

THE CITY OF BLUE ASH



SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER



ROUNABOUT PROJECT COMPLETED!

The **HAM-Plainfield Roundabout Project**, consisting of three roundabouts in the busy Plainfield Road corridor in Blue Ash, is now complete!

Construction began in September of 2021 and wrapped up this July.

There are three new roundabouts:

- Kroger entrance on Hunt Road
- Plainfield Road and Hunt Road
- Plainfield Road and Peppermill Lane

The roundabouts were constructed to improve traffic flow, ease congestion, and increase safety for motorists and pedestrians. This was especially important at the Plainfield and Hunt intersection, which had been on the list of the most dangerous intersections in Ohio.

The City would like to thank you for your patience as the project was completed.

To learn more about roundabouts, how to drive in them, and how they improve safety, turn to page 2 or visit www.blueash.com/roundabouts.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- MadTree to take root at Summit Park
- Towne Square renovation continues
- City highlights
- Citizen Survey results
- Family fun events!

ROUNDAABOUT SAFETY

WHAT IS A ROUNDAABOUT?

A roundabout is a circular intersection in which traffic flows counterclockwise around a center island. There are no traffic signals or stop signs in a roundabout.

WHY ARE ROUNDAABOUTS SO POPULAR?

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, roundabouts improve safety, reduce congestion, reduce pollution, save money, and are functional. When compared to other intersections, roundabouts result in a 90% reduction in fatalities, 76% reduction in all injuries, and a 35% reduction in pedestrian crashes. In addition to keeping drivers safe, roundabouts are easy to maneuver and reduce congestion.

HOW ARE ROUNDAABOUT BETTER FOR DRIVERS?

Drivers only have to watch for traffic from the left, and can enter the roundabout when there is adequate space available. Once in the roundabout, drivers have the right-of-way, so they will not have to stop or yield to exit. Any delay that could take place in a roundabout is shorter than the amount of time spent waiting at a traffic light.

ROUNDAABOUT GUIDELINES:

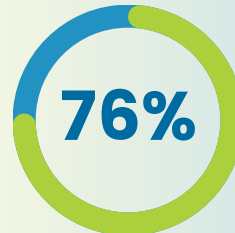
- **Slow down**
- **Choose your lane before entering a roundabout**
- **Yield to all traffic inside the roundabout and to pedestrians in crosswalks**
- **Stay in your lane within the roundabout and use your right-turn signal to indicate your intention to exit.**
- **Always assume trucks need all available space — don't pass them**
- **Clear the roundabout to allow emergency vehicles to pass.**

Learn more at www.blueash.com/roundabouts.

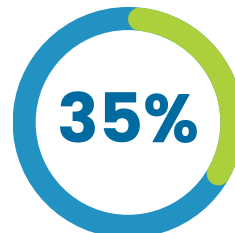
ROUNDAABOUT SAFETY: BY THE NUMBERS*



reduction in
fatal crashes



reduction in
injury crashes



reduction in
pedestrian
crashes



reduction in
bicycle crashes

*Data from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

MADTREE TO TAKE ROOT AT SUMMIT PARK



MadTree Brewing and the City of Blue Ash are excited to announce **a new MadTree location to take root at Summit Park!** City Council approved the plan at its June 8 meeting.

MadTree Parks & Rec will be the company's third brewery/restaurant location. The MadTree team plans to continue its creative and sustainable traditions of taking an old space and re-purposing it into something innovative and comfortable for families and friends.

This time, they plan to convert the existing 15,000 sf airplane hangar at Summit Park into an outdoor recreation destination.

The concept ties into the Park's green spaces with the creation of a massive outdoor area featuring unique elements catering to all ages. Plans are still in development, but visitors will find things like cornhole, extensive outdoor seating, and walking trails. The expansive taproom features indoor/outdoor areas, private rental space and, of course, continues MadTree's tradition of providing some of the best beer, cocktails, and food offerings in Greater Cincinnati.

"This is a fantastic opportunity as it checks so many boxes for us like being an extension of an already fantastic park system, centrally located, and bringing a building back to life," said MadTree Co-Founder Brady Duncan. "We love that people will be able to spend the whole day enjoying fun activities along with food and

drinks with friends and family."

"The MadTree brand and the company's purpose are the perfect match for Summit Park. Their leadership has been very successful in not only redeveloping existing spaces, but also in enhancing the community through a commitment to the environment and local well-being," said Blue Ash Parks and Recreation Director Brian Kruse.

MadTree is committed to meet LEED Gold certification standards in their rehabilitation of the old structure. They also plan to partner with Blue Ash Parks and Recreation to support and maintain Summit Park's sustainability efforts.

MadTree is currently working on conceptual plans for the site and will have updates as the project progresses at www.madtree.com/parks-and-rec and www.summitparkblueash.com or follow along on Instagram and Facebook @madtreeparksandrec.

Summit Park Observation Tower

Enhancements to the Observation Tower at Summit Park are expected to get underway soon. There will be improvements made to the flooring and railing as well as additional maintenance work. The project is expected to be completed by the end of this winter.

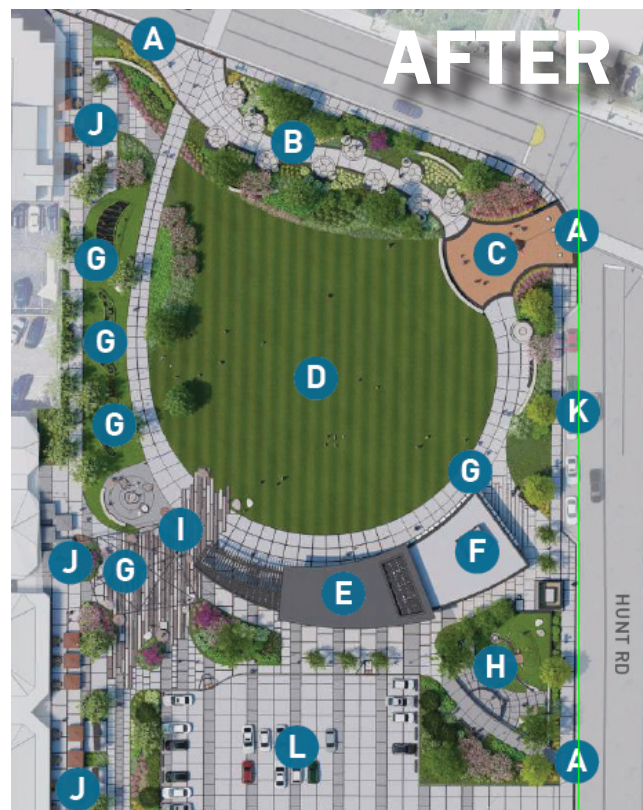
TOWNE SQUARE RENOVATIONS CONTINUE



Construction crews continue to work on clearing the land at **Towne Square** for the Renovation Project.

As demolition comes to a close, crews are working on tying in underground utilities and prepping soils for foundations, specifically for the restroom building and stage area.

In the coming months, final grades will be shaped within the site and elements will begin rising up from the ground as crews begin constructing the site's buildings.



KEY

- A - Park Gateway
- B - Walk of Honor: Memorial statues pathway
- C - Memorial Plaza, Flag & Honor Guard
- D - Civic Green
- E - Open Multipurpose Pavilion/Stage
- F - Restrooms & Storage/Green Room
- G - Interactive play elements
- H - Dog-Friendly Area & Foyer
- I - The Grove
- J - Expanded Patios fronting Promenade
- K - On-street parking
- L - Parking Plaza w/access from Hunt Road

the BLUE

the BLUE, a mixed-use project slated for the northwest corner of Kenwood and Cooper Roads in downtown Blue Ash, received zoning approval in February. The developer continues to move forward with the detailed design of the project, as well as financing and other strategic objectives required to keep the project progressing. The timing for the start of the project is currently uncertain due to a variety of factors including reaching certain project milestones necessary to finalize the development plans and the current market conditions. Also, the owner of the development company elected to file

for bankruptcy due to litigation stemming from a past business partnership in which he was a passive partner. This action is unrelated to the developer's businesses, which continue to operate as usual. The City retains ownership of the former Hosbrook property which is serving as a temporary parking lot during the Towne Square construction project. The developer owns the remainder of the site including the former Ringo Lanes and Blue Ash Chili properties. The City is optimistic that this project will move forward and will continue to share project updates as they become known.

CITY HIGHLIGHTS

- To help residents, employees, and potential job seekers navigate the **two new Metro routes** in Blue Ash, the City and Metro worked together to create three quick, educational videos. View them at www.blueash.com/news.

- An ongoing experiment at the **Blue Ash Golf Course** aims to improve the quality and ease of maintenance of lawns across Ohio while using less fertilizer. The Ohio State University Turfgrass Science Program has a plot of land at the course where professors and students are testing and monitoring various types of grass to see how well they thrive under various conditions.



- The Cincinnati Chapter of the European American Chamber of Commerce coordinated a **business development trip to France** in June that included Blue Ash Economic Development Director Dan Johnson. He participated as a panelist at networking sessions in Paris and Lyon addressing French companies that are interested in doing business in the U.S.

- There is a new way to **view the Blue Ash City Council Meetings online**. Simply go to www.watchblueashohio.com to view the livestream and past meetings.

- Want to know the latest happenings in Blue Ash? There's a **new, easy-to-use, online City Calendar!** You can see all City events and meetings at once, or filter by location. Check it out at www.blueash.com/calendar.

CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS

98%

OF BLUE ASH RESIDENTS
ARE SATISFIED
WITH THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CITY!*

(*SOURCE: 2023 U.C. INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH POLL OF RESIDENTS)



A new poll of Blue Ash residents has found that **98.1% are satisfied with the quality of life** in the City!

A recent survey by the University of Cincinnati Institute for Policy Research also found that over 80% of respondents rated City services and City finances as good or excellent and nearly 90% of respondents agree that the services provided by the City are a good value for the property taxes they pay.

The City has hired UC researchers to conduct a citizen satisfaction survey six times since 2002 to gauge residents' perceptions of Blue Ash.

Polling took place by landline and cell phone interviews from February 15 to April 21, 2023.

Eric Rademacher, who works for the University of Cincinnati and led the survey, presented his findings to Blue Ash City Council during its June 8 meeting. Learn more at www.blueash.com/news.

2023 BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS



The winners of the **2023 Blue Ash Beautification Awards** have been announced!

Three homes received the top votes from a panel of judges:

- The McClain Household, 5250 Donjoy Drive (top left)
- The Wallace Household, 5575 Myerdale Drive (top right)
- The Nagel Household, 17 Hickory Hollow (bottom left)

The Mayor's Choice award went to the Kaufman Household, 5500 Myerdale Drive (bottom right).

This year, 71 nominations were submitted by the public.

The homes were judged on general maintenance, garden variety, use of color, and overall appearance.

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations and congratulations to the winners!

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/11 **Fire Department Stair Climb**
8 a.m. Summit Park

9/13 **Police Department Open House**
4-7 p.m. 4343 Cooper Road

9/22 **Celebration Mile** (see info on back cover)
6 p.m. Nature Park



9/23 **Paws in the Park**
11 a.m.-3 p.m. Summit Park



9/27 **Welcome Home Veterans Event**
11 a.m. Summit Park

10/7 **BrewAsh**
12 p.m. Summit Park

10/10 **Fire Department Open House**
5-7:30 p.m. 10647 Kenwood Road

10/21 **Halloween Walk in the Woods**
12-3 p.m. Nature Park



FRETBOARD BREWING RED, WHITE & BLUE ASH

A big thank you to everyone who joined us on the 4th of July at Summit Park with a concert from Collective Soul and Plush and a stunning Arthur Rozzi Pyrotechnic fireworks show!

THANK YOU SPONSORS



FIREWORKS
BY ARTHUR ROZZI PYROTECHNICS



Fun Facts

2

NATIONAL ACTS

21

FOOD VENDORS

1,000

MANPOWER HOURS

3,900

FRETBOARD BREWS SOLD

10,300

DORA CUPS SOLD

100,000

ATTENDEES

7/5 4PM

SUMMIT PARK EVENT
CLEAN UP COMPLETE

SAWICKI
Photography

NEW CHECKERBOARD AT THE NATURE PARK

Have you seen the incredible **chessboard** at the Nature Park?

The set was built and donated by former Sycamore student Kyle Snyder to add a fun, new amenity to the park and give the community a place to come together.

The granite and metal board is a permanent fixture at the park.

You can bring your own chess or checker pieces to play.

The Blue Ash Nature Park is located at 4337 Cooper Road.



THE OFFICIAL CITY OF BLUE ASH NEWSLETTER



**CELEBRATION
MILE**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

MILE COURSE OPENS 6 PM
CELEBRATION FOLLOWING
BLUE ASH NATURE PARK

**Barrier Free
BOOTCAMP**

BLUEASH
RECREATION

Driving a Multi-Lane Roundabout

Follow the
#RoundaboutRules

1. Check the signs
to choose the
correct lane.



2. Yield to BOTH
lanes in the
roundabout.



3. Yield to
pedestrians at
crosswalks.

