

## **Corryville: A neighborhood advocating for Burnet Woods**

Like all of Cincinnati's 52 neighborhoods, Corryville is distinct. The precise mix of our population, assets and challenges are unique. So, it is disappointing when we are routinely lumped in as part of Clifton, especially when some leverage this confusion in attempts to develop one of Corryville's best assets – Burnet Woods.

Corryville is home to many of the University of Cincinnati's nearly 50,000 students each year. We celebrated the Corryville branch library earlier this month, when the 1907 Carnegie building reopened after extensive renovations. Our community council meets monthly in the Corryville Recreation Center, which offers a diverse array of programming. We enjoy the service of several Metro bus routes and will soon host sections of Cincinnati's first Bus Rapid Transit routes. We are a destination for thousands of patients and their families who seek top notch medical care from the dedicated nurses, doctors and other healthcare professionals who work at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center or UC Health. Most importantly, Corryville is home to a caring and committed group of residents and business owners.

Corryville also faces challenges, including pedestrian safety and air quality. A short distance from Interstate 71 and split in two by the busy thoroughfare of Martin Luther King Drive, Corryville offers an easy route for drivers from across the region to seek care at a hospital, view a Bearcats game, visit the zoo in neighboring Avondale, or play or hike in one of our parks. The heavy traffic, however, contributes to public health concerns.

Fortunately, Corryville's assets help to mitigate those concerns. It's why Burnet Woods is so precious to our neighborhood. The forested park offers safe walking or hiking paths and serves as a lung for Corryville and all of Uptown, turning traffic emissions into oxygen and absorbing the noise of tens of thousands of automobiles that travel through the heart of Corryville every day.

Historically, Burnet Woods falls within Corryville's boundaries, but we're happy to share the park with Clifton, CUF, Avondale, Mt. Auburn and neighbors across the city and beyond, whether life-long residents or picnickers just passing through. We recognize that Burnet Woods is not just a Corryville asset – it's a draw for our neighbors across the region.

We're grateful for Cincinnati Parks staff who care for Burnet Woods and for the community members who, throughout the decades, have sought to protect the park against numerous development proposals.

For the record, the Corryville Community Council stands with those community members opposing the latest Burnet Woods development proposal – a synthetic turf dog park in close proximity to Corryville homes. As a community council, we have shared our opposition to a dog park in Burnet Woods with Cincinnati Parks Commissioners. They have not responded to our concerns.

Clifton itself rejected a similar development in Dunore Park, a greenspace entirely within its own neighborhood boundaries. Naturally, it's disheartening to see Cincinnati Parks advance a development proposal in Burnet Woods against the wishes of the Corryville Community Council and many others.

We hope commissioners will reconsider their plans to put a dog park in Burnet Woods. In the meantime, here's our message for all who visit Burnet Woods or the many other offerings we are grateful to live among every day: *Welcome to Corryville. Please treat our home as you do your own.*