CINCINNATI PARKS
FOUNDATION

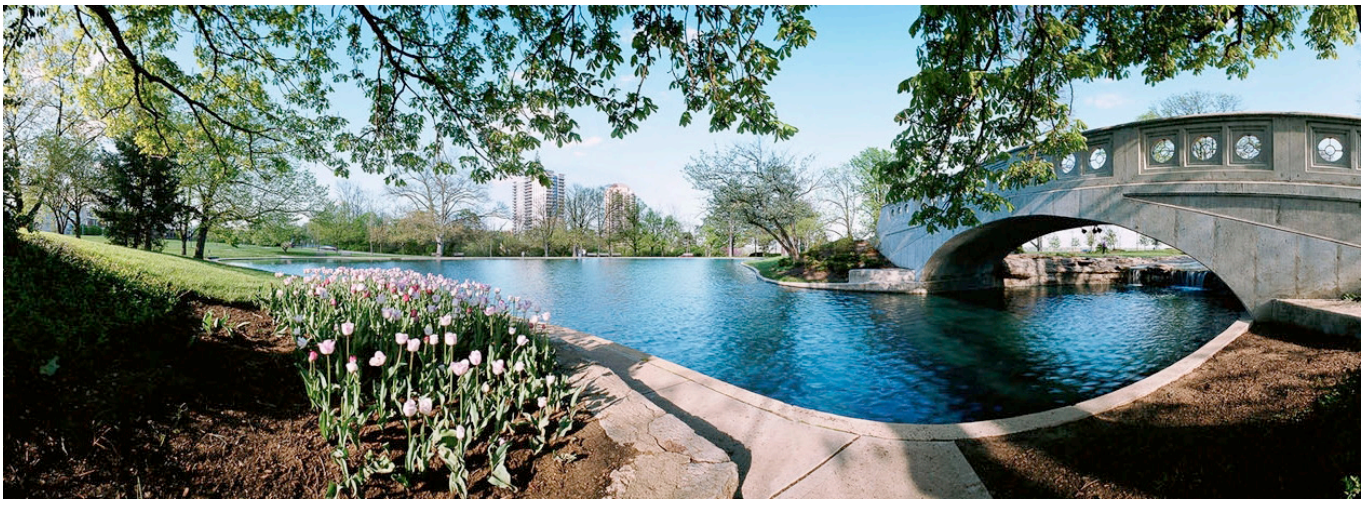
2013 Annual Report

Our Organization

Built on the mission of building broad-based private/public partnerships to support the conservation and enhancement of our City's parks and greenspaces, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation has made great strides since its inception in 1995. Recognized as a nonprofit charitable 501(c) (3) organization, and guided by a 50-person Board of Trustees, the Foundation strives to advocate, partner and raise money to support our parks and greenspaces.

The Trustees of the Foundation report to the Board of Park Commissioners who are assigned by the Mayor of the City of Cincinnati.

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation is lead by an Executive Director and supported by an Assistant Director of Development, Associate Director of Development and an Accountant. This organizational structure is designed to provide a relationship between the Trustees of the Foundation, the Board of Park Commissioners, the staff at the Foundation and the donors that fosters a spirit of cooperation, collaboration and partnership resulting in the maintenance and growth of our parks.



Letter from the President

Many, many thanks!

Dear Friends,

The outpouring of support from you, our donors, has truly been the key to the work we have been able to accomplish recently and is at the core of our success and we thank you. As I step down from the role of President of the Parks Foundation, I wanted to share our many accomplishments this past year and add my personal thanks for allowing me to lead the charge for such an outstanding cause.

We celebrated so much in 2012 with the opening of Smale Riverfront Park, the transformation of Washington Park, and the unveiling of plans for what was to come in our parks. Those plans became reality in 2013! Through the hard work of our outstanding Park Board and Parks Foundation staffs, we opened several new features in Smale Riverfront Park including the most popular Rosenberg Swings which are complimented by the backdrop of the Duke Energy Gardens; The Fath Family Fountains, a destination stop day or night for the young and the young at heart; and the Women's Committee Garden that opened with a ceremonial pour of water by those whose names are inscribed on the stones surrounding the garden. It was a great year only to be topped by the outstanding success of the Hats Off luncheon, chaired by Amelia Crutcher and Marty Humes, that welcomed over 900 people and raised $190,000 for the Carousel. Not only was it a lovely event, but the major announcement of a $5 million gift from the Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile Foundation/US Bank for Carol Ann's Carousel made it a perfect day.

City budget challenges hit us hard this year and a call for help to the Foundation Board members was met with great honor and vigor. While some Board members wrote letters and emails, over half the Board attended the city budget hearings to passionately offer their support and parks information demonstrating the impact the parks have in our communities. It truly made a difference.

The Foundation is supported by hundreds of donors who, once again this year, showed their interest and dedication for the parks by raising over $170,000 in the annual Friends of the Parks campaign. In addition, businesses and foundations demonstrated that the Parks are a good investment by providing financial support to projects like: Explore Nature and the Nature Next Door program; the Krohn Conservatory Butterfly and Holiday Shows; the Disc Golf program in Mt. Airy; the family programming in Smale Riverfront Park; the children's play area and the musical instruments in Washington Park; the ReLeaf and Green Up Day programs and neighborhood park beautification. Plus, dozens of people jumped on board to purchase a Carousel figure bringing in over $850,000 for this project. How generous this community is to our parks.

Our events were equally successful thanks to our dedicated Chairs, Co-Chairs and Committees who sought sponsorships, sold tickets, helped decorate, and volunteered. Thanks to their efforts, our Gentlemen of Style and Substance; Golf Outing; Parks at the Playhouse; Children's Tea and, of course, our Hats Off Luncheon achieved their goals.

The Women's Committee expanded its compliment of support by introducing a new event, the Children's Tea, held at French Park in late September. More than 230 young people, their moms, dads and grandparents joined us for this first-time event that offered a formal setting including real tea cups, finger sandwiches and plenty of activities. In addition, a group of 17 very dedicated members of the Women's Committee spent 11 weeks studying and learning all about our Riverfront Parks so they could be certified as our Park Docents. These ladies volunteer their time throughout the year to conduct tours of the riverfront imparting little know facts, history and even an overview of the plantings to all who joined them on a free tour.

We celebrated so much this year and I am honored to have been a part of the successes we have garnered for our parks. As I pass the gavel to Mark Busher, I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of the Parks Team that includes the Park Board Staff, Park Board, Foundation Staff, the Foundation Board of Trustees, our volunteers and YOU, our loyal supporters. I send a most heartfelt thanks to all of you!

Best Regards,

Judy S. Dalambakis

Judy S. Dalambakis
President

From the Executive Director

Watch Us Grow!

Building on the successful opening of Smale Riverfront Park in 2012, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and Park Board grew its footprint along the Riverfront in 2013 while exploring the possibilities that lie ahead for the western side of our front yard.

The outpouring of private support was celebrated throughout the year as we opened the Duke Energy Gardens, unveiled the Rosenberg Swings, announced the Fath Family Fountains (Walnut Street Fountains), and celebrated the opening of the Women's Committee Gardens. Transformational gifts like the one from the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile Foundation, a $5 million contribution to fund Carol Ann's Carousel; or the generous gift to fund the fountains and water features from Susan and Joe Pichler; and the $1.5 million gift from the Annie W. and Elizabeth A. Anderson Foundation to underwrite the Carousel Pavilion catapulted us over the Roebling Bridge and on our way west! Being good stewards of our investors is paramount. A most generous gift of $1 million from the Oliver Family Foundation for our endowment ensures that we have the wherewithal to secure our future with a very nice nest egg.

The Board of Trustees worked tirelessly to help advocate, educate and raise funds for the parks. Hosting events such as the "Meet the Candidates" night for our new City Council members; showing up in force at the City's Budget hearings and speaking passionately about the importance of our parks as economic drivers and key destination areas for our community to gather; leading and supporting the many fund raising activities we hosted this year raising, in total, more than $382,000, and by achieving 100% participation in the annual support campaign. This group of dedicated individuals provides leadership, financial support and passion to the work of the Parks Foundation.

To that end, a team is only as good as its leader and we have been fortunate to have Ms. Judy Dalambakis as our President for the past two years. Under her leadership, the Foundation has become even more prominent through the growth of our events, through advocacy, through financial support from new and old friends and through her bounding enthusiasm. Ms. Dalambakis engaged each board member through the establishment of a working committee structure. Board members provided guidance, strategy and great thought to every aspect of the Foundation. Ms. Dalambakis worked tirelessly and passionately as she appeared at every ribbon cutting ceremony, every special event, got her hands dirty at the Mayor's Corporate Challenge and personally engaged donors and potential donors in the vision of the parks. For her outstanding efforts, we truly thank her.

In April, 2013, I assumed the role of Executive Director of the Parks Foundation. Following the legacy of Mr. Willie Carden is an awesome responsibility and an honor. His vision, determination, professionalism, and "larger than life" personality transformed this small and struggling Foundation just 10 years ago into a thriving and revered organization in our community that has truly made an indelible mark on the footprint of our parks and the landscape of our neighborhoods. His imprint will be visible for generations to come.

There is so much more to come. We will finish the Heekin/PNC Grow Up Great Playground and move to the west side of the bridge along the riverfront and we will continue to support our neighborhood parks through targeted fund raising. We will celebrate and support those leaders who guide the work we do and those who invest in projects throughout the park system. All this helps us remain one of the best in the country, a staple in this community upon which you can always depend to be clean, safe, reliable, green, beautiful and enriching.

Thank you for supporting us and walking with us as we grow, for we could not do it without you.

Susan L. Dorward
Executive Director

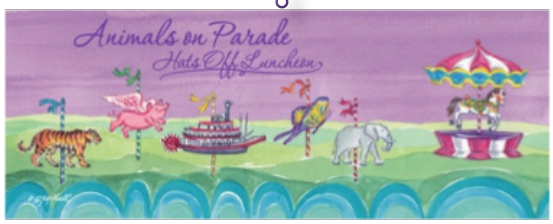
2013 in Review

Gentlemen of Style and Substance ~ 8th Annual Event recognized 12 outstanding men for their many contributions to our community and, of course, for their style. We raised over $21,000 for our Nature Next Door Program.

Our **annual golf outing**, chaired by Dean Gregory, was another success bringing in nearly $40,000!

Women's Committee Docent Program ~ Graduation ~ May, 2013. Seventeen "students" graduated after an 11-week course and toured over 380 people in 2013.

This year the **Women's Committee** was hard at work not only planning and executing the Annual Hats Off Luncheon that attracted a record breaking 919 people and brought in over $191,000, but they hosted a Children's Tea welcoming 230 guests to French Park for a day of tea, finger sandwiches, entertainment and activities.



children's tea in the park

May 21, 2013 marked the official opening of the long awaited Women's Committee Garden. Hundreds of Women's Committee members and city leaders celebrated with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres under the Hats Off Luncheon Tent followed by a ceremonial 'watering of the garden' to dedicate the beautiful new element in Smale Riverfront Park.

Investment at Work

Each year, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation seeks the financial and volunteer support of the community so that programs, parks and events continue to grow and thrive for the benefit of our great city. Often, this generous support comes through foundations and corporations and, for that, we are truly grateful.

2013 saw this support expand enhancing our Nature Next Door, Energy Conservation, Family Programming, Krohn Conservatory and park beautification programs. Here are just a few examples of that support.

Nature Next Door Program is supported by the proceeds from the Gentlemen of Style and Substance and through a grant from the Ladislas and Vilma Segoe Family Foundation. In 2013, more than 4,200 children ranging in age from 3 to 14 attended activities throughout the summer.

The Annual Mayor's Corporate Challenge was supported by over 1,000 volunteers and dozens of corporate sponsors who provided a day of planting, digging, pruning and cleaning in many of our parks around the city.

A grant from the **Greater Cincinnati Foundation** allowed us to provide family activities and events at **Smale Riverfront Park** on Friday nights throughout the summer.

The Butterfly Show **"Butterflies of Morocco"** welcomed over 90,000 visitors this year and was sponsored by the John A. Schroth CharitableTrust/PNC Bank, Trustee and the Macy's Foundation.

The ongoing support from the community for the Cincinnati Parks Foundation is crucial to the work we do and the end result you see every time you visit one of our Parks. To that end, we are grateful to the hundreds of donors who participated in our events or gave a gift to the "Friends of the Parks". Without this tremendous support, our city would not have these treasures we call our parks. We truly thank those who invested in our parks making them a place for everyone to visit and enjoy.

Thank You to our supporters!

CINCINNATI PARKS FOUNDATION

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Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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