

April 1, 2026

**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council

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

202601193

**Subject: Emergency Ordinance – Parks: In-Kind Donation for Camp Washington Miyawaki Forests**

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

**AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept an in-kind donation from Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati, valued at up to \$40,000, consisting of land improvements on City-owned property in the Camp Washington neighborhood of Cincinnati.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to accept an in-kind donation from Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati, valued at up to \$40,000, consisting of land improvements on City-owned property in the Camp Washington neighborhood.

To increase canopy coverage, reduce the urban heat island effect, and reduce exposure to air pollution, the Cincinnati Parks Department is partnering with Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati Field Center to install two Miyawaki-style forests on parcels of land in the Camp Washington neighborhood that are owned by the City and utilized by the Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) and the Department of Public Services (DPS). Miyawaki forests are dense, fast-growing micro-forests composed of biodiverse native plants and are particularly well suited for urban environments.

Upon completion of the installations, Taking Root and the University of Cincinnati Field Center will monitor and maintain the Miyawaki forests.

This in-kind donation does not require matching resources, and there are no FTEs/full time equivalents associated with this donation.

Enhancing canopy coverage, mitigating the urban heat island effect, and reducing air pollution in the Camp Washington neighborhood are in alignment with the “Sustain” goal to “[b]ecome a healthier Cincinnati” and strategy to “[c]reate a healthy environment and reduce energy consumption” as described on pages 181-185 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept the in-kind donation before the project begins in mid-April 2026.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director  
Steve Webb, Finance Director

Attachment

