

June 3, 2021

**TO:** Mayor and Members of City Council **202102063**  
**FROM:** Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager  
**SUBJECT: Report – Greenspace Maintenance Budget**

---

REFERENCE DOCUMENT #202100742

City Council adopted at its session on February 24, 2021 the following Motion:

MOTION, (AMENDED) dated 02/17/2021, submitted by Councilmembers Mann and Landsman, We MOVE that the city should build medians and other traffic calming infrastructure with provisions made for the long-term maintenance needs & costs. We further move the administration present to council a fully funded greenspace maintenance budget that covers the needed maintenance requirements of all city managed properties". We further move that the City provides a report and a maintenance master plan for all such amenities created in the past. The report should include a strategy for taking care of the maintenance. The strategy should include potential redesigns funded through capital funds, to enhance the maintainability of these features.

Medians and traffic calming infrastructure, particularly those that include greenspace and gateways, would be considered in the right-of-way. As such maintenance for these areas is an eligible expense from the Street Construction Maintenance & Repair Fund. In the Approved FY 2021 Budget Update, additional funds in the amount of \$200,000 were provided to DPS as a budget exception to cover various roadway related costs including the costs associated with maintaining these areas. This allocation was budgeted as an ongoing expense so those funds will be included in the FY 2022-2023 Recommended Biennial Budget as well as future budgets.

For future construction of medians and traffic calming infrastructure, the Department of Transportation and Engineering will take into account design features that are best suited for maintainability as part of the capital project design. As new infrastructure is added to the list of areas to be maintained, the Department of Public

Services will request a budget exception for additional funds for maintaining these areas which will be a considered a priority for inclusion in future budgets.

The Cincinnati Parks Department, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC), and the Department of Public Services (DPS) each have responsibility for maintaining various greenspace throughout the City. Each department maintains their own greenspace maintenance plans which are periodically reviewed internally. As additional budgetary needs arise, departments can request mid-year budget adjustments or additional funding for the upcoming fiscal year during the annual budget development process.

For FY 2022, Parks has requested an additional 3.0 FTEs totaling \$120k for greenspace maintenance as part of their budget request. A portion of that expense is requested from the Street Construction Maintenance & Repair Fund and a portion of the expense is requested from the Parks Donations/Special Activities Fund.

cc: Christopher A. Bigham, Assistant City Manager