



TO: Gahanna City Council
Jeremy VanMeter, Clerk of Council

FROM: Stephania Ferrell, Director of Parks & Recreation
Kevin Schultz, Senior Director of Operations
Mayor Laurie A. Jadwin

Cc: Priya Tamilarasan, Esq., City Attorney
Joann Bury, Director of Finance

DATE: January 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Dept. of Parks & Recreation Report to Council (January 12, 2026, COTW Meeting)

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEM #1: PERMISSION TO BID THE 2026 STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

The City is offering a limited street tree planting program for properties that have been impacted by large-scale street tree removals or for trees removed by the City within the last 12 months for various reasons. Funding for this project was allocated as part of the 2026 budget process. Impacted properties will receive direct communication from the City before plantings occur, which are anticipated to take place in the spring and fall of this year.

At this time, this program does not add or replace trees that do not fall into one of the two categories above. Non-eligible properties owners may plant street trees themselves by obtaining a Right-of-Way Permit.

The Administration respectfully requests permission to bid the 2026 Street Tree Planting Program.

Requested Legislation and Funding:

Legislation Needed:	Motion
Emergency/Waiver:	N/A
Vendor Name:	N/A
Vendor Address:	N/A
Already Appropriated:	N/A
Supplemental/Transfer:	N/A

Attachments: N/A

Contract Approvals: N/A



ACTION ITEM #2: PERMISSION TO BID THE STREET TREE PRUNING PROGRAM

As part of the enhanced Street Tree Program, the Department of Parks & Recreation is developing a pruning program to improve and maintain the current tree canopy throughout the City. Management of this natural resource benefits residents by improving tree health, reducing hazards and encroachments, and improving the overall aesthetics of neighborhoods. Funding for this project was allocated as part of the 2026 budget process.

The Administration respectfully requests permission to bid the 2026 Street Tree Pruning Program.

Requested Legislation and Funding:

Legislation Needed:	Motion
Emergency/Waiver:	N/A
Vendor Name:	N/A
Vendor Address:	N/A
Already Appropriated:	N/A
Supplemental/Transfer:	N/A

Attachments: N/A

Contract Approvals: N/A

ACTION ITEM #3: PERMISSION TO BID THE ACADEMY PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

The Academy Park Renovation project includes a full redesign and replacement of the playground with new equipment and surfacing, relocation and expansion of the shelter to be replaced with a modernized facility, storage, and shade to include trailhead features servicing the mountain bike trail and the Big Walnut Trail, an improved parking lot that will be expanded to accommodate current park users, and the addition of stormwater infrastructure including a stormwater treatment facility. The surrounding trails and sidewalks will also be brought into ADA compliance and updated to accommodate changes in the overall park layout.

The Administration respectfully requests permission to bid the Academy Park Renovation Project.

Requested Legislation and Funding:

Legislation Needed:	Motion
Emergency/Waiver:	N/A
Vendor Name:	N/A
Vendor Address:	N/A
Already Appropriated:	N/A
Supplemental/Transfer:	N/A

Attachments: N/A

Contract Approvals: N/A