

DIRECTORS REPORT




Gahanna
PARKS & RECREATION

APRIL 2026





Joel Schick -
Parks Admin

WELCOME

Administrative Updates



Recreation

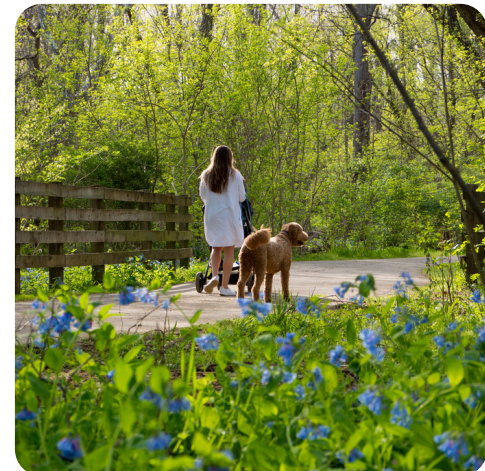
- Finalizing interviews for seasonal positions
- Volunteer Policy & Handbook is ready for the launch of the Adopt-A-Park program
- Made updates and improved function of the P&R pages of the website (Gahanna.gov)
- Transitioning alcohol permits to be processed online instead of paper form
- Veterans Memorial Bricks are now available online instead of paper form
- Scholarship applications are now available online instead of paper form
- Preparing to launch a mobile Webtrac account to improve the end users experience when registering for programs.
- Organizing for the move to 825 Tech Drive

Parks

- Seasonal staff meeting and orientation for seasonal pro shop staff and rangers
- Meeting with golf league commissioners of Wednesday night league
- Meeting for final print of #5 tee box landscaping project
- Fully implemented sign usage for mower safety on roadways
- Refresher training for Routine Playground Inspections and Trained Service Person Applications
- Continued facility and operational improvements, including clubhouse lighting repairs, and near completion of Key Loan System
- 2026 Capital planning
- Central Ohio Blueways Committee virtual meeting
- USGA rating of golf course completed - Occurs every 10 years to remain as a USGA-sanctioned golf course



- Parks Foreman I - Interviews
- MWI - Interviews
- Seasonal - Interviews
- Parks Administrative Assistant - Joel Schick hired
- Parks Coordinator - job posted





MORPC Technical Assistance Grant

- MORPC transferring dashboard to Experience Builder.
- Met w/ MORPC to discuss additional questions around data migration

Price Road House - Exploration Center

- Construction began 9/16
- SWPPP inspections are ongoing.
- Drywall 1st punch complete
- Interior lights installed
- Exterior light poles on-site pending installation
- Exterior door installations scheduled
- Floor leveling in progress in preparation for flooring installation
- West parking lot is fully paved
- East parking paving underway pending completion of structural repairs
- Dumpster pad installation scheduled
- Deck material delivered and inspected
- Millwork completed
- Structural repairs (helical piers) in progress
- Change orders:
- Change in Sanitary lateral because of install methods – Complete
 - Mold Abatement – Complete
 - Electrical panel conflicts – Complete
 - Plumbing and electrical conflicts – Complete
 - Helical Piles – Accepted
 - Door heights Upper & Lower - Accepted
 - Electrical conflicts with sidewalk – Completed
 - Infill Door 200B - Completed
 - Window Returns - Accepted
 - Lintel Repairs – Accepted
 - Structural Walls – Accepted
 - Floor Leveling – Accepted
 - Framing RFI's – Accepted
- Permit Status – all currently approved.
 - Building – New plan Approved.
 - Engineering – Approved.
 - Floodplain use civil – New plan Approved.
 - Floodplain use building - Approved.
 - Development Plan – Approved
 - ROW Permit – Approved.
 - Franklin County Plumbing – Approved.



CIP Preparation

- 2027 Preparation for all capital programs including capital maintenance.

Link to Literacy Trail

- Substantial redesign of trails at approximately 30% been completed. The project has been divided into two phases: Phase I from Walnut to the Library, and Phase II, Library to Hamilton. OHM has completed a very high-level environmental assessment of the streambank along Phase II, which has triggered a significant setback and realignment of that section of trail.
- Private Property Permissions:
 - Library's board has accepted revision of trail.
 - Three Creeks -Initial conversation with owner of Three Creeks commenced
 - Gatsby's - meeting to discuss revised alignment was held
 - School - meeting to discuss the revised alignment was held, and will go to their board
- Approached ODNR with potential alignment just extending to Shull Park; while ODNR would like to see feasibility of the entire alignment determined, but will hold funding until that milestone is complete.

Trail Signage

- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant awarded for \$136,500 for signs along Big Walnut
- Revised Agreement with ODOT was returned
- 45 hour Local Public Agency (LPA) training completed
- Trail Sign Request for Proposals (RFP) was drafted and is in review now

Academy Park Improvements

- OEPA Scrap Tire Grant received for \$113,000 for playground surfacing
- Reviewed 100% design pages and specifications; comments were returned to design team
- Page Turn meeting for 100% plans held with the consultant
- CA/CI RFP was released March 25th for April 22nd response
- Permit Status:
 - Development Plan resubmitted
 - Stormwater Variance approved by Planning and Council
 - Request for Variances approved by Planning Commission
 - Major Development Plan approved by Planning Commission
 - Request for variances resubmitted and on Planning commission agenda for 3/11
 - Floodplain Use Permit submitted - Comment letter was received 4/2

Woodside/Hannah Pond Improvements

- Without receiving further coordination from new leadership, we have rescinded agreement with Kleinfelder
- Will revise RFP and release at a later date.



Parks Updates



Parks/Facilities

Projects

Ashburnham

- Developing playground concept with vendor, Midstates

BWT Bridge

- Work began 4/14. Small bridge completed, large bridge 50% complete

Creekside Retaining Wall

- Awaiting proposal from third party

Friendship Park Playground

- Continue to develop site design
- Worked through City procurement processes, met with Finance Director and OMNIA to review contracts.
- Drafting a contract for purchasing
- Prepared Columbus Foundation grant with Management Analyst, Sean Bock.

Golf Course

- Obtained quotes on fencing repair and installation
- Memorial Gardens Project
 - Installed steel edging along staircase
 - Created new bed
 - Dug out old stumps
 - Re-stacked limestone retaining wall
 - Cleared site for Rain One irrigation installation and backflow

MTB Trail

- Final signs delivered, scheduled for installation

Playground Repairs

- Paint kits Sunpoint and Headley
- NEOS for Hannah
- Tube Slide for Friendship
- Installed a tandem swing at Sunpoint
- Installed Ambassador playground sunshade w/ assistance from Forestry Crew
- Began working to replenish EWF at various playgrounds
- Replace swing chain at Friendship Park

Pool Preparations

- Front Pool liner power-washed and patched
- Front Pool filled and operating
- Back pool power-washed and completed touch-up painting
- Splashpad feature/pump repairs and operational
- Splashpad sunshades installed
- Lifeguard chairs installed
- Hunters Ridge Pool ground down, patched, and painted
- Hunters Ridge Pool is filled and operational





Parks Updates

Parks/Facilities

Spring Clean

- Golf Course opened for the season on 3/30 following extensive setup and preparation
- Clean-up completed following flood damage
- Irrigation systems started, repaired, and maintained across facilities and golf course operations
- 16 trees installed throughout Woodside Green, Friendship, Creekside, and Bryn Mawr
- Community gardens opened and maintained for the season
- Spring annuals and hanging flower baskets installed at Creekside
- Weed management, mulching, and street tree maintenance completed citywide
- Cleared log jam at McKenna Creek and repaired water ring at Creekside Lagoon
- Coordinated removal planning for dead and hazardous trees with Arbor
- Organized and improved plant holding area
- Friendship rain garden cut back
- Mounted memorial tree plaques
- Prescribed fire planning and training completed for Gahanna Woods
- TruGreen completed spring athletic field and recreation area treatments
- Jones Pond maintenance visits completed, including fountain and aerator repairs
- Pond treatments initiated
- New yardage signs leveled and installed throughout the course
- Concrete catch basin installed in front of #6 tee box
- Drainage area on #5 tee box seeded following completed work
- Began de-winterizing various facilities
- Coordinated geese issue communication at the golf course, Creekside, and Woodside South

Contracted Work

- 2026 park landscaping work ongoing - DLL
- 2026 ROW landscaping work ongoing - BrightView
- Ward 4 street tree removal and stump grinding contract signed - waiting for work to be scheduled
- Spring Street Tree Planting contract completed by DLL (150 trees planted)
- Coordinating with contractor on repairs to the eternal flame at VFW
- Coordinated with contractor for Sunpoint door replacements





Parks Updates



Parks/Facilities

Team Work

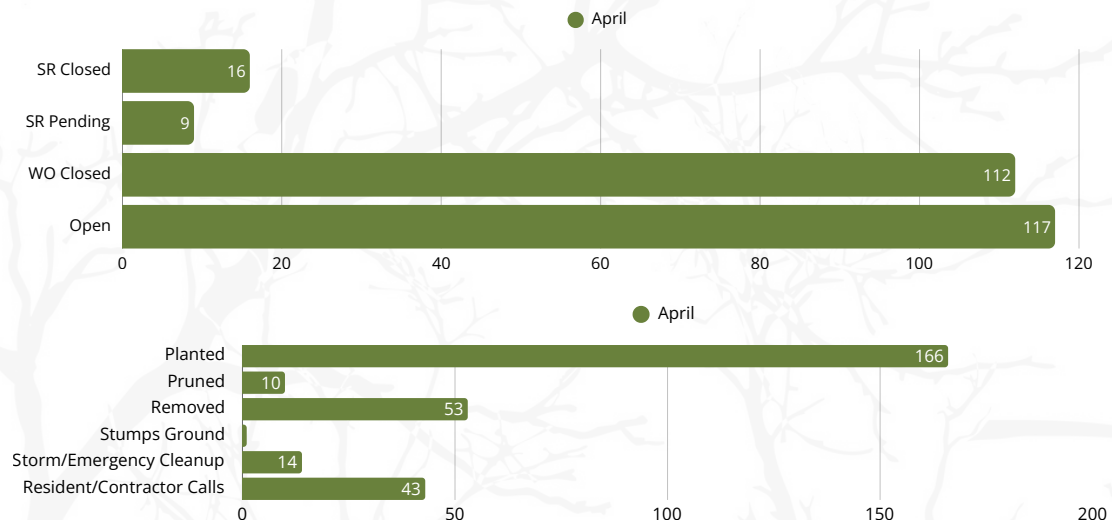
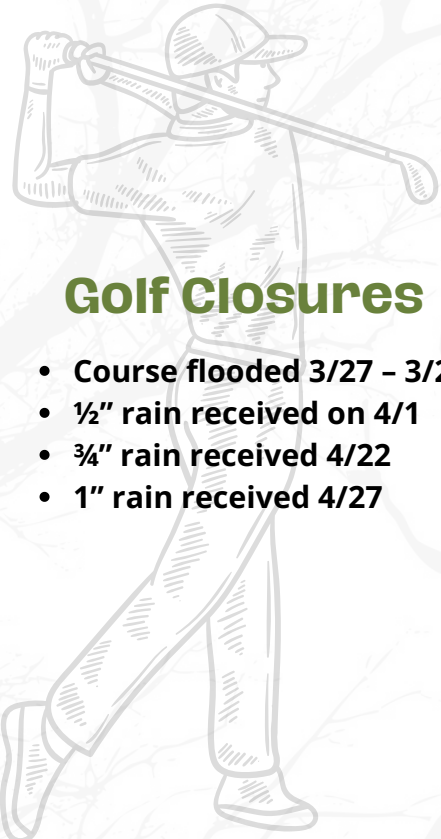
- Unloading and organizing from plant deliveries
- General tool cleaning and maintenance
- BioBlitz and Explore Our Ecosystems planning
- Assisted Forestry Crew with some debris/tree clean up in parks and on trails

Programs

- Arbor Day celebration at Sycamore Woods Condominium Complex
- Free Tree Giveaway at GRIN
- Wildflower Hike
- Birding Hike
- Assisted with planning for Adopt-A-Park
- Gahanna Middle School West 8th grade shadow day
- Vernal Poolooza
- Chili Bowl event held on 4/18
 - Received donations from 10 local businesses
 - 77 total participants despite rainy conditions
 - 3 golf course staff members made chili for Chili Bowl
 - Thank you notes and trophies to be delivered week of 4/27
- Senior Golf League registration – 103 total participants registered

Golf Closures

- **Course flooded 3/27 – 3/29**
- **½" rain received on 4/1**
- **¾" rain received 4/22**
- **1" rain received 4/27**





Recreation Updates

Aquatics & Safety

- Facilitated a First Aid/CPR/AED course - City Staff
- First Aid/CPR/AED course available to the public - Cancelled low enrollment



- Seasonal Applications: 176
- Still looking: Lifeguard, Swim Instructor, Guest Service
- YTD Staff Retention: 59%

Memberships YTD	2025	2026
Total	319	1,266
Gahanna Residents	81%	78%
Non - Residents	18%	20%
Corporate Residents	1%	2%

2025 Revenue: \$34,170.75

2026 Revenue TD: \$67,609

Adult Programs

- Slow Flow Yoga- 6 participants
- Chair Yoga-Cancelled this session due to low enrollment
- Adult Pickleball Lessons Beg-2 spots left
- Adult Pickleball Lessons Mon Intermediate-FULL
- Adult Pickleball Lessons Fri Intermediate-FULL
- Pickleball Drill & Play-FULL
- Pickleball Ladder League Weds-FULL
- Pickleball Ladder League Fri-FULL

Senior Programming

- 4/1 Lunch Bunch-BJ Brewhouse-18 enrolled
- 4/2 Morning Bingo-25 enrolled
- 4/6 April Birthday Bash- 11 enrolled
- 4/7 Afternoon Bingo-25 enrolled
- 4/8 Shucked the Musical Day Trip-13 enrolled
- 4/8 Wednesday Lunch- 60 enrolled
- 4/9 Lunch & Learn-NeuroAnimation- 22 enrolled
- 4/9 Senior Golf League Kick-Off Meeting 80 attended
- 4/9 & 4/10 Program Registration (May/June)
- 4/15 Morning Bingo- 15
- 4/21 Supper Club-Outback Steak House- 18 enrolled
- 4/22 Lunch Wednesday- 54 enrolled
- 4/23 Beanbag Baseball- 23 enrolled
- The Senior Center has begun outsourcing the mailing of the Spotlight newsletter to a third-party vendor, who will now handle label printing and postage for the first time



Recreation Updates

Special Events & Paddle Program

- Continued planning for events and paddle programs
- Licensing for boats and a permit for Hoover were secured
- Volunteer Policy is approved and can be found on Galaxy Digital
- The Adopt-a-Park volunteer program is live and currently has 7 responses. Those individuals will complete a background check and then complete a training/orientation before being able to participate in the program.

Events/Paddleboats crew member positions are closed.
Seasonal hiring is completed.



Youth & Family

- 4/02 Playground pop up at Woodside Green - 19 participants
- 4/06 Kinderdance and Kindertots - 13 participants
- 4/09 Story time with Parks and Rec at the library- 30 kids
- 4/14- Spanish classes - 9 participants
- 4/16 Playground pop up at McCorkle Park- 22 participants
- 4/16 Excell Volleyball Skills training - 10 participants
- 4/18 Bike Rodeo
- 4/18 LEGO battle robot - 6 participants
- 4/19 Accessibility Innovators: AI chatbot class- 3 participants
- 4/29 Bally Sports Learn to Play Pickleball classes begin - 8 participants
- 4/30 Bally sports Minor League Baseball- 17 participants
- 4/30 Bally Sports Little Sluggers T-ball - FULL at 48 participants
- 4/30 Surprise Science Pop Up (COSI) at Sunpoint Park (with playground pop up)