



# City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

## Agenda - Final-revised

### Climate, Environment & Infrastructure

*Councilmember Meeka Owens, Chairperson*  
*Councilmember Mark Jeffreys, Vice-Chair*  
*Councilmember Jeff Cramerding, Member*  
*Councilmember Seth Walsh, Member*

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Tuesday, March 25, 2025

10:00 AM

Council Chambers, Room 300

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## PRESENTATIONS

### Green Cincinnati Seeds of Change

Presented by Oliver Kroner and Molly Robertshaw

### AGENDA

1. [202500444](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Councilmembers Owens, Jeffreys, Nolan and Cramerding, **WE MOVE** that the administration prepare a report within 60 days to create a directory of all city owned or city-maintained cemeteries. **WE FURTHER MOVE** that the administration directly reference what department(s) have the responsibility of maintaining specific cemeteries.  
  
**Sponsors:** Owens, Jeffreys, Nolan and Cramerding  
**Attachments:** [202500444](#)
2. [202500354](#) **MOTION**, submitted by Councilmembers Owens, Nolan, and Walsh, **WE MOVE** that the Administration prepare a report within the next 30 days to devise a strategy for protecting native plant/pollinator gardens in the City of Cincinnati. (STATEMENT ATTACHED)  
  
**Sponsors:** Owens, Nolan and Walsh  
**Attachments:** [202500354](#)
3. [202500581](#) **PRESENTATION** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, dated 3/25/2025, regarding the Green Cincinnati Plan Seeds of Change Grant Program.  
  
**Sponsors:** City Manager  
**Attachments:** [Transmittal](#)  
[Presentation](#)

ADJOURNMENT



20250444

**Meeka D. Owens**  
Cincinnati City Council

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## City Owned/Maintained Cemeteries Directory

**WE MOVE** that the administration prepare a report within 60 days to create a directory of all city owned or city-maintained cemeteries.

**FURTHER WE MOVE** that the administration directly reference what department(s) have the responsibility of maintaining specific cemeteries.

Councilmember Meeka D. Owens

Councilmember Mark Jefferys

Councilmember Evan Nolan

Councilmember Jeff Cramerding

## STATEMENT

In December of 2024, Councilmembers Owens and Jefferys were approached by a couple of University of Cincinnati history professors about the overgrowth that is present at Cincinnati's Potter's Field. Many in Cincinnati are unaware of the Potter's Field in Price Hill. Today it is roughly 26 acres on the northwest side of Guerley Road, this land was acquired by the city in 1852. While the exact number of individuals buried at the Potter's Field is unknown, and is likely to stay unknown forever, it is assumed that over 20,000 people have been laid to rest at this site. It is assumed that at least 6 veterans of the American Civil War, one Spanish War veteran, and an unclear number of World War One soldiers are buried without grave markers.

This Potter's Field is a collection of what many people may see as the unseen of Cincinnati, in a rather literal way. Many of those buried at Potter's Field were buried there because they could not be identified or were apart of moments where there were large amounts of death that overwhelmed other facilities.

Potter's Field right now is not properly maintained to the standard that over 20,000 of our previous residents or visitors deserve. If we allow our city's past to become overgrown by weeds and bushes, then we are silent in the acknowledgement of our collective history.

3/4/25

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DR



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202500381

**Meeka D. Owens**  
Cincinnati City Council

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Protections for Native Plant/Pollinator Gardens

**WE MOVE** that the administration prepare a report within the next 30 days to devise a strategy for protecting native plant/pollinator gardens in the City of Cincinnati.

**FURTHER WE MOVE** that through this report there is a substantial review of Section 731 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code to identify where there could be revisions made to support citizens and the native plant gardens.

**FURTHER WE MOVE** that this report provides a general definition of what a native plant/pollinator garden is; how native plant/pollinator gardens should be maintained; and how native plant/pollinator gardens should be recognized.

**FURTHER WE MOVE** that the following city departments, and all other seen fit, be consulted during this formation of this report: Cincinnati Parks Department, Office of Environment and Sustainability, Law Department, Department of Building and Inspections.

Councilmember Meeka D. Owens

Councilmember Evan Nolan

Councilmember Seth Walsh

DR  
CAL  
2/15/25

Michael J. G. [illegible]

[Signature]

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### **STATEMENT**

My office over the past few months has received multiple calls and letters from community members from multiple neighborhoods who want to see their native plants protected more, and for their overgrowth of native plants to have greater protections from the code enforcement process.

In the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan, we outline the goal to increase green spaces so that every resident has a green space within a half mile walk by 2028, one of the strategies to achieve that is by increasing biodiversity and health of native species in the city. We state one of the priority actions as to “support pollinator gardens, native plants, and education, including allowing the use of native grasses and pollinator plants in residential areas, and Low-Mow or No-Mow practices.”

To this point we have outlined that this City stands in support of native plants and pollinator gardens. This motion acts as a step to ensure that we identify solutions for our residents going forward.

**March 25, 2025**

**To:** Members of the Climate, Environment & Infrastructure Committee

**From:** Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager 202500581

**Subject: Presentation – Green Cincinnati Plan - Seeds of Change**

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Attached is a presentation regarding the Green Cincinnati Plan Seeds of Change Grant Program.

Cc: John Brazina, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Oliver Kroner, Director of Environment & Sustainability  
Molly Robertshaw, Sustainability Manager





# GREEN CINCINNATI PLAN **Seeds of Change** Grant Program

Update for Climate, Environment & Infrastructure March 25, 2025





# Year in Review

The Office of Environment and Sustainability facilitated three community grant rounds:

- ➔ GCP Seeds of Change Open Call 2024
- ➔ GCP Seeds of Change Youth Climate Action
- ➔ Urban Agriculture FY 2025



As a result of three rounds of funding OES was able to award partners a total of

**\$273,991**

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**68 Projects**

Were chosen for funding ranging from \$500 to \$20,000 impacting all 8 focus areas of the Green Cincinnati Plan at the neighborhood level. Projects were selected by diverse review committees and made possible with funds from the City, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and Bloomberg Philanthropies.



# Planting the Seed

2024 marked the inaugural year of the GCP Seeds of Change Grant Program. The Program provides funding for community-initiated projects that align with the Green Cincinnati Plan's priorities. The grant program aims to support sustainable, equitable, and resilient efforts that relieve burdens and increase benefits for those most affected by climate change in Cincinnati.



# OPEN CALL 2024



# YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION



## YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND

Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies







# Mt. Washington CDC

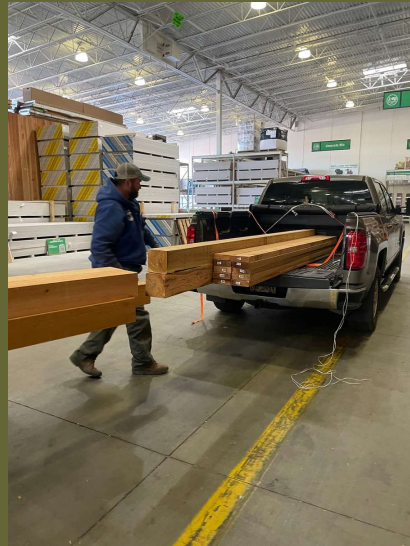




# Brick Garden's Campus Composting







# Pleasant Street North Shade Structure







# Horses on the Hill Solar Installation







# UC Students for Burnet Woods





# GCP Seeds of Change Showcase



# Impact Across Cincinnati

68 projects were awarded a total of **\$273,991** with funds from the City, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and Bloomberg's Youth Climate Action Fund.

The funds activated **530** residents to lead projects in **37** Cincinnati neighborhoods in just the last six months of 2024 reaching more than **5,815** fellow residents.\*\*

**74%** of funds landed in neighborhoods with documented environmental justice issues.

**47** additional organizations were engaged as partners in support of grantees.\*\*

All **8** of the Green Cincinnati Plan Focus Areas were activated by grants.

*\*\*7 of 26 projects are still in process, so these metrics will grow again after extensions end June 2025 and final reports are submitted.*





# 2024 Grantees

## GCP Seeds of Change Open Call 2024

- B the Keeper Powerful Pollinators \$20,000
- Beekman Community Market Increase Food Production Capacity in the Beekman Corridor \$2,440
- Black Power Initiative\* Creating an Agricultural Production Site in the West End for CCPA/Cincy Rec Kids \$8,802
- Brick Gardens\* Brick Gardens Campus Composting – Phase One \$20,000
- Camp Washington Urban Revitalization Corporation Camp Washington LED Initiative \$20,000
- Cincinnati Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (NEST) Preserving Affordable + Diverse Homeownership: Energy Efficient Expansion \$20,000
- Cincinnati Permaculture Institute Growing Food Producers \$7,500
- East End Area Council\* Canopy Plan for CRC's Schmidt Fields, Park, and Boat Ramp \$2,500
- Isaiah 55, Inc. Feed the Block \$10,500
- Mt. Airy Community Urban Redevelopment Enterprise (CURE) Mt. Airy Community Garden High Tunnel \$8,958
- Mt. Washington Community Council Green Mt. Washington – Activating and Educating Our Residents Where They Are \$2,920
- Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation Improving Access to Green Transportation, Increasing Safety, and Promoting Zero Waste \$15,613
- Mt. Auburn Garden Initiative Corporation Pocket Prairie – Phase 1 \$2,418
- MyWhy Grow Where You Are Planted & the Power of Produce – Taking It To The Parks Program \$17,855
- Northside Farmers Market Northside Farmer's Market's For Everybody! \$4,013
- Pleasant Street North Community Garden Living Shade Structure \$2,000
- Roselawn Community Council School Community Garden \$8,000
- SonLight Power, Inc. Horses on the Hill Solar Installation \$15,000
- The Being Project Rees E. Price Outdoor Learning \$8,250

## GCP Seeds of Change Youth Climate Action

- BLOC Ministries Farm to Table Go Native Program \$4,697
- Cincinnati Youth Climate Leadership with Green Umbrella CYCL Climate Advocates Project \$4,878
- Elisha Education Enrichment Community Initiative of Green Ambassadors \$4,720
- IKRON Corporation G.R.O.W.S. (Gainful, Reliable, and Obtainable Work Skills) Group \$2,500
- Mount Airy Cure Mount Airy Children's Garden \$4,965
- Sidestreams and Madisonville Youth Council Madisonville Composting \$5,000
- University of Cincinnati College of Engineering and Applied Science, Department of Environmental Engineering The Green Canopy Keystone Plans Blueprint Project \$5,000
- University of Cincinnati Students for Burnet Woods Burnet Woods Environmental Education \$4,740
- Xavier Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion, Black Student Union, NPHC Unity Garden \$3,500

## Urban Agriculture FY 2025

- Bellarmine Chapel \$1,000
- BLOC Ministries \$998.77
- Bond Hill Community Council \$900
- Cincinnati Permaculture Institute \$500
- Cincinnati Urban Promise \$1,000
- Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden \$1,000
- Community Matters Cincinnati \$745.82
- Green Umbrella \$991.20
- Kennedy Heights Community Council \$916.86
- Mealz That Heal \$642
- Spring Grove Village Community Garden \$1,000
- Spring in Our Steps \$100
- The Deep Hidden Meaning Community Development Corporation of North Fairmount \$1,000
- University of Cincinnati \$1,000
- University of Cincinnati Horticulture Club \$500
- Walnut Hills Area Council \$769.73
- Westwood Grows \$986.83
- Bellarmine Chapel \$1,000
- Brick Gardens \$1,000
- Church of the Advent \$300
- Cincinnati Christian Adult Ministries Center \$1,000
- Clifton Recreation Center \$1,000
- College Hill Gardeners \$1,000
- CUF Neighborhood Association \$1,000
- Druffel Gardens \$1,000
- Ealiox Unlimited LLC- dba Rose Hill Farm \$1,697.56
- East End Community Garden- Turner Farm, Inc. \$979.40
- East End Area Council - Gateway Gardens \$975
- Engaged Bees, LLC \$1,000
- Groundwork Ohio River Valley \$1,000
- Happen, Inc. \$603.87
- Mt. Airy Community Urban Revitalization Enterprise (CURE) \$1,000
- Mt. Auburn Garden Initiative Collaboration (MAGIC) \$999.65
- Ocotillo Herbs LLC \$1,000
- OTR Community Council- Pleasant Street North Community Garden \$500
- Price Hill Community Garden- Turner Farm \$999.15
- Price Hill Market Garden \$463
- Price Hill Will \$971.98
- Saylor Park Village Council \$1,000
- The Flower Lady LLC \$1,000
- Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation \$1,000
- Winton Terrace Community Garden- Turner Farm Fiscal Agent \$681.08
- Working In Neighborhoods \$1,000

# Momentum Builds

GCP Seeds of Change in the News

*City and GCF Award \$196,769 to Grassroots  
Partners to Activate the 2023 Green  
Cincinnati Plan*

-Greater Cincinnati Foundation

**Cincinnati funds 19 community  
climate projects, growing “Seeds  
of Change”**

-WVXU

**Grant program supports community-driven projects to combat  
climate crisis**

-Spectrum News

**Cincinnati offering small grants as  
'Seeds of Change' for community  
climate projects**

-WVXU

**City Invites Grant Applications to Activate  
the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan for a  
Second Year**

-City of Cincinnati

**These climate action projects were  
led by local youth this year**

-WVXU







# Applications for 2025 Grants Open Now

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OES Staff held an Info Session at the Walnut Hills Branch Library to launch the Open Call Spring 2025 Grants and answer community questions. **Applications due April 30th, 2025.**



Youth Climate Action Grant applications are currently being reviewed by an all-youth evaluation committee.

ON OUR WAY TO PROVIDING

**\$1  
Million**

IN COMMUNITY CLIMATE GRANTS

