

January 25, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

202300388

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – Parks: Biochar Replication Facility

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AMENDING the name of capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x222004, “Biochar Replication Bloomberg Grant” to “Biochar Replication Facility”; **AUTHORIZING** the transfer and appropriation of up to \$300,000 from the unappropriated surplus of Park Board Permanent Improvement Fund 752 to capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x222004, “Biochar Replication Facility”; **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept and appropriate resources in an amount of \$300,000 from Great Parks of Hamilton County to capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x222004, “Biochar Replication Facility,” for the purpose of implementing a biochar production facility; and **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to accept an in-kind gift of excess wood debris and compost from Great Parks of Hamilton County for use in the biochar facility.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance will amend the name of capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x222004, “Biochar Replication Bloomberg Grant” to “Biochar Replication Facility”. The Emergency Ordinance authorizes the transfer and appropriation of up to \$300,000 from Park Board Improvement Fund 752 to capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x222004, “Biochar Replication Facility,” for the purpose of implementing a biochar production facility. Additionally, this Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to accept and appropriate \$300,000 from Great Parks of Hamilton County to newly renamed capital improvement program project account no. 980x203x222004, “Biochar Replication Facility,” as well as to accept an in-kind gift of excess wood debris and compost from Great Parks of Hamilton County for use in the biochar production facility.

On October 6, 2021, the City Council passed Ordinance No. 0385-2021, which authorized the appropriation of grant resources of up to \$400,000 from Bloomberg Philanthropies for the purpose of implementing a biochar production facility as well as the transfer and appropriation of local matching resources of \$100,000 from Urban Forestry Fund 428 for the purpose of implementing a biochar production facility.

The projected budget to build the biochar production facility is \$1,100,000. Therefore, the Cincinnati Parks allocation of \$100,000 from Urban Forestry Fund 428 combined with the \$400,000 grant from the Bloomberg Philanthropies, leaves a funding gap of \$600,000. Great Parks of Hamilton County agreed to split the funding gap with Cincinnati Parks by providing \$300,000. Great Parks of Hamilton County also agreed

to provide the biochar production facility with excess wood debris and composted manure to enrich the biochar.

Implementing a biochar production facility is in accordance with the “Sustain” goals to “[b]ecome a healthier Cincinnati” and “[p]reserve our natural and built environment” as described on pages 181-198 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to transfer and accept the funding necessary to implement the biochar production facility.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director
Karen Alder, Finance Director



Attachment