

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

EVEN BETTER PARKS IN 2019

The Park Board pays close attention to what you tell us you want in your parks. Simultaneously, the Board is always looking to keep parks and amenities safe, clean and in good repair. There were too many park improvements in 2019 to list, but please enjoy this list of ways the Park District made your parks better places to Explore Your Community's BIG Backyard!

- Flushable restrooms completed and opened at **Oak Grove Park**.
- Additional features added to the **Forest Field Park** nature playground.
- Addition of **Hithergreen Park**, your 51st park!
- Added two new, permanent pickleball courts at **Activity Center Park**.
- Newly routed and surfaced one-mile purple trail at **Bill Yeck Park**.
- Improved trail access at the Rooks Mill entrance to **Bill Yeck Park**.
- Added a new playground at **Divided Ridge Park**, plus upgraded five other playgrounds.
- Completed a one-mile trail at **Pleasant Hill Park**.
- Moved park operations to a larger, better functioning maintenance garage.

DELIVERING MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

This year of park and program improvements is impressive. But, all of this is being accomplished while making sure improvements are achieved by being effective and efficient with the community's tax dollars.

Faster Mobilization. The new, more spacious maintenance facility allows park technicians to be "loaded and ready to go" every day. At the old, under-sized facility, trucks were unloaded every day and parked outdoors for the night. Conservative estimates are that staff has freed about 1,800 hours per year from the task of prepping vehicles, equipment and supplies each day. That's 1,800 hours per year of more time in the parks making them safe, clean and beautiful.

Planting Container-grown Trees. Staff research found that smaller trees grown in containers will match or exceed the size of larger "ball and burlap" trees after five years. What's important about this is that the trees can be planted without heavy equipment and can be planted with fewer staff — getting them in the ground much faster.

Leveraging Local Money. In 2019, CWPD earned more than \$120,000 in grants to replace the Schoolhouse Park playground. We used a grant awarded in 2018 to convert the Hithergreen site into a public park.

Repurposing an Old Building. After maintenance operations moved out, the Park District was able to convert the old garage space in Activity Center Park. The new space doubles as a small but versatile place for programs and activities like composting and gardening.



Hithergreen Park



Bill Yeck Park Purple Trail



Divided Ridge Park Playground



Pleasant Hill Park Trail



Park Operations Facility

2019 Annual Report

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

105,000	website hits
15,000	program participations
10,500	social media followers
3,750	hours volunteered to CWPDP
1,116	children at nature camps
700+	trees planted
408	picnic shelter reservations
26	acres of pollinator habitat created
24	programs in neighborhood parks

PEOPLE AND PARTNERS POWER THE PARKS!

Without the volunteers, community groups and our sister public entities, the parks and activities would not be as good as they are. Here are some of the terrific contributions to the parks by these people.

Race To the Holidays 5K/10K. This fund-raiser for the library foundation is a cooperative joint venture of the Friends of the Library, Washington Township Recreation Center and the Park District. A record number of runners and walkers enjoyed a sunny day at Schoolhouse Park.

Scouts Lead. This year, six Boy and Girl Scout projects added to Your BIG Backyard!

Volunteers Abound. Up 65% from 2018, volunteers contributed 3,750 hours of work in parks, at programs and with all-around assistance to the parks.

Capabilities Care for Libraries. With five Little Free Libraries in your parks, the question was how to keep them stocked and clean. Enter Capabilities, Inc! Their adult participants sort books donated by the Friends of the Library and deliver them to one Little Free Library each week.

Neighbor Engagement. Neighbors from Pelbrook and Willowbrook Parks, and from the Hithergreen neighborhood participated in the District's new engagement process. The process allowed more than 100 people to explain how they use their neighborhood parks, giving direction to future park design and amenities.

Goodbye Garlic Mustard. The annual "Pull Your Weight Challenge" eliminated a ton of invasive garlic mustard from parks. Teams uprooted an estimated 2,040 pounds, exceeding the previous year by 380%. Don't miss the chance to join the fun in 2020!

Operation Re-leaf. The emerald ash borer has killed thousands of trees in the parks. This year, 550 school children, grades 3-6, from three schools, planted more than 300 trees. But, it was not just a planting. The schools will combine science and math studies with the trees as they grow and mature. The park-schools program was funded by a Centerville-Washington Foundation grant.

Township, Library and Parks Partnership. Building on previous cooperation, these three public entities have collaborated to create AccessAbility. This series of activities is aimed to provide a variety of fun and enriching activities to residents with special needs.



Capabilities, Inc/Little Free Libraries



Hithergreen Neighborhood Meeting



Operation Forest Re-Leaf

The Centerville-Washington Park District's mission is to deliver fun, healthy, and outstanding park experiences that connect the community with the outdoors.

PROGRAMS LEAD PEOPLE TO PARKS

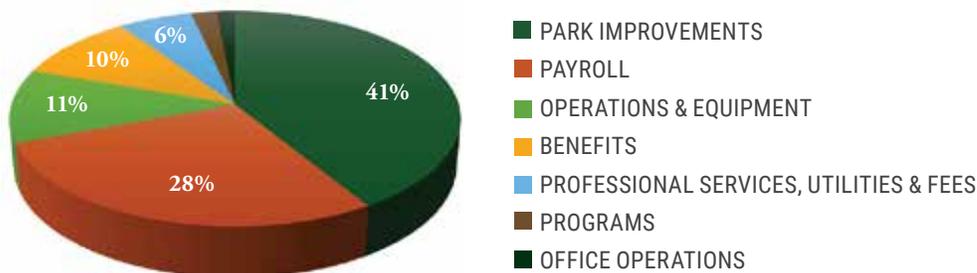
According to resident feedback and participation rates, many of you like to use your parks via planned programs and activities. A variety of new activities and programs helped you Explore Your Community's BIG Backyard! Here are just a few of the new opportunities in 2019:

- Pop-Up Pup Parks, a portable dog park enclosure, made its way to five neighborhood parks, receiving rave reviews from dogs and their owners.
- To meet demand, a second summer nature and outdoor recreation day camp was added at **Bill Yeck Park** — Sugar Valley Day Camp.
- Overall day camp capacity was enlarged, allowing for 100 more campers.
- The annual Luminary Walk was offered for two evenings instead of one.
- Dozens of Pop-Up Park Challenges drew hundreds of people to parks at their time and convenience.

2019 EXPENDITURES

General fund receipts, not including advance repayments (temporary loans from the general fund to another fund), totaled \$5,476,817. General fund operating expenditures totaled \$3,885,531.

Capital improvements totaled \$2,694,270 and included exciting projects such as: **Oak Grove Park** restroom facilities, the beginning of erosion repair at **Grant Park**, several scheduled neighborhood park updates and improvements, trail and drainage improvements at **Pleasant Hill Park** and updates to the headquarters and operations facilities.



Pop-Up Pup Park



Sugar Valley Day Camp



Luminary Walk at Bill Yeck Park



Summer Pop-Up Park Challenge



Grant Park Stream Bank Repairs

We are serious about stretching your tax dollars!
 We sought and were awarded the following grant in 2019:
Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks Grant — for
 Schoolhouse Park playground renovations to be completed in 2020.
 (\$120,000)

2019 Annual Report

DONATIONS

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

- Centerville Baseball Softball League
- Penbrooke Garden Club
- The Jeff Probst Group at Keller Williams Community Partners
- Erica Tan
- Susan Vogler
- United Way of Dayton

Additional donations were made in honor of:

- David Brown
- Carman's Advisory
- Jack Kennedy
- Connie Millspaugh
- Irene and John Ponto
- Emmet Roth
- Charlotte Ann Wharton

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

LOOKING AHEAD

We have a great many things planned for your parks in 2020:

- The **Grant Park** yellow trail will re-open. Visitors will once again be able to hike from the Normandy side of the park to the Kennard Nature Nook, or vice versa. In addition, **Grant Park** master planning will take place soon. You will be invited to participate! Watch for more details to be announced.
- A new **Schoolhouse Park** playground will be accessible for all with an all-weather safety surface.
- Even more improvements are coming to the trails of **Bill Yeck Park**, including improved wayfinding.
- **Hithergreen Park** development will continue.
- Look for new and fun ways to explore the outdoors with programs and events for all ages, such as the 3rd Annual Ales and Tails, Race to the Holidays, iNaturalist Blitz, Monarch Migration Program, Build a Terrarium, and What's in Your Big Backyard. Halloweekend is also coming to your parks, with an all new, all ages outdoor holiday schedule of events!

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.



We are honored to have been awarded the Wright Brothers District of the Miami Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America Outstanding Organization of the Year in 2019! Hundreds of Scouts have worked to improve your parks over the years. It is our pleasure to work with them!



David R. Lee
President



Dan H. Monahan
Secretary



Lucy M. Sánchez
Vice President