



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT APRIL 2025

Director's Corner

Retirement Notice

I have formally announced my retirement from the City of Vandalia, effective July 7, 2025. After 37 years of rewarding service, I have made the decision to step away and enjoy the next chapter of my life. My last day in the office will be Friday, June 13, which coincides with my first day of work on June 13, 1988. It has been an incredibly valuable experience to work with the Park Board. Thank you for everything, and I will cherish the friendships, memories, and experiences you have given me.

Art Park Amphitheater Project

The Art Park Amphitheater Project is finishing up! The Grand Opening is scheduled for Thursday, May 22 at 6:00pm. We hope Advisory Board Members are able to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony. The evening will include live entertainment, food trucks, and activities for kids.

Robinette Park Renovation Project

Robinette Park Playground Installation is underway and should be completed the first week of May. The playground turf installers will then mobilize and complete the turf install. This should take 1-2 weeks. If the weather cooperates, we are anticipating the playground being ready for play around May 19. We are planning a Grand Opening of the playground and will notify Park Board Members once a date is in place.

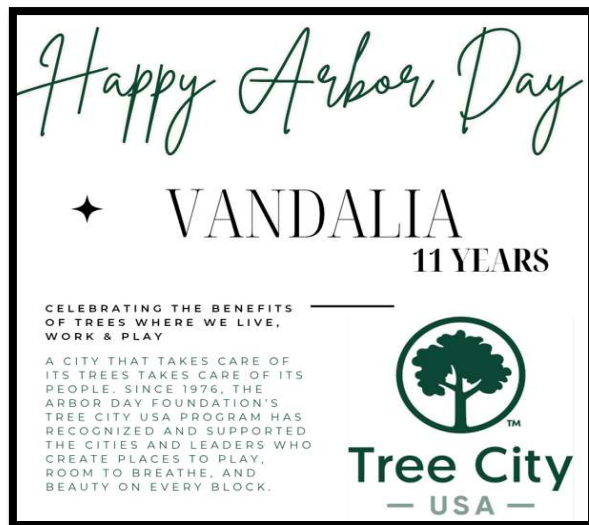


PARKS

- Walkway leveling was completed at the VRC, Sports Complex, Senior Center, Justice Center, and Municipal Building. Uneven areas were removed to provide a safer walkway.
- Staff poured five concrete trashcan bases that will be installed at the Art Park. Staff also installed a catch basin and drainage tile at the Art Park to eliminate any water ponding issues along the east pathway area.
- The asphalt contractor is laying the new asphalt at the Art Park. After some additional soil and seeding work, their site work will be complete.
- Cemetery work is being completed, including low grave soil maintenance and grass seed application.
- Preparations and set up for Easter Eggstravaganza Event.
- Issues with the underground electrical wiring at the Sports Complex occurred after a heavy rain event, and continued for about a week. Robert Martin with DES will be testing some of the equipment in the Park electrical room with the aid of a Contractor. The issues have not been rectified, but the ground has dried out enough that the problems are not currently occurring.
- Robinette Park play structure install is well under way.
- 20 of the 22 garden plots have been reserved at Jeffers Park.
- Cassel Hills Pool work is well under way. Staff and our contractor are working to get the pool ready for the season.
- Replacement seating benches were installed at the VRC, Sports Complex, and Cassel Hill Pool.

TREE CITY USA / URBAN FOREST

- Tree Planting - Replacement trees are in place along National Road and Perry Street. Princeton Sentry Ginkgo (17) and Lucas Hornbeam (26).
- Commemorative Tree planting at the Sports Complex, Seger Park, Art Park, and Robinette Park. A total of 11 trees were planted, and included Wright Brothers Sugar Maple, Rogers Lustre Serviceberry, Shumard Oak, Early Glow Ohio Buckeye, and Green Mountain Sugar Maple.
- Our Arbor Day Event will be held on Friday, April 25, at 10:00am at Morton Middle School. We will pass out 300 bareroot Redbud seedlings to the 6th graders. This year's Arbor Day Tree, that will be planted at the Event, is a Crimson Sunset Maple.
- Bryan Fine, Ethan Whitmer, and Sherry McConnaughey attended the Tree City USA Awards in Wyoming, OH on Thursday, April 24. Byran and Ethan are pictured with ODNR's Private Lands Administrator Stephanie Downs, accepting our Award for our 11th Year as a Tree City.



RECREATION CENTER

FACTS

- March 2025 VRC Visits - 20,177 vs March 2024 VRC Visits - 18,188, an increase of 1,989 visits.
- March Birthday Parties - 34 Total - 7 Resident / Member; 27 Non-Resident
- 222 Insurance Based Members visited the VRC 10 or more times in March.
- Nathan Teller is going to be an intern for us this summer. He is a UD Sports Management student. Nathan will work on several projects for us, like researching potential program offerings, working on special events, and health and wellness initiatives.
- Staff is working on getting quotes on new lobby furniture for a potential capital project. The furniture is original to the Center.

RECREATION

- May-August Program Guide is now available online.
- Welcome Arianna Wade to the VPRD Team as our new Rental Coordinator, who will be helping with VRC rentals.
- The Vandalia Parks and Recreation Department was awarded a grant from the Dayton Foundation for \$3,650 to purchase supplies for a Mobile Sensory Tent. This tent area will be for those with sensory sensitivities and will be available at special events and recreation initiatives.
- Recreation Superintendent Alicia McCracken and Facilities Superintendent Rudy Wells worked with a local Girl Scout Troop to add a Kindness Rock Garden to Art Park. It is located at the front of the Park by the brain sculpture.



ATHLETICS

- Baseball/Softball Opening Day is Saturday, April 26. A total of 435 kids are in the program, up 30 kids over last year.
- Adult Softball Leagues will begin in early May. We have 16 teams for the Men's Monday League, and 6 teams for the Coed Friday League.
- Fall athletics registration opened on Wednesday, April 2. To date, 25 kids are enrolled in soccer, and 7 kids are enrolled in flag football.
- Flyers to the school will go out soon for Fall Programs, as we want to market before school is out for summer break.
- New Adult Softball League Supervisor will be Jeff Chrisman.
- Greg Justice, our Umpire Assigner, held an Umpire Training on Sunday, April 13. 25 potential umpires attended.

FITNESS

- May FREE Class Spotlight is DANCE FIT with Angi on Tuesdays at 8:30am.
- May FREE Climb Day is Tuesday, May 13.
- May Inclusive Fitness Classes – Friday, May 9 and 23, from 10:30am-11:15am.
- Coffee and Learns - 3rd Friday of each month. The next one will be held on Friday, May 16 at 10:00am.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- Recreation Coordinator Sara Moyer has received positive feedback from patrons who are now visiting Ricky's regularly because their kids really enjoy spending time with Trevor Severance! He's done a great job engaging with both the kids and parents, and we are looking forward to having him on board for Summer CampREC.
- Summer CampREC sold out in less than 5 minutes this year!

Completed Events

- **Adult Easter Egg Hunt** was held on Friday, April 11, at 8:00pm. Eggs contained candy, gift cards/coupons, and raffle tickets. After the hunt was over, everyone met back in the VRC Gymnasium to count eggs and begin the raffle. We had over 25 raffle prizes for this event, and 80 gift cards/coupons. 102 participants registered for this program!
- **Underwater Egg Hunt** was held on Saturday, April 12, at 10:00am for children ages 3-12 years old. Eggs were hidden at the bottom of the pool and participants were able to turn in their eggs for candy and prizes. Four lucky golden egg winners also received special Easter baskets! We had 59 registered participants for this program.
- **Skyhawks Beginning Golf**, run by Skyhawks Staff, is running a 4-session program at the Sports Complex, beginning Wednesday, April 16. The program uses a fun, games-based approach to engage young golfers! Specialized equipment is used to provide early success for young players, while also helping them develop key skills. This program has 18 participants registered.
- **Homeschool Takeover** was held on Friday, April 18, from 11:30am-2:00pm. Homeschool groups and families enjoyed everything the VRC has to offer; swimming, climbing wall, gym activities, and Luther's Jungle. We had 40 families/groups attend, with a total of 190 participants.
- **Easter Eggstravaganza** was held on Saturday, April 19, at the Sports Complex from 11:00am to 2:00pm, with over 1,000 attendees. The event featured two egg hunts at 11:00am and 12:30pm for children ages 12 and under. Families also enjoyed face painting, balloon animals, games, crafts, local vendors, food trucks, and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny!



Upcoming Events

- **Kids Night Out** - Friday, May 2 - 5:45pm-9:00pm
- **Sweet Treats Fest** - Saturday, May 10 - 4:00pm-8:00pm
- **Pokémon Playtime** - Monday, May 12 - 5:30pm-7:00pm
- **Homeschool Takeover** - Friday, May 16 - 11:30am-2:00pm
- **Hula Workshop w/ Olohona's Polynesian Dance** - Friday, May 16 - 6pm-7:30pm
- **Art Park Amphitheater Ribbon Cutting** - Thursday, May 22 - 6:00pm
- **Buggin Out at the Park w/ Dr. Insecta** - Saturday, May 31 - 10:30am-11:30am

SENIOR CENTER

- Through March, there were 683 Members, with 20 being new in March.
- The May Newsletter is now available, and can be found on the website.
- VanTran - 293 one-way rides YTD.
- Vantran funding is changing. Annual grant applications are now required. Toni and Alicia are learning more, as the process is all new.

CASSEL HILLS POOL

- To date, 36 Resident passes and 37 Non-Resident passes have been sold.
- Weather permitting, Piranhas Swim Team is set to begin Monday, May 12.

2025 PARK BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The 2025 in-person Park Board Meeting schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, February 19, 6:30 PM - Senior Center
- Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 PM - Cassel Hills Swimming Pool
- Wednesday, August 20, 6:30 PM - Sports Complex
- Wednesday, November 19, 6:30 PM - Recreation Center

If you have any discussion topics for the May 21 meeting, please let Steve know!

Advisory Board Members

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