


June 10, 2020

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
From: Patrick A. Duhaney, City Manager 
Subject: Twin Lakes area of Eden Park

202000715

REFERENCE DOCUMENT #202000590

On May 27, 2020, the Law and Public Safety Committee referred the following for a report:

MOTION, submitted by Councilmember P.G. Sittenfeld, WE MOVE that the City Administration prepare a report for City Council on the feasibility and advisability of permanently establishing the Twin Lakes area of Eden Park as being solely for the use of pedestrians and cyclists and remaining closed off to vehicular through-traffic.

At their May 7, 2020 meeting, the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners voted to indefinitely close the Twin Lakes gates to vehicular traffic as recommended by staff.

Please see the attached memo from Parks Director, Kara Kish, outlining the closure of the Twin Lakes gates and a map showing the locations of the gates with nearby parking options.

cc: Kara Kish, Parks Director
Attachment



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Date: May 7, 2020

To: Patrick Duhaney, City Manager

CC: Board of Park Commissioners

From: Kara S. Kish, Director

Subject: Gates at Twin Lakes (Eden Park)

Kara S. Kish
Director

Steven L. Schuckman
Division Manager

Craig Sherman
Division Manager

Rocky Merz
Division Manager

Jenny Mobley
Division Manager

Larry Parker
Division Manager

Twin Lakes is a very popular area of Eden Park due to attractions such as a playground, picnic area, lakes water feature and an overlook with wide views of the Ohio River. Lake Drive runs off Eden Park Drive and provides vehicular access to the area. The roadway bisects part of the site and unfortunately its location creates vehicle/pedestrian conflicts. Twin Lakes popularity has increasingly posed issues over the last several years including crowding, safety, noise and traffic congestion.

The area's features are close together and relatively compact, which leads to crowding. Pedestrians have to cross Lake Drive to get to the playground and overlook leading to pedestrian/vehicle conflicts. It also creates traffic and vehicle/pedestrian safety problems when vehicles exit Lake Drive onto Eden Park Drive. These issues are particularly evident during times when large crowds are present. Additionally, during busy times vacating people and vehicles at the 10 PM closing time has been a continual challenge.

Each year, these circumstances result in many complaints from parks users and surrounding neighbors related to vehicular and pedestrian safety and noise.

Cincinnati Parks has worked closely with the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) and the surrounding residents to address these issues from an enforcement and environmental perspective. Last year, the signage in this area was redone in an effort to promote safer behaviors. In 2018, Cincinnati Parks installed two gates (Lake Drive entrance and exit) to be used to close Lake Drive to vehicular access (see attached). Prior to the gates, CPD used a chain to close Lake Drive.

On March 26, the gates were closed to limit crowd sizes in conjunction with efforts to respond to the COVID19 crisis. This closure has significantly improved many of the conditions described above by decreasing crowd

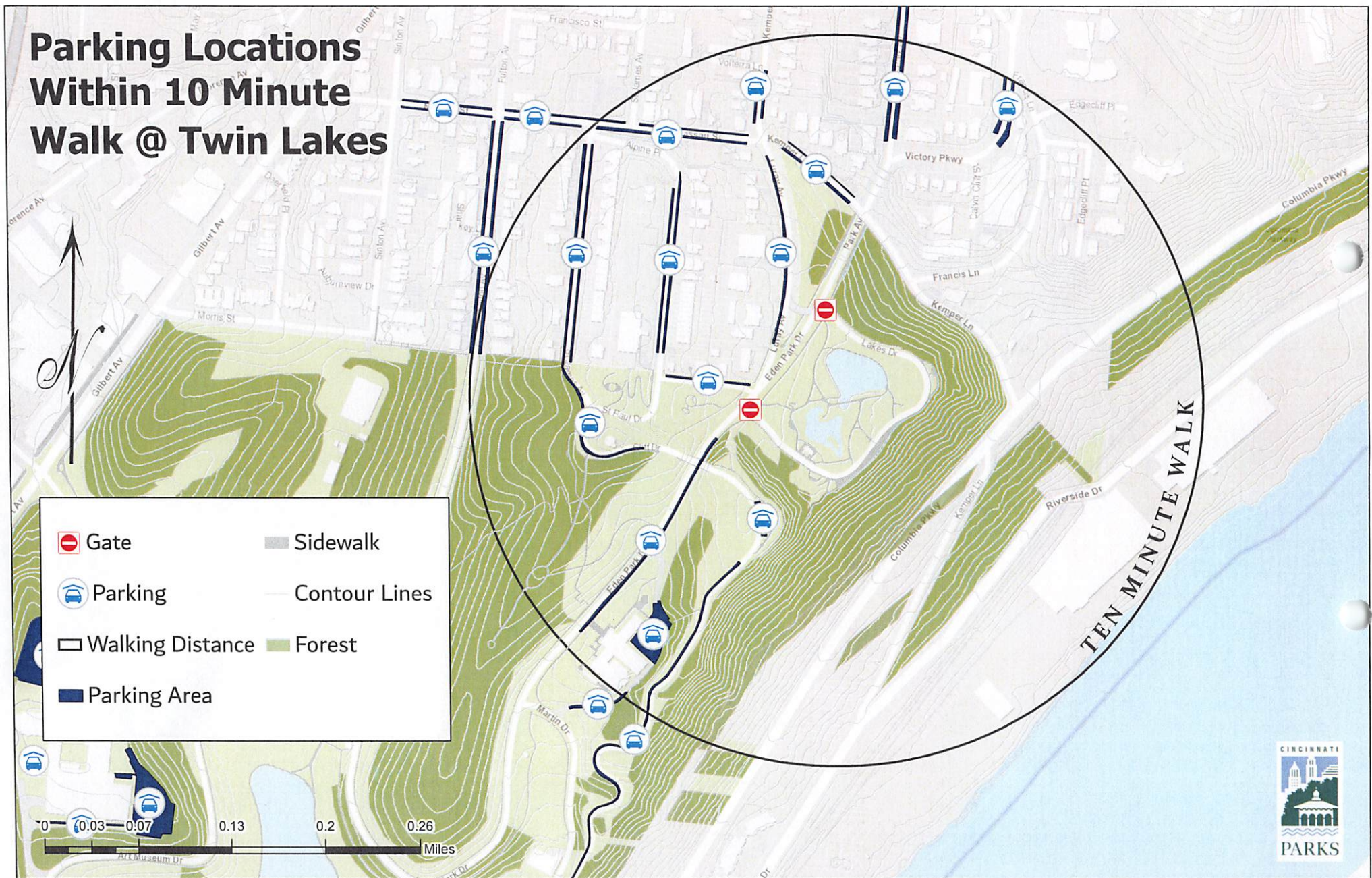
950 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Phone (513) 352-2604
Fax (513) 352-4096
www.cincinnatiiparks.com
#cineyparks








sizes, preventing pedestrian/vehicle interactions and improving traffic safety for those traversing Eden Park Drive.

Park Staff, in consultation with CPD, developed a recommendation to keep the gates closed indefinitely to sustain the improvements realized in limiting crowd sizes and improving pedestrian safety. Additionally, Staff will work with CPD to determine parking and access for those in wheelchairs or with strollers, even with the gates closed to vehicles.

At their May 7 meeting, the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners voted to indefinitely close the Twin Lakes gates to vehicular traffic as recommended by staff. At their request, staff will also be exploring options to add additional parking and enhanced accessibility in the area near the gates. A map showing the locations of the gates and nearby parking options is attached for your reference.

Parking Locations Within 10 Minute Walk @ Twin Lakes



-  Gate
-  Parking
-  Walking Distance
-  Parking Area
-  Sidewalk
-  Contour Lines
-  Forest

