

# Natural Environment Focus Area

Vision	Goals	Strategies	Priority Actions
<p>Cincinnati will invest in the creation, preservation, and regeneration of ecosystems and green infrastructure through policy and resource allocation to improve and protect the health and well-being of our diverse residents and the natural environment in which we live. We will inspire people, government, and business to value the natural environment to drive transformation.</p>	<p><b>Tree Canopy:</b> Maintain 40% urban tree canopy while expanding canopy to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40% residential</li> <li>• 25% mixed-use/Industrial</li> <li>• 10% Central Business District</li> </ul>	<p>Improve preservation, health, and maintenance of trees in existing urban canopy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus city tree planting in neighborhoods with highest heat island effect as measured in the Climate Equity Indicators Report or most recent data (NE.1)</li> <li>• Provide incentives and support for the use of carbon crediting and/or carbon offset programs to fund tree planting, maintenance, land conservation, and forest rehabilitation (NE.2)</li> <li>• Plant more native tree species through education with non-profits, nurseries, and schools (NE.3)</li> <li>• Implement policies that protect existing trees during development efforts (NE.4)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Air Quality:</b> Improve air quality so that Air Quality Index healthy days are increased by 30% by 2028</p>	<p>Increase air quality studies and education and reduce pollution from air emissions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand monitoring of air quality and nuisance odors incorporating citizen science in priority neighborhoods (NE.5)</li> <li>• Provide services, resources, and education for residents in priority neighborhoods on air quality alert system, sources of poor air quality, and air quality regulations (NE.6)</li> <li>• Support and fund the development of natural corridors and tree barriers along streams and rivers, interstates and highways (NE.7)</li> <li>• Strengthen air emissions regulations (NE.8)</li> <li>• <i>(See Mobility and Buildings &amp; Energy for actions supporting the transition to clean technologies like electric vehicles and buildings, and renewable energy)</i></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Greenspace:</b> Increase access to greenspaces so that every resident has a greenspace within a ½ mile walk by 2028</p>	<p>Increase the quantity and quality of greenspaces in neighborhoods with low distribution of greenspaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create new greenspaces, including use of vacant properties and underused parking lots, ensuring that space will not be redeveloped (NE.9)</li> <li>• Continue to improve infrastructure to increase walkability and access to greenspaces (NE.10)</li> <li>• Grow greenspace workforce through youth and BIPOC involvement in natural area restoration and education (NE.11)</li> <li>• Increase funding for maintenance of greenspaces (NE.12)</li> <li>• Implement policies which promote and protect public greenspaces in new developments (NE.13)</li> </ul>
		<p>Increase preservation and restoration of aquatic ecosystems &amp; urban forests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove invasive species and restore, maintain, and preserve forests, wetlands, riparian areas, and natural corridors along waterways, hillsides, and low canopy neighborhoods (NE.14)</li> <li>• Implement policies that restrict development in forested and/or biodiverse areas (NE.15)</li> <li>• Increase use of green infrastructure to mitigate the effects of stormwater, sewer overflows, overland flooding, and contaminated stormwater in waterways. (NE.16)</li> </ul>
	<p>Increase biodiversity and health of native species in the City</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Biodiversity Assessment for Cincinnati, incorporating citizen science (NE.17)</li> <li>• Support pollinator gardens, native plants, and education, including allowing the use of native grasses and pollinator plants in residential areas, and Low Mow or No Mow practices (NE.18)</li> <li>• Reduce pesticide and fertilizer use/over-use through education, regulation, and innovation (NE.19)</li> </ul>	