CINCINNATI, OHIO

PARKS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The City of Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners is seeking a dynamic leader to lead the finance and technology division of Cincinnati’s highly revered, nationally recognized Park system and the $24 Million diverse budget portfolio. This brochure provides background information on the City of Cincinnati, its Park system and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) position, outlining the important qualifications and experience the next Parks CFO should possess.

All inquiries relating to the recruitment and selection process for the Parks CFO are to be directed to the Parks Human Resources Department at 513.357.2605. Formal applications should be submitted electronically to:


Please Note: Identities of candidates for this position are subject to public disclosure and release in accordance with the Ohio Open Records Act.
PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT Named one of the top seven park systems in the country by the Trust for Public Land, Cincinnati Parks is a leader in public/private partnerships that have resulted in the renovation and construction of highly impressive public spaces contributing significantly to the City’s economic development. The Cincinnati Parks system consists of more than 5,000 acres and includes the recently completed $100 million Smale Riverfront Park along the downtown riverfront, the Krohn Conservatory, Eden Park which is home to the Cincinnati Art Museum, 1,500 acre Mt. Airy Forest, 68 neighborhood parks, 33 nature preserves and numerous other innovative and interactive amenities enjoyed by millions of visitors each year. The current CFO is retiring after many years of service.

The CFO is selected by the Parks Director and appointed by a five-member Board of Park Commissioners who are, in turn, appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The CFO reports to the Parks Director and is responsible for managing, forecasting and identifying trends related to the $24 million annual budget and management of Park procurement. The CFO must be an experienced executive with a passion for parks, as well as a commitment to the preservation, maintenance and continuous improvement of the parks system. The CFO provides executive level leadership for the Park Board often serving as liaison with the Board of Park Commissioners and other City agencies. The CFO is called upon to facilitate change and collaboration in addition to financial tracking and compliance.

SALARY $105,000 +/- with excellent benefits package.

QUALIFICATION Applicants must have five years of experience in accounting, budget preparation, technical report writing, process improvement, research and development, computer expertise, and complex problem solving/decision making. A proven record of supervisory experience, achievement, and strong demonstrations of teamwork that motivates and builds high morale within a work program is required. Strong interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills are essential. Each applicant must have a Bachelor’s Degree from an accredited university in accounting, finance, or business related discipline. A Master’s Degree and Certified Public Accountant licensure is preferred.

Apply by November 30, 2018 https://www.govemmentjobs.com/careers/cincinnati

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CINCINNATI BACKGROUND
The City of Cincinnati, Ohio (population 298,800), a beautiful city with a world class Parks system, is the county seat for Hamilton County and is located at the confluence of the Licking and Ohio Rivers. With its beautiful bluffs, rolling hills and historic, vibrant downtown, Cincinnati offers an excellent quality of life for its residents, businesses and visitors. A City of 52 distinct and unique neighborhoods, each with a Neighborhood Council, Cincinnati residents are engaged with one another and with their community. Home to numerous corporate headquarters including Proctor and Gamble, Macy’s and the Kroger Company, Cincinnati has an engaged corporate community that is committed to
the City’s economic development efforts as well as the development of its Parks. Notably, the City’s corporate community and City leaders came together in 2003 to form the 3CDC, the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation which has led the revitalization of the City’s urban core. This and other public private partnerships have led the effort in the $48 million renovation of Fountain Square, the $47 million renovation of Washington Park, the purchase and renovation of 131 historic buildings including the recently completed $135 million renovation of the 140 year old historic Music Hall, just to name a few of its numerous accomplishments. The construction of condominiums and apartments and the addition of restaurants, craft breweries, shopping and other amenities has made the downtown and in particular the Over the Rhine neighborhood an attraction for residents and visitors.

**CINCINNATI PARKS SYSTEM**

The Cincinnati Parks System is led by a five-member Board of Park Commissioners, whose members are appointed by the Mayor with confirmation of the City Council. According to the City Charter, the Board of Park Commissioners is responsible for the appointment of the Parks Director and the control and management of the parks and parkways of the City. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission is a separate entity and responsible for the city’s recreation.

The Parks system has 252 full time employees and a $24 million all funds budget.

The key operational divisions include Operations, Planning and Design, Business Services, Riverfront/Downtown Parks / Special Events and Budget and Finance.

The Cincinnati Parks serves more than 5 million citizens each year through special events, urban park performances, explore nature programs, riverfront events and other activities. Its facilities include rental pavilions, nature centers, playgrounds, picnic areas and hiking trails. The mission of Cincinnati Parks is to conserve, manage, sustain, and enhance parks’ natural, cultural resources and public green spaces - for the enjoyment, enlightenment, and enrichment of the Cincinnati community. The Park Board’s guiding principles are for the parks to be clean, safe, reliable, green, beautiful and enriching.

**NATIONAL RECOGNITION** In 2018, the Cincinnati Parks system was listed in the top 7 park systems in the country by the Trust for Public Land; WalletHub recognized the City of Cincinnati as the fourth best City in the Country for Parks and Recreation; Time.com named Washington Park the best park in the state of Ohio.

**PARKS FOUNDATION** The Cincinnati Parks system is fortunate to have an active, engaged Parks Foundation, a separate 501c3 corporation with its own 35 member Board, Executive Director and development staff. Established in 1995, the mission of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation is to “build broad-based private/public partnerships supporting the conservation and enhancement of our City’s parks and greenspaces.” The Parks Foundation has raised millions of dollars for a wide variety of projects and programs on behalf of the Cincinnati Parks system. The Board of Directors is a mix of corporate and community leaders all dedicated to fundraising and very passionate about Cincinnati’s parks.
CINCINNATI PARKS QUICK FACTS
Acres of Park Land: 5,000 or 10% of Cincinnati’s land area
Regional Parks: 5
Neighborhood Parks: 68
River Parks: 7
Nature Preserves: 33
Nature Centers: 5
Playgrounds: 54
Performing Venues: 9
Hiking Trails: 65 miles
Dog Parks: 3
Street Trees: 80,000
Park Trees: 140,000

In addition, the Parks system has two disc golf courses, five interactive fountains/spray grounds, and a restaurant, an arboretum, numerous horticultural displays and a sensory garden, and a one of a kind carousel.

The Cincinnati Parks system is too vast to completely outline in this brochure. The following is a sample of what the Parks system has to offer. The PBS affiliate in Cincinnati, WCET did an award winning documentary of the history, current activity and future plans for the Cincinnati Parks. Select clips can be viewed here [http://www.cetconnect.org/cincinnati-parks/](http://www.cetconnect.org/cincinnati-parks/)

SMALE PARK This $100 million riverfront park is in the final stages of completion. The crown jewel of the park system, the Park was opened in 2012. $50 million of the funding came from state, city and federal sources and $42 million was private funding. Smale Park reconnects the downtown to the river and links existing riverfront parks to the east. The Park was built as a series of terraces that accommodate the seasonal flooding along the river’s edge, which includes areas lifted out of the floodplain. The Park is home to the Anderson Pavilion, which hosts weddings, parties and other events, a beautiful working Carousel, a bike mobility center that serves downtown bike commuters and provides rental and repairs, a section of the Ohio River Trail - a shared bike/hike trail along the Ohio River, numerous fountains and plazas as well as the Black Brigade Monument which is a memorial to the hundreds of African American volunteers who in 1862, erected barricades in Northern Kentucky to protect the City during the Civil War.

EDEN PARK Home to the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and the Krohn Conservatory.

Eden Park includes a Magnolia Garden, Mirror Lake, Bettman Fountain and Twin Lakes, which features a footbridge, walking paths, an impressive view of the Ohio River and Kentucky, several sculptures and playgrounds. Krohn Conservatory - Located in Eden Park, the Krohn Conservatory is a nationally recognized showcase of more than 3,500 plant species from around the world. Permanent features are the rainforest waterfall and exotic plants on display in the
Palm House, Tropical, Desert and Orchid Houses. The Conservatory also has an annual Butterfly Show where thousands of butterflies are free to fly throughout the showroom and a holiday show that attracts tens of thousands of visitors.

MOUNT AIRY FOREST Cincinnati’s largest park with 1,459 acres includes miles of hiking trails and bridle trails for horseback riders. Mt. Airy has Ohio’s only wheelchair accessible public treehouse known as “Everybody’s Treehouse,” an enclosed dog park and a disc golf course. Mt. Airy Arboretum’s specialty gardens, gazebos and picturesque lake are a favorite wedding site. The 30 acres features a magnificent collection of trees, shrubs and flowers, displayed alongside the beauty of nature. There are 23 picnic areas within the park, complete with tables, charcoal grills and swing sets.

Read about numerous other impressive features of the Cincinnati Parks system at: www.cincinnatiparks.com

OPPORTUNITIES

The Parks CFO can expect to work closely with the Parks Director, the Board of Park Commissioners, the leadership team, Parks Foundation, City departments and other stakeholders on the following challenges and opportunities:

- The Cincinnati Parks has a strong working relationship with the Cincinnati corporate community and is integrated into the economic development efforts of the City. It is critical to the continued success of the Parks system that the CFO maintains and further develops these highly important relationships and further enhances the department’s working relationship with elected officials, City departments and staff.

- The CFO must be comfortable presenting analytical information justifying the Park Board’s budgetary priorities as well as seeking out additional sources of revenues (including commercial partnerships) to finance the department’s activities and programs with an eye toward thoughtful and appropriate change.

- The CFO must be approachable, energetic, and able to establish early and lasting credibility with partner organizations and groups.

- Like nearly all cities, the Cincinnati Parks system has a backlog of deferred maintenance. In addition, the Parks system has undertaken numerous high-profile projects in the last several years. It will be critical for the CFO to engage with leadership and work collaboratively to develop and help push the developed
strategies and tactics for the sustainability of these investments.

• Candidates must be passionate about the preservation, protection, maintenance, and improvement of parkland systems that will support current and future generations; candidates must know when to focus on the important details of maintaining a complex system and when to take a higher-level perspective.

PARKS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Parks CFO provides the oversight, planning, and management of all financial matters of the Park Board. Assists the Director of Parks in the administration of the Budgeting, Accounting, Investments, IT, and Financial units; shares responsibility for financial planning, Capital, Operating, and CDBG budgeting, and reporting on all fund balances, revenues generated, receipts, disbursements, monthly financial reports, debt management, procurement management and other financial reporting as required by the Director and City Administration. Performs special projects and related duties as required.

The anticipated starting salary is $105,000+. Salary and compensation is negotiable, depending on qualifications, experience, and record of professional achievement plus an attractive benefits and retirement package.

The following factors of education, experience, leadership, management style, and personal traits have been identified as ideal attributes for the Parks CFO to possess in order to function effectively and achieve a high level of success in the position.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

• Each applicant must have five years of experience in accounting, budget preparation, technical report writing, process improvement, research and development, computer expertise, and complex problem solving/decision making.

• A proven record of supervisory experience, achievement, and strong demonstrations of teamwork that motivates and builds high morale within a work program is required.

• Strong interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills are essential.

• A Bachelor’s Degree is required from an accredited university in accounting, finance, or business-related discipline. A Master’s Degree and Certified Public Accountant licensure is preferred.

• Candidates must demonstrate strong leadership skills with a proven record of innovative thinking.

• Candidates must possess strong communication and presentation skills.

• Candidates must have experience in evaluating departmental and operations, with a desire to maintain and enhance a highly responsive, productive, high-morale staff and workforce.

• Candidates must have experience with implementing internal controls and generally accepted accounting procedures.

• Candidates must have experience in or the willingness to develop
an understanding of city laws, ordinances and processes and how to effectively navigate and comply with them.

- Candidates must be strong managers with proven success in operating a sound fiscal program, experienced in the ability to forecast operational needs, manage capital improvement budgets, oversee the development of commercial partnerships and other external funding sources to finance current and future growth of the departments’ facilities and programs.

- The ability to oversee the development, design and implementation of new applications and change to existing IT systems and software packages.

- Experience researching and applying for grants from state and federal governments

- Candidates must be highly adaptable administrators, who can openly accept and work effectively in a climate of interaction, calling for timely and impartial administrative responsiveness in a demanding environment; experience in working effectively within large municipal organizations is highly valued.

- Candidates must be completely comfortable interacting with the media, with the ability to convey the Cincinnati Parks system’s message in an understandable and coherent manner.

**MANAGEMENT STYLE/ PERSONAL TRAITS**

- Have a passion for parks and service to the community conducting all parks business with integrity and transparency.

- Possess an open, friendly style, dealing with all stakeholders in a professional, fair, straightforward, and responsive manner.

- Possess strong strategic planning skills with the ability and willingness to tap into emerging trends and where appropriate, utilize entrepreneurial and innovative methods to bring them to the Cincinnati Parks system.

- Provide prompt, thorough, and fully responsive implementation and follow through on policy decisions and direction.

- Lead and motivate by personal example, encouraging high standards of performance, productivity, and ethical conduct from all Parks system personnel.

- Keep the Director and other appropriate staff informed of major activities and operations of the organization, with special attention given toward avoiding surprises.

- Have a management style that includes delegation of responsibility and authority while holding staff accountable for the achievement of goals and objectives.

- Be an individual with a sincere and caring attitude toward the Cincinnati community and its citizens,
promoting a “customer service” oriented approach by all employees.

- Implement and maintain positive employee relations.
- Promote and maintain highest integrity throughout all personnel.
- Analyze and manage effective EEO/AA programs.
- Exercise a high degree of initiative, judgment, discretion, and decision-making to achieve objectives.
- Exercise independent judgment on accounting matters.
- Develop and maintain effective working relationships with others.
- Must not be afraid to fail.
- Is comfortable being uncomfortable.
- Demonstrates and encourages innovation.

Cincinnati Parks C.A.R.E.S.!
Creating economic impacts
Advancing conservation
Rejuvenating health & wellness
Enhancing quality of life
Sustaining social equity

#cincyparks