

# City of Cincinnati



Mayor John Cranley

Office of Mayor John Cranley

801 Plum Street, Suite 150  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
Phone (513) 352-3250  
Fax (513) 352-5201  
Email: John.Cranley@cincinnati-oh.gov

December 1, 2014

Ms. Lisa Kiefel, Program Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street NW.,  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

**Attn:** CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)

Dear Ms. Kiefel:

Pursuant to the Notice published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the *Federal Register* on August 5, 2014, I hereby transmit a proposal on behalf of the City of Cincinnati to modify its authorization for the Central Riverfront Park project authorized in Section 5116 of Public Law 110-114 to increase the authorization total from \$30 million to \$80 million [Section 5116 (a)]. The increase in authorization will enable the USACE, the Cincinnati Park Board, and their public and private partners to complete work on what is now known as the Smale Riverfront Park.

In addition, the modification language should delete the words “**before the date of the partnership agreement for the project**” [Section 5116 (b)], which would allow the project’s non-federal sponsors to receive credit for the planning, engineering, design and construction work they have carried out above and beyond the authorized non-federal limits.

**1. Provide the name of all non-Federal interests planning to act as the sponsor, including any non Federal interest that has contributed or is expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.**

The non-Federal sponsors of this project are the City of Cincinnati, Ohio; the Cincinnati Park Board; Hamilton County, Ohio; State of Ohio; private citizens, individual private donors; and philanthropic organizations (see detailed list of non-federal sponsors under item #6).

**2. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project or feasibility study and, if a modification, specify the authorized project or study.**

The proposal will modify the following authorized project:

**Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (P.L. 100-114)**

SEC. 5116. CINCINNATI, OHIO.

(a) IN GENERAL

—The Secretary may undertake the ecosystem restoration and recreation components of the Central Riverfront Park Master Plan, dated December 1999, at a total cost of \$30,000,000.

(b) CREDIT

—The Secretary shall credit, in accordance with section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d– 5b), toward the non-Federal share of the cost of the project the cost of planning, design, and construction work carried out by the non-Federal interest for the project before the date of the partnership agreement for the project.

**3. State the project purpose of the proposed study or modification.**

This project has met the original \$30 million dollar authorization and appropriation for both Federal and non Federal share. The modification will increase the Federal project from a 5 acre project initially authorized in 2007 to a \$140 million twenty five acre portion of the Central Riverfront Park project, which was initiated in December 1999.

There is still significant work to be done in completing the overall project for erosion control and flood mitigation, as well as ecosystem restoration. We are asking that the Federal Authorization be expanded from \$30 million to \$80 million to complete the remaining parts of the project [Section 5116 (a)]. We would also seek to delete the words “**before the date of the partnership agreement for the project**” [Section 5116 (b)], which would allow the project’s non-federal sponsors to receive credit for the planning, engineering, design and construction work they have carried out above and beyond the authorized non-Federal limits.

**The modified language would be as follows:**

SEC. 5116. CINCINNATI, OHIO.

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This project is a flood mitigation and erosion control project of the Ohio River Bank along the City of Cincinnati’s downtown waterfront. This area is subject to annual flooding and erosion, as well as 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 year flooding incidents. The current riverbank infrastructure doesn’t have a protective hard edge and is eroding away with every flood incident.

The project stabilizes the riverbank from future erosion and will control the flooding of the area through the installation of hard and green infrastructure. In addition, the project will provide for acres of green ecosystem where blacktop pavement used to exist and assist with the mitigation of storm water runoff. The project will

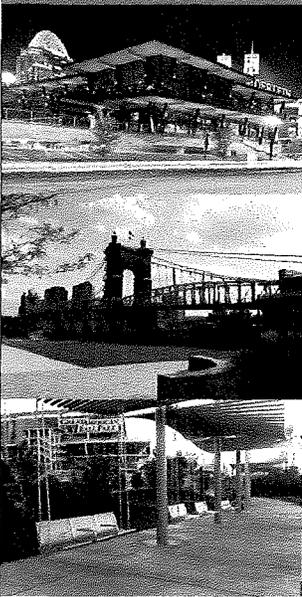
provide a safer environment for children, residents, and visitors to our city/region. Moreover, the project will protect human life and the environment for generations to come.

**4. Provide an estimate, to the extent practicable, of the total cost of the proposed study or modification.**

The total cost of the modification is \$50 million dollars (\$25 million Federal and \$25 million non-Federal). This amount is required to finish the remaining phases of the project.

The total cost of the project exceeds \$140 million dollars. To date, including the Federal authorization share of \$15 million dollars the project is in process or completed in excess of \$90 million dollars in construction, which equates to a \$6 dollar return on every Federal dollar invested.

JOHN D. & PHYLLIS W. SMALE  
RIVERFRONT  
PARK



## Economic Impact

Smale Riverfront Park (SRP) Economic Impact	Leveraged Impact SRP	Return on Federal Investment of \$1
<b>Federal:</b>		
Federal Government	\$ 15,000,000.00	\$ 6.00
<b>Total Federal Funding</b>	<b>\$ 15,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 6.00</b>
<b>All Other Funding:</b>		
Hamilton County (ODOT)	\$ 550,000.00	
State of Ohio	\$ 3,500,000.00	
City of Cincinnati	\$ 34,900,000.00	
Private Donors	\$ 43,056,241.00	
Moerlein Lager House	\$ 8,000,000.00	
<b>Total Other Funding</b>	<b>\$ 90,006,241.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Economic Impact SRP</b>	<b>\$ 105,006,241.00</b>	<b>\$ 6.00</b>

Cincinnati Park Board

**5. Describe, to the extent practicable, the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.**

This project has generated economic development (housing, restaurants, bars, commercial, and retail spaces) in the surrounding area in excess of \$200 million dollars. The USACE's initial Feasibility Study stated that the project will bring over 1.1 million new visitors a year to this area. Per the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, the average visitor to the region spends \$300 per day and over \$635 dollars per stay. According to those figures, that will generate billions for the city, region, and the country.

Moreover, the project protects human life and property through the bank stabilization, flood mitigation, and erosion control, while providing for a significant return on the taxpayers investment of \$6 per every \$1 Federally invested.

**6. Describe if local support exists for the proposal.**

This project has been supported by the City of Cincinnati at \$34.9 million, by the State of Ohio at \$3.5 million, by Hamilton County Ohio at \$550,000, and by the private citizens and the philanthropic organizations at over \$43 million dollars. Please see the chart listed below:

JOHN G. & PHYLLIS W. SMALE  
RIVERFRONT  
PARK

# Private Funding




**Cincinnati Riverfront Park - Project Milestones**

- December 2007: Federal Government Approves Construction of Smale Riverfront Park
- September 29, 2008: Groundbreaking for Smale Riverfront Park
- February 17, 2011: Madelon Lucas House Grand Opening
- May 18, 2011: Grand Opening Smale Riverfront Park
- May 31, 2012: First Old Location on the Jacob G. Schlemmer Day Event Levels

**Funding Plan:**  
Smale Riverfront Park is a \$129 Million project. The park funding will be split into \$92 Million City, \$36 Million Federal, \$22 Million Hamilton County, and \$9 Million Private Dollars. Here is an update on our funding to date:

CITY OF CINCINNATI (City)		PRIVATE DONATIONS (Total \$43,241,000)	
Year	Amount	Organization	Amount
Federal		Smale Family Foundation	\$10,750,000
		Maize Foundation	\$5,000,000
		Assessments	\$3,000,000
		Grants	\$17,000,000
		Phonix & Grant Co	\$1,500,000
		The Anderson Foundation	\$1,500,000
State		Woman's Commission of C.F.P. (Old Location)	\$1,400,000
		Jacob G. Schlemmer Trusts (3)	\$1,000,000
		Oliver Family Foundation	\$1,000,000
City		Central Figures	\$650,000
		Harry & Linda Ford	\$500,000
		CHM Foundation	\$500,000
		Vista Foundation	\$500,000
		Crossroads Foundation	\$500,000
		Madelon Foundation	\$488,116
		PNC Bank	\$400,000
		Dale	\$100,000
		Cincinnati Bengals	\$100,000
		Rosenberg Family	\$100,000
		Western Southern Foundation	\$100,000
Hamilton County (HCO)		Tanner Foundation	\$100,000
		Golf Outing	\$100,000
		Geisler Cincinnati Foundation	\$100,000
		Peter Grant	\$100,000
		The Blue Family Foundation	\$100,000
		David Roberts	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL TO DATE:</b>	<b>\$83,950,000</b>	<b>TOTAL TO DATE:</b>	<b>\$43,056,241</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL: \$127,006,241</b>			

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation continues to be proud to support this project. We have just over 50 community organizations and corporations to provide the Cincinnati Riverfront Park Project.







Cincinnati Park Board

**7. State if the non-Federal interest has the financial ability to provide for the required cost share.**

The non-Federal interest has the financial ability to provide for the required costs to match the Federal share. Within the modification language we are asking that the USACE give this project credit for work already completed outside the original authorization area. The credit for prior work, land value, and other non-Federal support will more than match the modification request of the additional \$50 million in authorization.

**8. Submit a letter or statement of support from each associated non-Federal interest.**

Letters of support are attached to this proposal.

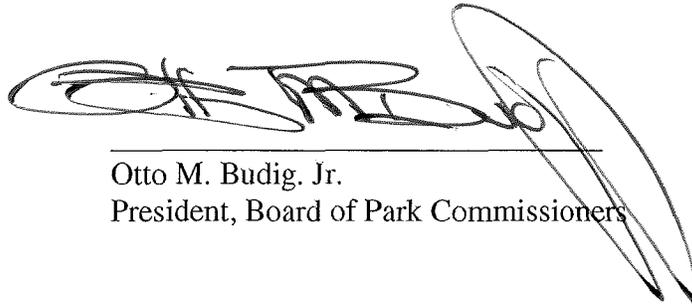
For the above reasons, I ask that you certify the proposed modification to the City of Cincinnati's authorization for the Central Riverfront Park Project as meeting the criteria for USACE projects and include the project in your recommended list in the 2015 Annual Report that will be sent to Congress.

Thank you.

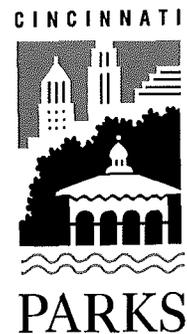
Sincerely,



\_\_\_\_\_  
John Cranley  
Mayor, City of Cincinnati



\_\_\_\_\_  
Otto M. Budig, Jr.  
President, Board of Park Commissioners



December 1, 2014

Ms. Lisa Kiefel, Program Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
441 G Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000  
**Attn:** CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)

BOARD OF PARK

COMMISSIONERS

Dear Ms. Kiefel:

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Otto M. Budig, Jr.  
President

Merri Gaither Smith  
Vice President

Robert D.H. Anning

Susan F. Castellini

Cathy T. Crain

Marian J. Lindberg  
*President Emerita*

Roscoe A. Fultz  
*Commissioner Emeritus  
Posthumously*

Willie F. Carden, Jr.  
*Director*

James H. Burkhardt  
*Superintendent  
Operations*

Steven L. Schuckman  
*Superintendent  
Design & Planning*

Dawn M. Geoppinger  
*Manager  
Business Services*

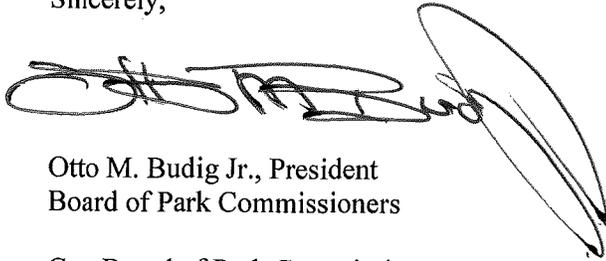
Marijane E. Klug  
*Manager  
Financial Services*



The project will provide a safer environment for the children, residents, and visitors to our city/region. Moreover, the project will protect human life and the environment for generations to come.

Thank you for your time. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above noted issue please contact me at (513) 352-4079.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Otto M. Budig Jr.", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Otto M. Budig Jr., President  
Board of Park Commissioners

Cc: Board of Park Commissioners  
Willie F. Carden Jr., Director of Parks

December 1, 2014

Ms. Lisa Kiefel, Program Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
441 G Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

**Attn:** CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)

Dear Ms. Kiefel:

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, I am writing in support of the City of Cincinnati's Central Riverfront Park project to modify its authorization as authorized in Section 5116 of Public Law 110-114 to increase the authorization total from \$30 million to \$80 million. The increase in authorization will enable the USACE, the City of Cincinnati, and their public and private partners to complete work on what is now known as the Smale Riverfront Park.

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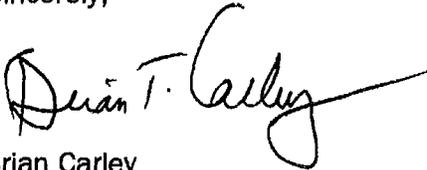
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Thank you for your time. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above noted issue please contact me at (513) 579-3175.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian T. Carley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Carley

Cc: Board of Park Commissioners  
Willie F. Carden Jr., Director of Parks



# Hamilton County

## Board of County Commissioners

Chris Monzel  
*President*  
Phone (513) 946-4409  
Fax (513) 946-4407

Greg Hartmann  
*Vice President*  
Phone (513) 946-4405  
Fax (513) 946-4404

Todd Portune  
Phone (513) 946-4401  
Fax (513) 946-4446

Room 603  
County Administration Building  
138 East Court Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

TDD/TTY (513) 946-4719  
[www.hamilton-co.org](http://www.hamilton-co.org)

Christian Sigman  
*Administrator*  
Phone (513) 946-4420  
Fax (513) 946-4444

Jacqueline Panioto  
*Clerk of the Board*  
Phone (513) 946-4414  
Fax (513) 946-4444

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Attn: CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)

Dear Ms. Kiefel:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Monzel', written in a cursive style.

Chris Monzel, President  
Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners

Cc: Board of Park Commissioners  
Willie F. Carden Jr., Director of Parks



at the **BOATHOUSE**

December 1, 2014

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
441 G Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000  
**Attn:** CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)

Dear Ms. Kiefel:

As the Owner, of the Montgomery Inn Restaurant, I am writing in support of the City of Cincinnati's Central Riverfront Park project to modify its authorization as authorized in Section 5116 of Public Law 110-114 to increase the authorization total from \$30 million to \$80 million. The increase in authorization will enable the USACE, the City of Cincinnati, and their public and private partners to complete work on what is now known as the Smale Riverfront Park.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Dean Gregory". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

C. Dean Gregory, Owner  
Montgomery Inn Restaurants

Cc: Board of Park Commissioners  
Willie F. Carden Jr., Director of Parks



December 1, 2014

*Executive Committee:*

Mark J. Busch, *President*  
John E. Neyer, *Vice President*  
Valerie L. Nowell, *Treasurer*  
Daria M. Snider, *Secretary*  
Amelia S. Crutcher  
Judy S. Dalambakis\*  
Trudi Fullen  
Helen K. Hecht  
Matty Humes  
Tom LaBoiteaux  
Ship Marren  
Diane M. Rosenberg  
Ryan Rybolt  
William E. Thiemann

John H. Anning  
Kristine H. Barr  
Neil K. Bortz  
Catherine S. Caldemeyer  
Phillip J. Castellini  
Phillip K. Cone  
Kenneth Davis, Jr., M.D.  
Andrew E. DeWitt  
Ray D. Dupois  
Susan Abernethy Frank  
Jose Garcia  
Dean Gregory  
Thomas F. Hankinson  
Renae Mahaffey Harris  
Susan J. Hickenlooper  
Steve Jemison  
Ron Joseph, Jr.  
Pek Laffoon IV  
Tary Malsh  
Kevin N. McManay  
Carter M. Nabb  
Donald L. Mellott, Jr.  
John Moehler  
Eleanor K. Moffat  
Debra C. Oliver  
Bruce I. Petrie, Jr.\*  
Laura S. Raines  
Timothy F. Seibert  
Paul G. Sirenfeld  
Lynda A. Thomas  
Daniel D. Vogelzang  
Lou Wellinghoff  
Paula C. Wienkoop  
Lindsay Wilhelm  
Dick Williams  
Alex C. Young

\* Past President

*Emeritus*

Marjorie Moich  
Elizabeth A. Stone

*Cincinnati Parks Foundation*

Susan L. Dorward  
*Executive Director*  
Lori McDermott  
*Assistant Director of Development*  
Frances Wojcik  
*Associate Director of Development*  
Kelly Lipp  
*Accountant*

750 Eden Park Drive  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
Phone (513) 357-2619  
Fax (513) 352-4096  
Email: [info@cincinnati-parks-foundation.org](mailto:info@cincinnati-parks-foundation.org)  
[www.cincinnati-parks-foundation.org](http://www.cincinnati-parks-foundation.org)

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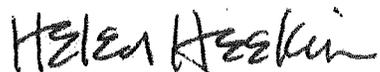
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The increase in authorization will support the stabilization of the riverbank from future erosion and will control the flooding of the area through the installation of hard and green infrastructure. In addition, the project will provide for acres of green ecosystem where blacktop pavement use to exist and assist with the mitigation of storm water runoff.

The project will provide a safer environment for the children, residents, and visitors to our city/region. Moreover, the project will protect human life and the environment for generations to come.

Thank you for your time. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above noted issue please contact me at (513) 352-4079.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Heekin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Helen Heekin, President  
Cincinnati Parks Foundation Women's Committee

Cc: Cincinnati Parks Foundation Trustees  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Willie F. Carden Jr., Director of Parks



December 1, 2014

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[www.cincinnati-parks-foundation.org](http://www.cincinnati-parks-foundation.org)

Ms. Lisa Kiefel, Program Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
441 G Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000  
**Attn:** CECW-CE (Lisa Kiefel)

Dear Ms. Kiefel:

As the President of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, I am writing in support of the City of Cincinnati's Central Riverfront Park project to modify its authorization as authorized in Section 5116 of Public Law 110-114 to increase the authorization total from \$30 million to \$80 million. The increase in authorization will enable the USACE, the City of Cincinnati, and their public and private partners to complete work on what is now known as the Smale Riverfront Park.

The proposal will modify the following authorized project:

**Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (P.L 100-114)**

SEC. 5116. CINCINNATI, OHIO.

(a) IN GENERAL

—The Secretary may undertake the ecosystem restoration and recreation components of the Central Riverfront Park Master Plan, dated December 1999, at a total cost of \$30,000,000.

(b) CREDIT

—The Secretary shall credit, in accordance with section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d– 5b), toward the non-Federal share of the cost of the project the cost of planning, design, and construction work carried out by the non-Federal interest for the project before the date of the partnership agreement for the project.

This project has met the original \$30 million dollar authorization and appropriation for both Federal and non-Federal share. The modification will increase the Federal project from a 5 acre project initially authorized in 2007 to a \$140 million twenty five acre portion of the Central Riverfront Park project, which was initiated in December 1999.

There is still significant work to be done in completing the overall project for erosion control, enhanced safety of public infrastructure, flood mitigation, as well as ecosystem restoration. We are asking that the Federal Authorization be expanded from \$30 million to \$80 million to complete the remaining parts of the project.

This project is a flood mitigation and erosion control project of the Ohio River Bank along the City of Cincinnati's downtown waterfront. This area is subject to annual flooding and erosion, as well as 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 year flooding incidents. The current riverbank infrastructure doesn't have a protective hard edge and is eroding away with every flood incident.

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Thank you for your time. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above noted issue please contact me at (513) 352-4079.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Busher', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mark Busher, President  
Cincinnati Parks Foundation

Cc: Cincinnati Parks Foundation Trustees  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Willie F. Carden Jr., Director of Parks