



BELLEVUE HILL PARK

Address: 2191 Ohio Ave., 45219

Bellevue Hill Park is at the end of Ohio Avenue on a high bluff overlooking the city, where once stood the famed Bellevue House and incline. A total acreage of 15 includes an area provided by lease from the University of Cincinnati, the old car barn site purchased from the Cincinnati Street Railway Company, and two home sites acquired in 1952. The entrance off Ohio Avenue leads to an attractive shelter building (designed by Carl Freund) and to a panoramic view from the Daniel J. Ransohoff Overlook. Picnic areas, restrooms, a ball field and play equipment add to the public enjoyment of this historic site.

The whimsical pavilion stands on the site of the famed Bellevue House and incline (demolished). Built in 1955, when outdoor dancing was the rage, this free-form stone building consists of a circular domed core with a flat cantilevered roof extending over a recessed bandstand and dancing area. Three mushroom-shaped concrete pergolas, each with a canopy of open grillwork supported by a cluster of columns. One of the last park buildings designed by R. Carl Freund, this pavilion reflects the 1950s and the undeniable influence of Frank Lloyd Wright's late work and the organic approach to architecture.



FAIRVIEW PARK

Address: 501 West McMillan St., 45219

Fairview Park had its beginning in 1931. A narrow winding road through the park surrounds the slopes of Fairview Heights and offers a fantastic view of the Cincinnati skyline, Union Terminal, and the Ohio River in the distance. You can travel in your car for about a mile and enjoy a continuous panoramic view of the city. There is also a stonewall area overlook where you can sit and watch the hustle and bustle of the Queen City. Many tall evergreens and sycamores line the roadway. With picnic tables nestled in the wooded hillside, it is a pleasant place to spend an afternoon.

According to reports, property there was formerly stone quarries and a lime kiln was on the site. Attractive stone walls in the park were built by the Federal Works Projects Administration. You can also see an old sealed wine cellar in the hill adjoining the scenic drive.



FERNBANK PARK

Address: 6601 River Rd., 45233

The 65 acre park, named after the old Village of Fernbank and the Fernbank Dam, lies between River Road and the Ohio River in Saylor Park. An entrance opposite Wilkins-Short Road in the 7100 block of River Road leads into the Fernbank Dam Site. In 1971, the Park Board purchased the final link, through a Federal Open Space Grant, that turned Lee Park, the Fernbank Dam Site, and River Park into a continuous 1 1/4 mile-long park along the Ohio River. The 21.25 acre Lee Park was acquired by both gift and purchase. A gift of 5.25 acres in 1912 by Milton Saylor and others was supplemented by a purchase that same year. The first parcel of River Park was purchased in 1913 and two others in 1951, making a total of 15.808 acres. Part of Lock and Dam 37 (27.53 acres) was operated as part of the park under a sublease from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources which, in turn, managed the land through a lease from the U.S. Department of the Interior. Under the Legacy of Parks Program, this property was transferred by deed to the Board of Park Commissioners in 1974. Fernbank Park is managed by the Hamilton County Park District, for reservations call 513-521-7275. Or visit www.greatparks.org.



JERGENS PARK

Address: 4359 Hamilton Ave., 45223

This small parcel of land, located at Bruce and Hamilton Avenues in Northside, was deeded to the Board of Park Commissioners. The home of Andrew Jergens was stood on the site.

Dedicated on April 26, 1970, the park has many of the original tall evergreens that once graced the estate. The iron gates that are at the entrance offer a feeling of privacy as one ventures into the area of walkways that are lined with evergreen bushes. The park includes a small shelter and children's play equipment.



McEVOY PARK

Address: 6201 Daly Rd., 45224

Located at North Bend and Daley Roads, this property was purchased in 1949 from Mathew McEvoy. An additional 2.79 acres of wooded land were added in 1982 through the efforts of the College Hill Forum.

Rolling hills of grass/meadowlands comprise most of the 27 acre park with shade trees throughout. There are picnic tables, play equipment, athletic fields, and a large shelter picnic area.



MT AIRY FOREST

Address: 5083 Colerain Ave., 45223

Mt. Airy Forest offers a picturesque assortment of hills, valleys, streams, gardens, woods and wildlife - all within a 10-minute drive from downtown Cincinnati.

As Cincinnati's largest park (containing about 40 percent of the Park Board's total acreage), Mt. Airy Forest offers 23 picnic areas with picnic tables, charcoal grills, swing sets and softball fields. Three forest lodges and two picnic areas are available on a fee basis by reservation, as well as two council areas for organized youth group overnight camping. The two non-reservable picnic shelters are Area 10 (across from Everybody's Treehouse) and Area 13, also called The Oval, located along Trail Ridge Road. For those interested in walking through deep ravines along streams and fossil beds million of years old, Mt. Airy Forest offers fourteen miles of hiking trails and for horseback riders, sixteen miles of bridle trails. And in the winter there is cross-country skiing. The hiking trail system designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a National Recreational Trail. It is also a nationally designated trail by the Boy Scouts of America and referred to by them as "The Trail of the Explorers."

Mt. Airy Forest, with its trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, offers a never-ending variety of natural beauty. While surrounded by an urban environment, it is home to a great variety of flora and fauna including Virginia whitetail deer and a rare and endangered salamander. As Cincinnati's largest park (containing about 40 percent of the Park Board's total acreage), Mt. Airy Forest offers 23 picnic areas with picnic tables, charcoal grills, swing sets and softball fields. Areas #10 and #13 are the only non-reservable shelters. Three forest lodges and two picnic areas are available.



STANBERY PARK

Address: 2221 Oxford Ave., 45230

Stanbery Park is named in honor of Brigadier General Sanford B. Stanbery who had his home on the park site and was the highest ranking officer from Hamilton County in World War I. The 125.509-acre park is located at Oxford Avenue, north of Corbly, in Mt. Washington. The first parcel of land was purchased in 1938.

The park features areas suited for picnics, band concerts and community gatherings, and a more rugged terrain with old and beautiful trees and a sparkling stream. The hiking trail, which extends to the Little Miami Scenic River Park on Elstun Avenue, is part of the National Trail System of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Along the Albert Shoop Trail, named in honor of Stanbery's caretaker who planted wildflowers for visitors to enjoy, you will find trillium, Dutchmen's breeches, several varieties of violets, Jack-in-the-pulpit, blood root, and celindin poppy.

Located in the park is a bronze statue of a boy reading, sculpted by Arthur Ivone. This World War I Memorial was moved to Stanbery Park from its former location near the water tower in Mt. Washington in 1940 when Stanbery Park was dedicated. Park facilities include picnic tables, grills, open shelter, playground equipment, and softball field.