

The Centerville-Washington Park District Park Board invites all residents to ... **Explore Your Community's BIG Backyard!**

It was a good year for your Centerville/Washington Township parks! The pinnacle may have been the recognition by the National Recreation and Park Association as one of the four best park agencies in the nation in our population category (30,001 to 75,000).

But, much more important than the award, was the increase and improvement of services for residents. Enjoy reading this brief report. If you would like more details, just call or write. As always, the Park Board is eager to hear from you and to find ways to do more and better for you.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED IN 2018

Per the District's strategic plan, multiple improvements are to be added annually to neighborhood parks. 2018 was no exception. Here are some of the new amenities and upgrades to your parks this year:

- Paved paths added to **Cherry Hill, Green, Greene Line** and **Wagon Trail Parks** leading from sidewalks to playgrounds to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, wagons, bikes, etc. One in each "quadrant" of the District!
- Gazebo installed at the **Holes Creek Park** trailhead.
- Tree carvings in **Black Oak, Forest Walk, Grant** and **Village South Parks**.
- Additional playground features at **Brittany Hills, Green** and **Old Lane Parks**.
- ADA automatic door and green parking lot added to the **Kennard Nature Nook** at **Grant Park**.
- Updated play features at the **Mark Kruesch Nature Playce** at **Grant Park**.
- New **Forest Field Park** playground with accessible play surface and adjacent nature play area.
- Picnic area added to the **Schoolhouse Park** football field with matching funds from Centerville Wee Elk Football and Cheer.
- New Little Free Library at **Yankee Park** in partnership with the Friends of the Washington-Centerville Public Library, the Penbrooke Garden Club and the Wright State University MBA project management class. This is the fourth Little Free Library in the district!
- Children from the west side of **Watkins Glen Park** can now get to the playground thanks to a new footbridge.

We are serious about stretching your tax dollars! We sought and received these grant awards in 2018:

- Centerville-Washington Foundation (\$1,000)
- Ohio Department of Transportation MetroParks Fund (\$70,000)
- Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation (\$558,000)



Bridge at Watkins Glen Park



Tree-carving at Forest Walk Park



Gazebo at Holes Creek Park



Forest Field Park Playground



Yankee Park Little Free Library

2018 Annual Report

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

96%	program satisfaction
97,000	website hits
9,150	social media followers
7,000	athletic events on maintained fields
2,279	hours volunteered to CWPDP
504	programs offered
200+	trees planted
50+	acres of invasive species controlled
35+	new programs
30+	acres of pollinator habitat created
16	free special events
7	public input meetings

DONATIONS

We would like to thank the following donors for their generosity:

- Centerville Noon Optimist Club
- Penbrooke Garden Club
- The Militello Family
- Harry K. Oxider III
- The Schierloh Family
- United Way of Dayton

Additional donations were made in honor of:

- Doug Barchek
- Adam Bellnoski
- David Brown
- Jane Dawson
- Ezra Hartke
- Jaimee Maier-Francis
- Ruth Meyers
- Inez Noble
- John & Delores Siefker

Every donation makes a difference! Each will help provide fun, healthy, and outstanding park experiences for generations to come.

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

We are proud to have won a first place Ohio Parks and Recreation Association award in “programs for special populations” for last year’s Adapted Action Day. The event, for individuals with special needs and their families, demonstrated that recreational activities are for everyone by giving families the opportunity to try fishing, archery, kickball, biking and crafts – all adapted for inclusivity. Look for Adapted Action Day to return to Oak Grove Park this summer!

More children enjoyed day camps, special events and environmental programs. Many new programs were possible by partnering with the Centerville City Schools, the Washington-Centerville Public Library and the Washington Township Recreation Center. In all, we had 15,000 program participants in 2018! We switched to a new registration software in 2018 to improve your program registration experience.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE PARKS BETTER

Your 50 parks are as good as they are because our residents and friends volunteer enough hours to equal one full-time park worker! This year, volunteers led nature hikes, taught hundreds of Centerville City School students, mulched trees, painted tables, pulled garlic mustard and much more! Thank you for donating your time to better your community!

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH RESIDENTS

All of the successes, parks, services and activities that residents enjoy stem from the Park Board actively listening to what you want.

- 300 people gave input and opinions about upcoming improvements to Bill Yeck Park.
- 40 neighbors of Pelbrook Park and Willowbrook Park helped to steer the future of the district’s neighborhood parks.
- 405 youth sports parents rated athletic fields.
- Neighbors worked to initiate the conversion of the Hithergreen site to a park, and advocated for the State grant.
- More people than ever are keeping current with CWPDP news by following the Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts!

Please keep sharing your ideas, suggestions, and even complaints with us. All communication is valuable, and the more we hear from you, the better. We want to hear what is important to the community, so we can better serve you!

We will continue to strive to meet your outdoor recreation needs.



David R. Lee
Secretary



Dan H. Monahan
Vice President



Lucy M. Sánchez
President