

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

July 18, 2024

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 Phyllis McCallum, and Commissioner John Neyer. Commissioner Susan F. Castellini joined virtually. President North called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

President North acknowledged six in-person public comments about the Burnet Woods dog park.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Approval of the June 20 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner McCallum motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

INFORMATION/ UPDATES

Ault Park Update

Eric Dittmer (President, Ault Park Advisory Council) presented an overview of APAC's events, educational programs, and current and anticipated major initiatives to address needs in Ault Park. The Commissioners thanked APAC for coming and congratulated APAC on its longevity, strategic direction, and strong reputation.

Parks for Wellness Presentation

Jennifer Spieser (Executive Director, Cincinnati Parks Foundation), Cathy Crain (former Park Board Commissioner and former President of the Parks Foundation), and Sian Cotton, PhD (Director, UC's Osher Center for Integrative Health) introduced their "Parks for Wellness" initiative, which will allow UC medical professionals to prescribe time in parks as a form of medicine. Successful launch of this program would make Cincinnati Parks the first parks system in the country to partner with a major medical provider on the prescription of time in nature as medical care. The Commissioners shared their excitement about and full support of the program.

ACTION ITEM

Ault Park Valley Trail Restoration

Division Manager Joel Gross updated the Board on efforts to secure a bid from storm water term contractor Rack and Ballauer, for work to armor approximately 200 feet of eroded stream bank along the Valley Trail in Ault Park. Parks will be utilizing grant funding received from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the project. Staff requested approval of Rack and Ballauer's bid to complete the trail restoration work in the amount of \$99,110, with a \$15,000 project contingency to be held in reserve. Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve the award of work to Rack and Ballauer with the requested contingency. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

INFORMATION/ UPDATES

Planning & Design Update

Division Manager Gross updated the Board on the status of the operations garage at the Ludlow DNR Headquarters, the restoration of Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park, and progress on the Biochar project including the vetting of possible locations. Staff and Commissioners discussed different factors, such as traffic and noise, that will be taken into consideration when deciding on the location of the Biochar facility. Staff also updated the Commissioners on progress to the Glenway Park upgrades, improvements in the Planning & Design department's ability to do in-house planning and survey work, early planning for Inwood Park improvements, and changes to the traffic pattern on Eden Park Drive due to DOTE work on Art Museum Drive.

HR Update

HR Manager Derrick Gentry provided an overview of current staff numbers, vacancies, new hires, and upcoming retirements. Staff provided a detailed account of on-the-job injuries broken down by type.

ACTION ITEMS

Burnet Woods Dog Park

Director Jason Barron provided background on the project and how the design has progressed from spring 2022 to the present, as well as the results of the bidding process which necessitated further design updates. Director Barron outlined the final design that was landed on after negotiations with Prus Construction, and discussed various ways that Parks intends to cut costs to keep the project within its budget. Staff recommended that the Commissioners award the work to Prus in the amount of \$380,990.70, with a \$25,000 contingency to be held in reserve. The Commissioners discussed tree impact, ongoing maintenance costs, the quality of the plans and whether this park is the best it could be, other needs at Burnet Woods, as well as feedback from proponents and opponents. Commissioner Neyer shared he would be more comfortable with a surface other than turf and has concerns about voting without having all funds raised (as an additional \$81,000 is currently being raised by the Parks Foundation to be added to the \$300,00 approved by the Park Board in 2023). President North made a motion approving the budget, with contingency, accepting the design, awarding the work to Prus, and asking Staff to explore turf alternatives during the fundraising period. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Foundation Grants Application / Acceptance

Director Barron provided an overview of funding for the Ault Park 4th of July celebration. The only cost incurred directly by Parks was for stage rental, permit fees, and labor costs in the amount of \$5,923.74. Commissioner McCallum motioned to approve the application for and acceptance of a grant from the Parks Foundation to cover these costs. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

In-Kind Donation Acceptance

Director Barron requested the approval of Q1 and Q2 in-kind donations from the Parks Foundation totaling \$36,340.24 in value. Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve the donations. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Barron shared a brief update on the FY 2024 financials and the status of the Commissioners' Fund.

Director Barron also presented the following updates:

- In-house updates to the entrance and signage at Avon Woods Nature Preserve
- July is National Parks and Recreation Association month
- Groundbreaking for restoration work at Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park is set for Thursday, July 25 at 11:30am
- Other upcoming events include Shakespear in the Park, the On Point Music Festival, Forward Forever, the CPAC Quarterly Meeting, Riverfest, and Riverfest West

OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION

Vice President Lee thanked Director Barron and the Parks staff for all that they do, and thanked Morgan and Eddie Rigaud for the collaboration between Skate Downtown Cincy and Cincinnati Parks. Vice President Lee also congratulated Parks on the success of the Ault Park 4th of July fireworks celebration. Commissioner McCallum shared her enthusiasm for the upcoming restoration of International Friendship Park, seconded Vice President Lee's appreciation for the activation of the skating rink, and shared her excitement about the first meeting of the Lytle Park CPAC. Commissioner Neyer emphasized Cincinnati's top-tier park system. President North shared excitement about the recent focus on our historic pavilions and their restoration. Commissioner Castellini commended Staff for their work to keep the parks looking wonderful.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President North entertained a motion adjourn into Executive Session to consider the employment, discipline, and compensation of a public employee. Commissioner Neyer motioned to adjourn. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

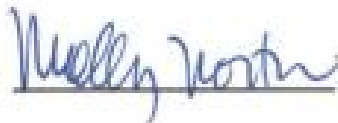
The Board returned from Executive Session at 11:51AM.

President North motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:52AM.

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

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT



DIRECTOR



[External Email] PUBLIC COMMENT 7/18

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Thu 6/27/2024 7:10 AM

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

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

External Email Communication

Dear Commissioners, Cincinnati Parks director, Cincinnati Mayor and Council Members,

I'm attaching a screenshot from The Trust for Public Land's website.

We spend countless dollars and hours educating our children about how important it is to protect our environment, especially now, and yet our leaders are planning to do the exact opposite in Burnet Woods.

Our University of Cincinnati students have presented their sustainable solutions for creating an off leash area for dogs near Clifton repurposing areas that have already been developed.

Standard community engagement did not happen prior to the Park Board's unilateral decision to site development in our state's smallest Audubon designated Important Bird Area, so I am asking that Parks pause and start again with standard practices for community engagement prior to selecting a site choice. The stakeholders and community have spoken up overwhelmingly against the project in Burnet Woods.

From Parks own one question "survey" approximately 85% of respondents were against the site choice.

Please respect the community and begin to rebuild public trust.

Sincerely,

Shari Frost

Cincinnati Park lover and volunteer



As climate change worsens, green spaces are **sustainable solutions.**

From cooling our communities, to
absorbing floodwaters, to reducing
greenhouse gases, the parks we create and

greenhouse gases, the parks we create and public land we protect are helping mitigate the effects of the climate crisis.

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18/24

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Sun 6/30/2024 8:33 AM

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

External Email Communication

 cincinnati.audubon.org

ASO Opposes Development In Burnet Woods

September 12, 2018 by [Audubon
Society of Ohio](#)

The Audubon Society of Ohio has adopted the following open letter, stating our position in opposition to any development of Burnet Woods:

To Whom It May Concern,

The Board of Directors of the
Audubon Society of Ohio
(Cincinnati Audubon) has approved
an official position statement
opposing the development of
portions of the Cincinnati Park's 90
acre Burnet Woods site for the
following reasons:

- Burnet Woods was established in 1872 as a natural area deserving of protection and is one of Cincinnati's oldest undeveloped park properties
- Burnet Woods is a well-recognized bird stopover for many species seeking food and shelter during migration

- Burnet Woods is an often utilized bird watching spot for both nesting and migratory birds, and it is widely recognized as such in the local birding community
- Burnet Woods provides pollinator support, a current proven environmental need demonstrated across the country via the existing ecological plant communities

- Burnet Woods supports over 100 tree species including some very large, old specimens that cannot be easily replaced in this or in the next generation
- Research is increasingly pointing to multiple benefits of urban green space preservation to surrounding community members

- Burnet Woods provides important green space within walking distance for an urban residential community, multiple businesses and their employees, and the entire University of Cincinnati student body

Thank you for your serious consideration of these and other points presented on the Burnet Woods development issue by local conservation focused community organizations and citizens including the Audubon Society of Ohio.

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18/24

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Tue 7/9/2024 8:24 AM

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

External Email Communication

Please enter screenshot attachments of current petition totals regarding the dog park project proposal for Burnet Woods into the public record.

Thank you.

Shari Frost



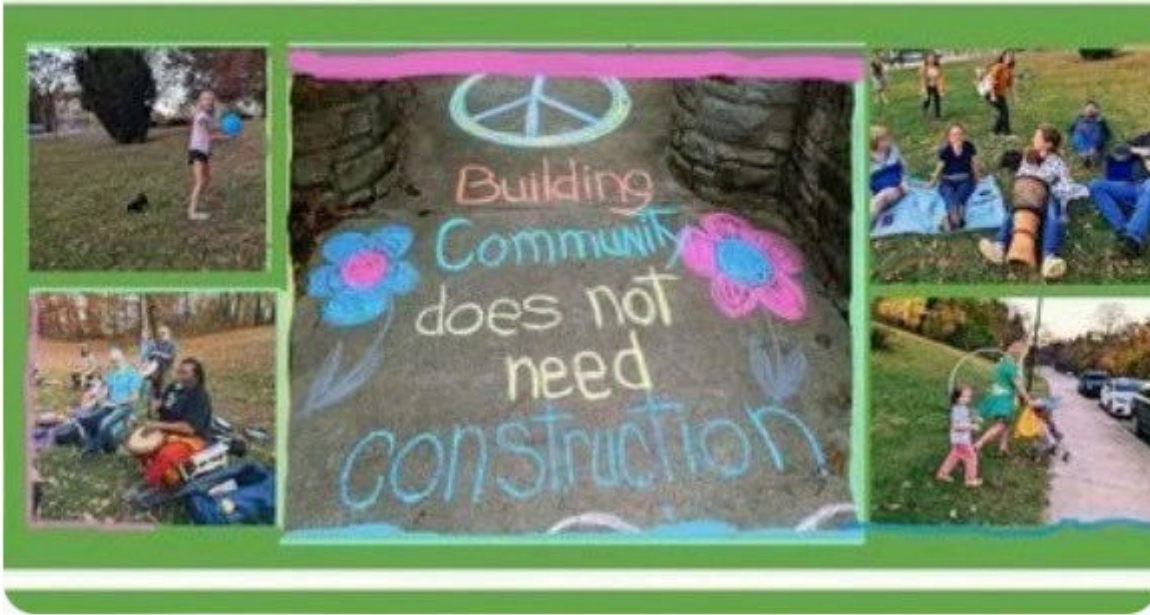
I support a Clifton Community Dog Park

Started October 19, 2021
Petition to Cincinnati Parks



410

500



Petition to Cincinnati Parks Opposing a Dog Park in Burnet Woods

Started

November 6, 2022



1,672

Signatures

2,500

Next Goal

Stop Toxic PFAS Exposure: Don't Let Them Turf Our Cincinnati Parks



**CINCINNATI CITY
COUNCIL**

2,278 Signatures Collected



Only 922 more until our goal of 3,200

[External Email] Comments: July 18 2024 meeting

Anita Buck <aajbuck@gmail.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 3:46 PM

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

Cc: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>

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

External Email Communication

Dear Commissioners,

I write once again to register my objections to the dog park you all want to build in Burnet Woods.

The high bid that was received from Prus reflected the difficulty of siting a dog park in this particular area. Opponents of the dog park instantly understood the drawbacks to this site, over and above our objections to developing it. A lot of stormwater runs through that swale, and I have several times heard Joel Gross on meeting video subtly indicating to the Commissioners the difficulties of developing this area, but the Commissioners evidently have not gone on to ask themselves if they might not find a site less fraught with physical issues, let alone a site most of the community could get behind.

So now Parks P&D has worked with Prus to bring costs down, in a terribly rushed process that only increases the potential for poor outcomes. What's your hurry? If problems crop up over this dog park—and they will—you'll have years to hear the complaints. You should take more time to try to iron out the issues that are inevitably, given the lack of regard for siting, design, and managerial best practices, going to plague the Park Board.

The fact that the section of the dog park now proposed to be live grass, previously described as unworkable on such a small site, is now spun as a positive—allegedly fulfilling the preference of some park users for grass—is laughable. The combination of live grass, more concrete, and synthetic turf merely increases the number of poor surface options jammed into this small site. The grass will be mud in short order. The concrete will be, well, additional concrete poured into a natural area, and the synthetic turf will still be hot and will stink.

[I ask you, Commissioners, have any of you walked through the Washington Park Dog Park recently? We recently counted fifty-five (55!) piles of, you should forgive the language, dog poop one evening on our way to the opera. Mounds covered with flies, and children playing with the river rocks heedless of the piles of you-know-what. Is this what you want for Burnet Woods?]

The mix of surface materials will complicate and increase the expense of maintenance, which those of you who work in real estate surely already know. Maintenance is already an issue at Cincinnati Parks dog parks and in this highly visible and smellable location where most people who comment about it seem to object, you are asking for pain.

Also, the fact that the Parks continue, orally and in writing, to state that the turf is “certified PFAS free” by ForeverLawn is alarming. Or should be, for the Parks. Have you not had an attorney look at this

“certification”? It is in no way “certification.” It is a statement, and a qualified one at that.

The antimicrobial AlphaSan used in ForeverLawn’s K9 products contains colloidal silver and is known to be toxic to aquatic organisms. **ITS** manufacturer states that it is not responsible for how its customers use it. You might want to think about the ramifications of that too.

I note, as have others, the fact that this proposed dog park does not have separate areas for big and little dogs. This, along with the Parks’ utterly laissez-faire approach to rule enforcement, is just the most glaring of the ways in which this project fails to meet best practices.

This proposed dog park has been badly conceived and poorly designed, and it’s not the fault of Parks staff, the design firm, or of the only contractor that felt it had the standing to submit a bid for what this mongrel of a dog park was actually going to cost to construct. That swale in Burnet Woods is not a good site for development, period. Just wait until there’s one of those monstrous precipitation events we get now. (You know, the ones that are contributing to Smale eroding into the river.) It will overwhelm the storm sewer, peel up that fake turf, and generally make a mess.

No one, save the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners, builds an artificial surface dog park in a natural area, or sacrifices a lush, low-maintenance, century-old lawn to plastic. Artificial turf dog parks tend to be installed on construction sites or in reclaimed areas where you just peg the stuff down. That would be simple and nobody would complain much—except of course if you decided to build it as close to homes as you’ve sited this dog park.

In fact, Commissioners, why **HAVE** you sited this dog park exactly here? It’s absurd to spend even the reduced estimate for this project when you could site a bigger, nicer, safer dog park elsewhere for a fraction of the funds and bad PR this proposed dog park is going to cost you. There are so many criteria and protocols that you’re fudging or completely ignoring in an effort to bring this project to actuality. Does that not send up red flags to you?

Instead of blaming the opposition or City of Cincinnati procurement processes for the headaches you’ve incurred trying to bring this dog park into actuality, why don’t you go back to the beginning, when some Commissioners seized on the site evidently having no idea of the hydrology involved. That’s the source of all your problems: the choice of site and your determination to put the dog park **THERE** and only there in the face of undue expense, your own (unmet) Parks criteria, well-informed and widespread community opposition, and all common sense.

Sincerely,
Anita Buck

--

Anita Buck
writer and editor
8 Tanglewood Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45224
513 257-6986 cell
aaibuck@gmail.com

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

Anne H. Montague <ahmontague@gmail.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 1:48 PM

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

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

External Email Communication

Burnet Woods is an urban oasis. To seize the lovely greenspace known as Pleasant Valley and turn it into a toxic-plastic dog park is unconscionable. An environmentally sound alternative— "Central Barkway" at Cincinnati State— has been proposed:

<https://sites.google.com/view/hyesunjeong/teaching-student-works/eco-friendly-dog-park>

Please do your job as a Parks director and save our irreplaceable public meadow from the selfish, short-sighted few whose sense of entitlement is matched only by their environmental ignorance.

Thank you.

Anne Montague
600 Terrace Ave
45220

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

Ariana Berrios <arianaberrios.99@gmail.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 2:41 PM

To: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; jennifer@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org <jennifer@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org>; jbuchholz@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org <jbuchholz@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org>; Long, Sheryl <sheryl.l.long@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kroner, Oliver <ollie.kroner@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Smith, Tonia <tonia.smith@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from arianaberrios.99@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Hello Park Board Members,

As a resident of the Clifton area, I do not agree with the construction of the Burnet Woods dog park. Maintaining the peaceful atmosphere and health conditions of the park are important to me, as many people hike at this location for enjoyment and there is a diverse array of animal species that reside here. Not only this, but the artificial turf is not healthy for the dogs that would attend the park. Why replace natural lush, green woods with artificial grass? Please reconsider the construction of this dog park. I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,
Ariana Berrios

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

Ben Skove <bskove@gmail.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 4:12 PM

To:Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; jennifer@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org <jennifer@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org>; jbuchholz@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org <jbuchholz@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org>; Long, Sheryl <sheryl.l.long@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kroner, Oliver <ollie.kroner@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Smith, Tonia <tonia.smith@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

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

External Email Communication

I am writing in regards to the dog park that is to be placed in Burnet Woods. The new changes to the park done to fit it within the available budget not only make it no longer accessible - a key point when Parks chose this location, but also further undermine confidence in its budgeting.

Give ongoing tight budget conditions, Parks should not be taking on a significant additional ongoing expense, particularly when it has a considerable maintenance backload.

Please don't get caught in a sunk costs trap with this - continuing down this path will only create future budgeting headaches. It's time to go back to the drawing board and pull this project.

Sincerely,
Ben Skove

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18--Burnet Woods Dog Park

Brandt Schurenberg <brandtoh@gmail.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 2:40 PM

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

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

External Email Communication

I, like a majority of Cincinnatians that responded to your survey, am dead-set against siting a dog park in Burnet Woods because green space is in precious short supply around here and there are so many other good sites for this project. I'm sure you are aware that the students at UC designed similar projects at nearby sites. And that's not even considering the cost overruns, and the lack of accessibility! It's really time to reverse course on this mistaken project and do the right thing!

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

Keane, Brian <keaneb@miamioh.edu>

Wed 7/17/2024 1:58 PM

External Email Communication

Burnet Woods is a rare urban greenspace that provides the surrounding community with the chance to experience firsthand a diverse array of native plant and animal species. The ecological value of Burnet Woods has been recognized by the National Audubon Society which designated the park an Important Birding Area.

While I understand the need to balance often conflicting community interests, a desire to develop a dog park within Burnet Woods should be balanced by other issues such as maintaining the quality of wildlife habitats, especially with regards to the bird life. While there are many benefits of dog ownership (I have owned several dogs myself), dogs can, and do, have physical impacts on landscapes. Frequent use of an area by dogs and their owners can damage plant communities and cause soil erosion. Impacts on animal life are also a concern, especially from the noise and dog feces associated with dog parks.

More generally, I feel the construction of a dog park in Burnet Woods will be just one more intrusion chipping away at the limited greenspace in the park that is used for other purposes by park goers. Greenspace of the type as Burnet Woods is very rare within urban areas and any additional development in the park will result in further loss of wildlife habitat. Once the habitat is developed it is probably lost forever from the park.

Brian Keane
3526 Clifton Ave
Cincinnati OH 45220

Professor Emeritus
Biology Department
Miami University

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

Caroline Orzechowski <caroline.orz.c@gmail.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 4:54 PM

To: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; jennifer@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org <jennifer@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org>; jbuchholz@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org <jbuchholz@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org>; Long, Sheryl <sheryl.l.long@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kroner, Oliver <ollie.kroner@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Smith, Tonia <tonia.smith@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

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

External Email Communication

Hello,

I see that there is a request to vote on the updated Burnet Woods dog park bid. After months of speaking with local residents, working to support and clean Burnet Woods, and learning of the lack of community outreach, I am voicing my disapproval of the development proposal.

Burnet Woods is an incredibly important place for the Clifton/UC community. It gives us (permanent residents, voters, & students alike) access to nature that is otherwise hard to come by in our everyday lives. Seeing a plan to reduce the amount of green space community members have access to is rather disturbing- especially considering that the dog park will introduce unwanted chemicals into the ecosystem, increase the temperature of the ground (unsafe for dogs!), increase noise levels in the park (unwanted by neighbors of the park!), and will lack accessibility features.

I urge the council to look into what can truly benefit the entire community, not just one small group. Our environment is already suffering enough, there is no need to add to its problems.

Thank you,
Caroline Orzechowski

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

Carolyn Sue Young <carolinesueyoung@gmail.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 3:34 PM

To: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jennifer Spieser <jennifer@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org>; Smith, Tonia <tonia.smith@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; jbuchholz@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org <jbuchholz@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org>; Long, Sheryl <sheryl.l.long@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kroner, Oliver <ollie.kroner@cincinnati-oh.gov>

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

External Email Communication

Dear Members of Cincinnati City Council, The Cincinnati Park Board, and Others Serving in the "Public Trust",

I am writing to you today to express my complete disagreement with the "horrible" proposal for ruining the natural beauty of Burnet Woods with a PFAS artificial turf dog park. My current assumption is that all of you are not only intelligent people but are also **honest, ethical, fair-minded, and committed to the broader community and public good**, versus the type of public officials who will deliver a special pet project/boondoggle to a small, self-serving group of people (who are absolutely determined to have their way - no matter what the negative impacts are to the natural environment of Burnet Woods and to the rest of us).

Please don't disappoint my trust in you by allowing this unnecessary and unethical project to proceed!!

Carolyn S. Young
Resident of CUF (Clifton Heights-University Heights-Fairview)

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

Cynthia Duval <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Wed 7/17/2024 1:51 PM

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

📎 1 attachments (419 KB)

Dog Park Action Item_Board Packet_Draft_07.18.2024_v2-compressed.pdf;

External Email Communication

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cynthia Duval** <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Date: Tue, Jul 16, 2024 at 10:33 PM

Subject: WRITTEN OBJECTION to bypass of City Procurement Process - Burnet Woods Dog Park

To: <Margaret.Elkanick@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc: <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>, <jan-michele. Kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>, <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>, <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>, Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>, <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>, <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>, <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>, <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>, <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>, <citypurchasing@cincinnati-oh.gov>, <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>, Jennifer Spieser <jennifer@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org>, Jennifer Buchholz <jbuchholz@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org>, <sheryl.long@cincinnati-oh.gov>, <ollie.kroner@cincinnati-oh.gov>, Kevin Flynn <accessibility.flynn@gmail.com>

C/O Mayor Aftab Pureval,
Members of City Council,
Leadership of the City Manager's Office,
Officers of the City Purchasing Office, Officers of the City Environment & Sustainability Office
Leaders of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation

Please register this written OBJECTION to a bypass of the city procurement process for Cincinnati Parks in relation to the Burnet Woods Dog Park on the following grounds:

1. **Failure to disclose cause for rejection of bid.** In alignment with the city procurement process, Cincinnati Parks issued RFP 243C919118 which returned one bid from Prus Construction. The singular bid was rejected without any disclosure of the reason for rejection in the publicly listed documents by either the procurement office or Cincinnati Parks, nor in the public discussion between the Director and their Board. The public has a right to know if the rejection was rote process or a matter of city DE&I goals not being met by Prus Construction.
2. **Significant change in scope of work should require reissue of the RFP.** Per the attached memo, Parks Director Jason Barron continued to work with Prus Construction to manipulate **their** bid outside the city RFP process. This manipulation of bid included a significant change to the scope of work performed by the contractor, assumed to be Prus. Items removed from the scope of work included landscaping and installation work/cost transferred to Cincinnati Parks staff directly, increasing city liability, and **removing aspects of concrete work specific to accessibility**. That the scope of work being performed by the contractor could be manipulated indicates that the work being performed by Prus is not unique or special so as to permit a bypass of the city procurement process. The bid work change could have been rendered with or without Prus' assistance. That the scope has changed may now draw interest from additional bidders, including bidders which may meet or better meet DE&I goals identified by the city. It is worth noting that in the prior Park Board meeting, Park Board President Molly North lamented that more WBE/SMBE contractors did not bid on this contract as she felt that they should be interested in a project of this scope.
3. **Changes in scope of design rendered without community council presentation, community engagement, engagement with donors funding the project, and without engaging those who will rely on its claim of universal accessibility or be most impacted by the project.** Throughout the history of this project, multiple failures in community engagement have occurred. Per the attached memo, Parks Director Jason Barron engaged only with Prus Construction on the bid and design changes. Director Barron did not consult the accessibility community for which the park was intended even as significant accessibility **reductions were made to accessibility infrastructure**. Director Barron did not consult neighbors directly impacted by the permanent reduction in greenspace next to their residences. Director did not engage project donors who contributed based on earlier renderings which included 4xs the amount of synthetic turf, limestone benches, permeable pavers, and artwork that have all since been removed from the RFP. Nor was a courtesy visit made to update the surrounding community councils of Corryville (where Burnet Woods is located), as well as adjacent CUF and CTM to discuss their objections (as documented in objection letters to Cincinnati Parks and City Council) and disclose the latest changes.

4. **Accessibility review required due to design failure.** The project has been repeatedly marketed to donors as intended for universal accessibility, and in fact marketed as the city's first universally accessible dog park (despite documentation in Westwood Town Hall's park plan showing it to be designed with universal accessibility). Each subsequent revision of the project has decreased the square footage of synthetic turf which was the primary accessibility feature for navigating the dog park. Project donors spoke to City Council directly about the synthetic turf being a key component of the accessibility for wheelchairs and mobility needs. Per the attached memo, Director Barron's design revision has now decreased the square footage of synthetic turf by approximately 75% from the initial design as a cost-cutting measure. Additionally, there will be no curb cuts made for accessible parking places and **Director Barron has noted that the site intended to be universally accessible is wholly unsuitable for a truly accessible parking plan.** As such, and in light of Cincinnati Parks continued ADA failures both in Burnet Woods Park and parks throughout the whole city, an independent ADA review of any new park installations by the city's Accessibility Office should be required, inclusive of this project. In value engineering an accessibility project, accessibility appears to have been Director Barron's first and repeated abelist cutback measure.

1. It may be worthwhile to note that the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council has been requesting a parking plan from Cincinnati Parks, inclusive of accessible parking options, for greater than two years to remediate parking issues that coincide with weekly concerts in the park, game day parking from UC attendees and festival parking issues that arise during two specific yearly festivals. These plan requests went without action. Had Cincinnati Parks invested a small amount of time in a parking plan, the insight that there could be no handicapped parking cuts possible for a universally accessible dog park may have avoided years of neighborhood conflict over this project as the site is not appropriate for the needs of the project.

5. **Misleading statements about synthetic turf PFAS content.** Cincinnati Parks has not provided any independent testing evidence that the synthetic turf product being used for this project is PFAS-free and is relying on a form letter from ForeverLawn. ForeverLawn is a member of the Synthetic Turf Council. The Synthetic Turf Council has testified before and filed written correspondence in response to state filings in California that a PFAS-free product cannot be guaranteed and requesting that PFAS testing limits for synthetic turf be set at 15-25x higher than the EPA standard for drinking water through 2026. This documentation has been previously provided to Cincinnati Parks and members of City Council. **Director Barron has no documented expertise on PFAS** to be regarded as an authority on the topic competitive with the experts which presented to City Council's CE&I Committee about the risk "forever chemicals" present to human health and synthetic turf being one source of those contaminants.

Objections to this project as previously noted below, and in prior correspondence to Cincinnati Parks and City Council, still stand as additions to the above.

Regards,
Cynthia Duval
President, Preserve Burnet Woods
513.477.4584
cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org

On Fri, May 10, 2024 at 12:44 PM Cynthia Duval <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org> wrote:

C/O: Margaret Allen-Elkanick
City of Cincinnati, Office of Procurement

Please register this written objection to **RFP 243C919118** for construction of the Burnet Woods Dog Park on the following grounds:

1. **Bid documents fail to specify PFAS-free Synthetic Turf**, nor mention any specific brand/product for synthetic turf to be used in the installation. Cincinnati Parks and Cincinnati Parks Director Jason Barron identified that PFAS-free Synthetic Turf would be used on public marketing materials, in answer to direct inquiry by Park Board President Molly North, and in repeated public statements made to Cincinnati City Council and CUF Neighborhood Association. As specifying a type of product may influence bid amounts significantly, that "PFAS-free" Synthetic Turf is not specified in the bid document should require an Addendum specifying this requirement.
2. Addendum #3 dated May 3, 2024 specifies the removal of permeable brick pavers, decorative medallion, art, limestone seatwall, and sod. These items were included in renderings provided to solicit public donations and private donors for financial sponsorship of the project by both Cincinnati Parks and the Cincinnati Parks Foundation. Specific language surrounding the brick pavers was used to speak to environmental sustainability of the project to solicit donors and attempt to garner support from the Park Board, City Council and surrounding community councils for this project. **Intentional removal of these items, as shown in the Addendum, may be viewed through the lense of intentionally soliciting both public and private donor funds for products which Cincinnati Parks has no intention of delivering upon.** An Addendum reinstating these features is requested.
3. **Cincinnati Parks has not complied in action or in spirit with city requirements for public engagement of directly impacted neighbors to the construction site or those communities impacted by this project.**

As such material modifications to the bid requirements would force additional review and significant modification, an Addendum forcing inclusion of the items as sold to the public and an extension to the maximum timeline permitted under city requirements is requested.

Regards,
Cynthia Duval

President, Preserve Burnet Woods
513.477.4584
cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

Cynthia Duval <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Wed 7/17/2024 3:22 PM

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

Cc: Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jennifer Spieser <jennifer@cincinnatiaparksfoundation.org>; Jennifer Buchholz <jbuchholz@cincinnatiaparksfoundation.org>

External Email Communication

A reminder of what was promised to and promised from fundraising partners for the dog park at the outset of design and fundraising for this project, in their own words:

"...Your affirmative vote should be one of great pride, as it will help to create our city's **first fully accessible, universally designed dog park** for people of all ages and abilities....I cannot begin to recount how many times that we have been unable to access playgrounds and public spaces because they were not inclusively designed. This is a crushing feeling as a parent and further reinforces how isolating it can be to live with a disability...."

Teresa Hoelle, Listed fundraiser for the Burnet Woods Dog Park
in public comment to City of Cincinnati Budget & Finance Committee, March 6, 2023

"...While existing amenities in Burnet Woods are certainly beneficial, they are not at all, if minimally, accessible. The dog park will create a community asset that will be **fully accessible and universally designed** so it can be used by people of all ages and abilities...We believe this will be the **first accessible, universally designed, all inclusive dog park** in the region.

Nestor Melnyk, Co-founder of PUPP and listed fundraiser for the Burnet Woods Dog Park
in public comment to City of Cincinnati Budget & Finance Committee, March 6, 2023

- **The insertion of sod, gravel and mulched landscaping aspects along with the sloped hillside being left intact on the site do not meet fully accessible criteria.**
- **Cincinnati Parks has yet to define how their universally accessible design extends to meet needs for disabilities which extend beyond mobility, aka the "invisible disabilities".**
- **There is no design that is universally accessible which excludes people from use of a space, as this does. Anyone who does not enjoy dogs will be excluded from using this space, which is 800ft from where Cincinnati Parks Summer Camp activities for children are held.**
- **Westwood Town Hall Park plans include "universally designed" language in their plans. Additionally, Joel Gross has confirmed in writing that both Washington Park Dog Park and Westwood Town Hall Dog Park are accessible under ADA standards.**

"...I think [this dog park] can really be the beginning of looking at accessibility as something that's important when planning a park. Right now, there's a brand new playground in Burnet Woods which has mulch and is not accessible if you have a wheelchair, if you're taking a heavy stroller, you can't use that at all. **This place will be where patients from Cincinnati Children's Hospital and the Pets4Patients nonprofit can gather.....**\$57,000 has been raised by the Parks Foundation for this project. **There is a total of \$150,000 required for the community portion of it** and we are well on the way towards that...."

Cassandra Clement, Co-founder of PUPP and listed fundraiser for the Burnet Woods Dog Park
in public comment to City of Cincinnati Budget & Finance Committee, March 6, 2023

- **The elimination of accessible parking concrete curb cuts and Cincinnati Parks admission that the current Burnet Woods site is not suitable for an accessible parking plan in Parks Director Jason Barron's most recent memo regarding design cutbacks (to eliminate cost) eliminates the vision of patients in wheelchairs requiring this type of access visiting this site.**
- **Cincinnati's Board of Park Commissioners voted to approve the use of \$300,000 of Commissioners Funds CONTINGENT on the community fundraising goal being met. The community fundraising goal has not been met in the 3-years fundraisers have had to accomplish this task. The primary fundraising mechanism of the last year was the Clifton Golf Outing, which has since moved on to another beneficiary for this year's event. Further community promises were made for an ongoing maintenance endowment, as the synthetic turf will need to be replaced every 8-10 years. As the reduced scope of access and reduced amenities in the park point towards a lackluster installation that will quickly become a muddy mess, fundraising will become more difficult. Community enthusiasm moves on to other exciting community projects.**

Through the design remediation process, it has become clear that Cincinnati Parks will be unable to deliver on the original vision for this dog park, as voiced by those most in favor of its creation, at the current proposed site in Burnet Woods. The design does not even meet

the vision voiced by the Park Board Commissioners themselves as it is much smaller than requested in 2021 and will not be fully accessible. Cincinnati Parks has the opportunity, now with better information pertaining to design needs, requirements and cost, to articulate that being able to deliver on their promise and vision to the community, to keep their word on fully accessible and universally inclusive design, is paramount to the sentiment of the Board and so requires that another location be chosen which can better meet the vision for this project, provide for better funding opportunities, and work towards community unity rather than division.

Regards,
Cynthia Duval
President, Preserve Burnet Woods
cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org,
513.477.4584

[External Email] Public Comment for Cincinnati Park Board Meeting of July 18, 2024

Cynthia McCarthy <charlielimabravomike@gmail.com>

Tue 7/16/2024 6:37 PM

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

Cc: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>

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

External Email Communication

Dear Park Board Members,

I am writing in continued opposition to the planned construction of a dog park located in Pleasant Valley in Burnet Woods. I am dismayed that you continue to move forward on this project. The most recent wrinkle is that you have further reduced amenities and negotiated with Prus for a price within your budget. The following are some of my concerns:

- 1) You do not account for the cost of the labor and materials for the Owner (Parks) supplied amenities. This makes the current price of the dog park look artificially lower than what it will be.
- 2) This dog park was touted as being universally accessible, yet the recent “value engineering” has negated the accessibility.
 - o By replacing some of the artificial turf with sod, people with mobility issues will not be able to pick up their dog waste from the sod and will not be able to respond to aggressive behavior from or towards their dog when located on the sod.
 - o Additionally, you have removed the curb cut near the proposed dog park. The nearest handicapped parking and curb cut is located downhill, all the way over at the Trailside Nature Center.
 - o It appears the “Accessibility Grant” received will no longer be applicable/available, further increasing the cost.
- 3) This project was to be contingent upon private funding, which remains incomplete. Spending this amount of time and resources planning, re-planning, soliciting bids, additional re-planning, and negotiating for a project contingent upon private funding that has not been raised, is irresponsible.
- 4) With all the time, effort, and funds spent on this project to date, community engagement (ala Owl’s Nest or even Dunore) has not been done, nor has an Environmental impact study been completed in the Audubon Society designated Important Bird Area where this dog park is planned. Community opposition increases with nearly every person who hears about the project.
- 5) At this point, you have a planned amenity that is increasingly smaller, less beautiful, and less functional than what you presented to your donors. I imagine the original supporters and donors are not pleased with these continued downgrades, creating a lose-lose situation.

- 6) You might make the point that a smaller dog park will make a lesser impact on the current uses and environment of the Pleasant Valley area of Burnet Woods. You've heard the idiom "a turd in the punchbowl"? (If you are unfamiliar with it, Siri explains it as follows: "The idiom "a turd in the punchbowl" is used to describe something that spoils or ruins everything else.") A smaller turd in the punchbowl will contaminate the punch just as badly as a larger turd.
- 7) Speaking of such, when at Washing Park prior to the Opera, a friend and I counted in excess of 55 piles or smears of fresh and aged feces in the dog park. Barefoot children (who had previously been playing in the fountains) were playing in the dog park and handling the contaminated river stones. Flies were swarming on the fresh feces, only yards away from food trucks and people dining at the Front Porch bar. Westwood Town Hall dog park has similar issues, including outside dining across the street. I can't imagine the proposed dog park at Burnet Woods will be kept any cleaner.

Please take in these words from Burnet Woods' first Park Commissioners' report in 1873, by A. Strauch, Superintendent of Parks: *"I would merely suggest the preservation of most of the native forest trees, and the dispensing of all artificial and fanciful improvements that would obliterate the leading characteristic of this already beautiful woodland park."*

Now that we only have about half left of the original area of Burnet Woods, PLEASE LEAVE IT UNDEVELOPED! Take care of the amenities already in place. I have no doubt the founders of Burnet Woods are rolling in their graves.

Sincerely,

Cynthia McCarthy

Resident of Cincinnati since January 1986

Retired City employee (Environmental Health Specialist)

[External Email] July 16 Public Comment - Parks Board / Burnet Woods Dog Park

Dan Rapp <danrapp@me.com>

Tue 7/16/2024 7:40 PM

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

Cc: Barron, Jason <Jason.Barron@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <Reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Parks Board Commissioners,

Considering the new design changes for the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods, I'm asking you to **REJECT THE NEW BID AND PROPOSAL**.

1. **REDUCED ACCESSIBILITY**. The new proposal falls well short of meeting proponents' stated goal of accessibility.

2. **NATURAL GRASS WILL WEAR OUT AND TURN TO MUD**. New plans also call for replacing turf with grass in order to reduce costs. While this is positive from an environmental standpoint, natural grass in a dog park this small will quickly turn into dirt and mud, becoming less usable and turning a grassy valley into an eyesore.

Please recall that Parks staff told the Commissioners that the only suitable material for this site was artificial turf, in large part because the site is so small. Additionally, proponents specifically called for use of artificial turf to avoid a messy mud pit.

3. **FISCAL BURDEN**: The new bid shifting risks and costs to Cincinnati Parks (ie, tax payers).

This new proposal isn't good for local dog owners. It's not good for nature lovers and park preservers. It's not a good use of public funds. Frankly, there's no longer any benefit to moving forward.

Please reject this proposal and find a more suitable location.

Thank you.

Dan Rapp
3315 Jefferson Ave. #23

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

Barnett, David (barnetdw) <barnetdw@ucmail.uc.edu>

Wed 7/17/2024 2:54 PM

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

You don't often get email from barnetdw@ucmail.uc.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

As a longtime resident living two blocks from the Park, dog owner, and park frequenter, please know that I am strongly against a dog park in Burnet Woods. As detailed in prior a communication to you, this is for many reasons related to preserving as well as expanding environmentally needed parks and green space. Also I have just learned the selected area does not allow for accessible parking. Artificial grass is beyond objectionable in a park. Please find another location.

Clifton Resident,
David Barnett

[External Email] Public comment

David Helm <helmmmd@icloud.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 4:58 PM

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

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

External Email Communication

No re the dog park in burnet woods. I know it's someone's great idea, but it doesn't work for that place. People will just have to leash the dogs pick up after the dogs and drive to a different dog park if necessary David Helm.
Sent from my iPhone

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

Jenn Tomak <jenntmk@gmail.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 2:43 PM

To: Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; jbuchholz@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org <jbuchholz@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; jennifer@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org <jennifer@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kroner, Oliver <ollie.kroner@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Long, Sheryl <sheryl.long@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Smith, Tonia <tonia.smith@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

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

External Email Communication

Hello,

After seeing the request for a vote on the updated Burnet Woods dog park bid, I once again reach out to voice my discontent with the development proposal.

I am a permanent voting resident of the area and I visit Burnet Woods often. I am a student at UC who hosts trash cleanups, hikes, picnics, and community events in the park. Community members, such as myself, hold a deep connection to the green space and would hate to see it adjusted in an artificial manner.

The dog park proposal does not bode well for the community it hopes to reach. Members, such as myself, are disappointed with the lack of outreach as it comes to the issue, especially when a design proposed as "universally accessible" has accessibility features disposed of in later bids. How do we expect even the most supportive to approve of a plan that is watered down and shows an ill motivation for development?

I ask council to please look into and speak out against the development of our greenspace that provides heat reduction, community interaction, and connection with the environment. With shared hope of Cincinnati's green future, this topic is a prevalent concern to our leaders.

Thank you,
Jennifer Tomak

[External Email] Public comment 7/18 Park Board Meeting Burnet Woods Dog Park

Jodie Zultowsky <zdjsn@aol.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 4:39 PM

To: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

You should not approve the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods. It is a short sighted idea that doesn't account for the history of the park or the people who use it and volunteer for it on a regular basis.

Also it is no longer accessible. Many of the features have been removed to make it affordable. Many of the proponents are no longer in the conversation or in the neighborhood-hence short sighted. Also half the cost is for artificial turf which is polluting in its production and in its degradation after it's laid.

Please do the right thing by the Burnet Woods Community and move away from this project. Dog walkers can meet up in burnet Woods anytime, but once you ruin this landscape it is done.

Kindly,
Jodie Zultowsky

[External Email] Public Comment - Burnet Woods Dog Park Design Changes

Kaitlyn Lett <lettke@gmail.com>

Tue 7/16/2024 8:15 PM

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

Cc: Barron, Jason <jason.barron@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>

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

External Email Communication

Hi,

I'm writing this evening to you all to voice my opposition to the dog park proposal in Burnet Woods. As someone who can see the proposed location easily from my porch and can take about 150 steps to the area, I have been opposed to this from the beginning. However, in light of the new design proposal, I would urge you to pause before accepting this bid and look into the concern about natural grass's turning into a "mud pit that is a maintenance burden".

- Previously Parks staff told the Commissioners that due to the proposed size of this park, natural grass would become a mud pit as there isn't space for turnover.
- If the 2,400 sf of natural grass does become muddy (as noted as a concern in the Director's letter to the Commissioners), will dog park potential users be ok with a space that is 65% smaller than what they previously intended? How do we know the sidewalk and turf remain mud free and not slick/hazardous to walk on?

I am concerned that a vast majority of the space has now been earmarked for not turf, and I don't know if people will use this significantly smaller space should the concern of significant wear and tear become reality. I would hate to see both taxpayers money and volunteers donations be wasted, as well as ripping up a portion significant portion of non-allocated green space of Burnet Woods, on a dog park that people don't use because it is only 35% the size of what they thought they were going to get.

Thank you,
Kate Lett

[External Email] Public comment 7/18-Burnet Woods Dog Park

Mary Tenoever <mtenoever@icloud.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 4:39 PM

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

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

External Email Communication

Please vote against the dog park in Burnet Woods, especially the use of synthetic grass.

Thank you,

Mary Tenoever

Sent from my iPhone

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

Milo Whitson <milowhit95@gmail.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 3:02 PM

To: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; jennifer@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org <jennifer@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org>; jbuchholz@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org <jbuchholz@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org>; Long, Sheryl <sheryl.l.long@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kroner, Oliver <ollie.kroner@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Smith, Tonia <tonia.smith@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from milowhit95@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Hello,

I am writing you once again to express my strong opposition against the proposed dog park project in Burnet Woods. Recent adjustments to the project make it abundantly clear to me that the resources simply aren't there to make this project worth anything at all. It will turn into an ugly neglected patch of plastic, an eyesore in the woods. These changes were made without consulting the community, and that is dishonest and deceitful. The management of this project has been a mess from the start. Had there been proper engagement in good faith, we wouldn't be having this conversation at all because those of us who care for the woods and visit frequently KNOW what Burnet needs. The woods do not need a dog park. PFAS chemicals do not belong in our greenspace. Parks' priority should be to preserve and maintain what little urban greenspace we have left, as it is constantly under threat because of climate change and heartless development projects such as this. This dog park project will have consequences. Damage to soil structure and permeability, death of soil microbiome, increased heat island effect, risk of polluting watersource vital to birds and other creatures. The list goes on. Give it up.

Milo Whitson, Cincinnati resident and voice for Burnet Woods

[External Email] Public Comment - 7.18.2024

Rachel Wells <rachelgailwells@gmail.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 10:42 AM

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

Cc: Barron, Jason <Jason.Barron@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <Reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; jennifer@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org <jennifer@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org>

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

External Email Communication

Dear Parks Commissioners -

You are being asked to approve a [revised bid for construction of a Burnet Woods Dog Park](#). The revised bid reflects major changes to the design plan that further highlight the unsuitable nature of this site for a dog park. The revised bid also reflects a shift of financial risk and burden away from the contractor as well as donors, who seem to have fallen well short of their fundraising goals. Instead, those risks and burdens will fall to Cincinnati Parks.

Neighbors and most Burnet Woods stakeholders have long been opposed to a dog park in Burnet Woods, with concerns including residential impact, environmental impact and existing deferred maintenance. The selected dog park site has always scored poorly against [Parks' criteria for a dog park](#), and it fails to live up to [Clifton Town Meeting's principles](#) for a dog park, established in 2021. With the latest design changes, it's hard to imagine that even proponents could support this site, considering the criteria they set out for this project.

In her [Nov. 6, 2022 Letter to the Editor](#) of the Enquirer, lead proponent and Clifton PUPP (Pop Up Puppy Party) founder and president noted proponents' criteria for the dog park, with emphasis on the following elements:

- Use of "...sustainable material other than grass so that the small area is not muddy."
- "The dog park must be planned around principles of universal design so that it will be fully accessible."

The design changes that you are considering now mean the project fails on both of those measures while also presenting increased maintenance challenges and costs:

- The single largest surface area is now sod/natural grass, and there is no design feature that allows this surface to be separated when it needs to regenerate. Any needs for resurfacing or regenerating this area will n
- As this is a small dog park, all surface areas within it will be highly trafficked by both large and small dogs. As a result, the sod surrounding the hardscape elements will quickly become a moat of mud.
- The mix of surface materials introduces a need for multiple maintenance methods, complicating and adding additional time constraints to the job of Parks staff who are responsible for the entire 90-acre park.
- The mix of materials further shrinks the area accessible to all humans, which is not only an inclusion issue but also a dog behavior management issue. If not everyone can reach their pets in all corners of the facility,
- The inability to provide accessible parking near this site means there can be no claims of universal accessibility for this dog park. It would be wholly illogical to sink \$300k+ in Parks funding into this new non-accessi
- The new bid eliminates any contingency budget, shifting the financial risks of construction to Parks.
- The new estimates do not include the costs of physical infrastructure or installation labor removed from the contractors' bid. However, the director's memo makes it clear that Parks staff will take this on. Those costs
- Without estimates for those materials and labor, you really have no idea what costs you are committing to, and those unknown expenditures risk being seen by the public as sleight of hand.

Acceptance of the bid in front of you now will lead to both a mud pit and a money pit. Combined with the robust and growing opposition of immediate neighbors, multiple community councils, six environmental groups and many other Burnet Woods stakeholders, the only logical decision at this point is to reject the revised bid and abandon this project. The site has never been suitable for a dog park, and most of the issues of placing a dog park at this site cannot be engineered away at a reasonable cost, or at all.

Thank you,
Rachel Wells
Burnet Woods Neighbor
3315 Jefferson Avenue, Unit 5

Rachel G. Wells
rachelgailwells@gmail.com
217.853.9500 (cell)

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

William Gordon <gordonwj2@gmail.com>

Wed 7/17/2024 4:15 PM

To: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; jennifer@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org <jennifer@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org>; jbuchholz@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org <jbuchholz@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org>; Long, Sheryl <sheryl.long@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kroner, Oliver <ollie.kroner@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Smith, Tonia <tonia.smith@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from gordonwj2@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

To All it May Concern:

I am opposed to the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods, as are all of the Community Councils for the adjacent and nearby neighborhoods. I have just learned that due to cost considerations, accommodations to provide accessible parking have been removed from the updated plan, and this change makes the proposed dog park even worse for the people who might use it.

Please cancel the plan for this dog park.

If you do want a dog park fairly close by, one possible location is the grassy area and parking lot at the corner of Dixmyth and MLK, and accessible parking would be easy to provide at that location.

Thank you for your attention.

Dr. William Gordon
3442 Manor Hill Dr, 45220
gordonwj2@gmail.com

[External Email] Public Comment 7/18 - Burnet Woods Dog Park

zieglerl@fuse.net <zieglerl@fuse.net>

Wed 7/17/2024 3:46 PM

To: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kearney, Jan-Michele <jan-michele.kearney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Victoria <victoria.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Albi, Anna <anna.albi@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Cramerding, Jeff <jeff.cramerding@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Harris, Reggie <reggie.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Jeffreys, Mark <mark.jeffreys@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Johnson, Scotty <scotty.johnson@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Walsh, Seth <seth.walsh@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Owens, Meeka <meeka.owens@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; jennifer <jennifer@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org>; jbuchholz@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org <jbuchholz@cincinnatiiparksfoundation.org>; Long, Sheryl <sheryl.l.long@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kroner, Oliver <ollie.kroner@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Smith, Tonia <tonia.smith@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

You don't often get email from zieglerl@fuse.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Stop the obscene waste of money on a dog park nobody wants!