

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS GREAT PARKS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

December 15, 2016

RESOLUTION NO. 3454

RESOLUTION AMENDING AND REPLACING THE LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY WITH A NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 1545.11 authorizes park district Boards of Park Commissioners to, "*...acquire lands either within or without the park district for conversion into forest reserves and for the conservation of the natural resources of the state...*" and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners of Great Parks of Hamilton County (then, Hamilton County Park District) was formed in 1930, and later adopted a Land Management Policy on May 15, 1975, which directed that no less than 80% of its land be kept in a natural state in the intervening 41 years until this date, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners wishes to affirm a commitment to conservation as the core purpose of Great Parks of Hamilton County, as enabled by Ohio Revised Code, and having embraced the importance its parks and preserves have in preserving habitat for native species in the region, protecting habitat for migratory species, and protecting water quality in streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs, and

WHEREAS, sustainability of natural resources is necessary to ensure that the region's rich natural heritage is available for the enjoyment of future generations, as predecessors have enabled this generation. Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Park Commissioners of Great Parks of Hamilton County establishes this resolution as its Natural Resources Management Policy for the operation of its parks and preserves, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy amends and replaces the Land Management Policy, and that any policy that conflicts with it is hereby amended:

Natural Resources Management Policy

The Board of Park Commissioners of Great Parks of Hamilton County recognizes that as plant and animal diversity has been impacted through land use changes in the region, there is need to preserve habitats which serve as reserves of the region's natural heritage, as well as wild places for public enjoyment.

- The highest priority of the park district will be in preserving land in its natural state. For this purpose, no less than 80% of all park land will be kept in its natural state and managed for the conservation of habitats and species native to our region. Examples include forest, wetland, prairie, meadow, brushland and water resources.
- Development can comprise no more than 20% of all park land. Examples include recreational facilities and amenities, roads, buildings, paved trails, built infrastructure, turfgrass, and agriculture.
- Great Parks of Hamilton County is the steward with ultimate responsibility for some of the most significant remnants of habitat in southwest Ohio. Given the scarcity of these habitats, proposed development in parks and preserves that impact natural areas requires study of the impacts and approval of the Executive Director, or inclusion in an approved comprehensive master plan.

- Collection and/or removal of natural materials or wildlife from parks or preserves is prohibited, except in the cases of approved scientific research, vegetation management or wildlife management by staff or contractors of Great Parks of Hamilton County. Collection of plants or animals as part of a research project by an outside entity may be requested, and will be evaluated as part of a permit issued by the Executive Director, or designate.
- The principal of sustainability is a guiding value of Great Parks of Hamilton County. It creates and maintains conditions under which people and nature can exist in productive harmony. Great Parks will evaluate, test and implement proven methods and technologies to produce measurable ecological benefits. Areas of continuous improvement include, but are not limited, to reducing energy use, reducing waste and maximizing the ecological benefits of park land.

Adopted this 15th day of December, 2016.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
GREAT PARKS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

HC BUCK NIEHOFF, President

DEVERE E. BURT

WILLIAM J. BURWINKEL

JOSEPH C. SETA

GERALDINE WARNER

ATTEST:

This 15th day of December, 2016

JACK SUTTON, Executive Director