



## PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS 3-YEAR PLAN

Cincinnati Parks' 5,000 acres consist of 8 regional parks, 70 neighborhood parks, 34 preserves and natural areas, 5 parkways, 65 miles of hiking trails, 80,000 street trees on 1,000 miles of City streets, 6 nature centers, 18 scenic overlooks, 52 playgrounds, 500 landscaped gardens, and over 100 picnic areas. With all of this to care for, there are constant needs of all shapes and sizes. Whether it be a bad sidewalk, an aging playground, a leaking roof, or a park that could use a complete facelift, there's plenty to do to keep our parks looking great and best serving our residents and users.

This is why the Board of Park Commissioners approved a work plan, generated by Parks staff, outlining projects underway and planned over the next 3 years. This plan represents a roadmap of what Cincinnati Parks will be prioritizing in the coming years and creates transparency into improvement projects. This was developed after a careful evaluation based on a number of factors including safety, equity, efficiencies, long-term maintenance, available funding, and more. This plan represents current priorities, capacity, and needs, and is a living document that will be updated as circumstances evolve and schedules are adjusted.

### **AULT PARK VALLEY TRAIL**

One of the busiest trails in Cincinnati Parks is experiencing serious erosion issues along the creek also housing important sewer infrastructure. This project shores up the trail to keep hikers

safe in advance of a larger MSD sewer project in the coming years to protect the trail in the long term. The project is underway and will close out in early 2025.

### **TED BERRY INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PARK RESTORATION**

This park has been in a state of disrepair due to an emergency fix to a major water main running through the park. This project returns the original state of the park and is a joint venture between the Cincinnati Park Board and Greater Cincinnati Water Works. Key project elements include restoring bike paths, walkways, seating walls, pavers, new trees, sod, shrubs, electrical, lighting, irrigation, and more. This magnificent park is slated to be fully restored in May 2025.

### **BURNET WOODS DOG PARK**

This new community dog park will serve Clifton, Corryville, CUF, and the surrounding areas, further contributing to the attractiveness and quality of life. The project represents a partnership with a number of community supporters, partners, and donors, including the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and Clifton Pop-up-Pup-Party (PUPP). The new amenity is expected to be under construction in May 2025 and take about 3 months to complete.

### **AULT PARK PLAYGROUND**

Parks is working with the Ault Park Advisory Council (APAC), who are fundraising to supplement State of Ohio grant funding on this new playground. With the help of the community, the project has been designed. It is anticipated work will begin in the fall of 2025 with completion before the end of the year.

### **SMALE LOT 23 ENHANCEMENTS**

This project is a funding partnership with the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and has been in the works for several years. It includes adding large garden planters, granite promenade seat walls, a sandstone and granite donor wall and cladding walls. Construction will begin in late 2025 with completion in 2026.

### **LYTLE PARK COMFORT STATION**

With Lytle Park and the surrounding streetscape now fully renovated, significant repairs are required to bring the restrooms back online after being out of service for an extended period. The comfort station is expected to be fully refurbished in late 2025.

### **EVERYBODY'S TREEHOUSE IN MT. AIRY**

This unique amenity is in need of repairs to ensure it can be maintained as a community asset for generations to come. Extensive engineering work to determine the necessary repairs to stabilize and protect the treehouse has been done. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025.

### **MT. AIRY AREA 23 PATH/COMFORT STATION/OVERLOOK**

Improvements are needed in the areas surrounding the new bike skills course. These components are funded separately from the bike skills course project, but to the extent possible will be completed in tandem, allowing for a more holistic and efficient approach to improving this entire area of the park.

### **MT. AIRY BIKE SKILLS COURSE**

This partnership with the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and the Cincinnati Off Road Alliance (CORA) will nearly double the existing mileage of mountain biking trails within Mt. Airy Forest. It will be the first beginner natural surface trail experience within the city. With input from the community, the project has been funded and a contractor selected. The project is anticipated to be complete in early 2026.

### **SAWYER POINT PLAYGROUND AND PARK PLANNING**

Work is underway to restore the Sawyer Point Park playground, which was suddenly destroyed by a massive fire in November 2024. This project represents a chance to create an amazing new, uniquely Cincinnati, amenity for the next generation of park users of a wide range of ages and abilities to enjoy. The new playground will be built in the vicinity of the former playground though not in the same location. The goal is to engage with the community to develop something truly fantastic in this iconic regional park serving as a distinctive source of lasting pride for our city. The project also creates an opportunity to comprehensively review the layout of the park to guide a longer-term plan for improvements in the coming years.

### **DORIS DAY DOG PARK IN MT. AIRY**

Work has begun to engage the community and the Parks Foundation on renovations to the dog park in Mt. Airy, which is suffering from chronic erosion, access, and maintenance issues. Design and bidding is scheduled for the latter part of 2025 with work taking place in 2026.

### **BIOCHAR & SINTON CAMPUS**

This project couples two significant and complex projects together. The Sinton Avenue operations work hub currently serves crews throughout our system and is badly in need of repair and improvement. Project components include a new roof with covered loading area, exterior glazing, new zoned HVAC, electric, offices, employee restrooms, solar panels, EV charging stations, improved material storage, and more. The most exciting element is the new biochar production facility, which brings many environmental benefits like capturing carbon, improving urban plantings, growing the tree canopy in underserved neighborhoods, and supporting more effective stormwater management projects. Work is well underway to carefully design and assemble funding for this sizeable project. The goal is to have all elements complete in 2027.

### **GLENWAY PARK RENOVATIONS & PLAYGROUND**

Parks is working with the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and the surrounding community to renovate Glenway Park in East Price Hill. Fundraising and conceptual planning are in development and include a new playground, new lighting, regrading, and walking path improvements to increase accessibility and visibility. Construction is slated to begin mid-2026.

### **GIBSON HOUSE ROOF & FAÇADE**

This architecturally important structure was built in the middle 19th century and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Critical repairs are needed to preserve this treasure, which is now used for offices and a rental venue. Construction is planned to begin early 2026.

### **BURNET WOODS BANDSTAND**

The roof, including the framing and historic clay tile, is reaching the end of useful life and in need of significant repair and waterproofing. Assessment of the project needs are underway with a target for construction beginning in mid-2026.

### **OWLS NEST PAVILION RESTORATION PROJECT**

Parks has worked with a design consultant, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, and the Evanston and East Walnut Hills communities, to develop a plan and fundraise for the restoration of the historic pavilion and parkwide improvements. Construction is on track to begin in early 2026.

### **CALIFORNIA WOODS HYDROLOGICAL PLAN DESIGN**

This amazing preserve is experiencing significant erosion issues that threaten long-term public access to the park. A specialized firm has been selected to develop a plan for sustainable interventions to the stream flow to mitigate the on-going erosion issues in the most environmentally sustainable manner. Investigation and design work begins in the second quarter of 2025 and will take about a year to finalize.

### **EDEN PARK STEPS BY PLAYHOUSE**

In partnership with the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, Parks is working on a project to create a new entrance to Eden Park south of Playhouse in the Park serving as a bookend to the Art Climb Steps north of the Cincinnati Art Museum. Design work is underway, and the project is expected to begin bidding in the second half of 2025.

### **INWOOD PARK MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

Inwood Park, and the historic pavilion, are badly in need of repairs and a refresh. The 2026 master planning project will include community engagement to develop a broadly supported vision for the future of the historic park. Major project components to be considered include accessibility, the lake, playgrounds, pavilion, hillsides/erosion control, ongoing invasive species management, and basketball courts.

### **BRAMBLE PARK TRAIL**

This project is a partnership with the community and will utilize a State of Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant. This will be the first segment of the Little Duck Creek Trail and run 0.35 miles in length through Bramble Park in Madisonville. The trail will connect to the Murray Trail, part of the CROWN network connecting more than 104 miles of trails in Cincinnati. Planning will take place during 2025.

### **OHIO RIVER WAY BIKE TRAIL EXTENSION THROUGH SAWYER POINT & YEATMAN'S COVE**

This partnership with Great Parks, the City of Cincinnati, and Metro will design and construct a 4.75-mile shared use trail. It will go from Sawyer Point on the Cincinnati riverfront east to the Lunken Trail and the 78-mile Little Miami Scenic Trail. Planning is underway in 2025.

### **RIVERFRONT MARINA**

This project will bring a new marina and restaurant to the heart of Cincinnati's riverfront near

the Public Landing. Throughout 2025, Parks is working with the selected marina operator on the facility design, budget, and partnership agreement.

### **SMALE RIVER'S EDGE**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Cincinnati Park Board are partnering on a study to improve and revitalize the Cincinnati Ohio River's edge along the western edge of Smale Riverfront Park. The overall vision is to make the Cincinnati Riverfront a welcoming, safe, sustainable park, serving as a gateway to connect people to their heritage, community, and the natural environment for generations to come. The project will provide opportunities for ecosystem restoration and recreation, while protecting Cincinnati's Riverfront from erosion. Initial design selection of this multi-million project will be complete in mid-2025 with construction planned to start in 2027.

### **KROHN CONSERVATORY RESTORATION STUDY**

Krohn Conservatory is quickly aging. Several metal components are corroding and will require remediation. Because of the complexity of the building structure, the remediation will constitute a long-term, several million-dollar project. Initially, a study will be commissioned to inform the future plans for Krohn, most importantly detailing the extent of the critical remediation and restoration work needed.

### **WARDER NURSERY CAMPUS**

Parks will continue planning efforts to renovate Warder Nursery to support the current and future staff who use the facility and to increase the plant production supporting Krohn Conservatory and Parks operations system wide.

### **MCEVOY PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

This park renovation project looks to implement traffic calming measures, a new playground, pavilion renovations and some trail improvements. Planning will kick off late 2025 and is anticipated to last a year.

### **MLK PARK RENOVATION**

Parks will work with the community to design a renovated park best serving the surrounding neighborhoods. Planning with the community for this project is expected to be completed in 2027.

### **SEASONGOOD SQUARE IMPROVEMENTS**

Preliminary project goals are to rehabilitate the existing storage building including new windows and doors, install irrigation lines to support more plantings and maintenance, add a shaded event stage and electrical service to support increased park activation. Parks plans to work with the community to inform the design process.

### **SMALE CONCRETE & GRANITE UPGRADES**

This award-winning, heavily used signature Cincinnati Park opened in 2012. Sections of concrete and specialized granite need repair in order to maintain this regional asset.

### **MT. AIRY MCFARLAN PLAYGROUND**

Parks is working on developing a new signature adventure playground in Mt. Airy Forest off of McFarlan. The playground project would correspond with retirement of the Area 3 playground near the disc golf course that is at the end of its lifecycle. Planning for this project is planned to kick off in 2026.

### **HOFFNER PARK PLAYGROUND**

This playground is due for replacement. Work will begin in mid-2026.

### **SAWYER POINT SKATING RINK IMPROVEMENTS**

This aging facility is in need of an overhaul. This project is a fundraising partnership with the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and local roller-skating enthusiasts and looks to improve the skating surface and make several other facility enhancements to better support events. Items under consideration include lighting, food and beverage service, sound, seating/canopy, and accessibility.

## **FUTURE PROJECTS:**

### **AULT PARK CASCADE, PLAZA, AND PAVILION**

Parks will work with the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and the Ault Park Advisory Council to develop the scope and plan for the renovation of the Ault Park Pavilion, plaza, and cascades. This will be a multi-year planning and fundraising effort to restore the historic structure.

### **MT. AIRY WEST OPERATIONS CENTER**

The physical facilities supporting maintenance staff on the west side are outdated, insufficient, and due for upgrades including a maintenance and storage garage. This project will conceive, design and build best-in-class facilities to best support the staff who maintain our West District parks.

### **BURNET WOODS STORMWATER CONTROL**

This is a major MSD stormwater management project to address substantial flooding issues in Burnet Woods and the surrounding basin. Parks is working in conjunction with MSD and SMU to identify and formulate design for targeted retention areas to alleviate major combined sewer overflows behind the Trailside Nature center, adjacent shelters, and playgrounds impacted during storm events. Parks is eager to work with MSD to get the project, currently planned for 2036, advanced and funded.

### **ADDITIONAL FUTURE PROJECTS**

are in the predevelopment phase and include:

- Master Plans for Jackson Hill, Bellevue Park, and Fairview Park.
- Improvements to Alms Park Pavilion, plaza, and stairs.

### **EMERGING MAINTENANCE AND EMERGENCY REPAIR PROJECTS**

Parks will continue to address unplanned projects and repairs as they develop. These include unexpected issues arising with pavement, sewer and water infrastructure, sinkholes, masonry and retaining walls, lighting, building maintenance, grading and stormwater control, roofs, and the like.