

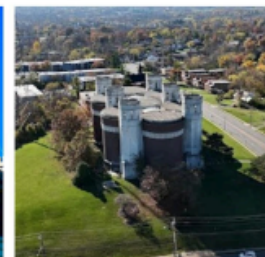
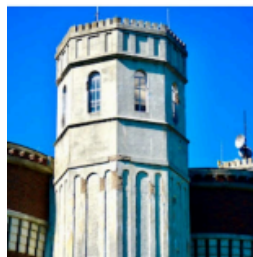
Mt Airy Water Tanks: The Symbol of Our Neighborhood

The Mt Airy Water Tanks were originally constructed in 1926-27. The “Towers” have been the quintessential symbol of our neighborhood for nearly 100 years and a great source of community pride. (Read More)

The iconic structure, reminiscent of a medieval castle, contains 8.5 million gallons of water in six large brick clad steel tanks and smaller tanks located in seven concrete turrets. It features a great deal of fabulous architectural detail including crenelated walls, corbels and diagonal buttresses. It sits 962 feet above sea level making it the highest point in Cincinnati. When it was built, it represented the first municipal water source for most west side communities. The reliable water supply helped spur the development of those neighborhoods. It is quite understandable why the Mt. Airy Waters Tanks are such a source of civic pride.

Unfortunately, the aging structure has been on the decline. The exterior deterioration of the tanks has been a major topic of concern to Mt. Airy residents. Over many years, the Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) has implemented cosmetic repairs to keep the vital facility functioning. However, in recent years, structural studies showed a greater need for major repairs particularly to the seven concrete turrets that have been literally crumbling. Engineers studied the structural problems and proposed several remedies include possible partial or total demolition. The mere thought of such a drastic approach of course created a large public outcry.

Save the Tanks!



Civic groups lead by the Civic Club, Town Council and Mt. Airy CURE spearheaded an organized community effort to preserve and restore the water tanks. Led by community activist Cindee Walsh and former city councilman Kevin Flynn, the passionate residents of Mt. Airy fought to save the tanks. These efforts proved to be successful as plans to do a full or partial demolition were abandoned. This led to the city giving a historic designation in 2019 that effectively protect the tanks from demolition. It also led to a commitment from both the City and GCWW to proceed with planning for the long-needed renovations to the exterior of the structures. Plans are now underway to rebuild the Mt. Airy Water Tanks and restore them to their previous glory. GCWW is also engaging with other city departments to formulate a more comprehensive plan that will impact neighborhood development beyond just fixing the tanks. They have opened up communication with the departments of Planning, Transportation and Recreation. They have also committed to working directly with the neighborhood to gather input and feedback on future options as a feasibility study is created. Stay tuned as Mt. Airy CURE will be closely coordinating with the City and will announce when they are planning to have community engagement opportunities.