

# State of the County Report: Culture and Recreation

COMMUNITY COMPASS REPORT NO. 16-3

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*Hamilton County, Ohio*

Community  
COMPASS



HAMILTON COUNTY  
Regional  
Planning  
Commission

November 2004



**The Planning Partnership** is a collaborative initiative of the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission. The Partnership – open to all political jurisdictions in the county and to affiliate members in the public, private and civic sectors – is an advisory board that works to harness the collective energy and vision of its members to effectively plan for the future of our county. Rather than engaging in the Planning Commission’s short-range functions such as zoning reviews, the Planning Partnership takes a long-range, comprehensive approach to planning, working to build a community that works for families, for businesses and for the region. The Partnership firmly believes that collaboration is the key to a positive, competitive and successful future for Hamilton County.

Visit [planningpartnership.org](http://planningpartnership.org) and [communitycompass.org](http://communitycompass.org) for more information.

**Community COMPASS** (Hamilton County’s Comprehensive Master Plan and Strategies) is a long-range plan that seeks to address mutual goals related to physical, economic, and social issues among the 49 communities within Hamilton County. Through a collective shared vision for the future based on the wishes and dreams of thousands of citizens, Hamilton County now has direction to chart its course into the 21 century.

In developing a broad vision with broad support, Community COMPASS will help ensure that trends are anticipated, challenges are addressed, priorities are focused, and our collective future is planned and achieved strategically over the next 20 to 30 years. Through an in-depth analysis of all aspects of the County, the multi-year process will result in a comprehensive plan.

**The State of the County** report series outlines conditions, trends, opportunities, and key measures related to improving and sustaining quality of life in twelve major systems in our community. The individual reports lay the groundwork for an overall State of the County analysis or report card, and provide support for refining action strategies.

## Abstract

*Title:*

State of the County Report: Culture and Recreation Community COMPASS Report No. 16-3

*Subject:*

Current conditions and trends regarding culture and recreation in Hamilton County

*Date:*

November 2004

*Synopsis:*

This report presents existing conditions and trends in Hamilton County related to the variety and quality of recreational, cultural and entertainment facilities and opportunities available to Hamilton County residents and visitors. The report identifies three important findings as well as the importance of trends associated with each finding, and provides key indicators for measuring progress toward the Vision for Hamilton County’s Future.

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## Context

### COMMUNITY COMPASS COMPONENTS

- 1 **Vision**  
(What do we want?)
- 2 **Initiatives**  
(What strategies should we consider?)
- 3 **Indicators**  
(What should we measure?)
- 4 **Trends**  
(Where have we been?)
- 5 **Projections**  
(Where are we headed?)
- 6 **Research**  
(What’s the story behind the trend?)
- 7 **Partners**  
(Who can help?)
- 8 **Strategic Plans**  
(What can we do that works?)
- 9 **Action Plans**  
(How do we make it happen?)
- 10 **Performance Measures**  
(Are actions making a difference?)

This Report

### OTHER STATE OF THE COUNTY REPORTS

- Civic Engagement and Social Capital
- Community Services
- Culture and Recreation
- Economy and Labor Market
- Education
- Environment
- Environmental and Social Justice
- Governance
- Health and Human Services
- Housing
- Land Use and Development Framework
- Mobility

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**STATE OF THE COUNTY REPORT:  
CULTURE AND RECREATION**

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STATE OF THE COUNTY REPORT:  
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# Acknowledgements

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## STATE OF THE COUNTY REPORT: CULTURE AND RECREATION

# Executive Summary

### FINDING 1

#### **Arts, culture, and entertainment are a prime economic generator for the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.**

- Regional cultural planning and economic analysis have led to greater understanding of arts, culture, and entertainment as prime economic generators.
- New life abounds for area museums with renovations, new buildings and taxpayer support. Annual festivals continue to flourish, creating significant economic impacts.
- Public art projects such as the Big Pig Gig, Flower Power, and Bats Incredible have generated economic benefits while providing an appreciation of the arts for all downtown residents and visitors.
- The Hamilton County Public Library celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2003 and is recognized as one of the best library systems nationally.

### FINDING 2

#### **Arts, culture, and entertainment are stimulating urban revitalization for the central city area of Cincinnati that benefits the whole region.**

- It is anticipated that arts, culture, and entertainment, while focused in downtown Cincinnati, will benefit the region as the central core becomes a highly desirable destination and place to live.
- Since the mid-1990s, numerous capital investment projects for arts, culture, and entertainment venues have developed or are underway (including the Reds and Bengals stadiums, the Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Arts, and the Convention Center expansion). This "Renaissance on the River" will include \$2.9 billion in investments and is projected to generate \$5.4 billion in overall economic impact along with 60,000 jobs over a ten-year period.
- The City of Cincinnati has implemented needed changes to leverage these major investments with the following:
  - Creation of a One-Stop Development Center to expedite the development process.
  - Creation of the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC).

- Development of the Center City Plan, with emphasis on revitalization of Fountain Square, Over-the-Rhine, and development of The Banks.

### FINDING 3

#### **Recreational opportunities and facilities are on the rise for all age groups in Hamilton County.**

- The Hamilton County park system evolved from a parks, parkways, and boulevards plan contained in the *Initial Report of the Regional Planning Commission* in 1931. Today, the Park District has 19 parks comprising 15,441 acres.
- The City of Cincinnati was recently recognized as one of only four city park systems nationally judged to be "excellent" by The Trust for Public Land.
- In May 2003, the 22 acre Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park opened on the riverfront with sculptures, international gardens, walking paths, and a hike/bike path. The latter is a piece in the planned 150 mile trail stretching from Madison, Indiana to Maysville, Kentucky.
- Extreme sports have also arrived with the Mobile Skate Park Series at Sawyer Point and the opening of new skate parks in the City of Wyoming and Anderson Township.
- New indoor private recreation facilities for soccer, basketball, and volleyball are opening.



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## STATE OF THE COUNTY REPORT:

# Culture and Recreation

### *THE VISION FOR HAMILTON COUNTY'S FUTURE:*

*More and improved, accessible recreational and cultural and entertainment activities and facilities (including parks and greenspace) that open opportunities for people of varying ethnicities and ages throughout the county (urban, suburban, rural) to improve the quality of life.*

## INTRODUCTION

Many cities across the country have looked to their arts and cultural community to play an important role in the revitalization and redevelopment of their central city areas. Some cities, such as Pittsburgh and Tucson, have successfully established specific arts/culture districts in their downtowns. With initial public investments, which then leverage private investments, these districts can reap increased audiences and venues for the arts, increased sales tax revenues, and renovations in existing businesses.<sup>1</sup>

The Cincinnati metropolitan region has a wealth of more than 350 professional cultural organizations and art agencies. Many of these arts, culture, and entertainment venues are located in the City of Cincinnati – most in or in close proximity to downtown. In recent years a great deal of capital has been invested in new structures including two new stadiums, the Aronoff Center for the Arts, the Lois & Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art (CAC), and now, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

This report reviews how elected officials, business leaders, and arts advocates have come to realize that these “home grown” arts venues create an impressive economic impact for the whole metropolitan region. The report also shows how recent major investments in the arts and entertainment are stimulating urban revitalization for downtown Cincinnati. It further describes the steps taken to build on this revitalization process with the development of *The Central City Plan* and the creation of the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC) to implement this plan.

Finally, the report presents how recreational opportunities and facilities are increasing for all age groups throughout the County. These opportunities and facilities include new parks, new comprehensive fitness and health facilities, outdoor competitive fitness events, and new park infrastructure, such as skate parks. Long range planning is also in the works for developing bike/hike paths along riverways.

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The Vision Statement for Culture and Recreation, a component of *The Vision for Hamilton County's Future*, is based on recommendations from 12 Community Forums in the Fall of 2001 and the Countywide Town Meeting held January 12, 2002.

*The Vision for Hamilton County's Future* was reviewed and approved by:

- Community COMPASS Steering Team, July 30, 2002
  - Hamilton County Planning Partnership, Dec. 3, 2002
  - Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, Feb. 6, 2003
  - Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, Nov. 26, 2003
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Finding 1

## ARTS, CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT ARE A PRIME ECONOMIC GENERATOR FOR THE CITY OF CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY.

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Cincinnati and Hamilton County residents are dedicated patrons of the arts. This is epitomized by the fact that the Cincinnati Fine Arts Fund is the oldest united arts fund in the United States. It was begun in 1949, and in 2004 is the nation's No.1 arts funds, with a total of \$10,404,560 raised, placing it at the top among 60 U.S. united arts campaigns. County residents are also genuine sports fans having voted in 1996 to impose a sales tax increase to fund the new professional sports stadiums for the Reds and Bengals. Total attendance at Reds games at the new Great American Ballpark during its first year, 2003, was 2,355,259 or 27 percent higher than the previous year at Cinergy Park. Bengals attendance at Paul Brown Stadium also increased in 2003 with their renewed winning ways.

Unlike some other area "industries," traditional Cincinnati cultural, arts and entertainment organizations - Art Museum, Symphony, Ballet, Opera, Playhouse in the Park, Reds and Bengals - have remained in Cincinnati and not moved to the suburbs in recent decades. In fact, many of these

organizations have "dug their roots even deeper" and have invested in renovated facilities and new facilities (i.e., renovated Taft Museum and the new Lois & Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art). Also, new cultural facilities such as the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center have chosen downtown as their home.

During the mid 1990s, some governmental leaders and arts advocates began discussions around the possibility of sustaining and expanding the many economic and communal benefits of the arts and cultural community in the Greater Cincinnati area. This led to the formation of the Regional Cultural Planning Committee (RCPC) in 1997 and to the development of a cultural plan for the eight county region, centered on Cincinnati, but including Butler, Clermont, remainder of Hamilton, and Warren Counties in Ohio along with Boone, Kenton and Campbell Counties in Kentucky, and Dearborn County in Indiana. Arts advocacy groups, including the Cincinnati Arts Allocation Committee, the Cincinnati Institute for Fine

Arts, Northern Kentucky Arts Council, and ProArts were instrumental in initiating this regional cultural planning process.

The RCPC produced the following products:

- *Report of Community Findings* (July 1998), from surveys and focus groups.
- *Exploring the Possibilities: Cultural Tourism and the Greater Cincinnati Region* (July 1998), a "diagnostic" report.
- *The Regional Cultural Plan: Developing the Tri-State as a Cultural Center: Frameworks for the Future* (March 1999).
- *Regional Distribution of the Economic Impacts of Cincinnati Arts and Cultural Organizations* (November 1999), a report prepared by the Economics Research Group of the University of Cincinnati.

The RCPC reported findings for the regional economy of the eight county region that the “cultural sector:”

- *generated* \$674 million in annual economic impact
- *supported* over 5,200 jobs throughout a wide range of Tri-State industries
- *stood* as the area’s premier tourist attraction, drawing 1.25 million out-of-town visitors in 1997
- *played* an important role in the lives of over 90 percent of area residents, according to the annual Greater Cincinnati Survey.<sup>2</sup>

The Regional Cultural Plan identified opportunities for the metro region with a focus on six priority areas: stimulating cultural development, broadening community participation, fulfilling potential in arts education, advancing professional development, maximizing the impact of cultural facilities, and strengthening cultural tourism and promotion. Unfortunately, the Plan did not receive the anticipated public funding for implementation. However, the Regional Culture Alliance Fund was created for grants in arts advocacy and marketing. The legacy of the RCPC is that it greatly expanded the general understanding that arts, culture

and entertainment are a prime economic generator for the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and the metropolitan region.

Further promotion of the arts occurred in 2003 when the Cincinnati City Council’s Arts & Culture Task Team, unveiled *Artist Vitality and Creative Economy in Cincinnati: Beginning in Over-the-Rhine: Arts & Culture Task Team Plan*. This Plan made the recommendation, subsequently approved by City Council, for \$2.2 million of the City’s 2003-2004 Biennial Budget to be dedicated to the support of arts and culture, with much of the funding going to improved

facilities in downtown and Over-the-Rhine (OTR). The 2004 funding was targeted primarily for capital improvements or capital funds for long-standing arts organizations such as the: Cincinnati Ballet, Art Academy of Cincinnati’s rehabilitation of its soon-to-be Over-the-Rhine site, Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati Opera, Emery Theater, and the Taft Museum. The City will also invest another \$1 million to help artists purchase and rehabilitate buildings in OTR for live/work loft space and also for technical assistance for artists and art related businesses.



### FUTURE OVER-THE-RHINE HOME OF THE ART ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI

Source: Art Academy of Cincinnati

Cincinnati, like many other older cities, is experiencing the inability to retain and attract young talented people according to Richard Florida, author of *The Rise of the Creative Class*. Florida asserts that cities that succeed in retaining their “creative class” actively cultivate tolerance, openness, and diversity. These cities invest in life-

style amenities and offer a vibrant and varied cultural life including active music, theater, and visual art scenes along with exciting nightlife venues.<sup>3</sup>

Recognizing the challenge of creating a more tolerant and vibrant urban core, a grassroots group of young urban professionals calling themselves Cincinnati

Tomorrow developed *The Creative City Plan: A Plan of Action*, in 2003. Recommendations in the Plan cover a variety of ideas such as the Fringe Festival and artist-decorated street furniture and sidewalk murals. Cincinnati Tomorrow is actively taking a leadership role in implementation of the Plan through private/public partnerships.

A local event gaining in stature and supported by the Creative City Plan is the Midpoint Music Festival. In September 2004, the 3rd Midpoint Music Festival drew 40,000 people to enjoy over 250 acts of various genre played at the many clubs in the Main Street area. The Festival also offered workshops for the musicians playing in the festival. Another example of the burgeoning popular music scene in Cincinnati, is Esquire Magazine’s recent designation of Cincinnati as No. 7 on its Top 10 list of “cities that rock” in the April 2004 issue of the magazine. Other popular events that complement Cincinnati’s growing national prominence for popular music are the annual Jammin’ on Main Festival, Cincy Blues Fest and the Tall Stacks Music, Arts and Heritage Festival 2003, with its numerous national and local musical acts.

New life has been breathed into Cincinnati area museums with investment in renovation of existing

## TAFT MUSEUM OF ART

Source: Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce



## MIDPOINT MUSIC FESTIVAL LOGO

Source: Midpoint Music Festival



## LOIS & RICHARD ROSENTHAL CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Source: Photo Courtesy of Mary Ann Sullivan



facilities and development of internationally-recognized new facilities. The Lois & Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art (CAC) was opened in May 2003. Designed by 2004 Pritzker Winner Zaha Hadid, the new \$34.1 million CAC has been called by the *New York Times* architecture critic "...the most important American building to be completed since the end of the cold war".<sup>4</sup> By intention, the CAC has no permanent collection, but instead, "offers its audiences entirely new experiences with each programming cycle," which will include "new developments in painting, sculpture, photography, architecture, performance art and new media." The Center also includes the Sara A. & Patricia M. Vance Education Center: The UnMuseum®, which will offer participatory art installations for children.

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center opened its new facilities in the summer of 2004. The \$65 million building was designed by African-American architect Walter Blackburn and features an education and research center, a hall for interracial and interethnic dialogue, five history galleries, and a performance theater. The Freedom Center presents stories of real persons who were active in the "underground railroad," employ-

ing storytellers, singers, and interactive exhibits.

The Taft Museum of Art has undergone a \$22.8 million renovation for a new exhibition gallery for touring exhibitions, lecture hall, resource center, parking garage, tea room, and museum shop. The Taft collection includes works by Rembrandt, Whistler, and Sargent, as well as Chinese porcelains and French Renaissance Limoges enamels.

The Cincinnati Art Museum opened its new Cincinnati Wing in May 2003. The \$10 million renovation provided 18,000 square feet in 15 galleries to display 400 pieces of Cincinnati art. The art ranges from that produced in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to contemporary art. Its collection includes paintings by Frank Duveneck, sculpture by Hiram Powers, 19<sup>th</sup> century art-carved furniture, and art pottery (including Cincinnati's famed Rookwood pottery). The Cincinnati Wing will present art

movements and important artists representative of Cincinnati's two centuries of art history. Since May 2002, general admission to the Cincinnati Art Museum has been free thanks to the generous \$2.5 million endowment from Lois and Richard Rosenthal.

Hamilton County residents showed their support for the Cincinnati Museum Center when they approved a 0.2-mill property tax levy for the Museum Center in March 2004. The levy will generate approximately \$3.5 million a year for the Museum Center, to be used for operating expenses, maintenance, and repairs of the historic art deco structure. Originally opened in 1933 as the main train station for Cincinnati area, the terminal has housed the Cincinnati Museum Center since 1990. The Museum Center includes the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, the Cincinnati Historical Society Museum and Library, the Cinergy Children's Museum, and the Robert D.



## NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER

Source: Photo courtesy of Joe Simon

Lindner Family Omnimax Theater.

In 2002, 1.4 million people visited the Museum Center, with 300,000 of those visitors coming from outside of the region. A recent University of Cincinnati study found that the Museum Center had a total economic impact in the Cincinnati region for the period 2001-2002 of \$75.6 million.<sup>5</sup> The Museum Center is expected to develop a sufficient private endowment and to increase attendance during the ten years the levy is in affect,

so that it will be able to run independently thereafter.

Live theater continues to thrive in Cincinnati and the metropolitan region. The Playhouse in the Park upholds its high quality and renown as one of the nation's best regional theaters. This is clearly evidenced by the Playhouse in the Park winning the 2004 Tony Award for Best Regional Theater. The Playhouse has annually produced world premieres of new plays. It has one of the largest subscriber bases in the country for a regional

theatre with 19,000 subscriptions and routinely has annual attendance to its productions of about 200,000.<sup>6</sup> The Playhouse has recently initiated a new series offering, called Stage Left, that is targeted to young professionals and includes a "social aspect and/or behind-the-scenes experience."

The Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati (ETC) was founded in 1986 and has been in its home theater on Vine Street in Over-the-Rhine since 1988. The ETC specializes in bringing avant-garde theatre to the metropolitan region. ETC provides benefits to its Over-the-Rhine neighborhood through educational programs including the Prelude Program where actors work with children in writing, rehearsing, costuming, directing and presenting a play.

Other downtown theatre venues include the ten year old Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival and The Know Theatre Tribe, now

## CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER

Source: Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce



## CINCINNATI PLAYHOUSE IN THE PARK LOGO

Source: Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park

## ENSEMBLE THEATER OF CINCINNATI LOGO

Source: Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati



in its 6<sup>th</sup> year. The Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival sponsored the first Cincinnati Fringe Festival in May 2004. Inspired by the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the local Fringe Festival presented “17 days of artistic celebration,” including theater, dance, music and poetry. The Taft Theater and the Aronoff Center for the Arts both periodically present touring Broadway productions as well as, dance, music and comedy concerts. The Showboat *Majestic* is the last of the floating theaters built in America and has been presenting musical theater since the late 1960s. The *Majestic* is now a professional summer stock theater employing local thespians.

Cincinnati and the remainder of Hamilton County enjoy a wealth of annual festivals. A 2000 U.C. economic impact study, commissioned by the Partnership for Greater Cincinnati, estimated that 11 of the major summer festivals in Hamilton County have an economic impact of \$183 million and create 3,359 jobs.<sup>7</sup> The summer festivals studied include Taste of Cincinnati, Pepsi Jammin’ on Main, All-American Birthday Party, Coors Light Jazz Festival/Ujima, Gold Star ChiliFest, Midwest Black Family Reunion, Oktoberfest 2000 (Covington), Oktoberfest-Zinzinnati,

Panegyri Festival, Summerfair, and Riverfest/WEBN-Toyota Fireworks. Many of the festivals have become long-lasting traditions for the region such as Summerfair in its 36<sup>th</sup> year and Oktoberfest-Zinzinnati in its 28<sup>th</sup>. Another festival gaining national renown is the Cincinnati Flower Show which has been named the “king of all flower shows” by *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine in their March 2002 issue.

Cincinnati maintains a tradition of being a stronghold of great classical music and dance. New conductor

Paavo Järvi has created renewed excitement for Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and its audiences. The Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, all members of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, continue to delight audiences with concerts at Music Hall, Riverbend Music Center, and their summer Concerts in the Parks Series. The Cincinnati Ballet is in its 42<sup>nd</sup> year and now presents its classical ballet and contemporary dance at the Aronoff Center in downtown Cincinnati. The Ballet recently completed a \$2 million Performance Studio at its Cincinnati Ballet Center on Central



### WEBN FIREWORKS

Source: Photo Courtesy of Joe Simon



### MIDWEST BLACK FAMILY REUNION

Source: Midwest Black Family Reunion



### CINCINNATI FLOWER SHOW

Source: Cincinnati Horticulture Society



### PANEGYRI FESTIVAL

Source: Panegyri Festival

Parkway. The May Festival is the oldest continuing choral festival in the western hemisphere originating in 1873. Music Hall was originally built specifically to house the May Festival. The Cincinnati Opera has presented numerous company premieres at Music Hall including Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*. In 2002, the Opera started renovation on Music Hall's north hall space to create the Corbett Opera Center. The \$3.3 million project for the Opera Center will enable the opera to combine offices, rehearsal space, and support staff together.

Public art projects by the non-profit, ArtWorks, have created very popular outdoor sculpture events with the Big Pig Gig in 2000, Flower Power in 2002 (along with the Cincinnati Horticultural Society), and Bats Incredible in 2003. An economic impact study

of the Big Pig Gig offered the following findings:

- nearly 1,000,000 people from within and outside Cincinnati made a special trip to see the pigs;
- spending by the Big Pig Gig and its visitors generated more than \$124 million in business sales;
- \$39 million in additional salaries and wages were generated for Greater Cincinnati households, enough to create 2,435 new jobs.<sup>8</sup>

A true contributor to the cultural life Cincinnati and Hamilton County is the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2003. Regarded by many as one of the best library systems nationally, it ranks in the top ten circulating libraries in the United States. In 2003, it ranked first in holdings per

capita (12.3 items), first in total holdings (10.3 million items), second in circulation per card holder (36.8 items), third in lowest cost per circulation (\$3.29) and seventh in circulation (14.8 million).<sup>9</sup> The Library is primarily funded through state income taxes and has been forced to deal with major budget cuts since 2000. In 2003, it also initiated the development of a separate non-profit Library Foundation, which will enable donors to contribute to the Library and work to ease future budget concerns.

Another long-time contributor to the area's cultural life is the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, which continues to have strong community support. This is evidenced by 65 percent of voters approving a new five year levy in November 2003. The Zoo was recently named one of ten best zoos in the nation out of 150 reviewed by *Child Magazine*.

Local institutions of higher learning are long-standing leading lights of the region's cultural life. The University of Cincinnati has maintained a continuing program for rebuilding its campus utilizing world-renown architects to design major campus buildings. It has also recently worked collaboratively with nearby Community Development Corporations to redevelop and improve

## CINCINNATI MUSIC HALL

Source: Photo Courtesy of Earl Apel



neighborhoods surrounding the University. U.C.'s and Xavier University's (X.U.) sports programs, including basketball, have gained national recognition. U.C.'s College Conservatory of Music (CCM) and College of Design, Art, Architecture, and Planning (DAAP) are also nationally recognized and contribute greatly to the performing and creative arts of the region.

### Why Is This Important?

The quality of arts, culture, and entertainment found in Cincinnati and Hamilton County are primary factors for assuring a high quality of life for area residents. They are the crucial attractors of tourists, with their vital spending, coming into the metropolitan region. The arts instill pride and give a sense of place and community for area residents. They offer learning and leisure time opportunities and also provide for an overall healthy, well-balanced community.

Arts, culture, and entertainment are, indeed, a prime economic generator for Cincinnati and Hamilton County. They are "home grown" and should, if properly nourished, have less of a tendency to react negatively to national trends like other industries. They are also important amenities that help in the

attraction of new businesses and employees to the metropolitan region.

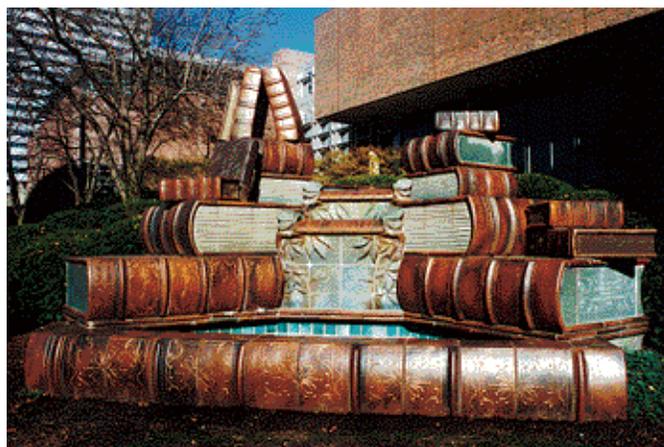
### Key Indicators

- Annual attendance at festivals (e.g., Mid Point Music Festival in 2002 had 10,000; in 2003 had 25,000 and in 2004 had 40,000; Taste of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Flower Show, Oktoberfest-Zinzinnati, Summerfair, etc.)
- Annual attendance at museums (e.g., Cincinnati Art Museum, Taft Museum of Art, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, CAC. etc.)
- Annual attendance at Cincinnati Reds and Cincinnati Bengal games
- Annual fine arts funds donations
- Library annual circulation figures



**BIG PIG GIG**

Source: ArtWorks



**FOUNTAIN AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY**

Source: Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce

Finding 2

## ARTS, CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT ARE STIMULATING URBAN REVITALIZATION FOR THE CENTRAL CITY AREA OF CINCINNATI THAT BENEFITS THE WHOLE REGION.

In the mid-1990s, a significant and historically high level of capital investment was instilled into cultural and recreational facilities in the downtown core of Cincinnati: Aronoff Center for the Arts, Paul Brown Stadium, Great American Ball Park, Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art,

National Underground Freedom Center, and The Banks plan for mixed uses along the riverfront. The Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce has depicted the numerous development projects in downtown Cincinnati and along the riverfront, including across the river

in Covington and Newport, as the “Renaissance on the River.” The Chamber commissioned an economic impact study of the same name by the University of Cincinnati Economics Center for Education and Research in 2002. The U.C. Study projected that the \$2.9 billion being invested in projects in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky will eventually generate \$5.4 billion in overall economic impact and create 60,000 jobs over a ten-year period.<sup>10</sup>

The 18 major investment projects cited in the “Renaissance on the River” Study and their prospective economic impacts are presented in Figure 1.

The “Renaissance on the River” Economic Impact Study identified four major categories for 18 projects that were studied: transportation; recreation and parks; cultural, arts and tourism; and commercial and mixed-use. The study proposes that these major investments in “recreation, arts, culture and tourism projects” will stimulate further private investment in conventional development:

Figure 1  
**"RENAISSANCE ON THE RIVER" MAJOR INVESTMENT PROJECTS**

Source: *Cincinnati USA: Renaissance on the River*, Partnership for Greater Cincinnati/Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce/UC Economics Center for Education and Research

Projects in Cincinnati	Economic Impact
The Banks	\$1.9 Billion
Paul Brown Stadium	\$672 Million
Fort Washington Way	\$609 Million
Convention Center Expansion	\$417 Million
Great American Ball Park	\$406 Million
Aronoff Center for the Arts	\$196 Million
Central Riverfront Park	\$156 Million
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center	\$101 Million
Ronsenthal Center for Contemporary Art	\$69 Million
Taft Museum expansion	\$39 Million
US Bank (formerly Riverfront Coliseum) renovation	\$33 Million
Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park	\$21 Million
<b>Projects in Northern Kentucky</b>	
Riverfront West	\$398 Million
Newport on the Levee	\$279 Million
Port Bellevue	\$87 Million
Newport Aquarium	\$45 Million
Hoffbrauhaus	\$15 Million
Newport Riverbank Park	\$11 Million

**PLAN VIEW OF THE PROPOSED BANKS DEVELOPMENT AND CENTRAL RIVERFRONT PARK**

Source: Central Riverfront Urban Design Master Plan, Hamilton County & the City of Cincinnati



*"The unique aspects of the projects in Cincinnati included in this report are the focus on the riverfront, including both the Ohio and Kentucky riverbanks, the large number of recreation, arts, culture, and tourism projects. The ability of these types of facilities to draw both residents and tourists to the riverfront will spur other types of investment, such as additional office, hotel and retail space."*<sup>11</sup>

The Banks mixed-use development, which is to be located between the two new stadiums, will comprise primarily market-rate housing, retail, and office uses. Though the planning was completed in 1999, there have been delays in the implementation of The Banks due to the economic recession and declining sales tax revenue for public funding. However, the funding for underground parking garages has started to come together with an \$11 million grant from Ohio's Transportation Review Advisory Council and a \$3.5 million federal grant, tentatively approved in early 2004. The underground garages have to be built prior to developing The Banks, which will be constructed on top of the underground garages.

After ten years of planning, the renovation of the Cincinnati Convention Center is scheduled for completion in mid-2006.

The renovation will result in a 750,000 square foot building that will be able to accommodate "75 percent of the existing convention, conference and meeting market."<sup>12</sup> It has been projected that the renovated convention center would increase revenues from direct and indirect spending by \$122 million annually, and also create nearly 2,000 new part-time and full-time jobs.<sup>13</sup>

It is of great advantage for the metropolitan region, that all these major projects are now completed or have completion dates. However, it may all be in jeopardy if the continuing perception of downtown Cincinnati by many suburban residents is that of an unsafe and hostile place. This in part stems from the riots of the spring of 2001 and the continuing high level of crime in the central city. However, everyone loses if all this investment in arts, culture, and entertainment facilities cannot draw the residential and tourist audiences they

need to sustain themselves.

Whereas many area suburban residents see much of the central city as a deteriorating ghetto characterized by decaying, vacant, old buildings and inhabited by drug dealers and panhandlers, others see the largest assortment of 19<sup>th</sup> Italianate architecture which could be rehabilitated and repopulated, thereby allowing the area once again to be seen as the "Paris of America". This vision has been partly realized by the rebirth of Main Street in the Over-the-Rhine. It continues with rehabilitation of many buildings in the Pendleton Area for loft/live/work units targeted to artists and development of condominiums in American Building and the relocation of the Art Academy to its building on 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

This whole state-of-affairs was summed up cogently by William H. Hudnut III, author, former Mayor of Indianapolis, and senior



## CINCINNATI CINERGY CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION

Source: Cincinnati USA

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resident fellow of the Urban Land Institute, in a recent interview. Asked about what he understood the “core business district” to mean and does he see it as “the nucleus of the nucleus” Hudnut stated:

*"You can call the area the central business district, or CBD, geographically - and in some respects it is. It supplies the heartbeat for the entire region. But I see the core district's role changing: The CBD is slowly becoming the "CSD", or central social district. It seems to me that more and more business is flowing out toward the periphery and the revitalization of the core is coming mostly from arts, culture and entertainment, with restaurants and all the other amenities of urban living. In some instances, this includes ballparks, stadiums, and convention centers."<sup>14</sup>*

Hudnut went on to say that a region needs a vital core – that you can't be a suburb of nothing. As the core revitalizes and redefines itself, that vitality will be radiated out to the entire region.

The City of Cincinnati has initiated the appropriate actions to continue revitalization efforts with the work of the City of Cincinnati Economic Development Task Force, begun in the spring of 2002. Charged by City Council to make

recommendations “to spark economic growth”, the 18 member task force of business and community leaders also considered “full-scale regulatory reforms as well as the potential creation of an independent development authority that can issue bonds and utilize eminent domain powers.”

In March 2003, the Task Force made recommendations to Cincinnati City Council that included the creation of a One-Stop Development Center to expedite the development process and the creation of the Cincinnati Development Corporation “a non-profit, privately-led corporation responsible for enhancing downtown Cincinnati's position as a regional center of high value employment, housing, as well as arts, culture and entertainment.”

Another very significant public/private initiative of 2002 was development of the strategic, urban-design oriented *The Center City Plan: Setting Priorities*. Commissioned by the City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Business Committee (CBC) and Downtown Cincinnati, Inc. The Plan identified immediate challenges for the City including continuing racial tension, a failing downtown retail market, and soft office market. Unsettling facts presented in the Plan were that the number of shoppers to downtown retail stores has

declined 50 percent since 2001 and that the City has not developed any new Class A office space in 10 years.

According to a July 1, 2003 City of Cincinnati News Release, the four priority areas in the Plan are:

- Enforcing aggressive public safety policies
- Restoring Fountain Square as the center of downtown
- Developing diverse, mixed-use neighborhoods, including implementation of the Over-the-Rhine Plan adopted by the City (focusing first on Washington Park) and integrating the Riverfront Master Plan adopted by the City and Hamilton County (which includes The Banks development), into the overall Center City program
- Creating the organization and financial resources to drive successful Center City development.

The boundary for the Center City, as defined in this plan, includes downtown, the riverfront, Over-the-Rhine, the West End, Mt. Adams, sections of Walnut Hills and the East End, and sections of Vine Street leading to U.C. The Plan advises that the contiguous

neighborhoods to the Central Business District must also be revitalized or efforts completed in the Central City will be futile.

In July 2003, the City of Cincinnati announced the creation of the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC). This non-profit group is overseeing the Center City Plan projects and programs to strengthen and leverage downtown's core assets, initially focusing on Fountain Square, Over-the-Rhine, and The Banks. The public and private capital funding commitments include \$100 million over five years from the City and \$50 million targeted for a new private sector equity fund to be raised over the next five years.

In February 2004, the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority and 3CDC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to have 3CDC be the development manager for The Banks riverfront development. In March 2004, Cincinnati City Council voted approval to invest \$2.5 million of City funds to help finance the 950 space garage and 25 unit condominium development at Vine Street and Central Parkway. 3CDC was instrumental in assembling the total funding package for this development and this "gateway project" has been lauded by city leaders as the first victory for

3CDC in the revitalization and redevelopment for the City Center.

3CDC will be able to build on the many "small successes" of the urban pioneers who have been renovating buildings for residential, commercial, and office uses in Over-the-Rhine and Center City in recent years. The revitalization of Main Street with its art galleries, bars, coffee houses, and specialized retail was accomplished with private funding. Rehabilitation of the upper stories of the historic buildings on Main Street for market-rate residential use is

well underway along with other housing rehabilitation efforts.

The more western area of "The Central City" includes the West End, which is undergoing a comprehensive renewal with the development of the HOPE VI project. The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority is transforming a long-standing, inner-city neighborhood characterized by public housing projects and a debilitating urban crime culture into the HOPE VI City West neighborhood. Designed with new homes in historical styles, a large new



### GAZEBO IN WASHINGTON PARK

Source: Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce

## Strategies: Over-the-Rhine

Implement a *comprehensive* development strategy to make Washington Park a civic treasure.

- Support market rate housing
- Relocate social service agencies
- Leverage arts/education investments
- Establish park design and management

### OVER-THE-RHINE STRATEGIES

Source: Slide from *The Center City Plan* Presentation

urban park, community and recreational facilities, and new retail spaces, it is anticipated to become a vibrant mixed-use, mixed-income neighborhood.

The northern area of the “Central City” includes sections of Vine Street that lead up to the University of Cincinnati. Revitalization of this Uptown area (Clifton, Corryville, and University Heights) will be overseen by another new non-profit entity, the Uptown Consortium. This group is a partnership of the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, and Tri-Health Incorporated. The Consortium has hired the same consultant group that developed *The Central City Plan* to focus on four priorities: safety, housing, retail, and transportation. In this first year of the Uptown Consortium (2004),

it is investing \$1 million in operating costs and funding extensive studies in the four priority focus areas.

### Why Is This Important?

The successful revitalization of the Central City neighborhoods should mirror the intent of the HOPE VI project to be a vibrant mixed-income community. In the end, a thriving, diverse, and populous urban core, instead of a decaying and dangerous environment, will benefit the whole metropolitan region by making the central city a safe and highly desirable destination and place to live. This would assure longevity for the wide variety of educational, residential, business, public, artistic, cultural, historical, architectural, and entertainment resources, not to be found anyplace else in the metropolitan region.

The continued successful development and sale of

market-rate housing in the Central City could be indicative of the beginning of a reversal of the long-term trend of residents moving from the city to the suburbs. In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Over-the-Rhine had 43,000 residents, and today has only about 5,000. With continued rehabilitation and revitalization in the Over-the-Rhine, the residential population could expand and spur other retail and commercial development.

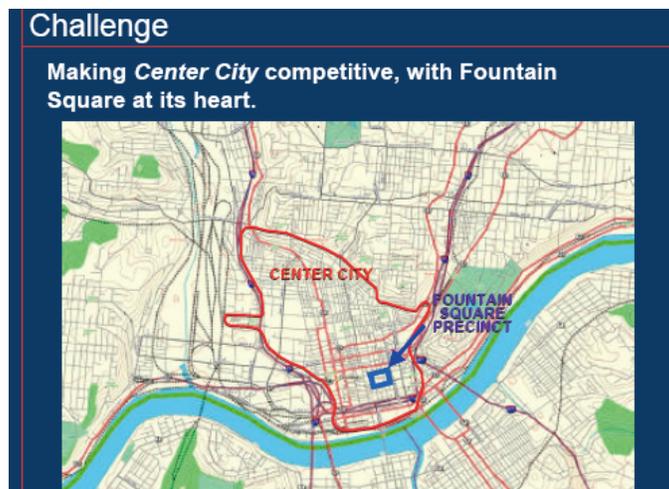
The Gallis Report (1999) said it best:

*“Throughout metropolitan America, the central city carries the identity of the region. The health and vitality of the central core of the central city is the barometer by which regions are measured. The central district of the Greater Cincinnati metro region now encompasses both sides of the river including downtown Cincinnati, Covington and Newport. The vital center core has the widest range of business, economic, entertainment, cultural, historic, sports, convention and tourism resources found anywhere in the super region (including Columbus, Lexington, Louisville, and Indianapolis).*

*Investments in people, neighborhoods, a new metro transit system, amenities and institutions can turn the area into one of the region’s most*

## CENTER CITY PLAN WITH FOUNTAIN SQUARE AT ITS HEART

Source: Slide from *The Center City Plan* Presentation



*desirable locations. Only by working together can the two sides of the river form a central magnet for regional residents, national and international tourists, economic, cultural, recreational, sports and environmental development. A diamond in the rough, the central core can become the shining jewel of the metro region, symbolizing the region's commitment to the future. A vibrant urban center will test the region's capacity to transcend divisions of race and socio-economic class in order to enhance opportunities for all through strengthening the urban core.*"<sup>15</sup>

This concluding excerpt from the Gallis Report was written prior to the April 2001 riots in Cincinnati but it still captures the essence of the long-smoldering tensions of the divisions of race and socio-economic class that erupted in the spring of 2001 and resulted in the black boycott of downtown businesses. The region has not yet transcended these long-held divisions, but honest efforts have been made to begin the healing, including the Cincinnati Enquirer's Neighbor-to-Neighbor Dialogue Initiative, Cincinnati.com Matters of Race Project: Bridging the Divide in Greater Cincinnati, and "On the Same Page Cincinnati," where

community members read the same book and meet to discuss it.

While civic leaders have concentrated on initiatives for racial healing, gay-rights strategists have mounted a grass roots-"door-to-door" campaign to repeal Article XII of the City Charter, which prevents gays and lesbians from seeking protection from discrimination. The successful repeal of Article XII by the voters on November 2, 2004 shows that the City is moving towards greater tolerance, openness and diversity.

### Key Indicators

- *Number of hotel room nights generated from convention/trade shows (179,524 in 2002 ; source: Greater Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau)*
- *Development of new market-rate housing units in central city (51 in 1999, 118 in 2000, 353 in 2001, 451 in 2002, and 235 in 2003; source: Downtown Cincinnati Inc.)*
- *Number of Businesses in OTR (907 in 2003; source: Neighborhood Indicator Project for Redevelopment)*

- *Crime Statistics for central city (source: City Manager's Quality of Life Index-reported quarterly)*
- *Total convention attendance (218,665 in 2002; source: Greater Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau)*
- *Economic impact generated by convention attendance (source: Greater Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau)*

Finding 3

## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES ARE ON THE RISE FOR ALL AGE GROUPS IN HAMILTON COUNTY.

Parks and recreational facilities have a long history in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Starting in Cincinnati and later in the remainder of the County, parks have developed and evolved based on the needs and desires of the population. The first park in Cincinnati was Piatt Park dating from 1817. Interestingly, in 2004 Piatt Park became the region’s first “smart park” with provision of a wireless “hot zone” for internet access.

Cincinnati was prescient by creating a comprehensive park plan by 1907: *A Park System for the City of Cincinnati*. This Plan recommended buying land before it was developed and utilizing hillsides to provide excellent views of

the Ohio River and neighboring hillsides. Most of the 1907 Plan was implemented by 1925 with the creation of 70 parks, playgrounds, and squares.<sup>16</sup>

One of the newest City of Cincinnati parks is the 22 acre Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park that was dedicated in 2003. Overlooking the Ohio River just east of downtown Cincinnati, the park is a tribute to Cincinnati’s first African-American mayor and includes interlacing walkways, flags from around the world, an earthen mound sculpture in the form of two hands (a tribute to the mound builders), and the Gardens of the Continents. The Friendship Park is linked to Sawyer Point, the region’s

“front porch,” where in 2003 over 1,473,000 visitors attended 39 events, including over 800,000 for the Tall Stacks Festival.<sup>17</sup>

The City of Cincinnati’s park and recreation system was recently honored by The Trust for Public Land as one of four parks systems judged to be “excellent” in their 55 city study: *The Excellent City Park System: What Makes It Great and How to Get There (2003)*.<sup>18</sup> Cincinnati ranked above the national average and also ranked highest in comparison with other Midwest cities for percent of the city devoted to parks and acres of parkland per 1,000 residents (see Figure 2 and Figure 3).

Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum was considered a premier “rural park” for urban escapees in the 1800s and still receives thousands of visitors a year. It was created in 1845 by the Cincinnati Horticultural Society. One of the largest non-profit cemeteries in the United States, it has 733 acres of which approximately 430 acres are developed.

The County Park system outside of the City of Cincinnati evolved from

Figure 2  
**ACRES AND PERCENT OF PARKLAND, MIDWEST CITIES, 2000**

Source: *The Excellent City Park System: What Makes It Great and How to Get There (2003)*, Peter Harnik, The Trust for Public Land

Cities:	Land Area (Acres)	Park Area (Acres)	Percent Parkland
Cincinnati	49,898	7,391	14.8%
Columbus	303,907	36,501	12.0%
St. Louis	39,630	3,385	8.5%
Pittsburgh	35,573	2,735	7.7%
Cleveland	49,650	2,887	5.8%
Indianapolis	231,341	13,239	5.7%
Louisville	246,400	13,945	5.6%

Figure 3  
**ACRES OF PARKLAND PER THOUSAND RESIDENTS, MIDWEST CITIES 2000**

Source: *The Excellent City Park System: What Makes It Great and How to Get There (2003)*, Peter Harnik, The Trust for Public Land

Cities:	Population	Park Area (Acres)	Percent Parkland (per 1,000 population)
Cincinnati	331,000	7,391	22.3%
Columbus	711,000	15,540	21.9%
Louisville	694,000	13,945	20.1%
Indianapolis	792,000	13,239	16.7%
St. Louis	348,000	3,385	9.7%
Pittsburgh	335,000	2,735	8.2%
Cleveland	478,000	2,887	6.0%

the *Large Parks, Parkways, & Boulevards Plan* as presented in the *Initial Report of the Regional Planning Commission*, in 1931<sup>19</sup>. The 730 acre Sharon Woods Park was the first park developed by the newly formed Hamilton County Park District (HCPD) in 1932; Winton Woods followed in 1939. Today there are 19 County parks comprising 15,441 acres (see Figure 4).

Although Hamilton County reached its population peak in the 1970s, new recreational opportunities are being provided for its residents as well as those of the region. Collaboration among park boards and districts is on the rise with “PARKnerships” designed to improve operations and functioning of some parks. The Cincinnati Park Board (CPB) and HCPD in 2003

signed a PARKnership agreement for 15 years whereby the County is contributing almost \$2.7 million for improvements, maintenance, operations, and ranger patrol to the City-owned Fernbank Park along the Ohio River.

Another “PARKnership” agreement, this time between the Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC), the CPB and HCPD, is for the now under

construction 350 acre Otto Armleder Memorial Park & Recreation Complex along the Little Miami River. In this partnership HCPD is investing \$4 million to construct, maintain, and manage, while CRC will oversee the recreation areas. The completed park will include soccer fields, dog run areas, hiking/ biking paths, canoe access, fishing areas, and natural areas. The CRC also oper-

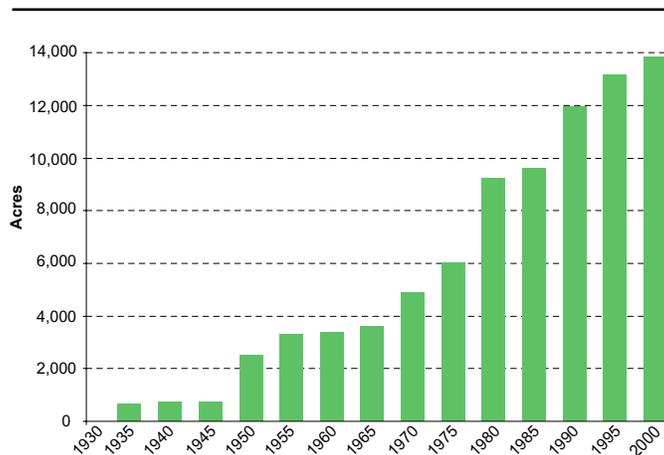


Figure 4  
**GROWTH OF PARKLAND IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY PARK DISTRICT**

Source: Hamilton County Park District

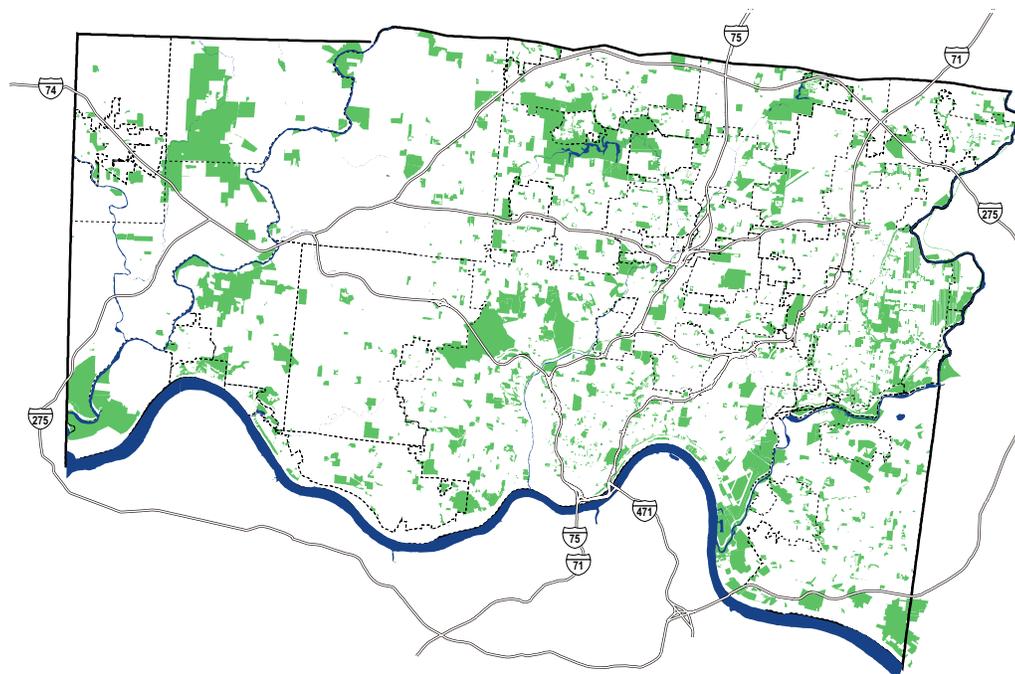


Figure 5  
**HAMILTON COUNTY PARKLAND**

Public Parks

Source: Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, CAGIS

ates six public golf courses, the Showboat Majestic, and the Sawyer Point Facilities on the riverfront.

First opened in 1979, the Little Miami State Park is now a 90 mile trail corridor along the National Scenic Little Miami River that runs from Milford up to Buck Creek State Park in Clark County. The trail was developed from abandoned railroad right-of-way and is on average 66 feet wide, with paved and unpaved hike, bike, and horse trails varying from 10 to 12 feet wide. A 1999 Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments study estimated there were 150,000 to 170,000 trail visits annually along the 27 mile section from Loveland to Corwin in Warren County.<sup>20</sup> An 1.8 mile extension of this trail, starting from Avoca Park to the Little Miami Golf Center in Newtown should be completed by the end of 2005 by the HCPD. The Anderson Park District and the HCPD are collaborating

on developing the extension of the trail from the Little Miami Golf Center to Clear Creek Park, off SR32 in Newtown. A 2.5 mile section of the Little Miami Trail that will go through Terrace Park, and will connect Avoca Park with Milford, is in the works. The State already owns the needed right-of-way in Terrace Park.

Planning efforts are underway by the Ohio River Trail Planning Committee for the development of a 16 mile shared-use bike/hike path along the Ohio River from Lunken Airport in Cincinnati to New Richmond. This trail is encompassed in the 150-mile Ohio River Way Recreation and Heritage Trail and Greenway. The trail is envisioned by the Ohio River Way, Inc. to extend from Maysville, Kentucky to Madison, Ohio. As part of the 1999 Mill Creek Watershed Greenway Master Plan, two miles of the Mill Creek Trail have been built in the City of Reading and

funding has been allocated for an additional 1.5 mile section. Planning for a trail along the West Fork of the Mill Creek, originating in Colerain Township, is in process. There is already one mile of existing trail through Woodlawn, and the City of Wyoming plans to extend the trail south. There is also potential for extending the trail to connect with the trail system in Winton Woods.

The County has also seen the development of private, membership-based fitness and recreation clubs. Some are specialized for specific sports, like indoor soccer, and others offer comprehensive fitness and sports programming. There is a movement toward health-based activities with several wellness and fitness centers arising, such as TriHealth Fitness & Health Pavilion and Mercy Health Partners' HealthPlex Fitness Centers

Traditionally the primary domain of YMCAs or community recreational centers, all-inclusive recreational facilities that offer across-the-board amenities including swimming, court sports, weights and fitness rooms, sports leagues, etc. are now being offered by private, membership-based clubs or facilities. Outdoor competitive fitness events are gaining momentum in Hamilton County and are attracting participants from around the region.

## MOBILE SKATE PARK SERIES

Source: Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce



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The Heart Mini-Marathon is now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year and is the area’s largest participatory sporting event. The Tour de Loveland Bicycle Race has become an annual event in the City of Loveland. Running/walking and bicycle events are increasing throughout the County. The Southwest Ohio Senior Olympics have been hosted by the CRC since 1992.

Skate parks are becoming more popular in Hamilton County, with the St. Bernard Skate Park being the first one built. Two more have recently opened - one in the City of Wyoming and the other in Anderson Township. “Extreme Sports” have also arrived in Cincinnati and Hamilton County. The Mobile Skate Park Series has presented its event at Sawyer Point on the riverfront for the last three years. This is both a professional and amateur event of BMX bicyclists, in-line skaters, and skateboarders that tours a number of cities during the summer months.

The proposed Central Riverfront Park is intended as the “new front door” for downtown Cincinnati. The park will be centered on an historic icon, the Roebling Bridge, and will incorporate 35 acres along the riverfront between the two new stadiums. It is slated to include two six acre open areas for organized concerts and festivals/events.

## Why Is This Important?

Metropolitan regions are competing globally for businesses and industries. “Quality of life” factors, such as recreational opportunities and facilities, are now having an unprecedented significance in attracting prospective industries and workers to a prospective region. The City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County have a long and proud history of offering the best and most up-to-date public parks and other recreational opportunities for its residents. Essentially, the outstanding existing and expanding public parks and other facilities and opportunities enjoyed by Hamilton County residents add greatly to the overall health, vitality, and desirability of the region.

## Key Indicators

- *Acres and percent of parkland in the City (and other County jurisdictions) (Figure 2)*
- *Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents of City (and other County jurisdictions) (Figure 3)*
- *Miles of bike/hike trail developed on the Ohio River*
- *Miles of bike/hike trail developed on other rivers/creeks*
- *New skate park facilities developed (Figure 3)*



# Appendix A

## Endnotes

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# Appendix B

## Community COMPASS Publications

The following Community COMPASS reports are components of Hamilton County's Comprehensive Master Plan and Strategies. The reports are available at the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission and can be downloaded at [www.communitycompass.org](http://www.communitycompass.org).

1. Project Design -- Scope and Process (Oct. 2001)
2. The Community Values Survey (Jan. 2001)
3. Special Research Reports
  - 3-1. Inventory of Research (2002)
  - 3-2. Conflicting Views on Suburbanization (Sept. 1999)
  - 3-3. Spreading Out: The March to the Suburbs (Oct. 1999; revised 2003)
  - 3-4. Summary Report -- Spreading Out: The March to the Suburbs (Oct. 1999; revised 2003)
  - 3-5. The Use of Public Deliberation Techniques for Building Consensus on Community Plans: Hamilton County Perspectives on Governance (A Guide for Public Deliberation) (Dec. 2002)
  - 3-6. Hamilton County's Comparative and Competitive Advantages: Business and Industry Clusters (Oct. 2003)
  - 3-7. Census 2000 Community Profiles: Political Jurisdictions of Hamilton County
  - 3-8. Community Revitalization Initiative Strategic Plan (Aug. 2003)
4. The Report of the Community Forums --Ideas, Treasures, and Challenges (Nov. 2001)
5. The Report of the Goal Writing Workshop (2001)
6. The Countywide Town Meeting Participant Guide (Jan. 2002)
7. Hamilton County Data Book (Feb. 2002)
8. A Vision for Hamilton County's Future --The Report of the Countywide Town Meeting (Jan. 2002)
9. The CAT's Tale: The Report of the Community COMPASS Action Teams (June 2002)
10. Steering Team Recommendations on The Vision for Hamilton County's Future (Jan. 2002)
11. Planning Partnership Recommendations on The Vision for Hamilton County's Future (Jan. 2003)
12. The Vision for Hamilton County's Future (Brochure) (Feb. 2003)
13. Initiatives and Strategies
  - 13-1. Steering Team Recommendations on Community COMPASS Initiatives and Strategies (2002)
  - 13-2. Steering Team Prioritization of Initiatives – Methodology and Recommendations (Aug. 2002)
  - 13-3. Planning Partnership Recommendations on Community COMPASS Initiatives and Strategies (revisions, findings and reservations) (Dec. 2002)
  - 13-4. Community COMPASS Initiatives and Strategies -- Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission Recommendations (Jul. 2003)
14. External Influences: The Impact of National Trends on Hamilton County's Future (Mar. 2003)
15. Population
  - 15-1 Summary Report (Nov. 2004)
  - 15-2 Atlas / comprehensive report (2005)
16. State of the County Reports (Key trends, Issues, and Community Indicators) (Nov. 2004)
  - 16-1 Civic Engagement and Social Capital
  - 16-2 Community Services
  - 16-3 Culture and Recreation
  - 16-4 Economy and Labor Market
  - 16-5 Education
  - 16-6 Environment
  - 16-7 Environmental and Social Justice
  - 16-8 Governance
  - 16-9 Health and Human Services
  - 16-10 Housing
  - 16-11 Land Use and Development Framework
  - 16-12 Mobility
  - 16-13 Executive Summary
17. 2030 Plan Implementation and Framework (Nov. 2004)

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Planning Commission**

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

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