

The Health, Environment, and Open Space Working Group held the first meeting of the baseline understanding Working Group series. The discussion centered on data collection that will be necessary for the group to be successful. Based on the data that the group requested, there are some emerging themes that will be developed in future meetings. One theme deals with the issues and opportunities that Cincinnati's unique topography and physical environment presents. This theme includes the problem of hillside slippage and the relationship between hillsides and streams. The meeting also included a brief discussion of opportunities to daylight streams. The other themes in the Health, Environment, and Open Space element are recreational opportunities, economic issues, and health effects.

A portion of the discussion dealt with the recreational and open space opportunities in Cincinnati. This theme included requests for data related to existing brownfields as possible future open space, exercise as a method of curbing obesity, cost of maintenance and creation for parks, open space, and trails. The group also requested maps of play fields, recreation centers, golf courses, aquatic centers, Sawyer Point, and other regional destinations. More information is needed to determine specific recommendations, but it is clear that the working group is interested in increasing programmed open space, park space, and trail networks. The Housing and Neighborhood Development Working Group may benefit from a meeting with this group on this topic.

Economic issues related to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and the health industry played an important role in this conversation as well. Information on best practices for encouraging green industry, curbing emissions, promoting energy efficiency, and fiscal and economic impacts of green infrastructure would benefit the group. Specifically, the Working Group requested a market analysis for green industry, the location of polluting industries, and global climate change data. The Working Group seems to be interested in creating economic incentives for both businesses and individuals to be more energy efficient and reduce pollution. Both the Fiscal Impact and Economic Development and Business Retention Working Groups could meet to discuss common themes with the Health, Environment, and Open Space Working Group. In support of these recommendations, staff should locate information on emissions and

solid waste production as well as best practices in waste reduction, recycling initiatives, and curbing emissions.

The Working Group requested maps illustrating health trends such as weight loss and gain in the suburbs versus in the city. Other requests include demographic information, for example the distribution of income as compared with diseases and obesity. There was not a significant discussion of the role of hospitals and other institutions on the overall health and welfare of Cincinnatians. This topic could be discussed in future meetings.