

Great Parks

2024 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Executive Summary



A Letter from the CEO

As the largest landowner in Hamilton County, Great Parks is proud to carry the torch of stewarding public lands for generations to come. Great Parks has developed the Sustainability Strategic Plan to formalize our commitment to conservation and sustainability. The Sustainability Strategic Plan focuses on the many opportunities to capitalize on improved efficiencies that will reduce our reliance on non-renewable resources and increase the use of renewable resources.

For the past decade, Great Parks has implemented numerous projects and initiatives leading up to this plan. These projects include recycling holiday lights, cell phones, batteries, scrap metals, papers, and plastics. We have also installed a grant-funded solar array and are working on a Biochar partnership project with the City of Cincinnati to repurpose animal and plant waste. As we implement capital project priorities, we are also incorporating LEED and Sustainable Sites standards into our designs.

To further our commitment to sustainability, Great Parks became a member of Cincinnati's 2030 District, a network of healthy, high-performing buildings across Greater Cincinnati. Great Parks chose three destinations to focus on as part of our 2030 District Network plan. As a member, we are committed to reducing the buildings' energy use, water consumption, and transportation commuting emissions by 50% by 2030.

Great Parks will focus our attention on water, energy, and fleet. Our commitment to conservation will benefit the residents of Hamilton County in three ways:

1. Greater assurance that our parks and conservation areas will be able to sustain themselves into the future.
2. Improvement of natural resources locally, including air quality, by reducing emissions.
3. Minimizing the impacts of climate change, such as storm intensity and extreme weather, locally and globally.

The Sustainability Strategic Plan defines Great Parks' next steps to meet our 2030 District commitments. The report offers a small glimpse of the impact of Great Parks in protecting your land for future generations.

Be wild, be well



Todd Palmeter
Chief Executive Officer

Overview

In June 2021, Great Parks joined the 2030 District Network, which envisions a global network of thriving, high-performance building districts and cities, uniting communities to catalyze transformation in the built environment and its role in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Over the next several years, Great Parks commits to reducing the consumption of energy, transportation emissions and water at Winton Centre, Sharon Centre and Little Miami Golf Center, by 50% as part of its contribution to the 2030 District Network.

In 2023, Great Parks completed a Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) audit to assess the facility conditions of buildings, systems and equipment.

Energy

Fossil fuels are a finite source used to power most buildings, systems and vehicles in the world. Unfortunately, burning fossil fuels for energy negatively affects the environment and human health. Great Parks is taking the opportunity to be a leader in energy consumption reduction by minimizing its impact on the grid and facilitating a path to meeting the 2030 District reduction objectives through evaluation and implementation of solar, wind and geothermal energy.

2030 Collective District Target:

Reduce energy usage by at least 50% by 2030

GREAT PARKS' AVERAGE ENERGY USAGE BY DESTINATION*

Winton Woods – 287,634 kWh
Sharon Woods – 195,406 kWh
Little Miami Golf Center – 101,130 kWh

**data from utility bills*

GREAT PARKS' 50% REDUCTION BY 2030

Winton Woods – 143,817 kWh
Sharon Woods – 97,703 kWh
Little Miami Golf Center – 50,565 kWh

Fleet

With over 18,000 acres across Hamilton County, Great Parks manages a significant vehicle fleet and other pieces of large equipment necessary to maintain and operate the parks and conservation areas. The 123-vehicle fleet includes 25 ranger vehicles, golf carts, passenger vehicles, boats, construction equipment and more. Great Parks utilizes a fuel management system to track how much gasoline and diesel fuel is consumed annually per vehicle type. The data will help track reductions in fuel use at each of the three 2030 District destinations as Great Parks replaces aging gas-powered equipment with hybrid and electric to reach a 50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

2030 Collective District Target:

Move away from fossil fuel use and further diversify fuel sources for the entire fleet by 2030 while reducing usage, miles traveled and emissions.

GREAT PARKS' AVERAGE ANNUAL FUEL USAGE BY DESTINATION*

Winton Woods – 25,790 Gal.
Sharon Woods – 21,347 Gal.
Little Miami Golf Center – 9,388 Gal.

**data from utility bills*

GREAT PARKS' 50% REDUCTION BY 2030

Winton Woods – 12,895 Gal.
Sharon Woods – 10,673 Gal.
Little Miami Golf Center – 4,694 Gal.



Water

Great Parks has over 25 miles of waterfront along four major rivers and 213 miles of streams in the region and is committed to conserving surface water resources for wildlife habitat and filtering and recycling water for use where appropriate. To responsibly and sustainably manage primary types of freshwater, including potable, surface and wastewater Great Parks commits to reducing building-level water usage by at least 50% by 2030 while protecting and conserving water resources and aquifers.

2030 Collective District Target:

Reduce building-level water usage by at least 50% by 2030 and protect and conserve water resources and aquifers.

GREAT PARKS' WATER USAGE BY DESTINATION*

Winton Woods – 2,874 CCF
Sharon Woods – 1,283 CCF
Little Miami Golf Center – 365 CCF

**data from utility bills*

GREAT PARKS' 50% REDUCTION BY 2030

Winton Woods – 1,437 CCF
Sharon Woods – 642 CCF
Little Miami Golf Center – 183 CCF

