

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_-2024**

**EXPRESSING** the desire of the Council of the City of Cincinnati to guarantee that every child in the City of Cincinnati has accessible pathways to experience and interact with nature throughout their childhood; and **SUPPORTING** policies and decisions that consider and implement the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

WHEREAS, longstanding systems of injustice have impacted the design and distribution of green spaces given that minority families are likely to live in the most deprived neighborhoods, furthest from green spaces; and

WHEREAS, it has been found that children living at the lowest levels of green space had a fifteen percent to 55 percent higher risk of developing psychiatric disorders than children living at the highest levels of green space and that the strongest association between risk and green space presence was in more highly urbanized areas; and

WHEREAS, research shows that regular time outdoors is essential for children's healthy development and that children are devoting only four to seven minutes to unstructured outdoor play per day while spending an average of seven and a half hours in front of electronic media; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2022 Climate Equity Indicators Report, Village at Roll Hill, Millvale, South Cumminsville, Lower Price Hill, Queensgate, North Fairmount, English Woods, Carthage, East Westwood, West End, Linwood, West Price Hill, South Fairmont, Avondale, Mt. Airy, Westwood, and Mt. Lookout have a population of 25 percent or more of persons under the age of seventeen while simultaneously having some of the highest rates of asthma, cancer, obesity, and high blood pressure in the City; and

WHEREAS, the states of California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, and Kansas have passed the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco, California; Rochester, New York; Salt Lake City, Utah; Baltimore, Maryland; and Houston, Texas have passed the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio passed, and the City of Cincinnati endorsed, the Ohio Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted the Green Cincinnati Plan in 2023, which outlines goals and priority actions to achieve a carbon neutral city and climate equity for all its residents; and

WHEREAS, three of the priority goals of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan under the Natural Environment Focus Area are to: 1) Maintain forty percent urban tree canopy while

expanding the canopy to forty percent residential, 25 percent mixed-use/industrial, and ten percent Central Business District; 2) Improve air quality so that Air Quality Index “Healthy Days” are increased by thirty percent by 2028; and 3) Increase access to greenspaces so that every resident has a greenspace within a half mile walk by 2028; and

WHEREAS, two of the priority goals of the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan under the Community Activation Area are to have: 1) 4,000 individuals trained for green economy jobs by 2028 (800 per year); and 2) 100 percent of public schools with safe and accessible outdoor learning spaces by 2028, with a stated priority action to increase school/environmental organization partnerships to grow environmental education and climate justice opportunities at schools, including hands-on outdoor learning spaces like Green Schoolyards, with priority given to schools in priority communities; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as Groundwork Ohio River Valley, Green Umbrella, Adventure Crew, and many more already are doing the work to engage children and ensure that they have a deep connection with nature from a young age; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati has a responsibility to uphold these goals as well as further advance these initiatives for the children of Cincinnati; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That this Council expresses the desire to guarantee that every child in the City has accessible pathways to experience and interact with nature throughout their childhood.

Section 2. That this Council supports policies and decisions that consider and implement the “Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights,” which provides that every child in Cincinnati has the right to:

Be physically active and play outside every day to grow up healthy.

Connect with nature, discover the wonders of plants and animals, and explore the diversity of Cincinnati’s natural habitats on their schoolgrounds and in their communities.

Discover leadership opportunities to be stewards of nature.

Safe, accessible, and adequately shaded routes to green spaces or high-quality parks within a ten-minute walk of their home.

Equitably funded public parks regardless of zip code.

Be included and accommodated with accessible outdoor environments.

Green spaces that mitigate the impact of climate change.

Teachers and educators with the resources to create free or low-cost programming and educational opportunities that engage the outdoors.

Breathe fresh and clean air.

Be safe outdoors.

Experience the mental health and holistic wellness benefits of engaging with nature.

Section 2. That copies of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

---

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Meeka Owens