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Donald Spencer *Friends of Krohn & Parks*
Beth Sullebarger *Historic Preservation*
Stephanie Sunderland *Neighborhood Representative*
Eric Russo *Hillside Trust*

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Consultant Team

Christopher Manning
Human Nature, Inc. Principal
Nicole DiNovo
Human Nature, Inc. Project Manager
Jess Parrett *Leisure Services Management*
Kelly Kolar *Kolar Design*
Catherine Cappel *C.A. Cappel Associates*

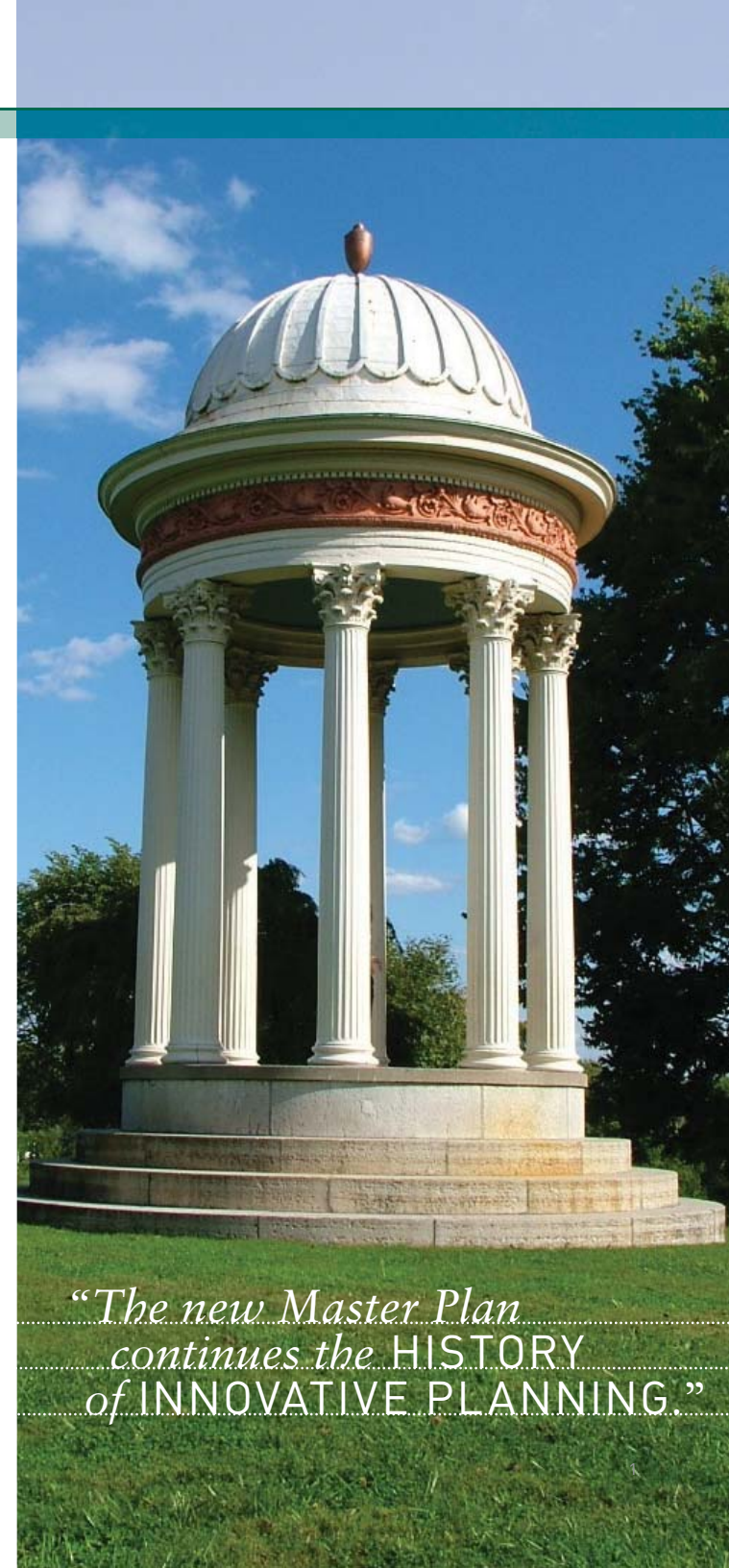
Special Thanks

Special thanks to all of the *Park Board Staff, Volunteers and Citizens of Cincinnati* who have attended meetings, answered questionnaires, and provided input through the project web site. Your passion, knowledge and ideas have helped make this plan better!

Acknowledgements

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Located on the east lawn of Mt. Storm is The Temple of Love, a structure dating to c. 1850.



*“The new Master Plan
continues the HISTORY
of INNOVATIVE PLANNING.”*

LETTERS

To the citizens of Cincinnati:

It is with great enthusiasm and hope for the future that I endorse and support the Centennial Master Plan for Cincinnati Parks. Our city is blessed with many assets, and our beautiful park system is certainly one of our greatest achievements. Our parks contribute to our quality of life, our vibrant economy, our sense of place, our social fabric and our environmental health.

Parks play an important role in furthering City priorities and policy. Parks contribute to Neighborhood Investment since they help make for a livable community. Parks encourage Economic Development and are catalysts for new investment all over the city. Cincinnati Parks are areas of Service Excellence, providing our citizens one of the top park systems in the country. And Parks contribute directly to Public Safety, not only as safe havens with low crime rates, but as places that make us feel good about ourselves and our community.

This new Master Plan continues the history of innovative planning for Cincinnati Parks and, as we follow it, will help guide us on to an even brighter, Green future.

Sincerely:

MARK MALLORY

Mayor of Cincinnati





I am very pleased to present the Cincinnati Parks Centennial Master Plan as our vision for the future of Cincinnati Parks.

Through in-depth study, exploration, discussion and input from people all over the community, we have crafted a plan that builds upon the distinguished past, faces the challenges of the present, and projects a future of even greater achievements for our parks and our city.

Sincerely:

MARIAN J. LINDBERG

President, Board of Park Commissioners

I am pleased to present the Cincinnati Parks Centennial Master Plan by the Cincinnati Park Board.

Historically, Cincinnati Parks have helped shape the development of our city. Parks that are well-distributed, accessible to all of our citizens and which are part of a network of greenspaces are key dimensions to a healthy and viable community.

This latest Master Plan builds upon the excellence of the 1907 Kessler Plan and the momentum of the 1992 Park Master Plan. Most important, however, it provides a road map for the future of Cincinnati Parks in the 21st century, so that we can continue to provide for the needs and aspirations of those who live, work and visit here.

Sincerely:

WILLIE F. CARDEN, JR.

Director, Cincinnati Park Board and Parks Foundation



INTRODUCTION

A SHARED CIVIC AGENDA

One hundred years ago, in 1907, the Cincinnati Park Board unveiled its first park system master plan, prepared by George Kessler, Landscape Architect. Kessler’s plan, like those of other major cities during this era such as Boston, Minneapolis, Chicago and Kansas City, proposed a connected system of parks and parkways as a way of lifting the city out of the unhealthy conditions created by the Industrial Revolution. This was the age of the Garden City and City Beautiful Movements—an age of enlightenment in the planning of American cities.

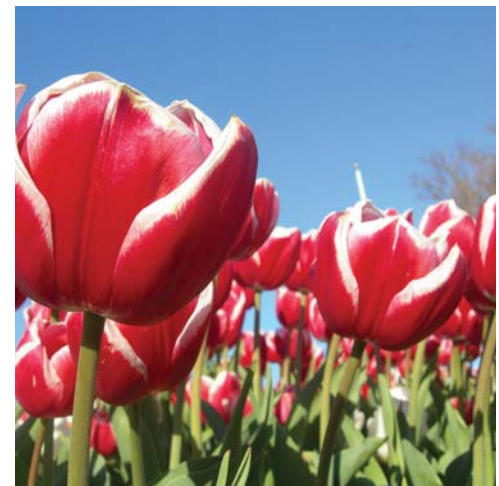
Kessler proposed to capitalize upon the scenic views and the natural topography by creating a series of crown jewels—parks along the ridge tops surrounding the city core, as well as a network of scenic parkways that would link the parks together throughout the city. We have been the beneficiaries of this visionary plan, and the Park Board has been the steward, systematically implementing, expanding and celebrating this great legacy.

Today, standing on the shoulders of this seminal work, we look forward into the future once again.

As our city is challenged by the flight to the suburbs, rising crime and social tensions, as well as limited budgets and staff, *we call upon parks again as agents of transformation.* We imagine once again that our city can be great if we celebrate our assets—our parks and natural resources; our arts, educational institutions and cultural resources; our wonderfully diverse and talented spectrum of citizens and businesses. These are our core assets, cornerstones of a shared civic agenda.

The Park Board’s *Centennial Master Plan* honors this rich legacy of park planning and design by revisiting the transformative powers that parks can have in shaping a city; by expanding the connective network that Kessler started; and by weaving in contemporary issues such as sustainability, crime prevention through environmental design, and a re-engagement with our citizens and partner institutions to provide services and facilities that are current, relevant, responsible and efficient. This is our plan for the 21st Century—one that will help bring our city back to greatness.

“*We call upon parks as*
AGENTS OF
TRANSFORMATION.”



Top: Enjoying a Cincinnati Park. | Bottom: Tulips at Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park

INTRODUCTION

THE PLANNING PROCESS & PURPOSE

How the Plan was Created

The Centennial Master Plan has been created through a methodical process of research, community input and testing. Many people have contributed to its making, from Park Board staff and administration to citizens, committees and surveys; from stakeholder and public meetings to park tours with Cincinnati Police; from advisory councils and friends/volunteers to commissioners and Foundation trustees. *Input from the community is the energy that has driven the plan.*

The Centennial Master Plan also comes at two important moments in the history of Cincinnati Parks: 2006 is the centennial year for the Board of Park Commissioners and 2007 is the centennial year of the first park system master plan. At this historic moment, it is important to look back and appreciate the legacy; to study and learn from the masters; to honor and carry the tradition of excellence forward. *History is the foundation upon which the plan has been built.*

The plan looks beyond our borders and our region for trends, innovations and successes abroad, from other regional cities in the Midwest to cities on the coasts and overseas; from academic and research institutions to non-profits and conservation organizations; from private foundations to developers and community investors. The Cincinnati Park System has been recognized as one of the top urban park systems in America, and *maintaining a high standard of excellence is an over-arching goal of the plan.*

Finally, a lot of time was also invested in identifying and understanding the challenges that our city faces, from demographics and crime statistics to tax revenues and city budgets; from patterns of revitalization to new partnership opportunities; from restoration and linkage strategies to the civic landscape as a laboratory for lifelong learning and sustainability. *Parks and greenspace driving city revitalization and regional growth is a central theme of the plan.*

*“Input from the COMMUNITY
is the ENERGY that has
driven the plan.”*



Bellevue Hill Park offers visitors stunning views and a unique shelter

The vision for Cincinnati's park system is one that fulfills the destiny that Kessler started—a well distributed and well-connected park system that capitalizes on the natural gifts of the land and provides facilities and venues that contribute to the health and viability of the City. This vision can be described as follows:

Cincinnati is a city where greenspace and parklands touch the lives of all people.

It is furthermore:

A city where a network of parkways, greenways and open spaces shape the future of the entire region.









A city with distinctive parklands, beautifully designed and maintained facilities, gardens and greenspaces.

A city with parks which provide natural settings for the community's outdoor leisure activities, education, and growth.

A city with parks which provide enrichment through programs, events, services and community celebrations.

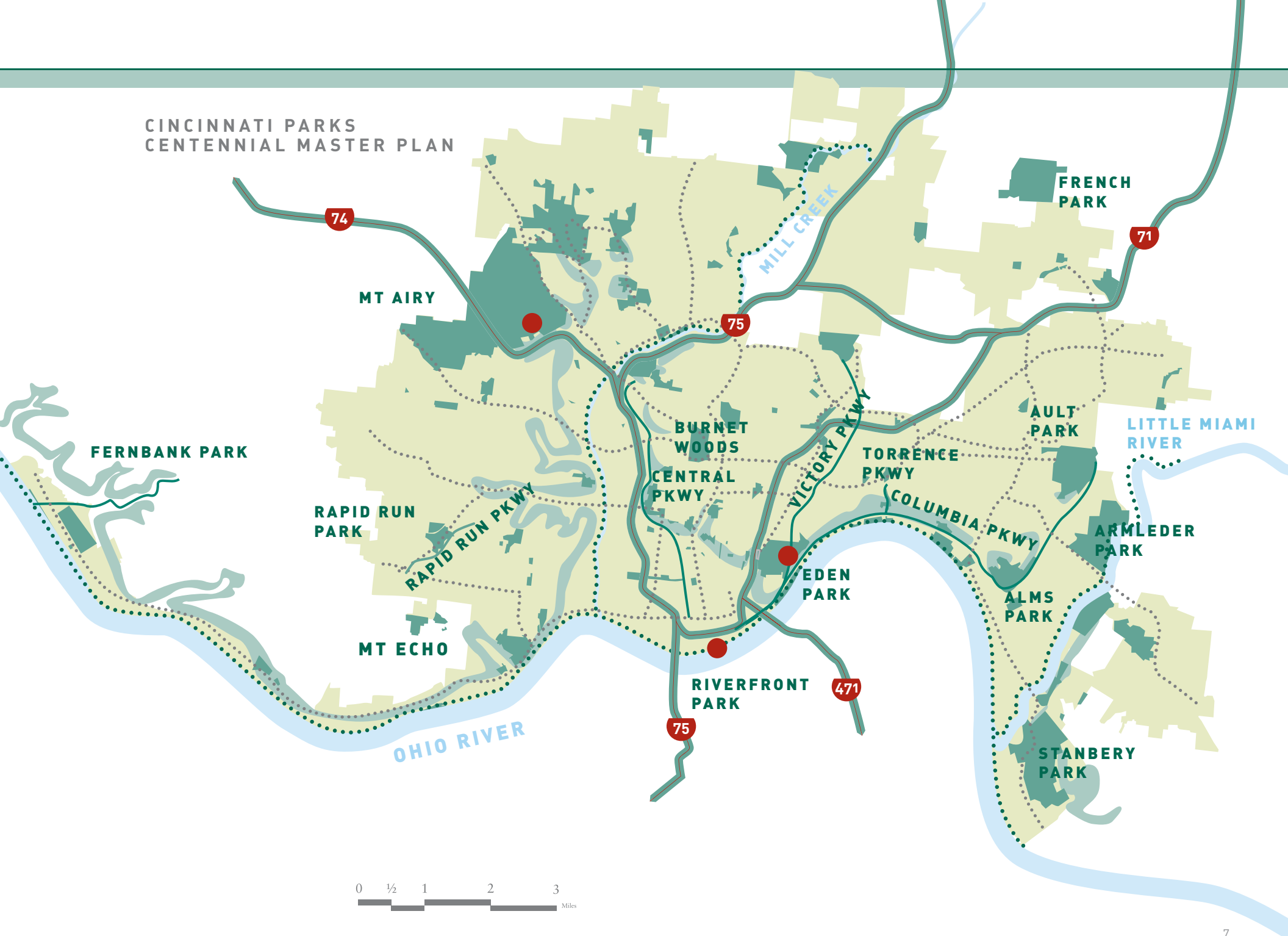
Cincinnati Parks Centennial Master Plan

This is the vision for Cincinnati and its park system—a vision that will come to life through the conservation, appreciation and enjoyment of our parks' cultural and natural resources.

| Key | |
|--------------------|---|
| Existing Parkway |  |
| Highway |  |
| Proposed Parkway |  |
| Interstate Parkway |  |
| Existing Parks |  |
| Flagship Projects |  |
| Hillside Parkway |  |
| River Parkway |  |



CINCINNATI PARKS
CENTENNIAL MASTER PLAN



KEY STRATEGIES

To help implement the Master Plan's Key Recommendations, are several Key Strategies.

Building the Centerpiece Cincinnati Riverfront Park

The most dramatic new park included in The Plan is the Cincinnati Riverfront Park—finally reconnecting our downtown to the Ohio River.

It will be the centerpiece of the park system, the front door to our city, and the living room where we hold key events and celebrations. It will also be part of a larger strategic agenda to invigorate the core of our city and region.

Strengthening the Urban Core

Downtown, Over-the-Rhine and the Mill Creek Valley all need more parks, greenspace and more greenway connections. With community and financial support and new partnerships, the Park Board could be a pivotal investment in the renaissance of our urban core.

Strengthening the Region | City

Through new and enhanced park facilities serving the region, and programs, expanded awareness, partnerships, and actions, the Park Board can help improve the city's image and the quality of life in the region.

Strengthening the Neighborhoods

By enhancing neighborhood parks, adding programs and services and building even more relationships with communities, including expanding Park Advisory Councils, the Park Board can help drive neighborhood revitalization.

Continued Upgrades Throughout the System

Since the 1992 Plan Update, progress has been made on upgrades to existing parks, parkways, preserves and other assets throughout the system. The upgrades have been distributed to provide an equitable balance to all regions of the city, while also responding to individual site and neighborhood challenges and opportunities, while continuing to make the park system universally accessible.

This work is the core of the Park Board's mission and responsibilities to the citizens, and it should continue to be a primary focus, achieved by expanding partnerships, identifying new sources of funding, and finding ways to be even more efficient and effective.

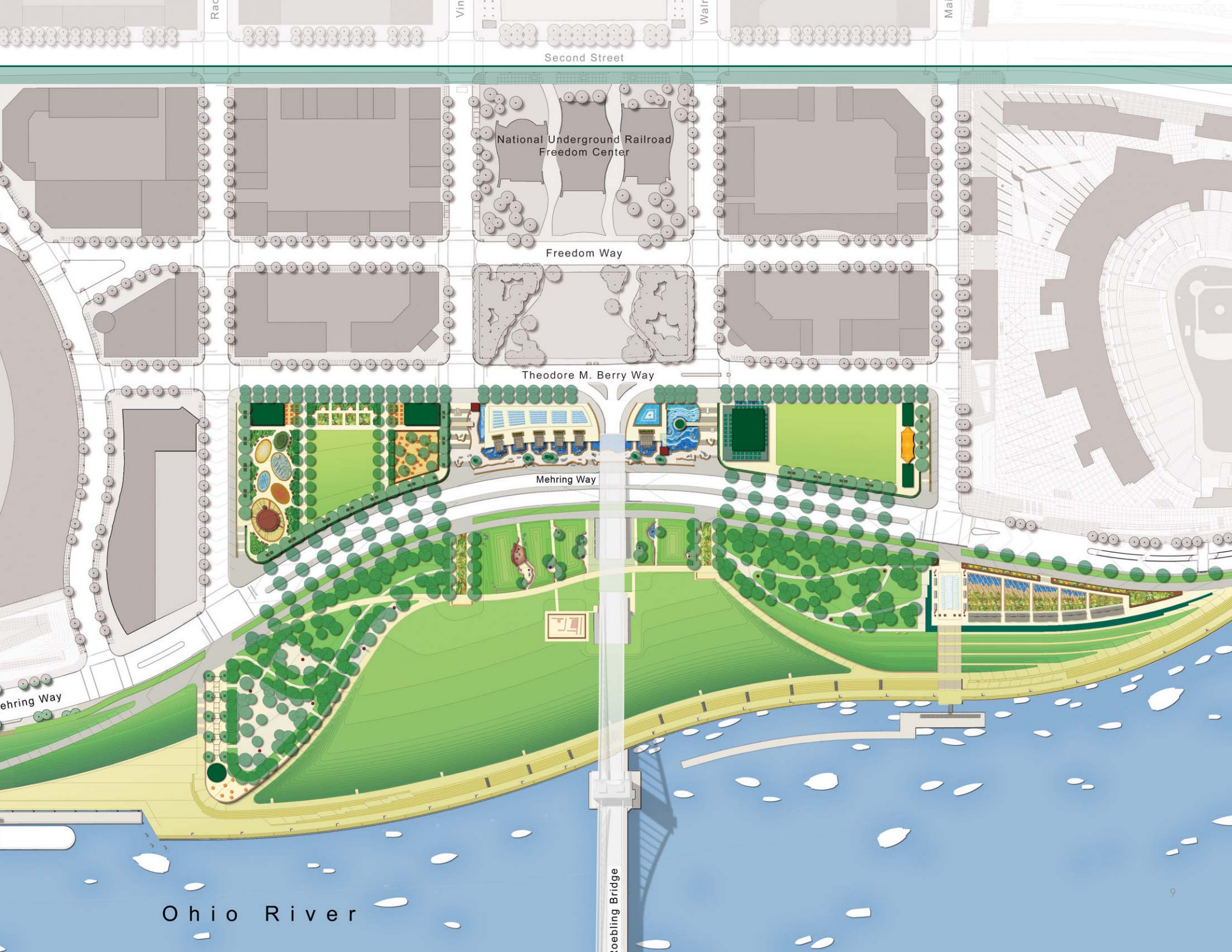
Sustainability, Stewardship 🌿 Strengthening Natural Systems

Continued work on assembling and connecting key properties and facilities along our hillsides and streams, appropriately managing and conserving our parklands and nurturing and planting the urban forest are all vital to the long-term economic, social and environmental health of our city. Park facilities, services and land management and operational practices should all be sustainable economically and environmentally.

*“Parks and
GREENSPACE driving
city REVITALIZATION
and regional growth is
a central theme of the plan.”*



Right Top: Eden Park Gazebo | Right Bottom: A sculpture at Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park | Far Right: Cincinnati Riverfront Park



Second Street

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Freedom Way

Theodore M. Berry Way

Mehring Way

Ohio River

Loebing Bridge

ACTION PLANS

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Hire Executive Director of Foundation | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 Work with City Council to create Dedicated Tax | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 Work with PAC to Educate public on Dedicated Tax | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 Reorganization create Program & Business Division | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 Coordination & Expansion Volunteerism | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 Foundation, Hire PR & Marketing Staff | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 Foundation, Hire Graphic Design Staff | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 Enhance/Add key staff: Superv., Facil., Constr., Mngement, Tree Crew, Constr. Crew, L. Arch., Nature Ed., GIS | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 Study creation Horticulture Section with Superv. Florist | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 Increasing the number & scope of programs & events | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 Broadening the reach of nature education | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 Enhance and promote PR & Marketing Initiatives | | | | | | | | | | |
| OPERATIONS & LAND MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Deer Management | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 Invasive Species Control | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 Work toward Stormwater Partnerships & fees | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 Expand Street Tree by stepped increase assessment levels | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 Sustainability Principles & Projects | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 Protecting & Linking Natural Resources systems | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 Civic Beautification Projects & Partnerships | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 Neighborhood Reforestation | | | | | | | | | | |

| FUNDING & PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 Stabilize Tax revenue by refocusing City revenue stream | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 Incremental reasonable increase in Fee Schedule | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 Maintain a balance of free & fee facilities & services | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 Incremental reasonable increase in Fund Raising | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 Enhanced volunteer program | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 Expand Partnerships with Education Institutions | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 Expand Partnerships with development entities | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 Expand Partnerships with other Park Service Providers | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 Develop Restaurant Burnet Woods | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 Develop Wedding Corporate Meeting Facility Inwood | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 Enhance Meeting Facility at Mt. Airy | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 Implement Krohn Conservatory Expansion | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 Seek greater efficiencies with CRC & HCPD | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 Develop partnerships for creation of regional trails | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 Investigate & create model Park Improvement District | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 Investigate & create model for Park TIF use | | | | | | | | | | |

ACTION PLANS

| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS | 2007-08 | 2009-10 | 2011-12 | 2013-14 | 2015-16 | 2017-18 | 2019-20 | 2021-22 | 2023-24 | 2024-26 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 Sustaining Park Infrastructure | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| 2 Create Master Plan Lytle Park | ■ | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 Implement Lytle Park Plan | | | ■ | | | | | | | |
| 4 Create Master Plan Washington Park | ■ | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 Implement Washington Park Plan | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | |
| 6 Develop plans for new Downtown Parks | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| 7 Develop plans for new Neighborhood Parks & Squares | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | |
| 8 Construct Cincinnati Riverfront Park | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | |
| 9 Implement Owls Nest Park Plan | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | |
| 10 Create Master Plan/Feasibility Study for Krohn Expansion | | ■ | | | | | | | | |
| 11 Construct Krohn Conservatory Expansion | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | |
| 12 Implement Burnet Woods Master Plan | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | |
| 13 Implement Inwood Park Master Plan | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | |
| 14 Implement Jackson Hill Master Plan | | | | | ■ | | | | | |
| 15 Implement Bellevue Hill Master Plan | | | | | | | ■ | | | |

| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 16-30 | 2007-08 | 2009-10 | 2011-12 | 2013-14 | 2015-16 | 2017-18 | 2019-20 | 2021-22 | 2023-24 | 2024-26 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 16 Implement Fairview Master Plan | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 Implement Fleischmann Master Plan | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 Create Master Plan for Mt. Airy Forest & Arboretum | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 Implement Mt. Airy Master Plan & Renovation | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 Create Master Plan for Gardens of Eden | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 Implement Gardens of Eden Master Plan | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 Reassess & Implement French Park Master Plan | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 Improvements at Large Neighborhood Parks | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 Improvements at Small Neighborhood Parks | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 Preserves & Natural Areas Improvements | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 Property Acquisition | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 Parkway/Boulevard/Greenway Development | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 Ohio River Greenway | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 Riverfront Parks | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 Trails | | | | | | | | | | |

FUNDING MATRIX

| COMPONENTS | City Capital | City General Fund / Operating | Other City Operating | Street Tree Assessment | User Fees | Other Local Public CIP (County, HCPD, MSD) | Other Local Public Operating | State | Federal | Private / Donations | Sponsorships | In-Kind / Volunteer | Partnerships / Collaborations | Development Agreements / Special Improvement Districts | Rentals / Other Fees & Charges |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|-------|---------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Operations / Maintenance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Programs / Events | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parkways | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greenways / Trails | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Forestry / Street Trees | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Park Improvements | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Landscape / Horticulture / Grounds</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Facilities / Buildings</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Infrastructure</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Land Acquisition | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

STABILIZING CITY PARK TAX REVENUE

Mechanics of Tax Issues

The Cincinnati Park Board has reached a critical financial crossroads. The Park Board is busy crafting a vision for the next century (The Centennial Master Plan), building upon a rich tradition that has earned it a reputation as one of the best urban park systems in America.

With city budgets constantly challenged by population loss and, at best, no real growth in tax revenue, the Park Board has weathered significant staff reductions over the last two decades and a time-consuming annual defense of its relatively small operating budget (1.8 cents out of every tax dollar spent on city services). Parks are to a point, however, where *any more cuts will compromise their ability to provide even the most basic of services—parks that are clean, safe, reliable, green and beautiful*. To move beyond this basic level of service, two things must happen.

First, the annual city operating budget support for Parks must stabilize and become something that the Park Board can count on each year, without having to spend so much time and energy defending it. Once this happens, the Park Board will be able to turn its attention to growing its other revenue-generating opportunities.

Cincinnati Parks, as part of its long-term planning, seeks a committed, reasonable and consistent allocation from the city's annual budget as part of the formula for maintaining and operating their world class park system. One way to accomplish this is to set aside a consistent annual percentage from the present city income tax. *This percentage would not be substantially more than it has been in the past. It would just be a set amount that the Park Board could count on to do effective fiscal planning for the future* and it would be based on the baseline operating budget Parks needs to provide basic levels of maintenance. An existing local model is the long-standing dedication of a percentage of the income tax which helps support SORTA.

This tax dedication was approved by voters in the 1970s and continues today. City Parks should have the same type of dedicated tax source to support park operations. This is possible only by the voters' approval of a referendum to change the present city charter language.

Many park systems across the country are currently funded with a dedicated share of taxes supporting park operations. Examples include Minneapolis, Kansas City, Seattle, and Pittsburgh.

The critical point to be remembered is that a yes vote by the citizens *would not cause an increase in taxes* like the County Park levy did, but would be a dedication of existing dollars for park operations. The referendum question can be placed on the ballot by a super majority of Council or by citizens' petition drive. Either method could allow City Council and the citizens of Cincinnati to decide to support its world class park system with votes, and without additional taxes.

Once this happens, City Council would no longer need to debate and battle over this every year; they would have a dedicated percentage for Parks that was reasonable.

The Park Board would then be able to turn its attention to planning and operating great parks, growing fiscal support through its other revenue-generating opportunities and serving as a catalyst for the revitalization of the city.

“Many PARKS across the COUNTRY are currently FUNDED with a dedicated share of taxes supporting park operations.”

CITIES WITH DEDICATED PARK FUNDING 1999 FY

| CITIES | GENERAL FUNDS | % | DEDICATED TAX | % | FEES RETAINED | % | DONATIONS | % | OPERATING BUDGET |
|-----------------------|---------------|----|---------------|----|---------------|------|-----------|------|------------------|
| High Density | | | | | | | | | |
| San Francisco | \$20,757,000 | 34 | \$19,887,000 | 33 | \$20,093,000 | 33 | — | — | \$60,737,000 |
| Los Angeles | 22,319,000 | 23 | 51,720,000 | 53 | 22,190,000 | 23 | 1,000,000 | 1 | 97,229,000 |
| Chicago | — | — | 209,181,000 | 89 | 20,196,000 | 9 | 4,866,000 | 2 | 234,243,000 |
| Medium Density | | | | | | | | | |
| Minneapolis | 1,162,000 | 4 | 18,775,000 | 58 | 11,881,000 | 37 | 370,000 | 1 | 32,188,000 |
| Seattle | 26,692,000 | 44 | 22,582,000 | 38 | 10,748,000 | 18 | 152,000 | 0.25 | 60,174,000 |
| Pittsburgh | 10,560,000 | 81 | 620,000 | 5 | 1,213,000 | 9 | 580,000 | 4 | 12,973,000 |
| Low Density | | | | | | | | | |
| San Diego | 45,942,000 | 59 | 26,416,000 | 34 | 5,692,000 | 7 | — | — | 78,050,000 |
| Kansas City | 14,565,000 | 56 | 6,267,000 | 24 | 5,203,000 | 19.9 | 124,000 | 0.47 | 26,196,000 |
| Cincinnati | \$8,101,632 | 84 | — | — | \$788,518 | 8.2 | \$754,650 | 7.8 | \$9,644,800 |
| | | | | | | | — | | |
| Average | — | 38 | — | 42 | — | 19 | | 1 | — |

While some of the broad objectives and initiatives of The Plan have been previously outlined, the proposed system-wide capital improvements are categorized and described in more detail in this chapter. The park system is comprised of many components, from the connective tissue that holds the parts together to the individual sites and their specific features.

The Centennial Plan outlines the following *Capital Strategies* to address all of these dimensions:

Revitalizing the Urban Core

Enhancing and developing parks in the following core areas:

- Downtown | CBD
- Over-the-Rhine
- Basin Neighborhoods
- Uptown

Sustaining and Enhancing Parks & Preserves

This is inclusive of sites throughout the city, including:

- Regional Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Preserves & Community Greenspaces
- New Parks | New Initiatives

Conserving, Strengthening and Linking Parkways & Natural Systems

This is the connective framework of linear systems including:

- Parkways
- Boulevards
- Scenic Drives
- Linear Parks
- Greenways
- Trails

Planting & Sustaining the Urban Forest

This is inclusive of the city-wide inventory of trees including:

- Street Trees
- Neighborhood Reforestation



Capital Funding

The proposed capital improvement program is an ambitious plan to restore, renovate and sustain Park’s existing infrastructure as well as to enhance the park system. Over two-thirds of Park’s buildings are over 60 years old and the infrastructure of the historic system is aging and in constant need of attention. The capital plan addresses these needs. The Plan also recommends a range of new initiatives to bring more people to parks and to help revitalize neighborhoods, the city and the region.

Some of these enhancements and new facilities will also generate revenue for parks while others support significant environmental and development goals for the city.

A number of flagship projects are proposed within the plan and these are relatively costly. These include the Cincinnati Riverfront Park, currently under development, which is a \$90 million project. Another is the long-planned expansion of Krohn Conservatory, which is a \$42 million project. Both would have significant amounts of private and other public funding support. Funding is targeted to come from city capital dollars, other local public dollars, and state and federal funds. Funding is also to come from private sources and joint venture developments.

The Plan includes the following breakdown of costs over a 20-year planning period:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| City Funding to sustain the system | \$48.7 M |
| City Funding for new initiatives | \$80.3 M |
| Other Public Funding | \$60.0 M |
| Private Funding | \$79.5 M |
| Joint Venture Developments | \$13.0 M |


The total capital budget from all funding sources is \$280 million. It should be noted, however, that two mega-projects alone, Krohn and Cincinnati Riverfront Park, account for \$132 million of this total. Another \$32 million of this budget are the costs to implement the master plan for the parks in Uptown. This leaves a total for all other projects of \$116 million of which \$48.7 million is for basic infrastructure support and \$80.3 million for new initiatives and significant enhancements. The \$48.7 million dollars for sustaining the existing system is the cost of investment in Park’s infrastructure at current rates of City Capital investment of approximately \$4 million annually over the first 12 years of plan implementation. Future investments of \$3.7 to \$4 million annually will be needed for the remainder of the planning period.

Achieving the goal of securing an additional \$80 million over 20 years for new projects ranging from expanding Krohn to making significant improvements at Mt. Airy Forest and Arboretum is a major challenge and not likely to be available from city capital improvement sources.

During the master planning process, there was much discussion about the existing county park levy. The consensus of opinion has been not to attempt an additional levy during the current one, but to wait until the existing levy ends and at that time collaborate with the Hamilton County Park District to carve out a portion of new levy funds for city park endeavors with a regional focus such as Krohn, Mt. Airy and trails.

This would seem to be a workable solution for the large capital need which the master plan has identified. If that allocations of levy dollars is not forthcoming, then another alternative would be to have the citizens pass a capital improvement levy that is specifically ear-marked to build those facilities listed in the master plan.

The tax language could be written so as to have a definitive life based on yearly dollar needs of the master plan and ending at a defined termination year.



*“The proposed program is an ambitious plan to
RESTORE, RENOVATE and SUSTAIN
Park's existing infrastructure as well as to
ENHANCE THE PARK SYSTEM.”*

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

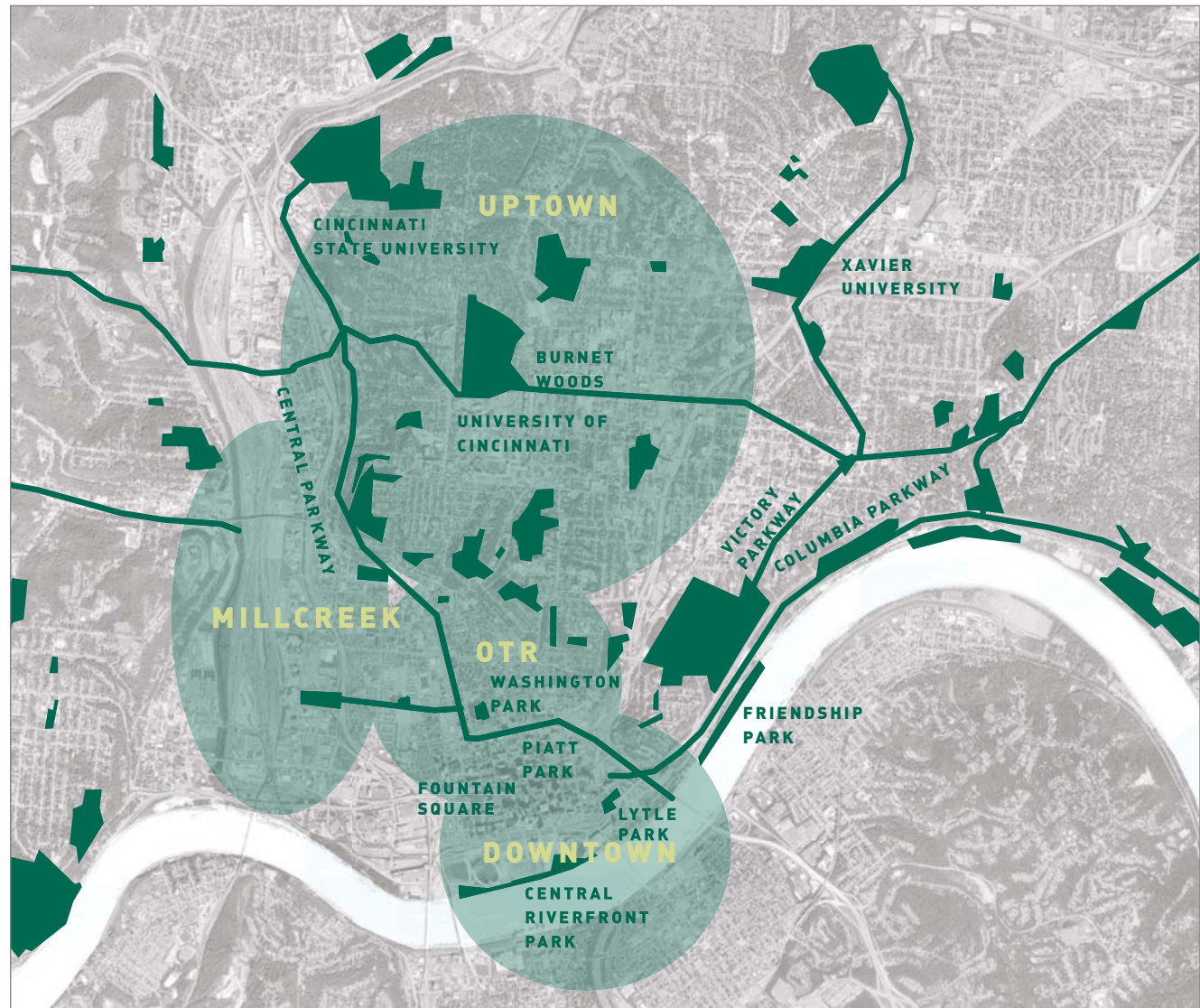
CAPITAL PLANS

With this funding overview as a backdrop, the following pages outline each of the capital initiatives in more detail.

The Urban Core

One of the Key Initiatives of the Centennial Plan is to leverage parks and open space as a catalyst for the revitalization of the urban core, stimulating redevelopment, improving quality of life and providing better connectivity between the many assets that exist in the heart of our community.

Each of the sub-areas outlined in the diagram above—Downtown, Over-the-Rhine, Uptown and Mill Creek Valley—have unique needs, assets and opportunities. In the following pages, more detailed strategies are outlined for each area. Downtown and Over-the-Rhine are described together, with an emphasis on the symbiotic relationship between the two.



DOWNTOWN & OVER-THE-RHINE

Both of these urban core neighborhoods are deficient in green space, and revitalization strategies would certainly benefit from additional parks and green streetscapes. Based upon input from a variety of stakeholders in these areas and key city departments, a strategy for upgrading existing parks and pursuit of new park opportunities is proposed. In Downtown, the Park Board's most ambitious new park is being planned, the Cincinnati Riverfront Park. 3CDC has also put significant resources into major enhancements and programming for Fountain Square. Building on this momentum, *the following additional recommendations are made for Downtown.*

- › New Master Plan | Upgrades for Lytle and Washington Parks
- › New Park in the Broadway Commons Area in Concert with Redevelopment
- › New Parks in the St. Xavier District and near the Convention Center, using the Piatt Park model
- › New small parks in OTR, in partnership with 3CDC, developers, Cincinnati Recreation Commission and Cincinnati Public Schools
- › Green connective streets, parking lots and sustainable building strategies



URBAN CORE

Key

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Current Park | |
| Potential New Park | |
| Connective Route | |

CINCINNATI RIVERFRONT PARK

The Centerpiece

Working for the last several years with the Corps of Engineers, local partners and a design team led by Sasaki Associates, the Park Board has been crafting a powerful vision for the centerpiece to the park system—where downtown can finally reconnect with the Ohio River. Nestled between the two stadiums, a proposed new downtown neighborhood called “The Banks,” and the Ohio River, the new park will provide an appropriate setting for one of our region’s premiere features, the Roebling Suspension Bridge, and a strong visual linkage with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The park is being planned to function as a “front yard” for the city—accommodating major events/festivals, and continuing the necklace of connected greenspaces along the Ohio River that link with the Serpentine Wall, Sawyer Point, Bicentennial Commons and Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park. The first phase of the park is slated to begin construction in 2008, though it will take years of continued funding from a variety of sources to complete the park.

The park of almost 40 acres will provide a wide array of features and amenities, including:

- › Restaurants | Cafes
- › Carousel
- › Playgrounds
- › Decorative Water Features | Waterfalls
- › Public Art
- › Family Swings
- › Expressive Gardens & Tree Groves
- › Performance Lawn
- › Walkways & Bike Trail
- › River Edge Promenade
- › Boat Docks

“The park is PLANNED to function as a 'FRONT YARD' for the city.”



MILL CREEK VALLEY

The future of the Mill Creek Valley is one of our City's most important challenges and opportunities in the next century. Despite the environmental obstacles, it offers some of the largest opportunities for redevelopment, after "The Banks" has been accomplished. Parks, restorative strategies and trails could be a major stimulus for redevelopment, providing quality of life amenities and a connective network. In particular, two major needs and opportunities have been identified in relation to this plan:

Collaborating with and supporting the Mill Creek Restoration Project and other partners in the implementation of the Mill Creek Greenway Plan.

Working with many different partners, both public and private, to connect Downtown, OTR and Uptown across the Mill Creek Valley to/from the Western Hills via several potential routes:

- Ohio River
- 8th Street
- Ezzard Charles/Museum Center
- Western Hills Viaduct
- Mitchell/Salway Area

MILL CREEK

Key

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Current Park |  |
| Potential New Park |  |



UPTOWN

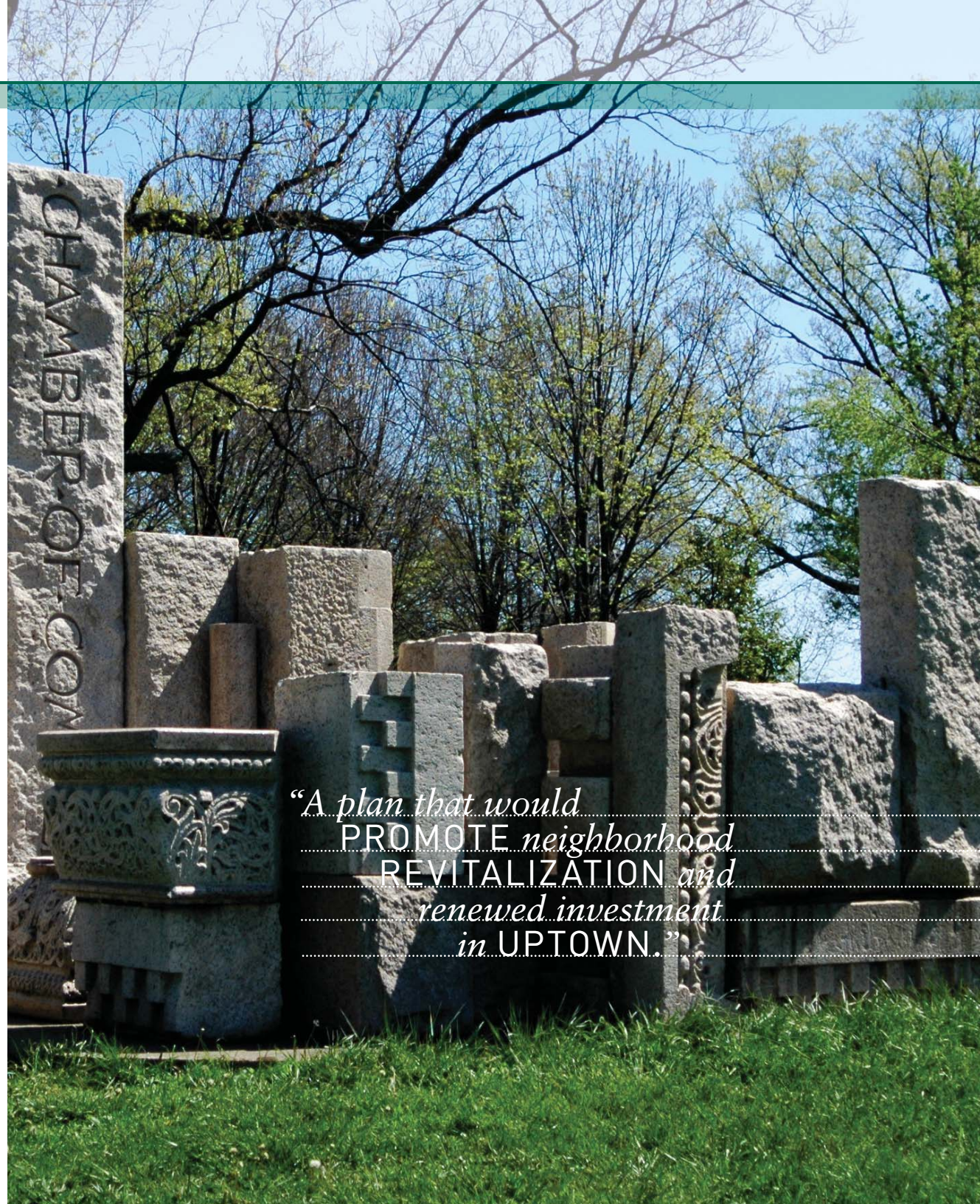
Before the Kessler Plan of 1907, Adolph Strauch had created a major park in what is now known as Uptown-Burnet Woods. This provided a retreat from the heat, filth and poor air quality of The Downtown Basin and a focal point for the city's early suburbs. Kessler added to the ensemble by proposing a series of connected parks along the edge of the plateau overlooking the city. Recently, in coordination with the Centennial Plan, the Park Board has partnered with the Uptown Consortium to produce a plan that would promote neighborhood revitalization and renewed investment in Uptown parks as a cohesive strategy. The plan included four study areas, with plans for each of the parks within these study areas represented on the next several pages.

Clifton Study Area
Burnet Woods

CUF Study Area
Fairview & Bellevue Hill Parks

Mt. Auburn | Corryville Study Area
Inwood, Jackson Hill and Filson Parks

Avondale Study Area
Fleischmann Gardens



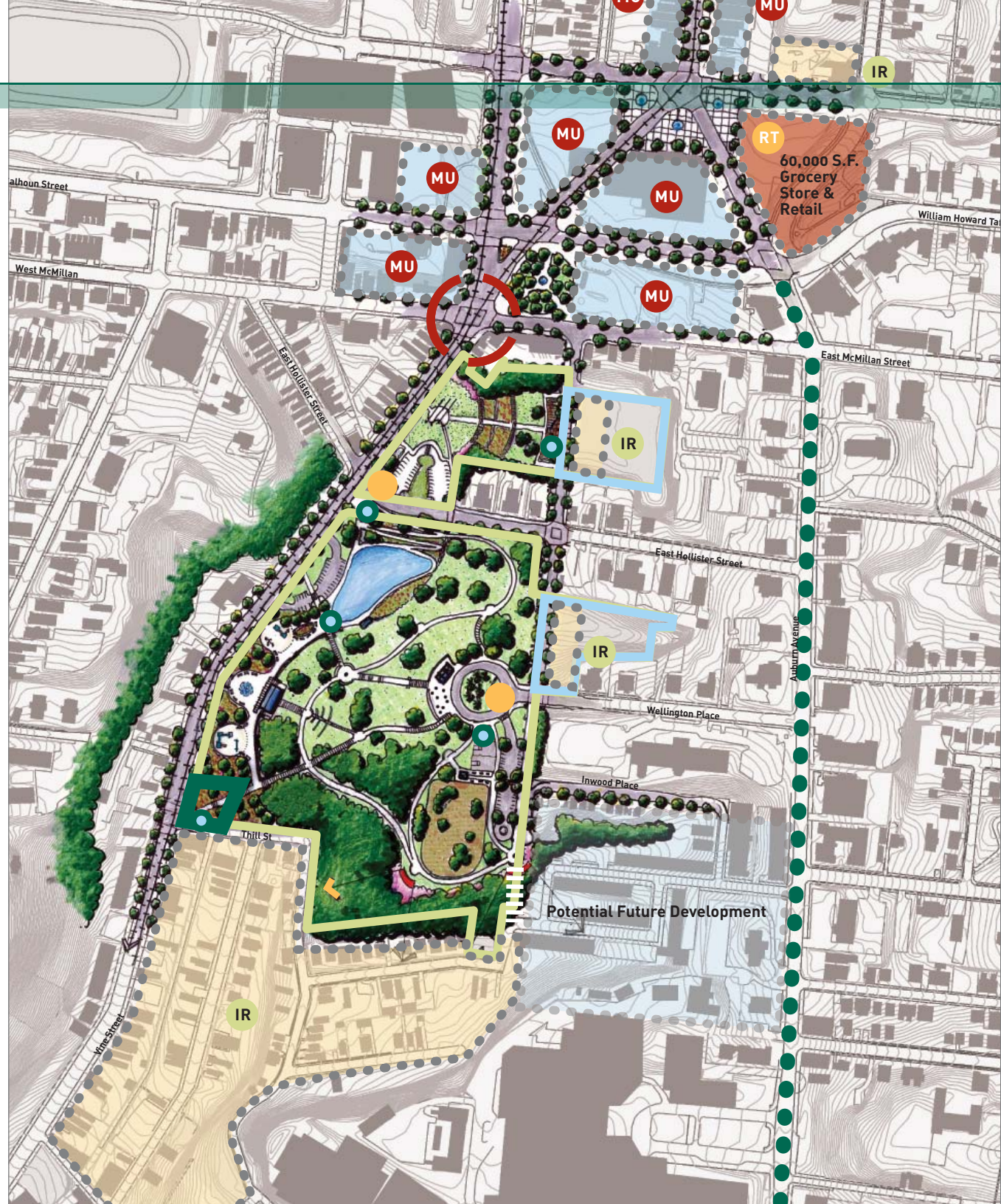
BURNET WOODS | THE OASIS

- › Ludlow & King Gateways
- › Streetscape Linkages to/from Zoo
- › Restored Stream Corridor with Trail Interpretive Stops: Stormwater BMP's
- › Clifton Gateway: Realigned with Dixmyth
- › Improved Parking & Picnic | Play Rental Area
- › Realigned Street with Parking, Pedestrian Promenade & Connecting Gardens
- › Enhanced Trailside, Boathouse & Terrace
- › Existing Road Removed to Strengthen Forest & Stream Linkage
- › Terrace, Cafe & Restaurant on Clifton Avenue
- › Enhanced Lake Promenade
- › New Scenic Drive Alignment
- › "Green" Park Maintenance Building
- › Enhanced Streetscape Along Clifton Avenue and MLK Avenue
- › Expanded Disc Golf Course
- › Native Landscape Restoration & Biofiltration
- › Entry Plaza & Improved Intersection
- › Bandstand Grounds Enhancements



INWOOD PARK | THE GATEWAY

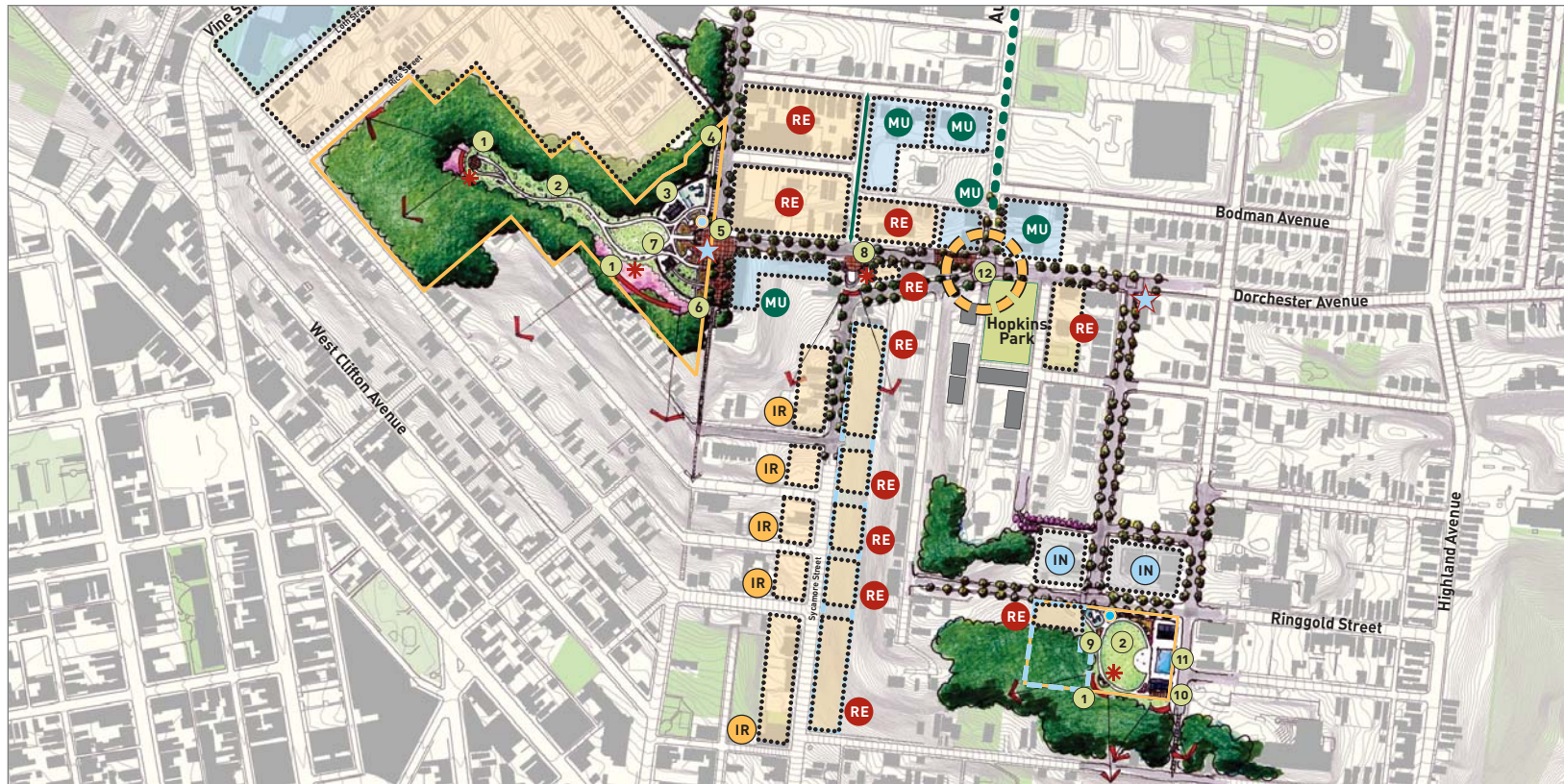
- › Uptown Gateway Plaza
- › Water Feature
- › Garden Terraces
- › Enhanced Streetscape on Vine Street
- › Parking
- › Accessible Ramp
- › New Residential Development on Isolated Park Parcels
- › Pedestrian Promenade Along New Street
- › Enhanced Pavilion, Gardens, Play & Performance Hub
- › Improved Path System
- › Restroom & Rentable Shelter
- › Dog Park
- › Parking & Basketball Courts
- › Overlook Along Walkway Loop



JACKSON HILL PARK & FILSON PARK | THE EASTERN WINDOWS

- › Overlook
- › Pedestrian Paths & Picnic Areas
- › New Shelter & Playground
- › Parking
- › Entry Plaza with Park Signage
- › Community Terrace
- › Overlook Shelter & Garden
- › Community Green with View
- › Improved Playground
- › Trellis-Covered Terrace & Overlook
- › Enhanced Existing Pool with New Sprayground
- › Intersection Enhancement, One-Way Into Park & Plaza at the Flat Iron Building
- › Sale of Vacant Park Parcels for New Residential Development

| Key | |
|---|-----|
| New Institutional Development Opportunities | IN |
| Infill/Rehab Development Opportunities | IR |
| New Mixed-Use Development Opportunities | MU |
| New Residential Development Opportunities | RE |
| Park/Neighborhood Gateway | ★ |
| Major Uptown Gateway | ☺ |
| Interpretive Element | ✳ |
| Potentially Developed Park Land | --- |
| Park Property Line | — |



FAIRVIEW PARK | THE PROMENADE

- › New Shelter, Water Play & Overlook
- › Fairview Commons & Family Play Area
- › New Park Entry (two-way)
- › Landscape Interpretation of Incline
- › Improved Pedestrian Staircase
- › Accessibility Improvements to Existing Play Area
- › Two-Way Park Drive with Designated Parking Areas
- › Turn-Around
- › Improved Pedestrian Promenade, Overlooks & Interpretive Features
- › Park Identification Signage/Icon
- › Improved North Entry (one-way)



BELLEVUE HILL PARK | THE CENTRAL WINDOW

- › Pedestrian Access
- › Bellevue Green with Walking Loop & Improved Parking & Play
- › New Vehicular & Pedestrian Entrance
- › Trail Access
- › Programmed Existing Pavilion
- › Improved Picnic Areas
- › Lawn Terraces
- › View Management
- › Improved Stair Access
- › Decorative Perimeter Wall & Pedestrian Gates
- › Incline Interpretive Remnants & Landscape Enhancements



FLEISCHMANN GARDENS | THE STROLLING GARDEN

- › Expanded Park and Restored Woodland with Path Loop
- › Community Entry
- › Garden Edge with Fence
- › New Maintenance Access
- › Improved Neighborhood Access to Garden
- › Garden Trellis Frame
- › Community Gathering Space
- › Historic Garden Enhancements
- › Accessible Ramp & Gardens
- › Garden Frame
- › Improved Garden Entries & Streetscape
- › Enlarged Playground
- › New Residential Development Facing Park



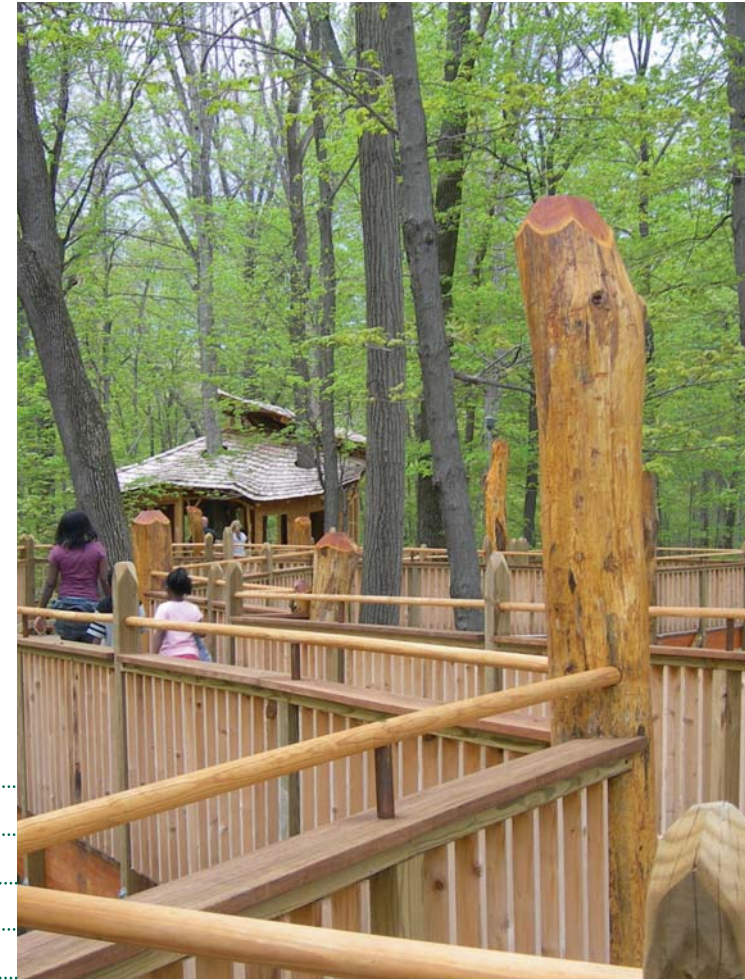
REGIONAL PARKS

Mt. Airy Forest

As the largest park in the system, one of the most rustic in character, one of the most popular to visit, and the hub of the west district, Mt. Airy has both the need and the potential for enhancements to better serve the community and take greater advantage of some of its most unique qualities/assets. Specifically, upgrades to the network of trails and to each of the major use areas could provide better accommodations for users, while also preserving the unique rustic character of the park. Existing trails should be upgraded and the sign system improved. A new paved trail loop that accommodates bicycles and connects major use areas in the eastern half of the site should be designed and implemented. The trail would parallel existing roads along the ridgetops and forest edge. This trails network can then be connected to a larger system that connects several sites to the north and east all the way to the Mill Creek.

Upgrades to major facilities should include expansion and refinement of the arboretum to have more of a focus on native plants. A more detailed plan should be developed for the arboretum that focuses more exotic plants near the building and lake, with the collection transitioning to more natives as it moves outward toward the valleys. The arboretum building should be upgraded or replaced as a Visitor's Center for Mt. Airy, with adequate parking added near the building and near the lake. Pine Ridge should be converted/expanded to be the Mt. Airy Nature Center. Maple Ridge should be expanded as a major rental lodge for multiple community and corporate rental uses. A new rentable shelter is proposed in Area 23. Each of these facility upgrades offers revenue-generating potential, without sacrificing the unique character of Mt. Airy.

*“Facility upgrades offer
REVENUE-GENERATING
POTENTIAL, without
sacrificing the unique
character of Mt. Airy.”*





More specific upgrades include

› Arboretum

Develop an updated concept plan for the Arboretum and the Arboretum building

Determine the existing and potential support base and constituency for funding development of the Arboretum

Develop a program and strategy for the enhancement of the arboretum, its operations and its funding

Create a long term funding and development plan, and implement plan

› Reserved Areas

Enhance reserved areas to better serve rentals

Develop a new reserved area and shelter at Area 23

› Property Acquisition | Development

Provide a new park entry and improve access to trails on the West side of the park at Diehl Road

› Trails

Upgrade trail system and trail signs

Create new bike/hike trail. This is a potential four to five mile trail on the Colerain side of the park

Create trail link with preserves and park properties along Kirby Valley. Connect Mt. Airy with LaBoiteaux Woods, linking College Hill, Mt. Airy and Northside communities

› Signs

Upgrade directional signs and facility signs

Develop kiosk/event/rental signs

› Dog Park

Sustain dog park to support heavy use

› Pine Ridge Lodge

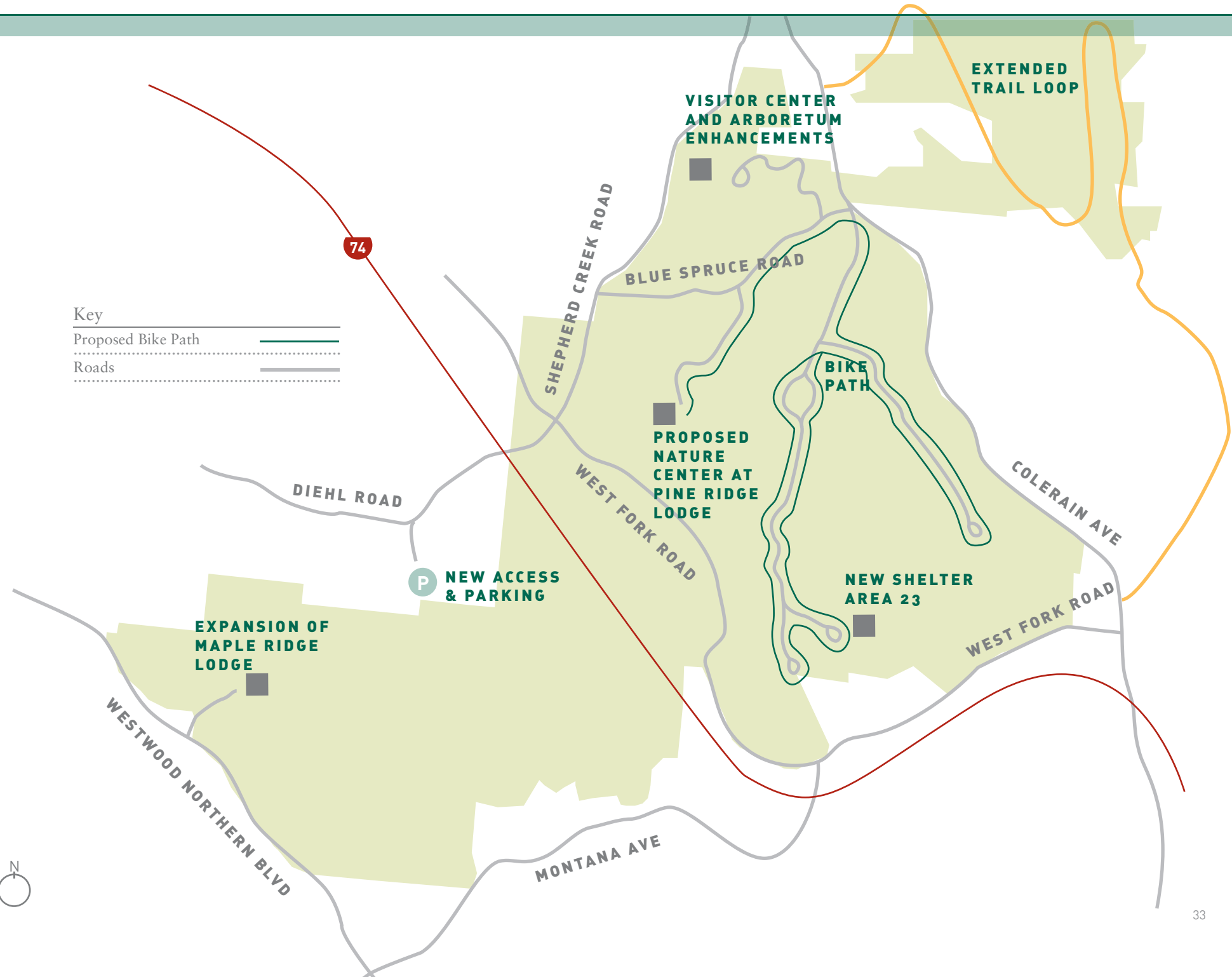
Seek funds for capital improvement and operation of Pine Ridge as nature center and work-program base

› Infrastructure

Maintain/repair/restore all buildings and structures as needed

Maintain/repair/replace utilities and circulation systems as needed

Reforest & sustain Mt. Airy Forest



Key

Proposed Bike Path

Roads

VISITOR CENTER AND ARBORETUM ENHANCEMENTS

EXTENDED TRAIL LOOP

BLUE SPRUCE ROAD

BIKE PATH

PROPOSED NATURE CENTER AT PINE RIDGE LODGE

COLERAIN AVE

DIEHL ROAD

WEST FORK ROAD

P NEW ACCESS & PARKING

NEW SHELTER AREA 23

WEST FORK ROAD

EXPANSION OF MAPLE RIDGE LODGE

WESTWOOD NORTHERN BLVD

MONTANA AVE



GARDENS OF EDEN

Eden Park

Eden Park is one of the city's most treasured and frequently visited places. It is home to the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Playhouse in the Park, Seasongood Pavilion, historic Waterworks structures, the Park Board's Administrative Office and iconic gazebo, an inspiring collection of garden settings, overlooks, public art and natural areas, and the Park Board's flagship facility, the Krohn Conservatory.

From its poetic beginnings as an open pastoral oasis, the park has been loved and added to so much that it has become a gallery of gardens and features—a unique constellation of assets found nowhere else in the park system. The challenge has become that these individual gardens and features have been conceived independently, without revisiting the overall impacts and integration with the entire park. This has resulted in wonderful individual assets, but with an in-between landscape “that doesn't know what to be” and a park infrastructure that can't fully connect and support the features.

The park's infrastructure, facilities and management need to be updated. Improved parking, trails, accommodations for major events, connectivity between assets via an inventive, site-specific transit strategy, upgrades to the Seasongood Pavilion, more intensive landscape maintenance, an expanded Krohn, and collaborative programming/marketing with the other cultural assets would take the park to the next level.

An expanded Krohn will bring one of the best opportunities for increased revenues to the Park Board, while also providing more services and facilities for community use. It could include its own parking structure, a restaurant overlooking the city, expanded exhibit spaces, classrooms, more space for horticultural displays, a banquet/conference facility, an auditorium, an expanded gift shop and visitor's center, and sculpture gardens, all in an expressive garden setting that is sensitively integrated into the Eden Park environment.

When Adolph Strauch came to the city, Cincinnati was considered the “horticultural epicenter of the u.s.” With these assets and the Park Board's expertise, this could be true again.

The space surrounding Mirror Lake and the flat reservoir space below it need to be upgraded to provide a major central event venue that all of the institutions in the park can share and the region as a whole can enjoy.

In coordination with expansion plans for both the Cincinnati Art Museum and the Playhouse, these enhancements will place Eden Park among the nation's top urban parks such as the Boston Commons, Central Park in New York and Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Without these refinements and upgrades, the park will start to feel more like a grandmother's attic—packed full of special treasures, but without the grace and respectful setting that they deserve.



*“These enhancements will
place EDEN PARK among
the nation's TOP
URBAN PARKS.”*

Other Recommendations Include

› Memorial Groves

Enhance groves with landscape and walkway improvements and interpretive signs which tie them together

› Seasongood Pavilion Grounds

Develop and implement improvement plan to include seating, walking surfaces, entry plaza and landscape

Determine any improvement needs for the Pavilion itself

› Signs

Design & install an integrated system of wayfinding signs to all park destinations

› Infrastructure

Maintain/repair/replace utilities and circulation system as needed

Update & implement transportation/circulation/parking plan, including improvement of trails and pathways

Enhance old reservoir walls as park features



Specific Enhancements

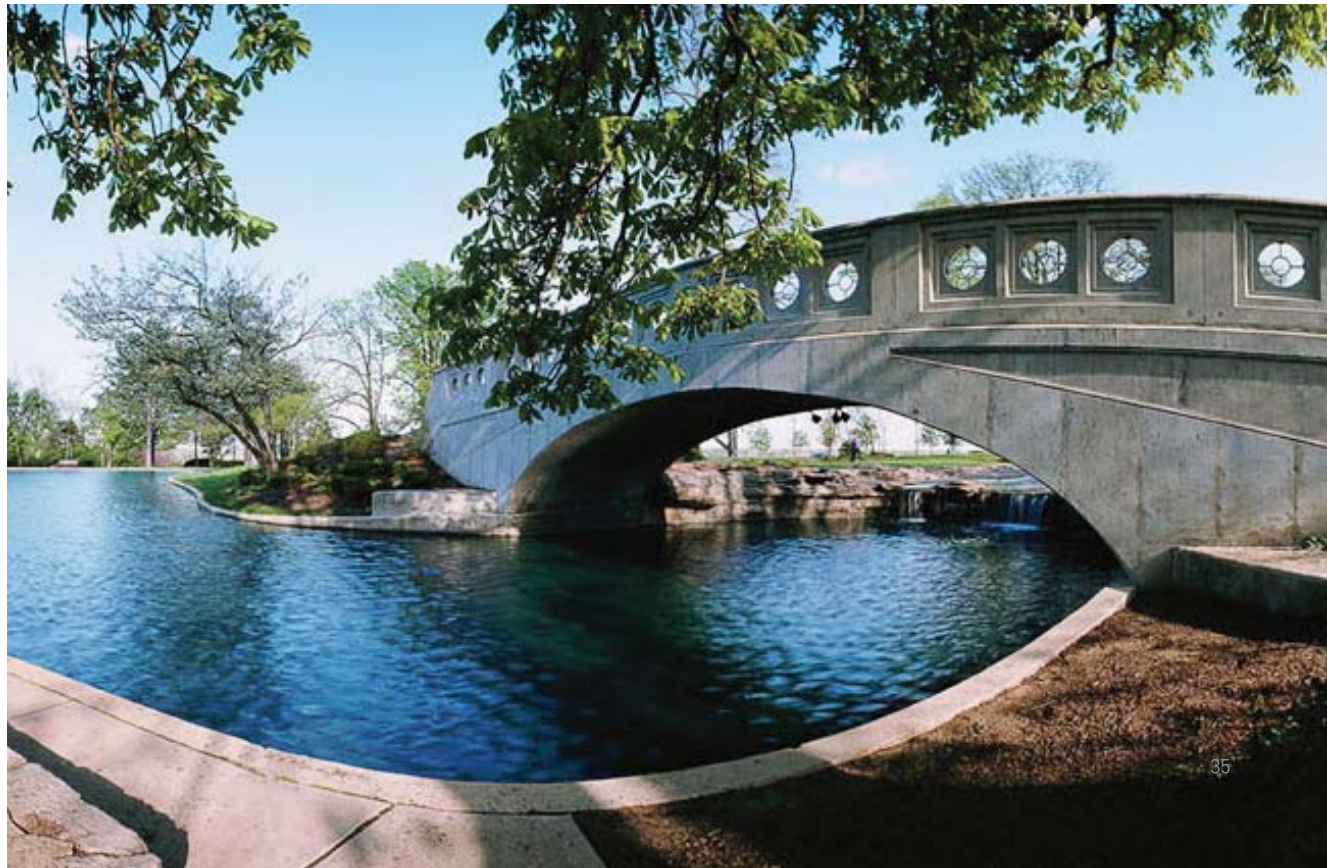
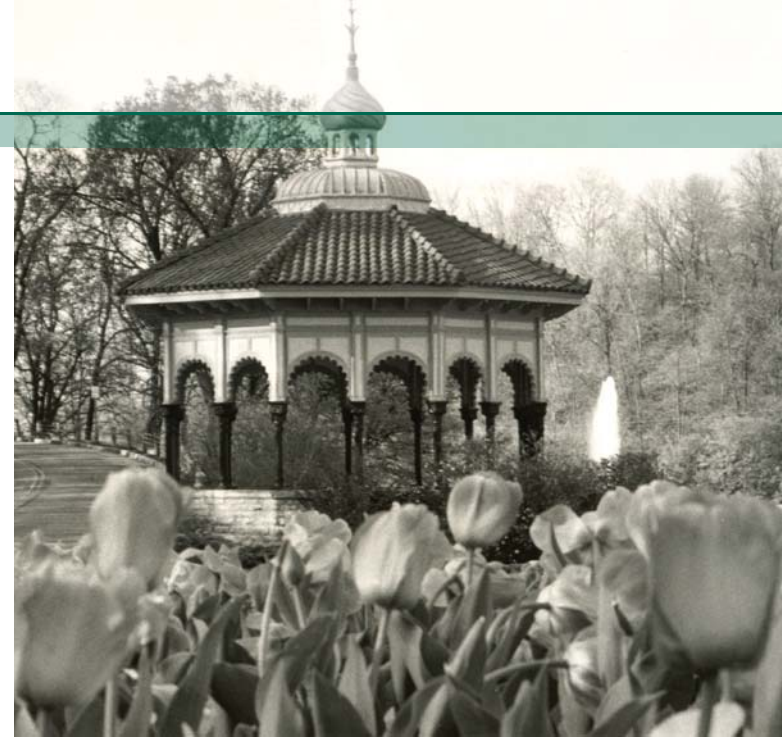
Improved linkages between gardens for a walking tour

Stronger connection between Krohn Conservatory and Memorial Monument

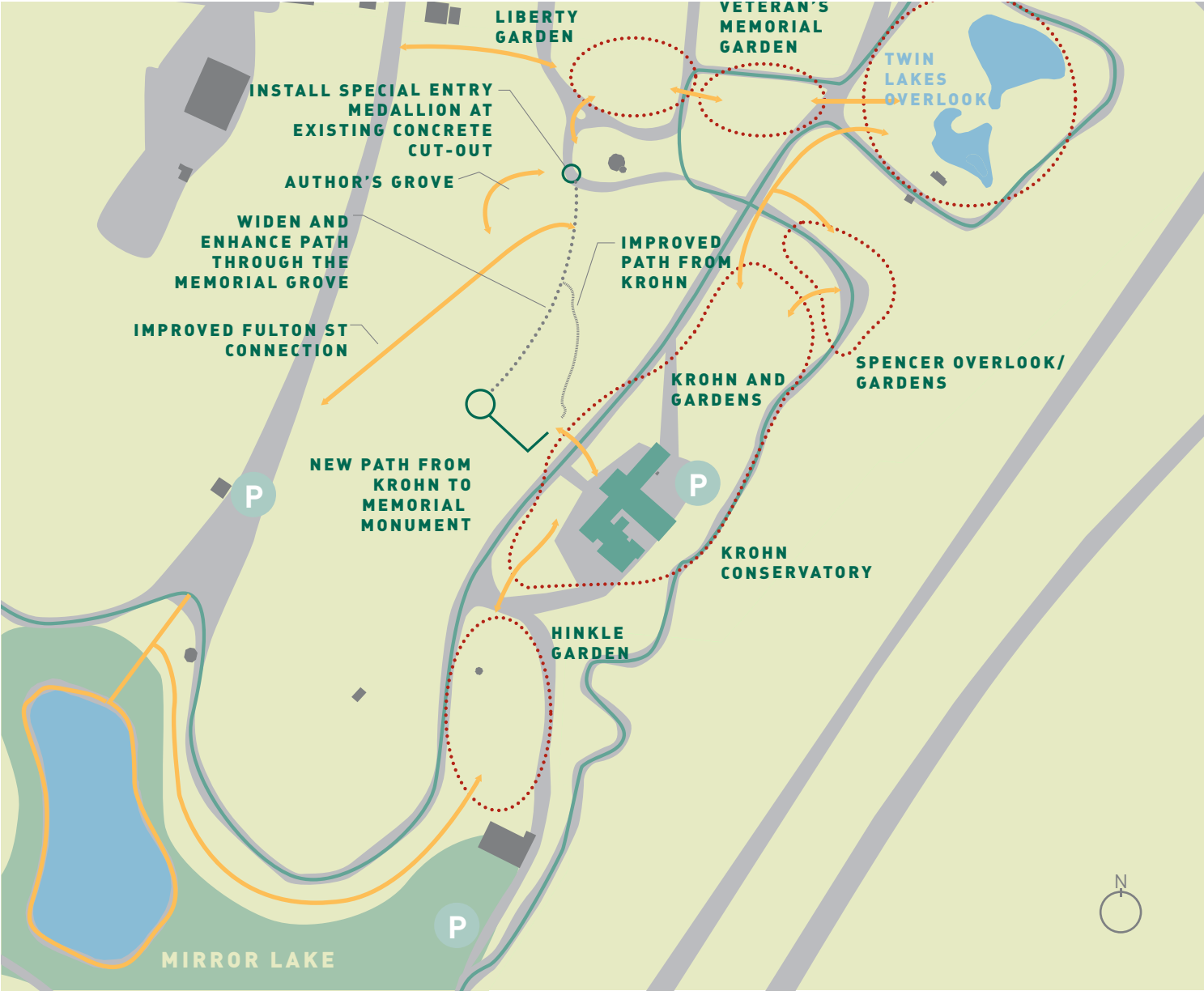
Widened & enhanced main path through Memorial Groves that include the following

Improved entry and signage

Improved and consistent markers at trees and an overall map of Memorial Groves area



GARDENS OF EDEN MAP



REGIONAL PARKS

Ault Park

› Infrastructure

Maintain buildings and structures and repair as needed

Maintain/repair/replace utilities as needed

Renovate/replace service building

Replace sections of Observatory sidewalk

› Trails

Maintain/repair trails as needed

Improve trail signs

Develop paved bike/hike trail from Observatory to Red Bank

Armleder | Little Miami River Park

Work with CRC and Hamilton County Parks to implement remaining phases of Master Plan

French Park

› Shelter

Enhance/upgrade or replace reserved shelter and provide handicap access to it

› Circulation System

Develop hard surface walkways connecting features and link to Amberly Recreation Site

› Bird Sanctuary

Develop sanctuary, pond and viewing station as per Master Plan

› Trails

Upgrade trail system and trail signs

› Infrastructure

Maintain/repair/replace utilities as needed

Add new playground and picnic area

Consider partnership on master plan implementation with HCPD

› French House

Carry out second phase rehab of 2nd floor if supportable by rental market

› Overlook

Create overlook and amphitheater as per Master Plan



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Alms Park

- › Reserved area
Construct new shelter and enhance reserved area as per Master Plan if supportable by rental market
- › Lunken Overlook
Rebuild & Enhance

Burnet Woods & Inwood Park

- › Master Plan Implementation
Implement recommendations of the Uptown Parks & Neighborhood Revitalization Plan in partnership with the Uptown Consortium and other partners

Drake Park

- › Infrastructure
Maintain/repair/replace utilities and circulation system as needed

Assess condition of overlook and renovate as needed

Create trail loop

McEvoy Park

- › Infrastructure
Maintain/repair/replace utilities and circulation systems as needed

Mount Echo Park

- › Pavilion Area
Enhance grounds and Pavilion rental site
- › Walks
Develop walkway from west overlook, to Pavilion, to tennis courts
- › Infrastructure
Maintain/repair/replace utilities as needed
Repair overlook and furnishings as needed
Determine needs of operations support
Remove service building and relocate to different park in west district
- › Trails
Maintain & upgrade trails and signs. Extend trails to Sedamsville Neighborhood and investigate link to Embshoff and to river

Mount Storm Park

- › Historical Analysis
Allow historical analysis to drive future enhancements and potential relocation of park elements
- › Infrastructure
Maintain/repair/replace utilities as needed
Consider relocation of playground to open up views between shelter and Temple of Love
Rebuild trail to Ludlow Avenue
Upgrade picnic area and wine cellar feature

Rapid Run Park

- › Infrastructure
Maintain/repair/replace utilities and circulation system as needed

Enhance landscape at parking lot and along parkway

Improve service drive from Gurley Road

Stanbery Park

- Implement* remaining phases of Master Plan



SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Bellevue Hill Park, Bishop Triangle, Mount Auburn Triangle, Classen Park, Corryville Triangle, Fairview Park, Fleischmann Gardens, Jackson Hill Park & Filson Park

Master Plan Implementation
Implement recommendations of the Uptown Parks & Neighborhood Revitalization Plan in partnership with the Uptown Consortium and other partners

Annwood Park
Add drinking fountain

Geier Esplanade
Expand & enhance square

Hauck Gardens
Redesign/enhance Gardens & circulation system
Prepare garden improvement plan
Provide modest parking/roadway improvements
Repair/replace utilities as needed

Hyde Park Square
Improve walks
Renovate park walls and landscape



Jergens
Replace fence & *enhance* walks

Kennedy Heights
Extend walkway/trail system

Incorporate adjacent school site if/when it becomes available

Martin Luther King Park
Create new master plan

Lytle Park
Create new master plan

Memorial Pioneer Cemetery
Enhance landscape and repair headstones
Add interpretive signs

Miles Edwards
Add playground and service building
Improve trail system and access
Redesign parking area

Oldenview
Enhance landscape, seating and fencing
Work in concert with adjacent owner

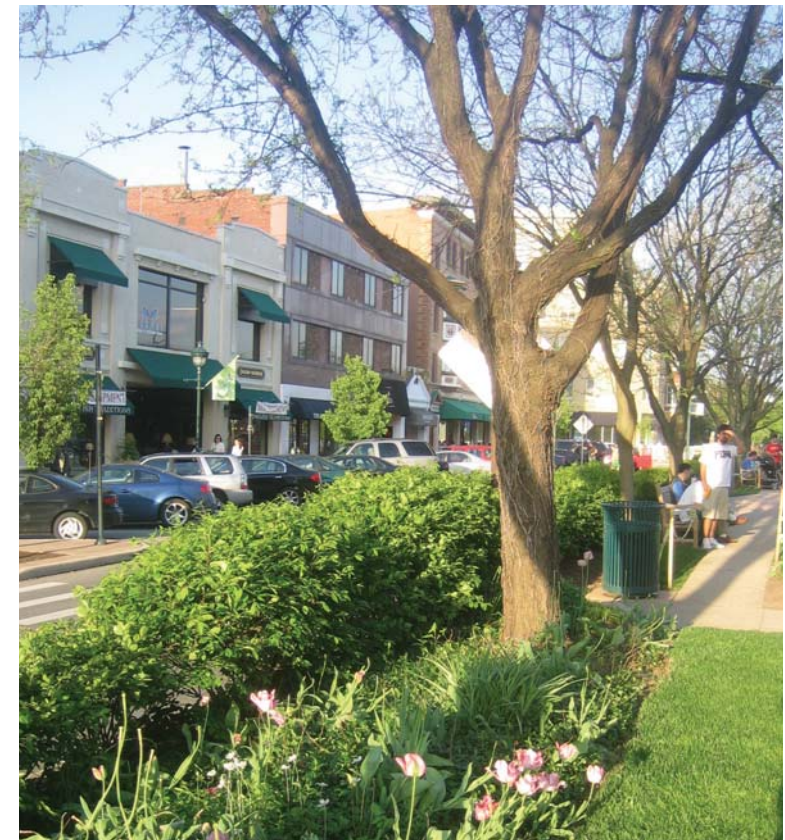


Owls Nest
Implement Master Plan

Harriett Beecher Stowe House
Add interpretive signs
Create new Master Plan for grounds
Work with State and Stowe House advocacy group

Washington Park
Create & implement new Master Plan

Wilson Commons
Add lighting and walkway to overlook



PRESERVES & COMMUNITY GREENSPACES

Preserves

Avon Woods

Enhance exhibits/displays at the Nature Center

Brodbeck Preserve/Bracken Woods

Enhance trail system

Bradford-Felter Tanglewood

Create trail link to Fox Preserve, Mt. Airy & Greeno Woods

Buttercup Valley

Seek trail link out to Springlawn Avenue & potential link to LaBoiteaux Woods

Caldwell Nature Preserve

Enhance Nature Center building

California Woods

Enhance Nature Center building to better serve program functions

Edgewood Grove

Create trail link to Mt. Storm & Rawson Woods

Fox Preserve

Create trail link to Mt. Airy, Bradford & Greeno Woods

Link to Kirby Valley trail system and connect to North Bend Road

Glenway Woods

Acquire properties to add to preserve

Enhance trails and trail signs

Greeno Woods

Create trail link to Mt. Airy, Bradford, and LaBoiteaux

LaBoiteaux Woods

Nature Center, ADA improvements and enhancements

Create trail link to Greeno Woods & Mt. Airy

Magrish Preserve

Enhance/extend trail system up Little Miami River

Parker Woods

Add a small set of play equipment at Glen Parker Avenue

Rawson Woods

Create trail link to Edgewood Grove

Add decorative iron fence to replace chain-link fence

Seymour Preserve

Extend trail to Caldwell and to Mill Creek

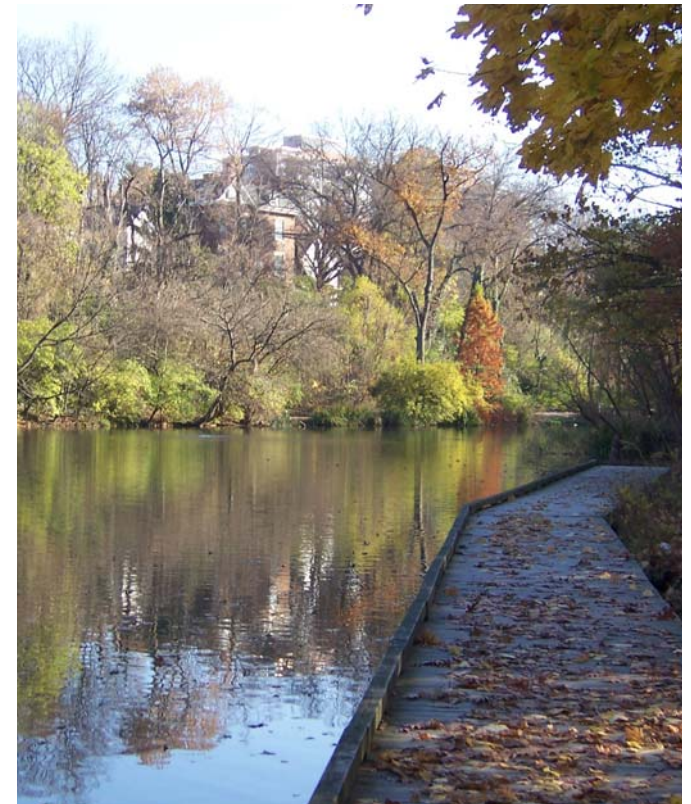
COMMUNITY GREENSPACE

Implement the recommendations outlined in the Park Board's Natural Resource Management Plan.

Collaborate with other city departments to develop a strategy for vacant lots throughout the city.

Incorporate appropriate lots into the proposed parkway expansions along hillsides and streams as permanent public greenspace.

Develop temporary strategies for cleanup and use until redevelopment is possible and develop strategies for community gardens in conjunction with the Civic Garden Center and other partners.



Burnet Woods Lake

NEW & EXPANDED PARKS

There are several new park and parkway opportunities that have been identified in this section, particularly associated with the urban core and expanded parkways network. In addition to the new opportunities previously outlined, the following is a list of other new parks and expansion opportunities recommended.

Other New Parks

Werk Road Park (if site is donated)

Anderson Ferry Park

Confluence Park at Mill Creek & Ohio River

Pocket Parks and Civic Plazas
Strategically located to support neighborhood business district revitalization and in conjunction with neighborhood redevelopment plans (such as Burnet Avenue Business District, College Hill Business District, Northside, and Mt. Washington, who have already expressed interest and/or incorporated new parks into neighborhood plans).

“This EXPANDED PARKWAYS network will link all parts of the city through a WEB OF GREEN.”



Expansions of Parks

Based upon a system-wide analysis of potential property acquisitions in close proximity to existing parks, the following areas are recommended for consideration in addition to those that support the expanded parkways network.

California Woods
Acquisition of parcel at Salem and Kellogg

Stanbery
Modest Expansion out to Beechmont

Mount Airy
Diehl Road parcel/access and several sites connecting to LaBoiteaux Woods, including HCPD sites

Glenway Woods
Adjacent open space parcels

Ault Park
Adjacent hillside properties

Wilson Commons & Mount Echo
Adjacent hillside properties

Fleischmann
Expansion to North

Inwood
Expansion to South-West on Vine

Fairview
Expansion to Warner at Ravine

Muddy Creek
Open space site

PARKWAYS | BOULEVARDS

Kessler’s 1907 Plan is most noted for starting Cincinnati Parks’ network of connective parkways through the use of scenic drives and boulevards. The 1992 Plan expanded this network by proposing more parkway, greenway and trail linkages. Continuing to build this network, The Centennial Plan proposes *an expanded web of 21st Century Parkways* that includes a more complete and connected network of both natural and built components.

The proposed additions to the Parkways network are as follows:

- ▶ A Completed Hillside Greenbelt System
- ▶ A Connected System of Stream Corridors including:
 - Ohio River*
 - Little Miami River & Tributaries*
 - Mill Creek & Tributaries*
- ▶ Embracing the Interstate System as Part of the Parkways Network
- ▶ Additional landscaped boulevards

The execution of this expanded parkways network will require long-term commitment and many partnerships. Once completed, it will reflect and celebrate the natural framework of our city, its geography and its primary roads. It will link all parts of the city through a web of green that is unparalleled by any American city. It will strengthen the environmental health, visual quality and economic value of the city as a whole as well as the properties along these corridors.

NEW PARKWAYS

The Plan advocates expanding the traditional network of road-related parkways and boulevards in keeping with the original intentions of the Kessler Plan. There are several dimensions to these expanded parkways that will be key to their success:

- › They are intended to occur on significant roadways in the city-wide roadways network, not secondary or tertiary streets, with a first priority given to the streets already identified in The Plan.
 - › There needs to be inherent scenic potential in the corridor. This may include landscape scenery, architectural scenery or some combination.
 - › There needs to be connective intent in the corridor, linking parks, landmarks and major geographic districts of the City.
 - › There needs to be a right-of-way of existing or potential scale to accommodate parkway and/or boulevard enhancements.
 - › Each new parkway corridor should have a design plan created that demonstrates the proposed landscape enhancements in more detail prior to implementation. These enhancements should be compatible with the spirit of existing parkways in the City, but also with features and amenities that are site-specific.
- › The parkway plans should be coordinated and integrated with the Park Board's street tree and neighborhood reforestation programs.
 - › The parkway plans should integrate as many of the following dimensions as is reasonably possible: street trees, forested/native planting areas, storm-water bmp's, trails and other forms of alternative transportation, open lawns or meadows, ornamental landscaped areas, decorative lighting and furnishings, public art features, neighborhood/district gateways, architectural features, and/or wayfinding/signs.
 - › All of these elements should be consistent with Park Board standards and design approval processes. The Park Board should coordinate all new parkway projects with other public agencies to insure maximum efficiency and integration with other initiatives related to transportation, neighborhood revitalization, utility/infrastructure enhancements, and environmental preservation or restoration.
 - › To the extent possible, the Park Board should seek out and secure partnerships with other City agencies and property owners in these corridors to assist in a holistic strategy for funding the proper and long-term maintenance of the corridor. This should be a key determinant in the feasibility and timing of any new parkway project.

- › A full investigation and articulation of these objectives will assist new parkways in providing maximum value to the park system, as well as the City environment as a whole.



Columbia Parkway from the 5th Street Viaduct at Martin Drive

EXISTING PARKWAYS

Our existing network of parkways is an important legacy of the 1907 Kessler Plan, and future generations will continue to be stewards of this important resource. As such, continued focus, maintenance and enhancements will be necessary to preserve this legacy and to see that parkways serve their originally intended purpose of connecting parks and other civic assets via scenic and environmentally friendly corridors of travel. With these broad objectives in mind and current needs better in focus, further study, planning and minor upgrades are recommended for several existing Parkway, including:

Central Parkway

Implement master plan for section between Downtown and OTR and follow up on unfunded portions related to additional plantings, public art, interpretive elements and the Vine Street Gateway enhancements.

Investigate linking to Gilbert Avenue.

Create Master Plan for remaining corridor that addresses gaps in tree canopy, opportunities for streetscape enhancements (lighting, walls, pavement, wayfinding, public art & special planting areas), ADA accessibility, improved linkages to/from neighborhoods, improved transit accommodations and the possibility of better accommodations for cycling.

Columbia Parkway

Continue implementation of viewshed management recommendations, landscape enhancement/gateway recommendations and identity/wayfinding recommendations from previous studies.

Collaborate with other city departments on continued upgrades related to walls, lighting and streetscape enhancements.

Torrence Parkway

Continue landscape enhancements as private funds are identified.

Victory Parkway

Continue collaborative enhancements with Xavier University.

Create master plan that addresses gaps in tree canopy, opportunities for streetscape enhancements (lighting, walls, pavement, wayfinding, public art & special planting areas), ADA accessibility, improved linkages to/from neighborhoods, improved transit accommodations and the possibility of better accommodations for cycling.

Rapid Run Parkway

Create master plan that addresses gaps in tree canopy, opportunities for streetscape enhancements (lighting, walls, pavement, wayfinding, public art & special planting areas), ADA accessibility, improved linkages to/from neighborhoods, improved transit accommodations and the possibility of better accommodations for cycling.



Central Parkway c.1925

NATURAL SYSTEMS & GREENWAYS

Several expansions/refinements to the network of parkways are proposed as part of The Plan, including:

Hillside Parkway

Collaborate with Hillside Trust, Western Wildlife Corridor and other partners to obtain property or conservation easements, donations, development controls, and as needed, acquisition of key properties that link the system together.

Collaborate with other city departments and Hillside Trust to implement recommendations of the City Viewshed Study.

Stream Corridor Parkway

Collaborate with the Ohio River Way, Corps of Engineers, Ohio, Kentucky, & Indiana Regional Council (OKI), City Department of Transportation and Engineering (CDOTE), Hamilton County Park District, Little Miami Inc. (LMI), Mill Creek Restoration Project, Rivers Unlimited and other partners to acquire and manage a continuous network of linked greenspaces along the city's major stream corridors via ownership, easements, trails, watershed plans, riparian buffers and other mechanisms.

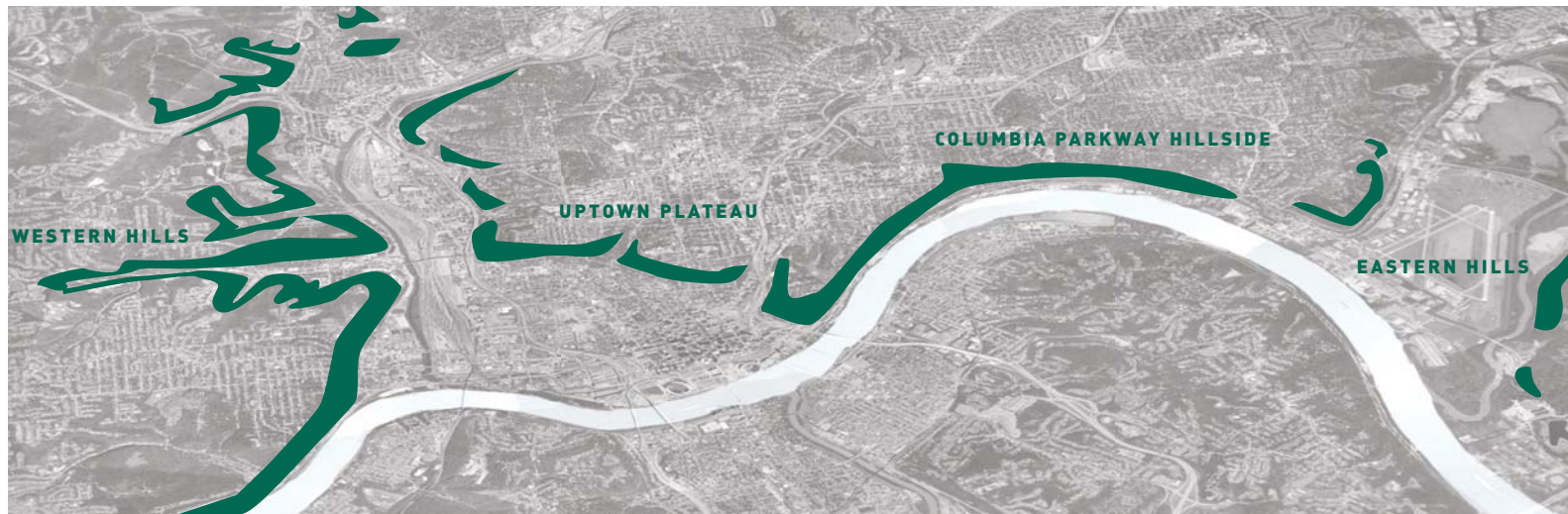
Play a proactive partnership role in the completion of the Ohio River Trail Plan and the Mill Creek Greenway Plan, as well as their implementation and management, in collaboration with the other partners.

Expanded Scenic Parkway & Boulevards

Continue to expand the network of boulevards and parkways.

Implement the Interstate Greenways Plan as outlined in the Park Board's Natural Resource Management Plan for 2004–2024.

HILLSIDES





Rendering from 1907 Kessler Plan