



TO: Thomas R. Kneeland, Mayor
City Council

CC: Joann Bury, Finance Director

FROM: Gahanna Parks & Recreation Board

DATE: August 22, 2019

RE: Parks & Recreation Board Recommendation

At the Parks & Recreation Board Meeting held on Wednesday, July 10, 2019; the Parks & Recreation Board members agreed that the Gahanna citizens have articulated their priorities as it relates to Parks and Recreation. With that, the Board proposes priorities to be included in the Budgeting and Capital Needs Assessment planning process for the City of Gahanna. The Board would like Director Barr to respectfully share their position of priorities with Mayor Kneeland and Gahanna City Council.

These priorities are as follows:

1. Create a community destination area (e.g., park) where people can go for active and passive recreational activities.
2. Update swimming pool(s) facilities or create a new aquatic complex.
3. Enhance trails and citywide connectivity. This includes completing section #8 of the Big Walnut Trail (BWT) and developing additional trails connecting parks, schools, neighborhoods, and businesses.
4. Create and provide additional program options for senior residents.

The Southwest Floodplain land is an ideal location for such a destination area in Gahanna. This area could include the updating of existing swimming pool(s) or the building of a new aquatics complex that would accomplish priorities #1 and #2.

Additionally, the Board would like consideration to be given to bonding the new projects for the Parks & Recreation Department, so that the community can see a timely positive impact of their income taxes and enjoy these recreational amenities in the near future.

Thank you for your consideration of these priorities.