



CITY OF GAHANNA

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

TO: Gahanna City Council
Becky Stinchcomb, Mayor

FROM: Troy Euton, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation

DATE: October 8, 2015

RE: Parks & Recreation - Report to Council for Monday, October 12, 2015

ACTION ITEMS:

Nothing at this time.

COUNCIL UPDATES:

PARKS DIVISION

- Continued weekly mow and trim rotation at every park
- Laid sod around new McCorkle park playground
- Jim Ferguson attended training classes for Turf License

FACILITIES DIVISION

- Patched and spot painted Swim Club front pool
- Winterizing both pools
- Installed new decking on accessible ramp at Herb Center
- Playground and safety surface installed at McCorkle by contractor
- New water line installed at Geroux Garden shed for irrigation

ARBOR/HORTICULTURAL DIVISION

- Pruned 102 trees; mostly street trees
- Removed 56 street trees; mostly park trees
- 9/3 planted 60 mums at Creekside
- 9/4 planted 4 trees at Upper McCorkle Park; one deciduous (shade) and three evergreen
- 9/4 planted 3 trees at Rice Ave. Park; one deciduous (shade) and two evergreen
- 9/11 planted 18 deciduous trees at Hannah Park and removed Willow and Cottonwood trees from the Bio-swales with 36 volunteers from Columbus Academy; 108 total volunteer hours
- 9/28 planted 8 Arborvitae 8ft. tall at herb garden
- Weed control at Creekside Plaza
- Weed control at Gramercy park
- Removed 6 truckloads Honeysuckle and brush from western and northern fence rows at Upper McCorkle

- Weed control at Upper McCorkle in preparation for seeding
- Continue watering in new trees and flower pots at Creekside
- Planted Mums and Asters for Convention Visitor Bureau event at Herb Center and moved them to Creekside for special event
- Resolved 17 citizen request
- Pesticide applications at various parks
- Completed 5 new home tree inspections

GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE

- Aeriaded greens by deep tine
- Seeded and fertilized greens
- Fertilized fairways, tee boxes, and rough areas
- Started to aerate and seed fairways
- Shut down irrigation to practice green
- Reduced area of bunker on hole #1

RECREATION DIVISION

Late August/September Events

- Hosted 3 5k's (Children's Hospital duck race, Mifflin Fire Department, Melanoma), these events combined fundraised over \$100,000 towards non-profit charities.
- Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation Creekside Hops & Vines
 - Over 600 in attendance
 - Raised over \$20,000 for Foundation to be used for an expanded recreation scholarship program along with other Foundation initiatives

Recreation Programs

- Enrolled 273 participants into recreation programs in September
- Introduced new programs
 - Sporties for shorties
 - Square dancing
 - Nature walks
 - New Herb Center classes
 - Painting classes at Sr. Center

Herb Center

- Hosted a group of 50 out-of-state visitors from Missouri. Herb Center did an herbal workshop at golf course clubhouse in partnership with the Gahanna CVB.
- Herb Center has partnered with Whole Foods at Easton. Two of our employees, Brooke Sackenheim and Jenn Schneller have done classes at Whole Foods demonstrating herbs.
- Hosted drying days on three dates, open to public, where they harvest herbs from gardens and dry onsite at Herb Center for future use for classes & product.
- Brooke Sackenheim presented a webinar to the national organization, Herb Society of America, with an audience of over 300 people.

Athletic Fields

- Began field audits with goal to understand who is using our fields and when. Working on plan to rework field use policy for department.
- Negotiated agreement with tournament organization of the Ohio Champions League to host approximately 140 soccer teams on 10/17 & 10/18.

Active Adults & Active Seniors

- Retirement parties for Danise Hall will be held on Monday, October 26 from 5-7pm at Rusty Bucket (for Parks & Rec Department) and Tuesday, October 27 from 4-6pm at The Center (for Senior members).
- Monthly Open Houses are being held and the Welcome Team is being further developed to increase membership. 2016 Membership drive will begin soon.
- Facility renovations/updates are scheduled for December 19-January 3.

ADMINISTRATION

- BTAC notes from last three meetings are attached for Council review.
- Centerpoint church property acquisition on McCutcheon Road continues to move forward.
- VFW Acquisition and lease agreement development continues.
- Gahanna Woods Vernal Pool Preservation (Foxwood Acquisition) continues to progress.
- BWT 5 project is well underway.
- Foundation discussions include expanded scholarship programs and messaging.
- Citywide budget being developed, nearly complete. Significant impact to parks budget from healthcare reform act.
- New lighting being installed on Creekside Island. Concrete poles with LED light engines.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

The Department would like to invite members of Council to attend the upcoming open houses at the Center:

Open House: Active Adult & Senior Programs

Tour The Center to learn about our year-round program offerings.

New visitors will receive information on programs and special events, a chance to win a gift card for attending, and are welcome to enjoy refreshments with our New Welcome Team and Program Supervisor.

If Open House times are not conducive to your schedule, please contact the Senior Center to coordinate a tour during business hours.

Who: Active Adults 55+

When: Every 1st Monday (except on holidays) Sept 14 • Oct 5 • Nov 2 • Dec 7

Time: 10am to 1pm & 3pm to 6pm

Where: The Center, 480 Rocky Fork Blvd.

And don't forget to support:

Show Your Class 5K *Sunday, October 11, 2015 Check in from 8-8:45am Fun Walk 9am*
Creekside Park & Plaza, 117 Mill St.

The Gahanna Get Moving Team and the family of Bob Toopes invite you to the 6th Annual SYC 5K Walk at Creekside Plaza. Proceeds support experiential education and recreation wellness opportunities for the Gahanna Community. Come celebrate Bob's legacy with family and friends!

Creepsie Festival Presented by Schneider Insurance *Wednesday, Oct 21 4:30-8pm*
Creekside Park & Plaza, 117 Mill St.

Put on your costumes, dress up the kids and join us for the 12th Annual Creepside event. This event is FREE and appropriate for all ages. Event highlights include: live music, games, activities, haunted trail, trick or treat with local organizations and plenty of candy.

Veterans Day Ceremony *Wednesday, Nov 11 11am*

Veterans Memorial Park, 73 W. Johnstown Rd.

Deadline to purchase Veterans Day brick is Oct 1.

Dedicated to all men and women who have served or are currently serving in the US Armed Forces. To honor those who have served our country, buy a brick to be placed at the Gahanna Veterans Memorial Park.
