely against the three Burnet Woods options, the Dunore option, and the Fairview option. All of these sites have other regular uses that the preparers of the analysis have not sufficiently measured. All of them take park land out of a current use instead of adding to the park land for the new use.

What about looking at some of the recent brownfield spaces around UC that have opened up?

I am a resident of Clifton and a frequent Burnet Woods park user.

Respectfully,  
Eric Urbas

## [External Email] Public comment 7/15

Rosie Lemkin

Tue 7/13/2021 4:08 PM

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

External Email Communication

Is Ault Park too pristine?

Don't get me wrong. I love Ault Park. Each day I drive up and Grisha ( my little dog) and I walk in the park. I see the park workers planting flowers, lawn mowing, pulling weeds, mulching, running children's nature camps, sprinkling and (spraying) And what are you spraying I asked a worker "Glyphosate" he answered. And they use that in Roundup?

Experts disagree on the problems with glyphosate and they will be having another trial in August in St.Louis. However, the possibility that it causes insects, including bees to die, contribute to nonHodgkins lymphoma, kidney disease, liver damage has been studied.

It also may cause eye and skin irritation and swallowing products with glyphosate can cause burns in the mouth, throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. That's where I come in-dogs who ingest glyphosate snack on grass that have been sprayed can develop nasty consequences-difficulty breathing, convulsions , etc. Here is what I'd love for the park board to do:

1. Put up a sign that the area had been sprayed and the date sprayed.
- 2.An n95 mask on sprayers..(I saw a simple green mask on one)
3. Awareness of latest glyphosate trial in St. Louis

Many countries have banned this product.

The internet ( where I got my information)

also suggests Foamstream as an alternative. Why not use this?

Yours truly,

Rosie Lemkin

Sent from my iPhone

## [External Email] Public Comment for 7/15/2021 Meeting - NO to a Dog Park in Dunore Park

Laura Hils

Wed 7/14/2021 10:27 AM

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

### External Email Communication

Dear Board of Commissioners,

I live on Dunore Road and am writing again to request that you say NO to a dog park in Dunore Park. In response to the survey and other meetings, the Board has already received numerous comments expressing opposition to a dog park in Dunore Park for many reasons. Those reasons still stand.

Today, I would like to emphasize that a dog park would be intrusive and would fundamentally alter the character of the park. Dunore Park provides a small amount of greenspace for the neighborhood and is nestled among private residences and the Jewish Cemetery. Kids play on the play structure AND the open field (where a dog park would go), people picnic in the open field (where a dog park would go), residents walk their dog through the open field (where a dog park would go), people meditate and practice yoga in the open field (where a dog park would go), people play catch or frisbee in the open field (where a dog park would go), people walking or driving by enjoy the beauty of an urban greenspace (where a dog park would go). If the Board allows a dog park in Dunore Park, the park would be enjoyed by fewer people.

On a personal note, I have two young kids that I frequently take to the park. It takes us a few minutes to walk there. My five year old says the play structure is for "babies" because it is so small. He explores the open area of the park next to the play structure while I keep an eye on him and my two year old, who still likes the small play structure. Both of my kids are afraid of dogs. If a dog park was located next to the play structure (as in the current sketch), we probably wouldn't go to the park because the open areas would no longer be open and because my kids would not want to be close to the dogs. Walking to Burnet Woods or Mt. Storm, the next closest parks, would take us 30 minutes.

Nearby residents want to work with Cincinnati Parks to improve the play structure for the neighborhood kids and to make more modest improvements to Dunore Park, such as adding picnic tables and benches, replacing lost trees, and improving the plantings. We have been unable to gain any momentum on these efforts due to the focus on the dog park. Please eliminate Dunore Park from consideration for a dog park.

Thanks for your time,  
Laura Hils

**Fw: [External Email] Re: Clifton Area Dog park Cincinnati Park 6/17  
Cincinnati Park Board Report**

Merz, Rocky <Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Wed 7/14/2021 11:04 AM

To: Unterreiner, Mary <Mary.Unterreiner@cincinnati-oh.gov>

For CPB feedback.

Thank you,  
Rocky

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**From:** Pete and Sally

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:59 AM

**To:** Merz, Rocky <Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [External Email] Re: Clifton Area Dog park Cincinnati Park 6/17 Cincinnati Park Board Report

Rocky,

I would be so happy if you could revise the Dog Park report going before the Commissioners tomorrow.

All three sites within Burnet Woods should reflect Corryville (the original neighborhood there, dating to the Civil War era), as well as CUF and Clifton secondarily, who recently asked for shared "ownership". There are mistakes in both the chart and the Site Descriptions.

Also, the Losantiville Triangle, I believe is under Mt. Auburn Council.

It would be good to accurately reflect this, so the report is accurate.

One other thought- since the potential sites encompass Corryville, CUF, Clifton, and Mt. Auburn, maybe the whole report should be renamed the "Uptown Dog Park."

Many thanks for giving us all our due respect,

Sally

On Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 10:49 AM Merz, Rocky <[Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov)> wrote:

Sorry about that and thanks for letting me know. I have updated my files, hopefully this will take care of the problem.

Rocky

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**From:** Pete and Sally

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:34 AM

**To:** Merz, Rocky <[Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov)>

**Cc:** Lisa Haglund

**Subject:** [External Email] Re: Clifton Area Dog park Cincinnati Park 6/17 Cincinnati Park Board Report

**External Email Communication**

Hi Rocky,

Thank you for this heads up on the Dog Park issue. Somehow, I keep getting emails from you/Parks at this old email address.

My current address is:  
update your files.

If you would, please

Thanks! Sally

On Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 5:14 PM Merz, Rocky <[Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov)> wrote:

Hello Parks Stakeholder,

You are receiving this message because you have been identified as an area stakeholder or you have previously contacted the Cincinnati Park Board about the possibility of a dog park in the Clifton area. Attached is a Parks Staff report providing a review of the several potential sites discussed over the last few months to be considered as a dog park location in the Clifton area.

This agenda item was tabled at the June Cincinnati Park Board meeting. It is planned to be presented by Staff and discussed by the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners at their regularly scheduled Park Board meeting on **Thursday, July 15th at 9 A.M.** The meeting agenda is attached. The Cincinnati Park Board appreciates your continued interest and values your

feedback. Information about viewing the meeting and how to provide comment may be found here: [Park Board Public Meetings - Cincinnati Parks](#)

Thank you,

Rocky Merz | *Communications, Engagement & Volunteers, Division Manager*

**Cincinnati Park Board** | 950 Eden Park Drive | Cincinnati, OH | 513.357.2619

[www.cincinnatiiparks.com](http://www.cincinnatiiparks.com)



**Better Lives**  
**Better Community**  
**Come Join Us!**  
**#CincyParks**

**Fw: [External Email] Re: Clifton Area Dog park Cincinnati Park 6/17 Cincinnati Park Board Report**

Merz, Rocky <Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Wed 7/14/2021 11:04 AM

To: Schuckman, Steven <Steven.Schuckman@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kish, Kara <Kara.Kish@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc: Unterreiner, Mary <Mary.Unterreiner@cincinnati-oh.gov>

And another.

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**From:** Larkin, Fran (larkinfp)

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 11:01 AM

**To:** Merz, Rocky <Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov>

**Subject:** [External Email] Re: Clifton Area Dog park Cincinnati Park 6/17 Cincinnati Park Board Report

External Email Communication

Rocky,

As a Corryville resident and dog owner, I am extremely appreciative of the hard work that went into this planning and will go into the implementation process. I'm even more thankful for the thoughtful communication with stakeholders on this topic.

While it may not directly impact the process of providing a very welcomed amenity to the Uptown neighborhoods, I know it is important to folks that we try to be consistent and accurate with the names of neighborhoods. For example, I think the consensus is that Losantiville triangle is in Mt. Auburn, and any site in Burnet Woods would be considered Corryville with overlaps from CUF and Clifton. Maybe one way to avoid any noise on boundaries so we can focus on the task at hand is to use approximate addresses in the future, rather than neighborhoods? Just a thought.

Thank you for all you do, I'm so excited for a dog park that serves the Uptown neighborhoods!

Best,

Fran Larkin

[Center for Community Engagement](#)

Division of Student Affairs

University of Cincinnati

[Book a Meeting with Me](#)

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**From:** Merz, Rocky <Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2021 5:13 PM

**To:** Merz, Rocky <Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Clifton Area Dog park Cincinnati Park 6/17 Cincinnati Park Board Report

Hello Parks Stakeholder,

You are receiving this message because you have been identified as an area stakeholder or you have previously contacted the Cincinnati Park Board about the possibility of a dog park in the Clifton area. Attached is a Parks Staff report providing a review of the several potential sites discussed over the last few months to be considered as a dog park location in the Clifton area.

This agenda item was tabled at the June Cincinnati Park Board meeting. It is planned to be presented by Staff and discussed by the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners at their regularly scheduled Park Board meeting on **Thursday, July 15th at 9 A.M.** The meeting agenda is attached. The Cincinnati Park Board appreciates your continued interest and values your feedback. Information about viewing the meeting and how to provide comment may be found here: [Park Board Public Meetings - Cincinnati Parks](#)

Thank you,

Rocky Merz | *Communications, Engagement & Volunteers, Division Manager*

**[External Email] Public Comment: July 15, 2021**

Peter Hale <peterthale@gmail.com>

Wed 7/14/2021 11:06 AM

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

**External Email Communication**

Board of Commissioners,

*I am resending this email for the July 15, 2021 meeting, as the subject was not discussed in the June 2021 meeting.*

As a resident of Dunore Road, I'm writing to request that the proposed dog park site in Dunore Park be rejected. I thought this proposal was already dead and am frustrated that it persists.

The park is a horrible site for a dog park, as it sits on a sloping site between a cemetery and busy road where northbound cars speed down the hill. The dog park would eliminate much of the greenspace available today, and the park isn't very large. I can't speak on behalf of Jewish Cemeteries of Cincinnati, but it strikes me as extremely disrespectful to put a dog park right across the street from a cemetery. Residents of Dunore Road and other nearby streets rely on the park, as our houses are located on a steep hillside and some of us have little to no space in our yards for kids to play.

The people on Dunore, Crooked Stone, and Old Ludlow don't want it. My kids - who use the small, outdated playground equipment that one of them has already outgrown - don't want it. It would be incredibly frustrating to lose the park we use regularly to dogs, especially when so many other facets of the park could be improved for human beings, such as the playground equipment, benches, picnic tables, etc.

Please reject Dunore Park as a proposed dog park site.

Regards,  
Peter Hale

## DOG PARK PLANNING GUIDELINES

In typical park settings, at least a two-acre site is recommended at minimum to provide adequate space for dogs to play. The first two dog parks built in Cincinnati Parks proved to be extremely popular places for dogs and people to socialize. The first dog park, in Mt. Airy Forest, was expanded from two acres to almost three due to its popularity. The second dog park, at Armleder Park, is over 10 acres, but areas of over four acres each are used on a rotating basis, while the closed area recovers after maintenance. A third dog park, at Washington Park, opened in 2012, and is a much smaller one in an urban setting, and it consists of all hard and easily maintainable surfaces. A fourth one opened at Westwood Town Hall Park in 2019 also has hard surfaces. These dog parks are successful and generally they are self-policing. Due to noise and traffic concerns, sites should be selected that are not adjacent to residences. Following are some general guidelines for planning a dog park.

- 1) **Fencing** - It should be at least four foot high. Fencing and the double gate entry are generally the most expensive feature. Costs will vary based on the type of wire fence used, the corner posts used and the entry gate details. And there should be a small double gate for dogs and owners to access the site plus a larger gate at a different location so mowers and equipment can come onto the site.
- 2) **Water** - There needs to be a fountain on site for dogs and people.
- 3) **Trash Receptacles** - Several are needed and they should have lids
- 4) **Doggy Mitt Dispenser** - If these are being supplied, the dispenser and the plastic bags come with a cost. An alternative is to supply a place for people to stockpile their own plastic bags.
- 5) **Parking** - This is a must to have adequate parking. Dog parks are extremely popular and people frequent them in all kinds of weather and at all times of day. Even in walkable neighborhoods, others will drive there from other neighborhoods.
- 6) **Shade** - Pick a site with large trees. At least part of the site would benefit from shade
- 7) **Benches/tables** - This is a nice amenity to have on site, though dogs will walk all over both
- 8) **Signs** - Rules of use need to be posted. Also, a sign board has proved popular on which people post notices of lost dogs, dog training opportunities and other notices.
- 9) **Surface** - Whatever surface is used will get heavily trampled. We started with grass at the Mt. Airy Dog Park, but much of the center of the park quickly turned to dirt and at times mud. The Dog Park at Armleder Park is big enough that parts of the park go in and out of use as they are reseeded and restored. The newest dog parks at Washington and Westwood Town Hall Parks have artificial grass, stone and concrete surfaces which make maintenance much easier. Even at Mt. Airy some areas had to have concrete added where parts of the site got heavily used.
- 10) **Maintenance** - Though not a capital improvement cost, this on-going cost needs to be covered. The site will get heavily used and abused. Maintenance includes picking up litter and picking up after dog owners who do not, filling holes dug by dogs, and cutting grass, repairing the surface of the park and repairing fencing as needed.

## [External Email] Clifton Dog Park

Maura Gill

Wed 7/14/2021 11:08 AM

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

 1 attachments (10 KB)

DOG PARK PLANNING GUIDELINES (1).PDF;

### External Email Communication

Dear Parks,

I am writing regarding the proposed sites of dog parks in the greater Clifton neighborhood. I appreciate and support the team's efforts to objectively review available sites and use that data, along with the data that parks has already put together regarding recommendations for Dog Park sites from January 2020 (attached) to be able to best navigate the selection process. I also anticipate that these efforts will take into account the materials, staffing, and cost of maintaining a park that will be a shining star for the neighborhood vs. an eyesore.

With that said, I must again voice my concerns that parks that should not be considered based on the criteria continue to appear on the decision sheets for consideration. In particular, I see that Dunore Park continues to be on the sheet for consideration, and while removed due to lack of fitting the criteria, was re-added into a later version of the document.

I live off of Dunore Road, with my back yard facing the park (directly across the street) and the entire back of my house looking out over that park. Now that it is summer, and COVID restrictions have backed off, we continue to see families and children enjoying the open space, slackliners setting up their lines between the trees, and even people walking their dogs able to enjoy the open space. The proposed design places the dog park in the center of the current park, transitioning the focus from children and families (so desperately needed in Clifton), to dogs. It blocks any further expansion of a playground and takes up valuable open space needed for a pick up soccer game, toddler hide and seek, picnics, and other variable uses.

I worry about the safety of our street with an increase in traffic, when almost half of the houses have been victim to a break in, car break in, or full out robberies in the 4 years that I've lived there. I worry about the increased traffic coming through a street that I must enter as an access road to my house, one that I share with over 30 other homes. I worry about the cleanliness of a dog park, as they've become dust pits in other parts of the city when not maintained. I worry about the cost to build, and then maintain, a "higher end hardscaped" dog park as has been proposed.

I ask that the Parks Board apply logical reasoning - listen to the experts, understand why some parks are or are not good locations for a Dog Park, and truly make the decision objectively, not out of special interests. Based on the criteria, there is an obvious choice. Anything else is a waste of taxpayer money and time.

Sincerely,

--

Maura Gill McVey

[External Email] Public Comment 7/15/2021 meeting

Cincinnati Julz

Wed 7/14/2021 12:13 PM

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

Cc: Julz Brown

External Email Communication

With regards to a dog park in the Clifton area

On the analysis of the 7 possible dog park sites there is an error on the evaluation of Fairview Park the site noted for a possible dog park is lined with homes but the analysis shows that it is 'away' from homes but in reality it is not.

Homes bordering this location all have decks & city views and even a street or two above this location have decks with city views

the noise of a dog park is going to be detrimental to property values of these surrounding homes with the noise level of a dog park.

Not to mention the encroachment on quiet enjoyment for these residents that utilize outside space regularly due to wonderful views.

I am in full support of a dog park as long as the site chosen is a site that is furthest away from all residences

Please take this into consideration when making a decision

Thanks

Julz Brown, ABR

Licensed in Ohio & Kentucky

Comev & Shepherd Realtors

**"There comes a point in your life when you need to stop reading other people's books and write your own"**

**~ Albert Einstein**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** *Never trust wiring instructions sent by email. Cyber criminals are hacking email accounts and sending emails with fake wiring instructions. These emails are convincing and sophisticated. Always independently confirm wiring instructions in person or via a telephone call to a trusted and verified phone number (don't confirm using the number provided in the email). Never wire money without double-checking that the wiring instructions are correct.*

Re: [External Email] Public Comment: 6/17

Margot Fosnaugh

Wed 7/14/2021 12:20 PM

To: Unterreiner, Mary <Mary.Unterreiner@cincinnati-oh.gov>  
Cc: Parks, Cincy <Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Hi Mary - The dog park agenda item I sent comments for in June was moved to this month. Can you make sure my comments (below) are received for tomorrow's meeting?

Thanks,  
Margot Fosnaugh

On Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 5:14 PM Unterreiner, Mary <[Mary.Unterreiner@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:Mary.Unterreiner@cincinnati-oh.gov)> wrote:

Hi Margot,

Thank you so much for your comments. Your feedback will be shared with the Board of Park Commissioners prior to the June 17, 2021 Park Board Meeting and entered into the public record.

We appreciate you taking the time to voice your opinion!

Mary Unterreiner | *Executive Assistant*

Cincinnati Park Board | 950 Eden Park Drive | Cincinnati, OH | 513.352.4079

[www.cincinnati-parks.com](http://www.cincinnati-parks.com)



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**From:** Margot Fosnaugh <[margotfosnaugh@gmail.com](mailto:margotfosnaugh@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 3:30 PM  
**To:** Parks, Cincy <[Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External Email] Public Comment: 6/17

External Email Communication

Cincinnati Park Board:

This is a follow-up to my comments related to the Clifton dog park from 4/15. As I have already mentioned and detailed in those comments, I am strongly opposed to a dog park in Dunore Park, as a resident on Dunore Road. After reviewing the site analysis presented to the Board, there is a very clear winner in the MLK location. With two major assets:

1. Away from residents/homes
2. Does not displace a current park use

Selection of the MLK location, if a dog park is to be built, will allow the city to provide a new amenity to the dog park proponents without taking something away from other members of the community.

By contrast, the Dunore location appears to fail every category in the Park's staff analysis table, as the smallest footprint, with conflicting uses, no parking lot, near homes, without water. Dunore park should be eliminated from further consideration for a dog park.

Thank you for your time.

Margot Fosnaugh

**[External Email] Public Comment: July 15, 2021. No to Dunore Dog Park**

**Ann Saluke**

Wed 7/14/2021 2:36 PM

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

**External Email Communication**

Dear Park Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the development of a dog park in Dunore Park.

Ludlow Avenue is a busy thoroughfare with commuting traffic some hours of the day, and ambulances, fire trucks and buses at most hours of the day. In addition, there are plans to develop bike lanes on Ludlow which will eliminate parking along Dunore Park on Ludlow Ave.

I view Ludlow Ave, including Bowdle and Dunore Parks, as one of the gateways into Clifton.

I visited Doris Day Dog Park last year when this discussion started. I do not want to see one of our Clifton gateway parks become the muddy, littered terrain that I observed at Doris Day Dog Park.

I am not opposed to a dog park in Clifton, but am opposed to the consideration of Dunore Park as the selected site.

I love Cincinnati Parks and appreciate your leadership working to develop and maintain family friendly green spaces in the city.

Thank you.  
Ann Saluke

45220



Board of Park Commissioners  
Cincinnati, Ohio

14 July 2021

Director Kara Kish  
Division Manager Rocky Merz

Re: Proposed "Clifton" Dog Park

To the Board, Director Kish, Manager Merz:

The Corryville Community Council is aware that the Board of Park Commissioners is currently considering creating a Dog Park in the Uptown area (6.7.21 & 7.15.21 Clifton Dog Park Analysis). While generally supportive of the idea of a Dog Park in Uptown, we are opposed to the location of a Dog Park in Burnet Woods. We are neutral on the other suggested locations in the Uptown area.

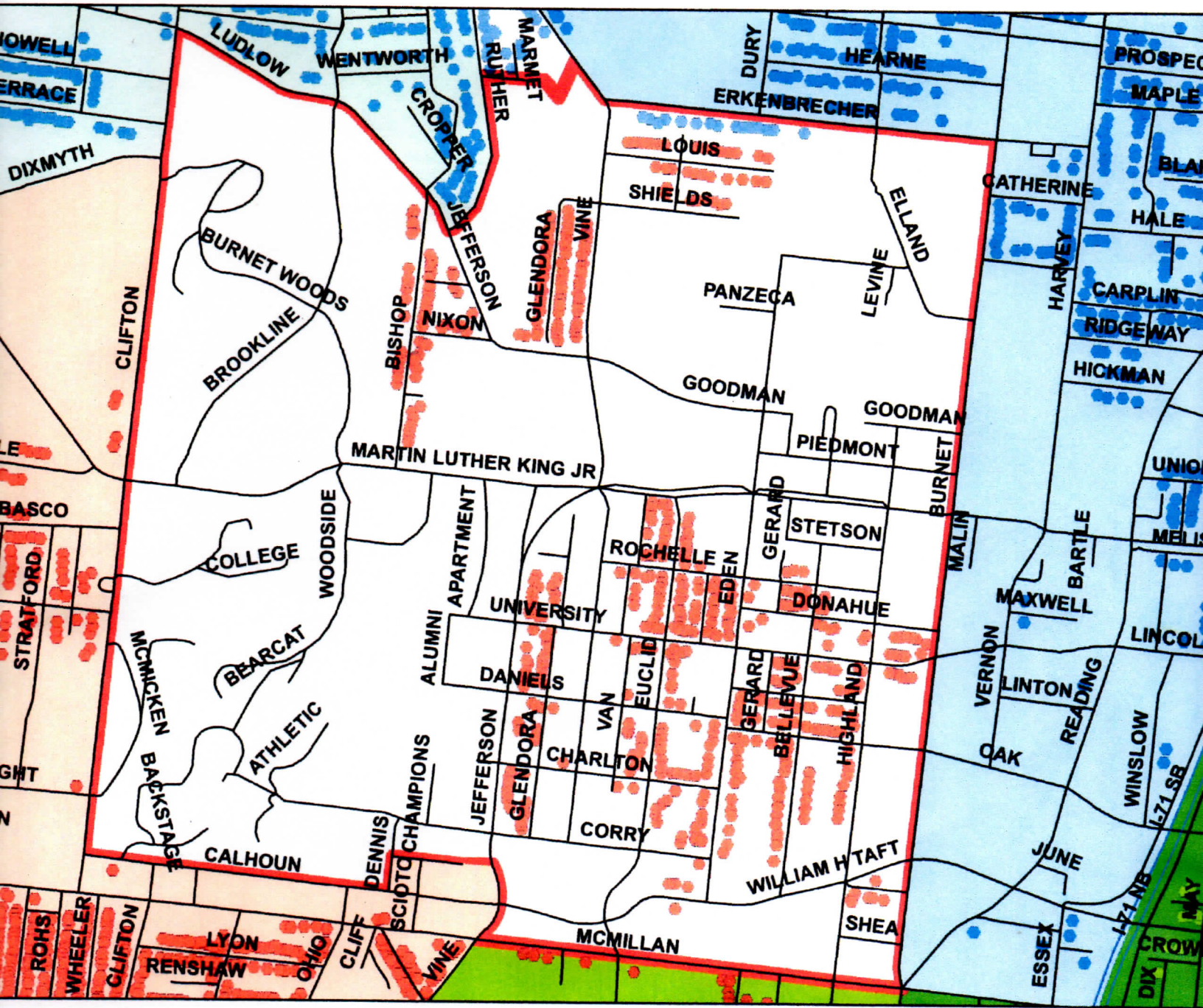
Our request here is that the name of the Dog Park, wherever it is eventually located, represent the neighborhood in which it is located or have a more neutral name like "Uptown Dog Park." Some of the locations which have been suggested in the above-referenced document have been incorrectly assigned to the wrong neighborhood – the "Losantiville Triangle" site is in Mt. Auburn, not Corryville; and all three Burnet Woods sites are first and foremost in Corryville (see attached image). Proper naming of sites in accordance with their hosting neighborhood will assure good Park – Community relations and eliminate potential confusion.

Thank you for your consideration -

For the Corryville Community Council

Leah Hollstein, Secretary

# CORRYVILLE



## Public Comment 7/15/21 - Chip Klosterman

Piller, Kelly <Kelly.Piller@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Wed 7/14/2021 3:20 PM

To: Unterreiner, Mary <Mary.Unterreiner@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Cincy <Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Hello,

Chip Klosterman of Klosterman Bakery stopped in the Admin Building to provide feedback to the Park Board.

1. Suggested utilizing a part of Tom Jones Commons that is walled in to create a dog park for the community.
2. Suggested future signs should state "Do not feed animals" instead of signs stating specifics like "Don't feed ducks bread." To only mention one food implies you can feed animals other food items.

Thank you.

## [External Email] Public Comment 7/15

Cynthia Duval

Wed 7/14/2021 4:49 PM

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

Cc: Kish, Kara <Kara.Kish@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Mobley, Jenny <Jenny.Mobley@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Schuckman, Steven <Steven.Schuckman@cincinnati-oh.gov>

### External Email Communication

Good afternoon -

This comment is in support of the capital improvement plan for Burnet Woods to adopt signage & bollards which prevent vehicles from driving off the road to park in grassy areas not designated for public parking.

I was personally intimidated by a vehicle driving through the new Burnet Woods playground area & disc golf course because I did not move out of the way quickly enough for them as they drove to supply a party at the Millionaire's Club. This was one of multiple vehicles driving between the swing sets and a bouncy house they had installed off the road and tracking from the playground to Lone Star Pavilion. I did not hear the car over their generator for the bouncy house. To be clear, this car almost ran me over as my back was turned, unaware of them, as I walked between swingsets. This was reported to Parks staff immediately and as I understand it, police were called 3 hours later.

Tire tracks left behind showed cars all the way down at Lone Star Pavilion, driving around that shelter and exiting back to the street at the crosswalk.

Cars regularly disregard park signage to drive into areas intended only for pedestrians in the Valley Shelter & Millionaire's Club areas. These safety measures have been requested repeatedly since March and are necessary for parkgoers to be safe in the park.

Cynthia Duval

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