



**Ten Year
Critical Infrastructure Needs
Executive Summary
May 2021**

Executive Summary Overview

The following Executive Summary provides an overview of critical infrastructure needs for the next ten years as presented to the Board of Park Commissioners on May 20, 2021. These infrastructure repair and replacement needs have been identified through an in-house staff and Budget Committee review process and a consulting team building audit led by MKSK. The associated cost estimates are considered preliminary and inclusive of standard design and engineering costs.

The needs outlined in this executive summary must be addressed over the next ten years to protect and maintain capital assets, protect and preserve natural resource assets, and ensure the highest quality guest experience. These needs are considered significant and critical at this time, and the costs will increase in the future if left unaddressed.

As part of the ongoing capital project process and annual capital budget approval, the staff shall complete a detailed review and establish priorities for these critical infrastructure needs. The process should include a determination of actual costs and a recommended timeline for implementation.

The capital asset categories and estimated total costs are as follows:

Capital Asset Category	Estimated Total Cost
Property Boundary Surveys	\$1,100,000
Education and Interpretive Exhibits	\$750,000
Natural Resource Management and Restoration	\$26,700,000
Park and Facility Building Audit	\$23,500,000
Park Infrastructure – Buildings Repair General	\$5,150,000
Park Infrastructure – Building Repairs and Renovations – Specific Buildings	\$1,025,000
Park Infrastructure - Dams and Bridges	\$7,845,588
Park Infrastructure - Paved Roads, Trails, Paths and Parking Lots	\$11,385,000
Park Infrastructure - Utilities	\$10,700,000
Park Site Improvements	\$1,500,000
Playground Improvements	\$3,000,000
Recreational Facilities	\$6,150,000
Signage Improvements	\$2,485,000
Total	\$101,290,588

Capital Asset Categories

Property Boundary Surveys **\$1,100,000**

Great Parks manages 229 miles of property boundaries and conservation easements across Hamilton County. These boundaries must be verified through deed research, field survey work, markings, and ongoing inspections.

Education and Interpretive Exhibits **\$750,000**

Great Parks operates five visitor center and nature center facilities that provide nature education and interpretive exhibits. Upgrades and replacements of these exhibits are included in this category.

Natural Resource Management and Restoration **\$26,700,000**

Great Parks Natural Resource Management Policy states the highest priority of the park district will be in preserving land in its natural state. For this purpose, no less than 80% of all park land will be kept in its natural state and managed for the conservation of habitats and species native to our region. Forests, meadows, grasslands, brushlands, prairies, and wetlands are carefully managed to enhance the biological diversity of plants and animals. Individual projects such as streambank erosion, landslide repairs, invasive species management, reforestation, new habitat restoration, and lake dredging are required to protect, maintain and improve these natural resource assets.

Park and Facility Building Audit **\$23,500,000**

Great Parks and a consultant team led by MKSK assessed 36 high-priority major buildings and identified if the structure needed to be renovated or required significant maintenance. Buildings identified as being replaced were not be included in this analysis. The analysis was comprised of a general narrative outlining the base building components and a general overall assessment of the condition and recommendations for improvements for the main building architecture, interiors, and building systems.

Park Infrastructure – Buildings Repair General **\$5,150,000**

Great Parks maintains approximately 357 major and minor buildings. The 131 major building types are visitor center, nature center, clubhouse, banquet center, lodge, boathouse, snack bar, maintenance building, restroom, and cabin. The 226 minor building types are shelter, pump house, kiosk, welcome booth, pole barn, storage building, vault toilet, barn, and shed. This category consists of repairs, upgrades, and replacement of general building systems, including but not limited to HVAC, painting, roofing, hot water, insulation, doors, flooring, and lighting in all Great Parks buildings.

Park Infrastructure – Building Repairs and Renovations – Specific Buildings **\$1,025,000**

During the next ten years, repairs, upgrades, and renovation projects are needed for specific major and minor buildings.

Park Infrastructure – Dams and Bridges **\$7,845,588**

Great Parks is responsible for 103 bridges that serve roads, driveways, trails, cart paths, and lakes. Additionally, there are large culvert systems and dams that are maintained. This category includes repairs, upgrades, and replacement projects to large & small dams, sheet pile repairs along lake sea walls, major road bridge repairs, major trail bridge repairs, all culvert repairs, dam removal, and all associated improvements.

Park Infrastructure – Paved Roads, Trails, Paths, and Parking Lots **\$11,385,000**

Great Parks maintains more than 11.5 million square feet of asphalt roads, trails, cart paths, and parking areas. This total amount of pavement is equivalent to a two-lane highway from Cincinnati to Columbus. Estimated asphalt paving needs for the next ten years include maintenance, repairs, overlay, and full replacement. Also included in this category are maintenance, repairs, and replacement of concrete walks, concrete curbs, parking blocks, and guardrails.

Park Infrastructure – Utilities **\$10,700,000**

Great Parks manages 168 miles of utilities, including water, electric, sanitary sewer, fiber optic, telephone, irrigation, and storm sewer. Upgrades, repairs, and replacements for all above and below-ground utility systems are included in this category, along with 34 tanks for diesel, unleaded, and propane fuel.

Park Site Improvements **\$1,500,000**

Great Parks maintains various types of amenities, equipment, and site furnishings in 17 parks for guest use which require ongoing maintenance and repairs or full replacement. Examples for this category include picnic tables, park benches, waste and recycling containers, water fountains, bike racks as well as golf course and campground related furnishings.

Playground Improvements **\$3,000,000**

Great Parks maintains 21 playgrounds and three wet play areas in 17 parks. Playground renovation and replacement projects are necessary to remain current with safety and accessibility standards and to ensure maximum play value. These improvements include play equipment and safety surface. Total playground replacement is typically required every 15–20 years, depending on the type of equipment, surfacing, and general wear and tear from usage. Of the three wet play areas, Winton Woods has exceeded its life cycle and should be removed or replaced in the next one to two years. Woodland Mound is nearing the end of its life cycle and may require significant repairs or full replacement in the next three to four years.

Recreational Facilities **\$6,150,000**

Great Parks maintains a wide variety of recreational facilities and activity areas, including golf courses, fishing and boating facilities, campgrounds, athletic fields, and disc golf courses. Updates to these facilities are included in this category.

Signage Improvements **\$2,485,000**

Great Parks maintains approximately 5,000 signs throughout 21 parks and nature preserves. The replacement and upgrade of entrance, wayfinding, information, interpretive, traffic, and safety signage are included in this category based on the approved park district sign system.

Ten Year Critical Infrastructure Needs	\$101,290,588
---	----------------------