

Great Parks of Hamilton County Natural Resources Planning Framework

Hamilton County, Ohio



From top: White-eyed vireo banded during GPHC monitoring operation; native tree seedlings at Shaker Trace Nursery.

A new planning effort advances conservation and ecological restoration throughout a 17,666-acre park system.

Great Parks of Hamilton County (GPHC) owns or manages over 17,666 acres of open space outside Cincinnati, Ohio and has a unique mandate to manage 80% of all park land in a natural state for conservation purposes. Their 2019 Comprehensive Master Plan built on their mission to preserve and protect natural resources with a central goal of becoming “a recognized leader in conservation.”

As the master planning team, led by MKSK, moved from comprehensive planning into concept-level plans for each park, Biohabitats created a Natural Resources Framework to identify the best investment opportunities for conservation and ecological restoration within each park and guide communication by the Natural Resources Department.

Working closely with Natural Resources staff, Biohabitats developed a three-part Framework Plan. The first

element is a natural resource assessment, which catalogues, identifies threats to, and recommends management actions to protect and restore GPHC’s natural resources. The second element establishes system-wide goals and management best practices for each of thirteen ecological communities. The third element of the framework includes a GIS-based Sensitivity Analysis and offers guidance for specific tasks such as prioritizing land acquisition.

Biohabitats also helped GPHC prioritize management actions and ecological restoration opportunities in each park. Biohabitats is developing some of these priorities into concept plans for site-specific restoration projects, such as restoring a more naturalized floodplain interaction at the former gravel pits of Campbell Lakes Preserve.

SERVICES

Assess
Plan



Ohio River (Great Miami, Mill Creek, Little Miami)

*conservation planning
ecological restoration
regenerative design*



800.220.0919

www.biohabitats.com