

# City of Cincinnati



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**Liz Keating**  
Councilmember

## Motion

WE MOVE that city includes a capital request of \$4,000,000 for the extension of the Mill Creek Trail and the Ohio River Trail from Lunken Airport to Friendship Park along the Oasis Rail Corridor. This request would be split into \$2,000,000 in FY 2022, and \$2,000,000 in FY 2023. The Ohio River trail would receive \$1,500,000 each year, totaling \$3,000,000, while the Mill Creek Trail would receive \$500,000 each year, totaling \$1,000,000.

Councilmember Liz Keating

## COMMITTEES

Member: Budget & Finance • Economic Growth & Zoning • Law & Public Safety



**Liz Keating**  
*Councilmember*

## Statement

Access to trails is a talent attraction tool, a catalyst for economic development, and will drive tourism to our region. Importantly, access to trails is also critical to creating a more sustainable, equitable, and healthy transportation system. Building these trails will spur economic development opportunities, generate local tourism spending, and improve property values. This investment will also connect neighborhoods, enhance active transportation options, and improve public health.

Specifically, the Oasis trail is the most important connection in the Ohio to Erie trail connecting Cincinnati to Cleveland via trails. That tourism and day-traveler attraction is huge.

Funding CROWN - specifically the 4-mile gap in the Oasis trail and making a down payment on the Mill Creek Trail - ensures that the City is well positioned to complete the entire 34-mile trail loop that provides access to more than 50 communities. This will leverage \$6M in private dollars and serve as a match for additional state and federal grants as well.

After over a decade of work, the City of Cincinnati, Great Parks of Hamilton County, Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA), and Indiana and Ohio Railroad Company recently signed a term sheet to allow for the Ohio River Trail to be built in the Oasis rail corridor from Lunken Airport to Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park.

The Ohio River Trail is a key corridor in the plan for the CROWN (Cincinnati Riding or Walking Network), which is a bold vision to create a 34-mile multi-use trail loop around Cincinnati. When complete, the CROWN will connect 356,000 residents in 54 communities within 1 mile of the trail. This gap in the Ohio River Trail is the last 4.5 miles needed to connect the 78-mile Little Miami Scenic Trail and 326-mile Ohio to Erie Trail to downtown Cincinnati.

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