

Friday, September 28th Bus Tours – 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

(All tours will leave from the Sharonville Convention Center)

Tour 1 Growing & Greening in Cincinnati

Begin at **Turner Farm** in the Hamilton County village of Indian Hill, in operation since the early 1800's and now the largest certified organic farm in the area. We will be guided on an interactive walking study tour of the farm focusing on the gardens. Current farm operations include Vegetable CSA, Flower CSA, pasture raised livestock, and a new teaching kitchen.

Ride south to historic **Over the Rhine (OTR)** downtown to **Findlay Market**, Ohio's oldest continuously operated public market. Tour **Findlay Kitchen** and learn how it supports new and existing food entrepreneurs from our community by providing a licensed kitchen facility with access to commercial-grade kitchen equipment and storage space.

Enjoy a box lunch at Findlay Market prepared by Cincinnati Cooks Catering, a social enterprise of the Freestore Foodbank in collaboration with Findlay Kitchen. Then enjoy time to browse the many unique local food and artisan shops.

Ride north to **Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden (CZBG)**, which has been dedicated to the conservation of plants and animals since 1875 and was proclaimed the "Greenest Zoo in America" in 2010. The Zoo staff will lead us on a study tour of why CZBG is a leader in sustainability and green initiatives. View the parking lot where cars park under a canopy of solar panels; learned about the large water capture and storage tanks under the animal exhibits. Tour includes visits to Rain Gardens, Butterfly, Pollinator and Native plant gardens. Learn about Zoo's Best Plants for Pollinators.

Tour 2 Horticultural History & Public Gardens

Begin at our local treasure the **Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden (CZBG)**, the second-oldest zoo in the country, first opening in 1875. The Horticulture team will walk us through CZBG's biodiverse gardens giving instruction on how CZBG designs the landscape to match the natural habitats of the animals. CZBG grows plants for animal browsing, and sources and grows native plants. Learn about how CZBG conducts many plant trials while landscaping to meet the needs of the animal exhibits. Horticulture programs such as the Zoo's Best Plants for Pollinators, Best of the Zoo trees & shrubs will also be discussed.

Ride a few miles NW, to Gray Road (notice Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum on your left), formerly known as Wooden Shoe Hollow in the late 1800's to early 1900's when 19 family-run businesses grew vegetables in glass houses, cold frames and hotbeds for local markets. We'll stop at **A.J. Rahn Greenhouse**, a 128-year old greenhouse (now a popular garden center), for lunch and a presentation on Cincinnati's historic greenhouse districts: Wooden Shoe Hollow (vegetables) and the west side's Floral Paradise (floral production). Also time to browse and shop in what Cincinnati Magazine called "This Old (Green) House" <http://www.cincinnati.com/features/aj-rahngreenhouse/>.

Ride south to **Smale Ohio Riverfront Park**, which opened in 2012 where it's easy to see why Cincinnati made The Trust for Public Land's Top 10 U.S. Cities 2018 list for urban parks. Smale could easily be Cincinnati Park's "Jewel in the Crown". After a brief introduction you'll be given a map so that you can explore the elaborate gardens, play in the park's unusual features, or ride Carol Ann's Carousel on your own.

Final bus tour through **Eden Park**, one of Cincinnati's most popular parks and home of the Krohn Conservatory, Cincinnati Art Museum, and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Bus will stop at the upper scenic overlook for a photo op view of the Ohio River and the Mt Adams and Northern Kentucky skyline.

Tour 3 Parks & Landscaping Heritage

Begin at historic Clifton's hilltop **Mt. Storm Park** with sweeping views of the Mill Creek Valley, the early rail and industrial center of Cincinnati. Robert Bowler, a local dry goods merchant, established his large, rolling estate in mid-19th century at the site of Mt Storm Park. Bowler met landscape architect Adolf Strauch in London, invited him to Cincinnati and engaged the Viennese landscape architect to design his estate. Admire the "Temple of Love" gazebo, one of the two remaining structures, cleverly designed by Strauch to hide the water tank for the gardens in its dome.

Journey down the steep Clifton Avenue Hill to **Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum**, a National Historic Landmark and home to 19 Ohio State Champion Trees. Adolph Strauch's work soon caught the attention of Spring Grove Cemetery. A walking study of the grounds and arboretum will demonstrate how Strauch, hired as Landscape Gardener here in 1854, created the inspiring legacy of his artistic "landscape lawn plan". Pause at the resting place of renowned Cincinnati botanist Lucy Braun & her sister Annette, beneath the canopy of a 200-year old *Quercus alba*. We will have lunch on the grounds with horticulture Q&A.

Tour south to **Fairview Park**, with its panoramic view of the bustling historic Ohio River basin, the early hub of the Queen City. Then ride east to neighboring **Bellevue Park** for a photo stop at Ranshoff Overlook, "the Classroom of Cincinnati" and the historical site of the Cincinnati-Clifton Incline Plane, one of Cincinnati's 5 inclines.

Continue south to historic **Over the Rhine (OTR) to Findlay Market**, Ohio's oldest continuously operated public market. Enjoy a short lecture by food writer and master gardener Bryn Mooth on the history and significance of Findlay, followed by time to visit the many unique food and artisan shops.

Final stop, a few blocks south, is **Washington Park**, a newly renovated 8-acre urban park directly across from historic Music Hall. Visit the gardens, water features and amenities in this park that lies in the midst of the booming, hip OTR district. Learn why this civic oasis won the 2018 Money Magazine award for Best Park in Ohio.