



# ***Environmental Advisory Board***

## **Meeting Agenda**

January 29, 2025 3:00 P.M.

Centennial II HR Conference Room B

805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Virtual Attendance through Microsoft Teams

### **Order of Business**

- I. Public Comment**
- II. Call to Order**
- III. Administrative Action\***
  - Approval of December 18, 2024 – Meeting minutes
- IV. Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments**
  
- V. Information/Updates**
  - New Board Member Updates
  - Officer Nominations
  - Update on meetings with Councilmembers Nolan and Owens – Van Sullivan & Kylie Johnson
  
- VI. Items for Vote\***
  
- VII. Presentations**
  - Comprehensive Planning Overview – City Department of Planning & Engagement
  - Proposed MSD Impervious Surface Fee – Sierra Club Miami, Larry Falkin
  
- VIII. Open Discussion**
  - Comments on Actions with Policy Focus: Green Infrastructure
  
- IX. Next Meeting**
  - The next EAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 3:00 PM.
- X. Adjournment**

*\*Board Action Requested*

### **Agenda Packet Materials:**

- Draft meeting minutes from 12/18/24
- Presentation on Comprehensive Planning Overview, Katherine Keough-Jurs
- Presentation on Proposed MSD Impervious Surface Fee, Larry Falkin

# Environmental Advisory Board

## Minutes of December 18, 2024

### Members Present:

- **In person:** Andrew Musgrave; Dave Schmitt; Kylie Johnson; Susan Sprigg; Van Sullivan
- **Virtual:** Ashlee Young; Ericka Copeland; Nathan Alley; Rico Blackman

**Members Absent:** Chad Day; Diana Hodge; Julie Shifman; Tanner Yess

**Staff Present:** Oliver Kroner; Amanda Testerman; Erin Kabel

**Meeting:** A meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was held on December 18, 2024 at 3:00 PM at Centennial II HR Conference Room A, 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

### Meeting Agenda:

- I. **Public Comment**
- II. **Call to Order at 3:08 PM**
- III. **Administrative Action\***
  - Approval of November 20, 2024 – Meeting minutes
- IV. **Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments**
  - Seeds of Change Showcase – celebration event on 12/12/24 for the 28 awardees of Seeds of Change grants to share their projects and progress
  - Federal Funding Shifts
  - GreenSpot EV Curbside Charging Contract – executed, installation expected in 2025
  - OES Employee of the Year – Amanda Testerman
  - Rob McCracken – Ohio Clean Energy Champion Award
  - City awarded Ohio EPA – Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Communities Gold Award
  - Cincy AirWatch Dashboard - <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/oes/natural-environment/air-quality/cincy-air-watch/>
- V. **Information/Updates**
  - 2025 Schedule, Board Members, Elections
    - 2025 Meetings scheduled for January & February. Schedule for the remainder of the year can be voted on when new members join in 2025
    - New or renewed board members will be appointed by City Manager with terms beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>. Chair & Vice Chair Terms begin in March. Elections will take place in 2025.
  - Update on EAB presentation to CEI Committee & meeting with Councilmember Owens
    - Van Sullivan presented at the CEI Committee on 12/3/24. See recording here: <https://archive.org/details/16241203-cei>
    - Van Sullivan and Kylie Johnson meet with CM Owen’s and discussed EJ Ordinance and how to further codify, Performance Based Budgeting, lack of a unified definition of greenspace, and Plan Cincinnati update
- VI. **Items for Vote\***
- VII. **Presentations**
- VIII. **Open Discussion**
  - Comments on Actions with Policy Focus:
    - i. Building Performance
    - ii. Codifying Environmental Justice
    - iii. Green Infrastructure – to be discussed at next meeting
- I. **Next Meeting**
  - Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 3:00 PM
- II. **Adjournment at 4:30 PM**



**PLAN CINCINNATI**

a comprehensive plan for the future

# **Plan Cincinnati: The City of Cincinnati's Comprehensive Plan**

Environmental Advisory Board | January 29, 2025

# PLAN CINCINNATI

a comprehensive plan for the future

Final Draft  
Cincinnati City Planning Commission  
August 30, 2012



# What is a Comprehensive Plan?



- A guide to the City's future development and redevelopment
- Provides guidance to the City in developing and directing future capital budgets
- Serves as the basis for land use and zoning recommendations

# What is it NOT?

- It does not make operational recommendations – it makes physical and policy recommendations.
- It does not focus on individual neighborhoods or go into detail. It focuses on the City as a whole.
- It is not simply a list of tasks for the City to complete.

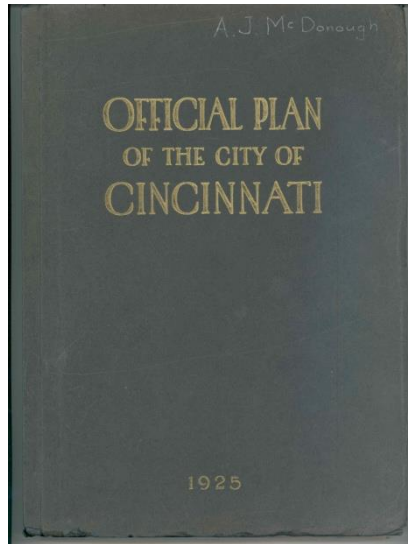
# Why did the City need a New Comprehensive Plan?



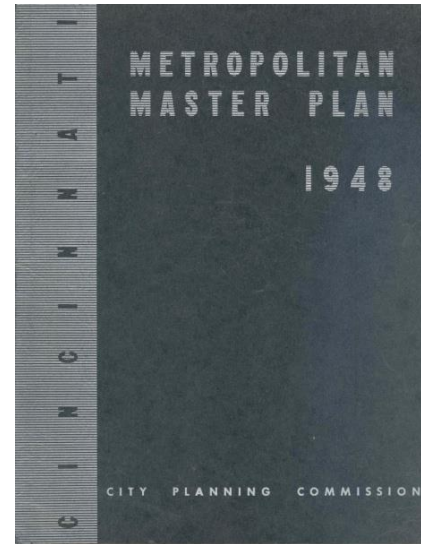
- Cincinnati was growing and changing
- Projects moving forward simultaneously
- Needed a clear vision and strategy of how projects relate to one another

# A Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity

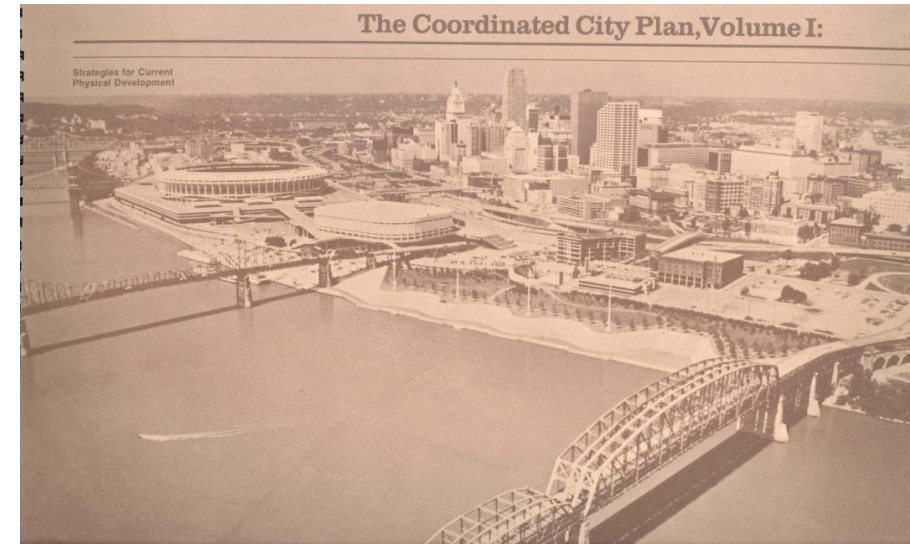
1925



1948



1980

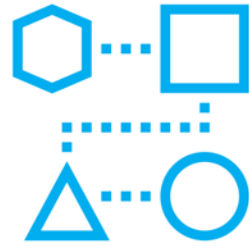


2012





# The Plan Cincinnatiati Process



**3 Year Process**



**40 Member  
Steering Committee**



**25+ Steering  
Committee  
Meetings**



**24 Working  
Group Meetings**



**Visits to all  
Community Councils**



**4 Public  
Kick-Off Meetings**



**2 Neighborhood  
Summits**



**"Planting  
Our Future"**

# A Plan Based on Community Character

- A focus on re-creating urban form – modernization without suburbanization.
- An approach to policy based on revitalizing our **neighborhood centers** and **corridors** and improving quality of life.
- A significant shift in comprehensive planning.

# The Plan Cincinnati Vision

## Thriving Re-Urbanization

The vision for the future of Cincinnati is focused on an unapologetic drive to create and sustain a thriving inclusive urban community, where engaged people and memorable places are paramount, where creativity and innovation thrive, and where local pride and confidence are contagious.

# Summary of Plan Cincinnati

- Guiding Policy Principles
- Guiding Geographic Principles
- Five Initiative Areas
- Goals

# *Guiding Geographic Principles*

**Strategically guide the location of future investment and growth.**

# The Guiding Geographic Principles

**Focus revitalization on existing centers of activity.**

**Link centers with effective transportation for maximum accessibility.**

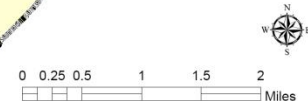
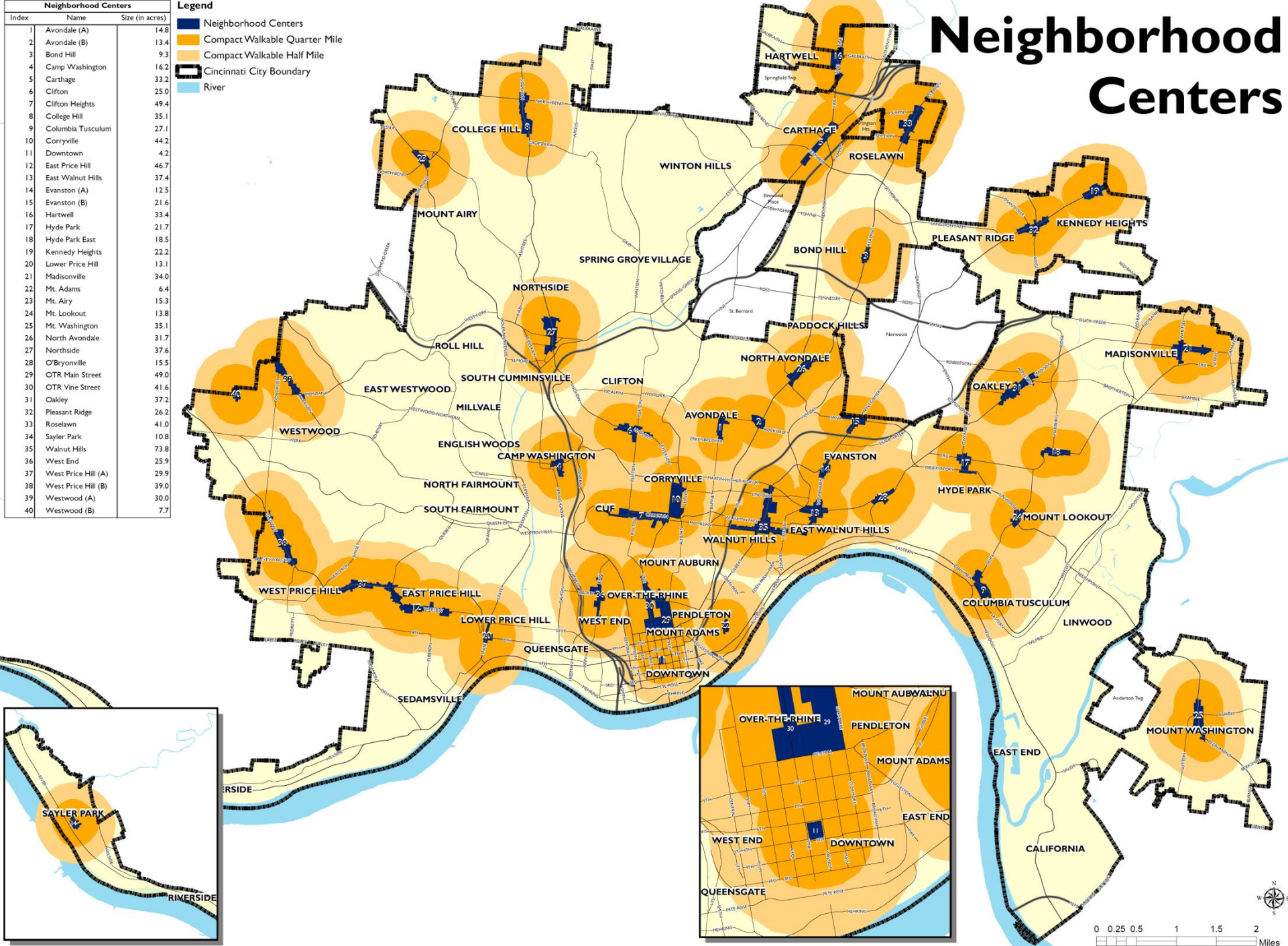
**Create new centers of activity where appropriate.**

**Maximize industrial reinvestment in existing industrial areas.**

# Neighborhood Centers

Neighborhood Centers		
Index	Name	Size (in acres)
1	Avondale (A)	14.8
2	Avondale (B)	13.4
3	Bond Hill	9.3
4	Camp Washington	16.2
5	Carthage	33.2
6	Clifton	25.0
7	Clifton Heights	49.4
8	College Hill	35.1
9	Columbia Tusculum	27.1
10	Corryville	44.2
11	Downtown	4.2
12	East Price Hill	46.7
13	East Walnut Hills	37.4
14	Evanston (A)	12.5
15	Evanston (B)	21.6
16	Hartwell	33.4
17	Hyde Park	21.7
18	Hyde Park East	18.5
19	Kennedy Heights	22.2
20	Lower Price Hill	13.1
21	Madisonville	34.0
22	Mt. Adams	6.4
23	Mt. Airy	15.3
24	Mt. Lookout	13.8
25	Mt. Washington	35.1
26	North Avondale	31.7
27	Northside	37.6
28	O'Byronville	15.5
29	OTR Main Street	49.0
30	OTR Vine Street	41.6
31	Oakley	37.2
32	Pleasant Ridge	26.2
33	Roselawn	41.0
34	Sayler Park	10.8
35	Walnut Hills	73.8
36	West End	25.9
37	West Price Hill (A)	29.9
38	West Price Hill (B)	39.0
39	Westwood (A)	30.0
40	Westwood (B)	7.7

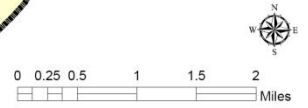
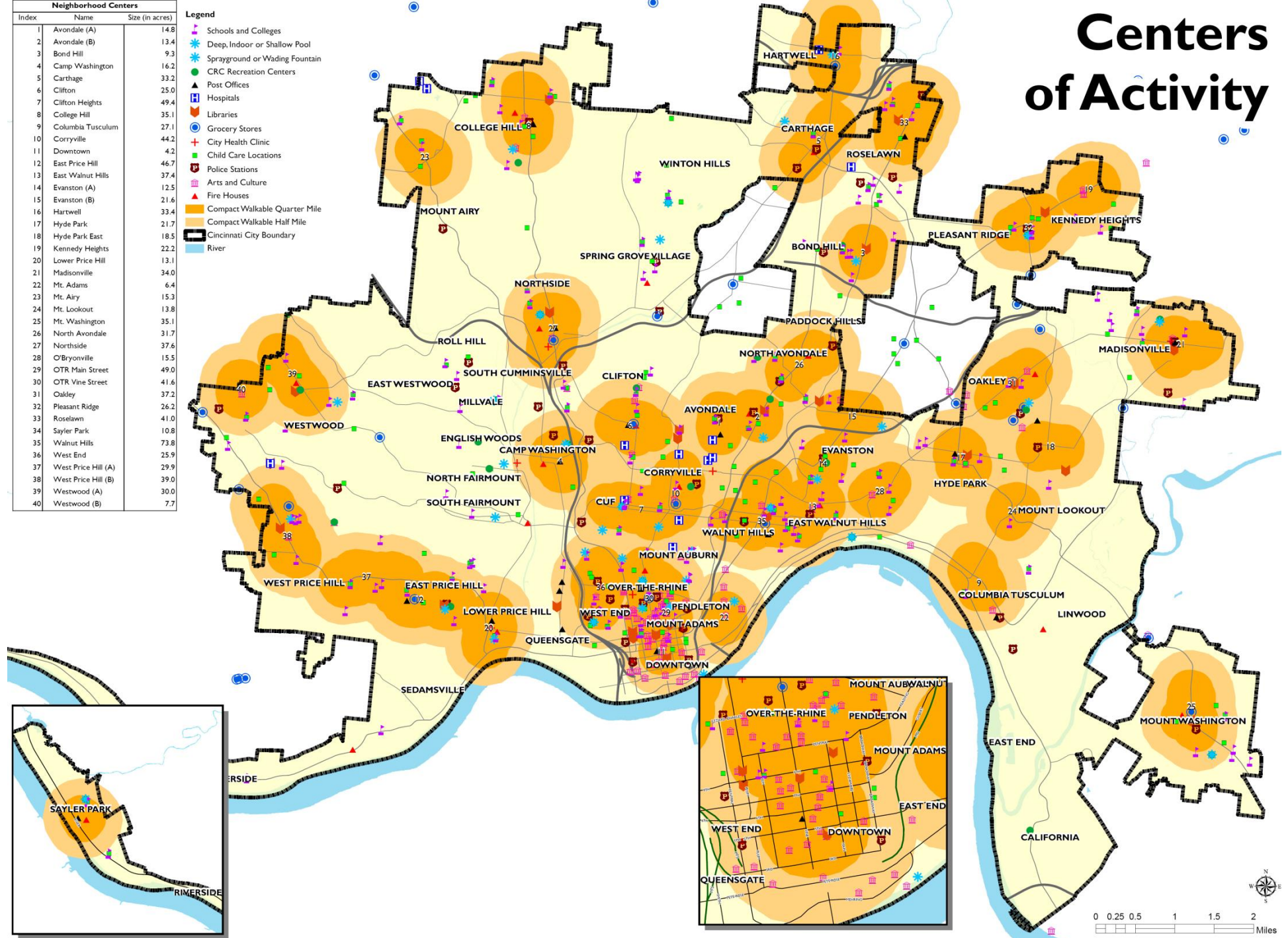
- Neighborhood Centers
- Compact Walkable Quarter Mile
- Compact Walkable Half Mile
- Cincinnati City Boundary
- River



# Centers of Activity

Neighborhood Centers		
Index	Name	Size (in acres)
1	Avondale (A)	14.8
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- Legend**
- Schools and Colleges
  - Deep, Indoor or Shallow Pool
  - Sprayground or Wading Fountain
  - CRC Recreation Centers
  - Post Offices
  - Hospitals
  - Libraries
  - Grocery Stores
  - City Health Clinic
  - Child Care Locations
  - Police Stations
  - Arts and Culture
  - Fire Houses
  - Compact Walkable Quarter Mile
  - Compact Walkable Half Mile
  - Cincinnati City Boundary
  - River





# Five Initiative Areas

**Compete:** *Be the pivotal economic force of the region*

**Connect:** *Bring people and places together*

**Live:** *Strengthen our magnetic City with energized people*

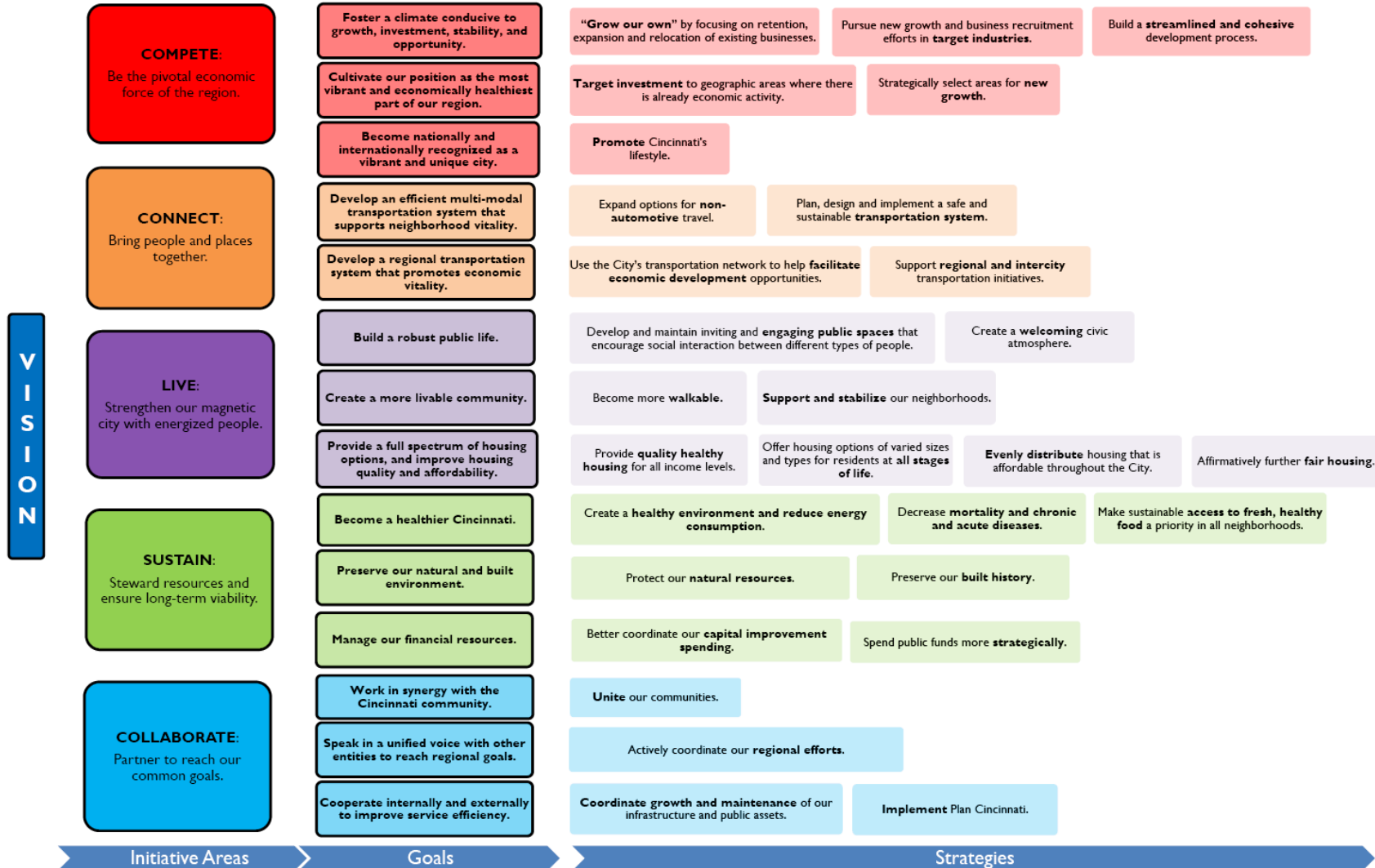
**Sustain:** *Steward resources and ensure long-term viability*

**Collaborate:** *Partner to reach our common goals*

# Our Goals and Strategies

## Our Vision: Thriving Re-Urbanization

The vision for the future of Cincinnati is focused on an unapologetic drive to create and sustain a thriving inclusive urban community, where engaged people and memorable places are paramount, where creativity and innovation thrive, and where local pride and confidence are contagious.



## Plan, design and implement a safe and sustainable transportation system.

To create a sustainable transportation network that reinforces the quality of life, minimizes impacts to the environment and is fiscally responsible, we will plan for and implement an efficient, balanced, multi-modal system. We will take consider future land use as well as the function of the transportation facility, including the continued use of existing infrastructure by implementing multiple modes of transportation and, when creating new streets and roads, applying complete streets principles.



### Incorporate environmental best practices in the planning and design of transportation systems.

Clean and efficient transportation options that are safe and affordable will be available to develop a sustainable transportation system serving the needs of all users. This effort is not a one-step process and has already begun in many cases, and the efforts will continue to reach efficiency in both the City and the region.

#### Short-range (1-3 years):

- Implement transportation components included in the Office of Environmental Quality, Green Cincinnati

Plan (Climate Protection Plan 2008), such as energy efficient street lighting and traffic signals.

#### Mid-range (4-7 years):

- Complete greening the fleet of Cincinnati with hybrid, diesel, propane and electric systems where appropriate.
- Work with METRO to pursue hybrid buses and various other types of vehicles that can serve the routes in varying degrees of capacity.

#### Long-range (8-10 years):

- Continue to research and apply new methods to increase sustainability in transportation systems.



Image Source: Michael Providenti

Bicyclists sharing the road

## *Sustain Goal 1: Become a healthier Cincinnati.*

The good physical health of our residents encourages future growth by creating relationships and developing a greater quality of life. Cincinnati seeks to develop a culture of health embodied by thriving residents, not merely by absence of disease.

### ***Our Strategies***

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Create a **healthy environment and reduce energy consumption.**

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Decrease **mortality and chronic and acute diseases.**

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Make sustainable **access to fresh, healthy food** a priority in all neighborhoods.

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Image Source: Alex Peppers

Fresh Food at Findlay Market

# Create a healthy environment and reduce energy consumption.

Following the strategies of the Green Cincinnati Plan and meeting the goals of the Green Umbrella Regional Sustainability Alliance will help reduce the City's energy usage, improve air and water quality, and reduce sewer overflows to create a healthy environment.



## Improve air quality

Burning fossil fuels for transportation and heating and cooling buildings has the greatest impact on the City's air quality. Reducing dependence on fossil fuels by using alternative fuels and increasing the use of more efficient or renewable energy sources can help the quality of the city's air.

### **Short-range (1-3 years):**

- Incentivize construction of energy efficient buildings using the LEED tax abatement.
- Use Energy Services Performance Contracting to increase energy efficiency and reduce fossil fuel consumption in City facilities (as recommended in Green Cincinnati Plan).

- Install solar panels on newly constructed and renovated City facilities and enter into Solar Power Purchase Agreements with local utilities. Provide technical assistance to encourage Solar Power Purchase Agreements in private new construction and renovation projects.
- Continue to track progress of the Green Cincinnati Plan and regularly update the Project Implementation Dashboard to meet the goals of the Green Cincinnati Plan.

### **Mid-range (4-7 years):**

- Expand and create more incentives for cleaner vehicles.
- Install more renewable energy sources in City

facilities, including more efficient traffic signal lights and charging stations in parking meters and City parking garages.

- Increase the amount of solar energy generated on city buildings and property.

### **Long-range (8-10 years):**

- Complete the upgrade of the City's fleet to more fuel efficient vehicles as directed in the Green Cincinnati Plan.
- Reduce emissions by 40 percent by 2030 (from the 2006 levels identified in the Green Cincinnati Plan).
- Reduce the amount of electricity generation that comes from fossil fuels.

## Improve water quality

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) is making significant investments to reduce sewer overflows. These investments create an opportunity to use green techniques to slow down and clean runoff to streams and rivers. Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) has always taken the lead in water quality research and technology to protect public health. Using the latest treatment techniques to remove harmful contaminants, GCWW works to ensure the highest quality of drinking water.

### **Short-range (1-3 years):**

- Update codes to allow rainwater harvesting through rain barrels and

- other infrastructure.
- Create a rainwater harvesting educational program for home and business owners.
- Consider regulations that would reduce impervious surfaces in the new Land Development Code.

**Mid-range (4-7 years):**

- Manage stormwater overflows with strategic source control in watersheds to achieve compliance with MSD consent decree by implementing best management practices appropriate for the

watershed, such as rain gardens, separated sewers, green streets, etc.

- Prepare and follow a Lower Millcreek Watershed Action Plan.

**Long-range (8-10 years):**

- Install a total of 5,000 rain barrels and 2,000 rain gardens/bioswales on residential, commercial, and public properties over the next 20 years.
- Meet or exceed the Ohio Water Quality Biocriteria standards in all water bodies in Cincinnati within the next 20 years.

**Decrease pollution impacts on our neighborhoods.**

Many city neighborhoods are impacted by light, noise, and odors from vehicles and industry as well as legacy pollution such as high lead levels.

**Short-range (1-3 years):**

- Plant trees in areas with a lower-than-average tree canopy as defined by Urban Forestry.
- Update codes for retrofitting old buildings with incentives to be more energy efficient.

**Mid-range (4-7 years):**

- Support programs that promote efficient use of vehicles such as Shared Car Services (like ZipCar), Idle Reduction Campaigns, and Rideshare Programs.
- Reduce the amount of lead in our buildings and soil by education, remediation, and/or mitigation.

**Long-range (8-10 years):**

- Incentivize research and development facilities for renewable energy and other green infrastructure innovations.

**Green Cincinnati Plan**

The Green Cincinnati Plan (formerly Climate Protection Action Plan), as part of Mayor Mallory's Green Cincinnati Initiative, is a roadmap for how Cincinnati can become a national leader in addressing global climate change and thus make Cincinnati a healthier place to live.

Cincinnati is one of more than 1,000 U.S. Cities that has committed to reducing its contribution to global climate change. According to the City's Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ), the more we learn about how to combat climate change, the more we realize that climate protection measures are

mostly things that we have good reason to be doing anyway. Climate protection measures can help conserve scarce natural resources, save money, enhance the local economy, improve air quality, create jobs, and improve public health. But as with so many things, there is more than one way to do it, and whether climate protection work helps or hurts our community depends on the paths that we choose.

The Green Cincinnati Plan does the following:

- Identifies over 80 specific recommendations for how to reduce contributions to global climate change. The

recommended actions generally share several characteristics:

- Effectively reducing green house gas emissions.
- Reducing dependence on non-renewable energy sources
- Saving more money than the recommended actions cost
- Supporting local job creation and the local economy
- Helping clean Cincinnati's air, land, and water
- Relying on voluntary rather than regulatory approaches

- Quantifies annual contributions to global climate change at 8.5 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) for the City of Cincinnati, and 432,000 tons of CO2e for Cincinnati City Government.
- Establishes green house gas emission reduction goals of 8% within 4 years, 40% within 20 years, and 84% by 2050 (42 years).
- Presents a strategy to implement the Plan's recommendations
- The full text of the Green Cincinnati Plan can be viewed on the City's website at <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/oeq/citywide-efforts/climate-protection-green-cincinnati-plan/>

## Current Initiatives:

- **“What’s Your Green Umbrella?”** is a campaign that aims to move residents of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky to adopt behaviors that will positively impact our region’s environment. The campaign is funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and then executed by the efforts of many partners including The Green Umbrella and The City of Cincinnati’s Office of Environmental Quality. The overall goal of the campaign is to reduce carbon emissions in Cincinnati by 300,000 tons before October 2012.
- **The Green Cincinnati Plan** developed a Green House Gas Emission (GHG) Inventory for the City of Cincinnati and set out specific short, medium, and long term goals of Green House Gas reduction to reduce emissions 84% below 2006 levels by 2050.
- The **Green Partnership for Greater Cincinnati** is a collaboration of six major regional institutions (City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Cincinnati Public Schools, University of Cincinnati, Duke Energy, and Cincinnati State) whose goal is to encourage and support efforts that will measurably improve environmental performance, save money, and demonstrate commitment and leadership to the community.
- Recently, many residents chose to go with the City’s new utility aggregation plan using **FirstEnergy Solutions** and Cincinnati now offers renewable energy at a low cost, allowing Cincinnati to be a national leader in green energy.
- The City’s **Electric Car Parking Program** provides allowances for electric vehicles to park at meters for free for posted times and in specific City garages.
- The **Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati** is implementing a green infrastructure program called **Project Groundwork** which is designed to make our communities cleaner, healthier, and more environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable (link: [www.projectgroundwork.org](http://www.projectgroundwork.org))
- **Greater Cincinnati Water Works** provides **high quality water** and incorporates water quality research and technology to protect the public health.
- **Cincinnati’s Park Board** maintains a **Street Tree Program** with over 80,000 street trees on more than 1,000 miles of the City’s streets. The Street Tree Program has been in operation since 1981. Cincinnati Park Board’s target for **tree canopy** from a 2010 study is 40% for residential communities, 25% for mixed, and 10% for the Central Business District.
- Cincinnati’s **Environmental Justice Ordinance** is designed to prevent harms caused by pollution from occurring disproportionately in poor and minority neighborhoods.
- The City is currently working on grant projects in Cincinnati’s neighborhoods to mitigate **lead problems** in single-family and two-family units that will result in over 500 children residing in lead safe residences, with 5,000 individuals to be educated on healthy homes, weatherization, and energy efficiency.
- **The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden** has installed roughly four acres of solar panels over their surface parking lot that is considered one of the largest public urban solar displays in the country and will generate at least 20% of the Zoo’s electricity.
- The **University of Cincinnati** has become a national leader in sustainability with their six LEED Green buildings on campus.
- **Cincinnati Public Schools** leads the nation in the number of LEED-registered schools. Taft High School was the first high school to receive LEED Platinum, Pleasant Ridge Montessori receiving LEED-NC Silver, and Dater Montessori and Sands Montessori rated LEED for Schools Gold. There are another 19 schools expected to receive a rating of LEED Silver or higher when the registration process is complete.
- **Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance** received a \$17 million grant from the United States Department of Energy to provide education, expertise, and innovative financing to make Cincinnati more energy efficient.
- **Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce’s Green Business Initiative** facilitates sharing best practices among its members, allowing sustainable organizations to collaborate with each other and share their green ideas.
- The **Cincinnati Reds ‘Go Green’ Initiative** works with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to improve energy performance, increase energy efficiency, reduce waste, and educate the public at Great American Ball Park.
- **Duke Energy** is installing over a million **smart meters** to provide customers the opportunity to monitor and reduce their energy usage.

# Partnerships

- Some things in the Plan are pivotal to the City but we can't do it alone – need partners
- Each Strategy lists partners necessary for implementation
  - *City may not always be the lead agency but will always have a role*



## **Partners in helping Cincinnati create a healthier environment:**

- Green Umbrella
- Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance (GCEA)
- Duke Energy
- Water Innovation Cluster
- Green Energy Ohio
- Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA)
- Metro
- Clean Fuels Ohio
- Green Partnership for Greater Cincinnati
- Greater Cincinnati Green Business Council
- Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services
- The Alliance for Chemical Safety
- U.S. Green Building Council
- Cincinnati Public Schools
- Local Universities and Colleges
- Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Community Development Corporations (CDCs)
- All Community Councils and community organizations
- Local non-profit organizations
- Local foundations and funding organizations

### **City Agencies:**

- Office of Environmental Quality
- Cincinnati Health Department
- Department of City Planning and Buildings
- Department of Transportation and Engineering
- Economic Development Division
- Department of Community Development
- Department of Public Services
- Cincinnati Park Board
- Cincinnati Recreation Commission
- Cincinnati Police Department
- Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD)
- Law Department
- Greater Cincinnati Water Works



# An Award-Winning Plan

- **2013 Frank F. Ferris Award**
  - For Outstanding Planning in Hamilton County
- **2013 Award for Contribution and Excellence, Ohio Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA)**
  - Comprehensive Planning in a Large Jurisdiction
- **2014 Daniel Burnham Award, American Planning Association (APA) National Planning Excellence and Achievement Award**
  - Planning profession's highest honor for a Comprehensive Plan

# Plan Cincinnati Today

- Still guiding policy decisions
- Since adoption, Ordinances reflect Plan consistency
- Capital budget reviewed for Plan consistency
- Plan being implemented, but not being tracked or reported as well as it could
- Received funding for Update – expect to begin later this year

# PLAN CINCINNATI

a comprehensive plan for the future

[www.plancincinnati.org](http://www.plancincinnati.org)

# Metropolitan Sewer District Impervious Surface Fee

Presentation to the  
City of Cincinnati Environmental Advisory Board

By  
Larry Falkin

1/27/25

# Overview

- Adopting an ISF for MSD Yields 4 Important Benefits:
  1. Better Stormwater Management
  2. Adequate Funding for MSD
  3. Reduce Costs for Most Ratepayers
  4. More Equitable Sewer Rates

# Background – Where Does Sewer Flow Come From?

- Sewage
  - Comes Primarily From Buildings: Industrial, Commercial and Residential
  - Happens Every Day
  - Contains Contaminants That Require Treatment
- Stormwater
  - Comes Primarily From Impervious Surfaces (Roofs and Pavement)
  - Happens During Storms (About 100 Days Per Year)
  - Less Contaminated Than Sewage

# Background – CSOs and SBUs

- **Combined Sewer Overflows** - Much of Cincinnati has Combined Sewers. Sewage and Stormwater Go To The Same Pipes. During heavy rains, those pipes overflow, releasing untreated sewage to rivers and streams.
- In 2024, MSD CSOs totaled 7.8 billion gallons.
- **Sewer Back Ups** – When sewer pipes are more than full, sewage can back up into people’s homes.
- In 2024, MSD received 2,821 reports of sewage backing up into buildings. MSD has confirmed 129 of those reports.



# Background – Where does MSD's Money Go?

- MSD's Budget includes 3 major categories of expenses:
  - The **Operating Budget** pays the salaries and expenses for MSD to operate every day.
  - The **Asset Management Budget** pays to maintain repair and replace all the infrastructure of the sewer system – pipes, pumps, treatment plants, etc.
  - The **Wet Weather Improvement Plan** pays for efforts to reduce CSOs and SBUs (required by Consent Decree).
- 50% of MSD's budget is attributable to sewage.
- 50% of MSD's budget is attributable to storm water.

[Based on MSD analysis, 2023.]

# Background – Where does MSD's Money Come From Now?

- Most MSD revenue (92%) comes from sewer bills.
- The sewer bill has 2 main components:
  - A minimum monthly charge based on the size of the water meter.
  - A usage charge based on how much tap water was used.
- 100% of the sewer bill is based on use of tap water.
- 0% of the sewer bill is based on stormwater leaving a property.

# What is an Impervious Surface Fee?

- An ISF is a Fee paid by all landowners in MSD's service area based on how much impervious area the parcel has.

# How would an ISF work?

- MSD uses aerial photos to identify and measure impervious surfaces.
- Every 500 sq. ft. of impervious surface is 1 billable unit (BU)
- MSD has estimated that around \$3/BU/month would cover their stormwater costs.

# ISF Benefits – Better Stormwater Management

- Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) hold stormwater where it falls or slow its runoff.
- BMPs include rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavement, cisterns, infiltration wells, etc.
- Landowners **should** receive “credit” for stormwater held on their property. More incentives for BMPs yield more BMPs.
- Often, BMPs are cheaper and better than MSD’s solutions (bigger pipes and bigger treatment plants)

# ISF Benefit – Reduce Cost for Most Ratepayers

- MSD Studied the Burden of Sewer Rates on Residents. Concluded that burden already too high for many, especially low income residents.
- MSD Studied the Impact of ISF. Concluded that total cost would go down for most residential customers.
- ISF impact could be huge – Shifting \$130 million per year.

# ISF Benefit – More Equitable Sewer Rates

- Current System – Unfair in 2 ways.
  - Small Users pay too much: High Flat monthly charge; quantity discounts
  - Sewer Users Subsidize Landowners
- ISF Helps
  - Eliminates Landowner subsidy
  - County Commissioners will decide how to reduce sewer rates.
    - Maybe, reduce the flat monthly charge.
    - Maybe, reduce the “first block” charge.

# ISF Benefits - Adequate Funding for MSD

- MSD is badly underfunded
  - MSD's 2025 Budget left \$600 million worth of maintenance and repairs unfunded.
  - At the current pace, consent decree requirements will take decades.
  - Current Sewer Rates can't rise significantly, according to MSD's affordability analysis.
- ISF provides a significant new revenue stream, that taps into deeper pockets.

# ISF Process

- ISF has been under discussion for 9 years.
  - 2016 Rate Affordability Task Force Recommendation
  - 2019 Stakeholder Advisory Group formed
  - 2023 Stakeholder Advisory Group final meeting
- County Commissioners Will Consider an ISF Soon.
- ISF is not ready for a Final Decision.
- Commissioners could:
  - Tell MSD to proceed with preparations – especially designing the credit program
  - Tell MSD not to proceed



# My Ask

- EAB should endorse an MSD ISF.
- EAB should support a robust credit program for BMPs
- EAB should support a firm timeline for progress
- EAB should communicate its position to the City
- EAB should encourage the City to engage with MSD and County on ISF