



Vandalia Parks and Recreation

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT MARCH 2021



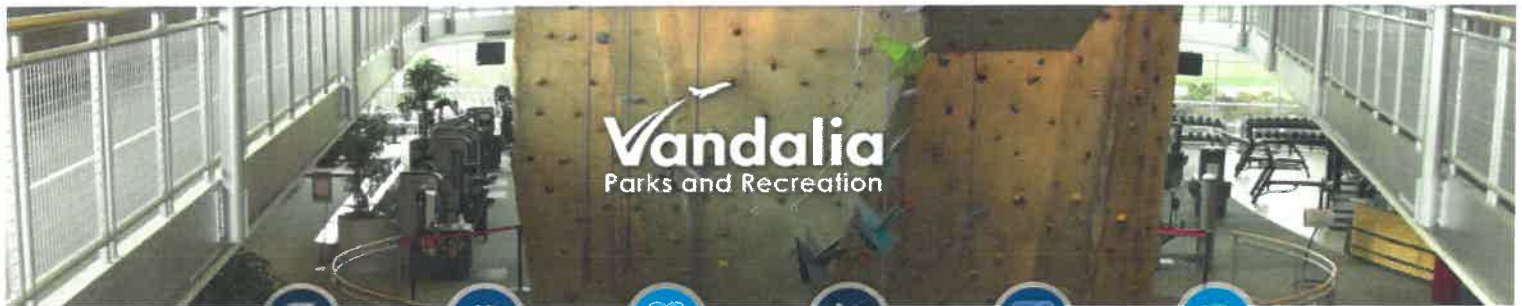
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The new website is almost ready! Above is the proposed Homepage for Parks and Recreation!

Advisory Board Members

- Tara Landis, Chairperson
- Lydia Baker, Vice Chairperson
- Rick Scherer, Secretary
- Lenny Maenza
- Larry Taylor
- Rodney Washburn
- Corey Follick, City Council Representative
- Bob Costello (Emeritus Status)



A special Thank You goes to Lenny Maenza and Larry Taylor for serving in the role of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson over the past several years!

NEW MEETING FORMAT!

With the new meeting format, the next in-person meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at the Vandalia Senior Center.

A monthly Update Report will be distributed to keep Members up-to-date on the Department. We welcome any comments, concerns, or questions, and invite Members to call or email anytime.



PARKS

Capital Projects Update:

- Clubhouse Roof Replacement - Quotes received, and moving toward approval.
- Garage Fuel Tanks - Quotes received, and moving toward approval.
- Recreation Center Roof Maintenance - Quotes received, and moving toward approval.
- Court Maintenance - Helke Pickleball and Tennis Courts - Rudy met with Rite Way's Certified Contractor, who will be submitting a Proposal for the court maintenance, along with repairs to the CHP basketball court, and the Sports Complex basketball court. Pricing has also been requested for future Capital Budget consideration for the total replacement of the Helke Park Pickleball and Tennis Courts. Due to cracking in the asphalt, we are getting to the point where yearly maintenance will be required.

Field Preparations:

- Soccer field preparations are complete at the Sports Complex. Butler United will begin to use the fields the week of March 15.
- Baseball field preparations are underway at the Sports Complex. Good weather has allowed work on all 13 fields. School teams are beginning to use some of the fields.

Cassel Hills Pool:

- Sand blasting of the Cassel Hills Pool shallow area has been completed, and loose material has been removed.
- Once we have proper weather, work will proceed with an application of leveling material, and the entire pool floor will then be prepped and painted.

Garden:

- Garden plots have been tilled in preparation for the upcoming gardening season.
- 11 of the 22 garden plots are currently reserved.



Members are invited to attend the Arbor Day Celebration on Friday, April 1, at 1:00 pm at Helke Park! A Chicagoland Hackberry has been selected to plant for Arbor Day due to it being a shade tree suitable for this location, it's native, and it's an improved variety with good endurance characteristics.

The Commemorative Tree Program has been enhanced to offer options for recognition at the actual tree! We have added a Commemorative Tree Charm, that hangs on a tree limb, and a Commemorative Tree Plaque, that is mounted and planted in concrete. These are optional and available for an extra cost.



Final Approved Tree City/Tree Line USAs

as of January 2021

46 Communities in Southwest Ohio have earned your Tree City USA designation for 2020! And 12 of those Tree Cities earned a Growth Award, which is especially notable with all of challenges of the year we just had. Great job everyone!

Amberley	Greenhills	Moraine	Springdale
Anderson Township *GA	Hamilton *GA	Morrow	Terrace Park
Beavercreek	Harrison	New Richmond	Tipp City
Centerville *GA	Kettering *GA	Oakwood	Troy
Cincinnati *GA	Lebanon	Oxford	Vandalia ★
Columbia Township	Lockland	Piqua	Versailles
Dayton	Loveland	Ripley *GA	West Carrollton
Fairfield	Mariemont	Sidney *GA	Williamsburg
Forest Park	Miamisburg	Silverton	Woodlawn
Georgetown	Middletown *GA	Spring Valley	Wright-Patterson AFB *GA
Glendale *GA	Milford	Springboro	Wyoming *GA
Greenfield	Montgomery *GA		



TREE CITY USA®

We received confirmation from Tree City USA that we have once again been approved for our Tree City USA status!

Sports Complex Tree Update

Tree pruning, and removal of trees, is currently taking place at the Sports Complex. An Austrian Pine's diseased limbs are being removed, and 3 Austrian Pine's will require complete removal due to the disease. Also being removed is a small Ash that died due to the Emerald Ash Borer, and a Serviceberry that suffered extensive wind damage. Austrian Pines continue to be a problem, because as they age they become susceptible to a fungal disease, Diplodia Tip Blight. When the Austrian Pine was introduced to the market, they were sold as a good needled evergreen, and soil and drought tolerant for Ohio. As the trees have matured, the disease has caused a lot of issues. Disease control includes multiple applications, 2-3 times per year, of a fungicide in the Spring that may or may not help, and weather and timing are critical. Therefore, we have not planted an Austrian Pine in 25 years. New evergreen alternatives for our Parks are constantly being looked at. The Eastern Red Cedar has been deemed strong for the Ohio environment, and will most likely be used in the future.



Eastern Red Cedar

Landscaping

- Landscape maintenance is continuing, with clearing of perennials and perennial ornamental grasses.
- 3 Magnolias were sprayed with dormant oil for scale infestation.

RECREATION

Successful Programs

- Commit to Be Fit Cooking Class
- Dr. Seuss Celebration
- Kids Night Out
- HHC Preschool Cooking Class
- Adult Cooking Class
- Playful Picassos
- HHC Kids Cooking Class

CampREC

Spring Break - Aaron has Staff set for Spring Break, Mar 29 - Apr 2. 15 kids are currently registered, and activity plans are being finalized.

Summer Camp - 9 of 11 field trips are booked, and staffing is nearly complete.

CORPORATE CHALLENGE



Plans are underway to host the 32nd Annual Corporate Challenge June 6 - 11! Invitations to the Corporate Challenge Kick-Off Social were sent to local businesses.



The relationship between MVCTC and the Parks and Recreation Department is entering it's 6th year! This year, Jeff and John are working with current Sports Management and Marketing students on programming for Esports Leagues and how best to organize a Youth Park Board.



Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund

We are in the process of expanding the Youth Sports Scholarship Fund to include CampREC, Swim Lessons, and Youth Sports. With this expansion, the new name will be the Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund.

ATHLETICS

Youth Basketball



Youth Basketball finished the season on Saturday, Feb 27.

- Boys - 2nd Grade, 3rd-4th Grade, and 5th-6th Grade, had a conventional league, and they received medals based on their team record.
- Girls - 3rd-4th Grade, and 5th-6th Grade only had enough girls for 2 teams, so each week the teams were shuffled. The girls received a T-shirt, and on the back it said, "COVID couldn't keep us down. We are the 2021 Girls Quaranteam!"

Middle School Tennis

Registrations are underway for Middle School Tennis, which will be coached by Scott Snyder. They will use the Helke Tennis Courts for their home court.



Baseball and Softball



Registrations are going great! We are currently at 410 registrations, compared to 395 registrations last year. We are still expecting registrations on select leagues.

All Concession Stand Staff has been hired for the 2021 season.

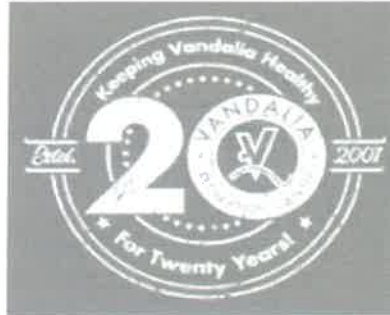


John is working with Helke Elementary Principal, Brian Tregoning, to coordinate a Field Day on Fields 4, 5, and 7, where the kids will be playing kickball with their parents.



Per our contract with the Butler United Soccer Club, they will begin games at the Sports Complex on Wednesday, March 17, and continue through June. Their practices are held at Helke Park.

RECREATION CENTER



HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE RECREATION CENTER ON APRIL 8!!

- The VRC is excited to be celebrating their 20th Anniversary on April 8! Special activities and events are currently being finalized. T-shirts recognizing the VRC's Anniversary recently went on sale for \$20. These are on sale through March 24. A portion of each sale will go towards the Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund to assist qualifying Vandalia-Butler students with participation fees.
- Edward Jones, Premier Health, and Domino's have committed to being at the VRC on April 8 to help us celebrate!
- A big THANK YOU to Beau Townsend Ford for donating \$500 for this special day!
- VRC towels have been ordered and will be given away on April 8.
- A video featuring various Stakeholders' thoughts about the VRC will be posted on social media soon.

Attendance

In February, the Vandalia Recreation Center averaged 485 visitors per day, and insurance based Memberships increased from 418 to 512.

Butler Swim Team

Alicia is working with Greg Bergman, Jolene Short, and Jordan Shumaker on some possible signage for the Butler Swim Team in the pool area. We continue to seek a sponsor for the natatorium.

Birthday Parties



4 Birthday Parties are scheduled for the weekend of Mar 14-15. This is our biggest weekend since Covid!

Premier Health

The next scheduled Premier Health Talk is 'Diabetes and Education' on April 8, at 5:30 PM. 8 people are currently signed up to attend.

February Senior Incentive Winners - \$25 Kroger Gift Card

Victoria Turney - 10	Douglas Kigar - 27
Diana Hertlein - 18	Angela Siefker - 13

SENIOR CENTER

Attendance

The Senior Center continues to average 25 visits per day.

t h a n k y o u

Thank you to our newest Crime Prevention Officer, Andy Wehner, for building a relationship with Toni, and setting up future speaking engagements in April - Car Accidents and How To Handle the Aftermath, and June - Topic Coming Soon.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**



A recent social media push has drawn interest with several local residents about becoming a volunteer Van Tran driver. Toni is working with 3 residents that are in the process of submitting the required paperwork. We are very grateful to those that have volunteered!

CASSEL HILLS POOL

In conjunction with City Manager, Dan Wednt, Assistant City Manager, Amber Holloway, Steve Clark, and Jeff Kreill, the Wright State Graduate Students are nearing the release of the CHP survey. We are hopeful to receive 500 responses or more. The survey is scheduled to begin on Sunday, March 21. There will be information about the survey on the City's various social media platforms. In addition, all Vandalia residents will receive a postcard with information about how to take the survey. This postcard will also act as a one-day free pass to the VRC. Please consider taking 5-10 minutes to complete the survey!

Discussion Topics for May Meeting

If you have any discussion topics for the May 19 meeting, please let Steve know!