

3/9/23



City Council Members -

On behalf of the Gahanna Parks and Recreation Foundation, we appreciate your time and review of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP). As a foundation, we have had the privilege of participating in the CMP throughout the process and extend our full support in its adoption.

Since the foundation's inception, we've had the distinct honor of working alongside the Parks and Rec Department with the mission to improve the quality of life for the City's residents through access and utilization of its parks, recreational facilities, and programs. As our city looks to the bright future ahead, the CMP provides the roadmap necessary to deliver the best experience possible for our community. We are particularly excited about:

- **The accelerated momentum the plan affords:** The adoption of the CMP provides the necessary anchor for the department so that its strategy and vision can be most effectively realized. We have already seen firsthand that the CMP and the focus it creates enables even more productive collaboration between the department and the foundation, which will allow both parties to best serve our residents.
- **The vast representation of the community's voice in the plan:** Extensive effort and consideration went into collecting feedback from residents via stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and a statistically valid survey that saw a 60%+ response rate. It is evident that the community values the parks and recreation within the city, and they are eager to have their voice heard when it comes to the direction of the department.
- **The continued partnership with an eye toward the future:** We have discussed the evolution of the foundation's financial partnership with the department and believe the outcomes of the CMP will directly inform how we can deploy resources in the most impactful way for residents.

We thank you in advance for your consideration. Please reach out with any questions.

Best,

Lee Tucker
Chairman

Nikki Galiardi
Chair – Development Committee