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May 14, 2024

**News Release: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **GREAT PARKS, CITY OF CINCINNATI AND METRO ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT FOR OASIS TRAIL INTO DOWNTOWN CINCINNATI**

Great Parks will design and build the highly anticipated Oasis Trail, a 4.75-mile paved, shared-use trail from Lunken Airport to Sawyer Point in downtown Cincinnati, after reaching a definitive agreement with Metro, the City of Cincinnati and the Indiana & Ohio Railway (IORY) to acquire the trail corridor through an existing railroad easement.

“Building the Oasis Trail to connect downtown Cincinnati with our regional and state trail network will achieve a vision shared by Great Parks and our partners for the past 17 years,” said Todd Palmeter, Great Parks CEO. “This is an incredibly significant moment in trail connectivity, and also a major milestone in addressing the top priority the public has identified for Great Parks – trail expansion and connections throughout Hamilton County.”

The agreement allows the northern track easement to be purchased from IORY by Metro, the current property owner. Great Parks will design, engineer, construct and operate the trail through an operating and lease agreement with Metro. The City will partner with Great Parks on engineering and construction.

The Oasis Trail will extend the Ohio River Trail west from its current terminus at Wilmer Avenue. It will also allow cyclists, runners and walkers to connect to the Lunken Trail and to the 78-mile Little Miami Scenic Trail, which was made possible by Great Parks and the completion of the Beechmont Bridge Connector in 2022.

“We are so grateful for the partnership with Great Parks and Metro to bring this exciting project to life,” said Sheryl Long, Cincinnati city manager. “We continue to work to expand the trail system in and around Cincinnati and this next step will only further that mission. The City is focused on creating safe, accessible trails for all who utilize our beautiful outdoors.”

The total anticipated cost for all aspects of this project is over \$13 million. Currently, Metro has committed \$3 million in public funds for the easement and Great Parks has committed \$1 million in public funds for engineering. The Cincinnati Riding or Walking Network (CROWN) has committed \$2.75 million in private funds. This will serve as a local match for state and federal grants which Great Parks will apply for starting in 2024.

“Metro is excited to partner with the City of Cincinnati and Great Parks to further develop this important project in our community that will provide citizens with enhanced multi-modal options for how they connect in our region,” said Darryl Haley, CEO & general manager of Metro. “The signing of this agreement brings us one step closer to bringing this vision into reality for Greater Cincinnati.”

“The Cincinnati Chamber recognizes the catalytic effect connecting our community and job hubs via trails has on the region’s economic growth potential,” said Brendon Cull, president & CEO of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. “We are proud of the role we played alongside the dedicated trail advocates and public partners at Great Parks, the City of Cincinnati, and Cincinnati Metro in securing the rail corridor to finally build the Oasis Trail.”

After construction of the trail is complete, Great Parks will manage approximately 12 miles of contiguous trail from downtown Cincinnati to Terrace Park, including significant regional segments of CROWN trail segments. The Oasis Trail will increase Great Parks total trail management in Hamilton County to nearly 90 miles of trails.

With acquisition of the railroad easement for the Oasis Trail, focus will now turn to design and engineering, with construction starting once all funding is secured, potentially by 2027, due to state and federal budget cycles.

(Note to editors: A map of the proposed trail alignment is available [in this Dropbox folder.](#))

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