

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

September 19, 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 Susan F. Castellini, Commissioner Phyllis McCallum, and Commissioner John Neyer. President North called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

President North acknowledged ten in-person public comments about the Doris Day dog park, the Burnet Woods dog park, Mt. Airy Trailfest and signage, and Parks' volunteers. President North asked Parks Staff for an update on dog park maintenance at the next regular Board Meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Approval of the August 15 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION/ UPDATES

Trust for Public Land: ParkScore Index Presentation

Representatives from the Trust for Public Land (TPL), including Sean Terry (Associate VP, Ohio State Director) and Will Klein (Associate Director, Parks Research) presented an overview of TPL's ParkScore Index – an annual ranking of parks systems in the 100 most populous U.S. cities. TPL shared the reasoning and methodology behind the ParkScore Index rankings. TPL discussed their work to increase equitable access to parks across the nation via their 10-Minute Walk project, and explained the factors contributing to Cincinnati's ParkScore (ranked 8th nationally). The Commissioners and TPL discussed methods of maintaining and increasing Cincinnati's ParkScore with data, funding, efforts to increase equity, and new projects and programming.

ACTION ITEMS

Foundation Grants Application / Acceptance

Director Barron updated the Board on two grants from the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, one in the amount of \$5,000 for a wetland delineation project at Kennedy Heights Parks, and one in the amount of \$115,000 to fund the Sawyer Point Pickleball shade canopy. A third item on the Foundation Grants Report, the Lytle Park Bronze Sign Re-Creation and Re-Installation, was noted as a miscommunication and verbally stricken from the report. Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the application for and acceptance of the grants from the Parks Foundation for Kennedy Heights and Sawyer Point in an amount up to \$120,000. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. President North thanked the Foundation for their generous contributions.

Sawyer Point Pickleball Shade

Director Jason Barron shared plans for the installation of a shading solution at the Sawyer Point pickleball courts. The northernmost 40 feet of the 60-foot-wide seating area will be covered with a Shade Systems solution. The Commissioner and Staff discussed the materials to be used and

their anticipated longevity and maintenance needs. Commissioner Castellini motioned to award this work in the amount of \$115,000 to Prus Construction. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION/ UPDATES

Planning & Design Update

Director Barron updated the Board on the status of the Lytle Park Comfort Station, the Mt. Echo Pavilion roof repairs, the roof replacement at the Avon Woods Nature Center, and progress on planning for the Inwood Park revitalization. President North stressed the need for community engagement in the early stages of the Inwood Park project. Staff also updated the Board on the Art Museum Drive repairs and improvements, work to correct sinkholes in Mt. Airy Forest, Eden Park, and Mt. Echo Park, and a recently completed project - thanks to funds secured by City Councilmember Jeff Cramerding, Parks Staff was able to clear a significant patch of invasives and add an accessible spinner to the playground at Wilson Commons.

HR Update

Director Barron provided an overview of current full-time and part-time staff numbers, vacancies, and promotions – including Garrett Dienno’s promotion to Urban Forestry Supervisor – and the status of several key positions Parks is working to interview for and fill. Staff also updated Commissioners on employee engagement and appreciation efforts, and a new onboarding interface Parks is helping to spearhead for all City departments. The Commissioners expressed interest in a presentation from the Urban Forestry Department and the Urban Forestry Advisory Board at a future Park Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Fund Budget

Director Barron outlined the purpose of and processes behind the Parks Commissioner Fund, and management strategies to increase its potential. Staff presented a \$2.5 million budget, \$90,000 of which will be used for one-time projects. The Commissioners and Staff discussed ways to improve the structure and clarity of the budget system and its management. Staff presented three recommendations for approval. Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve the budgeted FY24 salary reimbursements of \$629,036 be completed in FY25. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve a disbursement of \$47,817 from the Fleischmann restricted fund for the FY25 maintenance contract of Fleischmann Gardens. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Vice President Lee motioned to approve the Commissioners Fund FY24 budget in the amount of \$2,541,220. Commissioner Neyer seconded. President North and Staff paused to discuss the balance of the Fund and strategies for its maintenance, growth, and best use. The motion to approve the FY24 budget passed by unanimous voice vote.

Grant Application and Acceptance

Director Barron shared background on efforts to preserve one-third of an acre of green space in Mt. Adams, at the corner of Parkside Place and Martin Drive. Parks Staff would like to apply for a grant through the Ohio Public Works Commission Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, which provides funds to protect publicly accessible conservation properties in perpetuity. Board approval is needed to pass a resolution documenting authorization for filing the grant application and committing to provide public access to the space once acquired. In collaboration with the Parks Foundation, a Mt. Adams neighborhood community has raised

\$90,000 to be used as a match towards this application. Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve acceptance of the resolution. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Grant of Easement – 211 Woodward St.

Director Barron outlined a request received from Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for a Grant of Easement to access, operate, and maintain electric utility equipment installed as part of the 2022/23 expansion of Ziegler Park. Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve the Grant of Easement. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Barron presented the following updates:

- Controlled Bow Hunting Season, operating in 18 of our parks and preserves, opens September 28 and runs through February 2. Trails will remain open for all park visitors.
- Parks completed an invasive removal project at Wilson Commons, and work has started on new landscaping beds to further beautify the area.
- Volunteer opportunities and upcoming events in September and October throughout Cincinnati Parks.

OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION

Commissioner McCallum commended Parks Staff for their quick and thorough clean-up after the Riverfest fireworks celebration at Sawyer Point & Yeatman's Cove. Commissioner Castellini asked that dog park maintenance be addressed and discussed plans for the Doris Day dog park with Staff. President North asked Commissioners if the October Board Meeting could be moved from the 17th to the 15th of the month. Commissioner Neyer motioned to move the next regular meeting to Tuesday, October 15, at 9:00am. Vice President Lee seconded. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

President North motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21am. The next regular meeting date is Tuesday, October 15, at 9:00am.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT



DIRECTOR

[External Email] Public comment

beverly kleebe <kleebe@gmail.com>

Wed 8/14/2024 5:47 PM

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

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

External Email Communication

I wish to voice opposition to the proposed dog park in Burnett Woods.

So many other projects for the health and safety of the Woods and community should take preference. The problem of human waste through an over taxed sewage system is a hazard to humans and animals.

Inaccessible buildings and recreational areas are an embarrassment to our city parks. I cannot have confidence that the oversight of a dog park is within the ability of the park board.

Perhaps the county park board should be consulted on how to preserve the nature and respect the community.

Thank you for your consideration

Beverly Kleebe

[External Email] Public Comments 8/15/24 (Anti-Dog park)

jsa_sr@yahoo.com <jsa_sr@yahoo.com>

Wed 8/14/2024 10:57 PM

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

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

External Email Communication

As a neighbor of the site of the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods,

I oppose this project.

Who in their right mind puts a dog park near residential housing, libraries, run-away shelters, or heroin clinics?????

This Burnet Woods site is currently used often by people wishing to peacefully commune with nature. I know, this is my front yard.

I don't want my tax dollars spent on projects that de-value my property.

I see "class action law suit" here.

[External Email] Public Comments 8/15/24 (Anti-Dog park)

jsa_sr@yahoo.com <jsa_sr@yahoo.com>

Wed 8/14/2024 11:17 PM

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

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

External Email Communication

Further comments on the proposed dog park.

Purhaps instead of spending money on fencing and astro-turf etc. A leashless dog run area could be developed in the valley on the other side of Brookline Ave.

The dog park money could then be spent to "open air" the storm sewer line as a feature of the dog run area, while also fixing the flooding problem there.

A single line fence/wall could be used to separate the picnic area if needed, but the forested hillside would contain the leashless area on 3 sides. No dog would venture away from its owner in this valley, as is evidenced by the people who already do this here. Make it legal.

It could still be handicap accessible if a road and parking were added to valley, but how much will handicap accessibility actually be used?

[External Email] Public Comments 8/15/24 (Anti-Dog Park)

PARNA DUTTA <parnadutta2503@gmail.com>

Wed 8/14/2024 11:40 PM

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

You don't often get email from parnadutta2503@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

I oppose this proposed dog park.

I'm a residential tenant, living with a window looking directly at the proposed site. I appreciate the peace and quite of the green space. I'm also concerned that it would become an eyesore because of neglected future maintenance. I also like to peacefully walk in this area.

Hopefully I wish people would respect my concerns and not destroy the peacefulness of our neighborhood.

Thanks,
Parna.

[External Email] Public Comments 8/15/24 (Anti-Dog park)

Runic E <brettbrakk@gmail.com>

Thu 8/15/2024 5:47 AM

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

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

External Email Communication

Honorable Members of Cincinnati Parks,

Please do not allow this anti-park Dog Park scheme.

Thank You,

Brett Jacobsen

[External Email] Public Comment Sept 2024

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Thu 8/15/2024 10:02 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Bob Hyland <bob@preserveburnetwoods.org>

External Email Communication

Attaching old photos from across the street from Burnet Woods historic entrance.
Please include them in the public record.

Built for infamous political boss George B. Cox by Samuel Hannaford in 1895 and known as "Park View," it eventually became the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house in the 1950s and is now the Clifton Branch Library. That infamous "Park View" that you seek to spoil with a fenced dog enclosure in a valley with topography that echoes across the entire park, will negatively impact the experience of neighbors, park visitors and passersby. This is unfair.

Do you think this would be happening if "Boss Cox" were still alive and living across the street? How can you possibly think that having dogs barking all day everyday across from the library where patrons are trying to read, and community members are trying to work is a good idea?

You're inviting problems where there currently are none.

Focus on fixing what we already have. The sewer repair is going to stress our wildlife and forest. Please don't create additional stress on the natural world or on the neighbors who are going to be subjected to all of this construction noise on top the inherent downsides of any dog park. The smell of concentrated urine and feces, flies and rats which are attracted to the feces notoriously left by inconsiderate owners, barking dogs both playing and fighting, traffic/parking problems and noise.

Would YOU want to live beside a fenced off leash dog area?

I doubt anyone would, which is why best practices are to situate it AWAY FROM HOMES!

The site has proven itself to be a poor selection to close to people's homes and is it even legal to build a new amenity that is not ADA accessible?

Shari Frost

CINCINNATI - COX



RESIDENCE OF MR. COX & SON, CINCINNATI

Photo by J. H. Cox



An undated sepia-toned photo of George B. Cox's residence, on the left, in Clifton was discovered in the Enquirer archives. *Enquirer Archive*

[External Email] PUBLIC COMMENT SEPT 2024

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Sat 8/17/2024 8:09 AM

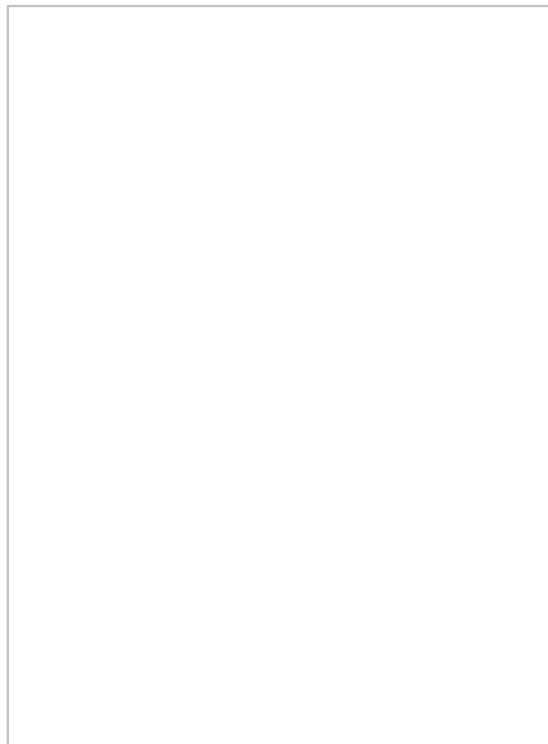
To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Bob Hyland <bob@preserveburnnetworks.org>

External Email Communication

“Adolph Strauch: Great Garden Design in Clifton & Beyond

By Steve Schuckman

This article was first published in the Summer 2022 Clifton Chronicle.



Adolph Strauch and his family are buried at Spring Grove on an island in the lake near the entrance to the cemetery.

A chance meeting in London in 1851 began a relationship that shaped the way we experience parks and gardens in Cincinnati. **Robert Bonner Bowler** (owner of a Clifton estate that

became Mt. Storm Park) was visiting the World Exposition at London's Crystal Palace when he met Adolph Strauch, a Prussian gardener. During their garden tour conversation, Bowler invited Strauch to visit him in Cincinnati – if he was ever in America. Not long after, Strauch indeed did visit America. While waiting to change trains in Cincinnati for a cross-country trip, he recalled Bowler's offer. He visited Bowler, who in turn invited him to stay to design the landscape of his estate. The master gardener decided that Cincinnati would be his new home, and the rest – as they say – is history.

Strauch (1822-1883) had studied in Vienna and worked at the Schonbrunn Palace gardens. The form and beauty he introduced at Bowler's estate was noticed, and many wealthy Cincinnati residents contracted Strauch to redesign their own properties. It seemed everyone wanted a Strauch design, which eliminated fences and created flowing landscapes of lawns with stands of trees that framed views. He designed the grounds of Henry Probasco's estate at Oakwood and George Schoenberger's estate at Scarlet Oaks, among others. Though these landscapes are long gone, Probasco's house remains on West Cliff Drive, and Schoenberger's remains at Scarlet Oaks.

Just three years after settling in Cincinnati in 1851, Strauch was hired to redesign and redefine the landscape in Spring Grove Cemetery, where he later became superintendent in 1859. His hand can be seen in the winding roads, lakes, the groupings of plantings, and his open lawn design, which became a model for other "garden" cemeteries that followed. He eliminated fencing and railings between plots to create a free-flowing design of space that he called a "landscape lawn plan," introducing plants from around the world. He also

designed other important cemeteries, including Forest Lawn in Buffalo and Oak Woods in Chicago. While still working at Spring Grove, Strauch became superintendent of parks (1871-1875) and designed Eden Park and Burnet Woods.

Due in large part to Strauch's work, Clifton became known as a garden spot of America, and our hilltop community took on the look of a single large park. An 1875 publication described Clifton as "...hill, dale, lawn, ravine, field and forest, interspersed with bright evergreens and shrubbery, blossom with shady nooks and sunny glades in which nestle the roomy, cool verandas and graveled walks of the fine homes of Clifton." Strauch talked of his own designs as expressing "cheerfulness, luxuriance of growth, shade, solitude and repose amid scenery designed to imitate rural nature." Other than the "Temple of Love" – an elegant domed landmark that covers the cistern over a reservoir that watered the gardens and greenhouses of the Bowler estate – little remains of Strauch's landscape design there today. A recent effort to rejuvenate the park's landscaping is inspired by the precepts of Strauch's work."

Dear Commissioners,

I've attached the above article to encourage you to reconsider the change of land use proposed for the historic entrance to Burnet Woods. To erase the work of this landscape architect would be a travesty.

Would you install fencing for an off leash dog area at the entrance into Mount Storm or Ault Park without any discussion about it with either CPAC's, neighborhood community council members or the impacted neighbors? I highly doubt you would even consider it! Why are the stakeholders of Burnet

Woods being treated differently?
Please explain. We shouldn't have to
keep writing and showing up for public
comment just to feel heard. ARE you
hearing the thousands of voices that
DO NOT WANT THIS
DEVELOPMENT ON OUR PUBLIC
LAND and the very valid reasons "why
not"?

This has been proven to be the wrong
site choice not suitable for an off leash
enclosure. Please start again with
normal community engagement typical
of any change of land use proposal.

Thank you,

Shari Frost

A link to the Cincinnati Parks
Documentary explaining how fences
were intentionally removed when
designing our magnificent parks.

[https://youtu.be/WqSblQrAVno?
si=ssluevL24nF-SB3A](https://youtu.be/WqSblQrAVno?si=ssluevL24nF-SB3A)

[External Email] Public Comment 9/19: proposed Burnet Woods dog park

Cynthia Duval <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Sat 8/24/2024 3:35 PM

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

External Email Communication

Please enter the below from the Preserve Burnet Woods social media into Public Comment as opposition to the Burnet Woods Dog Park.

SUDDENLY, THERE'S A PLAN. er...a discipline. Friends, this little off-the-cuff tidbit of wisdom might have gone unnoticed if it weren't for two things. One, Commissioner North using her role as Park Board President to pulpit rebuttals to public comments is a particularly nasty habit she picked up from Commissioner Goetz, but does tend to lead to contradictory admissions if you're paying attention. Two, that Cincinnati Parks lack of plan in regards to dog park locations was one of the points made in PBW's Resolutions in Opposition to the Dog Park from April 2022. In January 2022, Commissioner North notes that there is no plan showing park amenities that has been provided to Commissioners. So, her statement that there is a "discipline" caught our attention. WHAT IS THE PLAN? Because it's not been shown to the public if it was developed in the last 2.5 years, nor did the public get any input into where dog parks should go. Another thing to consider when evaluating her comment: IS IT TRUE? Consider it for yourself. Additional resources provided in comments.

[Audio clip: https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxnBD5vNbWjvDYRrOgDCYZ-Ld5c55QMp3w?si=2V1jSq-f_3_UXIKf]

This is the reason why the Trust for Public Land has a measure for dog parks in urban communities as providing a significant asset in spaces. This is a place where Cincinnati Park ranks low. So I want to be clear that **there is a discipline around our parks, our Park Board, assessing how we continue to maintain our position** as a great, as one of the top parks systems in the country.

”

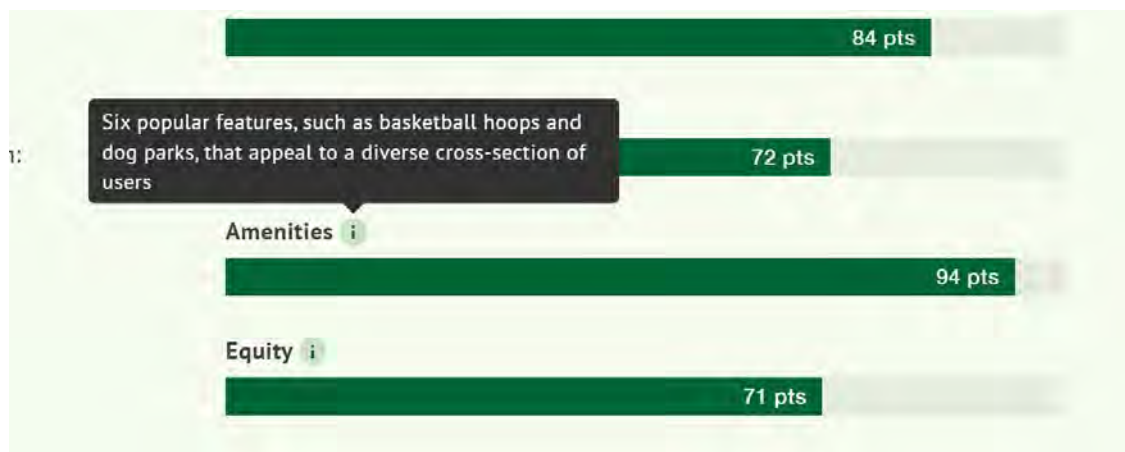
PARK BOARD PRESIDENT MOLLY NORTH
AUGUST 15, 2024
REBUTTAL TO PUBLIC COMMENT, PARK BOARD MEETING

@PRESERVEBURNETWOODS

The TPL Dashboard for Cincinnati: <https://www.tpl.org/city/cincinnati-ohio>



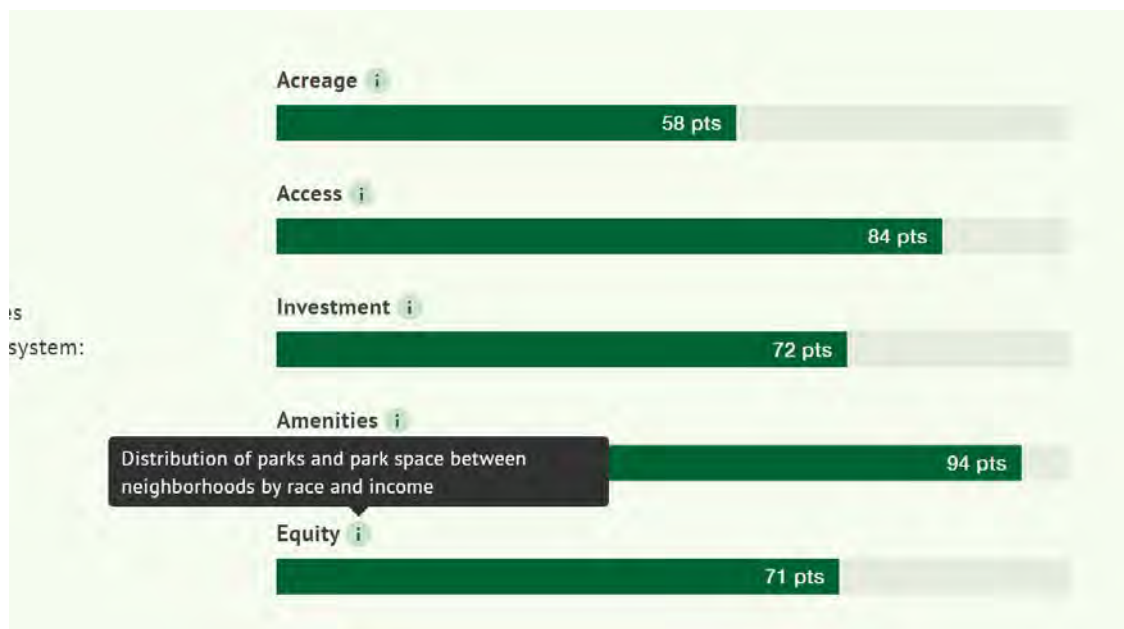
Dog parks are included in the amenities score:



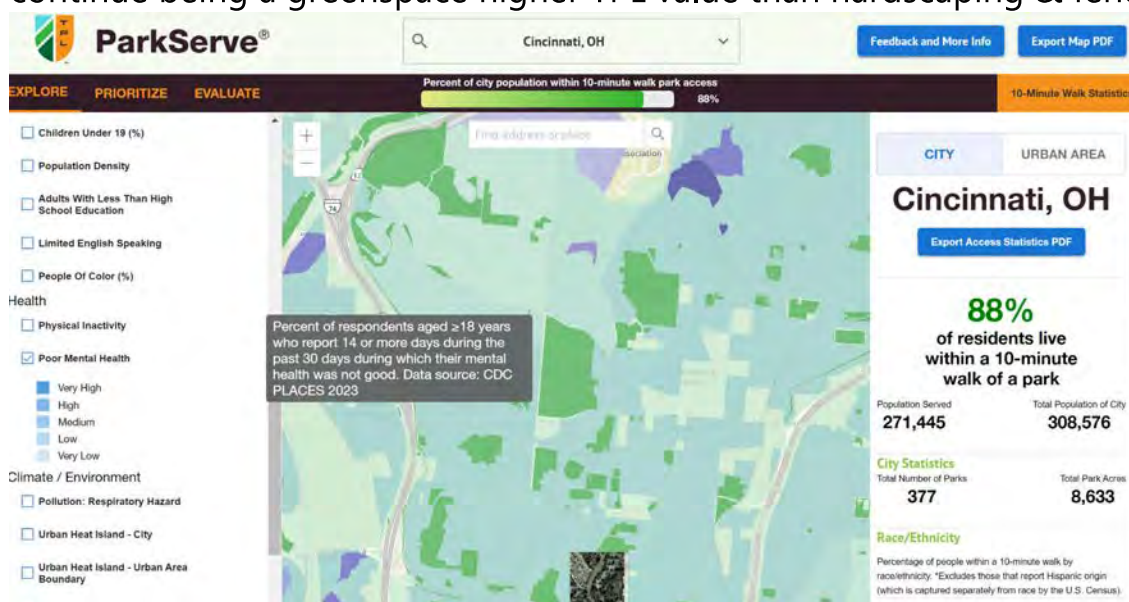
Cincinnati's lowest ranking is Acreage.



Cincinnati's second lowest ranking is in Equity.



Because she mentioned it....In the more extended commentary, Comm North speaks to dog parks being a mental health amenity. Greenspace access has vast evidentiary support as beneficial to health which arguably gives leaving this greenspace in Burnet Woods to continue being a greenspace higher TPL value than hardscaping & fencing it as a dog park.



TPL shows this as the 10-minute walking range of Burnet Woods. How much of this space is in Clifton and residential?

President, Preserve Burnet Woods
513.477.4584

[External Email] Public Comment 9/19: proposed Burnet Woods dog park

Cynthia Duval <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Sun 8/25/2024 3:55 PM

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

External Email Communication

The below is from the Preserve Burnet Woods social media 8/25/2024. Please include this as public comment in opposition to the proposed Burnet Woods dog park project. There is no site fit in Burnet Woods which is appropriate to the habitat and the community. Proposed plans continue down a path of degrading the project, parks credibility, and forcing a fit at cost to the community good and the park.

"IF there is a discipline being applied to site selection of dog parks across [Cincinnati Parks](#) system, as Commissioner North says there is, how do five (5) presumably highly-intelligent Park Board Commissioners at the top of their fields approve a site that is the worst option on the list, meets the least amount of THEIR OWN CRITERIA, is likely to cost the most, and meets with the highest level of community opposition? And then craft a design that fails the community...er, criteria even more?

Initial site selection criteria developed by Parks own paid, professional staff:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uCdMgREFRvyII68OWEHINW50jqsISCnM/view?usp=sharing>

Where it Started	Burnet Woods Northeast	How it's Going	Well, this is Embarrassing
Minimum 10,000 sq ft recommended	21,000 sq ft.	5,180 sq ft	No separate pens for large & small dog safety
No disruption to character of site	Currently wooded, quiet corner of park	Concrete, decomposed granite & sod	No concern for root compaction or odor of dog waste soaked into granite
Amenity for Clifton residents	CUF, Clifton & Corryville	CUFNA & Corryville are opposed	CTM Trustee states BW is not in Clifton.
Nearby Parking	Park road & street parking	Unsuitable for accessible parking	UC game days & community events completely fill avail parking
Away from homes		Within 200ft of multi-unit homes	Residents were never engaged prior to site choice
Existing water access		Additional cost to pipe water access	Site is upstream from fishing lake & play areas

Site selection criteria as defined in July 2021:

Site Identification

In order to identify potential locations, Staff developed basic criteria for the attributes a site should contain to be considered as a potential dog park. Ideally, sites for consideration should include the following attributes:

- Relatively flat.
- City-owned, reducing the difficulty and cost of site acquisition.
- At least 10,000 sf, the approximate the size of the new dog park at Westwood Town Hall Park and considered a minimum size for a hard surfaced dog park.
- While walking distance to neighborhood residences is desirable; a site adjacent to and/or very close to homes is not.
- Contain parking nearby, on site, or able to be developed on site.
- Non-intrusive. A dog park at the site would not disrupt and interfere with other uses and/or plans for the site or the character of the site.
- Have access to water.

Sites included in assessment. There's never been an explanation as to why Mt. Storm Park, Coy Field, Rawson Farm acreage, Inwood Park, acreage available in Camp Washington or Northside, or any nearby already developed city owned lots were not considered for this list.

	MLK	Fairview	Dunore	Losantiville Triangle	Burnet Woods Southwest	Burnet Woods Northeast	Burnet Woods Valley
Size	76,000 sq ft.	24,000 sq ft.	15,000 sq ft.	62,000 sq ft.	37,000 sq ft.	21,000 sq ft.	20,000 sq ft.
Site Fit	No conflicts	Adjacent to playground, sports fields and picnic area	Adjacent to small playground. Across from cemetery	No conflicts. Across from dog daycare center	Site sometimes used for events & general recreation	Currently wooded, quiet corner of park	Not accessible. Conflicts with shelter use
Neighborhood	Clifton	CUF	Clifton	Corryville	CUF & Clifton	CUF, Clifton & Corryville	CUF, Clifton & Corryville
Parking	Street parking	Park road parking	Street parking	Street parking Room for parking lot	Park road & street parking	Park road & street parking	Park road & street parking
Away From Homes	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓
Water Access	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓

Site eval specific to Burnet Woods NE Corner location which includes that it is NOT relatively flat and is already an activated community space with low cost picnic tables. Cincinnati Parks has since removed the picnic tables after repeatedly moving them to make them less usable. PBW has had to ask several times for the picnic tables to be returned to desirable locations on that site.

Burnet Woods, Northeast Corner of Park: This is a rolling and wooded site at Ludlow and Brookline. It is across from the branch library but adjacent to a large residential building and across the street from apartment buildings.

- Size: 21,000 sf
- Location - In Corryville but considered overlap area with CUF and Clifton
- Parking - Limited. On street and on Brookline in park. These spaces are usually taken by park users, fishermen, visitors to Trailside and groups using the Valley shelter
- Proximity to residences - Near residences
- Site Fit - Would not interfere with existing uses but would disrupt a wooded, quiet part of the park that people are now enjoying since several picnic tables have been located here.
- Access to water - None on site

In their own words: "crushed stone are not considered suitable due to deterioration of wood chips, dampness supporting biological growth, difficulty in seeing and picking up dog feces and retention of odors in stone, wood, or rubber chips." From the August 2021 Park Board Packet

Surfacing

The surfacing choice is an important component of any dog park, and a number of alternatives exist. These range from a natural lawn treatment to wood chips, stone, crushed rock or decomposed granite, concrete, or specially manufactured artificial turf products. There are advantages and disadvantages with each approach. Choices are dependent on performance, cost, maintenance, and site suitability.

Reviewing the experiences at other dog parks and consulting best practices, wood chips and crushed stone are not considered suitable due to deterioration of wood chips, dampness supporting biological growth, difficulty in seeing and picking up dog feces and retention of odors in stone, wood, or rubber chips. Also, some dogs may ingest wood chips.

The identified surface options to consider at Burnet Woods are natural, concrete or an artificial turf product made specifically for dog parks. Due to the small size of the site and the likely high usage, a natural surface would result very quickly in a grassless site of dirt and mud. This would not be advisable due to the wear and tear on the site and the resulting unsightliness.

A concrete surface, similar to what is at the dog parks in Washington Park and Westwood Town Hall would alleviate the problems of an all-natural site. A dog park artificial turf surface would accomplish the same goals as a concrete site but has the added advantage of being softer, greener, and most important, offering a permeable drained surface. The turf is put down over a base of stone aggregate and has fixed edges. It has a 15-year warranty, comes with antibacterial treatment and is cheaper than concrete.

A tricky bit of language from another BW site proposed at the southeast corner of the park acknowledges that open spaces in the park available for recreation are lacking: "a dog park here would eliminate THE ONE OPEN AND FLAT AREA in the park that could be used for a variety of programs/events".

Burnet Woods, Southwest Corner of Park: This is the only large open flat area in the park and now gets little use. It is at the busy corner of Clifton Avenue and King Blvd. Parking would be on street though UC students park on Brookline by buying parking permits from Parks.

- Size: 37,000 sf
- Location - In CUF but considered overlap area with Clifton
- Parking - On street on Clifton Ave, Brookline Drive and King Blvd. Would compete with current parkers (UC, general park users, disc golf players)
- Proximity to residences - Not close to residences
- Site Fit - No current uses on site to interfere with though a dog park here would eliminate the one open and flat area in the park that could be used for a variety of programs/events
- Access to water - None on site

Regards,

Cynthia Duval

President, Preserve Burnet Woods

513.477.4584

[External Email] Public Comment Sept 2024

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Wed 8/28/2024 7:27 AM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Bob Hyland <bob@preserveburnetwoods.org>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

I grew up attending Cincinnati Parks programs. I was taught to care about preserving special and rare habitats like Burnet Woods.

I am sure most people wouldn't understand why we haven't given up. I haven't given up because I care about the people who live next door and across the street from the park. I care about wildlife who depend on this habitat to survive. I care about the community of children who run around in the leaves, who go sledding, who have a safe place to play and discover nature. I care about the park visitors who will be hit with foul odors as they enter our park if this concentration of dog urine and feces comes to fruition. I care about the historic nature of the landscape intentionally designed by Adolf Strauch to be beautiful. I care about the tree roots, the health of the trees and understand the mycelium, the woodwide web, and how the trees speak to one another under the soil. I care about how much money is being spent when there are more pressing needs in our park.

I don't know how to stop caring.

Cincinnati Parks taught me well.

Well done, you helped raise a person who cares deeply about protecting our environment for future generations to enjoy.

Once it's gone, it's gone for good.

Please care, too.

Shari Frost

Clifton native, Burnet Woods Advisory council member and frequent Cincinnati park visitor

[External Email] Public Comment Sept 2024

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Fri 8/30/2024 8:02 AM

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

 1 attachments (93 KB)

image_123650291.JPG;

External Email Communication

Dear Park Commissioners and Director,

It is my belief that the failure to make our Park system's very first Nature Center, Trailside in Burnet Woods, fully ADA compliant is because of your failure to prioritize it.

How can we make this happen? You've had thirty plus years since the Act was signed.

It is insulting that you are prioritizing \$300,000+ for a pet project "want", namely a playground for dogs and dog owners, above the very real "needs" of our magnificent city parks.

We were also denied a request for an accessible pathway to one of the best birding spots in our IBA, the Richardson Monument.

When designing man-made structures in our parks, I'd like you to keep in mind...

"If it's not accessible, it's not acceptable."

Also, thank you Jason Barron for having some wheelchair accessible picnic tables moved to the sidewalks designed for that purpose at our playground.

It was nice to feel heard.

Shari Frost

Park Volunteer and member of the Burnet Woods Advisory Council

Please include my attachment in public comment record



About us

Cincinnati Parks provides an accessible park system with a range of features and facilities throughout the city. There are playgrounds, picnic areas, shelters, walks and pathways, nature centers, gardens, overlooks and a conservatory, to name just a few park facilities. Due to topography and the nature of some park sites, there are areas of parks that are not fully accessible to some people with disabilities, but Parks endeavors to provide reasonable accommodations as requested.

[External Email] Public Comment Sept 2024

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Sat 8/31/2024 6:58 AM

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

Cc: #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Commissioners and Parks Director,

As a concerned citizen I am writing to inform you that I personally counted FIFTY-FIVE piles of fly infested dog feces on the ground inside Washington Park dog park.

Is Cincinnati Parks responsible for the maintenance inside the gate of this facility, or is 3CDC?

Reporting the conditions to 311 was difficult to do because of the way the prompts to describe the problem are set up, but I did my best to notify.

I'd ask if a specific prompt in regards to the dog park could be added to the system so that responsible parties could be notified when a health hazard such as this is not being addressed.

Parks and 3CDC may want to clarify with one another who is responsible for maintaining the grounds before dogs and/or people are made ill.

The people who live, work, and visit this area deserve better.

A similar situation exists in Westwood Town Hall dog park, where I counted TWENTY-FIVE piles of feces left inside.

I really hope you change your minds about doing this to Burnet Woods. Our woods are the home to so much wildlife. People who are trying to live their lives shouldn't have to contend with the smell and noise. Do you worry how this will affect our bird population in our IBA?

The site choice is poor.

Can you please reconsider the location and respect the quality of life and voices of the neighbors, and park stakeholders?

Sincerely,
Shari Frost

Please include attachment in Public record

Can dogs get sick from sniffing other dogs' poop?



Disease can be spread in a number of ways, including:

Direct contact between dogs – this can include the simple act of touching noses or sniffing each other. Contact with the feces (stool) or urine of infected dogs. Sticks, toys, equipment and objects with which other dogs have interacted.



Fw: [External Email] Public Comment to be included in 9/19/2024 Park Board meeting and please distribute to Director/Park Board members

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

Tue 9/3/2024 3:40 PM

To: Courtney, Crystal <Crystal.Courtney@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Dienno, Garrett <Garrett.Dienno@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc: Johnson, Christyl <Christyl.Johnson-Roberts@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 2 attachments (77 KB)

2024 Cincy Parks posted Sept 1 sign IMG_3797.JPG; 2024 deer Enhanced - deer with arrow in back on street (3).jpg;

Hello Crystal and Garrett,

We received a public comment for the upcoming September Board Meeting related to the Deer Management program. There are a couple of customer service questions within the comment.

- Is bow hunting season Dates: 9/28/24 – 2/2/2025? It does state that on our website. I can update it immediately if that's not correct.
- Also, can you provide an answer as to why the signs say trails closed? I was under the impression all trails were open during bow hunting season.

Thank you!

Kelly and Kate

From: Millie Schafer <mschafer1@zoomtown.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:56 AM

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

Subject: [External Email] Public Comment to be included in 9/19/2024 Park Board meeting and please distribute to Director/Park Board members

External Email Communication

On Sept 1, 2024 as I drove past the entrance to Drake Park, I was surprised to see the above C. Parks' posted bow hunting in progress sign.

* ODNr bow hunting starts Sept 28, 2024 and goes to Feb 2, 2025. Does NOT start Sept 1, 2024!!

* It's also states "trails closed". I could find nothing about this on the posted site. **Where was this discussed at a public Cincy Park Board meeting?** (As you know, trails have remained opened during this deer/fawns kill season for several years now).

* The asphalt trail directly connected to the front Drake Park parking lot has NEVER been closed.

* **I request a copy of the latest ODNr document which authorizes this kill program**

* Cincy Parks has been "accommodating" the bow hunters on a business private property there and that business was found to have an "ongoing" relationship with Cincy Parks.

* **Cincy Parks own data clearly demonstrates that there is NO significant deer herd living in Drake Park!!**

* Targeting deer/fawns on private properties in that area is **ILLEGAL**. (Has been documented)

* Repeated requests that a wildlife biologist be hired has been ignored

* Repeated presentations of a **PROVEN** deer birth control at no cost to the tax payer has been rejected

* Fortunately, we worked to prevent the bow hunting in the Clifton Parks **BEFORE** park leadership changed!

* Horror stories are numerous - see Cincy doe surrounded by cars with an arrow in her back! (attached)
"Wildlife Biologist Horace Gore states: "YOU cannot call bow hunting a population control measure - it is a recreational pursuit and we do NOT advocate bow hunting when the objective is controlling the deer population"

Millie P. Schafer, PhD
Executive Director & Coordinator
Cincinnati Urban Deer Advocates (CUDA)
Cincinnati, Ohio



ATTENTION



**You are entering a
Wildlife Management Zone**

Controlled Bow Hunting in Progress

Trails Closed in this Area

Learn more at cincinnatiparks.com



09/01/2024

[External Email] Public Comment 9/19

Cynthia Duval <cynthia@preserveburnnetwoods.org>

Tue 9/3/2024 5:06 PM

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

External Email Communication

Please enter the below into Public Comment for the awareness of the Park Board Commissioners. This email was sent as part of a correspondence thread directed to Jason Barron, Jenny Mobley, several Park Staff team members, members of BPAC, and concerned community members already included in the conversation. ***Pictures have been added to the email for the Board's clarity. More than 5 fish were found belly-up and bleeding from the gills at the same time with a foul smell and blue chemical haze on the lake. There were no warnings posted to prevent people from fishing or getting into the water.***

Good afternoon,

As BPAC meets tomorrow, I am hoping that we can have follow-up on the following 3 items -

1. **Status update on the campers.** On walk-through @10am this morning, the orange tent in Lone Star has been back several days, there is a tent in the woods near Millionaire's Club just behind the 17th hole basket on the disc golf course and a stack of personal belongings in the woods with a blue tarp over it parallel to the tee for the 18th disc golf hole - which remain from the first set of communications. The person with the tarped over belongings was present during this morning's walk through the park. It sounded like there was a dog confined in the woods nearby, I believe he is a musician named Ben that has success playing & panhandling on Ludlow and probably wants to stay close to there as a result. Camps were to be cleaned out after the 29th according to prior correspondence.
2. **Water-testing results after the dead catfish were popping up.** What did the water testing show as cause for the fish dying? Or did Jones diagnose another issue? We know that there were people physically in the water rescuing a duck the day after all the dead fish surfaced. There were also people still fishing as no warning signs were posted. I hope they were not exposed to something. *[Pictures added from Shari Cartmill & Bob Hyland]*













3. **The reason & responsibility for the white cordage, flags and duct tape marking space around Millionaire's Club.** I am aware that the markings have been removed, but do we know what they were for if Planning & Design didn't put them in place? They were left in the ground for more than 8 days.



o

As an additional note, the duck rescue done using swimmers and a cane was the third avian rescue PBW has been involved in within Burnet Woods where help from Cincinnati Parks has not been available - either for lack of interest or general unavailability. There were 2 domesticated ducks dumped on the lake more than a month before one got a fishing lure in its tongue and was tangled in line before finally expiring at a rescue. I can imagine Burnet Woods is not the only park where such help is needed. It would be nice if Parks had a contact sheet for rescues for different types of birds and a protocol in place for reaching out for help. Both ducks could have been pulled from the lake long before one had such an awful death if Parks staff had taken notice and taken action.

Regards,
Cynthia Duval
BPAC, PBW

[External Email] Public Comment Sept 2024

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Thu 9/12/2024 7:58 AM

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

Cc: #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 1 attachments (6 MB)

image_67520513.JPG;

External Email Communication

Dear Commissioners and Director,

In regards to the parking passes for UC students to park along the roadways in Burnet Woods, do these funds go towards the maintenance costs in Burnet Woods explicitly? Curious to know. We have some pressing needs that need to be addressed, matters of safety and health. Much higher priorities than fencing off famous landscape architect, Adolph Strauch's beautiful vista view at the Jefferson and Brookline entrance to our park at a cost well above \$300,000.

Your priorities are backwards.

We keep showing up, writing, protesting and commenting because we were not given authentic community engagement prior to the unilateral decision of the board to site an off leash area for dogs in one of the very few useable and accessible greenspaces in our public park. PUBLIC not private. We are asking if you'll change your developer mindset towards stewardship and environmental protection. We love our park and we are trying to protect it from the devastating loss of habitat. What you're doing is unacceptable

1. Non-existent Community Engagement prior to a change of land use in Burnet Woods
2. Loss of greenspace and wildlife habitat in a Birdlife International Important Bird Area
3. Impact to direct neighbors of the site, including patrons of our public library across the street
4. Failure to address deferred maintenance and accessibility in existing structures.

Despite two community councils opposing the site choice, despite the opposition of the Park's very own advisory council and several other advisory councils, you've received hundreds of letters of opposition, dozens of public comments, the support of 7 environmental groups, including UC Students for Burnet Woods, Sierra Club, Hillside Trust, Ohio Audubon Society, Wildflower Preservation Society, Preserve Burnet Woods, and almost 4000 signatures on 2 separate petitions this over budget project is still being pushed forward.

WHY??????

Why are you doing this against the will of the majority?

Is it because you're still salty that the community was outraged over the change to the proposal from The Camping and Education Foundation which included a new building in the park? Is that why?

Because the community loves their park enough to care about protecting its fragile ecosystem?

You're mad at people for caring?

Is it ego?

What is driving your decision to throw a dog cage in a pristine, peaceful place where yardless city dwellers picnic and play?

Corryville has a 14% tree canopy versus Clifton who has well above 40%. We rely heavily on the park for our mental and physical health.

Why not install the fenced off area at Mount Storm?

People have been allowing their pets off leash to run at that park for years.

Mount Storm has water, parking, and a higher rate of police incidents than Burnet Woods.

Most importantly, the PUPP nonprofit says that they are a community building organization for Clifton, not Corryville or CUF.

Give them what they want. A dog park in CLIFTON.

Don't ask the community first, just DO IT without consent, exactly like you are currently doing now to the Corryville and CUF communities.

It's laughable isn't it?

You would never do that to the people who live near Mount Storm, you wouldn't just plan to bulldoze Ault Park without discussion, either. You know that you wouldn't!

You're treating the residents of Corryville as, "less than", by your actions. Actions are more powerful than words.

This is textbook ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE!

The valley you're planning to hardscape in Burnet Woods is vital habitat for our bird population, globally. The thick layer of leaves provides the habitat for the food that our birds eat. Please learn more about the ecosystem you're planning to destroy.

The woods need the birds as much as the birds need the woods.

Talk to your naturalists. Let them explain it to you. 🙏

Sincerely,

Shari Frost

A Cincinnati Park Day Camp kid who grew up to be a park defender

Please include attachments in the public record



Shari Cartmill

I know you're excited about it, could you be just as excited about the Fairview location?

Please change your minds about fundraising for this project in historic Burnet Woods. I know you say you didn't "choose" the site, the park board did, but this project won't move forward without you. From the bottom of my heart I'm asking you to please listen to the feedback from those in opposition and the very valid reasons "why" this particular location is a bad

I am hoping that some PUPP party goers agree and want to help keep the artificial turf park out of historic Burnet Woods. You can find us in the Facebook group "Neighbors and Friends of Burnet Woods".

I come in peace 🕊️ 🧚🏻💖

8h Like Reply

1 



 Author

Clifton Pop Up Puppy Party - PUPP

[Shari Cartmill](#) PUPP is a community building non profit for the Clifton neighborhood.



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.

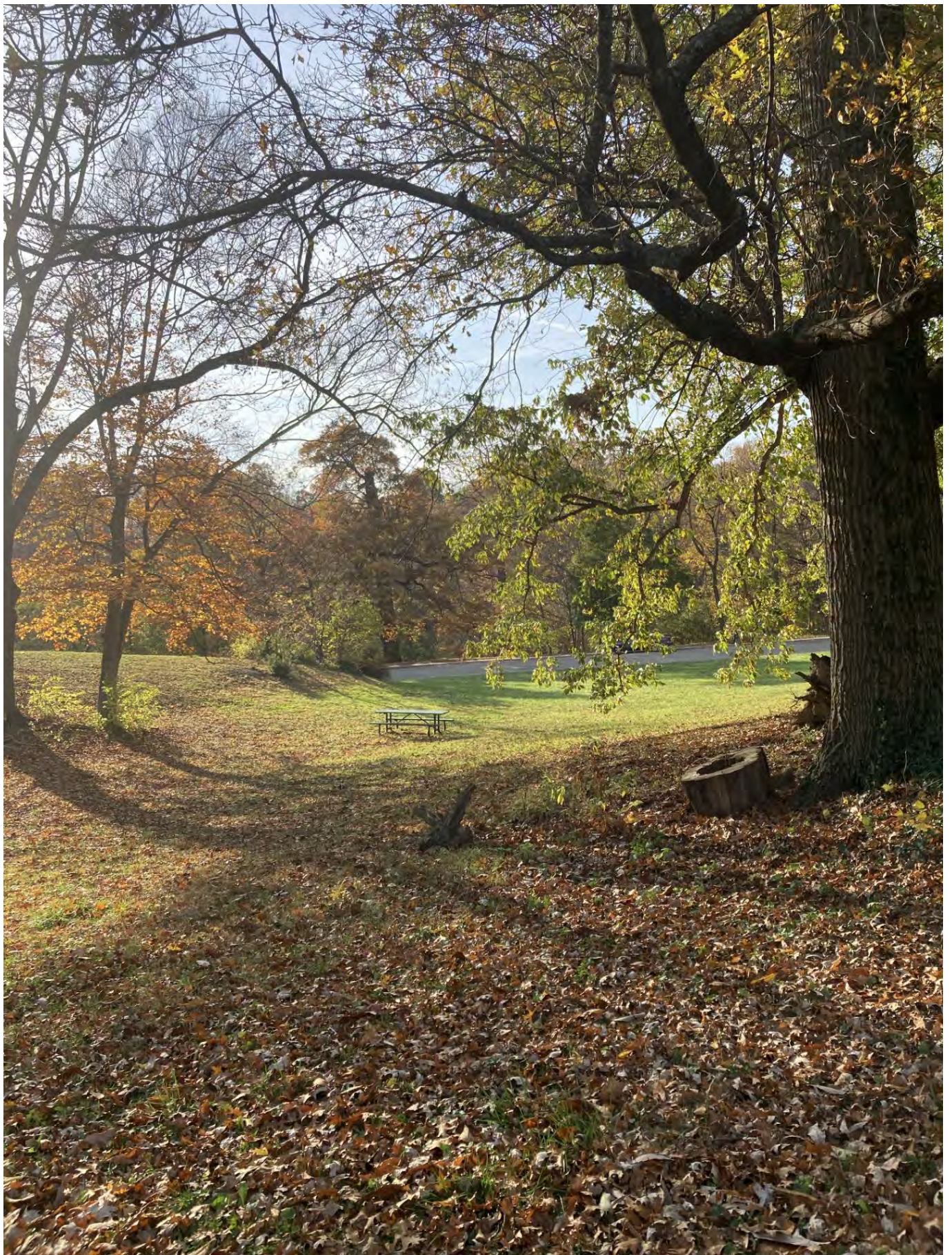
Commissioner North clarified next steps and including a concept and conceptual budget, identifying the Park Board's contribution, and what additional funding would be needed from other sources. She also expressed a need to understand the cost of ongoing maintenance.

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 Cemetery. President Goetz expressed the Board is now looking for community input on the specifics of the project at this site, and 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

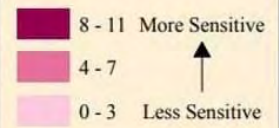
Director Kish presented the Capital Improvement Plan Quarterly Update which is maintained by the Division of Planning & Design and is intended to capture the status of current projects and expenditures within the CIP.

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



Burnet Woods Cincinnati, Ohio

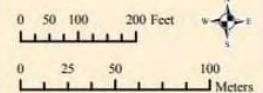
Sensitive Areas



Basemap

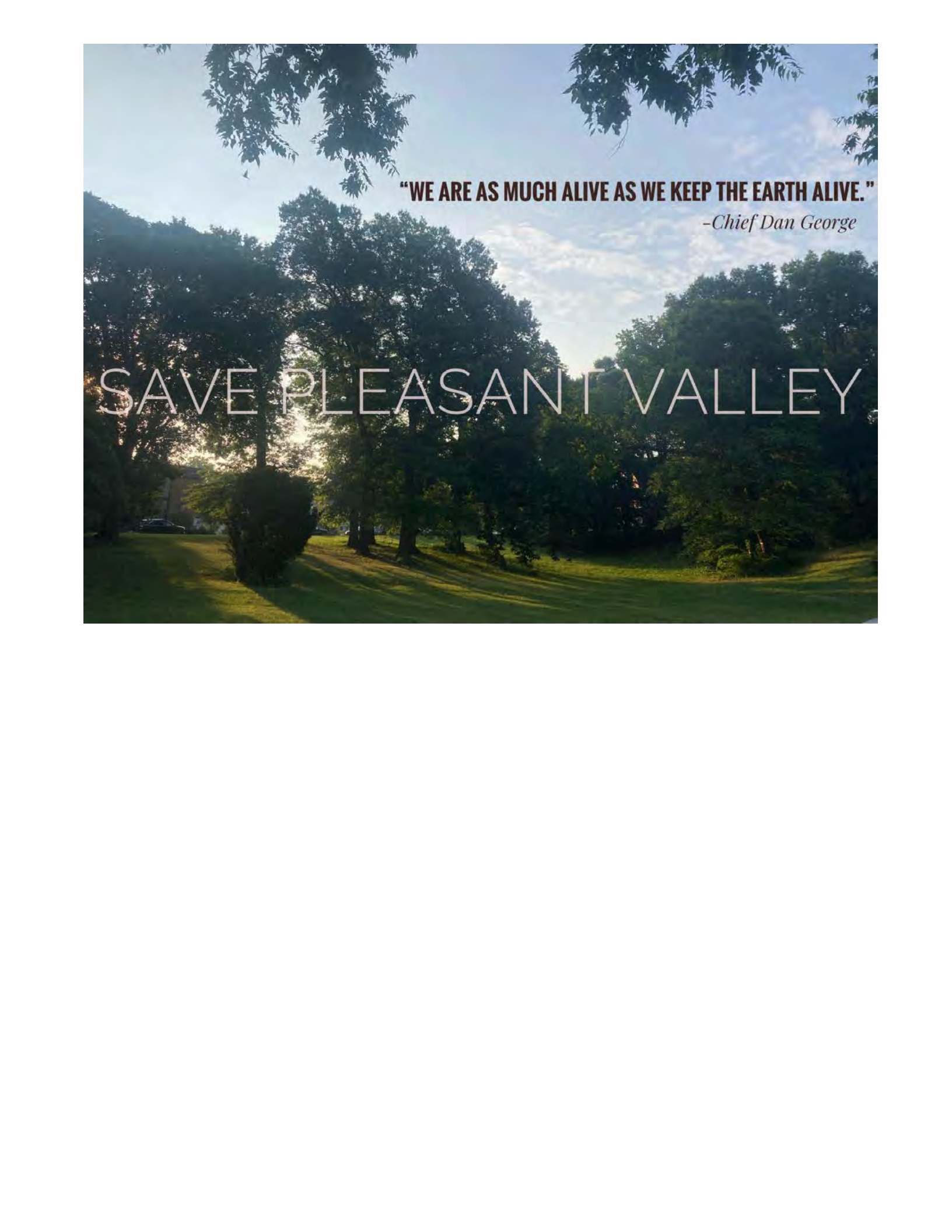


Sensitive Areas were determined by assigning values to natural resource categories based on their level of ecological sensitivity (e.g., wetlands, steep slopes, riparian corridor, endangered species habitat, prairie community, and average forest DBH). The more sensitive the resource is, the higher the assigned score. Each natural resource category is mapped on its own layer and that layer is assigned a value. When the layers are unioned, scores are summed for overlapping areas and visually depicted within the assigned ranges.



Prepared for: Human Nature - 03/28/06
Projection: State Plane NAD83, OH South (feet)





"WE ARE AS MUCH ALIVE AS WE KEEP THE EARTH ALIVE."

-Chief Dan George

SAVE PLEASANT VALLEY

[External Email] Public Comment Sept 2024

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Fri 9/13/2024 8:48 AM

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

 2 attachments (7 MB)

image_50736641.JPG; image_67506433.JPG;

External Email Communication

"A bag of Cheetos gets dropped and left on the floor. Seems inconsequential, right? Hardly. Rangers at Carlsbad Caverns National Park in southern New Mexico describe it as a "world-changing" event for the tiny microbes and insects that call this specialized subterranean environment home." - the headline from an AP article 9/13/24

Commissioners,

I am writing again to ask you to consider the possibility that a concentration of dog urine and feces in a woodland will certainly have a detrimental impact on the fragile ecosystem that we have worked so hard to protect.

Would you be open to listening to scientists and environmental experts on the matter?

I fear some board members may have a vision for our forested park that lacks consideration for the health of the woodland.

Please stop.

Please.

We are literally begging you to stop.

Find a less impactful location outside of Burnet Woods.

Make the health of the forest your number one priority so that Nature Education has an actual outdoor classroom.

Think about everyone who sat where you are now and used their power to make it possible for this rare urban woodland to still exist.

History will write about your choices today, it's up to each of you to stand up for Burnet Woods.

We need you to stand up!

Please.

Please stand up for the forest.

Humans are so greedy, can we retain this tiny natural oasis?

\$300,000 would buy wooded acreage to increase our TPL park score. We are already scoring above 90% in the "amenities" category.

What we need is more wooded land!

If you would, please watch the park board meeting when the unilateral decision was made for the site choice without discussing it with the community. Please note that stakeholders were NOT to be notified. We feel that this is environmental injustice towards the impacted community, and that it is wrong to treat the people this way, especially with this being PUBLIC land.

Sincerely,

Shari Frost

Please include attachments in the public record





Present day

[A link to the AP article](#)

https://apnews.com/article/carlsbad-caverns-national-park-cheetos-04f30c48dfa7fa3deee29702e083aa56?utm_campaign=TrueAnthem&utm_medium=AP&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR0kPJG0Ot-81-YDKb66GDcUi_FMi8t_-zgYO32zGfOdV96WOFyhhK51BZg_aem_IQGIpx186cFIC7httfdKGQ&ai=

[External Email] Public Comment Sept 2024

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Fri 9/13/2024 10:32 AM

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

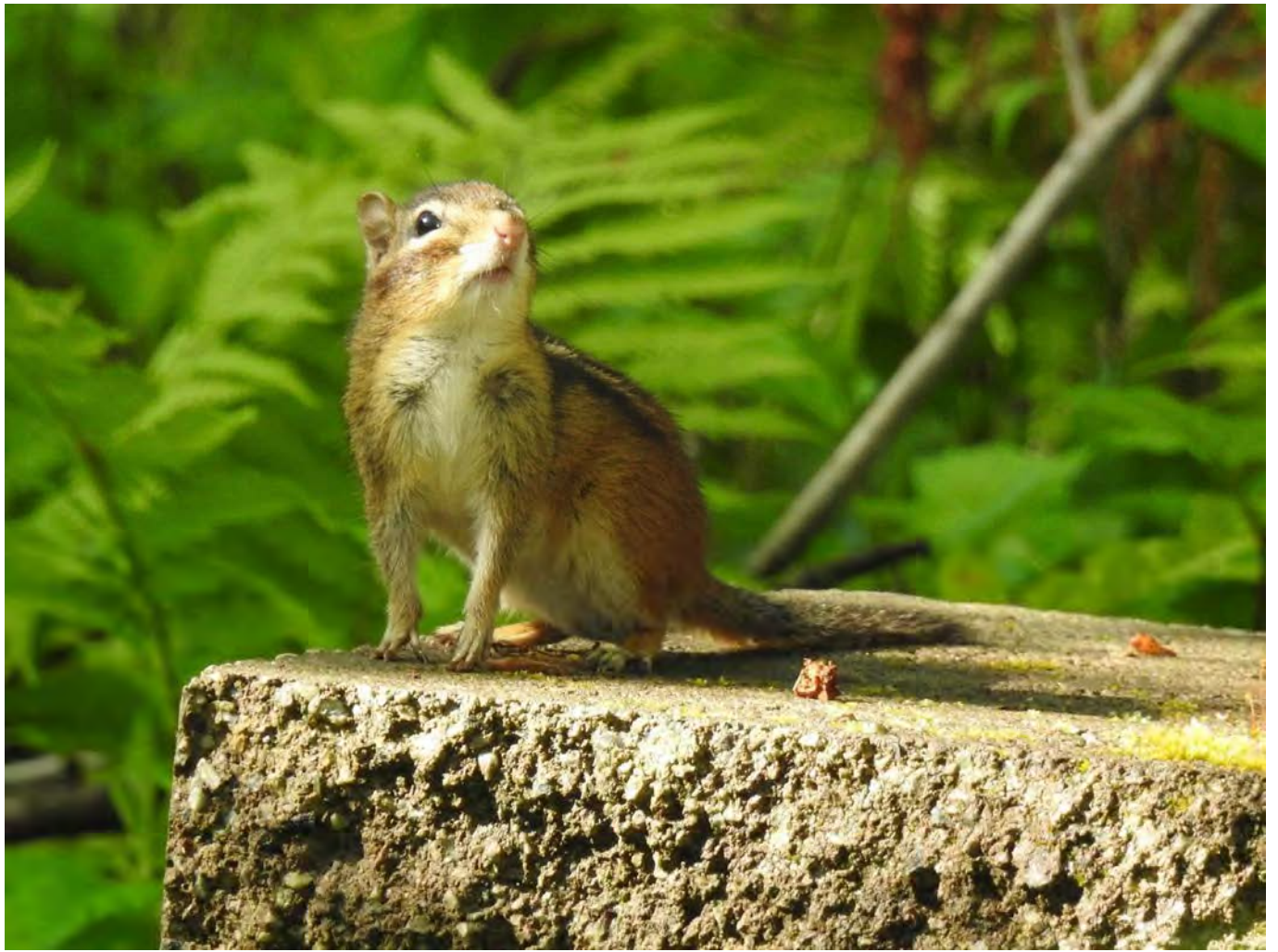
External Email Communication

From the Humane Gardener:

"I'm feeling the need to defend the honor of my wild neighbors. Martha Stewart's Facebook page posted today about chipmunks, advising people to "banish these plant-eating rodents from your yard." (If you ever want to drum up unnecessary and misguided fears, just throw the word "rodent" in there.) These types of articles are so ubiquitous, across so many media outlets and platforms, that responding usually feels fruitless. But the look on this chippie's face compels me to keep trying. So I say to the Martha Stewart team: Over the years, you've encouraged people to help birds and pollinators. But if that's really your goal, you can't have it both ways. Truly helping some wildlife means creating habitat for all of them. Here's why: Chipmunks play many roles in habitat creation. They plant seeds of trees. They disperse mycorrhizal fungi, which form mutually beneficial relationships with those trees. They spread mosses, which are critical materials in many bird nests and egg-laying sites for fireflies. Yet for all the good they do, chipmunks are in decline due to habitat loss in places like Washington, D.C., where they're considered a species of greatest conservation need. If they're evicted from our home gardens, where else can they go? Despite what the article on the Martha Stewart website says, biologists confirm that chipmunks don't cause damage to foundations; their tunnels are too small. And though people get upset with chipmunks for going to bird feeders, there's a simple solution: Replace feeders with native plants that feed and shelter whole communities of wildlife. Chipmunks' needs are simple: fallen leaves to insulate their burrows, hollow logs for mating and other dead wood where they can forage for beetle larvae, and fruiting and seeding native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. The kicker? Every single one of these habitat elements is also essential to bees, butterflies, birds and other animals. So if you truly want pollinator-friendly, bird-friendly gardens, you must make space for chipmunks too. And why wouldn't you want to? Just look at that face!"

Please consider how hardscape will impact the web and nix the proposed dog park project for Burnet Woods.

Sincerely,
Shari Frost



[External Email] Public Comment Sept 2024

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Sat 9/14/2024 10:05 AM

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

External Email Communication

Please protect Pleasant Valley in Burnet Woods from hardscape and loss of habitat

"The earth is not only the common heritage of all humankind but also the ultimate source of life. By over-exploiting its resources we are undermining the very basis of our own life. All around, signs abound of the destruction caused by human activity and of the degradation of nature. Therefore, the protection and conservation of the earth is not a question of morality or ethics but a question of our survival. How we respond to this challenge will affect not only this generation but also many generations to come."

HH Dalai Lama



Sincerely,
Shari Frost

[External Email] RE: Public Comment to be included in 9/19/2024 Park Board meeting and please distribute to Director/Park Board members

Millie Schafer <mschafer1@zoomtown.com>

Sat 9/14/2024 2:14 PM

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

 3 attachments (1 MB)

2023 oct Family Horrified by Ault Park deer hunt.pdf; 2024 Cincy Parks Drake Park posted sign IMG_3828.JPG; Bow hunting posting 2016 IMG_1694 posted sign error.jpg;

External Email Communication

(Please add this to the Public Comment list). I drove by Drake Park Sept 12 and the "replacement" sign had been posted. But the misleading statement as well as a lack of a date has not been corrected. This sign, posted sometime after Sept 5 but before Sept 12, claims "**Controlled Bow Hunting in Progress**". As confirmed by ODNR, any bow hunting going on now is illegal. **Bow hunting cannot start before Sept 28th.** Furthermore, we know many people do not use social media, etc. **If by chance someone actually goes to cincinnatiparks.com the link will not connect them directly to Cincy bow hunting activities, etc.**

Because of the lack of posting correct information, the general public park users do not know what is going on in our parks. See 2023 article how a young family was horrified at what they saw - and they fled the park. Why is it so hard for Cincy Parks to understand that many people do NOT want to be in these parks when bow hunting is going on - I have heard that personally from numerous people. (this is only one of a number of horrible stories - in 2024, an Ault Park user found a headless deer by a walking path. Was this reported to the Park Board?

Correct signage is not that hard. For years, the dates and even the areas were noted - with sign(s) in front of the actual trail area. All of Drake Park is NOT permitted for bow hunting! But the sign at the entrance leads people to believe that it is. This program is as best (stated by experts) **cruel, dangerous and inefficient.** And **when will park employees running this program stop spreading misinformation? (We have the data).** Nor does Cincy Parks have the right to target deer and their fawns (yes, they kill many each year) on private properties!!

Millie P. Schafer, PhD
Executive Director & Coordinator
Cincinnati Urban Deer Advocates (CUDA)
Cincinnati, Ohio
513-351-9957

From: Millie Schafer [mailto:mschafer1@zoomtown.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:56 AM

To: 'cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov'

Subject: Public Comment to be included in 9/19/2024 Park Board meeting and please distribute to Director/Park Board members

Importance: High

On Sept 1, 2024 as I drove past the entrance to Drake Park, I was surprised to see the above C. Parks' posted bow hunting in progress sign.

* ODNR bow hunting starts Sept 28, 2024 and goes to Feb 2, 2025. Does NOT start Sept 1, 2024!!

* It's also states "trails closed". I could find nothing about this on the posted site. **Where was this discussed at a public Cincy Park Board meeting?** (As you know, trails have remained opened during this deer/fawns kill season for several years now).

* The asphalt trail directly connected to the front Drake Park parking lot has NEVER been closed.

* **I request a copy of the latest ODNR document which authorizes this kill program**

* Cincy Parks has been "accommodating" the bow hunters on a business private property there and that business was found to have an "ongoing" relationship with Cincy Parks.

* **Cincy Parks own data clearly demonstrates that there is NO significant deer herd living in Drake Park!!**

* Targeting deer/fawns on private properties in that area is **ILLEGAL**. (Has been documented)

* Repeated requests that a wildlife biologist be hired has been ignored

* Repeated presentations of a PROVEN deer birth control at no cost to the tax payer has been rejected

* Fortunately, we worked to prevent the bow hunting in the Clifton Parks BEFORE park leadership changed!

* Horror stories are numerous - see Cincy doe surrounded by cars with an arrow in her back! (attached)

"Wildlife Biologist Horace Gore states: "YOU cannot call bow hunting a population control measure - it is a recreational pursuit and we do NOT advocate bow hunting when the objective is controlling the deer population"

Millie P. Schafer, PhD

Executive Director & Coordinator

Cincinnati Urban Deer Advocates (CUDA)

Cincinnati, Ohio



ATTENTION

**You are entering a
Wildlife Management Zone**

Controlled Bow Hunting in Progress
Learn more at cincinnatiiparks.com

When hiking:



**Stay on
Trails**



**Wear Reflective
& Bright Colors**



**Dogs on
Leash**

09/12/2024

ATTENTION

Park Closed
Deer Hunting Zone
DO NOT ENTER



For more info please call:
[513] 861-9070 x. 24



2014 - 2015 Cincinnati Parks
Hunting Schedule

AREA AND TRAILS
CLOSED:
9/27/14
through
2/1/15

09/24/2016 19:28

POLITICS

Family 'horrified' by Ault Park deer hunt. This is why Cincinnati Parks allowed it



Patricia Gallagher Newberry

Cincinnati Enquirer

Published 10:18 p.m. ET Oct. 12, 2023 | Updated 1:12 p.m. ET Oct. 19, 2023

A couple and their 2-year-old daughter visiting Ault Park got an unwelcome surprise while walking a trail last weekend: Two hunters dragging out a deer they'd killed with bow and arrow.

"We were horrified," the woman in the family wrote on Facebook, saying she and her husband alerted other parkgoers about the hunters as they fled the park.

The hunters, for their part, told her husband that controlled bow hunting is allowed in certain Cincinnati Parks locations to thin the deer population.

They were right.

In fact, the city park system has allowed bow hunting in some parks since 2007 to remove white-tailed deer who harm park ecosystems.

"Without the presence of (deer) predators, like mountain lions, wolves and black bears," a September posting on the parks' website says, "the uncontrolled overpopulation of deer threatens the natural environment."

Where and when is bow hunting allowed?

Cincinnati Parks kicked off its current controlled bow hunting season Sept. 30 in 12 of its 109 sites. They are:

Alms Park, covering 94 acres in Mount Lookout.

Ault Park, a 224-acre site in Mount Lookout.

Caldwell Preserve, with 89 acres in Carthage.

California Woods Preserve, with 113 acres in California.

Daniel Drake Park, covering 66 acres in Kennedy Heights.

Glenway Woods, with 30 acres in Price Hill.

LaBoiteaux Woods, with 57 1/2 acres in College Hill.

Margrish Riverland Preserve, with 46 acres in California.

Miles Edward Park, a 37-acre site between Delhi and West Price Hill.

Seymour Nature Preserve, an 81-acre property in Carthage.

Stanberry Park, a 125-plus-acre facility in Mount Washington.

Seven areas of Mount Airy Forest: Bradford/Feter/Tanglewood Preserve, Bracken Woods, Maple Ridge, McFarlan Woods, Diehl Road, west and south of Arboretum to Shephard Creek Drive and a central-south parcel called Zone G, bordered by West Fork Road. Mount Airy, with 1,459 acres, is the largest city of Cincinnati park.

The participating parks have hunting zones, with maps on the parks' website.

The season ends Feb. 4.

How do deer hurt parks?

The Cincinnati Parks Division of Natural Resources launched the bow hunting program in 2007.

Since then, hunters have removed more than 2,000 deer from participating parks, parks spokesman Rocky Merz said.

Of those, hunters donated enough deer to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry to make 10,000 meals, Merz noted.

White-tailed deer are the targets. They are considered "browsers" who eat seedlings, leaves, buds, flowers, fruit, young trees and branches.

"Deer come in because they love the acorns," parks administrator Crystal Courtney said in a video about the bow hunting program, posted to YouTube in 2020.

When they finish the acorns, they continue to eat away at 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-year-old trees, and other growth on the forest floor, said Courtney, division manager of natural resources. "All we had at the beginning of this program was just big, large trees," she said.

With about 70% of the parks' 4,400 acres covered in forests, the bow hunting program allows parks to "take the forest back" from browsers, she said.

Who gets to hunt?

Hunters must be registered and trained, and can shoot up to one buck and nine other deer in a season.

“They have to show that they are skilled archer men and women,” Courtney said in the video.

Hunters must demonstrate their skill by hitting targets. They must also complete training focused on safety and hunting regulations.

Bow hunters have not injured any park visitors over the life of the program, Merz said. “Our program serves as a model for other municipalities and organizations within the state,” he said.

Registrations are closed for the current season and will reopen in late spring 2024.

How do parks address safety?

The borders of hunting zones in participating parks are at least 30 feet (or 10 yards) from park trails and at least 30 yards from neighboring properties, roads or buildings.

Parks that allow bow hunting post bright orange signs that say “Wildlife Management Zone.”

Hikers can take these steps to stay safe, according to the parks' website:

- Learn where bow hunting is allowed from maps on the site.

- Wear bright colors, especially at sunrise or sunset when the light is dimming.

- Stay on marked trails.

- Leash dogs and keep them on trails.

Until 2020, administrators closed some parts of participating parks during bow-hunting season. Responding to complaints, it created the 30-foot buffer plan to keep parks fully open.

Who else allows bow hunting of deer?

Cincinnati Parks is not the only park system with a bow hunting program.

- Great Parks of Hamilton County allows bow hunting of deer in 16 of its 22 parks. Applications for its program, first launched in 2005, closed in July.

Ohio State Parks allow hunters to use bows and guns to hunt deer, wild turkey, coyote, feral swine, waterfowl and other species in many of its 75 locations.

The National Park Service allows some form of hunting in 76 of its 425 properties. OnX, maker of navigation apps for outdoor adventures, offers a how-to page with rankings of best sites by species.

What happened to the family at Ault Park?

The family that posted to the private Oakley/Hyde Park Cincinnati Moms and Friends Facebook page said the hunters they encountered last Sunday told them, “We know the difference between a deer and a human.”

“But still,” the poster said to that, “the thought of this occurring while on a walk with our family so close by is very unsettling.”

The writer said her husband contacted the Park Board about their concerns. The post generated about 50 comments, many registering surprise that hunting is allowed.

The writer did not respond to two messages seeking comment. Messages to two site administrators were also not returned.

The writer said she wanted to warn others about hunting in parks.

“If you plan to go walk some trails,” she wrote, “be aware, wear some crazy bright colors and make lots of noise.”

[External Email] Public Comment 9/19: Burnet Woods dog park proposal

Cynthia Duval <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Sat 9/14/2024 2:21 PM

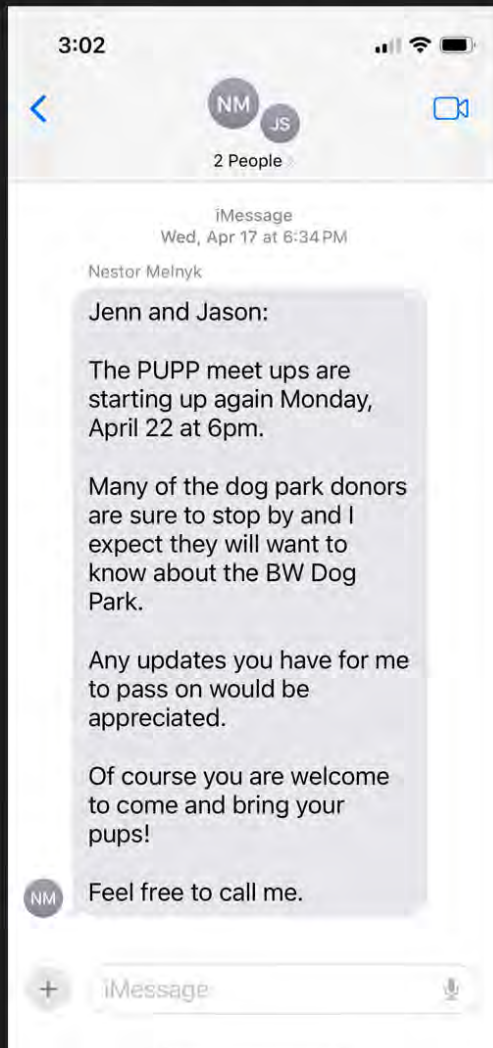
To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>

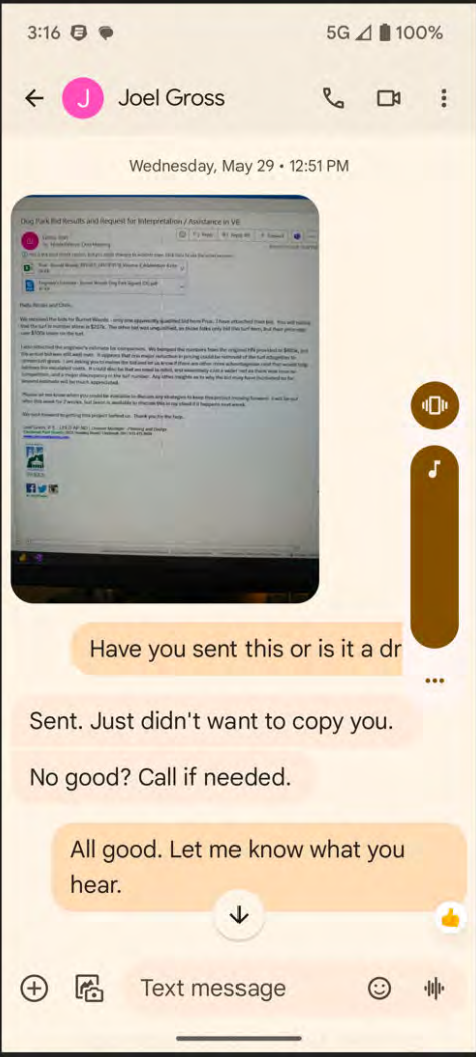
External Email Communication

The below is from the Preserve Burnet Woods social media 9/13/2024. Please include this as public comment in opposition to the proposed Burnet Woods dog park project. There is no site fit in Burnet Woods which is appropriate to the habitat and the community. That Cassandra Clement appears to be the only voice of accessibility Director Barron is consulting in the dog park discussion is unrealistic and unconscionable in light of Shari Cartmill's repeated testimony before the Park Board as another mother advocating accessibility for her child while being opposed to the dog park. Proposed plans continue down a path of degrading the project, parks credibility, the Foundation's reputation, and forcing a fit at cost to the community good, and the park. Parks needs to scrap this and do better.

"Is Cincinnati Parks Director Jason Barron your texting-bestie? Some snips from a recent public-records request. Take particular note of the dates. Relevant information:

- * the bidding end date for the Burnet Woods Dog Park proposal was 5/28/2024.
 - * Bobbi Hageman is the Chief Procurement Officer, City of Cincinnati
 - * Jennifer Spieser is the President & CEO of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation
 - * Cassandra Clement & Nestor Melnyk are co-founders of Clifton Pop-Up Puppy Party
 - * Henry Frondorf works for Prus Construction
 - * by 6/5/2024, decisions had already been made to reject the public bid for the dog park project as being too high and enter into private discussions with Prus to reduce the bid beginning 6/17/2024.
 - * as of 5/29, Cincinnati Parks Planning & Design had already stated the project should go out to rebid due to lack of competition.
 - * the Senior VP of Prus Construction sits on the Board of Directors for the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, the fundraising partner for the dog park
 - * at the 9/4/2024, Director Barron was unable to provide any updates on the fundraising for the dog park project to the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Committee when directly asked for that information.
 - * proponents for maintenance of the Mt. Airy Doris Day Dog Park have received NO follow-up from Cincinnati Parks after a March "community engagement" session with no apparent issues presented in that meeting resolved.
- READ THEM FOR YOURSELF"







Gross, Joel

To: Nicole DiNovo; Chris Manning



Reply



Reply All



Forward



...

Wed 5/29/2024 12:49 PM

This is the most recent version, but you made changes to another copy. Click here to see the other versions.

Prus - Burnet Woods_REVISED_243C919118_Volume 3_Addendum 4.xlsx
29 KBEngineer's Estimate - Burnet Woods Dog Park Signed JDG.pdf
97 KB

Hello Nicole and Chris,

We received the bids for Burnet Woods - only one apparently qualified bid from Prus. I have attached their bid. You will notice that the turf is number alone is \$237k. The other bid was unqualified, as those folks only bid the turf item, but their price was over \$100k lower on the turf.

I also attached the engineer's estimate for comparison. We bumped the numbers from the original HN provided to \$405k, but the actual bid was still well-over. It appears that one major reduction in pricing could be removal of the turf altogether to remain just grass. I am asking you to review the bid and let us know if there are other more advantageous cost that would help address the escalated costs. It could also be that we need to rebid, and essentially cast a wider net as there was near no competition, and a major discrepancy in the turf number. Any other insights as to why the bid may have increased so far beyond estimate will be much appreciated.

Please let me know when you could be available to discuss any strategies to keep this project moving forward. I will be out after this week for 2 weeks, but Jason is available to discuss this in my stead if it happens next week.

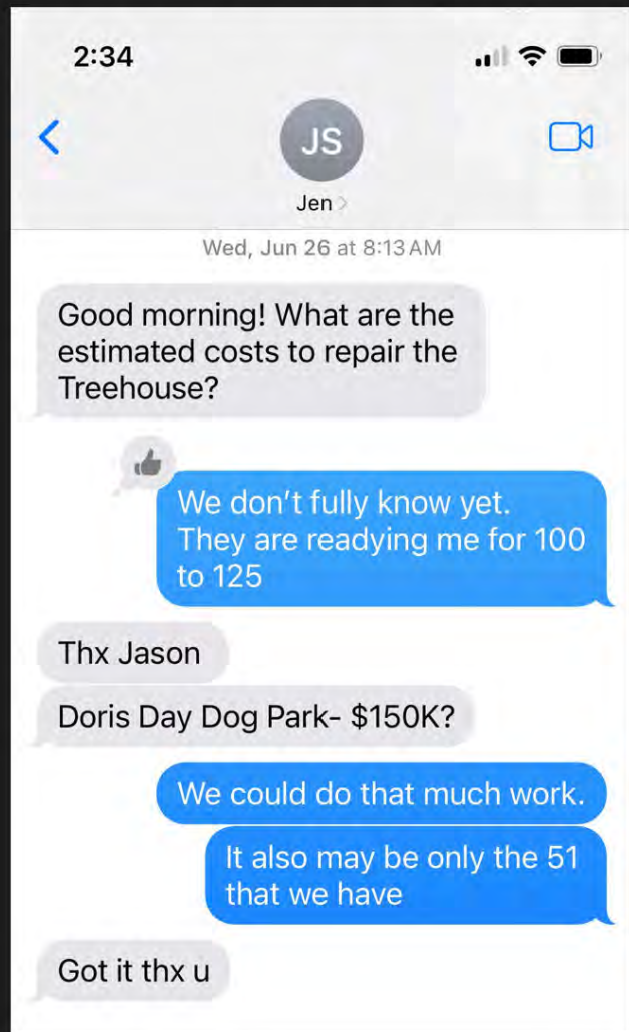
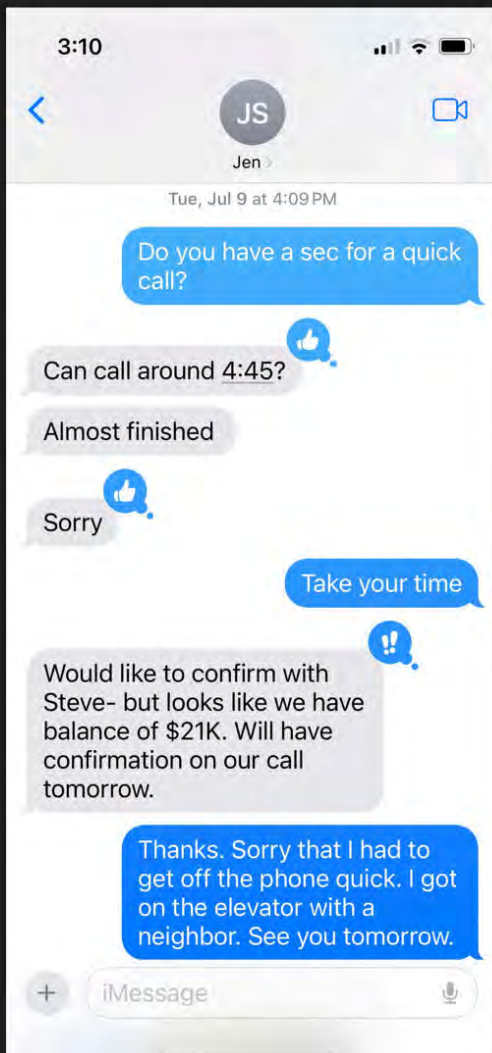
We look forward to getting this project behind us. Thank you for the help.

Joel Gross, P.E., LEED AP ND | Division Manager - Planning and Design
Cincinnati Park Board | 2625 Reading Road | Cincinnati, OH | 513.475.9609
www.cincinnati-parks.com

CINCINNATI



#CincyParks





Wed, Apr 24 at 2:11PM

Could we talk about the UC students' alternative dog park plan, please?

Of course

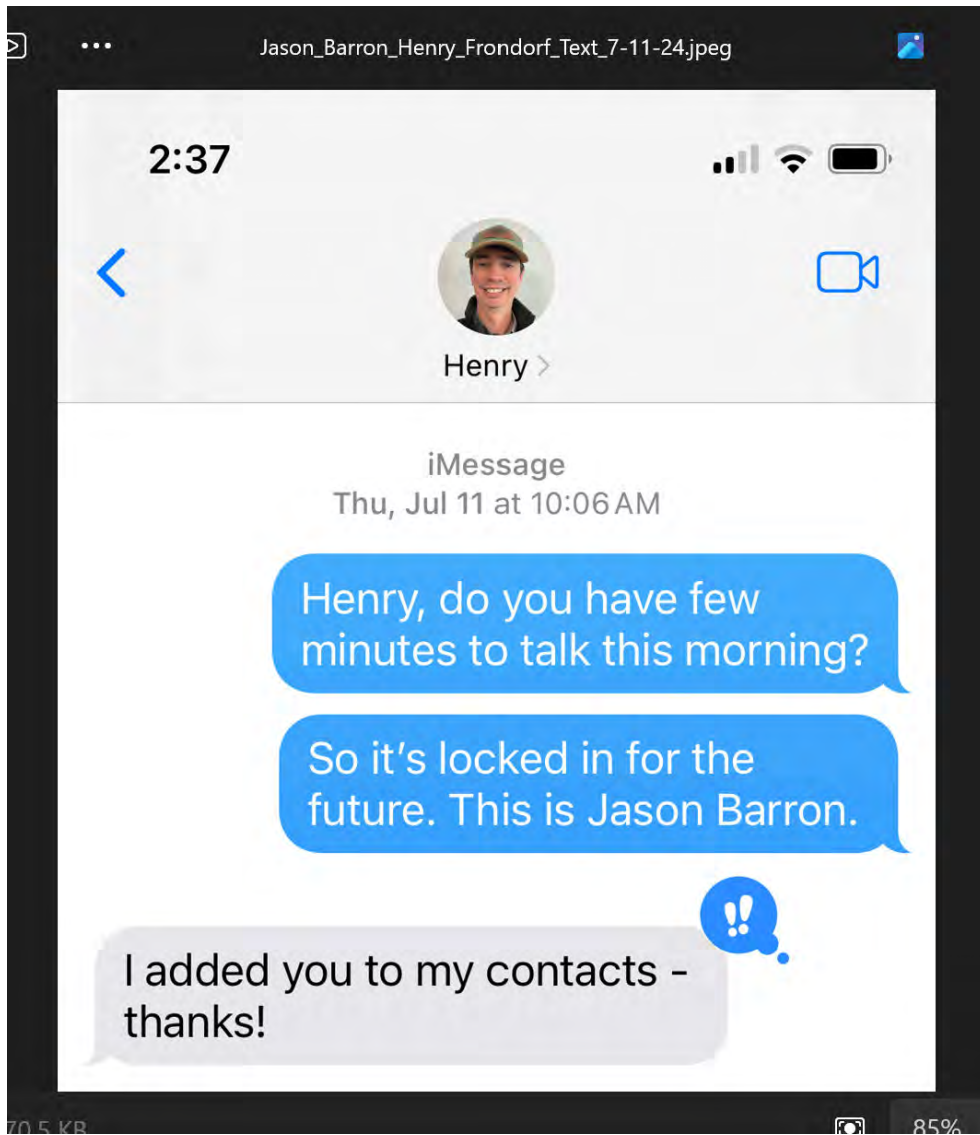
Im in NYC at a conference.
But happy to chat by phone
if you need info soon.

Delivered



iMessage









Fri, Jul 12 at 9:42 AM

Hey. Do you have a few minutes to chat today?

Yes. Anytime it is good for you.

Yes. Anytime it is good for you.

Wed, Jul 17 at 2:18 PM

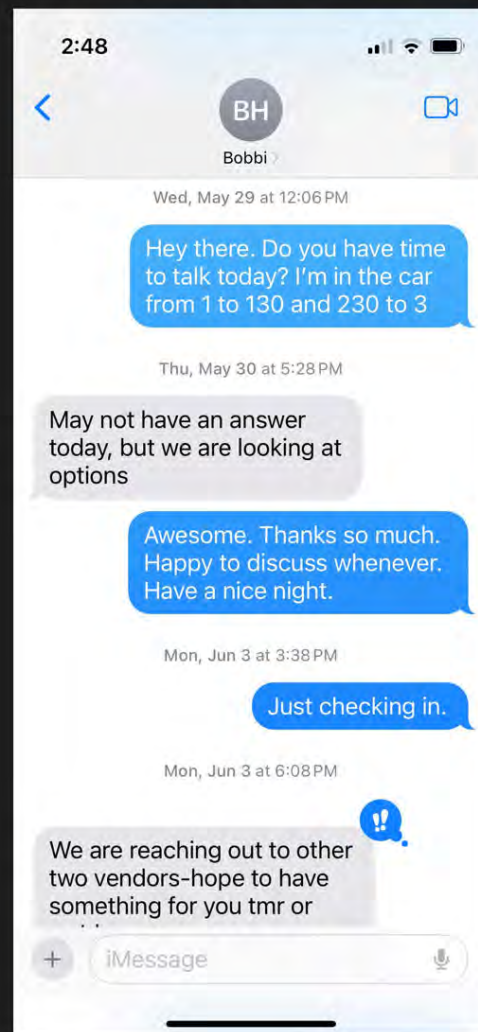
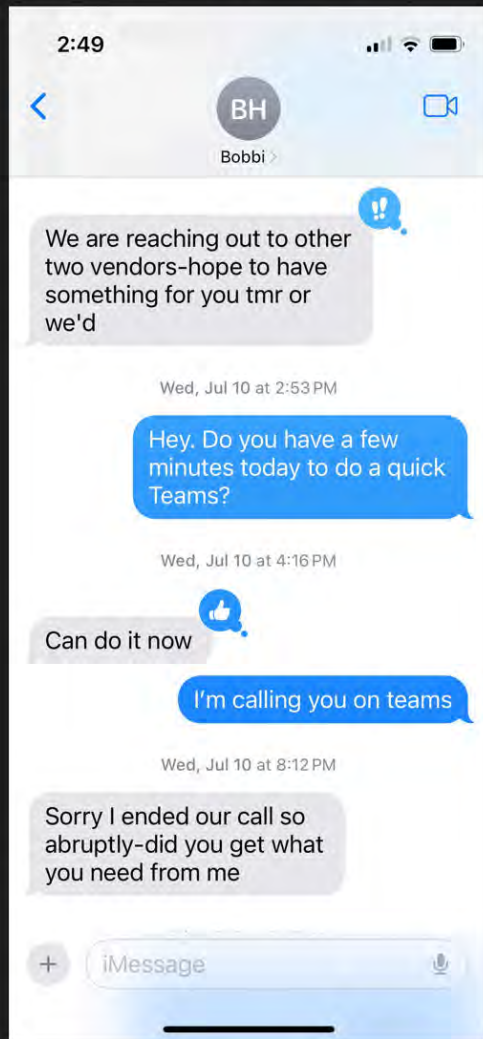
Pocket dial

Read 7/17/24



iMessage





[External Email] Public Comment 9/19: TPL and opposition to the Burnet Woods dog park proposal

Cynthia Duval <cynthia@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Sat 9/14/2024 2:51 PM

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

External Email Communication

The below is from the Preserve Burnet Woods social media 9/14/2024. Please include this as public comment in opposition to the proposed Burnet Woods dog park project. **Trust for Public Land is not making the Park Board install this dog park to increase the city's score.** There is no site fit in Burnet Woods which is appropriate to the habitat and the community. Proposed plans continue down a path of degrading the project, parks credibility, the Foundation's reputation, and forcing a fit at cost to the community good and the park.

"A quote from Park Board President Molly North. An email from Associate VP/Ohio State Director of Trust for Public Land Sean Terry. A curious juxtaposition."

[External Email] FW: [External] Burnet Woods-Cincinnati

 Sean Terry <Sean.Terry@tpl.org>

To: DiBona, Matt
Cc: Barron, Jason; Gross, Joel

Mon 5/20/2024 10:24 AM

External Email Communication

Matt,

Looping you in on a request for input from a resident/stakeholder regarding the Burnett Woods dog park. Dog parks aren't an area of expertise for us here in Ohio although our office has interacted with the folks from SMART Dog Park in the Dayton area who have offered to share input on some of their outreach strategies and new surface applications, if interested.

Any additional context on the project before we follow up with Charleen?

Thanks,
ST

Sean P. Terry
Associate Vice President, Ohio State Director

**TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND**

Trust for Public Land
1250 Old River Rd., Suite 202
Cleveland, OH 44113
P: 216.928.7518 x110 | C: 773.727.5296

Creating parks and protecting land for people.
tpl.org | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

This is the reason why the Trust for Public Land has a measure for dog parks in urban communities as providing a significant asset in spaces. This is a place where Cincinnati Park ranks low. So I want to be clear that **there is a discipline around our parks, our Park Board, assessing how we continue to maintain our position** as a great, as one of the top parks systems in the country.

”

PARK BOARD PRESIDENT MOLLY NORTH
AUGUST 15, 2024

REBUTTAL TO PUBLIC COMMENT, PARK BOARD MEETING

[External Email] Public Comment: September 19, 2024

Ella Stevens <ellagreeneyes11@icloud.com>

Tue 9/17/2024 2:08 PM

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

Cc: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@Cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@Cincinnati-oh.gov>

[You don't often get email from ellagreeneyes11@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

External Email Communication

How many letters for and against have you received for the Burnet Woods dog park?

[External Email] Public Comment: September 19, 2024

Perkins, Kaelen (perkikp) <perkikp@mail.uc.edu>

Tue 9/17/2024 4:31 PM

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

Cc: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@Cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@Cincinnati-oh.gov>

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

External Email Communication

Hello, I am a student at UC within their Environmental Studies program, and I am sending this email with hopes that the city of Cincinnati will reconsider destroying a section of Burnet Woods to build a dog park. I could support the creation of a dog park if it took an unused asphalt or concrete space and development an environmentally conscious green space. However, further removing a forest that is essential for countless species of animals and plants goes against the goal of doing what is best for the community. Healthy communities have rich and diverse ecosystems without unnecessary destruction. Human involvement can be done without tearing something apart. I plead for a redesign of the current plan. Please leave Burnet Woods alone.

Thank you for your time.

[External Email] Public Comment: September 19, 2024

Dotson, Shelby (dotsonsb) <dotsonsb@mail.uc.edu>

Tue 9/17/2024 5:12 PM

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

Cc: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>

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

External Email Communication

To whom it may concern,

My name is Shelby Dotson and I'm an environmental studies major at the University of Cincinnati. I'm writing to you today to oppose the planned building of a dog park in Burnet Woods. Burnet Woods is an Audubon important bird area that supports birds along migrations, crucial for allowing them to complete their journey. We should protect our urban green spaces and wild areas instead of further developing and receding them.

It is my belief that there could be far better uses for the budget allocated towards the park. Alternatives could include building upon, rejuvenating, or increasing accessibility for already existent parks in Cincinnati and cleaning up overlooked areas, such as bus stops and other community resources.

I hope you will keep the feedback and best interest of the community in mind.

Best regards,

Shelby

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

[External Email] Public Comment Sept 2024

Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Tue 9/17/2024 5:53 PM

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

External Email Communication

Regarding "OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION" in which "Commissioner Castellini shared she wishes that those who attend Park Board meetings to provide public comment regarding Burnet Woods would stay for the entirety of the meeting in order to hear about everything going on in Parks."

This is really upsetting to me.

I sacrifice so much of my time and energy in an effort to reach the hearts of the people who are appointed as "stewards" of our natural habitats, using my limited resources to make sure that my voice is heard, showing up for public comment and then rushing out to make it to my job after making arrangements for a "late start" because the issue of protecting a park from development is that important to me.

I assure you that the first thing that I do when I arrive back home at the end of the day is to watch the entirety of each meeting. I've also watched every meeting starting from the moment the Camping and Education Foundation withdrew its proposal for Burnet Woods.

The reason I watch, is because the commissioners didn't deem it necessary to notify stakeholders about the change of land use that was being proposed for Burnet Woods.

The lack of transparency and what seems to be "disdain" for the community surrounding Burnet Woods has been astounding.

If commissioners would spend time together in the park with the volunteers who have helped keep the park alive, instead of making remarks such as this to imply that we're somehow uninformed, you might start to rebuild public trust.

I implore you to treat your park volunteers and CPAC's with kindness, compassion and respect. You may not understand our deep connection with the land, but we'll be here still fighting for its protection long after your terms are up.

Our hearts are involved.

Good day to you.

Shari Frost

[External Email] Public Comment: September 19, 2024

Wright, Kendall (wrigh2k8) <wrigh2k8@mail.uc.edu>

Tue 9/17/2024 8:48 PM

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

Cc: Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@Cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@Cincinnati-oh.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from wrigh2k8@mail.uc.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Hello,

I would like to state that I am not in favor of the dog park at Burnet Woods, and I think it's a much better idea to protect the greenspace and leave the area as it is. I am a fourth-year student at UC, and despite claims that the dog park project will be contributing to the quality of life for students nearby, I don't recall ever being asked how I felt about the dog park being put into place. I would like to know how many letters you've received both for and against the dog park, and I hope you consider this comment if you truly do consider the UC students nearby.

Kendall Wright
University of Cincinnati
Arts and Sciences | Class of 2025
wrigh2k8@mail.uc.edu

[External Email] Public Comment: Thursday September 19, 2024

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

Tue 9/17/2024 9:46 PM

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

Cc: #COUNCIL <citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>;

jennifer@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org <jennifer@cincinnati-parksfoundation.org>; Barron, Jason <Jason.Barron@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 1 attachments (27 KB)

BPAC_resolution_&_public_comment_September_24.pdf;

External Email Communication

Resolution of the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council (BPAC)

Passed: September 4, 2024

Whereas, at the Board of Park Commissioners meeting of July 18, 2024, Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a budget and design for the installation of a hardscape dog park in Burnet Woods which differs substantively in material, design, and accessibility to all prior publicly available concepts,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods due to the fact that it will degrade the ecological value and ecosystem services of the park, which is an Audubon-designated Important Birding Area,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods due to the fact that it does not fit the historical use and character of the park,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods as it is a misappropriation of resources given the millions of dollars of neglected maintenance requirements in the park,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods due to the inequitable treatment of neighbors and other stakeholders to Burnet Woods, by the Board of Park Commissioners, as compared to the same Board's treatment of Dunore Park neighbors and stakeholders, who also opposed the siting of a dog park next to homes and in existing greenspace,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods as we've witnessed a pattern of individuals from outside groups who want to develop in Burnet Woods join BPAC only to then quit BPAC and its volunteer efforts to benefit Burnet Woods when they don't get the development they want,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods on the grounds that there has been no city-wide analysis of interest in or need for an additional dog park, risking inequitable distribution of resources,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods due to the fact that at no point in the process has the Cincinnati Park Board conducted anything close to what could be

considered professional community engagement for the project,

Be it so resolved, that the BPAC hereby passes and submits as public comment for the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners meeting of September 19, 2024 this resolution reaffirming the above positions of the BPAC and demanding that the Park Board conduct professional community engagement on the new, materially different design renderings for the project which have virtually eliminated the accessibility features upon which the Park Board, past and present Park Board Commissioners, the Parks Director, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, and the Clifton Pop-Up Puppy Party have made fundraising appeals.

Furthermore, we resolve that it be reflected in the public record by way of this resolution that the new design renderings approved by the Board of Park Commissioner on July 18, 2024 directly contradict the guidance provided by the Park Board's own professional staff; that is, "wood chips and crushed stone are not suitable due to the deterioration of wood chips, dampness supporting biological growth, difficulty in seeing and picking up dog feces and retention of odors in stone, wood, or rubber chips," as contained in the August 2021

Park Board meeting packet.

Resolution of the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council (BPAC)
Passed: September 4, 2024

Whereas, at the Board of Park Commissioners meeting of July 18, 2024, Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a budget and design for the installation of a hardscape dog park in Burnet Woods which differs substantively in material, design, and accessibility to all prior publicly available concepts,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods due to the fact that it will degrade the ecological value and ecosystem services of the park, which is an Audubon-designated Important Birding Area,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods due to the fact that it does not fit the historical use and character of the park,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods as it is a misappropriation of resources given the millions of dollars of neglected maintenance requirements in the park,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods due to the inequitable treatment of neighbors and other stakeholders to Burnet Woods, by the Board of Park Commissioners, as compared to the same Board's treatment of Dunore Park neighbors and stakeholders, who also opposed the siting of a dog park next to homes and in existing greenspace,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods as we've witnessed a pattern of individuals from outside groups who want to develop in Burnet Woods join BPAC only to then quit BPAC and its volunteer efforts to benefit Burnet Woods when they don't get the development they want,

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods on the grounds that there has been no city-wide analysis of interest in or need for an additional dog park, risking inequitable distribution of resources.

Whereas, the BPAC has always opposed the siting of a dog park in Burnet Woods due to the fact that at no point in the process has the Cincinnati Park Board conducted anything close to what could be considered professional community engagement for the project,

Be it so resolved, that the BPAC hereby passes and submits as public comment for the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners meeting of September 19, 2024 this resolution reaffirming the above positions of the BPAC and demanding that the Park Board conduct professional community engagement on the new, materially different design renderings for the project which have virtually eliminated the accessibility features upon which the Park Board, past and present Park Board Commissioners, the Parks Director, the Cincinnati

Parks Foundation, and the Clifton Pop-Up Puppy Party have made fundraising appeals. Furthermore, we resolve that it be reflected in the public record by way of this resolution that the new design renderings approved by the Board of Park Commissioner on July 18, 2024 directly contradict the guidance provided by the Park Board's own professional staff; that is, "wood chips and crushed stone are not suitable due to the deterioration of wood chips, dampness supporting biological growth, difficulty in seeing and picking up dog feces and retention of odors in stone, wood, or rubber chips," as contained in the August 2021 Park Board meeting packet.

[External Email] Public Comment: September 19, 2024

Isphording, Wade (isphorwe) <isphorwe@mail.uc.edu>

Wed 9/18/2024 1:29 PM

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

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

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

External Email Communication

Good afternoon, I am writing in opposition of the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods.

I am a 4th year student at the University of Cincinnati and have not received a single form of outreach from the proposers of the dog park. I -- along with a lot of my friends who are also university students -- do not support the demolition of green space in Burnet Woods and that should be made clear to the broader public. Adding on to that, full transparency and communication with the community is vital and that is something that this project is lacking.

Burnet Woods is a natural haven and should be preserved. The environmental impact construction and the park itself will be very detrimental to this urban oasis. Efforts to revitalize unused city space should be considered instead!

I hope you consider this all.

Thank you!

Wade Isphording

he/him/his | (513) 405-4986

University of Cincinnati | Class of 2025

College of Arts & Sciences | Environmental Studies & Horticulture

UC Horticulture Club Executive

[External Email] Public Comment: September 19th, 2024

From Mackenzie Mason <mackenzieamason22@gmail.com>

Date Wed 9/18/2024 3:49 PM

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

Cc Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Bob Hyland <bob@preserveburnetwoods.org>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mackenzieamason22@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Today I will be speaking on my continuous opposition to the Burnet Woods Dog Park, and I implore there is still time to rethink the development and move it out of the existing greenspace.

I have written to this board many times, and I along with a lot of other dedicated individuals have expressed their opposition against the dog park on valid claims. It is still astounding to me that the board is continuing this project after hundreds of opponents have raised their voices against the issue (a landslide more than the folks are in favor). There are clear power dynamics at play, and none of that power is being given to the neighbors in CUF, Corryville, and Clifton.

Once again, there is still time to change the outcome of this project, something that would turn gray space into greenspace and respect the needs and wants of community members. I implore you to conduct actual community engagement. Actually listen.

Mackenzie Mason

[External Email] Public Comment: September 19, 2024

From Tomak, Jennifer (tomakjr) <tomakjr@mail.uc.edu>

Date Wed 9/18/2024 4:07 PM

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

Cc Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>

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

External Email Communication

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

My name is Jennifer, I'm a UC student, and I'm the current president of UC Students for Burnet Woods.

I am writing again to state my opposition to the proposed dog park in Burnet Woods. Today, I write from and about my personal experiences in Burnet Woods.

The Board of Park Commissioners, City Council, and the Mayor have received countless emails about the ecological deficit the dog park would bring, the accessibility concerns, the lack of community interaction, PFAS in the turf, etc. It is known by subject experts that it would be a poor decision to develop the Pleasant Valley area of Burnet Woods into a dog park. I ask that you look at and fully digest these emails, speeches, and comments written from people who have ecological and scientific backgrounds who know how this would impact our Cincinnati Park.

I go to Burnet Woods to seek peace. I live in a busy apartment building, on a busy street, with no backyard, and hardly any green within eyesight in general. I go into the park for silence, to connect with nature, and to be close with myself. I go into the park to connect with friends, picnic, play disc golf, and meet neighbors. I go into the park to see the seasons change, to learn in classes, and to clean up litter. I am a person who actively utilizes and enjoys Burnet Woods. I cannot imagine the peace that Burnet Woods brings me, along with the neighbors to BW, regular visitors, and bystanders, be disrupted by a dog park.

Burnet Woods is a sacred green space. At already half of the acreage of what it used to be, no more of the park deserves to be striped away. The percentage of land in the park planned for the dog park is crucial to the overall Park health and wellbeing, and will be tallied with the continual prioritization of business over what's right.

I ask that the Board of Park Commissioners, City Council, and Mayor Pureval reconsider this development and support efforts to preserve and protect Burnet Woods, not develop in it.

Thank you,

Jennifer Tomak

she/her/hers

University of Cincinnati | Class of 2024

Environmental Studies | Horticulture | Communication

President | UC Students for Burnet Woods

[External Email] Public Comment: September 19, 2024

From Crowe, Francine (crowefe) <crowefe@mail.uc.edu>

Date Wed 9/18/2024 4:17 PM

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

Cc Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>

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

External Email Communication

To whom it may concern,

I am an environmental studies student at UC who is concerned about the plans and implications of the construction of the dog park in Burnet Woods.

While at face value this dog park may seem like a nice idea, I believe it will do more harm than good. It would be irresponsible to take away from what little natural green space we have left in the area. If anything, we should be expanding these natural green spaces. My peers and I could write pages and pages about why this development and destruction of our green space is a horrible idea. What I and many others want to know is, how many messages of support have you received? How many in opposition have you received? Is this project truly wanted by the people who live, work, and study in the area?

Francine Crowe

University of Cincinnati, Class of 2025

B.S. Environmental Studies

Minor in Geology

GIS Certificate

[External Email] Public Comment: September 19, 2024

From Bob Hyland <bobnhyland@gmail.com>

Date Wed 9/18/2024 4:19 PM

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

Cc #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>

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

External Email Communication

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

Happy almost Fall to each of you and I hope you're well.

By way of background, and as you know, in your July 2024 meeting you voted unanimously to approve a non-competitive contract award to Prus for construction of a dog park in Burnet Woods. This after substantive and material changes to the project scope and specifications that were used for the standard city procurement process and after severe slashing of the accessibility designs that were used for fundraising appeals on the project.

I'm submitting comment today to note that just prior to the aforementioned vote you received the written public comments for that July meeting. There were 25 written public comments that month, all of which expressed strong opposition to the dog park. You received zero (0) letters in support of the dog park that month. Why did you make a public parks administration decision in direct contravention to the public will that day?

Lest anyone think July 2024 was an outlier for public comments related to the dog park in Burnet Woods, let me remind you that in the two years or so prior to receipt of those 25 letters of opposition in July 2024, you have received around 400 written public comments against the dog park and fewer than 20 in support of it. Why are you ignoring those hundreds of letters which tower over the tiny number of letters of support you've received?

Put another way, even before the 25 public comments in opposition to the dog park in Burnet Woods you received less than 24 hours before you unanimously voted in contravention to the public comments, and however many public comments of opposition to the Burnet Woods dog park you received subsequently in August and September of 2024, you've received public comment at a ratio of no less than 20:1 against the development in Burnet Woods. Why are you making public parks administration decisions in direct contravention to the public will?

The public is teeing up for you literally the easiest decision on this issue in terms of your legacy as responsible stewards of Cincinnati's public greenspaces, as well as your legacy as supporters of the right of the public to participate in the public affairs with which you are currently associated as public

servants. But you seem bent on instead destroying the ecological integrity of the park and ignoring the public will, both at great risk to your legacy as public servants. Why?

Ask yourselves: why?

Thanks for your time,
Bob

Bob Hyland

P.S. crafted with thumbs on a phone, so please excuse any typos or inelegance

[External Email] Public Comment: Board meeting 9-19-2024

From Charleen Lyon <clyon@cattlyondesign.com>
Date Wed 9/18/2024 4:30 PM
To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Cc Simon Lyon <slyon@cattlyondesign.com>

External Email Communication

We believe that Cincinnati Parks can create a better dog park within Burnet Woods by locating the dog park at Burnet Woods Drive and Clifftop Drive.

As opposed to the currently proposed dog park site at the Ludlow-Jefferson gateway, this alternate dog park site will provide for a fully ADA-accessible experience, safer spaces for large and small dogs and additional greenspace, by removing heat-trapping dilapidated asphalt from a roadway that is currently closed (Burnet Woods Dr.).

(The current proposal, to locate a dog park at the Ludlow-Jefferson gateway, will take away prime greenspace from residents and cannot be made ADA accessible without massive cost and destruction to the existing terrain. Also, the current proposed design potentially threatens the health of small dogs, as there will be no separation between them and large breeds. Lastly, many mature (and some rare) trees ring the site and their long-term health will be threatened by both the construction and prolonged exposure to dog waste.)

Anyone can access a copy of our **pre-schematic** design study for an alternate dog park site at:
<https://cattlyondesign.sharefile.com/d-se4b4948b492d467e9c47752d0e4c4819>

Sincerely,

Charleen and Simon Lyon