



Final Master Plan

North Ridgeville
Parks and Recreation
Master Plan



Brandstetter Carroll Inc.

We Enhance Community and Quality of Life

May 7, 2013

Acknowledgements

Parks and Recreation Master Plan City of North Ridgeville, Ohio

North Ridgeville City Administration

G. David Gillock, Mayor
Jeffrey Armbruster, Safety Service Director
Scott Wangler, City Engineer

Teresa Machovina, Deputy Auditor
Guy Furdson, Chief Building Inspector

North Ridgeville City Council

Kevin Corcoran, President
Roseanne Johnson, At-Large
Bernadine R. Butkowski, At-Large
Nancy J. Buescher, Ward 1
Dennis J. Boose, Ward 2
Richard W. Jaenke, Ward 3
Robert W. Olesen, Ward 4

Parks and Recreation Commission

Chairman: Brett Milner
Vice Chairman: Cathy Ebenschweller
Council Liaison: Dennis Boose
School Board Liaison: Kelly McCarthy
Active Member: Mike Gill

North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department Representatives

Kevin Fougousse, Director
Frank, Vacha, Tot and Youth Program Supervisor
Debbie Toth, Administrative Secretary

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee

Dennis Boose
Becky Campbell
Kevin Corcoran
Cathy Ebenschweller
Mike Gill
Jeff Grau

Bill Greene
Kelly McCarthy
Brett Milner
Bob Miscuda
Dennis Tenney
Rita Price

Consultant Team

Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
2360 Chauvin Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40517

Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA – Project Manager
Mark E. Horman, ASLA
Lynda Gates

(859) 268-1933 VOICE
(800) 368-1933
(859) 268-3341 FAX

Architect's Project No. 12054

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Parks and Recreation Master Plan City of North Ridgeville, Ohio

Executive Summary

The Existing Parks and Recreation Landscape in North Ridgeville

The residents of North Ridgeville, Ohio are offered a wide variety of parks and recreation facilities and programs. The community's needs are currently being partially met at South Central Park, Frontier Park, Shady Drive Complex, and Root Road Soccer Complex offered by the City, school facilities, Sandy Ridge Reservation by the Lorain County MetroParks, and other private facilities within the City.

The City experienced considerable growth from 2000 to 2010 and the current City population is estimated to be over 30,000 people and the community could grow to 40,000 or more residents, depending on land use and zoning policies of the City. The amounts of developed parks and recreation facilities have not increased with the growing population. Another consideration of the demographics is the fact that the population is getting older with a higher median age and percentage of residents over age 65 in North Ridgeville as compared to the County, State and Nation.

Comparisons to 28 other Parks and Recreation Departments throughout Ohio (tables included in Appendix D) revealed the following:

1. The City of North Ridgeville's budget for Parks and Recreation in the City was at a rate of \$16 per person, well below the average of \$90 and median of \$47 for the benchmark communities. The communities that are known for having better parks and recreation system are much higher than for the City of North Ridgeville.
2. A comparison of citizens per park acre indicates there are 221 citizens per active

park acre in the City of North Ridgeville, which is better than the average of 246 and worse than the median of 136 acres.

3. The current staff level for North Ridgeville is 10.5 acres per employee as compared to the average of 23 and median of 3.84. Therefore, the staff in North Ridgeville is responsible for many more acres than the median of other communities plus the staff is responsible for cemeteries in North Ridgeville.

The Need for a Plan

The City of North Ridgeville has operated a Parks and Recreation Department for many years, but has never had a comprehensive Master Plan specifically for parks and recreation services. The Parks and Recreation Commission has been discussing the need for a plan since the early 2000's. Various efforts have been studied over the years to evaluate the potential for the development of some specific facilities that have been constantly suggested by residents, namely a recreation center and an outdoor aquatic center. The strong residential growth which took place within the past ten years has caused residents to be even more vocal concerning their desires for additional recreation facilities.

The North Ridgeville Master Plan 2009 recommended that the City follow an aggressive approach to further park development with several new recreation facilities including:

1. Combined Recreation and Senior Center
2. Aquatic Center
3. Fishing lake
4. Dog Park
5. Skate Park
6. Land acquisition for more parks
7. Expansion of all programming

8. A Community Gateway/Town Center at Avon-Belden Road and Center Ridge Road.

In addition to the park sites, many of the City of North Ridgeville Schools have playground and athletic field areas that can be used by the general public. There are areas at four school sites that total about 25 acres that are available to the general public for use. These areas include soccer fields, basketball courts and playgrounds. In addition, the school gyms are also available on a limited basis for community use.

All of these factors and the desire to improve the quality of life for present and future residents of the City of North Ridgeville caused the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council to realize the need for a comprehensive process to identify the true needs of the community so that the City of North Ridgeville can be in a position to meet those needs in the future.

The first phase of the Master Plan process was to identify the community needs through an extensive public input process, comparison to other communities, and identification of regional and national trends in parks and recreation services. The process continued with an approach of identifying specific strategies to provide for the needs of as many residents as possible in the most efficient manner.

A Citizen Driven Plan

The Plan is truly based on the community needs. The public was involved in the process in the following methods:

1. A public workshop at the beginning of the process.
2. A web-based Community Attitude and Interest Survey that was completed by approximately 615 residents.
3. An active Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee.
4. Meetings with over 20 stakeholder groups representing:
 - Sports organizations
 - Community organizations
 - North Ridgeville departments, staff, committees, and elected officials

- Community leaders
- Friends of the Parks
- Senior Citizens
- Program organizations
- North Ridgeville City Schools

5. Preliminary presentations of the public input findings.

What North Ridgeville Residents Told Us

Through the many opportunities for community input, the citizens' needs were determined. The following is a brief summary of the findings and needs as communicated in the various methods:

1. South Central Park is the most visited by 89.6% of the respondents, followed by Sandy Ridge Reservation at 58.6%, Shady Drive Complex at 41.7%, Victory Sports Park at 33.2%, and the Soccer Complex at 30%.
2. A total of 72.5% have participated in programs, concerts, festivals, classes or leagues offered by the City with 60% rating the programs as "excellent" or "good".
3. 83.7% indicated there is a need for more parks in North Ridgeville.
4. 72.5% attend a public outdoor swimming pool or aquatic center outside of North Ridgeville.
5. 71.9% have visited a public indoor recreation center in the past year with 30% visiting 20 times or more.
6. The most important functions that should be performed by the City include:
 - Operating and maintaining parks and facilities (91% very important)
 - Providing programs (79%)
 - Providing places for indoor recreation and fitness activities (77%)
 - Providing places for outdoor sports programs (77%)
 - Preserving the environment and providing open space/green space (66%)
 - Providing teen programs (56%)
 - Providing trails and linear parks (54%)

7. The top ten facilities the respondents indicated that they have a need for the City to develop include:

- Indoor swimming pool (75%)
- Outdoor swimming pool or aquatic center (72%)
- Indoor fitness and exercise facilities (71%)
- Paved walking and biking trails (66%)
- Indoor multi-purpose community center (60%)
- Playgrounds (54%)
- Picnic shelters and picnic areas (51%)
- Natural areas and nature parks (46%)
- Non-paved walking and biking trails (44%)
- Large Community Parks (44%)

8. The top ten programs that the respondents indicated they have a need to be offered include:

- Adult fitness and wellness 68%
- Youth learn-to-swim 55.5%
- Youth sports 55%
- Water fitness 48%
- Nature programs 46%
- Youth fitness and wellness 45%
- Youth summer camps 36%
- Adult sports 34.5%
- Teen programs 34.1%
- Before and after school Programs 33%

9. The top ten improvements they would like to see made to North Ridgeville parks include:

- Improved restrooms 57%
- More and improved sidewalks and trails 54%
- Bike trails and lanes 45%
- Playground equipment 38%
- Security cameras 37%
- Drinking fountains 36%

- Paved parking 34.5%
- Picnic shelters 34.2%
- Picnic tables and benches 33.7%
- Park security lighting 32.8%

10. When asked how they would allocate \$100 toward parks and recreation facilities in the City, the responses ranked as follows:

- New outdoor aquatic center
- New indoor recreation facilities
- Walking and biking trails
- Improvements and maintenance of existing parks
- Improvements/construction of new sports fields
- Acquisition of open space/green space/future park land
- Development of new outdoor parks and recreation facilities

11. A total of 46% would strongly support and another 31% would moderately support a recreation tax to fund the development and operation of the types of parks, recreation, trails, programs, facilities and activities that are most important to their households.

12. The survey concluded with an open ended question of – What recommendations would you like the City of North Ridgeville to consider in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan? A total of 395 of the 615 surveys responded. The following are some observations of the open ended responses. All of the responses can be read in Appendix C.

- 193 responded in favor of an indoor recreation center.
- 73 indicated a need for an outdoor aquatic center with another 46 indicating both a recreation center and outdoor aquatic center., 40 responded concerning improving and maintaining existing parks
- 24 supported biking and walking trails
- Eight suggested a dog park

- Eight supported other types of new facilities
- Seven suggested more parks
- Seven indicated a need for more activities for children
- Six requested more open space and green space
- Six commented about funding of the parks
- Six had general support for parks and recreation
- Less than five comments each concerning general community improvement, policies, senior activities and a senior center, improvement of the schools and some negative comments stressing lack of support for parks and recreation.

13. There is a strong demand indicated in all methods of public input for a recreation/community center, indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities, and integrated trails throughout the community.

Future Vision of Parks and Recreation for North Ridgeville

Proposed Mission Statement

The mission of North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department is to provide a variety of outstanding, safe, and affordable educational and recreational programs, facilities and activities that foster a community-wide commitment for life-long fitness, and to conserve and preserve the natural resources of the community.

Vision for the Future

Based upon the extensive community engagement in the master planning process, the City of North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee envisions a parks and recreation system that accomplishes the following goals:

1. **An inter-connected community** - Is connected with a series of pathways and

bikeways to provide access to neighborhoods, parks, schools and other destinations for transportation purposes and for recreation;

2. **Engages All Citizens for a Lifetime** - Engages families and all citizens to participate in healthy and life-long recreation activities; North Ridgeville is recognized throughout Northern Ohio as a “Fit” community;
3. **Scenic Community** - Offers unique and scenic park and recreation opportunities which help to beautify the community;
4. **Unique Identity** - Significantly adds to the unique identity of North Ridgeville as an outstanding place to live, work and play; Increases value and pride in the community;
5. **Balance of Opportunities** - Provides a balance of active recreation, passive recreation, and natural environments that are equitably distributed throughout the community;
6. **Convenient Access to Parks** - Converts its single use sports parks to Neighborhood Parks with the majority of the active athletic fields at one large, quality sports complex; Provides additional park land in growth areas of the community;
7. **Model “Green” Community** - Fosters an appreciation of nature and illustrates respect for the natural environment, promotes sustainable natural resource management practices, and is a model “Green” community;
8. **Success Through Partnerships** - Includes partnerships with the City, developers, County MetroParks, School District, senior citizens, Lorain County Community College, healthcare providers, volunteers, Friends of the Parks, and various organizations to acquire, develop, operate and manage the parks, programs, and facilities;
9. **Fiscally Responsible** - Is funded in an efficient and responsible manner while providing the level of service and maintenance necessary for a high quality

system; The community utilizes every opportunity to leverage funding from outside sources such as grants, philanthropy, and volunteerism;

10. **Integrated in the Community** - Through increased communication with residents, the system includes parks and programs that are well publicized and recognized by the residents;
11. **Built on Community Support** - Is supported by an active group of community leaders and volunteers that promotes implementation of the Master Plan over the long term.
12. **Improved Parks** - The existing parks are improved with: better accessibility, more parking, increased lighting and security, improved concession opportunities, modern facilities, and increased maintenance staff.
13. **Top-Notch Sports Complexes** - Provides high quality athletic fields in an expanded Shady Drive Complex that attracts visitors to the community, but places priority on the local users; Allows for more community use of Victory Sports Park;
14. **New Recreation Facilities** - Provides new recreation facilities including:
 - Outdoor Family Aquatic Center,
 - Outdoor performance venue,
 - Recreation Center,
 - Indoor pool,
 - Banquet hall,
 - Senior center,
 - Dog park,
 - Field house for indoor sports.
15. **Embraces Trends** - Embraces emerging recreation and fitness trends and sports;

Major Recommended Facilities

The Master Plan Steering Committee met to discuss the results of the capital project priority ranking and the draft Action Plan. The following recommendations are a compilation of the general sentiment of that group.

1. Improve Existing Parks

- Upgrade all playgrounds in the City to meet current standards.
- Improve access to all park facilities with paved walkways.
- South Central Park – Develop a loop trail in the park and connect the trail through City property, Schools property, and St. Peter’s to Center Ridge Road. Redevelop the basketball and tennis courts and improve the parking lot. Replace the gazebo with a band stand with the pond in the background to better support community events and performances.



- Shady Drive Complex – Improve the existing facilities to be made more safe and accessible. Expand the Shady Drive Complex into the 22 acres purchased by the City to the west of the park and develop it with two softball/baseball fields and relocation of the football complex from Frontier Park. Eventually purchase an additional 50 acres to develop more soccer and football fields.
- Convert Frontier Park in to a Neighborhood Park with recreation facilities that will support the surrounding resident’s needs.
- Add recreation facilities to the Root Road Soccer Complex, such as a playground, trails and other facilities to support better neighborhood use.

2. Cooperate with the North Ridgeville Schools to improve park and recreation

facilities on School property and develop a Field House for indoor sports activities.

3. Develop a new Recreation and Community Center.



4. Develop a new Senior Center.
5. Develop an Outdoor Family Aquatic Center.



6. Develop a Dog Park and a Skate Park.
7. Establish new outdoor fitness parks in South Central, Frontier, and Shady Drive Parks.



8. Develop Neighborhood Parks in any new residential growth areas in partnership with the developers

Other Key Recommendations

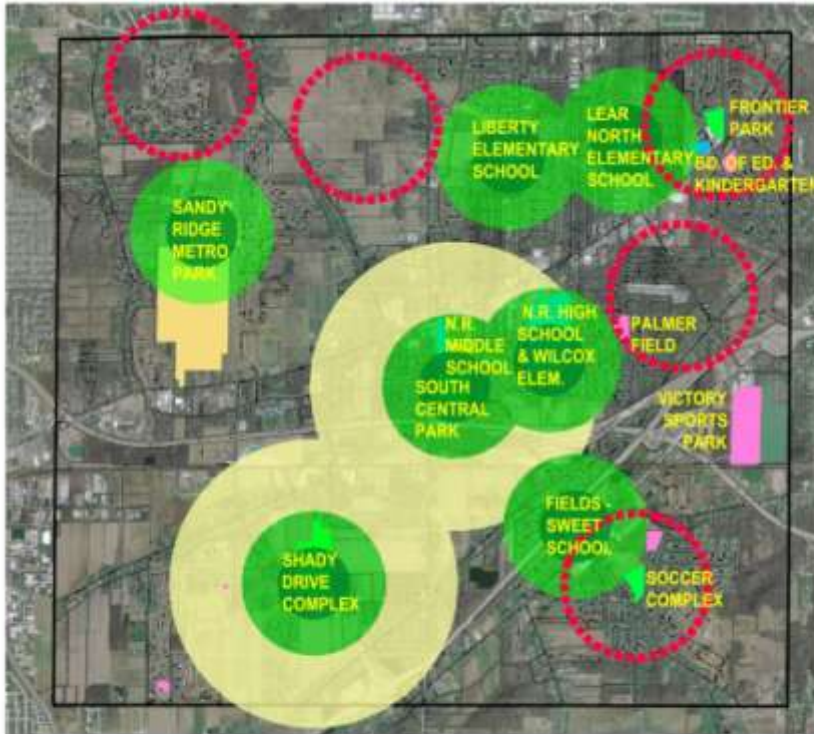
1. Expand maintenance staff and further increase it as facilities and acreage expands to maintain a high quality park and recreation system.
2. Establish a marketing program and web based calendar to promote and coordinate the parks, programs, and events offered in North Ridgeville by various organizations.
3. Maximize partnerships to utilize space for programs.
4. Establish nature education programs.
5. Prepare a City-wide Trails Plan to develop long-term strategies and potential routes to link parks, schools, neighborhoods and other community features.

Where to Get More Information

This new Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes a great deal of additional detail including the following topics:

1. Population and land use trends
2. Existing budget
3. Inventory of existing parks and facilities
4. Summary of public workshops and stakeholder groups
5. Discussion of survey results
6. Parks, facilities, and open space needs
7. Individual park recommendations and budgets
8. Priorities for the proposed improvements
9. Implementation strategies in a time-line

This information is intended to provide the direction needed by the City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission, Parks and Recreation Department, and other community groups to implement the Master Plan. The final Master Plan is available for viewing at the North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department.



LEGEND

- CITY PARK LAND
 - METRO-PARK LAND
 - PRIVATE PARK LAND
 - SCHOOL LAND
 - OTHER CITY OWNED LAND
- PARK SERVICE AREAS**
- AREA WITHIN 1/4 MILE OF A MINI-PARK, NEIGHBORHOOD PARK, OR COMMUNITY PARK
 - AREA WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK OR COMMUNITY PARK
 - AREA WITHIN 1 MILE OF A COMMUNITY PARK
- PROPOSED SERVICE AREAS**
- GENERAL AREA FOR A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
 - PLUS OTHERS AS PART OF NEW SUBDIVISIONS

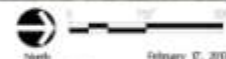


Scale: 1" = 100' MAP February 11, 2013



Proposed Park Service Areas Map

North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan
North Ridgeville, Ohio



Shady Drive Complex Concept Plan

North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan
North Ridgeville, Ohio



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Frontier Park Concept Plan
 North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 North Ridgeville, Ohio



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I. Introduction

A. The Need for a Plan

The City of North Ridgeville has operated a Parks and Recreation Department for many years, but has never had a comprehensive Master Plan specifically for parks and recreation services. The Parks and Recreation Commission has been discussing the need for a plan since the early 2000's. Various efforts have been studied over the years to evaluate the potential for the development of some specific facilities that have been constantly suggested by residents, namely a recreation center and an outdoor aquatic center. The strong residential growth which took place within the past ten years has caused residents to be even more vocal concerning their desires for additional recreation facilities.

The North Ridgeville Master Plan 2009 recommended that the City follow an aggressive approach to further park development with several new recreation facilities including:

1. Combined Recreation and Senior Center
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6. Land acquisition for more parks
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8. A Community Gateway/Town Center at Avon-Belden Road and Center Ridge Road.

In addition to the park sites, many of the City of North Ridgeville Schools have playground and athletic field areas that can be used by the general public. There are areas at four school sites that total about 25 acres that are available to the general public for use. These areas include soccer fields, basketball courts and playgrounds. In addition, the school gyms are also available on a limited basis for community use.

All of these factors and the desire to improve the quality of life for present and future residents of the City of North Ridgeville caused the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council to realize the need for a comprehensive process to identify the true needs of the community so that the City of North Ridgeville can be in a position to meet those needs in the future.

B. Planning Process

The planning process for the City of North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan included the following components.

1. A review of the previous studies that pertain to the delivery of parks and recreation facilities and services in the City of North Ridgeville.
2. A review of the population and land use trends for the City of North Ridgeville.
3. Preparation of a parks and recreation facilities and programs inventory, including a discussion of facilities by park type and a discussion of parks and recreation facilities provided by the County, not-for-profit organizations, and other providers.
4. The preparation of a Comprehensive Needs Analysis based on recreation facility level of service guidelines, public workshops, surveys of the general public, and meetings with stakeholders and special interest groups.
5. Benchmarking to other parks and recreation agencies throughout Ohio to develop comparisons to their budgets, programs, land, and staffing.
6. Review and oversight by a Master Plan Steering Committee with representatives of the community.
7. Recommendations for improvements to existing parks.
8. Recommendations for land and new parks.
9. Preparation of conceptual plans for selected sites based on recommendations.
10. An Action Plan identifying the recommendations and proposed improvements, responsible party, and potential funding sources for the recommendations.

C. Why are Parks and Recreation Important?

Here are some reasons why this Master Planning effort, additional planning, and the future of parks and recreation in the City of North Ridgeville are very important:

1. The City, County, schools and non-profit organizations in the City of North Ridgeville area manage nearly 555 acres of land designated for parks, recreation, and open space purposes. The City of North Ridgeville Schools operate approximately 25 acres of playgrounds and recreational field areas. These agencies have the responsibility to manage this land in an efficient manner that is consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

2. For many residents, parks provide the residents' only access to the natural environment. For all residents they provide natural and active outdoor recreational opportunities.
3. The quality of a community's parks and recreation system is viewed as one of the indicators of the overall quality of life. A quality park and recreation system is essential to attracting businesses and residents to locate in the City.
4. Obesity and lack of physical activity have become an ever growing problem in the county, state and country. Parks and recreation facilities and activities are needed to provide opportunities for citizens to become more active. The popularity of aquatic and recreation centers in adjacent communities clearly illustrates the desire of residents to be more active.
5. Property values around parks tend to be considerably higher than other areas, thereby making an annual contribution to the community in the form of higher property tax revenues, as well as additional profits to the owners at point of sale. More valuable properties also tend to be maintained at a higher level, improving the appearance of the communities.
6. A recent study titled "The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation" by John L. Crompton for the Trust for Public Land included a section on the impact of parks and open space on property taxes. This study indicates that property values are higher for properties near quality parks and open spaces than for similar properties located elsewhere. Approximately 20 studies have investigated this issue in the last few decades which overwhelmingly verified the legitimacy of the "Proximate Principle" of increased land values near parks. In addition, recent surveys of home buyers by the National Association of Home Builders indicate that trails, parks, and playgrounds are three of the top five amenities that a home buyer desires when considering a new home purchase.
7. The residents and leadership of the City of North Ridgeville place a high value on the quality of life that can result from an outstanding park and recreation system. As you will see in the Community Participation section, the public uses parks and programs in surrounding communities at a high rate and desire these services in the City of North Ridgeville. The parks can become the gathering place for the community and help to provide a positive community identity.

II. Planning Context

A. Population Trends

Population History and Projections

An overall understanding of the population trends of North Ridgeville is necessary to identify the present and predicted future needs for parks and recreation services and facilities. Table 1 illustrates the population trends for the City from 1960 to 2017. These tables use US Census Bureau data and projections from the ESRI Business Analyst Program. Trends indicate that the population has increased continuously with the largest growth spurts in the 1960’s, 1970’s, and from 2000 to 2010.

Contacts with the State Data Center, Lorain County Community Development, and the City of North Ridgeville indicate that there are no population projections available for the City. The City of North Ridgeville Building Department indicated that there have been permits issued for 794 housing units from 2010 through October 2012. At the average household size of 2.54, that results in an additional 2,017 residents since the 2010 Census.

Table 1: North Ridgeville, Ohio Population History and Projections (1960-2016)

| | 1960 | 1970 | Census | | | | Projections | |
|------------------|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|
| | | | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2012 | 2017 |
| North Ridgeville | 8,057 | 13,152 | 21,237 | 21,564 | 22,338 | 29,465 | 30,446 | 31,933 |
| 10 Year Growth % | | 63.20% | 61.50% | 1.50% | 3.50% | 31.90% | | |
| Source: | U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI Business Analyst | | | | | | | |

Table 2 indicates the household and family size from 1990 to 2016 and indicates that in North Ridgeville, the average household size decreased from 1990 to 2000 and is expected to drop slightly in 2010 and into 2017. The average family size for residents in North Ridgeville is lower than for the United States, but higher than for Lorain County and the State of Ohio. The 2010 average household size is 2.54 as compared to 2.51 for Lorain County, 2.44 for the State of Ohio, 2.57 for the U.S.

Table 2: Household and Family Size (1990 to 2016)

| | Households | Average Household Size | | | |
|------------------|-------------|------------------------|------|------|------|
| | | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2016 |
| | 2010 | | | | |
| USA | 116,716,292 | 2.63 | 2.59 | 2.58 | 2.57 |
| Ohio | 4,598,386 | 2.59 | 2.49 | 2.44 | 2.43 |
| Lorain County | 116,274 | 2.76 | 2.61 | 2.51 | 2.49 |
| North Ridgeville | 11,500 | 2.98 | 2.65 | 2.54 | 2.52 |

Table 3, Median Age, identifies trends throughout North Ridgeville, Lorain County, Ohio and the USA of the median age becoming higher. The median age in North Ridgeville was 32.5 in 1990 and is expected to increase to 41.5 in 2016. It should be noted that the median age for North Ridgeville is significantly higher than for the State and the United States and is slightly higher than for Lorain County. The median age in 2010 was 40.7 in North Ridgeville as opposed to 40.0 for Lorain County, 38.7 for Ohio, and 37.1 for the USA. The age of the residents is important because North Ridgeville needs to plan for the appropriate age groups that it will be serving.

Table 3: Median Age (1990 - 2016)

| | 1990 ¹ | 2000 ¹ | 2010 ¹ | 2016 ² |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| USA | 32.9 | 35.3 | 37.1 | 37.6 |
| Ohio | 33.3 | 36.2 | 38.7 | 39.3 |
| Lorain County | 32.8 | 36.4 | 40.0 | 40.7 |
| North Ridgeville | 32.5 | 38.1 | 40.7 | 41.5 |
| 1 - Source: U.S. Census Bureau | | | | |
| 2 - Source: ESRI Bis Forecast | | | | |

Table 4 indicates the population age 65 and over from 1990 to 2016 and indicates that this age group increased in percentage from 1990 to 2000 from 7.4% to 10.7% of the population in North Ridgeville and increased to 15.1% in 2010 and is expected to increase to 17.3% in 2016. All of the other jurisdictions including Ohio and the USA have indicated a significantly smaller percentage of the population in this age cohort with the City currently at approximately 15.1%, the County at 14.3%, State at 14.1%, and the USA at 13.0% of the population. Through 2000, the percentage of persons over age 65 was significantly lower than the other jurisdictions, but since then this age group has surpassed the others with a higher percentage than the County, State, and USA.

Table 4: Population Age 65 and Over (1990 - 2016)

| | 1990 ¹ | | 2000 ¹ | | 2010 ² | | 2016 ² | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| USA | 31,241,831 | 12.6% | 34,991,753 | 12.4% | 40,267,984 | 13.0% | 47,785,790 | 14.9% |
| Ohio | 1,406,961 | 13.0% | 1,507,757 | 13.3% | 1,622,015 | 14.1% | 1,854,216 | 16.0% |
| Lorain County | 31,325 | 11.6% | 35,583 | 12.5% | 43,131 | 14.3% | 50,458 | 16.3% |
| North Ridgeville | 1,604 | 7.4% | 2,391 | 10.7% | 4,430 | 15.1% | 5,400 | 17.3% |
| 1-Source: U.S. Census Bureau | | | | | | | | |
| 2-Source: ESRI Bis Forecast | | | | | | | | |

Table 5 identifies the population age 19 and under from 1990 to 2016. The table indicates that in North Ridgeville there was a large decrease in this percentage from 1990 to 2000 from 31.7% to 26.8%. This dropped to 22.0% in 2010 and is expected to increase by 2016. This corresponds to the previous table which identified the growing population over age 65. It should be noted that the percentage of the population age 19 and under in North Ridgeville is significantly lower than for the County, State, and USA. Currently North Ridgeville has 22.0% of the population within this age cohort as opposed to 26.5% for the state, 26.7% for the County, and 26.9% for the USA.

Table 5: Population 19 and Under (1990 - 2016)

| | 1990 ¹ | | 2000 ¹ | | 2010 ¹ | | 2016 ² | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage | Number | Percentage |
| USA | 71,321,886 | 28.7% | 80,473,265 | 28.6% | 83,267,556 | 26.9% | 84,503,426 | 26.3% |
| Ohio | 3,141,025 | 28.9% | 3,215,955 | 28.3% | 3,067,126 | 26.5% | 3,000,123 | 25.9% |
| Lorain County | 83,291 | 23.5% | 82,478 | 28.9% | 80,423 | 26.7% | 79,961 | 25.9% |
| North Ridgeville | 6,838 | 31.7% | 5,991 | 26.8% | 7,370 | 22.0% | 7,553 | 24.2% |

1-Source: U.S. Census Bureau
2-Source: ESRI Bis Forecast

All of this information indicates that the population of North Ridgeville is significantly older and has a similar household and family size than for the County, State of Ohio, and the United States in terms of their percentages.

The absence of any approved population projections makes it difficult to determine the planning horizon for this plan. The City’s level of implementation of the Master Plan 2009 will impact the future build-out size of the community. The Master Plan recommends larger one acre single family home lots and to allocate more land to business uses, resulting in a significantly smaller build-out size than the current zoning. Discussions with City leaders have indicated a range of build-out at between 40,000 to 50,000 residents. This Plan will assume the lower range at 40,000 residents as this could possibly be accomplished within the ten year planning horizon. This Plan should be revisited every five years and the future build-out should be reevaluated as the implementation proceeds and to react to actual growth levels.

B. Land Use Trends

Land use trends are of significant importance to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process due to the fact that residents want parks close to their homes. Therefore, identifying the existing and proposed residential areas becomes extremely important. North Ridgeville contains approximately 23.5 square miles.

Residential growth occurred in the 1970’s primarily in the northeast quadrant and since 2000 there has been substantial growth in the other sectors. The population density is low and there is a large amount of farm land that still has potential to be converted to development area. With residential building permits for nearly 800 new housing units since 2010, North Ridgeville is showing that it is a desirable location for residents that commute to Cleveland and surrounding communities. The location of several major roads leading both east and west further result in the community being an ideal location for commuters.

The North Ridgeville Master Plan 2009 recommended revising and simplifying the Zoning Codes to reapportion land between commercial/industrial zones and residential zones to reflect the community’s priorities for business attraction. The Plan also suggested limiting new residential development to one acre lots in new subdivisions.

C. Existing Programs

The North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department hosts a wide variety of programs for youth, adults, and families. The following is a list of some of the programs offered by the City:

1. Sports Programs
 - a. Youth Football
 - b. Flag Football
 - c. Softball
 - d. Baseball
 - e. T-Ball
 - f. Soccer
 - g. Youth and Adult Basketball
 - h. Tennis
 - i. Dodgeball
 - j. Kickball
 - k. Golf
 - l. Fencing
2. Fitness Classes
 - a. Yoga
 - b. Pilates
 - c. Zumba
 - d. Self Defense
 - e. Belly Dancing
 - f. Turbo Kick
 - g. Boot Camp
 - h. Adaptive Fitness
3. Community Education/Arts
 - a. Digestive Health
 - b. Thyroid Health
 - c. Wine Tasting
 - d. College 101
 - e. Dog Training
 - f. Cupcake Class
 - g. Theater
 - h. Zentangle

- 5. Youth Programs
 - a. Pony Camp
 - b. Music in Motion
 - c. Magic
 - d. Bricks for Kidz - Space, Inventions, Spectacular Sports, Amusement Park Rides
 - e. Signing Smart
 - f. Tiny Fingers- (art)

- 6. Special Events
 - a. Farm Day
 - b. Fire Station Tours
 - c. Touch-a-Truck
 - d. Parents Night Out
 - e. Fishing Derby
 - f. Movies in the Park
 - g. Jungle Terry – (wild animals)
 - h. NFL Punt, Pass, and Kick
 - i. Adventure Trips
 - j. Pride Day
 - k. Tree Lighting
 - l. Independence Day

The following table identifies the number of participants on NRPRD programs over the past six years. These figures only include registered participants in programs and do not reflect attendance at parks, events, and the Splash Pad.

Table 6: Program Participation 2006 – 2011

| Year | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Program Participation | 4,615 | 5,558 | 7,424 | 7,918 | 8,561 | 8,036 |

D. Budget Overview

The budget for the NRPRD is provided through three separate accounts. A Special Revenue Fund Account (Account 275) is a restricted account designated for programs expense and revenue only. In addition, there is a separate Special Revenue Account for Park Improvements (Account 280). These funds are from development impact fees and are collected as part of the Building Permit process. The remainder of the budget comes from the City General Fund (Account 101). Figures below are from the Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports from 2006 through 2011.

Table 7: Budget Overview 2006 – 2011

| | Year | | | | | | 2012 Budget |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | |
| Revenue | | | | | | | |
| Special Revenue Fund - Programs (275) | \$112,135 | \$142,308 | \$145,097 | \$135,534 | \$150,203 | \$132,271 | \$150,310 |
| Special Revenue Fund - Park Improvements (280) | | | \$72,138 | \$63,955 | \$63,770 | \$46,277 | \$50,000 |
| Total Revenue | \$112,135 | \$142,308 | \$217,235 | \$199,489 | \$213,973 | \$178,548 | \$200,310 |
| Expenses | | | | | | | |
| Special Revenue Fund - Programs (275) | \$91,617 | \$133,708 | \$148,573 | \$146,093 | \$128,725 | \$111,695 | \$150,310 |
| Special Revenue Fund - Park Improvements (280) | | | \$107,829 | \$91,534 | \$46,571 | \$52,756 | \$50,000 |
| General Fund Expenses (101) | \$191,631 | \$213,082 | \$228,440 | \$243,474 | \$217,305 | \$202,281 | \$287,035 |
| Total Expenses | \$283,248 | \$346,790 | \$484,842 | \$481,102 | \$392,601 | \$366,732 | \$487,345 |

Restricted Funds Balance for Park and Recreation Improvements \$132,438
 Restricted Funds Balance for Park and Recreation Programs \$115,131

*Note: All figures are as of December 31, 2011.

Overall, the City expenditure for Parks and Recreation in 2011 was \$366,732 which equates to an amount of \$12.26 per resident. The amount budgeted in 2012 is \$487,345 which equates to an amount of \$16.29 per resident.

Brandstetter Carroll Inc. has performed benchmarking comparisons of 28 communities in Ohio as part of previous Master Planning assignments. These benchmarking comparisons indicated an average expenditure per resident of \$87 and a median of \$47. North Ridgeville is significantly below these amounts.

The General Fund expenditure percentage of the budget for North Ridgeville is 57% as compared to the average of 72% and median of 85%. The percentage of the budget from program revenue of 31% is very close to the average of 30% and median of 33%.

E. Previous Studies

1. City of North Ridgeville Master Plan 2009, by Public Sector Solutions

Text that is relative to the delivery of parks and recreation services has been adapted from the Master Plan and included in Appendix A.

2. Measuring Recreation Center Benefits Using Traditional and Subsidized Payment Scenarios and an Inferred Valuation Method, February 2011, and Valuing a Proposed Recreation Center for the City of North Ridgeville, March 2011, by Anthony N. Russo, University of Toledo.

These studies are the result of surveys performed of North Ridgeville residents in 2010 concerning their willingness to pay for a recreation center. The benefits that would be received and the residents' willingness to pay for both capital and operating expenses were compared to their willingness to pay for the capital costs only.

F. North Ridgeville City Schools Improvements

The North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department uses the facilities of the North Ridgeville City Schools to provide some programs to the residents of North Ridgeville. Use of schools is an integral part of parks and recreation in the community. The North Ridgeville City Schools (NRCS) Board of Education is pursuing the following:

1. The buildings within the North Ridgeville City School District are aging and are overcrowded. In an effort to improve the middle school facility, the board has applied to the Ohio School Facilities Commission for \$9.3 million dollars towards the construction of a new grades 3-8 building. At this time, the state is saying it is “very likely” NRCS will receive the \$9.3 million dollars to reduce the cost of the anticipated \$53 million dollar project. To that end, with successful passage of a renewal operating levy on May 7, 2013, the North Ridgeville City Schools Board of Education will be placing a bond issue on the November 2013 ballot to fund the local cost of a new grades 3-8 school. Either denial of the state in offering the \$9.3 million in funding or failure of the renewal levy in May will mean that the schools do not place the bond issue on the ballot in November.
2. If things fall into place and the bond issue is passed in November, phase two for school improvements will look at the current high school. Phase two will see either North Ridgeville High School totally renovated or demolished and rebuilt.
3. The Schools are proud of the relationship they have established with the City. The Parks and Recreation Department is a huge part of that. The NRCS looks forward to continuing their partnership and if the department desires, even expanding the relationship. The School system would be willing to explore options for sharing a recreation center with the City on school owned property.

III. Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory

A. Parks and Recreation Classification System

The purpose of developing a park and recreation classification system for a community is to evaluate the total recreation opportunities that are being made available to the public. Too often, a community will “meet the standard” in terms of acreage, but it may meet this provision through only a single park that does not provide for the entire community. Therefore, a system of parks should be developed that provides a combination of local space such as mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks with county-wide space such as linear parks, county parks and support by regional or state parks.

The parks and recreation facilities inventory in this section identifies each park by its park type category and also list the number of specific facilities that are located within each park. Table 8 defines each park by its typical size and service area of each category, population served by each park, typical features and facilities, and the desirable characteristics of each park in these categories. The categories and descriptions were adapted from the Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines that was published by the National Recreation and Park Association in 1987 and 1995.

A park system is generally reviewed and analyzed as a composite of recreation areas, each existing to meet a particular public need. Based on a review of national and regional standards, a parks and recreation area classification system has been developed to reflect the actual conditions and opportunities for North Ridgeville.

Table 8: Recommended Park and Recreation Area Classification System

| PARK TYPE | TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA | ACRES/1,000 POPULATION | TYPICAL FEATURES/FACILITIES | DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------|---|---|
| LOCAL SPACE: | | | | |
| 1. Mini-Park (MP) | +/- 1 Acre 1/8 – ½ Mile Service Radius | 0.5 Acre/1,000 | Typical facilities may include playgrounds, small multi-use court area, and benches. | Most often provided in association with school facilities. May also provide open space as needed to serve high density neighborhoods where children do not have adequate yard space. |
| 2. Neighborhood Park (NP) | 5-15 Acres ½-1.0 mile service radius. To serve a population up to 5,000 | 2.0 Acres/1,000 | Suited for intense development. Typical facilities include field games, court games, playground apparatus, small pools, small neighborhood | Easily accessible to neighborhood population (safe walking and bike distance) May be developed as park/school facility or in conjunction with service agency facility. |

Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory

| PARK TYPE | TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA | ACRES/1,000 POPULATION | TYPICAL FEATURES/FACILITIES | DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|---|
| | | | centers, drinking fountains, and restrooms. | May not be needed in areas served by "community", "county" or "regional" parks. |
| 3. Community Parks (CmP) | 25-50+ Acres 1.0-2.0 mile service radius To serve several neighborhoods with populations up to 20,000+. | 2.5 Acres/1,000 | Typical facilities include all those listed for Neighborhood Parks plus; major swimming pool, field or court game complex, major recreation or community center, etc. May be an area of natural quality for picnicking, walking, etc. | Capable of providing a range of intensive recreational activities; or, provides one or two activities that attract users from multi-neighborhood areas. Park should ideally be located at or near a school. May meet needs of neighborhood park for users within a 1-mile radius. |
| 4. Linear Park (LP) | N/A | N/A | Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel (pleasure driving, hiking, walking, jogging, biking, etc.). May also include active play areas, fitness courses, picnic areas, etc. | Built or natural corridors, such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, creek beds, and roads that link other components of the park system or other community facilities (schools, libraries, etc.) with park areas. |
| 5. Special Use-Local (SUL) | Serves community-wide area. | N/A | Area for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, plazas in commercial areas, major pools, riverfront park areas, indoor facilities, etc. | Area should be located to meet the special needs of the intended use. |
| B. COUNTY/REGIONAL SPACE | | | | |
| 6. County Parks (COP) | 100 + Acres 5-6 mile service radius To serve most of the County. | 5.0 Acres/1,000 | Large properties that contain some active recreation facilities and a large percentage of natural or geographical features. Target size of 100 or more acres with 50% developed for active recreation. Located in rural areas but readily accessible | Capable of providing a range of specific recreational facilities. Should include unique natural areas of ecological interest. May meet needs of neighborhood and/or community park for users within a 2-mile radius. |

Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory

| PARK TYPE | TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA | ACRES/1,000 POPULATION | TYPICAL FEATURES/FACILITIES | DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------|---|---|
| | | | <p>to most of the county population.</p> <p>Travel time within 20 minutes.</p> <p>Should be located off of major roads.</p> <p>Destination-oriented parks.</p> <p>Should connect to linear park system.</p> | |
| 7. Nature Parks (NaP) | Size as needed to protect the resource. | | <p>Majority of park to remain in its natural state.</p> <p>Facilities should focus on education by use of "nature activities." The facility should reinforce that philosophy by offering habitat enhancement, trails, nature centers, interpretive signage, parking and restrooms.</p> <p>The park should be of sufficient size to protect the natural resource and provide a buffer from offsite conditions.</p> | <p>Should include unique natural areas with ecological interest.</p> <p>Typical size should be over 50 acres for management efficiency.</p> |
| C. MULTI-COUNTY/REGIONAL SPACE | | | | |
| 8. Multi-County or State Park (SP) | <p>500 + Acres</p> <p>30 + mile service radius</p> <p>To serve several counties or region of the state.</p> | | <p>State or multi-county agency operated park with large size.</p> <p>Attracts visitors from multiple counties.</p> <p>Contains some active facilities but primarily offers large areas of natural environments.</p> <p>Main attractions could include a lodge, outstanding natural features, historical features, trail system or other unique characteristics.</p> | Includes unique natural, cultural or ecological features. |

B. Overview of Parks and Recreation in North Ridgeville

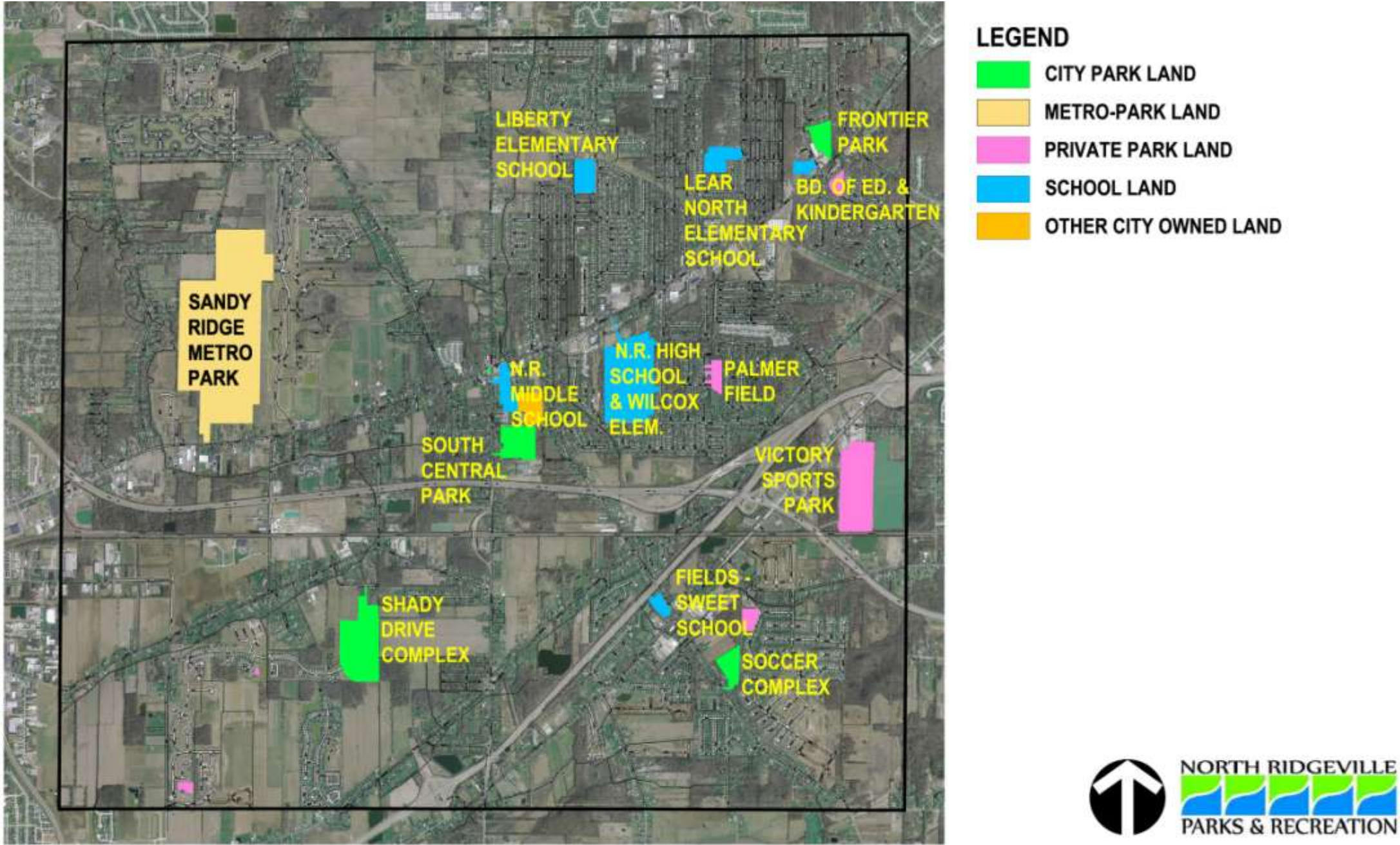
The residents of North Ridgeville, Ohio are offered a wide variety of parks, recreation facilities, and programs. The community's needs are currently being met by community parks offered by the County and the City, school facilities, and other private and not-for-profit facilities within the City. Table 9 provides a summary of the parks and recreation areas and facilities within the City and also indicates the park type category for each existing park. Figure 1 illustrates the locations of the existing parks. The remainder of this section provides a detailed narrative summary of the parks and recreation facilities offered in North Ridgeville.

Table 9: Parks and Recreation Resources Facilities Inventory

| Facility Name | Park Type | Devel. Acres | Total Park Acres | FACILITIES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Other Comments | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------|------------|----------|----------------|--|
| | | | | Tennis Courts | Baseball/ Softball Fields | Multi-purpose Fields* | Sand Volleyball Court | Football Fields | Soccer Fields | Basketball Courts | Play-ground | Paved Trails (miles) | Unpaved Trails (miles) | Picnic Shelter | Restroom | Splash Pad | Gym | | |
| CITY OWNED PARKS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| South Central Park | Community | 26 | 26 | 4 | | | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | 1/4 mile | | 5 | 2 | 1 | | Safetyville, Splash Pad, Community Cabin, 2 lakes |
| Shady Drive Complex | Community | 39.5 | 62.9 | | 13 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 3 | | | |
| Frontier Park | Special Use | 13 | 13 | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 concession stand |
| Soccer Complex | Special Use | 13.9 | 13.9 | | | | | | 7 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 concession stand |
| Subtotal - City Parks | | 92.4 | 115.8 | 4 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 0 | | |
| PRIVATE FACILITIES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Palmer Fields | Special Use | 9.05 | 9.05 | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Victory Park | Special Use-Pr | 68 | 68 | | 8 | | 2 | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | Private facility leased from City |
| Home Owner Association Facilities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ridgefield | Private | 7.5 | 7.5 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | Swimming Pool |
| Pioneer Ridge | Private | 3.1 | 3.1 | 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | Swimming Pool, 2 bocce courts, tennis courts used for Pickleball |
| Waterbury | Private | 0.67 | 0.67 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | Swimming Pool |
| Mill Creek | Private | 6.16 | 6.16 | 2 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 0.45 | | | | | | Swimming Pool |
| Subtotal - Private Facilities | | 94.48 | 94.48 | 4 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 0.45 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| COUNTY PARKS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sandy Ridge Reservation | County | 8.2 | 319 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Subtotal - County Parks | | 8.2 | 319 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| SCHOOL FACILITIES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wilcox Elem. | Neighborhood | 8.2 | 8.2 | | | | | | 2 | 1.5 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 abandoned tennis courts, acreage combined with NRHS |
| NR High School | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| Lear North Elementary | Neighborhood | 7.9 | 7.9 | | | 2 | | | 4 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | Only 11 v 11 soccer field in City. |
| Board of Ed. / Kindergarten | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | Playground not accessible to public |
| Fields-Sweet School | Neighborhood | 3.5 | 3.5 | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Liberty Elementary | Neighborhood | 5.8 | 5.8 | | | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| NR Middle School | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Subtotal - School Facilities | | 25.4 | 25.4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 4.5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | |
| TOTAL FACILITIES | | 220.48 | 554.68 | 8 | 25 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 22 | 7.5 | 12 | 0.45 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 4 | | |

* = Multi-use field - typically a backstop at a school used for recess, physical education class, and neighborhood pick-up games
 School fields and private facilities that are not accessible to the public for local recreation programs are not included.
 Park area and facilities included in the Needs Analysis, Tables 10 and 11.

Figure 1: Park Locations Map



Park Locations Map
North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan
North Ridgeville, Ohio

Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory

The following is a summary of the existing public and private parks and recreation facilities serving North Ridgeville residents. Table 9 – Parks and Recreation Resources Inventory lists the park features and Figure 1 illustrates their locations.

C. Community Parks

1. South Central Park (26 acres)
 - a. Location – Center of the City east of Avon-Belden Road (Route 83) and south of Bainbridge Road.
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - Two lakes
 - ¼ mile walking trail
 - Community Cabin meeting room with restrooms
 - Splash pad
 - Four tennis courts
 - Two basketball courts
 - A sand volleyball court
 - Safetyville with building used for recreation programming
 - Large playground
 - Five picnic shelters of which one is a gazebo shape also used for concerts
 - c. Observations
 - Walkways are in poor condition. Many are very narrow and surfacing is poor. Recently access from the splash pad area to the playground has been improved.
 - Parking lots and parking islands are in poor condition.
 - Wooded area of the park can become very wet.
 - The City recently was notified they were successful in a grant application for a trail from South Central Park to Center Ridge Road.
 - The large concession stand near the splash pad is no longer in use as a concession stand and is used for storage.
 - The benches around the lakes have been replaced with recycled material benches on concrete pad. Some older benches in the park need to be replaced, primarily near the horseshoe pits.

Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory

- Community Cabin was recently renovated. The main meeting room could use a window for natural light. Additional parking is needed in this area and the current parking lot needs to be paved to maximize the number of spaces and to become neater in appearance. Parking along the road causes problems in this area. Also the turf should be reestablished around the Cabin.
- The pavilion/gazebo is not ADA accessible.
- NRPRD has recently been given permission to install security cameras in portions of the park.

D. Special Use Parks

1. North Ridgeville Soccer Complex (13.9 acres)
 - a. Location – East of Root Road and south of Lorain Road in the southeast quadrant of the City.
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - Seven soccer fields of varying sizes – Fields are fenced in and designed to allow for changing of the field and goal locations.
 - Restroom building
 - One picnic shelter
 - Concession stand
 - Gravel parking lot
 - c. Observations
 - The site is managed by the North Ridgeville Amateur Soccer League. The League fertilizes, aerates, and lines the fields and the City mows the grass.
2. Frontier Park (13 acres)
 - a. Location – Access off of Mills Creek Lane, south of Center Ridge Road in the northeast quadrant of the City.
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - Three football fields of varying sizes (100 yards, 90 yards and 70 yards)
 - Gravel parking lot
 - Restroom/Shelter/Concession building

Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory

- c. Observations
 - Field access is limited to a small wood walking bridge from the parking lot.
 - The gravel lot could be neater and more efficient if paved.
 - The football fields are in poor condition and need to be regraded and crowned for better drainage.
- 3. Shady Drive Complex (62.9 acres)
 - a. Location – On Shady Drive south of Sugar Ridge Road and west of Route 83 in the southwest quadrant of the City.
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - Thirteen baseball/softball fields. Two fields (#3 and #4) are lighted.
 - One playground
 - One picnic shelter
 - One football field
 - Three restroom buildings
 - Indoor batting cages
 - Maintenance complex
 - Parking on gravel and grass
 - c. Observations
 - Most parking is gravel with the exception of the lot in the center of the park near fields 3, 4, 7, and 8.
 - Bleachers and spectator areas are on grass with no paved pedestrian access from the parking areas.
 - Parking for much of the park is off of the central road through the park, requiring an unsafe condition of cars backing up into traffic.
 - The City acquired 22 acres to the west of the existing park for the purpose of expanding the park.

E. County Parks

- 1. Sandy Ridge Reservation (319 acres)
 - a. Location – Northwest quadrant of the City on Otten Road and north of Center Ridge Road

Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory

- b. Existing Facilities
 - Main visitor area with Visitor Center, playground, paved parking and picnic shelter
 - Two miles of unpaved trails
- c. Observations
 - This park is primarily a natural area for nature study and land conservation.

F. Private Parks

- 1. Victory Sports Complex (68 acres)
 - a. Location – East-central portion of the City with access from Lorain Road near Cook Road.
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - Eight baseball/softball fields
 - Six soccer fields
 - Two sand volleyball courts
 - Gravel parking lot
 - c. Observations
 - Victory Park is owned by the City and leased to a private organization for development and management.
 - This park hosted the City fireworks celebration in 2012.
 - The soccer fields were graded well initially, but the field conditions have degraded due to a lack of irrigation.
- 2. Palmer Fields (9.05 acres)
 - a. Location – At the east end of Dodge Road in the east-central area of the City.
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - Four baseball fields
 - Gravel parking
 - Restroom/concession building

Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory

- c. Observations
 - The park is surrounded by residential area.
 - This complex is owned and managed by the local Hot Stove Baseball League.
- 3. Pioneer Ridge (3.1 acres)
 - a. Location – In the southwestern quadrant off of Bender Road.
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - Outdoor and indoor swimming pools
 - 2 bocce courts
 - 2 tennis courts also used for Pickle Ball
 - Putting green
 - Playground
 - c. Observations – Facilities reserved for residents and their guests
- 4. Ridgefield Homeowners Association (7.5 acres)
 - a. Location - In the southeastern quadrant off of Gatewood Drive.
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - One outdoor swimming pool
 - One playground
 - c. Observations – Reserved for residents only.
- 5. Waterbury Homeowner Association (0.67 acres)
 - a. Location – In the southwestern quadrant off of Franklin Drive.
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - Outdoor swimming pool
 - Two playgrounds
 - c. Observations – Reserved for residents only.
- 6. Mill Creek South Home Owner Association (6.16 acres)
 - a. Location – In the northeast quadrant off of Mills Creek Lane, south of Center Ridge Road.

Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory

- b. Existing Facilities
 - Two tennis courts
 - Outdoor swimming pool
 - Multi-purpose field with backstop
 - One basketball court
 - Playground
 - 0.45 mile paved path
 - c. Observations – Facilities are for residents only
7. Mills Creek North Home Owner Association (1.4 acres)
- a. Location – On Mills Creek Lane at Shady Moss Lane.
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - Outdoor swimming pool

G. School Parks

1. Wilcox Elementary/North Ridgeville High School (8.2 acres)
- a. Location – Access from Bainbridge Road in the central area of the City. Adjoins North Ridgeville High School to the north.
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - Two areas used for soccer fields
 - 1.5 basketball courts. One goal in the parking lot and a full court
 - Two abandoned tennis courts
 - Playground with one play structure and 12 strap swings
 - c. Observations
 - Swings and playground are not ADA compliant. No paved access is provided and the play surface edging will not permit access for wheelchairs
2. Lear North Elementary School (7.9 acres)
- a. Location – Access from Lear Nagle Road in the northeast quadrant.
 - b. Existing Facilities

Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory

- Two multi-purpose fields with backstops
 - Four soccer fields – The only large 11 vs 11 field in the City
 - One playground with two sets of six swings and a play structure
 - Two small basketball courts and two funnel ball goals on a large paved area
- c. Observations
- Asphalt on the play area is deteriorated
 - Playground is not visible from the road
 - Playground access is not ADA compliant
3. Fields-Sweet School (3.5 acres)
- a. Location – Access from Root Road and located between Lorain Road and State Route 10 in the southeast quadrant.
- b. Existing Facilities
- One multi-purpose field with a backstop
 - One soccer field with one goal and no net
 - One playground located behind the school that is fenced in and not visible from the road
- c. Observations
- The playground is located behind the school that is fenced in and not visible from the road. The playground is all plastic components except the posts and decks
4. Liberty Elementary School (5.8 acres)
- a. Location – North central area of the City on Jaycox Road.
- b. Existing Facilities
- Two multi-purpose fields
 - Two soccer fields
 - One playground
- c. Observations
- Playground is not ADA compliant. No paved access is provided.

Park and Recreation Facilities Inventory

5. North Ridgeville Middle School/City Hall
 - a. Location – adjacent to City Hall.
 - b. Existing Facilities
 - Two multi-purpose fields with backstops.
6. North Ridgeville High School and Kindergarten/Board of Education offices have no facilities open for public use.

IV. Community Participation

A variety of public input methods were employed to provide as much access as possible for residents to voice their opinions on parks and recreation services in North Ridgeville. These methods included a public workshop, an active Steering Committee, stakeholder group discussions, and web based opinion surveys.

A. Public Workshop and Email Responses

A public workshop was held in Council Chambers on August 16, 2012. Although only ten people attended, the Parks and Recreation Director received written comments from another 49 residents. The workshop summary and email responses are included in Appendix B. The future vision identified in the workshop includes the following:

Vision for the future: Pretend it is 10 years in the future and you are very happy with what has happened in North Ridgeville to make this a great place to live, work, and play. What has happened in that time to make parks and recreation in this community so successful? (The numbers indicate the number of votes which were given by those in attendance. Each participant was given 3 votes)

1. Recreation Center which includes the following (6 votes): swimming pool, multipurpose rooms, gymnasiums, meeting rooms, partnership with the schools, fitness area and cardiovascular equipment, walking track, child care area, full commercial kitchen, and banquet space
2. All sports are in one park with high quality and improved facilities (5 votes)
3. Outdoor aquatic center (4 votes)
4. Lorain County emerald-necklace type trail which extends through the community. The path could extend from Bradley Woods Park on the east along the south side of Center Ridge Road to the town center and eventually to Sandy Ridge Metro Park, Lorain County Community College, the Finwood Estate in Elyria, and eventually to Lake Erie (3 votes)
5. North Ridgeville is a destination for sports tournaments which helps the economy and the community (2 votes)
6. Expand South Central Park to the north and take advantage of the greenhouse on the property to the north to make it program space (1 vote)
7. Develop neighborhood parks (1 vote)
8. Provide more activity for teens (1 vote)

- 9. Improve the tennis courts (1 vote)
- 10. Other items receiving no votes:
 - a. See a lot of active seniors out in the community
 - b. Bocce courts
 - c. A dog park
 - d. Outdoor waterpark and splash pads
 - e. An ice rink
 - f. A skate park

B. Stakeholder Group Meetings

The Consultants met with over twenty separate stakeholder groups throughout August and September, 2012. Questions were sent to the groups in advance to give them a chance to discuss their group’s issues, concerns and vision for the future with their constituent groups. The following are the visions from each of the groups. The full summaries are included in Appendix B.

1. North Ridgeville Football League

Vision for the Future:

- a. Lights on the facility
- b. More children are involved and North Ridgeville continues to grow
- c. A second bridge would be added.
- d. They would like to develop a spring flag football program

2. North Ridgeville Amateur Soccer League

Vision for the Future:

- a. Develop some additional large size fields on the additional land at Shady Drive Complex so that the smaller children can stay at the soccer complex and the older children could move to the Shady Drive site.
- b. A recreation center that would be used by the community.
- c. An indoor field with turf such as a field house that other sports could use as well, similar to Concordia in Olmsted Township.
- d. It would make most sense to request a minimum of 8 full sized fields. That way the fields could easily be adjusted according to the need at that time and would afford the opportunity to allow for two full sized teams from each of the boys and girls U13 and U14 teams to play their games simultaneously. It would also provide an

opportunity to rotate and move fields a bit to prevent over use and minimize wear and tear. It would also help support our high school teams and provide enough space for our tournament currently AND to grow as well as the high school's possible opportunity to someday host the Lorain County High School Preview for all area high school teams to compete in each year.

3. North Ridgeville City Baseball Boosters

Vision for the Future:

- a. Improvements to their facilities.
 - Including separating baseball and softball fields so that they can have better baseball fields.
 - Adding two to three more fields.
 - Developing a paved walking path down the center of the complex starting at fields 3 and 4.
 - Avoid parking on the grass and along the road which can be dangerous and relocate some of the parking areas.
 - Currently fields 3 and 4 are lighted and they think that three more field should be lighted.
 - Need a pavilion by fields 1 and 2.
 - Need sunscreens on the dugouts.
 - Need bigger backstops and netting on field 5 to make it safer on adjacent fields

4. Friends of the Parks

Vision for the Future

- a. Our City has a Recreation Center, an indoor swimming facility, Dog Park, Exercise Trail, Skate Park, and the City is actively engaging in “green” activities.
- b. Completion of these facilities has brought together children and adults of all ages; engaging in physical activities and enjoying time together as families. This benefits 2-legged as well as 4-legged participants.

5. North Ridgeville Police Department

- a. It was noted that the pond at Victory Park is something that would be a good asset for the community to be able to use. They do have an issue with only the one entrance at Victory Park for the fireworks. They felt that it worked better at South Central Park because people parked all over the area and there was no one central area that they all have to park.
- b. It was noted that they feel that a skatepark in the community would help keep some of the kids from skateboarding where they should not.
- c. There is definitely a need for more things for kids to do in the community.
- d. One thing they would like to be able to do is to drive by and through the parks easier. There are gates and chains at some of the parks which make it tougher to patrol. They also like to see more areas that are easier to see. Recent cameras that have been placed in the park are helping to solve some crimes but ideally they would have a direct feed to the Police Department rather than having to go to the site of the camera after a crime to help solve the crime. They also felt that they should have one added at the splash pad area and more views throughout the parks

6. North Ridgeville Branch Library

It was noted that if there is any development in the park or in the land that is owned by the City around the library, that they would prefer that the library parking lot not be used to support those park facilities.

7. Senior Citizens

Vision for the Future:

- a. One of the items discussed for the Vision for the Future would be their own building which would have a multi-purpose space, offices, storage areas, and a larger kitchen. Ideally it would be near a park so that it could coincide with some outdoor activities such as a senior's only walking trail that is safe to walk on for people with lesser abilities so that they would not need to compete with roller-bladers, skateboarders, and bicycles. There should be benches along the trail as well.
- b. If the park could have some senior area activities such as Bocce courts, shuffleboard, and other activities that would be ideal as well.

- c. In the facility an area for home theater for movies would be beneficial.
- d. The whole area should have high ceilings for some of their activities.
- e. It was noted that you could possibly tear down the existing Park and Recreation Office and Senior Center and replace it on that same location with a new facility.

8. Garden Club of North Ridgeville

Vision for the Future:

- a. Develop some walking route signs in the community with some landscaping. These could possibly be adopted by various organizations for maintenance.
- b. Enforce the signage laws because some of the businesses have way too many signs and more landscaping is required around some facilities.
- c. Get the people to keep their trash cans out of sight at their homes.
- d. Requirement throughout the City that no one can park on grass.
- e. Publicize some of the businesses that are cited for non-maintenance to embarrass them into doing a better job on maintaining their facilities.
- f. Get a younger membership base which is more able to help with some of the landscaping and gardens on public sites and also just to keep their program going.
- g. Need more hiking trails throughout the community. Ms. Lett is a member of the Cleveland Hiking Club which basically meets every day

9. Girl Scouts

General information was provided

10. Lions Club

Vision for the Future:

- a. Indoor, centrally located recreation center with pool, banquet rooms, kitchen, walking track, weight rooms, cardio machines,

seniors and Parks and Recreation offices, and possibly a gymnastics area. Should be a very basic facility to start with.

- b. Walking and bike trails.
- c. More winter activities for kids and adults.

11. Rotary Club

Vision for the Future: – Comments from Individuals

- a. Need a pool that people of all ages and abilities would want to use.
- b. Community needs a recreation center.
- c. Nature programs would be ideal.
- d. They love the splash pad and it could be enlarged.
- e. Need a dog park.
- f. Need more soccer fields.
- g. Need more sports practice fields.
- h. Need winter sports activities.
- i. Improve the South Central Park parking lot and make it bigger. The whole park needs to be bigger.
- j. Provide a caution light at the park entrance on Route 83 to South Central Park.
- k. Upgrade the athletic fields for tournaments.
- l. Upgrade the high school football field. It is one of the worst in the area.
- m. Develop a good relationship between the City and the schools and combine some parks and school facilities.
- n. Need a place for an ice rink, even if it is a paved pad that could be frozen in the winter.
- o. Need more fish in the pond at South Central Park.
- p. Need a lower rail on the fishing pier on the front.

- q. Light the paths throughout South Central Park.
- r. Need a skate park in the community.
- s. Need more police visibility throughout the park system so that people feel safer in the parks.
- t. Expand the events such as the fishing derby in the community and expand the visibility of police at these activities as well.

12. North Ridgeville City Schools

Vision for the Future:

- a. The schools are currently in the process of a long range facilities master planning process of which there are several alternatives on the table at this point. They hope to have a final plan completed in December.
- b. Many of the buildings and facilities are old and need to be completely replaced.
- c. They see a potential partnership between the schools, YMCA, EMH, and the City in developing a community recreation center like some other communities have done throughout the state.

13. Council Members and City Administration (in three separate groups)

- a. Use the Master Plan to generate successful applications for more grant funding.
- b. An outdoor community pool is needed in the community with a lazy river and other activities.
- c. Elyria Memorial Hospital (EMH) has a fitness facility on Lorain Road that is used by some members of the community and there could possibly be some partnership with EMH, the YMCA, schools, and the community in developing an indoor recreation facility for the community.
- d. Need more bike and walking trails throughout the community. Discussion of developing trails connecting the proposed multi-use trail on the south side of Center Ridge Road to connect the eastern edge of the community to the Sandy Ridge Metro Park and then possibly extending up to Lorain County Community College. There is already a grant in place to connect Center Ridge Road to South Central Park. There was some discussion that some of the funding needed for this trail was higher than it should be.

- e. The group is in agreement that the additional 22 acres at Shady Ridge Complex should be expanded for more sports facilities and there was discussion of purchasing additional land in the area to possibly move all of the sports facilities to this one site. In that case, there was discussion of taking the other parks and making them more neighborhood related types of activities such as walking trails, picnic shelters, and playgrounds.
- f. At Shady Drive there was discussion of developing more T-ball fields in the back since this program is growing. This facility also needs two more lighted diamonds for baseball. There had been a road plan to go through the western edge of this property at one time.
- g. At South Central Park, some of the improvements are that the gazebo needs to be a more attractive architectural element in the community. It works well as a bandstand area.
- h. The basketball and tennis courts in the park are heavily used, especially the basketball courts, and they need to be maintained better.
- i. There are 2,500 home development applications that have been approved and this will result in at least another 5,000 – 7,000 people. We need to look at that number, build out with the population currently at about 30,000 it could be as much as 45,000 to 50,000 and need to plan for that.
- j. The property at the corner of Route 83 and Center Ridge Road should be developed as a center of the community focal point. There was discussion of developing a clock tower, fountain and landscaping, water gardens, possibly using an EPA grant. They would not want a gazebo at this site.
- k. Parks need to be expanded in the community.
- l. It should be considered that in the future some of the homeowner association pools might have difficulty and need to be taken over by the community.
- m. Some of the land east of South Central Park was developed on fly ash to make it more difficult to develop. There is also a gas well on some of the land that is east of the Shady Drive Complex that needs to be considered.
- n. Some of the group talked about expanding South Central Park to the south. They discussed that this site was the site of several greenhouses and could have some environmental impact costs

which could be significant. Also the price for the land is extremely high in most of this group's opinion.

- o. There is a YMCA in Avon which meets some of the need in the area.
- p. There was discussion of more community use of Victory Park and the Consultant should look at the agreements with the Victory Sports Complex to see how this facility could be used to more advantage to the community.
- q. There is a lack of sidewalks in the community that makes it difficult to get around, therefore more trails are needed to interconnect some of the neighborhoods, parks, schools, etc.
- r. The Senior Center needs to be expanded with a larger multi-purpose room, new offices, and generally better facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department also needs a better office facility and could possibly be a redevelopment on the existing site.
- s. Some of those in attendance did not like the idea of a dog park being developed within a residential area.
- t. It was requested that more adult activities are needed in the community.
- u. The single use parks, such as sport complexes, are an issue because they do not provide for the general public's general needs.
- v. Need a series of long trails.
- w. There was also a discussion of the fact that recreation baseball does not have enough competition associated with it. They feel that the coaching could be better.
- x. Need more time and space availability for adult fitness activities such as yoga, Pilates, and other workouts. The Safetyville facility is too small and a larger facility would be ideal.
- y. There was discussion of the need for more County park land within the City area and that the percentage is lower than it should be.

14. Parks and Recreation Department Program Staff

Vision for the Future:

- a. Move all sports to the Shady Drive Complex and add some basketball courts at that site as well. Pave the parking lots at that site so that they can reduce some of the dust problems.
- b. A joint use indoor recreation facility like the one in Fairview.
- c. A separate operating levy solely for parks and recreation.

15. Grounds Maintenance

Vision for the Future:

- a. More activities for seniors.
- b. Lighting more ball fields and adding grass infields for solely baseball fields at Shady Drive Complex and some new practice football fields.

16. Pioneer Ridge by Del Webb Senior Living Community

Vision for the Future:

- a. They are beginning to coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Department to cross market programs. They have hosted some concerts and events on their property, primarily as a vehicle to gain more exposure. They have also hosted pre-program events and then participated in activities from the Parks and Recreation Department.
- b. The City started a community garden recently and 45 of the 60 plots are residents of Pioneer Ridge. All extra produce is given to Community Care.
- c. Pickleball is a popular activity for them and at other Del Webb communities. It is similar to tennis with a slightly lower net and smaller court with wood paddles instead of racquets and uses a ball like a wiffle ball.
- d. A banquet center is needed in the community.
- e. They could use a large picnic shelter for at least 60 people.
- f. Their residents may become involved in community service projects or as volunteers. They have great experience that could be used in community education classes.
- g. Inter-generational activities are very highly desired.

17. North Ridgeville Fishing Club

Vision for the Future:

They hope to bring happiness, a good friendly, helpful feeling to the community. They would like to have their community and others look at them as community minded, helpful and friendly with the emphasis on assisting youth. For them to become reliable, responsible citizens that grow up to be responsible, caring, loving parents and citizens that “pass our word along.”

C. Web Survey

The Consultant developed a web based survey for the North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department (NRPRD) which was promoted in a variety of methods. The survey was collected through Survey Monkey and was available for residents to respond throughout August and September, 2012. A total of 615 people responded with over 96% in the 44039 North Ridgeville zip code. The full summary can be found in Appendix C. Key findings are summarized here.

1. 94% of respondents have visited a park in North Ridgeville in the past 12 months with over 41% visiting 20 times or more.
2. South Central Park is the most visited by 89.6% of the respondents, followed by Sandy Ridge Reservation at 58.6%, Shady Drive Complex at 41.7%, Victory Sports Park at 33.2%, and the Soccer Complex at 30%
3. A total of 72.5% have participated in programs, concerts, festivals, classes or leagues offered by the City with 60% rating the programs as “excellent” or “good”.
4. 83.7% indicated there is a need for more parks in North Ridgeville.
5. 72.5% attend a public outdoor swimming pool or aquatic center outside of North Ridgeville.
6. 71.9% have visited a public indoor recreation center in the past year with 30% visiting 20 times or more.
7. The most important functions that should be performed by the City include:
 - a. Operating and maintaining parks and facilities (91% very important)
 - b. Providing programs (79%)
 - c. Providing places for indoor recreation and fitness activities (77%)
 - d. Providing places for outdoor sports programs (77%)

- e. Preserving the environment and providing open space/green space (66%)
 - f. Providing teen programs (56%)
 - g. Providing trails and linear parks (54%)
8. The top ten facilities the respondents indicated that they have a need for the City to develop include:
- a. Indoor swimming pool 75%
 - b. Outdoor swimming pool or aquatic center 72%
 - c. Indoor fitness and exercise facilities 71%
 - d. Paved walking and biking trails 66%
 - e. Indoor multi-purpose community center 60%
 - f. Playgrounds 54%
 - g. Picnic shelters and picnic areas 51%
 - h. Natural areas and nature parks 46%
 - i. Non-paved walking and biking trails 44%
 - j. Large Community Parks 44%
9. The top ten programs that the respondents indicated they have a need to be offered include:
- a. Adult fitness and wellness 68%
 - b. Youth learn-to-swim 55.5%
 - c. Youth sports 55%
 - d. Water fitness 48%
 - e. Nature programs 46%
 - f. Youth fitness and wellness 45%
 - g. Youth summer camps 36%
 - h. Adult sports 34.5%
 - i. Teen programs 34.1%
 - j. Before and after school programs 33%
10. The top ten improvements they would like to see made to North Ridgeville parks include:
- a. Improved restrooms 57%
 - b. More and improved sidewalks and trails 54%

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|-------|
| c. | Bike trails and lanes | 45% |
| d. | Playground equipment | 38% |
| e. | Security cameras | 37% |
| f. | Drinking fountains | 36% |
| g. | Paved parking | 34.5% |
| h. | Picnic shelters | 34.2% |
| i. | Picnic tables and benches | 33.7% |
| j. | Park security lighting | 32.8% |

11. When asked how they would allocate \$100 toward parks and recreation facilities in the City, the responses ranked as follows:

- a. New outdoor aquatic center
- b. New indoor recreation facilities
- c. Walking and biking trails
- d. Improvements and maintenance of existing parks
- e. Improvements/construction of new sports fields
- f. Acquisition of open space/green space/future park land
- g. Development of new outdoor parks and recreation facilities

12. A total of 46% would strongly support and another 31% would moderately support a recreation tax to fund the development and operation of the types of parks, recreation, trails, programs, facilities and activities that are most important to their households.

13. The survey concluded with an open ended question of – What recommendations would you like the City of North Ridgeville to consider in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan? A total of 395 of the 615 surveys responded. The following are some observations of the open ended responses. All of the responses can be read in Appendix C.

- a. 193 responded in favor of an indoor recreation center.
- b. 73 indicated a need for an outdoor aquatic center with another 46 indicating both a recreation center and outdoor aquatic center.
- c. 40 responded concerning improving and maintaining existing parks
- d. 24 supported biking and walking trails
- e. Eight suggested a dog park
- f. Eight supported other types of new facilities
- g. Seven suggested more parks

- h. Seven indicated a need for more activities for children
- i. Six requested more open space and green space
- j. Six commented about funding of the parks
- k. Six had general support for parks and recreation
- l. Less than five comments each concerning general community improvement, policies, senior activities and a senior center, improvement of the schools and some negative comments stressing lack of support for parks and recreation.

V. Needs Analysis

A. General

The Needs Analysis consists of the following elements:

1. The classification of the existing parks and recreation facilities into standard park classifications.
2. A discussion of the parks and recreation area needs by park types.
3. A discussion of the geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities.
4. The summary of the benchmark survey that was accomplished among communities in Ohio.
5. Facilities Needs Analysis and Level of Service Standards based upon accepted standards and guidelines, past experience of the Consultant; and agreed upon by the Master Plan Steering Committee.
6. A discussion of recent trends in parks, recreation, and leisure service.
7. A summary of the overall parks and recreation facility's needs.

B. Park and Recreation Area Needs by Park Type

The beginning portion of Section III included the table which identified the various classifications of parks and recreation areas. These are consistent with previous National Recreation and Park Association Guidelines. A general set of goals for the various park types was established by the Consulting Team and the Master Plan Steering Committee as the Level of Service Standards for The City of North Ridgeville. These goals are consistent with several recent plans completed by the Consultant and communities throughout the nation. Table 10, Parks and Recreation Level of Service Standards, provides a breakdown of the needs for the City of North Ridgeville. This table includes neighborhood parks that are part of school sites because they do serve some of the park needs for residents.

Table 10: Suggested Parks and Recreation Needs by Park Type

| Park Type | Existing | Recommended | 2012 | 2012 | 2017 | 2017 | 10 Year | 10 Year |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| | Developed Acres | Acres/1000 Population | Recommended Acres | Surplus Deficit(-) | Recommended Acres | Surplus(+) Deficit(-) | Recommended Acres | Surplus(+) Deficit(-) |
| Mini-Park | 0 | 0.5 | 15 | -15.2 | 16 | -16.0 | 20 | -20 |
| Neighborhood ¹ | 25.4 | 2 | 61 | -35.5 | 64 | -38.5 | 80 | -54.6 |
| Community ² | 65.5 | 2.5 | 76 | -10.6 | 80 | -14.3 | 100 | -34.5 |
| County | 8.2 | 5 | 152 | -144.0 | 160 | -151.5 | 200 | -191.8 |
| Special Use ³ | 35.95 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Linear | 0 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Total | 135.05 | 10 | 304.46 | -205.36 | 319.33 | -220.23 | 400 | -300.9 |

1. Neighborhood Parks include 25.4 acres at school sites.
2. Community Parks include South Central Park and Shady Drive Complex
3. Special Use Parks include Frontier Park, Soccer Complex, and Palmer Fields (private-but used for local recreation programming).

Fields designated exclusively for school use, HomeOwner Association facilities, and Victory Park facilities are not included because they are not available to the general public and/or they attract participants from a regional market.

Population Amounts - Projections for 2012 & 2017 from ESRI-Business Analyst

2012 = 30,446

2017 = 31,933

10 Year = 40,000

See Table 9 - Recreation Resources Facilities Inventory, for an identification of the Parks included in the Existing Developed Acres.

In general, this table identifies that there is a shortage of about 15 acres of developed Mini-Park land, 35 acres of Neighborhood Park land, 11 acres of Community Park land, 144 acres of County Park land for a total shortage currently of about 205 acres. This deficit continues to grow to about 300 acres as the community reaches 40,000 residents.

Table 11: Suggested Recreation Facility level of Service Goals

| FACILITY | POPULATION GOAL (1 PER) | 2012 EXISTING SUPPLY Public Facilities ⁴ | 2012 REQUIRED ¹ | 2012 SURPLUS (+) DEFICIT (-) | 2017 REQUIRED ² | 2017 SURPLUS (+) DEFICIT (-) | 2022 REQUIRED ³ | 2022 SURPLUS (+) DEFICIT (-) |
|--|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Outdoor Areas | | | | | | | | |
| A. Picnic Shelter | 2,500 | 8 | 12.2 | -4.2 | 12.8 | -4.8 | 16.0 | -8.0 |
| B. Playground | 2,500 | 7 | 12.2 | -5.2 | 12.8 | -5.8 | 16.0 | -9.0 |
| C. Paved Trails (miles) | 5,000 | 0.25 | 6.1 | -5.8 | 6.4 | -6.1 | 8.0 | -7.8 |
| D. Unpaved Trails (miles) | 5,000 | 2 | 6.1 | -4.1 | 6.4 | -4.4 | 8.0 | -6.0 |
| E. Outdoor Aquatic Center | 30,000 | 0 | 1.0 | -1.0 | 1.1 | -1.1 | 1.3 | -1.3 |
| F. Outdoor Theater | 30,000 | 0 | 1.0 | -1.0 | 1.1 | -1.1 | 1.3 | -1.3 |
| Outdoor Fields & Court Areas | | | | | | | | |
| A. Baseball/Softball | 1,600 | 17 | 19.0 | -2.0 | 20.0 | -3.0 | 25.0 | -8.0 |
| B. Soccer | 1,800 | 16 | 16.9 | -0.9 | 17.7 | -1.7 | 22.2 | -6.2 |
| C. Football | 6,000 | 4 | 5.1 | -1.1 | 5.3 | -1.3 | 6.7 | -2.7 |
| D. Basketball Courts | 3,000 | 6.5 | 10.1 | -3.6 | 10.6 | -4.1 | 13.3 | -6.8 |
| E. Tennis Courts | 5,000 | 4 | 6.1 | -2.1 | 6.4 | -2.4 | 8.0 | -4.0 |
| F. Volleyball Courts | 10,000 | 1 | 3.0 | -2.0 | 3.2 | -2.2 | 4.0 | -3.0 |
| Indoor Areas/Specialized Facilities | | | | | | | | |
| A. Indoor Pool | 50,000 | 0 | 0.6 | -0.6 | 0.6 | -0.6 | 0.8 | -0.8 |
| B. Game Court | 15,000 | 0 | 2.0 | -2.0 | 2.1 | -2.1 | 2.7 | -2.7 |
| C. Recreation/Community Center | 40,000 | 0 | 0.8 | -0.8 | 0.8 | -0.8 | 1.0 | -1.0 |

Population Amounts - Projections for 2012 & 2017 from ESRI-Business Analyst

1 2012 = 30,446

2 2017 = 31,933

3 10 Year = 40,000

4 - School fields and private facilities that are not accessible to the public for local recreation programs are not included.

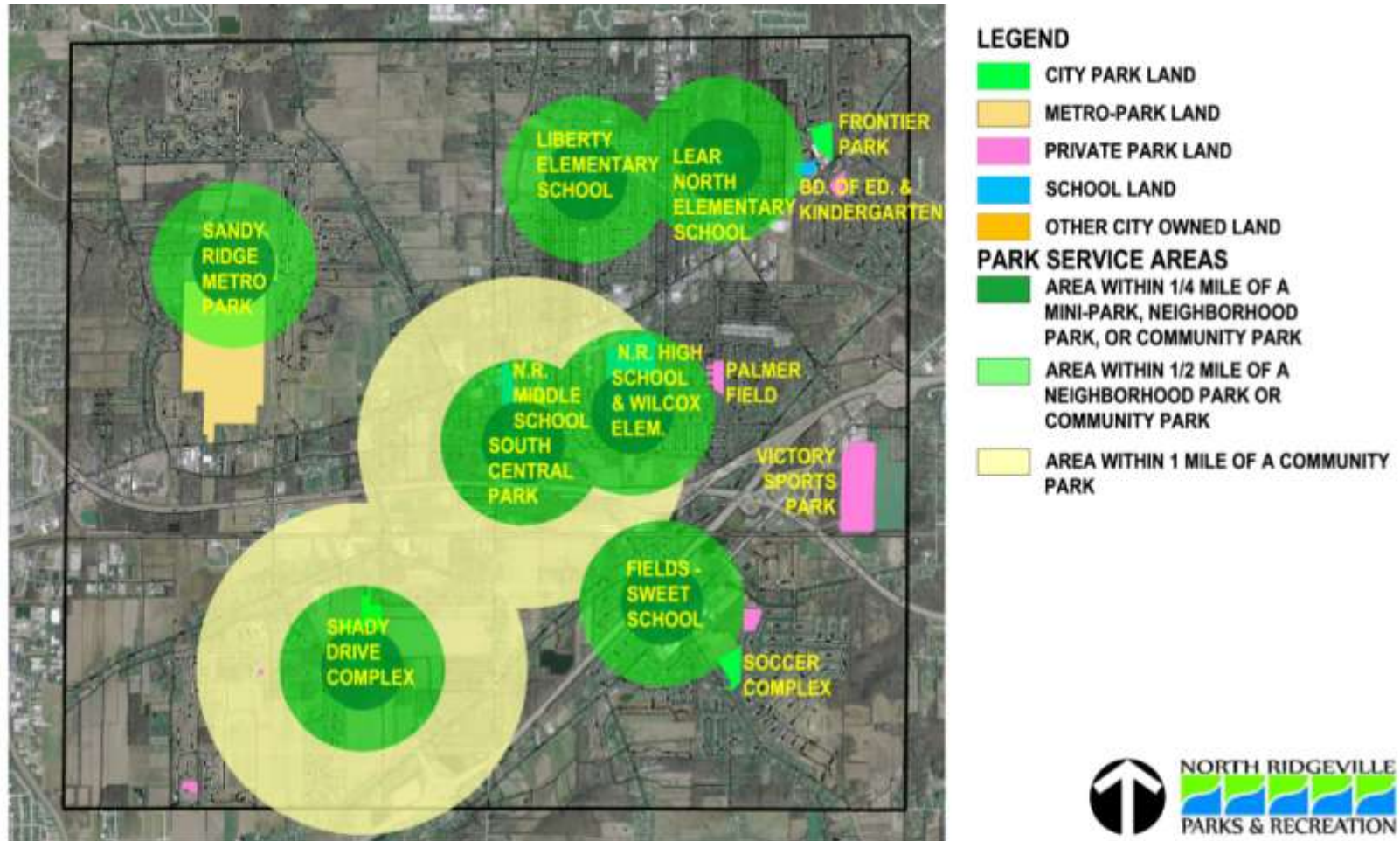
See Table 9 - Recreation Resources Facilities Inventory, for an identification of the facilities included in the Existing Supply.

The population goals in Table 11 were agreed upon by the Master Plan Steering Committee and reflect the community's needs based upon the stakeholder group meetings, public workshops, and surveys of residents. The negative numbers in the surplus/deficit column indicate the facilities with a shortage. The largest in 2012 is for paved trails at 5.8 miles. Other deficits are indicated for picnic shelters, playgrounds, paved and unpaved trails, soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball courts, outdoor theater, recreation center, and an outdoor aquatic center.

C. Distribution of Parks and Facilities

Figure 2, Park Service Areas Map, indicates an inventory of the existing parks, schools, private parks, and identifies the service areas for each of these various types of parks. The dark green circles indicate areas within a quarter mile of a mini-park, neighborhood park, community park or county park. The light green circles identify areas within a half mile of a neighborhood park, community park, or county park. The yellow area indicates areas within one mile of a community or county park and the beige color indicates the areas within two miles of a county park. This map serves to indicate the gaps where neighborhoods or communities are not served very well by parks.

Figure 2: Existing Park Service Areas Map



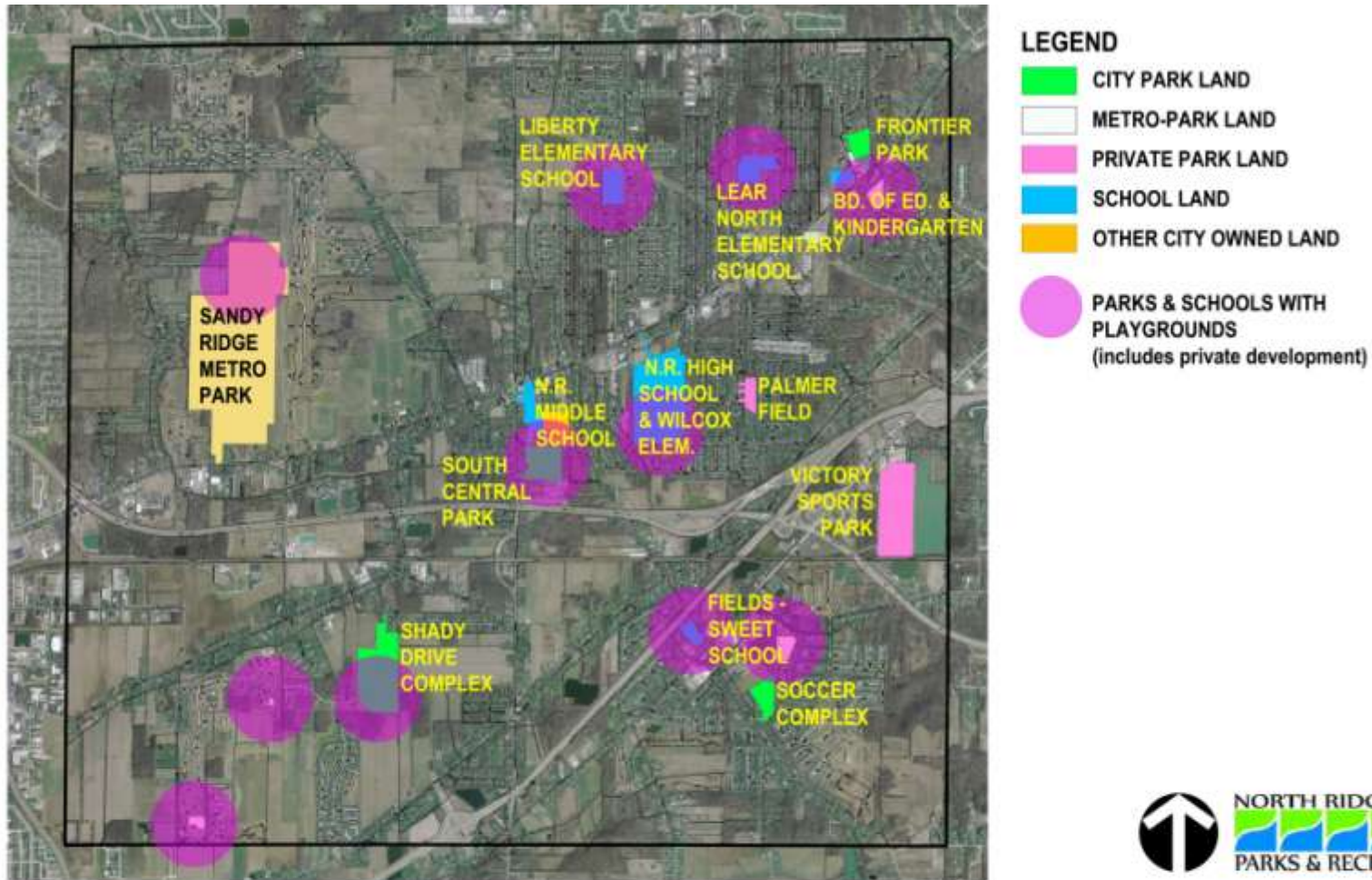
0 1,200' 2,400' February 17, 2013



Existing Park Service Areas Map

North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan
North Ridgeville, Ohio

Figure 3: Parks and Schools with Playgrounds



February 17, 2013



Parks & Schools with Playgrounds

North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan
North Ridgeville, Ohio

D. Geographic Distribution of Facilities

Another analysis is a review of the geographic distribution of specific types of facilities that are provided to residents. Below are discussions of each of the specific facilities:

1. Parks With Picnic Shelters

The majority of the picnic shelters are located at South Central Park with another at the Shady Drive Complex and one at Sandy Ridge Reservation. These are not very well distributed in the community.

2. Parks With Playgrounds

Figure 3 locates the playgrounds in the community at the parks and schools.

3. Parks With Baseball/Softball Fields

Baseball and softball fields for public use are located at Shady Drive Complex and at private facilities at Palmer Fields and Victory Park.

4. Parks/Schools With Soccer Fields

Soccer fields are located at the Soccer Complex on Root Road and at Wilcox, Lear-North, Fields-Sweet, and Liberty Schools. Victory Park has soccer fields that are sometimes available for local use.

5. Parks with Tennis Courts

The only public tennis courts in the City are located at South Central Park. These four courts are also used by North Ridgeville High School for matches, which ideally would have five courts to better accommodate the competitions.

6. Parks/Schools With Outdoor Basketball Courts

Outdoor basketball courts are located at South Central Park (2), Wilcox Elementary (1 1/2), Lear North Elementary (2), and Liberty Elementary Schools (1).

7. Trails

The only paved trail is a ¼ mile trail at South Central Park and unpaved nature trails at Sandy Ridge Reservation. The City has recently been awarded a grant for a paved connecting trail from South Central Park to Center Ridge Road. Future plans for Center Ridge Road include a separated bike path on the south side of the road.

E. Citizens Served per Park Acre

In comparison to typical level of service standards used throughout the state for developed park land, the City of North Ridgeville is well below the standard for all types of park land including mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks and county parks by about 200 acres.

Brandstetter Carroll Inc. has performed a Park and Recreation Department Benchmarking analysis that was sent to several other departments throughout the state including cities, townships, and counties. These tables are included in Appendix D. A comparison to 28 other communities in Ohio indicates that the City of North Ridgeville owned developed park land (not including school land) provides a level of 221 citizens per acre. The average of the other communities was 246 and the median is 136. The national median of departments is 132 citizens per developed park acre. Therefore, the City is much less well served than the benchmark medians of other communities in Ohio.

The City and the County provide 14.51 total park acres per 1000 residents compared to the average of 13.4 and median of 12.6. Therefore, the City of North Ridgeville is better served than the average and median of the other communities, but this includes over 300 acres of undeveloped and passive park land at Sandy Ridge Reservation.

F. Trends in Parks and Recreation

1. The Aging Population

- a. Throughout the country, the average age of the population is increasing. The number of persons in the age group 65 and over is growing rapidly. Census data and state population data indicate that the percentage of the City of North Ridgeville population age 65 and older was 7.4% in 1990, 10.7% in 2000, 15.1% in 2010 and is expected to increase to 17.3% in 2016. The numbers continually rise as the population increases. As indicated earlier in Table 3, the median age will rise from 32.5 in 1990 to 41.5 in 2016. The relative health of these individuals is better than ever before and the activities they desire are more active than in the past. The days of the old senior citizens centers where they play cards and do more sedentary activities is being replaced by incorporation into larger, more active, community and recreation centers where individuals participate in fitness programs, walking, cardiovascular exercises, aerobics, and many other more active pursuits.
- b. This trend encourages parks and recreation agencies to invest more in activities, programs, and facilities for the older population. This graying of America also generates demand for more paved walking trails, fishing areas, gardens, cultural and nature

education, as well as other activities that are in demand for multiple age groups.

2. Family Oriented Aquatic Facilities

- a. The older rectangle and L-shaped swimming pools had a very limited appeal. The desire to have 3 ½' depths of water for flip turns, or competition swimming, dictated a deeper water depth of the pool resulting in a lack of shallow water for younger children. Younger children were relegated to a "baby" pool, which really only appeals to tots, leaving the 4-10 year olds with no desire to visit the swimming pools.
- b. The newer family aquatic centers are geared toward the entire family with zero depth access, shallow water, interactive water spray activities, along with the traditional competition lanes and diving boards. Newer aquatic facilities are also incorporating lazy rivers, which are popular with people of all ages. The newer facilities also provide large water slides. These elements, along with providing shade structures, larger grass beach areas, and quality concessions, have resulted in a complete turnaround in the operating costs for aquatic facilities. Whereas the older pools were a drain on the budget, the newer facilities are able to generate funds for the operations cost and some have even shown a surplus, which has been used to pay off some of the debt service for the capital construction. Where older pools have been renovated to include the newer features, communities have seen as much as a 200% increase in attendance. This demand provides an opportunity for charging higher fees which may result in a greater profit margin.
- c. Another new concept that is sweeping the country is the development of splash pads or spraygrounds. These have replaced the wading pools at the aquatic facilities and are also developed as freestanding wet playgrounds in other park areas such as the one in South Central Park. Spraygrounds have several benefits in that, in most instances, they still recirculate the water, but because there is no standing water, there is no need for lifeguards. Therefore, the operation costs are considerably lower than for a swimming facility. Communities which have had several smaller neighborhood wading pools, have replaced them with spraygrounds to reduce operation costs while increasing interest and attendance.

3. Indoor Family Activity Centers

- a. The typical recreation center that included gymnasium space, locker rooms and a few other attractions have been replaced by

much larger, multi-generational facilities that are described later in this text.

- b. The newer facilities have a much stronger emphasis on fitness with aerobics rooms, free weights, exercise machines, cardiovascular areas, walking tracks, indoor swimming pools for both family oriented and lap swimming, lounges, concessions, and climbing walls, along with the traditional basketball and volleyball gymnasiums. These facilities may also include multipurpose rooms, which are used for a wide variety of indoor programming, such as arts and crafts, dance classes, and other community education programs.

4. Trail Linkages and Linear Parks

This trend has been ongoing for a long time, and is still very important in nearly every community where surveys have been conducted. Communities that have extensive trail systems still have a strong desire to continually connect and link the trails to neighborhoods, schools, shopping areas, and other community facilities. These communities are very livable communities with a high quality of life.

5. Revenue Generating Facilities

With the advent of tightened budgets throughout the country, facilities that generate revenue have become increasingly popular because of their ability to offset some of the operating costs. Most notably, the increased use of concessions in parks and at other locations has improved the ability of the public sector to raise money. Multi-field complexes, in addition to miniature golf courses, carousels, paddleboats and canoe rentals and other creative applications have enhanced the community experience while lessening the tax burden.

6. Dog Parks

The construction of dog parks is an ongoing trend that has been sweeping the country in the last ten years. The development of fence enclosed areas where dogs can run leash free can be a positive addition to a community. Dog parks have proven to be good for improving the social interaction skills of dogs and have also been a very good social attraction for the dog owners. Quality dog parks need well-conceived planning. They also need a fairly extensive operating budget that includes staff time for maintenance and upkeep.

7. Extreme Parks

- a. Due partly to the growth of extreme sports shown on television, the pursuit of extreme sports activities, especially by teenagers, has increased by hundreds of percent. Nearly every community

that does not have a skatepark has a very large contingent of teens and young adults that are strong advocates for skatepark development. Other types of active pursuits in this park type include BMX tracks, mountain bike trails, climbing walls, as well as the skateparks. These activities appeal to a demographic that has decided not to be part of the traditional parks and recreation programming activities.

- b. The communities that have developed successful skateparks will entice dozens of teens to gather in the park. These parks can actually be construed as teen oriented parks and should be supplemented with other facilities, such as basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, and snack bars.

8. Fitness

We are reminded every day through the media that Americans are becoming less fit. There is a strong emphasis at the state to the federal levels to improve the fitness of individuals throughout the United States. Local park and recreation departments are building upon this message. They are probably the best organizations to make an impact in the overall fitness of the community through programs, promotions, and facilities that are available to the residents to improve their health and fitness.

9. Tournament Facilities

- a. As mentioned in the revenue generation section, tournaments can be a revenue generator by exacting entrance fees and promoting concession sales. There is a trend to develop facilities that are of tournament level quality to attract better teams and better tournaments to the facilities. These high quality facilities offer a bonus for the local leagues and activities when not being used for tournaments. A balance does need to exist between local league use and use for tournaments.
- b. Facilities must be designed to accommodate tournaments with larger parking lots, arrangement of fields in a cluster such as a wagon wheel configuration for baseball and softball fields. There must be quality restroom facilities, concessions, shade and other amenities throughout the park that make it a desirable place to spend the day or a weekend.

10. Synthetic Turf Fields

Many school systems and municipalities are developing synthetic turf fields to meet the ever increasing demand for soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby and other athletic pursuits. These are higher cost initially, but the ability to play on the fields continuously without the need to water, fertilize, mow, stripe, etc. is a maintenance savings to the community.

The fields can be developed to be flat and can accommodate substantial rains without damage to the surface. The fields are safer than overused grass fields. The main benefits of synthetic turf fields include:

- a. Lower long term operating costs per event
- b. Safer surfaces for athletes
- c. Ability to schedule significantly more events on the same area versus natural grass fields
- d. Ability to extend the season by allowing use earlier in spring and later in fall without damaging turf
- e. Less rain outs
- f. In communities with limited fields available, synthetic turf fields allow the maximum use on the same area
- g. No need for watering, mowing, fertilizing or striping

11. Universal Access

Many park systems are developing unique facilities, (especially playgrounds) that are designed to go well beyond the minimum requirement for the Americans with Disabilities Act. By creating an environment that is totally accessible to persons of all ages and abilities, park system administrators are setting the best example for other organizations to follow. In the case of playgrounds, this results in playgrounds with several ground level activities, multiple ramps providing access to the decks, and the use of poured-in-place rubber surfacing.

Several major facilities have developed trails utilizing paved, level surfaces that also have textured edging for the visually impaired. Fragrant plants and sensory gardens, interactive displays that allow a hands-on approach to education have also been developed to promote a better experience for special populations. While it may not be cost effective to develop this level of universal access at every playground facility, it is the practice of forward thinking recreation departments to install some destination facilities that are developed to this level.

Universal access applies to a lot more than playgrounds; it also applies to aquatic facilities, interpretive facilities, trails, access into buildings and access to all programs and facilities offered by the community.

12. Cultural Education

As the population of cities and counties becomes more diverse, there is a strong desire for more heritage programs. There has also been an increase in participation in many programs for the visual and performing arts. These programs are becoming more common as program offerings initiated by parks and recreation departments increase.

Cultural education covers a lot of ground. It encompasses all of the arts, such as visual and performing arts, as well as heritage recognition. Communities become stronger when its citizens better understand their cultural links to the community.

13. Nature Education

The success of environmental education centers throughout the country indicate that there is a strong desire and need to better educate the public, and especially children, in natural processes, resource management and similar nature education activities. These work well in conjunction with the school systems to supplement their science curriculum. This “environmental education” develops a strong base of support for the large expanses of open space and natural habitats that are owned by the county or municipality. Many park departments and commissions take an outreach approach by providing environmental curriculum to the schools in the form of nature center classes and activities. This tactic provides a method for promoting more use and appreciation of the parks. This is also an opportunity for the county park systems and universities to work closely with the municipal parks and recreation departments to provide a level of programming that the municipalities could not perform on their own.

14. Nationwide Sports Participation

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) conducts a survey every two years of 10,000 households throughout the United States. This sample is selected from 300,000 pre-recruited households. These surveys are used to generate a series of tables that identify trends in sports participation. The Nationwide Ten-Year History of Selected Sports Participation Table (Table 12) identifies the major activities that are surveyed through this study. The activities are listed by their rank order in the year 2010. For example, exercise/walking is the most participated activity at 95.8 million participants. This is followed by exercising with equipment at 55.3, swimming at 51.9 million and camping at 44.7 million. The table shows baseball and soccer, as two of the most common activities requested as part of the study, as 19th and 20th on the list with 13.5 and 12.5 million participants respectively. When combining baseball and softball, it increases to a total of 23.3 million. The table indicates that for the ten year period surveyed, baseball and soccer have shown fluctuation, but overall have remained at a steady figure.

Table 12: Nationwide Ten-Year History of Selected Sports Participation

| Participated more than once (in millions) Seven (7) years of age and older | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Sport | 2010 | 2008 | 2006 | 2004 | 2002 | 2000 |
| Exercise Walking | 95.8 | 96.6 | 87.5 | 84.7 | 82.2 | 86.3 |
| Exercising with Equipment | 55.3 | 63.0 | 52.4 | 52.2 | 46.8 | 44.8 |
| Swimming | 51.9 | 63.5 | 56.5 | 53.4 | 53.1 | 60.7 |
| Camping (vacation/overnight) | 44.7 | 49.4 | 48.6 | 55.3 | 55.4 | 49.9 |
| Bicycle Riding | 39.8 | 44.7 | 35.6 | 40.3 | 39.7 | 43.1 |
| Bowling | 39.0 | 49.5 | 44.8 | 43.8 | 42.4 | 43.1 |
| Aerobic Exercising | 38.5 | 36.2 | 33.7 | 29.5 | 29.0 | 28.6 |
| Hiking | 37.7 | 38.0 | 31.0 | 28.3 | 27.2 | 24.3 |
| Workout at Club | 36.3 | 39.3 | 37.0 | 31.8 | 28.9 | 24.1 |
| Running/Jogging | 35.5 | 35.9 | 28.8 | 26.7 | 24.7 | 22.8 |
| Fishing | 33.8 | 42.2 | 40.6 | 41.2 | 44.2 | 49.3 |
| Weight Lifting | 31.5 | 37.5 | 32.9 | 26.2 | 25.1 | 24.8 |
| Basketball | 26.9 | 29.7 | 26.7 | 27.8 | 28.9 | 27.1 |
| Billiards/Pool | 24.0 | 31.7 | 31.8 | 34.2 | 33.1 | 32.5 |
| Golf | 21.9 | 25.6 | 24.4 | 24.5 | 27.1 | 26.4 |
| Boating' Motor/Power | 20.0 | 27.8 | 29.3 | 22.8 | 26.6 | 24.2 |
| Target Shooting | 19.8 | 20.3 | 17.1 | 19.2 | 18.9 | 14.8 |
| Hunting with Firearms | 16.3 | 18.8 | 17.8 | 17.7 | 19.5 | 19.1 |
| Soccer | 13.5 | 15.5 | 14.0 | 13.3 | 13.7 | 12.9 |
| Baseball | 12.5 | 15.2 | 14.6 | 15.9 | 15.6 | 15.6 |
| Tennis | 12.3 | 12.6 | 10.4 | 9.6 | 11.0 | 10.0 |
| Backpack/Wilderness Camp | 11.1 | 13.0 | 13.3 | 15.3 | 14.8 | 15.4 |
| Softball | 10.8 | 12.8 | 12.4 | 12.5 | 13.6 | 14.0 |
| Volleyball | 10.6 | 12.2 | 11.1 | 11.8 | 11.5 | 12.3 |
| Football (tackle) | 9.3 | 10.5 | 11.9 | 8.6 | 7.8 | 7.5 |
| Skateboarding | 7.7 | 9.8 | 9.7 | 10.3 | 9.7 | 9.1 |
| In-Line Roller Skating | 7.4 | 9.3 | 10.5 | 11.7 | 18.8 | 21.8 |
| Scooter Riding | 7.4 | 10.1 | 9.5 | 12.9 | 13.4 | 11.6 |
| Skiing (alpine) | 7.4 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.3 | 7.4 | 7.4 |
| Mountain Biking (off road) | 7.2 | 10.2 | 8.5 | 8.0 | 7.8 | 7.1 |
| Paintball Games | 6.1 | 6.7 | 8.0 | 9.4 | 6.9 | 5.3 |
| Snowboarding | 6.1 | 5.9 | 5.2 | 6.6 | 5.6 | 4.3 |
| Target Shooting - Airgun | 5.3 | 5.0 | 5.6 | 5.1 | 4.1 | 3.0 |
| Hunting w/Bow & Arrow | 5.2 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 4.6 | 4.7 |
| Water Skiing | 5.2 | 5.6 | 6.3 | 5.3 | 6.9 | 5.9 |
| Hockey (ice) | 3.3 | 1.9 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 1.9 |
| Muzzleloading | 3.1 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 2.9 |
| Wrestling | 2.9 | na | 3.8 | na | na | na |
| Skiing (cross country) | 2.0 | 1.6 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Canoeing | na | 10.3 | 7.1 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 6.2 |

SOURCE: National Sporting Goods Association, Mt Prospect IL 60056 847.296 NSGA FAX: 847.391.9827

G. Benchmark Comparison to Other Ohio Communities

One method of evaluating the parks and recreation programs and services offered in the community is to perform a benchmarking comparison to other communities. There was not sufficient budget in this planning effort to conduct a survey, but the Consultants have conducted one in 2008 as part of a previous Master Plan for another community. Responses were received from 28 other communities. Detailed comparisons of the survey are included in Appendix D. These tables provide separate comparisons for the following:

1. Park Land Comparison
2. Budget Comparison
3. Staff Comparison
4. Athletic Field Comparison
5. Aquatic Center Comparison
6. Recreation Center Comparison

Summary of Results**1. Park Land Comparisons**

This table indicates that the common factors, which include the columns on the far right, include the percentage of parkland for active recreation, citizens per active park acre, and total park acres per 1,000 residents. The citizens per park acre category indicates there are 221 citizens per active park acre in the City of North Ridgeville, which is better than the average of 246 and worse than the median of 136 acres.

2. Budget Comparisons

The budget comparisons table also has some categories with common factors, such as the column with the expenditure per person of the communities, which the survey average was \$90 per person and the median was \$47. The City of North Ridgeville's budget for the City was at a rate of \$16 per person, well below the average and median. The communities that are known for having better parks and recreation system are much higher than for the City of North Ridgeville

3. Staff Comparisons

The current staff level for North Ridgeville is 10.5 acres per employee as compared to the average of 23 and median of 3.84. Therefore, the staff in North Ridgeville is responsible for less acres than the average, but more than the median in other communities, plus the staff is responsible for cemeteries in North Ridgeville

4. Athletic Fields Comparisons

This table looks at the various types of fields within the City. For each of the categories, there is a figure for citizens per field during the prime season, which is the common denominator. For the City of North Ridgeville there are 1,869 citizens per field in the prime season for soccer, which is much better than the average of 4,309 and median of 2,931. The softball and baseball fields are better served than the average of other communities with 1,725 citizens per field during the prime season as compared to the average of 4,584 and median of 1,912. Football, at 4,748 citizens per field, is better served than the average of 17,872 and median of 12,500, but this does not account for the poor condition of the fields at Frontier Park.

5. Aquatic Center Comparisons

There are no public swimming facilities in North Ridgeville. This table will provide some guidance as a new recommended family aquatic center is developed.

6. Recreation Center Comparisons

The survey included 11 communities with some type of indoor gym or recreation center. This table will also provide some direction as a new facility is planned for the City of North Ridgeville.

VI. Strategic Plan

A. Existing Vision, Mission, and Objectives

1. City of North Ridgeville Vision Statement:

The City of North Ridgeville is a Midwest community, mindful of its rural heritage, devoted to strengthening its entrepreneurial spirit, and committed to embracing quality of life for all.

2. Existing North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Mission Statement:

It is the objective of the City of North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department to provide affordable programs and services for all persons of all ages. We strive to enrich the quality of life for all residents by offering a variety of leisure activities, special events, cultural enrichment and education as well as providing opportunities for community involvement and wholesome recreational experiences.

3. Parks and Recreation Commission Objectives:

The Parks and Recreation Commission shall provide a year round program of recreational opportunities for children, adolescents, and adults of all ages and through its efforts improving the general quality of life existing in the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio.

The Parks and Recreation Commission with and through its employees, will provide leadership, coordination, and correlation of all recreational activities to the maximum benefit of the citizens, and cooperate in the development of a total community park and recreational program, into and around the public and private organizations concerned with public welfare, education, and family relations.

A primary concern of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be the long range planning of all facets of park development and recreational activities for citizens of this community.

B. Proposed Vision and Goals

Based upon the extensive community engagement in the master planning process, the City of North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee envisions a parks and recreation system that accomplishes the following goals:

1. An inter-connected community - Is connected with a series of pathways and bikeways to provide access to neighborhoods, parks, schools and other destinations for transportation purposes and for recreation;

2. Engages All Citizens for a Lifetime - Engages families and all citizens to participate in healthy and life-long recreation activities; North Ridgeville is recognized throughout Northern Ohio as a “Fit” community;
3. Scenic Community - Offers unique and scenic park and recreation opportunities which help to beautify the community;
4. Unique Identity - Significantly adds to the unique identity of North Ridgeville as an outstanding place to live, work and play; Increases value and pride in the community;
5. Balance of Opportunities - Provides a balance of active recreation, passive recreation, and natural environments that are equitably distributed throughout the community;
6. Convenient Access to Parks - Converts its single use sports parks to Neighborhood Parks with the majority of the active athletic fields at one large, quality sports complex; Provides additional park land in growth areas of the community;
7. Model “Green” Community - Fosters an appreciation of nature and illustrates respect for the natural environment, promotes sustainable natural resource management practices, and is a model “Green” community;
8. Success Through Partnerships - Includes partnerships with the City, developers, County MetroParks, School District, senior citizens, Lorain County Community College, healthcare providers, volunteers, Friends of the Parks, and various organizations to acquire, develop, operate and manage the parks, programs, and facilities;
9. Fiscally Responsible - Is funded in an efficient and responsible manner while providing the level of service and maintenance necessary for a high quality system; The community utilizes every opportunity to leverage funding from outside sources such as grants, philanthropy, and volunteerism;
10. Integrated in the Community - Through increased communication with residents, the system includes parks and programs that are well publicized and recognized by the residents;
11. Built on Community Support - Is supported by an active group of community leaders and volunteers that promotes implementation of the Master Plan over the long term.
12. Improved Parks - The existing parks are improved with: better accessibility, more parking, increased lighting and security, improved concession opportunities, modern facilities, and increased maintenance staff.

13. Top-Notch Sports Complexes - Provides high quality athletic fields in an expanded Shady Drive Complex that attracts visitors to the community, but places priority on the local users; Allows for more community use of Victory Sports Park;
14. New Recreation Facilities - Provides new recreation facilities including:
 - a. Outdoor Family Aquatic Center,
 - b. Outdoor performance venue,
 - c. Recreation Center,
 - d. Indoor pool,
 - e. Banquet hall,
 - f. Senior center,
 - g. Dog park,
 - h. Field house for indoor sports.
15. Embraces Trends - Embraces emerging recreation and fitness trends and sports;

C. Proposed Mission Statement

The Mission Statement describes the contribution of the organization to achievement of the vision in a precise, concise and inspiring declaration of the fundamental purpose for which the organization exists. Mission Statements should be short enough to be quickly recited by all Department staff members when asked by customers. A suggested potential Mission Statement that is based upon the above Vision and Goals may read as follows:

The mission of North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department is to provide a variety of outstanding, safe, and affordable educational and recreational programs, facilities and activities that foster a community-wide commitment for life-long fitness, and to conserve and preserve the natural resources of the community.

D. Park Land Recommendations

Table 10, Suggested Parks and Recreation Needs by Park Type, in the Needs Analysis Section, indicated a current shortage of 15.2 acres of Mini-Parks, 35.5 acres of Neighborhood Parks, and 10.6 acres of Community Parks, plus an additional 144 acres of County Parks. The City currently has no Mini-Parks and it is recommended to combine the categories of Mini-Parks and Neighborhood Parks. This is due to the fact that it is inefficient to maintain real small parks of only one acre all over the city and it would be best to concentrate on Neighborhood and Community Parks from the City's perspective. Combining the

categories results in a current shortage of 50.7 acres in the Mini-Park/Neighborhood Park category.

The development of the 22 additional acres at the Shady Drive Complex will add 22 acres to the Community Park category. This results in a 2017 surplus of 8 acres in this category.

Changing Frontier Park to a Neighborhood Park and adding facilities to the Soccer Complex on Root Road will transfer 26 acres from the Special Use Park category to the Neighborhood Park category. This will meet the need for Neighborhood Parks through 2017 or when the population reaches about 32,000 people. Geographically there is a need for a Neighborhood Park immediately in the northwest quadrant of the city, near the Meadow Lakes Subdivision. Other recommended Neighborhood Parks will result from new developments and should be cost shared or provided by the developers. One would be located in the north-central portion of the city between Stoney Ridge Road and Route 83.

The proposed expansion of the Shady Drive Complex to host all sports and of South Central Park will significantly add to the Community Park category, which is the most efficient method of expanding the park system. With the majority of the population already using South Central Park with its central location, and hosting all major sports at one complex where the maintenance complex is already located, this recommendation maximizes the efficiency for operations and maintenance. The development of proposed facilities such as an outdoor aquatic center, recreation center, dog park, and skate park are typically part of Community Parks also.

Sandy Ridge Reservation provides the largest preserved open space in the City. The largest deficit in park land needs is in the category of County Parks. Sandy Ridge Reservation consists of 319 acres, but only about 8 acres are considered “developed”. This reservation provides a unique opportunity for North Ridgeville to partner with MetroParks to provide much desired nature education programs. It would not be appropriate to try to develop more of this land.

Figure 4, Proposed Park Service Areas Map, illustrates the changes resulting from these recommendations.

Figure 4: Proposed Park Service Areas Map



LEGEND

- CITY PARK LAND
- METRO-PARK LAND
- PRIVATE PARK LAND
- SCHOOL LAND
- OTHER CITY OWNED LAND

PARK SERVICE AREAS

- AREA WITHIN 1/4 MILE OF A MINI-PARK, NEIGHBORHOOD PARK, OR COMMUNITY PARK
- AREA WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK OR COMMUNITY PARK
- AREA WITHIN 1 MILE OF A COMMUNITY PARK

PROPOSED SERVICE AREAS

- GENERAL AREA FOR A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- PLUS OTHERS AS PART OF NEW SUBDIVISIONS



Scale: 1:200' 2:400' February 17, 2013



Proposed Park Service Areas Map

North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan
North Ridgeville, Ohio

VII. Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

The Facility Recommendations and Criteria Section describe the facilities with design criteria intended to define the recommended facilities and provide general guidelines to consider in follow-up planning and design. Photographs of other facilities are included to illustrate the concepts discussed. The criteria are followed by site concept plans for some of the parks in North Ridgeville.

A. Trails

Hiking trails, bike trails, paved and unpaved trails were among the top activities that residents would use more if facilities were provided. The “unmet demand” percentage illustrated in the community survey shows a very strong desire for more trails and a series of integrated trail systems. The ultimate goal is to have a series of interconnected trails that link neighborhoods, schools, parks, and community facilities. The City of North Ridgeville has received a grant that will result in the development of a loop trail in South Central Park that will extend through the School property and St. Peters to Center Ridge Road.

1. In addition to the desire to connect to a county-wide system, the residents also desire the development of trail loops within the parks. These should be both paved and unpaved trails. Paved trails should be developed around the main activity areas of general use parks to link the facilities and to provide a smooth walking surface. Paved trails can help provide ADA accessibility. Natural trails with earth, stone, or bark chip surfaces are appropriate to provide opportunities for nature education, wildlife viewing, and hiking.

The parks with potential additional trails include:

- a. Shady Drive Complex
- b. South Central Park
- c. Frontier Park
- d. Soccer Complex on Root Road



2. Trail Design Criteria
 - a. The trails that would be developed would receive a great deal of use according to survey results. These trails would be used for bicycling, walking and jogging. Therefore, the trails in these heavily used areas should be at least 10 feet wide and paved to provide ample room for this wide variety of potential users. Where land is available, a path for wheels (bikes and rollerblades) separated from the other walking paths will avoid conflicts among users. In areas where the slopes are steep or land is not

Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

available, the trails can be combined. The initial phases could include natural or wood chip type trails to allow pedestrian access only, but these trails would be damaged during flooding and would not allow for the maximum use of the proposed facility.

- b. It is also recommended that greenways be developed segment by segment, completing each segment entirely before moving on to the next. This will allow the completed segment to become a “utilized example”, therefore building public enthusiasm and support for the project.
- c. Trails for bicycles should be developed to the standards published in the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 1999.
- d. The hike and bikeways routes recommended suggest a three tiered system.
 - Hikeways
 - Class One: Hiking Only
 - Class Two: Hike and Bikeway combined
 - Class Three: Hike on the berm of a vehicle right-of-way
 - Bikeways
 - Class One: Bikeway Only
 - Class Two: Hike and Bikeway Combined
 - Class Three: Bikeway shared with vehicles, without a barrier but with marked off lanes and signs indicating bike lane.
 - In this plan, the primary corridors should be Class One or Class Two Trails. Where necessary to connect destinations in developed areas, Class Three Trails are acceptable.

B. Playgrounds

1. Playgrounds are typically developed at nearly every mini-park, neighborhood, community, regional or county park. Playgrounds should be designed for the age specific group for which they are intended. At larger community parks, areas should be designated for pre-school and school- aged children.
2. It is recommended that a variety of experiences be provided at each playground. It is also recommended to use safe and durable materials

Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

such as plastic components, plastic coated steel decks, steel posts, and similar materials. The overall design of the playground in each facility must meet the Consumer Product Safety Commission and ADA Guidelines. Proper safety surfacing should be provided under all equipment. Handicap accessibility is a major issue, which must be considered in the design of each playground.

3. At the larger Community Parks, it is recommended that larger and very creative destination playgrounds be developed since these parks typically have the infrastructure to handle larger groups of people. Larger Community Parks have the capacity to attract regional populations.
4. All playgrounds must meet minimum ADA requirements, but a higher level of universal access is desired at county and community parks. The main general use parks should have large destination playgrounds where appropriate.
5. As a minimum, playgrounds must have at least a 4' wide paved access path with no obstructions to access the playground, and the playground must have an acceptable surfacing that will allow a wheel chair to turn. Examples of acceptable surfaces are poured-in-place rubber, rubber tiles, or engineered wood fiber mulch. The current crumb rubber is not acceptable under the new guidelines which went into effect in March of 2012.
6. Park land with potential for playgrounds include:
 - a. South Central Park – Upgrade surface on existing playground.
 - b. Add a playground at Shady Drive Complex in the Neighborhood Park section near the front.
 - c. At the Soccer Complex on Root Road.
 - d. At Frontier Park as the football fields are relocated to the expansion of Shady Drive.



Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

C. Athletic Fields

1. The demand for athletic fields is ever increasing as participation grows. It would be ideal for these facilities to be developed in complexes rather than in single fields scattered throughout the City. A complex is more efficient for the following reason:
 - a. It is more efficient for maintenance and for equipment purchase and installation.
 - b. It increases the potential for concession sales.
 - c. It provides better oversight and convenience to league officials.
 - d. It provides equipment storage in one location.
 - e. The location of many games in one site increases the chance of positioning qualified medical staff at the site where a possible injury or accident may occur.
2. The following are some recommendations and observations for specific types of fields.
 - a. Synthetic Turf Fields – The City or a sports organization may consider the development of synthetic turf fields. It has been proven that these fields can be used earlier in the year, later in the year, and more often during the playing seasons than natural grass fields, and are safer to play upon. The long term costs will be more for the development, replacement, and long term maintenance, but there will also be more events that can take place on the fields. This is taking advantage of the land without spreading play over several fields.
 - b. Natural Grass Fields – Fields for soccer, baseball, and football should be irrigated if possible to provide better rejuvenation of the lawn. Also, rectangular fields, such as soccer fields, can be rotated in different directions for various seasons or keep some fields out of use each year to allow them to rejuvenate the grass in the wear areas. The seasons for soccer are typically in the spring and fall, which are the prime growing seasons for grass, which makes it difficult on fields with a lot of use to maintain quality turf.
 - c. Baseball Infields – A variety of admixtures are available for improving infields of ball fields. Fields should contain primarily a sandy clay soil with admixtures to improve the playing surface if they are used for multiple age groups or girl's softball. In cases where organizations desire grass infields, which require more maintenance, then the organization should be responsible for the maintenance and up keep of those fields.

Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

- d. Support facilities that should be included with these fields include the following where practical:
- Bleacher/stadium seating.
 - Parking for at least 60 cars per field.
 - Restroom and concession facilities.
 - The fields should be lighted to extend their use

D. Picnic Areas

The development of picnic areas and picnic shelters was high on the list of items identified in the survey and in the public workshops. Picnic areas are best if developed in a natural setting. Shelters could be developed in each of the neighborhood, and community parks. Community and county parks provide better opportunities for the development of large shelters (group reservable picnic shelters). These could be used for company picnics, family reunions, church outings, etc. These group rental facilities are best if developed in conjunction with a playground, walking trails and open fields for games. Shelters should be located in close proximity to parking and restrooms. Shelters that are the most frequented in other communities are those that are located in wooded areas or that overlook water bodies. The natural settings that are most inviting for picnic areas would include wooded areas, open fields, lakes for fishing, riverfronts and natural stream corridors.

It would also be appropriate to develop picnic shelters and facilities in the vicinity of athletic complexes. Families often spend many hours at the ball fields on game days and this provides a place to get out of the sun and a facility where the teams can meet.

For the above reasons, new picnic areas should be developed as part of all new neighborhood and community parks. Also, the plans for picnic shelters and tables could be implemented at the following parks:

1. South Central Park
2. Shady Drive Park Expansion
3. Frontier Park
4. Soccer Complex on Root Road



Example Picnic Shelters

Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

E. Restrooms

Respondents identified restroom as most needed feature to improve the parks. This is common in many of the surveys recently completed by this Consulting Team. Ideally, these would include restrooms with running water, flush toilets and sinks for hand washing. Typically, they would be developed of masonry materials, be easy to clean, and would be designed to withstand heavy use and frequent cleaning.

The City has recently upgraded restrooms at the Soccer Complex and at Shady Drive, which serve these areas well. Potentially, restrooms could be added to improve the use of the park at Shady Drive at the new Football Complex.

F. Pavilion/Amphitheater Covered Stage

The development of a pavilion, or bandstand with a covered stage at South Central Park would provide the opportunity for a wider variety of cultural arts programs, concerts, and other presentations that are of value to the community. These structures should be designed to accommodate the types of performances for which the programs would be planned. The photographs indicate some typical types of successful amphitheaters and bandstands that have been used in other communities.



These facilities should be supported by the presence of restrooms, drinking fountains, parking areas and paved walkways for access. One possibility is to develop an amphitheater in the location of the current gazebo located between the pond and Bainbridge Road, which is centrally located in the City and highly visible. Bainbridge Road is blocked off at festivals, allowing more spectators to view the stage and performers. The stage should have the pond as a backdrop, which results in a north facing stage, which is ideal.

G. Dog Parks

Dog parks have become a very common element in many park systems throughout Ohio and the United States. They provide an opportunity for people living in areas with small yards to have a place to let their dogs run free. Ideally a

Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

dog park would be located in an area away from residences so any barking noise would not become an issue.

Support facilities at dog parks would include:

1. Three fence enclosed areas of approximately one half to one acre each. One would be for large dogs, one for small dogs, and one would be rotated so that there would be a chance for the grass to grow.
2. A drinking fountain with a bowl accessible to dogs.
3. Shade areas and sitting areas.
4. A parking area.
5. Dog waste bags with an appropriate disposal system.

H. Outdoor Aquatic Facilities

1. Outdoor Family Aquatic Centers

A new outdoor family aquatic center is recommended which should be centrally located to all residents of North Ridgeville. An ideal location would be on the land adjacent to the Library and the City Hall Complex, just north of South Central Park, allowing this area to be an expansion of the Park. Included on Figures 5 and 6 are examples of typical features of outdoor family aquatic centers.

Design Criteria

- a. A minimum of five acres in size.
- b. Site should be highly visible to increase attendance.
- c. Could be developed in conjunction with other active recreation facilities to share parking.
- d. Could be included within a larger park with other activities that would increase attractiveness for family use.
- e. Easy road access.
- f. Water, sewer and major utilities are required.

Amenities that should be provided include the following:

- a. Pool house with locker rooms.
- b. Large shallow water area with zero depth access and some water spray activities.
- c. Six lanes by 25 meter (minimum) competition and lap swim area.
- d. A minimum of a 30 foot tall water slide towers with varying types of slides.

Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

- e. A large water sprayground area for use by smaller children.
- f. Large grass sunbathing area.
- g. Large concession area with picnic shelter within the fence enclosure for use by larger groups.
- h. Several large umbrellas or shade shelters.
- i. A minimum of 200 car parking lot.
- j. High level of lighting on the pool and deck area to allow for night time rentals and evening programs such as movies at the pool, teen parties, luaus, and other water related programs.

2. Splash Pads

The high use of the splash pad in South Central Park is typical of splash pads throughout the United States. The development of splash pads, or water playgrounds, has become very popular among communities for a variety of reasons. One reason is that they are less costly to both develop and operate than an outdoor swimming pool or aquatic center. They do not require lifeguards. If the water is to be recirculated, they do require pumps, filtration system, chemical feeders, and systems similar to swimming pools to recirculate and reuse the water. The current splash pad at South Central Park does not recirculate the water.

The photographs on Figure 7 identify potential elements of some splash pads. Features that would be included within the sprayground area include: areas for shade, sitting, restrooms, and parking.

Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

Figure 5: Typical Family Aquatic Facility Features



Shallow Water Play Features and Slides



Steps



Lap Pool



Zero Depth Access



Water Slides



Splash Pads

Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

Figure 6: Typical Family Aquatic Centers



Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

Figure 7: Typical Sprayground Features



Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

I. Recreation/Community Center

1. The Plan recommends the development of a recreation and fitness center. Ideally this facility would be developed with a partner, such as a YMCA or health care provider, where the City could provide the land and the partner would develop and operate the center. The facility should include as a minimum:
 - a. A gymnasium area large enough for two-full sized basketball courts.
 - b. A large cardio-vascular fitness area with exercise machines
 - c. Indoor aquatics area with lap pool, family activity and possibly a warm water therapy pool
 - d. Aerobics room
 - e. Community meeting room with kitchen facilities
 - f. Concession and snack bar
 - g. Walking track
 - h. Children's activity rooms and babysitting rooms
 - i. Teen lounge
 - j. Locker rooms
 - k. Restrooms
 - l. Administrative office space
 - m. Large storage rooms

Figure 8 provides examples of these elements within recreation centers.
2. A Recreation Center could be developed to include the Senior Center and Parks and Recreation Department Offices. The seniors may want a separate entry and some areas that they have exclusive use, but typically many of the areas of the recreation center are frequently used by seniors, such as the walking track, cardio area, pool, and gym courts.
3. Recreation/Community Center Design Criteria
 - a. Approximately seven acres required for the building and parking.
 - b. Could be located within a larger park with other facilities and activities, but not absolutely necessary.
 - c. Should be easily accessible by major roads throughout the City.
 - d. Does not require the high level of visibility because many of the activities are programmed.
 - e. Water, sewer, and major utilities are required.
 - f. Parking for a minimum of 300 cars which could be shared with the Outdoor Family Aquatic Center because their peak seasons do not overlap.

Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

Figure 8: Typical Community/Recreation Center Features



Gymnasium/Game Courts



Meeting Rooms



Cardio-vascular Area



Dance/Aerobics/Martial Arts Studios



Walking/Jogging Track



Multi-Purpose Rooms



Game Room



Lounge Area

Recreation Facility Recommendations and Criteria

J. Outdoor Fitness Areas

Outdoor fitness areas are proposed for South Central Park, Frontier Park and Shady Drive Complex. These facilities offer residents an opportunity to use machines that are similar to those found in fitness centers in the outdoor environment. They are especially convenient for parents of children while the children practice their sports. Below are photos illustrating examples of these types of facilities.



K. Signage

Proper signage is a key factor to allowing the community to find and relate the parks to a quality of life asset provided by the City. Each park should have a quality and consistent sign to identify the parks, and a series of coordinated way finding signs to provide directions to the parks and directions to facilities within the larger parks. These should also be coordinated with educational signs and sign boards/kiosks where they are needed for more detailed park program information and park maps.

VIII. Park Recommendations

This section provides the recommendations for improvements to the existing parks and proposed new facilities. Site Concept Plans are included in this section to illustrate possible configurations of proposed facilities at some parks. These recommendations and concepts should be used as a starting point for further discussions with the community, users, and neighbors in the design of the parks. Further investigation of these parks is required to determine their capability to support the desired facilities and to identify the most appropriate arrangement of facilities.

A. South Central Park

This is by far the most visible and most visited park in the community and is the true community gathering place. Therefore, this park should be further developed and improved to serve as the gem in the system. Proposed improvements include:

1. Utilize the recently awarded grant to develop a perimeter trail that also extends through the City property to the north, to the schools and St. Peters property, and extending to Center Ridge Road. The park trail will also provide better access to the various areas and facilities in the park. The proposed route of the trail is illustrated on Figure 9-Town Center Trails Plan.
2. Replace the surface and fencing on the tennis and basketball courts.
3. Add a fifth tennis court to provide the quantity of courts needed for high school matches.
4. Replace the gazebo with a band shell and stage structure which backs to the pond, providing a better venue for concerts, movies in the park, and other social and cultural performances.
5. Provide four handicapped parking spaces in front of Safetyville to provide the needed access to both the Safety City and to the Safetyville Building which hosts many recreation programs.
6. The parking lot has lots of cracks and is unsightly. Repave the entire lot and remove islands that are not being maintained to maximize parking and minimize maintenance requirements. Some areas with lots of cracking need to be removed and the subgrade improved before repaving. Otherwise these cracks will come through the pavement.
7. Establish lawn in the area near Community Cabin. Many utility lines have been installed in this vicinity and the turf has not been properly restored.
8. Replace the safety surface in the playground with a poured-in-place surface for improved handicapped access and less maintenance requirements.

Figure 9: Town Center Trails Plan



- Proposed Recreation Trail Grant Alignment
 - Proposed Future Multi-Use Path
 - Proposed Recreation Trail Grant Alignment
 - Proposed Sidewalk
- Trail and Path Routes are Approximate

Scale: 1" = 400'
February 18, 2013



Brandstetter Carroll Inc. Town Center Trails Plan

North Ridgeville Parks & Recreation Master Plan
North Ridgeville, Ohio

9. Remove the old concession building to open the views from the park to the pond.
10. Determine a good location for an outdoor fitness center which would have indoor fitness center type cardio and strength equipment which is made for outdoors. This will provide a free place for people to work out in good weather.
11. Earlier plans were to add on to the splash pad and develop it in phases. The current plan is to add splash pads at Frontier Park and Shady Drive Complex, instead of expanding at South Central Park, which will help to divert the heavy demand on the one in South Central Park and provide these popular activities in the neighborhood parks.

B. Shady Drive Complex

Figure 10, Shady Drive Complex Concept Plan, illustrates the proposed improvements to Shady Drive Complex, including the 22 acre addition to the west of the existing park. The proposed improvements include:

1. Establishing a paved walkway system to provide the required accessible paths to the ball fields, parking lots, restrooms, and other amenities. The walkways also provide a perimeter trail route to encourage additional activity in the park.
2. A higher backstop and side fence on Field #5 to reduce the potential for damage caused by foul balls, making it safer in the youth field area.
3. A new neighborhood park area immediately to the west upon entering the park. This area will encourage neighborhood use without having to go through the entire park to get to a shelter and playground. The features in this area include a picnic shelter, playground, splash pad, basketball court, and an outdoor fitness area.
4. Additional lights on fields 5, 7 and 8 to increase the quantity of games on these fields.
5. Reorganization of the parking lot to avoid cars backing directly into park roads, and paving of the parking lots and drives. The goal is to develop a parking lot adjacent to the ball fields with a separate roadway leading to the rear of the park and to the expansion area. Ideally the tree line would remain between the parking and the road. New base mapping is needed to determine if this is feasible. The paved and striped parking will be safer and more efficient along with dramatically improving the appearance of the park.
6. Expansion of the park into the 22 acres to the west. This area would include two new adult sized softball fields which would be lighted. These

fields could also be used for youth baseball. The area would also include the relocation of the football complex from Frontier Park with one regulation 100 yard size fields and two smaller fields. A restroom/concession/storage building will support these facilities. A large parking lot and a picnic shelter will be located between the football and softball areas to support the additional fields.

7. Ideally additional lands totaling a minimum of 50 acres could be purchased adjacent to this complex to be used for the development of eight large soccer fields and two football fields. This would allow nearly all of the community's youth athletic games to be played at one complex which is safer, more efficient, avoids parents driving all over town, and supports hosting of tournaments.

C. Frontier Park

Figure 11, Frontier Park Concept Plan, illustrates potential improvements to this park. The goal is to relocate the football complex to Shady Drive Complex and convert this park to better serve the surrounding neighborhoods. The proposed amenities would include:

1. Smaller and paved parking lot.
2. Basketball court.
3. Outdoor fitness station area.
4. Two tennis courts.
5. Picnic shelter.
6. Playground.
7. Splash pad.
8. Perimeter walking trail.
9. Open play field.

The parking and basketball court should take advantage of the existing gravel base with the paving on top of the base.

There was discussion of potentially developing a dog park at this location in the southern portion of the park away from the residences. Upon further review, the dog park would utilize the entire area where the football fields are currently located and would not allow the neighborhood related facilities, plus the dog park would adjoin neighboring properties, which is not ideal.

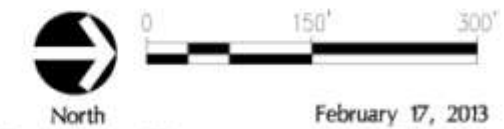
Figure 10: Shady Drive Complex Concept Plan



Shady Drive Complex Concept Plan

North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan
North Ridgeville, Ohio

Figure 11: Frontier Park Concept Plan



February 17, 2013
Frontier Park Concept Plan
North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Master Plan
North Ridgeville, Ohio

D. Soccer Complex on Root Road

The soccer complex is in very good condition, but needs to be supplemented with additional facilities to be better used by the surrounding neighborhoods and for additional use by those attending soccer practices and games. The recommendations include:

1. Paving of the parking lot to be more efficient and more attractive.
2. Addition of a playground and picnic shelter.
3. Perimeter walking paths.
4. Potential easement or acquisition of the land just south of the entrance road for park use.

E. School Facility Improvements

The playgrounds and fields at the school sites need to be improved to address safety and ADA issues. These improvements are the responsible of the North Ridgeville Schools. In addition, the Schools are planning their future with a new central campus near City Hall, the Library, and South Central Park. The school facilities should be coordinated with the City to take best advantage of the opportunity to interconnect the schools with the community and provide recreational facilities that can be used by the schools as well as by community members.

F. Order of Magnitude Capital Project Estimates

The following project costs are order-of-magnitude cost estimates. The concept plans provided are very general and the designs should be coordinated with neighborhoods and park users through a more formal park design process. They are intended to illustrate possible park configurations and how the proposed facilities could fit on the site.

G. Existing Parks

| | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|
| 1. | City Facilities | Cost |
| | a. South Central Park | |
| | Perimeter Trail - Grant Funded Project | |
| | New lighted tennis court | \$50,000 |
| | Upgrade 4 tennis courts - surface and fencing | \$70,000 |
| | Upgrade 2 basketball courts - surface and fencing | \$25,000 |
| | ADA access to Safetyville Building with 4 parking spaces off of the entry drive to Safetyville. | \$7,000 |

Park Recommendations

| | Cost |
|--|------------------|
| Upgrade the Safetyville Building (floors, painting, ADA access) | \$10,000 |
| Replace gazebo with a bandshell/stage structure with pond in background - driveway access to stage | \$100,000 |
| Establish an Outdoor Fitness Area | \$60,000 |
| New picnic shelter | \$60,000 |
| Upgrade parking lot (replace heavily cracked areas and repave, new islands) | \$150,000 |
| Landscaping / Trees | \$50,000 |
| Remove old concession building | \$5,000 |
| Re-establish lawn around Community Cabin | \$5,000 |
| Replace playground surface with poured-in-place rubber to be more accessible. | \$50,000 |
| Subtotal for Construction | \$642,000 |
| Contingency (10%) | \$64,200 |
| Construction Total | \$706,200 |
| Design/survey/bidding (12%) | \$84,744 |
| Project Total | \$790,944 |
| | |
| b. Shady Drive Complex - Existing Park Area | |
| Neighborhood Park Area | |
| Splash Pad | \$350,000 |
| Picnic shelter | \$60,000 |
| Basketball court | \$25,000 |
| Playground | \$60,000 |
| Outdoor Fitness area | \$35,000 |
| Paved walking paths | \$12,500 |
| Parking lot for 50 cars | \$50,000 |
| Baseball field area | |
| Concrete access paths & spectator areas | \$135,000 |
| Higher backstop and fence on Field #5 | \$20,000 |
| Light Fields #5, 7 & 8 | \$400,000 |

Park Recommendations

| | Cost |
|---|--------------------|
| Pave south parking area (about 300 spaces) | \$225,000 |
| Perimeter trails (8' x 3,570' - asphalt) | \$60,000 |
| Pave roadside parking area | \$105,000 |
| Shade trees | \$50,000 |
| Subtotal for Construction | \$1,587,500 |
| Contingency (10%) | \$158,750 |
| Construction Total | \$1,746,250 |
| Design/survey/bidding (12%) | \$209,550 |
| Project Total | \$1,955,800 |
| | |
| c. Root Road Soccer Complex | |
| Pave and stripe parking lot & entry road | \$65,000 |
| Expand parking lot - Acquire vacant adjacent land | \$35,000 |
| Basketball court | \$25,000 |
| New picnic shelter | \$60,000 |
| Paved walking path | \$24,000 |
| Trees | \$20,000 |
| Playground | \$80,000 |
| Subtotal for Construction | \$309,000 |
| Contingency (10%) | \$30,900 |
| Construction Total | \$339,900 |
| Design/survey/bidding (12%) | \$40,788 |
| Project Total | \$380,688 |
| | |
| d. Frontier Park | |
| Playground | \$90,000 |
| Picnic shelter | \$50,000 |
| Basketball court | \$25,000 |
| Tennis courts (2) | \$60,000 |
| Splash Pad | \$350,000 |
| New footbridge | \$30,000 |
| Paved walkways (4,000 l.f.) | \$100,000 |
| Outdoor Fitness area | \$35,000 |

Park Recommendations

| | Cost |
|--|--------------------|
| Remove gravel parking and place topsoil/seed | \$7,500 |
| Trees (approximately 60 shade trees) | \$24,000 |
| Paved parking for 60 cars | \$54,000 |
| Subtotal for Construction | \$825,500 |
| Contingency (10%) | \$82,550 |
| Construction Total | \$908,050 |
| Design/survey/bidding (12%) | \$108,966 |
| Project Total | \$1,017,016 |

2. School Facilities

The North Ridgeville Schools will be responsible for improvements to their facilities. Playgrounds need paved access and ADA compliant surfacing.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Existing Parks | \$4,144,448 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|

H. New Parks and Facilities

Since the proposed Neighborhood Parks have not had land chosen and they have not been Master Planned, an average figure of \$60,000 per acre has been used. This figure is based upon an analysis of recently developed parks. The major facilities area based upon recently similar facilities in Kentucky and adjacent states. These figures include contingencies, design costs, and construction costs.

| | Cost |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Shady Drive Complex - 22 Acre Expansion | |
| a. Football Complex | |
| Full size football fields (2 - irrigation, bleachers, player benches, goals, scoreboard, press box, laser grading, seeding) | \$250,000 |
| Light 2 larger fields | \$300,000 |
| Junior size football field | \$70,000 |
| Restroom/Storage/Concession Building | \$300,000 |
| Paved parking lot for 180 cars | \$170,000 |
| Internal walkways (8' wide concrete) | \$55,000 |
| Utilities | \$100,000 |

Park Recommendations

| | Cost |
|---|--------------------|
| b. Picnic shelter | \$80,000 |
| c. Softball Fields | |
| Softball fields (300' fences) | \$400,000 |
| Field lights | \$320,000 |
| Utilities | \$18,000 |
| d. Perimeter trail (8' wide asphalt) | \$60,000 |
| e. Driveway/road separated from parking lots | \$70,000 |
| f. Mass earthwork and drainage | \$450,000 |
| g. Seeding non-field areas | \$25,000 |
| h. Shade trees | \$50,000 |
| Subtotal for Construction | \$2,718,000 |
| Contingency (10%) | \$271,800 |
| Construction Total | \$2,989,800 |
| Design/survey/bidding (12%) | \$358,776 |
| Project Total | \$3,348,576 |
| 2. New North Central Neighborhood Park | |
| 10-12 acre Neighborhood Park | \$720,000 |
| 3. New Northwest Neighborhood Park | |
| 10-12 acre Neighborhood Park | \$720,000 |
| 4. New Parks and Recreation Department Offices | |
| Could be part of a new Recreation center or new Senior Center | \$350,000 |
| Subtotal for Construction | \$350,000 |
| Contingency (10%) | \$35,000 |
| Construction Total | \$385,000 |
| Design/survey/bidding (12%) | \$46,200 |
| Project Total | \$431,200 |
| 5. New Outdoor Family Aquatic Center | \$4,000,000 |
| Subtotal for Construction | \$4,000,000 |
| Contingency (10%) | \$400,000 |
| Construction Total | \$4,400,000 |
| Design/survey/bidding (12%) | \$528,000 |
| Project Total | \$4,928,000 |

Park Recommendations

| | | |
|----|--|-------------------------|
| 6. | New Senior Center | <u>\$1,000,000</u> |
| | Subtotal for Construction | \$1,000,000 |
| | Contingency (10%) | <u>\$100,000</u> |
| | Construction Total | \$1,100,000 |
| | Design/survey/bidding (12%) | <u>\$132,000</u> |
| | Project Total | \$1,232,000 |
| 7. | New Concrete Skate Park | <u>\$350,000</u> |
| | Subtotal for Construction | \$350,000 |
| | Contingency (10%) | <u>\$35,000</u> |
| | Construction Total | \$385,000 |
| | Design/survey/bidding (12%) | <u>\$46,200</u> |
| | Project Total | \$431,200 |
| 8. | Dog Park | |
| | Fencing | \$38,000 |
| | Irrigation | \$40,000 |
| | Shelter | \$60,000 |
| | Parking lot for 50 cars | <u>\$45,000</u> |
| | Subtotal for Construction | \$183,000 |
| | Contingency (10%) | <u>\$18,300</u> |
| | Construction Total | \$201,300 |
| | Design/survey/bidding (12%) | <u>\$24,156</u> |
| | Project Total | \$225,456 |
| 9. | New Recreation & Fitness Center | <u>\$10,000,000</u> |
| | Subtotal for Construction | \$10,000,000 |
| | Contingency (10%) | <u>\$1,000,000</u> |
| | Construction Total | \$11,000,000 |
| | Design/survey/bidding (12%) | <u>\$1,320,000</u> |
| | Project Total | \$12,320,000 |

Park Recommendations

| | | |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| 10. | Community Landmark Plaza at Rt 83 and Rt 20. | \$300,000 |
| | May vary considerably based on design | |
| | Subtotal for Construction | \$300,000 |
| | Contingency (10%) | \$30,000 |
| | Construction Total | \$330,000 |
| | Design/survey/bidding (12%) | \$39,600 |
| | Project Total | \$369,600 |
| 11. | New Sports Complex - (Minimum of 50 flat acres - Site to be determined) | |
| | Soccer Complex | |
| | 8 full size soccer fields | \$352,000 |
| | Parking for 480 cars | \$432,000 |
| | Restroom/Concession/Storage Building | \$300,000 |
| | Utilities | \$120,000 |
| | Football Complex | |
| | 2 Football fields | \$134,000 |
| | Parking for 120 cars | \$108,000 |
| | Restroom/Concession Building | \$250,000 |
| | Walkways | \$12,000 |
| | Utilities | \$80,000 |
| | Mass earthwork and grading | \$700,000 |
| | Seeding | \$50,000 |
| | Landscaping and trees | \$100,000 |
| | Perimeter walking trail - 8' wide x 1 mile | \$85,000 |
| | 2 Picnic shelters | \$120,000 |
| | Playground | \$80,000 |
| | Subtotal for Construction | \$2,923,000 |
| | Contingency (10%) | \$292,300 |
| | Construction Total | \$3,215,300 |
| | Design/survey/bidding (12%) | \$385,836 |
| | Project Total | \$3,601,136 |

12 **Banquet Center**

By others - possibly partner with the City

Linear Parks

Interconnecting Trail System throughout the City

Will vary with location and extent

Total Recommended New Parks

\$28,327,168

IX. Action Plan

A. Introduction

After several months of public participation, site analyses, opinion surveys, review of previous planning efforts, needs assessment, and numerous committee meetings, the Consultants and the Master Plan Steering Committee have developed an understanding of the needs for North Ridgeville. The following tables outline the priorities of the Steering Committee and the Consultant's recommendations for meeting the current and future recreational needs of North Ridgeville residents.

B. Capital Improvement Ranking

The Master Plan Steering Committee reviewed the potential solutions and recommendations of the Master Plan and then participated in an exercise to establish priorities to provide direction to the Parks and Recreation Commission and to City Council in the implementation of this Master Plan. The Committee Members were asked to rank each of the improvement projects with a High Priority (3), Medium Priority (2), Low Priority (1), or Not Needed (0). Following the review, all the public input processes and analyses, the Master Plan Steering Committee was asked to provide their individual ranking for the recommended capital improvement projects. The priority ranking was to indicate the importance of the improvements and not necessarily the order in which they would be developed. Table 13, Capital Projects Priority Ranking, identifies the capital improvement ranking based on total points and the average of the ranking for each item.

Table 13: Capital Projects Priority Ranking

The Master Plan Steering Committee Members were asked to indicate a High Priority (3), Medium Priority (2), Low Priority (1), or Not Needed (0) for each item on the list. The priority ranking is for the level of importance of the improvements and not necessarily the order in which they will be developed.

Capital Improvements Ranking

| Rank | Capital Projects Rank - High (3), Medium (2), Low (1), or Not Needed (0). | New Park Acres | Average |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Expand Shady Drive Complex into the new 22 acres with football fields, softball fields, trails, and parking. | 22 | 2.75 |
| 2 | New Recreation and Fitness Center | 5 | 2.67 |
| 2 | As the NR Schools develop a central campus, coordinate to include Community Park facilities. | | 2.67 |
| 4 | Shady Drive Complex - Upgrade the existing park area with paved parking, trees for shade, lights on 3 additional fields, and walkways to meet ADA requirements. | | 2.50 |
| 4 | South Central Park - Repave and expand parking lot. | | 2.50 |
| 6 | South Central Park- Expand perimeter and internal trail system. | | 2.42 |
| 7 | Expand Shady Drive Complex (Beyond the new 22 acres) to a city-wide sports complex to include football fields, soccer fields, and other sports. | 50 | 2.33 |
| 7 | South Central Park - Repave basketball and tennis courts. | | 2.33 |
| 7 | New Senior Center | | 2.33 |
| 7 | Develop an interconnecting trail system to link parks, schools, and neighborhoods and extending outside the community. Develop a more detailed Trails Plan to guide this effort. | | 2.33 |
| 11 | New Outdoor Family Aquatic Center | 5 | 2.25 |
| 11 | Convert Frontier Park to a Neighborhood Park with smaller paved parking lot, playground, picnic shelter, trails, game courts, and outdoor fitness area. Move football to expanded Shady Drive Complex. | | 2.25 |
| 11 | Soccer Complex on Root Rd. - Add playground, perimeter trail, picnic shelter, and pave parking lot. | | 2.25 |
| 14 | As existing schools are replaced, upgrade playgrounds and fields for continued community use. (Liberty, Lear North, & Fields-Sweet Schools) | | 2.17 |
| 15 | South Central Park - Expand park area to include more trails, picnic shelters, etc. | | 2.00 |
| 16 | New Parks and Recreation Department Offices with meeting and program space (could be combined with Recreation Center and/or Senior Center) | | 1.75 |
| 16 | Indoor Sports Field House in conjunctin with NR Schools | | 1.75 |
| 18 | Dog Park | | 1.67 |
| 19 | New Neighborhood Park in the northwest quadrant near Meadow Lakes | 12 | 1.58 |
| 20 | South Central Park - Replace the gazebo with a bandshell. | | 1.42 |
| 21 | New future Neighborhood Park in the northwest-central area as subdivisions are developed | 12 | 1.33 |
| 22 | Banquet Center (with a Partner) | | 1.25 |
| 23 | Skate Park | | 1.08 |
| 24 | Develop Community Landmark Plaza at corner of Route 83 and Center Ridge Road (Route 20) | | 1.00 |

C. Action Plan

The Action Plan provides a summary of the recommendations along with a time line for implementation and the responsible party. The terms and abbreviations that are used are defined here for clarity.

| | | | |
|------------|--|---------|---|
| NRPRD | North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department | CIP | Capital Improvement Program |
| City | City of North Ridgeville | OB | Operations Budget |
| Commission | North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Commission | Friends | Friends of The Parks |
| County | Lorain County MetroParks | Schools | North Ridgeville Board of Education |
| Partner | Other organizations working with NRPRD | Region | Other recreation provider or agency in the region |

| NO. | ACTION | 0-2 YEARS | 3-5 YEARS | 6-10 YEARS | 10+ YEARS | RESPONSIBILITY | FUNDING SOURCE |
|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| A. | Plan Implementation | | | | | | |
| 1. | Present Final Master Plan to the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council | ✓ | | | | Consultant, Steering Committee, NRPRD | NRPRD |
| 2. | Final Public Presentations | ✓ | | | | NRPRD, Consultant, Steering Committee | OB |
| 3. | Present the Master Plan to community organizations to gain support | ✓ | | | | NRPRD | OB |
| 4. | Reference this Master Plan in the City Master Plans | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | City | City |
| 5. | Revisit the Master Plan at maximum five year intervals to evaluate progress, update the goals, etc. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, City | OB |
| 6. | Develop a Greenways and Trails Master Plan | ✓ | | | | NRPRD, City | OB |

| NO. | ACTION | 0-2 YEARS | 3-5 YEARS | 6-10 YEARS | 10+ YEARS | RESPONSIBILITY | FUNDING SOURCE |
|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| B. | Administration & Staffing | | | | | | |
| 1. | Develop internships to supplement program coordinator with internships from universities. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD | NRPRD, OB |
| 2. | Hire a Recreation Programmer | | ✓ | | | NRPRD | NRPRD,OB |
| 3. | Hire additional Maintenance Staff to upgrade current parks | ✓ | ✓ | | | NRPRD | NRPRD,OB |
| 4. | Hire an Aquatics Director once the Aquatic Center is developed | | ✓ | | | NRPRD | NRPRD,OB |
| 5. | Add maintenance staff with horticultural background to improve park and recreation landscaping, floral displays, City Gateways, etc. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | City | City, NRPRD, OB |
| 6. | Add full time and seasonal maintenance staff as needed with the expansion of land, trails, etc. identified in the Master Plan. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | City | City, NRPRD, OB |
| C. | Land, Parks and Facilities | | | | | | |
| 1. | Contract surveying of Shady Drive, Soccer Complex, and Frontier Park to obtain accurate base mapping for further design. Includes boundaries and topography. | ✓ | | | | NRPRD, City | City |
| 2. | Develop the funded trail from South Central Park to Center Ridge Road | ✓ | | | | NRPRD, City | City, Grants |
| 3. | Shady Drive Complex - Upgrade the existing park area with paved parking, trees for shade, lights on 3 additional fields, and walkways. | ✓ | ✓ | | | NRPRD, City | CIP, Grants |

| NO. | ACTION | 0-2 YEARS | 3-5 YEARS | 6-10 YEARS | 10+ YEARS | RESPONSIBILITY | FUNDING SOURCE |
|-----|--|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 4. | Upgrade the playgrounds at all schools and neighborhood parks to meet CPSC and ADA Guidelines. | ✓ | ✓ | | | NRPRD, Schools | OB, Schools |
| 5. | Improve access to park facilities with sidewalks and trails. | ✓ | ✓ | | | NRPRD, City | City, CIP, Grants |
| 6. | South Central Park - Repave and expand parking lot. | ✓ | ✓ | | | NRPRD | CIP, Grants |
| 7. | Expand Shady Drive Complex into the new 22 acres with 2 adult softball fields and 3 football fields, parking, picnic shelter, and trails. | | ✓ | | | NRPRD, City | CIP, Grants |
| 8. | Acquire land to expand Shady Drive Complex to support moving all football, most soccer games, and other sports to the Complex. | ✓ | ✓ | | | NRPRD, City, Partners | NRPRD, CIP, Partners |
| 9. | Develop the expansion of Shady Drive Complex to support moving City run football, most soccer games, and other sports to the Complex. | | ✓ | | | NRPRD, City, Partners | NRPRD, CIP, Partners |
| 10. | South Central Park- Expand perimeter and internal trail system. | ✓ | ✓ | | | NRPRD | CIP, Grants, Friends |
| 11. | South Central Park - Repave basketball and tennis courts. | ✓ | ✓ | | | NRPRD | CIP, Grants |
| 12. | Convert Frontier Park to a Neighborhood Park with playground, picnic shelter, trails, outdoor fitness center, splash pad, and game courts. (After the football fields are redeveloped at Shady Drive). | | ✓ | ✓ | | NRPRD, City | City, CIP, Grants |

| NO. | ACTION | 0-2 YEARS | 3-5 YEARS | 6-10 YEARS | 10+ YEARS | RESPONSIBILITY | FUNDING SOURCE |
|-----|--|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 13. | Soccer Complex on Root Rd. - Add playground, perimeter trail, picnic shelter, and pave parking lot. | | ✓ | | | NRPRD | CIP, Grants |
| 14. | South Central Park - Expand park area to include more trails, picnic shelters, etc. | | | ✓ | | NRPRD | CIP, Grants |
| 15. | Develop Community Landmark Plaza at corner of Route 83 and Center Ridge Road (Route 20). Possibly as a Veterans Plaza. | | | ✓ | | City | CIP, Grants, Donors |
| 16. | As the NR Schools develop a central campus, coordinate to include Community Park facilities. | | ✓ | ✓ | | NRPRD, Schools | Schools, City, CIP |
| 17. | Upgrade playgrounds and fields on School grounds for continued community use. (Liberty, Lear North, & Fields-Sweet Schools) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | NRPRD, Schools | CIP, Grants |
| 18. | Develop an Outdoor Family Aquatic Center | | ✓ | ✓ | | NRPRD | CIP, Grants, Bonds |
| 19. | Develop a Recreation and Fitness Center | | ✓ | ✓ | | NRPRD, City, Health Care Partner | City, CIP, Partner, Bonds |
| 20. | Develop a new Senior Center | | | ✓ | | Partner | CIP, Grants, Partner |
| 21. | New Parks and Recreation Department Offices with meeting and program space (could be combined with Recreation Center and/or Senior Center) | | ✓ | | | NRPRD, City | City, CIP |
| 22. | Develop a Banquet Center | | | ✓ | | City, Partner, Private Sector | City, Partner |

| NO. | ACTION | 0-2 YEARS | 3-5 YEARS | 6-10 YEARS | 10+ YEARS | RESPONSIBILITY | FUNDING SOURCE |
|-----|--|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 23. | Acquire and develop a Neighborhood Park in the Northwest quadrant near Meadow Lakes Subdivision with a playground, picnic shelter, walking trail, open play field, basketball court, and other facilities coordinated with the neighborhood. | | | ✓ | | NRPRD | City, CIP, Grants , Developer |
| 24. | Acquire and develop a Neighborhood Park in the North Central area of the City when residential development takes place in this area with a playground, picnic shelter, walking trail, open play field, basketball court, and other facilities coordinated with the neighborhood. | | | ✓ | ✓ | Developer, Partner, NRPRD | Developer, CIP |
| 25. | Develop a Dog Park | | ✓ | | | NRPRD | CIP, Friends |
| 26. | Develop a Skate Park | | ✓ | | | NRPRD | CIP, Friends |
| 27. | Acquire and develop Neighborhood Parks when residential development takes place with a playground, picnic shelter, walking trail, open play field, basketball court, and other facilities coordinated with the neighborhood. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Developer, NRPRD | Developer, CIP |
| 28. | Develop an indoor sports Field House | | ✓ | ✓ | | Schools/Partner | Schools, Partner, Private Developer |
| 29. | Develop an interconnecting trail system to link parks, schools, and neighborhoods and extending outside the community. Develop a more detailed Trails Plan to guide this effort | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | City, NRPRD | CIP, City, County, Grants |

| NO. | ACTION | 0-2 YEARS | 3-5 YEARS | 6-10 YEARS | 10+ YEARS | RESPONSIBILITY | FUNDING SOURCE |
|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| D. | Programs | | | | | | |
| 1. | Establish core guidelines for proposed programs with the primary goals of lifelong fitness and wellness | ✓ | | | | NRPRD, Commission | OB |
| 2. | Partner with MetroParks, State DNR, Extension Service, 4H, and/or others to provide nature education programs | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, County, Partner, Region | NRPRD, County, Partner, Region, OB |
| 3. | Continue partnership with North Ridgeville Schools to use indoor spaces for recreation programs. Expand into a sports and recreation center when it is developed | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, Schools | OB |
| 4. | Develop monitoring program for customer/user feedback on programs and facilities | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD | OB |
| 5. | Continue coordination of special events, festivals, & cultural arts programs. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, Partners | OB, Donor, Partners |
| E. | Partners | | | | | | |
| 1. | Develop and enhance partnerships with the Lorain County MetroParks, State ODNR, Schools, 4H, Universities, and others to provide nature education programs | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, Partner, Region | Partner, Region |
| 2. | Continue an open dialogue and partnerships with public schools for facility use and programs. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, Schools | OB |
| 3. | Coordinate among various organizations to cross market, coordinate, and promote programs and activities. Includes brochures, web site, media programs, etc. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, Partners | OB |

| NO. | ACTION | 0-2 YEARS | 3-5 YEARS | 6-10 YEARS | 10+ YEARS | RESPONSIBILITY | FUNDING SOURCE |
|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4. | Partner with other organizations in the development and operations of specialized facilities such as the Dog Park, Skate Park, Recreation Center, Band Shell, and Aquatic Center. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, Partners | OB |
| F. | Fiscal Resources | | | | | | |
| 1. | Establish a bond levy with projects with a wide base of support. | ✓ | ✓ | | | NRPRD, Friends | OB, Friends |
| 2. | Research methods to develop revenues and sponsorships for programs and events. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD | OB |
| 3. | Broaden the support and opportunities for volunteerism and philanthropy. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD | OB, Friends, Donors, Partners |
| 4. | Pursue alternative funding for Capital Improvements such as grants, sponsors, foundations, & partnerships. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | City, NRPRD, Partner | OB, Partners |
| 5. | Use the Master Plan as a tool to promote donations and sponsorships. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, Commission | OB, Partners, Friends |
| 6. | Develop a fee structure for the use of ball fields to support maintenance. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, Partners | OB, Partners |
| 7. | Develop program opportunities to increase revenues. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD | OB |
| 8. | Develop a dedicated funding source for parks and recreation through a separate tax, portion of a tax, and/or portion of other source of funding. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, City | City, OB |

| NO. | ACTION | 0-2 YEARS | 3-5 YEARS | 6-10 YEARS | 10+ YEARS | RESPONSIBILITY | FUNDING SOURCE |
|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------------|
| G. | Maintenance | | | | | | |
| 1. | Develop and sustain a turf grass management system for all parks and sports fields | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, City | OB |
| 2. | Increase maintenance staff immediately and as the facilities grow to maintain a quality system | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, City | OB |
| 3. | Develop a volunteer base to assist in the maintenance, development, and monitoring of the trail system and parks. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD | OB, Friends |
| 4. | Develop an Adopt-a-Park or trail program to promote volunteerism and community support. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD, Partner | OB, Friends, Partners |
| 5. | Develop Maintenance Standards for various park types with budget figures for each park type. Establish maintenance quality standards and expectations. | ✓ | | | | NRPRD, City | OB |
| H. | Marketing | | | | | | |
| | Develop an aggressive and ongoing marketing campaign to promote parks, recreation and programming opportunities. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | NRPRD | OB |

D. Potential Funding Sources

A wide variety of funding sources will be necessary to fund the long term improvements that are recommended in this Master Plan. There is no single source that could pay for all of this and it is not a wise use of taxpayer's funds to just utilize city funds. Therefore, it is imperative that persons trained in municipal finances and grants work closely with this Master Plan to determine appropriate sources for the recommended improvements.

1. General Funds

The city already budget funds for operations and capital improvements for the parks and facilities. Increasing the amount of funding is something that must be approved by the City Council with the improvements competing against the many needs of the community such as roads, infrastructure, and services.

2. Public/Private Partnerships

These are typically utilized when the public and private sectors cooperate toward a common goal and utilize public and private monies to meet this goal. Victory Sports Park is an example of this where the city owns the land which was developed and is maintained by the private investors. Several communities partner with hospitals and other health providers in the development and operation of their recreation centers.

3. Public/Public Partnerships

A Public/Public partnership takes place when two or more public agencies cooperate in the development of a project. There are many instances where this could be appropriate in North Ridgeville. For example, the city may have the land and Lorain County could assist in paying for the development of facilities on city property. There may be cases where communities share in the development of a regional type facility such as athletic complexes, recreation center, skatepark, or other regional type facilities. In addition to cooperating in the development of the cost, some of these agencies could cooperate in the ongoing operations of the facilities as well. The cooperation with North Ridgeville Schools is another example of this type of partnership.

4. Grants

a. **Land and Water Conservation Fund** - The Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program provides up to 50% reimbursement assistance for state and local government subdivisions (townships, villages, cities, counties, park districts, joint recreation districts, and conservancy districts) to for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas.

Funding is issued to the state and it is at the state's discretion how much of that funding will be made available for local government. Since the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program became effective, the State of Ohio has received over \$140 million. Over half of this funding has been used for local parks projects.

The LWCF program provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States.

In 2012, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources recommended that twelve local municipalities receive a total of \$597,519 in federal grant money from the Land & Water Conservation Fund. Recommended projects included land acquisition, development of trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, a spray park and a renovation of a community swimming pool. Applications are due May 1 of each year and after 2013 the funds will be awarded biennially.

- b. **NatureWorks** – NatureWorks has funded 19 rounds of projects at the local level as the funds are distributed to each county based upon the population. Eligible organizations include all local subdivisions of government (local school boards are ineligible). Local governments can apply for up to 75 percent reimbursement grants (state funding) for acquisition, development, or rehabilitation of public park and recreation areas. The agency must have proper control (title or at least a 15-year non-revocable lease) to be eligible for a development or rehabilitation grant. All projects must be completed within one-and-a-half to two years. Applications compete with eligible government agencies within each county. The contact at ODNR is Mary Fitch at 614-265-6477. Applications are due May 1 of each year and after 2013 the funds will be awarded biennially.
- c. **Clean Ohio Fund** - The Clean Ohio Fund restores, protects, and connects Ohio's important natural and urban places by preserving green space and farmland, improving outdoor recreation, and by cleaning up brownfields to encourage redevelopment and revitalize communities.

The Clean Ohio Fund consists of four competitive statewide programs: the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund, the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program, and the Clean Ohio Trails Fund.

The citizens of Ohio originally voted in 2000 to approve the Clean Ohio Fund with a \$400 million bond program. Currently, the Clean Ohio Fund is a critical component of the Ohio Bipartisan Job Stimulus Plan that aims to create new jobs while laying the foundation for future economic prosperity. Placed before Ohio's voters as Issue 2, the ballot initiative was overwhelmingly approved in all 88 counties which extended the Fund with another \$400 million bond program.

- **Brownfields:** The Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund supports the assessment and cleanup of polluted properties as a catalyst for redevelopment.
- **Farmland Preservation:** The Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program provides funding to assist landowners and communities in preserving Ohio's farmland, our most vital resource.
- **Green Space:** The Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program helps to fund preservation of open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors. Special emphasis was given to projects that:
 - Protect habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species;
 - Preserve high quality wetlands and other scarce natural resources;
 - Preserve streamside forests, natural stream channels, functioning floodplains, and other natural features of Ohio's waterways;
 - Support comprehensive open space planning;
 - Secure easements to protect stream corridors, which may be planted with trees or vegetation to help reduce erosion and fertilizer/pesticide runoff;
 - Enhance eco-tourism and economic development related to outdoor recreation in economically challenged areas;
 - Provide pedestrian or bicycle passageways between natural areas and preserves;
 - Reduce or eliminate nonnative, invasive plant and animal species;
 - Provide safe areas for fishing, hunting and trapping in a manner that provides a balanced eco-system.

- **Trails** - The Clean Ohio Trails Fund works to improve outdoor recreational opportunities for Ohioans by funding trails for outdoor pursuits of all kinds. Special emphasis was given to projects that:
 - Are consistent with the statewide trail plan;
 - Complete regional trail systems and links to the statewide trail plan;
 - Link population centers with outdoor recreation area and facilities;
 - Involve the purchase of rail lines linked to the statewide trail plan;
 - Preserve natural corridors;
 - Provide links in urban areas to support commuter access and provide economic benefit.

Up to 75 percent matching State of Ohio funds are reimbursed under Clean Ohio Trails Fund. All projects must be completed within 18 months from the date that they are signed into contract. Eligible projects include: Land acquisition for a trail, trail development, trailhead facilities, engineering and design. Eligible jurisdictions include local governments, park and joint recreation districts, conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts, and non-profit organizations.

The most recent round of grants awarded \$3 million in Clean Ohio Trails Fund to eight communities and organizations, part of a comprehensive effort to expand Ohioans' access to recreational trails statewide.

The Clean Ohio initiative provides community-directed investments for revitalizing urban areas, protecting rivers and watersheds, preserving green space and farmland, and expanding Ohio's system of recreational trails. To date, a total of almost \$285 million has been allocated to Clean Ohio Fund projects, including the Clean Ohio Trails Fund.

Applications are due February 1 of each year.

- d. **Recreational Trails Program** – Eligible organizations include cities and villages, counties, townships, special districts, state and federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Up to 80 percent matching federal funds is reimbursed. Eligible projects include development of urban trail linkages, trail head and trailside facilities; maintenance of existing trails; restoration of trail areas damaged by usage; improving access for people with disabilities;

acquisition of easements and property; development and construction of new trails; purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment; environment and safety education programs related to trails.

Local trail projects in 24 communities were recommended in 2011 by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to receive a total of \$1,776,898 in grants from the federal Recreational Trails Program. Projects funded encompass both motorized and non-motorized trails. Of the 67 applications received, 24 were recommended to receive grants.

More than 170 local trail projects across the state have been awarded approximately \$13 million in federal funds through the Recreational Trails Program since 1993. The next round of applications are due February 1, 2010

- e. **The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)** – The primary source of federal funding for greenways is through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). There are many sections of the Act that support the development of bicycle and pedestrian transportation corridors. Those sections that apply to the creation of greenway systems include:

Section 1302 - Symms National Recreational Trails Fund Act (NRTFA): A component of TEA-21, the NRTFA is a funding source to assist with the development of non-motorized and motorized trails. The Act uses funds paid into the Highway Trust Fund from fees on non-highway recreation fuel used by off-road vehicles and camping equipment.

Motorized and non-motorized trail projects receive a 30-percent share of annual appropriations. Forty percent of the appropriation must be spent on projects that accommodate both user groups. States can grant funds to private and public sector organizations. NRTFA projects are 100-percent federally funded during the first three years of the program. Grant recipients must provide a 20-percent match.

Section 1047 - National Scenic Byways Program: This component of TEA-21 is designed to protect and enhance America's designated scenic roads. Money is available for planning, safety and facility improvements, cultural and historic resource protection, and tourism information signage. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities can be developed in conjunction with scenic roadway projects. Some states with Scenic Byway Programs have developed greenways in conjunction with this initiative.

Section 1008 - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program: The CMAQ program was created to reduce congestion on local streets and improve air quality. Funds are available to urban communities designated as "non- attainment" areas for air quality, meaning the air is more polluted than federal standards allow. A grant recipient must demonstrate that its project will improve air quality throughout the community. Funding requires a 20-percent local match.

- f. **Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program** – The USDA provides small grants of up to \$10,000 to communities for the purchase of trees to plant along city streets and for greenways and parks. To qualify for this program, a community must pledge to develop a street-tree inventory, a municipal tree ordinance, a tree commission, committee or department, and an urban forestry-management plan.
- g. **Small Business Tree-Planting Program** – The Small Business Administration provides small grants of up to \$10,000 to purchase trees for planting along streets and within parks or greenways. Grants are used to develop contracts with local businesses for the plantings.
- h. **Economic Development Grants for Public Works and Development of Facilities** – The U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), provides grants to states, counties and cities designated as redevelopment areas by EDA for public works projects that can include developing trails and greenway facilities. There is a 30-percent local match required, except in severely distressed areas where federal contribution can reach 80 percent.
- i. **Community Development Block Grants** – CDBG Grants have been utilized for facilities such as recreation centers and park renovation in primarily low-income neighborhoods, which is only appropriate in some areas of the County.
- j. **Grants through Private Foundations and Corporations** – Many communities have solicited greenway funding from a variety of private foundations and other conservation-minded benefactors. Some grants are:
 - **REI Environmental Grants** – Recreational Equipment Incorporated awards grants to nonprofit organizations interested in protecting and enhancing natural resources for outdoor recreation. The company calls on its employees to nominate organizations for these grants, ranging from \$500 to \$8,000, which can be used for the following:

- Protect lands and waterways and make these resources accessible to more people
 - Better utilize or preserve natural resources for recreation
 - Increase access to outdoor activities
 - Encourage involvement in muscle-powered recreation
 - Promote safe participation in outdoor muscle-powered recreation, and proper care for outdoor resources
- **Coors Pure Water 2000 Grants** – Coors Brewing Company and its affiliated distributors provide funding and in-kind services to grassroots organizations that are working to solve local, regional and national water-related problems. Coors provides grants, ranging from a few hundred dollars to \$50,000, for projects such as river cleanups, aquatic habitat improvements, water quality monitoring, wetlands protection, pollution prevention, water education efforts, groundwater protection, water conservation and fisheries.
 - **World Wildlife Fund Innovative Grants Program** – This organization awards small grants to local, regional and statewide nonprofit organizations to help implement innovative strategies for the conservation of natural resources. Grants are offered to support projects that accomplish one or more of the following: (1) conserve wetlands; (2) protect endangered species; (3) preserve migratory birds; (4) conserve coastal resources; and (5) establish and sustain protected natural areas, such as greenways. Innovative grants can help pay for the administrative costs for projects including planning, technical assistance, legal and other costs to facilitate the acquisition of critical lands; retaining consultants and other experts; and preparing visual presentations and brochures or other conservation activities. The maximum award for a single grant is \$10,000.
 - **Bikes Belong** – Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. The grant program is a national discretionary program with a small budget, to help communities build TEA-21-funded projects. They like to fund high-profile projects and like regional coalitions. An application must be supported by the local bicycle dealers (letters of support should be attached). Bikes Belong also offers advice and information on how to get more people on bikes. Government and non-profit agencies are eligible and no match is required. The maximum amount for a grant proposal is \$10,000. Applications may be submitted at any time and are reviewed as they are received.

- **Wal-Mart Foundation** – This foundation supports local community and environmental activities and educational programs for children (among other things). An organization needs to work with the local store manager to discuss application. Wal-Mart Foundation only funds 501(c)3 organizations.
- **Baseball Tomorrow Fund** – The Baseball Tomorrow Fund is a joint initiative of Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association. The mission is to promote and enhance the growth of baseball in the United States, Canada and throughout the world by funding programs, field and equipment purchases designed to encourage and maintain youth participation in the game. Information on the fund can be found on their web site at www.baseballtomorrowfund.com. Their grant cycles are for four review cycles throughout each year. The fund's headquarters is located at 245 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10167
- **The Kodak American Greenways Awards Program** – Eastman Kodak, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society provide small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America. The annual grants program was instituted in response to the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors recommendation to establish a national network of greenways. Made possible by a generous grant from Eastman Kodak, the program also honors groups and individuals whose ingenuity and creativity foster the creation of greenways.

Since 1993, the American Greenways Program of The Conservation Fund has acknowledged individuals, organizations, corporations and public agencies for their exemplary leadership and efforts to enhance the nation's outdoor heritage. The Conservation Fund has partnered with the Eastman Kodak Company to honor these leaders through the Kodak American Greenways Awards program.

The Conservation Fund and Kodak accept nominations of individuals, organizations, corporations and public agencies that should be recognized for outstanding achievement related to the creation of greenways, blueways, trails and open space systems throughout America. The recipients of the Kodak American Greenways Awards Program will be invited to attend an awards ceremony at the National Geographic Society Headquarters in Washington DC. The program typically honors 3-4 awardees each year.

- **American Hiking Society Grants** – The American Hiking Society created the National Trails Fund in 1998, the only privately supported national grants program providing funding to grassroots organizations working toward establishing, protecting and maintaining foot trails in America. This may not be directly applicable to the City of North Ridgeville, but may apply to Lorain County MetroPark sites.

For 2012, American Hiking distributed grants for 12 projects thanks to the generous support of MSR, Therm-A-Rest and L.L.Bean, the program's Charter Sponsors.

To date, American Hiking has granted more than \$500,000 to 174 different trail projects across the U.S. for land acquisition, constituency building campaigns, and traditional trail work projects. Awards range from \$500 to \$10,000 per project.

What types of projects will American Hiking Society consider?

- Securing trail lands, including acquisition of trails and trail corridors, and the costs associated with acquiring conservation easements.
- Building and maintaining trails which will result in visible and substantial ease of access, improved hiker safety, and/or avoidance of environmental damage.
- Constituency building surrounding specific trail projects- including volunteer recruitment and support.

Only non-profits with 501(c)(3) designations are eligible to apply.

For details and application forms see the American Hiking Society website at: <http://www.americanhiking.org/alliance/fund.html>

5. General Obligation Bonds

Several communities within the state have recently utilized General Obligation Bonds for the development of park and recreation areas. With current interest rates, these have been very attractive to cities and counties that have the income from other sources for debt service or that can issue a tax levy.

6. State Funds

In the past, some communities have utilized funds from the state budget for acquisition and development of lands for recreation centers, swimming

pools, parks and other recreation facilities. In addition, other communities have been able to get state funding directly through the Legislature in the State's budget for particular projects.

7. Development Impact Fees and Fees in Lieu of Land

Many jurisdictions require park land for recreational purposes when residential, commercial or industrial development occurs. When areas proposed for dedication of park land are not accepted by the Planning Commission or city, then fees are received in lieu of dedication. This money can be deposited with the local government and specifically designated for Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Funds. In many communities in Ohio, developers are required to provide either land or fees that are based upon the impact for increased recreational demand that will be placed upon the local government from the proposed development. There are many good models of this practice. These funds are used for capital improvements. The Planning and Zoning Commission should evaluate their regulations and practices to be consistent with the recommendations of this Master Plan.

8. City Parks and Recreation Budgets

To maintain and improve the quality of life in North Ridgeville, more facilities and programs must be developed and more funding is needed to operate and maintain the new facilities. This Plan has a large capital funding need and, as the recommendations of this Plan are implemented, additional operations and maintenance funding will also be necessary. No new facilities should be constructed without a steady source of funding for operations and maintenance. A variety of sources will be necessary.

The previous sections of this chapter identified several sources, but most are more appropriate for capital expenditures. A referendum for a tax levy is one method for more consistent funding along with increased funding from the city General Fund. Some facilities may pay for their own operations if developed and operated properly.

Ultimately, the City Council will determine the decisions to more secure sources of funding.

9. Friends of North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation

The "Friends of the Parks" has been established as a 501-c-3 non-profit organization for the purpose of facilitating and supporting the growth and amenities that are offered for the citizens of North Ridgeville and all City parks. They have recently been focused on a few key projects including development of a dog park, a trail in South Central Park, a skate park, and they are also involved with "The Green Team". This Plan recommends that this organization and their role be expanded to include

a broader base of community support for the purpose of acquiring land, funding development of parks and recreation facilities, accepting donations of land or fundraising. This type of organization would be in a better position to negotiate for the purchase of land than a public entity such as a city or county. Also, some individuals would be more inclined to donate land or funds to a non-profit organization than to a city or county government agency, even though the tax benefits are basically the same. In addition to fund raising and land donations, the “Friends” could also accept life estates; land placed in individuals wills, and promote conservation and scenic easements on individual’s properties.

This organization should have a very active Board of Directors consisting of key community leaders who would work closely with a specific municipal staff person. The organization would develop a relationship with corporations throughout the North Ridgeville community and then make use of those relationships to help supplement or fund projects. This organization could help to match corporations with the facilities and programs that meet their respective corporate image. This Master Plan will provide the direction for the Friends of the Parks.

a. Foundation Tips

- Design the Foundation right.
- Keep it simple.
- Selection of Board Members/Trustees is most important.
- Train Board Members/Trustees how to seek donations.
- Coordinate the cultivation and solicitation of corporations and foundations to avoid duplication.
- Keep donors loyal to North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation.

b. Areas to Consider Fundraising

- Foundations.
- Corporations.
- Individual Retirement Gifts.
- Develop Bequeath Giving Program.
- Green Fund Raising (Donors who are interested in protecting the environment).
- Individual/Family Gifts.
- Gifts such as land.
- Maintenance endowments.

- X. Appendix**
 - A. North Ridgeville Master Plan 2009**
 - B. Community Input Summaries**
 - C. Web Survey Summary**
 - D. Benchmarking Comparisons**

CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE - MASTER PLAN 2009

By: Public Sector Solutions, Cleveland, Ohio

VISION

“The City of North Ridgeville is a Midwest community, mindful of its rural heritage, devoted to strengthening its entrepreneurial spirit, and committed to enhancing quality of life for all.”

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Master Plan is a document intended as a guide for the City Administration, City Council, and other decision-making boards and commissions as they evaluate development proposals and implement new policies that impact the City. The plan is meant to be a dynamic, living document that will help frame the public and private discussion related to development and redevelopment issues. Many of the plan's recommendations are preliminary and will require further analysis before policies can be enacted.

The Master Plan creates a vision for how the community should look in 10 to 20 years and sets goals and objectives to pave the way for future development. It is a process for managing change and serves as a blueprint for building a community the resident's desire. The Master Plan is meant to have a general perspective that reflects the public consensus about what to change and what to retain in the community. It is the information-gathering, goal- and objective-setting phase of a proactive city-building process. The goals and objectives should be consistent with the vision of where the community wants to go. They are the result of data collection and analysis and much public discussion.

The approval of this plan by City Council should be followed by the development of an action plan to identify the people who are expected to do the work, the funding sources, and the timeline for short-term, medium range, long-term, and ongoing proposed actions. The action plan should monitor and benchmark progress over each year to keep the plan in front of the public. It is recommended that the plan be reviewed and updated every five years to keep on course toward long term goals.

Seven key themes reinforce North Ridgeville's vision and serve as the Master Plan's overall goals. They express the major concerns the plan seeks to address and the issues raised by the public.

COMMUNITY GOALS

1. *Town Center and Gateways - Unique Community Identity* – Maintain the historical character balanced with new development to enhance the overall appearance as people visit or travel through North Ridgeville. Create new centers of community activity and a greater sense of place.
 - Develop a modern town center with design guidelines to preserve the historical character and to create a positive, distinct image for the City.

Appendix A – North Ridgeville Master Plan 2009

- Develop Gateway enhancements that are part of a city-wide design theme.
 - Improve the mix of business in the Town Center District.
 - Construct a new City Hall in campus-style setting within the proposed Town Center District
2. *Business Expansion, Attraction, and Retention (BEAR)* - Increase the appeal and diversity of commercial and industrial business and create a strong tax base through the support of existing business, local entrepreneurs, and attraction of new targeted employers.
- Pursue the addition of an Economic and Community Development Position to actively market the City.
 - Attempt to diversify the local economic base by attracting new retail stores, office and manufacturing firms while encouraging and facilitating the expansion of existing firms.
 - Improve existing centers and target Center Ridge Road and Lorain Road for commercial development.
3. *Land Use & Residential Development* - Invest in a land use analysis and zoning code update beyond the scope of this plan to produce a physical plan describing in detail the relationship between specific land use and densities of development.
- Revise and simplify the zoning code to reapportion the ratio between commercial/industrial zones and residential zones to more appropriately reflect the community's priorities for business attraction.
 - Draft a future land use map showing the desired location and density of different types of development.
 - Focus development along the commercial corridors, around highway nodes, and in Special Business Districts.
 - Diversify housing stock to meet the housing needs of residents in different stages of life to retain residents.
4. *Open Space & Recreation* - Increase interconnectivity of neighborhoods and public places. Explore creative financing and private partnerships to improve public facilities and recreational offerings.
- Review the current and future recreational facility needs.
 - Acquire additional land for parks, open space, and multi-use trails.
5. *Safety* - Identify and develop best practices to ensure maximum effect at minimal cost.
- Analyze future population projections and continue planning for high quality and efficient safety services.
 - Explore potential sites for larger police headquarters and new fire stations.
6. *Infrastructure Improvements* - Promote the efficient movement of traffic and pedestrians to relieve congestion and increase walkability.

Appendix A – North Ridgeville Master Plan 2009

- Traffic flow improvements through street widening of main east-west and north-south arterial routes.
 - Sidewalk program with a goal to install sidewalks throughout the entire City.
7. *Public Services - Identify and develop best practices to ensure maximum effect at minimal cost.*
- Provide sewer service to 100% of the City.
 - Prioritize areas needing protection to avoid future economic problems caused by flooding.

PARKS AND RECREATION - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

The quantity and quality of a city's park system are key to enhancing its profile, and equally its citizens. North Ridgeville currently has four municipal parks, all complemented by Lorain County Metro Parks' Sandy Ridge Reservation: Frontier Park, Shady Drive Complex, the Soccer Complex, and South Central Park. Overall, city park improvements have been carried out each year. Along with maintaining the parks' condition, appearance and usability, the Master Plan Committee and City of North Ridgeville are committed to offering leisure activities, special events, cultural enrichment, and education, as well as providing opportunities for community and recreational involvement.

Recommendations:

- Skate Park - A new organization has been established called Friends of the Park. Its purpose is to promote public parks and amenities. They have planned fundraising activities to provide community dollars for a new Skate Park for the youth of North Ridgeville. The Skate Park should maintain the appearance of a "park setting" with buffers and mounds to protect nearby residents. The hours should be same as all city parks.
- Dog Park -The site should be approximately 1+ acres to accommodate American Kennel Club shows. There should be an area for large dogs (leashed/unleashed) and a separate area for small dogs (leashed/unleashed). A Frisbee area is desirable.
- New Combined Recreation Center/Senior Center-Explore opportunities for a shared facility complex to include pool (indoor and outdoor), recreation center; senior center; and civic center. Consider shared school facilities to be a part of the new proposed center. A combined Recreation Center would allow more year-round use and service the older parts of the community
- Acquire more land for parks: Explore expansion of park area to include property south of South Central Park, which extends to the Turnpike and land east of the park. Explore opportunities for acquisition and/or incorporation of any available land adjacent to the park.
- Aquatic Center - Identify future sites for possible construction of indoor or outdoor community pool. Review 2004 Outdoor Aquatic Facility Feasibility study findings with community to determine type of facility the resident's desire. Surveys conducted in 2004 show huge support for swimming pool.
- Fishing Lake - Preserve fishing lake. This asset is heavily used by community and Fishing Club for fishing derbies.

Appendix A – North Ridgeville Master Plan 2009

- Expand all recreation programming to include adult offerings (e.g. evening classes to accommodate those who work during the day. etc.). Consider other locations that can be converted to programming use.
- Determine communities interest and input of the best use of the land at the southwest corner of Avon-Belden Road (OH-83) and Center Ridge Road (US-20). The City owns parcels and will add adjacent parcels as available. Consider the land as location for a new City Hall campus combined Safety forces.

APPENDIX C - COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER RECOMMENDATION

Submitted by Michael P. Bouman

Goal: To provide the citizens of North Ridgeville and the employees of locally owned businesses with a first class exercise, meeting and banquet facility.

Rationale: A Community Recreation Center can provide health, social, economic and educational benefits to the city. It provides a needed amenity for current residents and makes the city more attractive to potential residents and employers. There are no full-service health clubs within North Ridgeville. There are no public pools within North Ridgeville's borders. Many neighboring communities currently benefit by having vibrant recreation centers and North Ridgeville can too.

Benefits: The Community Recreation Center would benefit the masses and not just a select few individuals of North Ridgeville. Below are some of the ways the Community Recreation Center may be utilized by our citizens and corporations:

A. SOCIAL BENEFITS

1. Fostering of inter-generational interaction.
2. Rooms for weddings, birthday parties, wedding showers, bridal showers, etc.
3. Meeting places for groups and organizations.
4. Safe place for children and adolescents to partake in activities.
5. Source of community pride.

B. ECONOMIC BENEFITS

1. Increase home values.
2. Provide jobs for the community.
3. Source of attraction for new residents and companies.
4. Destination for corporate workshops.
5. Healthier population equates to less strain on paramedics and fire dept.

C. EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

1. Facility for guest lecturers and exhibitions.

2. Special skills such as painting, horticulture, astronomy and music can be taught in the auxiliary rooms.

D. HEALTH BENEFITS

1. Weight training equipment
 - a. Facility for individuals of all ages to improve muscle condition.
 - b. Provides a place for injured persons to effectively complete rehab programs.
2. Swimming pool
 - a. Provides a place for injured persons to effectively complete rehab programs.
 - b. Young children can learn to swim
 - c. Water aerobics classes
 - d. Swim teams can practice throughout the year
 - e. All ages can enjoy the health benefits of swimming
3. Gymnasium
 - a. Court games, leagues and summer camps can be provided for indoor sports like volleyball and basketball.
 - b. Youth programs can have one centralized court rather than scrambling for gym time at the local schools.
4. Auxiliary Gyms (smaller rooms/gyms)
 - a. Aerobics, Yoga, Karate Instruction
 - b. Children's activities
 - c. Bocce
 - d. Baseball hitting instruction in the winter
 - e. Card games/bridge tournaments

APPENDIX E - A PEOPLE-PATH NETWORK

Submitted by Alan J. Willoughby

Goal: Interconnect all public sites and North Ridgeville neighborhoods with a network of pedestrian-friendly, bicycle-friendly, auto-free pathways.

Rationale: Nature made North Ridgeville ideal for bicycle transportation, North Ridgeville is nearly flat. We would be remiss not to take full advantage of it.

The Vision: Often, many of us would be delighted to commute locally by bicycle or on foot ... if we could do so safely. It would be efficient to integrate our exercise with our errands. And, families would definitely be better off if the kids did not need to be driven to so many places. Bicyclists suffer in auto accidents. It seems foolish to let our city evolve in such a way that we

Appendix A – North Ridgeville Master Plan 2009

must always choose between our safety and exercise, or between our kids' safety and their exercise, or between our kids' safety and their activities.

At present, it is easy to take a safe bike ride in North Ridgeville ... unless you want to go somewhere while riding. The schools, the stores, the library, the parks, etc. are risky rides from most of our residences.

An ideal people-path network should safely connect every residential area to all the places of activity . . . without putting pedestrians or bicycles into space competition with motor traffic.

Network evolution: Without a wise master plan, a people-path will not happen. Here are a few of the elements needed:

Walking and biking within existing neighborhoods is fairly safe. But, absurdly, our neighborhoods usually only interconnect by busy roads, routed the long way around. Inter-neighborhood connectors should be an early step. We can encourage people traffic without inviting through-motorists. People paths should offer short-cuts.

Long bicycle through-corridors should not be adjacent to busy roads, as are currently envisioned along a widened Center Ridge Road. Bike crossings across the many busy driveways would create more hazards. Bike corridors should logically connect to what is now the back side of the shopping areas. Some people-path through-corridors should parallel our main roads, with a minimum of traffic crossings.

The proposed centralized school complex should someday become a reality. Also, a southerly extension of Jaycox Road has been planned. It would be a shame if a safe walk/bike school access system were not part of these plans.

An enchanting vision of the future might see all sorts of novel people-powered vehicles in the school parking lot. They would use future inventions 70 in lighting, GPS, etc.

Our intra-city path network should connect with the inter-city path systems that are evolving.

Benefits: A complete network of auto-free pathways would make our city a much better place to live:

- Young people would not need to be driven to their many activities. Except in harsh weather, they could safely walk or pedal there.
- Parents would be more flexible in caring for their families.
- Traffic would be less congested. A less hectic rush hour would help shoppers.
- All people would have safe alternatives to the automobile for local activities.
- People would be healthier.
- Family auto expenses would be reduced.

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP SUMMARY
NORTH RIDGEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
PROJECT NO.: 12054**

BY: Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA

**BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS**

August 16, 2012

Ten people from the community attended this first public workshop. The following questions were asked and items discussed:

1. Where do you currently go for Parks and Receptions?
 - Westlake and Fairview Park for the recreation centers
 - North Olmsted Ice Rink
 - The ball fields and soccer fields here in North Ridgeville
 - South Central Park for fishing, summer camps, “Cornfest”, and it is the center of town
 - Sandy Ridge Metro Park
 - The Splash Zone in Oberlin
 - The Avon YMCA for use of the gym and swimming
 - Rocky River Recreation Center
 - Shady Drive Ball Field and Complex
 - The Soccer Complex for soccer
 - Frontier Park for football
 - Victory Park for softball
2. What do you like about Parks and Recreation opportunities here in North Ridgeville?
 - South Central Park because it provides a passive area for families and has a lot of shade
 - The facilities have been improved and our newer concession and restroom facilities
 - The parks are local and close to home
 - There is low crime and people feel safe in the parks
 - The green spaces provides water retention and helps the environment
 - The variety of programs offered by the department
 - The low cost of programs
 - Ideas that are suggested by the community are considered and could potentially become programs
3. What don't you like or what is missing from Parks and Recreation in North Ridgeville?
 - Most of the parks are single use parks and don't provide community activities
 - The lack of parking in the parks and the fact that the parking lots are unpaved which is inefficient and causes a lot of dust
 - Need bike paths and trails in the parks and throughout the community
 - The lack of percentage of park land in the Metro Parks relative to the tax money going to the county and the acreage within North Ridgeville

Appendix B – Community Input Summaries

- South Central Park is too small and needs to be expanded
 - Need a recreation center for indoor activities and an indoor pool
 - Need more soccer fields
 - The sports facilities are spread out throughout the community
 - There is no outdoor pool
 - Need a large community room
 - The lack of revenue for Parks and Recreation
 - The tennis courts need maintenance and ideally there would be a fifth tennis court at South Central Park for use by the high schools
 - Need to improve the sled hill
4. Vision for the future: pretend it is 20 years in the future and you are very happy with what has happened in North Ridgeville to make this a great place to live, work, and play. What has happened in that time to make parks and recreation in this community so successful? (The numbers indicate the number of votes which were given by those in attendance. Each participant was given 3 votes)
- Recreation Center which includes the following (6 votes): swimming pool, multipurpose rooms, gymnasiums, meeting rooms, partnership with the schools, fitness area and cardiovascular equipment, walking track, child care area, full commercial kitchen, and banquet space
 - All sports are in one park with high quality and improved facilities (5 votes)
 - Outdoor aquatic center (4 votes)
 - Lorain County emerald-necklace type trail which extends through the community. The path could extend from Bradley Woods Park on the east along the south side of Center Ridge Road to the town center and eventually to Sandy Ridge Metro Park, Lorain County Community College, the Finwood Estate in Elyria, and eventually to Lake Erie (3 votes)
 - North Ridgeville is a destination for sports tournaments which helps the economy and the community (2 votes)
 - Expand South Central Park to the north and take advantage of the greenhouse on the property to the north to make it program space (1 vote)
 - Develop neighborhood parks (1 vote)
 - Provide more activity for teens (1 vote)
 - Improve the tennis courts (1 vote)
 - Other items receiving no votes:
 - See a lot of active seniors out in the community
 - Bocce courts
 - A dog park
 - Outdoor waterpark and splash pads
 - An ice rink
 - A skate park

Patrick D. Hoagland

Patrick D. Hoagland

PDH

**STAKEHOLDER GROUP DISCUSSIONS
NORTH RIDGEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
PROJECT NO. 12054**

BY: Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA

**BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS August 15-17, 22-23, & September 27, 2012**

The following stakeholder group discussions were held on these dates. A summary of the conversations of each group are as follows:

North Ridgeville Football League

1. Met with: Bob Miscuda, President and Janice Reffert, Treasurer and Booster Vice President
2. This program has been in existence for 42 years. There are currently approximately 350 children in the program including 275 in football and 75 in cheering. The ages are 6-13 with following distribution of teams:

| LEAGUE | AGES | # OF TEAMS |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Flag | 6-8 | 11 teams |
| Junior Tackle | 9-10 | 6 teams |
| Senior Tackle | 11-13 | 4 teams |

3. It is estimated that 80-85% of the children involved are residents of North Ridgeville. Their numbers have remained steady over the last several years.
4. Games only are held at Frontier Park on 3 fields there. They have been using that facility for 11 years. Their fields are different sizes including fields for 100 yards, 90 yards, and 70 yards. They practice at some of the school sites for which they obtain a permit from the schools.
5. They built the pavilion at Frontier Park and the City updated the restrooms. They work with the City on a series of 5 year contracts. They state that they have a pretty close relationship with the City. Their league is organized where everyone plays in a game. Their leagues go from Labor Day through mid-November and they play their final game at Ranger Field, the high school field.
6. The funding is through fees, fundraisers, and sponsors. They charge \$105 regular fee and a \$95 early bird cost. The cheering is \$75 early bird and \$85 regular fee.
7. The current storage area that they have is large enough for their activities.
8. The one improvement that is needed is crowning of the fields for improved drainage.

Appendix B – Community Input Summaries

Vision for the Future:

1. Lights on the facility
2. More children are involved and North Ridgeville continues to grow
3. A second bridge would be added.
4. They would like to develop a spring flag football program

North Ridgeville Amateur Soccer League

Met with: George Panagiotou, Vice President, Tournament Director, and travel team coach

1. This organization has been around for about 20 years. They have about 500 involved in their recreational program which is usually less in the fall due to football. Their travel teams, which is an all year program, has about 300 participants. Their numbers are rapidly growing. They use the soccer complex on Root Road and use the schools for games and practices. They are using Lear North and Liberty schools. The field at Lear North is the only 11 vs. 11 full size field in the area. They have a good relationship with the schools, especially with Bill Greene.
2. Their current complex has 7 fields of varying sizes and they rotate the use of those fields to minimize the damage to the turf.
3. Indoor practices and games are held in Rocky River at the Force, in Oberlin at Gameday, and at the Sportsplex in North Olmsted. It is \$800 per season for costs for the indoor. The travel teams have 14 boys teams and 11 girls teams.
4. The recreation leagues start at 3 year olds and have age groups in 2 year increments such as 7 and 8 year olds, 9 and 10 year olds, etc. Travel starts at U-8 and it goes up. They keep the sexes separate until age 13.
 5. They are part of the American Lights on the facility
 6. More children are involved and North Ridgeville continues to grow
 7. A second bridge would be added.
 8. They would like to develop a spring flag football program
5. and their travel leagues are joining forces with another league. Most of their travel is within 1 hour. The travel fees are \$165 yearly, including tournaments, and recreation is \$55 per season, including the uniform.
6. One of their major needs is for more fields and more parking.
7. They had a “Cornfest” kickoff tournament in which they had 55 teams. People were impressed with the soccer fields, but the parking was an issue.
8. At their soccer complex, the City cuts the grass but the league does the field lining, fertilizing, aeration and other improvements. The City does well with the mowing and some of the schools are not mowed as often as they would like. They will be spending some funds at the school sites once they work out an exclusive agreement for some of these properties.
9. They have used Victory Park and the fields were not in very good condition.
10. Other needs that they see are for some playgrounds at some of the other sites in the community and more parks that are closer to home.
11. A playground is needed at the soccer complex.

Appendix B – Community Input Summaries

12. It was noted that when they hosted their tournament, a lot of people brought dogs which can be an issue with the feeling of safety for other people at the facility and clean-up of some of the dog waste. Another issue that people have complained about is the number of people smoking in the park.
13. He also mentioned that one idea would be to put a small soccer goal in South Central Park as something that kids could play with at the park.

Vision for the Future:

1. Develop some additional large side fields on the additional land at Shady Drive Complex so that the smaller children can stay at the soccer complex and the older children could move to the Shady Drive site.
2. A recreation center that would be used by the community.
3. An indoor field with turf such as a field house that other sports could use as well, similar to Concordia in Olmsted Township.
4. There are only two 8 versus 8 fields now and the larger fields are only at the schools.
5. It was further discussed that they would have eight full sized fields so that they could rotate them, host tournaments, and provide more tourism into the community if at all possible.
6. Following the meeting, Mr. Panagiotou emailed the following: After thinking a bit more about our discussion on what the NRASL would want in terms of field space, I think as opposed to asking for a minimum of 4 8v8 fields and 4 11v11 fields, it would make most sense to request a minimum of 8 full sized fields. That way the fields could easily be adjusted according to the need at that time and would afford the opportunity to allow for two full sized teams from each of the boys and girls U13 and U14 teams to play their games simultaneously. It would also provide an opportunity to rotate and move fields a bit to prevent over use and minimize wear and tear. It would also help support our high school teams and provide enough space for our tournament currently AND to grow as well as the high school's possible opportunity to someday host the Lorain County High School Preview for all area high school teams to compete in each year!

Friends of the Parks

Met with: Becky Campbell, President
 Judy Angeline, Treasurer
 Nada Rogers, Secretary
 Morgan Rogers, Walking Trail Chair

Text provided by Friends of the Parks

The purpose of Friends of the Parks is to facilitate and support the growth and amenities that are offered for the citizens of North Ridgeville and all city parks. Their current projects are to establish and maintain an off-leash 3-5 acre dog park where canine citizens and their owners can enjoy a safe environment for exercise and recreation; to build and maintain a two mile ADA assessable trail at South Central Park with two exercise stations so that people in the community can have a local place to exercise; and to build a skate park where our kids can safely enjoy skate boarding while partaking in physical activity.

1. Green Team, formerly known as Green Fest, now also falls under the umbrella of Friends of the Park. Their goal is to encourage the city to become “green” aware and to incorporate more “green” ideas into the everyday lives of its residents.

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2. List of the facilities our organization currently uses, and our assessment of the adequacy of those facilities:
 - South Central Park – we love the Park but here is our assessment...
 - Bathrooms are often unclean! Garbage cans overflow with trash. It appears that no cleaning is done on weekends when the majority of activities and events take place
 - No recycling options available
 - Safetyville Building – Although we like the building, the security outside it is inadequate, largely due to poor lighting. Path leading to the building is very muddy during inclement weather; rain, snow etc.
 - Senior Center – we frequently make use of the Senior Center building and enjoy this facility.
 - Schools – We have utilized some of the schools for several of our fundraising events e.g. Santa/Bunny Breakfast, Bunny Breakfast and Rummage Sales.
3. Our organizations successes and failures:
 - Successes:
 - Our fundraisers and different events have been very successful and well attended by local residents as well as out of town visitors.
 - We are extremely pleased with the support of our community, including that of local businesses such as Giant Eagle, Café Ah Roma, Bob Evans and Sam’s Club.
 - Challenges: (we don’t like the word “failures”)
 - Skate Park – on hold currently due to chairperson’s health issues
 - ✓ Waiting for City’s commitment on land and location
 - Dog Park
 - ✓ Waiting for City’s decision on land and location
 - Green Team
 - ✓ Recycle containers were tossed away
4. Relationships within and outside of the community
 - We have forged excellent relationships within and outside of the community:
 - Evidenced by attendance at events and fundraisers; support by donations of monies, food supplies and gift items for raffles, by various businesses
 - We are concerned about losing support from the community as there appears to be no forward movement with any of our projects.
5. How are we funded?
 - Through fundraising, donations, and \$\$’s earned at different events
6. What is working and what is not:
 - Working...

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- Successful fundraising
 - Attendance at events
 - Support by businesses
 - Not working...
 - Postponed property approvals for our projects
7. Our relationship with the NR Parks and Recreation Dept. and how it could be improved:
- Relationship...
 - Mutual support at each other's events; cross attendance at each others meetings, exchange of ideas and volunteer assistance
 - Improved by...
 - Better communication between the parties, possibly sharing electronic meeting minutes and agendas.
8. Pretend it is ten years in the future and we are extremely pleased with what our organization and community have accomplished over the last ten years. What has happened to result in this success? What does our organizational landscape look like? What is our vision for our organization and our community?
- What has happened to result in this success?
 - Our City has a Recreation Center, an indoor swimming facility, Dog Park, Exercise Trail, Skate Park, and the City is actively engaging in "green" activities.
 - Completion of these facilities has brought together children and adults of all ages; engaging in physical activities and enjoying time together as families. This benefits 2-legged as well as 4-legged participants
 - What does our organizational landscape look like?
 - We have enjoyed continual growth; the expansion in our membership has allowed us to add to the number and scope of events we can offer, making North Ridgeville an in-demand, fun locale for residents and out of town visitors.
 - We now have more able-bodied volunteers, allowing us to work more closely with NR Parks and Recreation to make North Ridgeville a happy, healthy, desirable place to live.
 - What is our vision for our organization and our community?
 - We seek to become more involved in the Parks beyond our focus on the things we have been working towards.
 - We look for Friends of the Park to be highly recognizable and viable not only in our City but outside of our community as well
 - We look for our schools to once again be financially healthy, with new construction replacing outdated, unsafe buildings within the School District
 - We seek the community to be living "Green" ; this vision also includes our schools and businesses as well as local property owners

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What a joy it would be to have North Ridgeville designated as “Excellent with Distinction” and looked to as a role model for environmental efforts!

Additional Comments:

1. Some staff is needed at the parks on weekends.
2. Vandalism is an issue in South Central Park.
3. They have raised \$4,000 for the development of a trail.
4. They have raised \$6,000 for a dog park.
5. They currently have about 300 contacts on their mailing list that have been involved in their programs and events.
6. Two events in which they are involved include the Spookville and Spookfest programs that are held at South Central Park.
7. They would like to see a skate park in the area such as the one at North Olmsted.
8. At the end of the Vision session, the group provided drawings illustrating the development of the dog park, skate park and other improvements on the land north of the library.

August 16, 2012

North Ridgeville Police Department

**Met with: Chief Mike Freeman
Marty Garrow**

1. One of the main issues regarding police in the community is vandalism and graffiti primarily in South Central Park. This is because it is close to the Middle School and High School and a lot of kids hang out in this area after school. There is not much other crime in the community.
2. One thing they would like to be able to do is to drive by and through the parks easier. There are gates and chains at some of the parks which make it tougher to patrol. They also like to see more areas that are easier to see. Recent cameras that have been placed in the park are helping to solve some crimes but ideally they would have a direct feed to the police department rather than having to go to the site of the camera after a crime to help solve the crime. They also felt that they should have one added at the splash pad area and more views throughout the parks.
3. There is a key pad on the gate at Shady Drive Park and this works well. They would like to see more of this type of gates at other sites.
4. At Frontier Park, it is gated or chained and they do not have keys to those.
5. They would be okay with some of the parks opening after dark if there was more lighting in the parks and lighting on some of the facilities.
6. It was noted that the gazebo in South Central Park is a target for vandalism because it is a highly visible facility.
7. It was noted that many parents pick up their kids at the park instead of at the schools after school.

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8. The Police Department sponsors a safety program which is primarily held in June with six sessions in two weeks. They partner with the Lions Club on this program. 600 children are involved in this program annually.
9. It was noted that they feel that a skatepark in the community would help keep some of the kids from skateboarding where they should not.
10. There definitely need to be more things for kids to do in the community.
11. The property south of South Central Park is a potential area for expansion of the park and more development.
12. It was noted that Chaplain Palmer has a church on Leer Nagle Road and has developed a gym recently and is a good possible partner to work with the City on some programing and some gym space.
13. As family members in the community, they both felt that a pool and rec center are needed in the community.
14. The only other involvement with the Parks and Recreation Department is that they do sponsor teams at some point in the leagues in the community.
15. It was noted that the pond at Victory Park is something that would be a good asset for the community to be able to use. They do have an issue with only the one entrance at Victory Park for the fireworks. They felt that it worked better at South Central Park because people parked all over the area and there was no one central area that they all have to park.
16. They noted that the City does not have enough manpower to properly maintain the parks and they need some better aesthetics in them as well. They also felt that some lights at the tennis and basketball courts would be ideal.

North Ridgeville Branch Library

**Met with: Karen Sigsworth
Toni Whitney**

1. Toni is the Assistant Director/Supervisor of Branch and operates for the Lorain Public Library System.
2. The current North Ridgeville Branch Library is nine years old and encompasses approximately 27,500 s.f. They currently have a five year operating levy only which operates through 2014 and the facility capital costs has been paid for through bond funds. It is very well used and the facility is adequate for now. Overall they have seen a 35% decrease in funding for libraries throughout the state since 2007 and they rely on local support.
3. They do have a security guard during after-school hours because of the many children that will come here right after school because it is so close to the Middle School. They have tried some after-school programs, but there were too many kids and it was disruptive to others trying to use the library. There is some room for improvement in their Young Adult areas so that those teens and young adults have more activities and programs offered to them. Nashville, Tennessee is one of the best examples of a teen area and they have a 300,000 s.f. library and a very large teen and young adult area.
4. They are currently in the process of conducting training of their staff for hospitality and customer service. A detailed funding history of libraries in the state can be looked at the Ohio Library Council website at www.olc.org.

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5. They currently do not charge for any programs and this is one problem with having others use their space for programs. They do not allow charges so that is why there are currently no recreation programs in the facility. The summer camps in South Central Park do use the facility occasionally, especially in bad weather situations.
6. They have a very high use of their meeting rooms. The facility is designed to expand toward the City Hall area to the west if ever needed.
7. It was noted that if there is any development in the park or in the land that is owned by the City around the library, that they would prefer that the library parking lot not be used to support those park facilities.

Council Members and City Administration

Met with: **Roseanne Johnson, Council Member**
 Jeff Armbruster, Safety Service Director
 David Gillock, Mayor
 Bernadine Butkowski
 Kevin Corcoran, Council Member
 Nancy Buescher, Council Member
 Bob Olesen, Council Member
 Tara Peet, Assistant Clerk of Council

This is the summary of three separate meetings of these individuals.

These individuals provided a wide variety of recommendations for improvements to the parks to include the following:

1. Use the Master Plan to generate successful applications for more grant funding.
2. An outdoor community pool is needed in the community with a lazy river and other activities.
3. Elyria Memorial Hospital (EMH) has a fitness facility on Lorain Road that is used by some members of the community and there could possibly be some partnership with EMH, the YMCA, schools, and the community in developing an indoor recreation facility for the community.
4. Need more bike and walking trails throughout the community. Discussion of developing trails connecting the proposed multi-use trail on the south side of Center Ridge Road to connect the eastern edge of the community to the Sandy Ridge Metro Park and then possibly extending up to Lorain County Community College. There is already a grant in place to connect Center Ridge Road to South Central Park. There was some discussion that some of the funding needed for this trail was higher than it should be.
5. The group is in agreement that the additional 22 acres at Shady Ridge Complex should be expanded for more sports facilities and there was discussion of purchasing additional land in the area to possibly move all of the sports facilities to this one site. In that case, there was discussion of taking the other parks and making them more neighborhood related types of activities such as walking trails, picnic shelters, and playgrounds.
6. At Shady Ridge there was discussion of developing more T-ball fields in the back since this program is growing. This facility also needs two more lighted diamonds for baseball. There had been a road plan to go through the western edge of this property at one time.

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7. At Sough Central Park, some of the improvements are that the gazebo needs to be a more attractive architectural element in the community. It works well as a bandstand area.
8. The basketball and tennis courts in the park are heavily used, especially the basketball courts, and they need to be maintained better.
9. There are 2,500 home development applications that have been approved and this will result in at least another 5,000 – 7,000 people. We need to look at that number, build out with the population currently at about 30,000 it could be as much as 45,000 to 50,000 and need to plan for that.
10. The property at the corner of Route 83 and Center Ridge Road should be developed as a center of the community focal point. There was discussion of developing a clock tower, fountain and landscaping, water gardens, possibly using an EPA grant. They would not want a gazebo at this site.
11. Parks need to be expanded in the community.
12. It should be considered that in the future some of the homeowner association pools might have difficulty and need to be taken over by the community.
13. Some of the land east of South Central Park was developed on fly ash to make it more difficult to develop. There is also a gas well on some of the land that is east of the Shady Ridge Complex that needs to be considered.
14. Some of the group talked about expanding South Central Park to the south. They discussed that this site was the site of several greenhouses and could have some environmental impact costs which could be significant. Also the price for the land is extremely high in most of this group's opinion.
15. There is a YMCA in Avon which meets some of the need in the area.
16. There was discussion of more community use of Victory Park and the Consultant should look at the agreements with the Victory Sports Complex to see how better use of this facility could be had.
17. There is a lack of sidewalks in the community that makes it difficult to get around, therefore more trails are needed to interconnect some of the neighborhoods, parks, schools, etc.
18. The Senior Center needs to be expanded with a larger multi-purpose room, new offices, and just generally better facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department also needs a better office type facility and could possibly be a redevelopment on the existing site.
19. Some of those in attendance did not like the idea of a dog park being developed within a residential area.
20. It was requested that more adult activities are needed in the community.
21. The single use parks, such as sport complexes, are an issue because they do not provide for the general public's general needs.
22. Need a series of long trails.
23. There was also a discussion of the fact that recreation baseball does not have enough competition associated with it. They feel that the coaching could be better.
24. Need more time and space availability for adult fitness activities such as yoga, Pilates, and other workouts. The Safetyville facility is too small and a larger facility would be ideal.

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25. There was discussion of the need for more County park land within the City area and that the percentage is lower than it should be.

Senior Citizens

Met with: **Dave Zarrelli**
 Rita Price, Director of Office for Older Adults
 Kale Curp
 Della Dorow
 Robert Schmittgen
 Tom Hejduk

1. Currently this group has about 800 people on their address list. They have good attendance at their programs and activities and the number of people that attend their facilities varies on a daily basis. They do rent the multi-purpose room out to the public for various functions and events. Most of the funding comes from the City for salaries and building costs.
2. They currently serve about 550 people for Meals on Wheels with lunch. There are seven routes for Meals on Wheels which can go up to 33 miles.
3. Some of their members go to Elyria Memorial Hospital facility in Avon. Currently the cost is \$65-\$75 per month.
4. It was noted that the Silver Sneaker Program in Avon is free for those members.
5. Probably 75% - 80% of the people in their organization are residents of North Ridgeville.
6. This group felt that if there was a levy to further support their programs that it would pass.
7. Parks and Recreation Department does not do that much with the senior citizens as they do their own programing.
8. The spaghetti dinner is one of their larger fundraisers.
9. The group discussed the survey that is on line and they requested that a printable version of this be made available for some of their members that do not have access to a computer and this will be done.

Vision for the Future:

1. One of the items discussed for the Vision for the Future would be their own building which would have a multi-purpose space, offices, storage areas, and a larger kitchen. Ideally it would be near a park so that it could coincide with some outdoor activities such as a seniors only walking trail that is safe to walk on for people with lessor abilities so that they would not need to compete with rollerbladers, skateboarders, and bicycles. There should be benches along the trail as well.
2. If the park could have some senior area activities such as Bocce courts, shuffleboard, and other activities that would be ideal as well.
3. In the facility an area for home theater for movies would be beneficial.
4. The whole area should have high ceilings for some of their activities.
5. It was noted that you could possibly tear down the existing Park and Recreation Office and Senior Center and replace it on that same location with a new facility.

North Ridgeville City Baseball Boosters

Met with: **Dennis Tenney**
Ron Nehadal

1. The Boosters are basically a group of all of the parents of the children playing in the baseball league with nine officers. Most of their fundraisers are from running the concession stand at the Shady Drive site.
2. At one time there were as many as 1,000 children in the program and currently there are about 750.
3. They pay \$45-\$55 and annually raise \$3,000 – \$4,000 net after their expenses. They also raise funds for their picture day, raffles and other activities. This group recently helped with the development of the batting cages and the concession improvements at the Shady Drive Complex.
4. It was noted that the cooperation with the City is getting better and ideally that some of the communications could be quicker.
5. It was noted that the baseball fields are under used currently. They used to start their baseball program in June through July and now the start in May and end earlier in July. Sign-ups are currently in February and they were too early and they think that this has hurt some of their numbers. The program is actually a City run program and the Boosters support the programs.
6. They feel that some of the travel teams have too many games that are held outside of the City and more of them should be held in the community. Especially for the girls softball.
7. There are no men's or coed softball at the site at the current time and the Parks and Recreation Department is trying to start a new league. Some of the adults prefer to go to a facility where they can drink beer and they cannot on City property.
8. They have a tough time getting some of the boosters to run the concession areas.
9. The various leagues are the following age groups, E is age 15-18, F is 13-14, G is 11-12, H is 9-10, Coaches Pitch is 7-8 and T-ball is 5-6. These are all boys. For girls, there is a Pony League of 8-10 year olds, Minors 11-13 year olds, and Majors are 14-18 year olds.
10. It was noted that the Mini Rangers Football Program practice on fields 3 and 4 in the outfield.
11. It was noted that there is a lot of wasted space between fields 2 and 3 in the outfield area.

Vision for the Future:

1. Improvements to their facilities.
 - Including separating baseball and softball fields so that they can have better baseball fields.
 - Adding two to three more fields.
 - Developing a paved walking path down the center of the complex starting at fields 3 and 4.
 - Avoid parking on the grass and along the road which can be dangerous and relocate some of the parking areas.

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- Currently fields 3 and 4 are lighted and they think that three more field should be lighted.
- Need a pavilion by fields 1 and 2.
- Need sunscreens on the dugouts.
- Need bigger backstops and netting on field 5 to make it safer on adjacent fields.

North Ridgeville City Schools

Met with: Larry Brown, Superintendent
Norre Okurma, Athletic Director
Biagio Sidot, Treasurer
Bill Greene, Business Services

1. Currently the schools use the tennis courts in South Central Park in the fall and spring and some programs for schools use the pavilion for their activities. The schools also use the batting cages at the Shady Drive Complex. The City uses the gyms, mainly at the High School for some of the basketball programs and also a Father Daughter Dance and fencing program at the Middle School and Junior Rangers Basketball in the schools as well.
2. Some of the soccer fields at Lear, North Wilcox, Field and Sweet, and Liberty Schools are used by the soccer organization, this is a recent development. They have had to limit some of the use of the community due to funding and cut some of the Sunday use of their facilities as well because of the cost. When the City uses their facilities, they are only asked for the cost of the custodial time which could be \$30-\$40 per hour.
3. Their High School football field is used for the Super Bowl for the Youth Football League and also for the Police Officers Charity Football game which is held every two years in the City here.
4. It was noted that there are only four gyms in the City and three of those are at the schools and the other is at St. Peters School.
5. The Bidy Wrestling is a huge program that takes place in their schools and does not have any participation by the City, but is done through the schools.
6. They have noticed that there is some demand among their students for a swimming and hockey program and have also seen several communities in the area that have had lacrosse programs requested.
7. They have had three reduction plans for their costs in the schools and currently there are about 4,000 students in the schools.
8. The schools are currently in the process of a long range facilities master planning process of which there are several alternatives on the table at this point. They hope to have a final plan completed in December.
9. Many of the building facilities are old and need to be completely replaced.
10. They see a potential partnership between the schools, YMCA, EMH, and the City in developing a community recreation center like some other communities have done throughout the state.

Parks and Recreation Department Staff

Met with: Frank Vacha, Program Director
Debbie Toth, Receptionist and Administrative Assistant

1. Mr. Vacha is in charge of the youth and community events up to age 19. Mr. Vacha has been with the program for one year and Ms. Toth has been with the City for 18 years, but 16 years with the Parks and Recreation Department.
2. Some of the biggest requests that they receive are for an outdoor pool.

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3. The splashpad has been very popular and only the first phase has been developed. This facility is a water to waste, the water is not recirculated but it is City water.
4. Generally it is felt that there is a lack of trails in the community and a lot more are needed. The old Q line rail line extends up to Lake Erie and could be a possibility for the development of some trails under the power line towers.
5. There is some improvement in partnering with the schools, service clubs, and Metro Parks in the development of some facilities. The community should promote the Sandy Ridge Metro Park more throughout the City so that more people know it is there to take advantage of.
6. They have recently started a program of paying to reserve shelters. Currently they are reserved in two hour blocks at \$15 for two hours. Non-residents pay \$25 for a two hour period. This has worked out great and has provided some income and has reduced the need for people to camp out at the site and spend all night there or get there very early in the morning and basically tying up the shelter all day. Now multiple groups can use it in the same day. Most people have been very favorable to this.
7. It was also noted that the community could market some of their programs better.
8. It is felt that the residents in the community should not have to leave the community for recreation activities and programs. It is also noted that more adult programs are needed. They have cancelled their flag football program because not enough people signed up, but if the people who called in late would have signed up on time they would have been able to have the program. They are constantly trying to look at potential new programs.
9. There is a potential for interaction with some of the high school students in both programs and as volunteers for some of the programs.
10. They would like to see some of the islands in the South Central Park parking lot taken out to get more parking spaces and because they are not maintained very well.

Vision for the Future:

1. Move all sports to the Shady Drive Complex and add some basketball courts at that site as well. Pave the parking lots at that site so that they can reduce some of the dust problems.
2. A joint use indoor recreation facility like the one in Fairview.
3. A separate operating levy solely for parks and recreation.

Grounds Maintenance

Met with: Gary Teal

1. Mr. Teal has been with the City for 16 years. They currently have four full time and one part time (one seasonal, one year round) staff. They maintain about 175 acres including three cemeteries, 13 ball diamonds and five different park locations. The headquarters is in the Shady Drive Complex.
2. They do need more space in the building for their trucks.
3. They currently have one full time mechanic who basically is working full time on equipment to keep them up and running.
4. They do use some community service labor but it is limited in the abilities that they have available to them.

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5. They do not have the people to do landscaping and anything other than basic maintenance.
6. They also do some improvements in some of the other facilities throughout the community such as recently the renovation of the conference room in City Hall.
7. They have done some significant field maintenance such as sand slitting some of the football fields about five years ago.
8. They do have a seasonal summer employee that cleans the restrooms and empties trash cans on Saturdays and Sunday mornings in the parks.
9. They have three ASME Union employees that are combined with some of the service department staff.

Vision for the Future:

1. More activities for seniors.
2. Lighting more ball fields and adding grass infields for solely baseball fields at Shady Drive Complex and some new practice football fields.

Garden Club of North Ridgeville

Met with: Brenda Lett

1. The Garden Club currently has about 30 members and they started in 1985. They do maintain the garden in front of the Old Town Hall facility and this basically maximizes their abilities for staffing of an area.
2. They raise funds through a plant sale where they divide the plants. They raised about \$1,000 last year. They also have some bake sales, dues are \$20 per year. Their activities include garden tours and other activities. They meet monthly.
3. They feel they might be able to maintain some landscaping at the corner of Route 83 and Center Ridge Road.
4. They also have helped in the past to sponsor some scholarships, but recently have had a difficult time finding students interested in horticulture and garden related professions. They have changed their funding to the Care Award which is a curb appeal recognition event to award those individuals in the community who have done a good job throughout the year maintaining appealing landscapes.

Vision for the Future:

1. Develop some walking signs in the community with some landscaping. These could possibly be adopted by various organizations for maintenance.
2. Enforce the signage laws because some of the businesses have way too many signs and more landscaping is required around some facilities.
3. Get the people to keep their trash cans out of sight at their homes.
4. Requirement throughout the City that no one can park on grass.
5. Publicize some of the businesses that are cited for non-maintenance to embarrass them into doing a better job on maintaining their facilities.
6. Get a younger membership base which is more able to help with some of the landscaping and gardens on public sites and also just to keep their program going.

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7. Need more hiking trails throughout the community. Ms. Lett is a member of the Cleveland Hiking Club which basically meets every day.

Rotary Club, Friday August 17, 2012

Met with the Rotary Club at noon and had a short discussion of issues and visions that they would like to see in the future. The following items were discussed:

1. Need a pool that people of all ages and abilities would want to use.
2. Community needs a recreation center.
3. Nature programs would be ideal.
4. They love the splash pad and it could be enlarged.
5. Need a dog park.
6. Need more soccer fields.
7. Need more sports practice fields.
8. Need winter sports activities.
9. Improve the South Central Park parking lot and make it bigger. The whole park needs to be bigger.
10. Provide a caution light at the park entrance on Route 83 to South Central Park.
11. Upgrade the athletic fields for tournaments.
12. Upgrade the high school football field. It is one of the worst in the area.
13. Develop a good relationship between the City and the schools and combine some parks and school facilities.
14. Need a place for an ice rink, even if it is a paved pad that could be frozen in the winter.
15. Need more fish in the pond at South Central Park.
16. Need a lower rail on the fishing pier on the front.
17. Light the paths throughout South Central Park.
18. Need a skate park in the community.
19. Need more police visibility throughout the park system so that people feel safer in the parks.
20. Expand the events such as the fishing derby in the community and expand the visibility of police at these activities as well.

Girl Scouts Representative Marie Bell Mazucca-Registrar

1. There currently are 345 girls within the Girl Scout Program, which are age kindergarten through high school. Most of these troops are sponsored through the various church groups.
2. There is a wide variety of programs for community service, including clean ups in the parks with the Parks and Recreation Department, helping at the Senior Center and other programs.

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3. They use Sandy Ridge Metro Park, French Creek Park and others for some of the activities for the girls, the bridging ceremony, and for their badges. They also use the Great Lakes Science Center, which is very well set up for their badge labs.
4. They are part of the Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio
5. There are five new troops this year.
6. Some of the leaders of the group meet at the North Ridgeville Branch at the Lorain Library.
7. South Central Park is also used for badge labs, picnics, play groups and the splash pad.
8. It was noted the staff at the Parks and Recreation Department, especially Kevin and Frank, are good at building community relationships.
9. All of their girls are North Ridgeville residents.
10. The Girl Scouts are involved with Green Fest, which is a good event in the community.
11. Need to look at the timing of some of the events in the community so they don't compete with other activities.

September 27, 2012

Lions Club

Met with Kevin McNulty and Dick Brant

1. The Lions club is very active with 36 members. They meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.
2. Their involvement with the Parks and Recreation Department currently consists of assistance with the Spookfest Event and sponsorships of youth sports teams. They also help the Seniors with the Spaghetti Dinner and other activities.

Vision for the Future:

1. Indoor, centrally locate recreation center with pool, banquet rooms, kitchen, walking track, weight rooms, cardio machines, seniors and Parks and Recreation offices, and possibly a gymnastics area. Should be a very basic facility to start with.
2. Walking and bike trails.
3. More winter activities for kids and adults.

Pioneer Ridge by Del Webb Senior Living Community

Met with: Laurie Kortowich, Lifestyle Director, and George Gorman, Property Manager

1. The community currently has 374 homes with a maximum of 582 lots available. They have approximately 625 residents.
2. They have a 14,500 s.f. recreation center with meeting rooms, fitness/cardio room, 3 lane indoor pool and hot tub, locker rooms, and outdoor areas with 2 tennis courts, putting green, 2 bocce ball courts, pool and playground. They also have about 2,800' of paved trail.
3. One must own a home to use the facilities.
4. The use of the recreation center is included with their maintenance fees which range from \$181-\$211 per month based on lot size and \$244 per month for the villa homes (2 attached units).

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5. They have group fitness classes for which the residents pay a fee and if the City were to host some they could possibly get some of the residents to them as they cannot host enough.
6. The community is age restricted with at least one member of each residence over age 55.
7. They are beginning to coordinate with the Parks and Recreation Department to cross market programs. They have hosted some concerts and events on their property, primarily as a vehicle to gain more exposure. They have also hosted pre-program events and then participated in activities from the Parks and Recreation Department.
8. The City started a community garden recently and 45 of the 60 plots are residents of Pioneer Ridge. All extra produce is given to Community Care.
9. Pickleball is a popular activity for them and at other Del Webb communities. It is similar to tennis with a slightly lower net and smaller court with wood paddles instead of racquets and uses a ball like a wiffle ball.
10. A banquet center is needed in the community.
11. They could use a large picnic shelter for at least 60 people.
12. Their residents may become involved in community service projects or as volunteers. They have great experience that could be used in community education classes.
13. Inter-generational activities are very highly desired.
14. Below are results from a 2010 Lifestyle Amenity Survey of Del Webb residents with provides some perspective on the desires of their residents and others across the country.

LIFESTYLE AMENITY TRENDS

Amenity Influence on Buying Decision: Amenities continue to have heavy influence on the buying decision. The Del Webb Baby Boomer survey from December 2009 validated their importance. In this survey, prospective buyers ranked amenities among their top three most important considerations in selecting a retirement home.

Amenity Priorities among Del Webb Residents: The 2010 Del Webb lifestyle trends survey of Lifestyle Directors & HOA Managers examined amenity priorities among residents. The ballroom/multi-purpose room, fitness center and swimming pool emerged as the top three most important indoor amenities based on usage levels. Outdoors, the pool, golf course and walking trails ranked as the top three. Summary results in both categories are shown below.

Appendix B – Community Input Summaries

| DEL WEBB INDOOR AMENITIES | DEL WEBB OUTDOOR AMENITIES |
|---|--|
| AVERAGE RANKINGS BY PRIORITY LEVEL | AVERAGE RANKING BY PRIORITY LEVEL |
| (1=Low Priority, 5=High Priority) | (1=Low Priority, 5=High Priority) |
| Ballroom/Multi-Purpose Rooms: AVG=4.86 | Outdoor Pool: AVG=4.88 |
| Fitness Center Equipment Area: AVG=4.84 | Golf Course: AVG=4.43 |
| Indoor Pool: AVG=4.60 | Walking Trails: AVG=4.23 |
| Arts & Crafts Room: AVG=4.23 | Pickleball: AVG=4.08 |
| Social Lounge: AVG=4.14 | Bocce Courts: AVG=3.98 |
| Library/Computer Room: AVG=4.14 | Tennis Courts: AVG=3.70 |
| Aerobic Studio: AVG=4.13 | Picnic Pavilion: AVG=3.64 |
| Spa: AVG=4.08 | Garden Plots: AVG=3.58 |
| Catering Kitchen: AVG=4.05 | Child's Playground: AVG=2.79 |
| Coffee Bar: AVG=3.81 | |
| Billiards: AVG=3.72 | |
| Indoor Track: AVG=3.60 | |
| Walking Track: AVG=3.60 | |
| Resident Business Center AVG=3.48 | |

Most Frequently Requested Amenities: In the 2010 trends survey, Del Webb Lifestyle Directors were asked to identify indoor amenities not currently available at their community that were routinely or somewhat routinely requested by their residents. The Top 5 most requested are shown below. A ballroom or expanded multi-purpose room emerged as number one. Outdoors, pickleball courts ranked as the amenity requested most frequently. Summary results are shown below. HOA Management should work in close association with their HOA Board to understand the potential and appropriate process for any new amenities to be considered at a later date.

Appendix B – Community Input Summaries

| TOP 5 MOST REQUESTED INDOOR AMENITIES | | TOP 5 MOST REQUESTED OUTDOOR AMENITIES |
|--|--|---|
| | | |
| 1. Ballroom or Expanded Multi-Purpose | | Pickleball Courts |
| 2. Restaurant or Snack Shop * | | Horseshoe Pits |
| 3. Woodworking Facility | | Dog Park |
| 4. Aerobics Studio–Dedicated Space | | Garden Plots |
| 5. Billiards Room | | Softball Field |

(NOTE: Although restaurants and snack bars are amenities Del Webb residents and prospects usually find desirable, these facilities have historically been difficult to operate on an in-house basis without financial loss. Communities considering integration of food & beverage services should first ensure the resident population is sufficient in size to support them. Pursuit of outsourcing relationships that minimize operating loss is also encouraged.)

- **Emerging Amenity Trends:** Age-targeted residential properties and public park & recreation “senior centers” are beginning to offer new amenities or incorporate unique design components geared toward a more youthful generation of older adults. Amenities might include a large-scale health & wellness center with a gymnasium, pool, spa, walking track and massage studio, ballroom and/or activity rooms. More contemporary offerings beginning to emerge include resistance pools, gardens, demonstration kitchens, auditoriums, wireless cafes and dedicated game rooms for playing Wii.

Playgrounds for Seniors: Over the past six years, outdoor senior playgrounds have been constructed on at least four continents. As organizations increase focus on Boomers soon to turn 65, potential for expansion of senior playgrounds in US public parks and in senior living environments may potentially evolve. Although not yet seen in the United States, the concept has been introduced throughout China, Japan, England, Germany and British Columbia. Senior playgrounds can include slides and jungle gyms, sport courts, balance beams, workout stations and other fitness oriented apparatus designed specifically with older adults in mind. The concept is geared to building muscle, reducing fat, improving coordination, speed and balance while promoting socialization among users.

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
NORTH RIDGEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
PROJECT NO.: 12054**

**MET WITH: Parks and Recreation Board
Kevin Fougousse, Parks and Recreation Director**

BY: Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA

**BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS**

August 22, 2012

Mr. Hoagland met with the Parks and Recreation Board, which is the initial Steering Committee for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Hoagland reviewed the schedule and tentative agendas for the future meetings. There was also discussion of additions to the Steering Committee with a list provided by Kevin Fougousse, Parks and Recreation Director. This list included representatives from baseball, football, soccer, Friends of the Parks, and others. This makes the group up to eleven individuals. It was agreed upon by the Board Members that these individuals should be invited to be part of the Master Plan Steering Committee and they can be invited to attend the next meeting, which will be on September 26 at 6:00 p.m. At that meeting, Mr. Hoagland will discuss a summary of the stakeholder meeting groups, public workshops, some of the needs analysis, demographics and other information as background information for the Steering Committee.

It was reported that 395 of the web surveys have been completed so far. These will be maintained online through the end of September.

It was also noted that the Park Board workshops are typically on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Following these discussions, Mr. Hoagland led a brainstorming session in which the Board Members were asked the following questions:

1. What do you like about Parks and Recreation in North Ridgeville?
 - The number of fields at Shady Drive and all the ball fields are at one complex.
 - The South Central Park area which is convenient to the community, accessible, and you can walk to the schools.
 - All the soccer and football complexes are also individual use facilities where people do not have to drive all over town.
 - The restroom additions that have been added to the parks recently.
 - The flexibility of the soccer complex to move the fields around.
 - The new features in South Central Park including the splash pad, and all the other activities in the park.
 - Having a playground at Shady Drive Park.
 - Online registration process, which is working pretty well.
 - The newsletters.
 - The parks are clean; the community takes pride in the parks and low crime rate. The parks are also well maintained.

Appendix B – Community Input Summaries

- The variety of programs that are offered and that are good for people ages youth to senior citizens.
 - Low cost of programs.
2. What don't you like or what is missing from Parks and Recreation in North Ridgeville?
- Shady Drive should be a park that provides more than just baseball fields. It is locked after baseball season and sometimes at 4:30 during the day it is locked.
 - More parking is needed at Frontier Park and the Soccer Complex.
 - Need more to do in Frontier Park and the Soccer Complex.
 - Need a place to swim in the community.
 - Need a long term trail system to provide some loop trails within the parks as well as interconnections between parks, schools, and neighborhoods.
 - The parking at Shady Drive is dangerous with the parking right off the driveway.
 - They are currently outgrowing the space for the sports fields.
 - Need more basketball courts.
 - Missing concessions at many of the parks.
 - Need more parking at South Central Park and possibly some parking at the entrance off Route 83.
 - Need an indoor facility for indoor recreation, banquets, etc. There is a lack of banquet facilities within the community, for example, the Taste of North Ridgeville is actually held out of town.
 - Accessibility to the parks, both for age and any kind of accessibility, is an issue.
3. Pretend it is 2022 and you are very pleased with the parks and recreation opportunities that have been provided in North Ridgeville. What has happened in the last ten years to make North Ridgeville a great place to live, to work and to play?
- Recreation Center is developed with game courts, gymnasium, banquet hall, kitchen, fitness area, walking track, and more.
 - The parks are more accessible.
 - There is trail system that links parks, schools and neighborhoods.
 - A dog park is developed.
 - A good recycling and ecofriendly park system
 - Ample parking and acreage for all parks.
 - Parks are well maintained.
 - The parks are inviting.
 - There are more events held in the parks.
 - There is an entertainment venue, such as an amphitheater, for programs in the parks.
 - Music programs are provided.
 - More park land and parks are provided.
 - There are neighborhood parks in conjunction with the schools.
 - Work with the developers to provide neighborhood parks in the subdivisions in some of the 20 percent open space which they are required to provide.
 - More staff for programs and maintenance.
 - Larger and better office space for the Parks and Recreation Department.
 - There is a dedicated source of funding for the parks and recreation.
 - The community obtains grants for park development and for programs.

Appendix B – Community Input Summaries

- New facilities are LEED accredited.
- There are corporate sponsors for some of the facilities and programs.
- There is a permanent source of funding.
- Some of the parks are destination parks.

Patrick D. Hoagland

Patrick D. Hoagland 9/4/2012

PDH/slp

Cc: Kevin Fougerousse

North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Survey



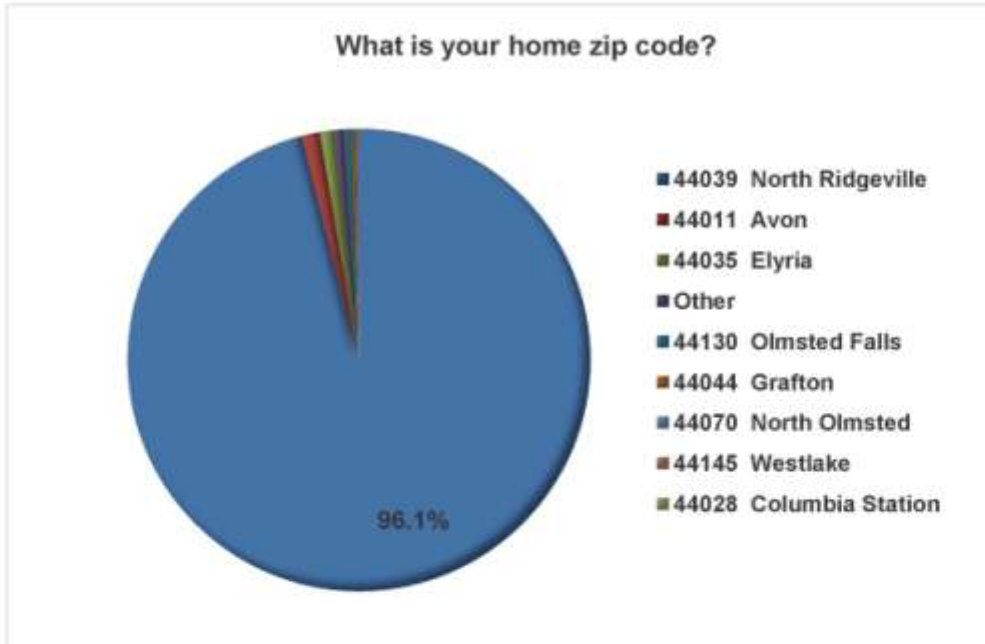
1. What is your home zip code?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 44039 North Ridgeville | | 96.1% | 591 |
| 44035 Elyria | | 1.0% | 6 |
| 44011 Avon | | 1.3% | 8 |
| 44145 Westlake | | 0.0% | 0 |
| 44070 North Olmsted | | 0.2% | 1 |
| 44130 Olmsted Falls | | 0.5% | 3 |
| 44028 Columbia Station | | 0.0% | 0 |
| 44044 Grafton | | 0.3% | 2 |
| Other | | 0.7% | 4 |
| | Other (please specify) | | 4 |
| answered question | | | 615 |
| skipped question | | | 0 |

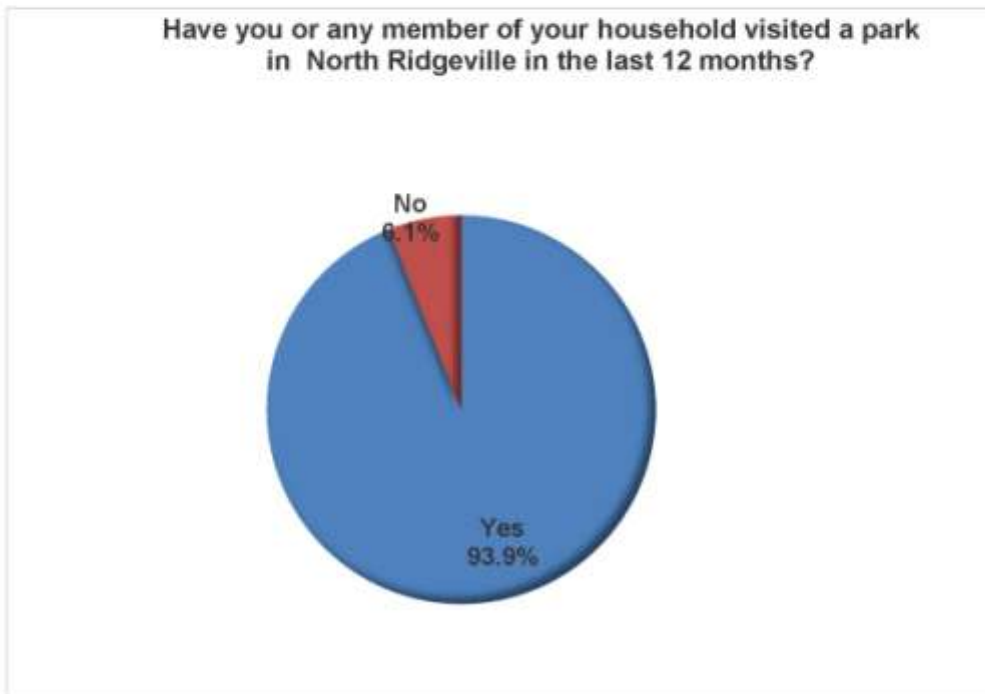
2. Have you or any member of your household visited a park in North Ridgeville in the last 12 months?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| Yes | | 93.9% | 573 |
| No | | 6.1% | 37 |
| answered question | | | 610 |
| skipped question | | | 5 |

Question 1



Question 2



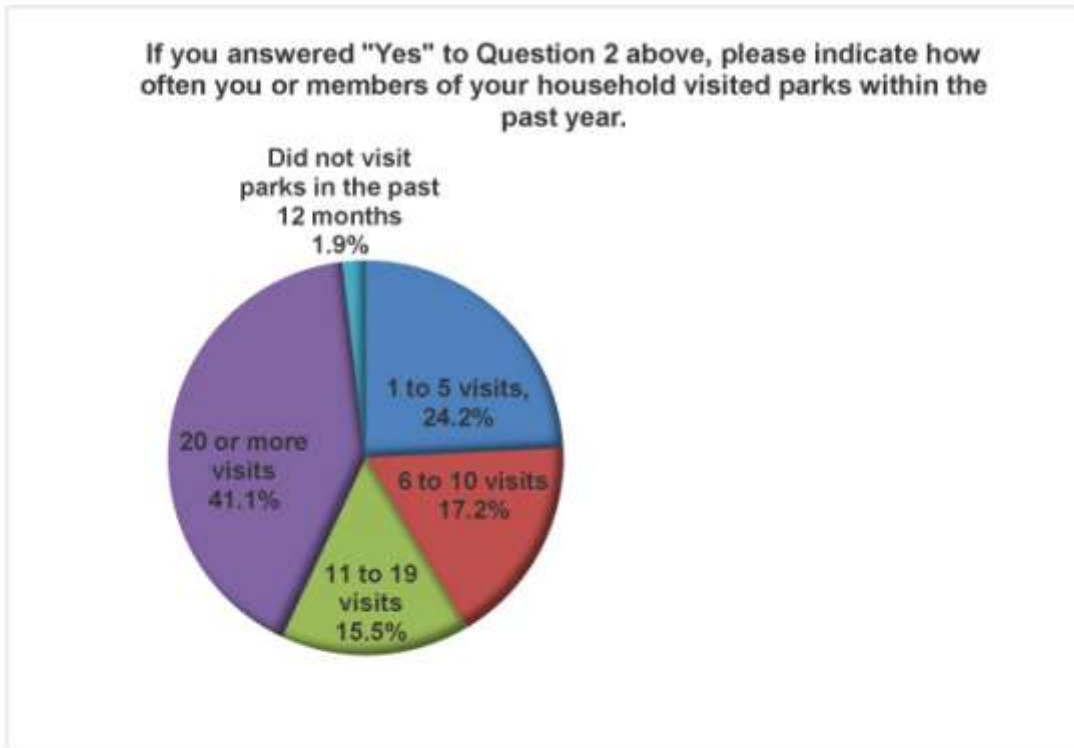
3. If you answered "Yes" to Question 2 above, please indicate how often you or members of your household visited parks within the past year.

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1 to 5 visits | | 24.2% | 142 |
| 6 to 10 visits | | 17.2% | 101 |
| 11 to 19 visits | | 15.5% | 91 |
| 20 or more visits | | 41.1% | 241 |
| Did not visit parks in the past 12 months | | 1.9% | 11 |
| | | answered question | 586 |
| | | skipped question | 29 |

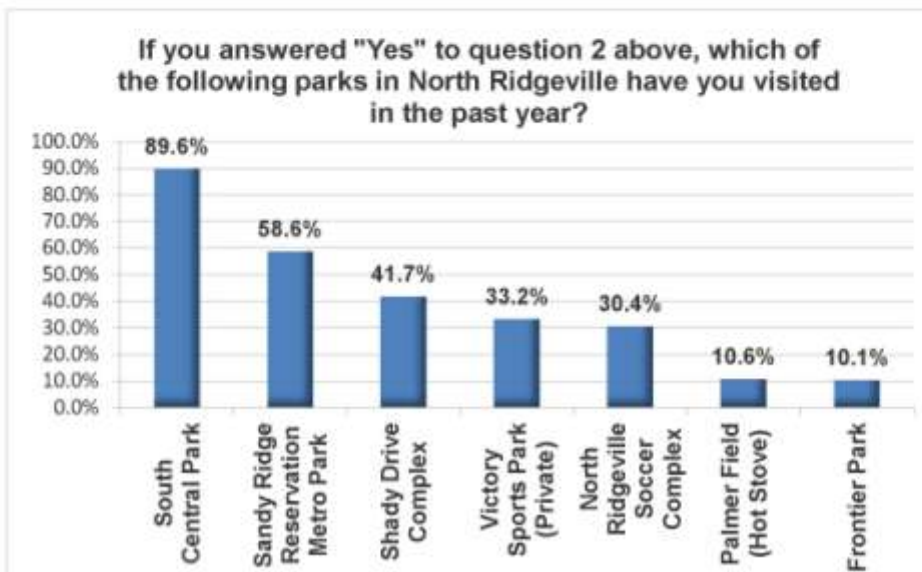
4. If you answered "Yes" to question 2 above, which of the following parks in North Ridgeville have you visited in the past year?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| South Central Park | | 89.6% | 515 |
| Shady Drive Complex | | 41.7% | 240 |
| North Ridgeville Soccer Complex | | 30.4% | 175 |
| Frontier Park | | 10.1% | 58 |
| Palmer Field (Hot Stove) | | 10.6% | 61 |
| Victory Sports Park (Private) | | 33.2% | 191 |
| Sandy Ridge Reservation Metro Park | | 58.6% | 337 |
| | | answered question | 575 |
| | | skipped question | 40 |

Question 3







Question 4



Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

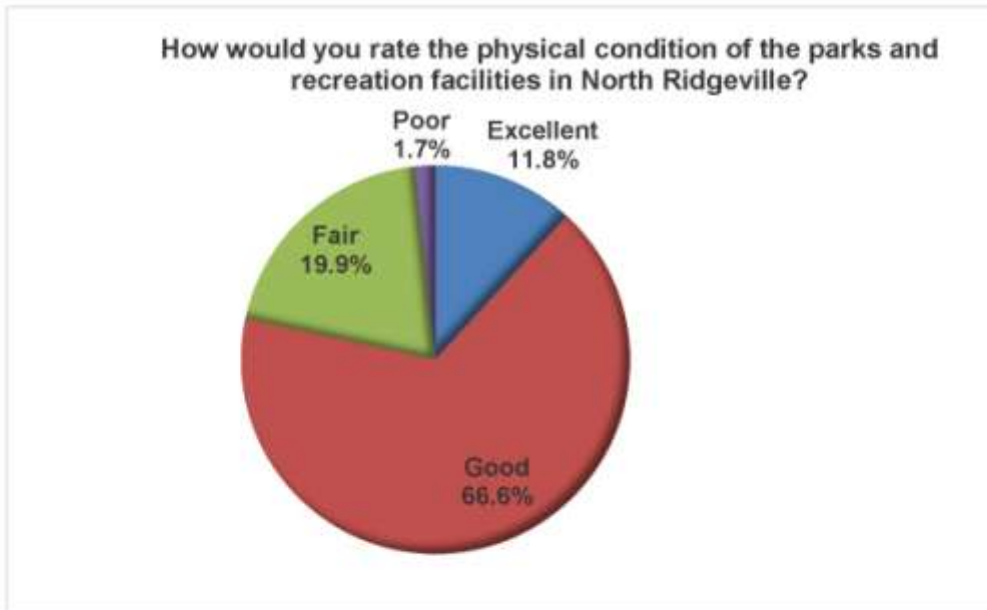
5. How would you rate the physical condition of the parks and recreation facilities in North Ridgeville?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| Excellent |  | 11.8% | 69 |
| Good |  | 66.6% | 388 |
| Fair |  | 19.9% | 116 |
| Poor |  | 1.7% | 10 |
| answered question | | | 583 |
| skipped question | | | 32 |

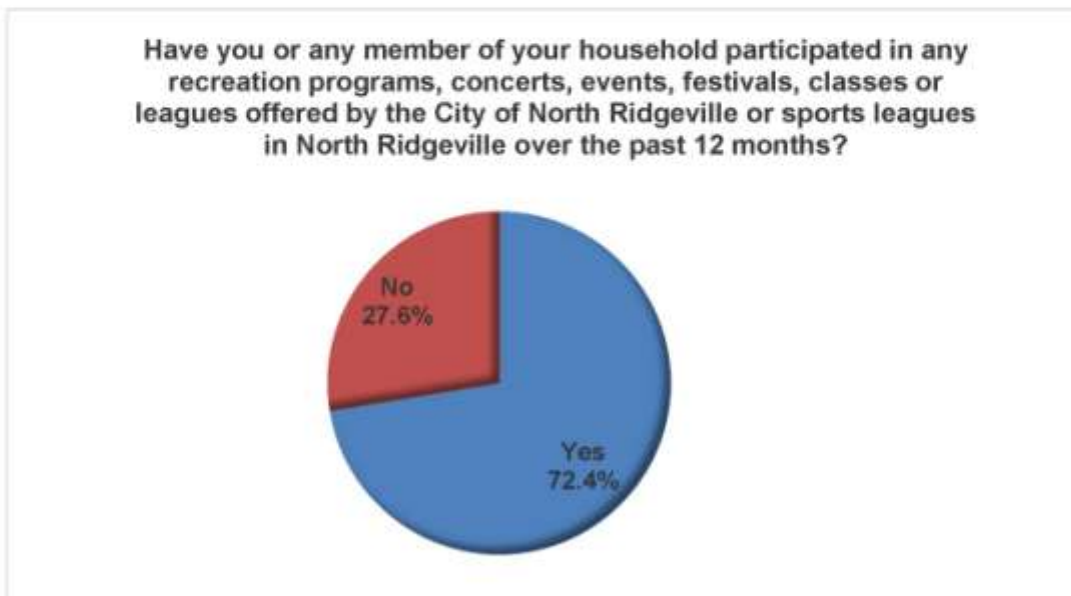
6. Have you or any member of your household participated in any recreation programs, concerts, events, festivals, classes or leagues offered by the City of North Ridgeville or sports leagues in North Ridgeville over the past 12 months?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| Yes |  | 72.4% | 441 |
| No |  | 27.6% | 168 |
| answered question | | | 609 |
| skipped question | | | 6 |

Question 5








Question 6





Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

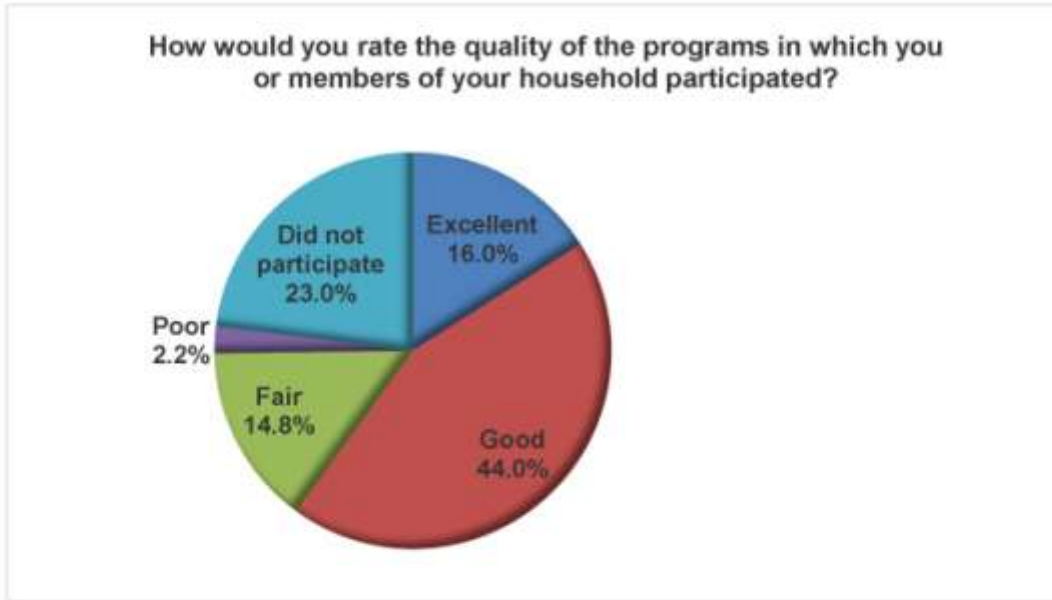
7. How would you rate the quality of the programs in which you or members of your household participated?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| Excellent |  | 16.0% | 94 |
| Good |  | 44.0% | 259 |
| Fair |  | 14.8% | 87 |
| Poor |  | 2.2% | 13 |
| Did not participate |  | 23.0% | 135 |
| answered question | | | 588 |
| skipped question | | | 27 |

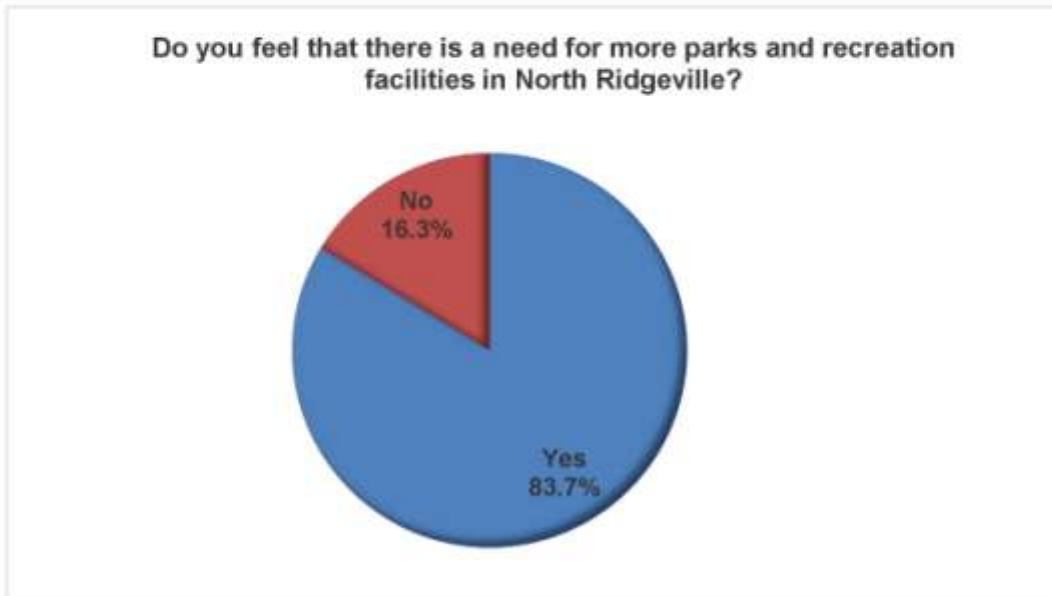
8. Do you feel that there is a need for more parks and recreation facilities in North Ridgeville?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| Yes |  | 83.7% | 503 |
| No |  | 16.3% | 98 |
| answered question | | | 601 |
| skipped question | | | 14 |

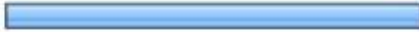

Question 7








Question 8



9. Have you or a member of your household visited a public outdoor swimming pool or aquatic center outside of North Ridgeville in the past year?

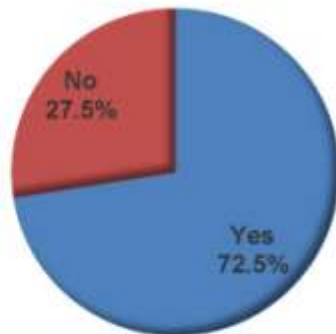
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| Yes |  | 72.5% | 444 |
| No |  | 27.5% | 168 |
| answered question | | | 612 |
| skipped question | | | 3 |

10. If you answered "Yes" to Question 9 above, please indicate how often you or members of your household visited an outdoor aquatic center or swimming pool outside of North Ridgeville within the past year.

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|---|------------------|----------------|
| 1 to 5 visits |  | 25.0% | 136 |
| 6 to 10 visits |  | 19.8% | 108 |
| 11 to 19 visits |  | 13.8% | 75 |
| 20 or more visits |  | 22.0% | 120 |
| Did not visit an outdoor pool or aquatic center in the past 12 months |  | 19.4% | 106 |
| answered question | | | 545 |
| skipped question | | | 70 |

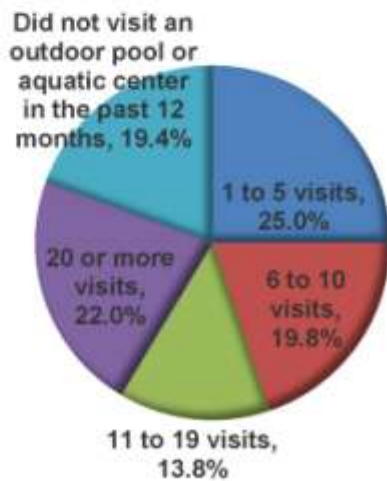
Question 9

Have you or a member of your household visited a public outdoor swimming pool or aquatic center outside of North Ridgeville in the past year?





Question 10






If you answered "Yes" to Question 9 above, please indicate how often you or members of your household visited an outdoor aquatic center or swimming pool outside of North Ridgeville within the past year.



11. Have you or a member of your household visited a public indoor recreation center outside of North Ridgeville in the past year?

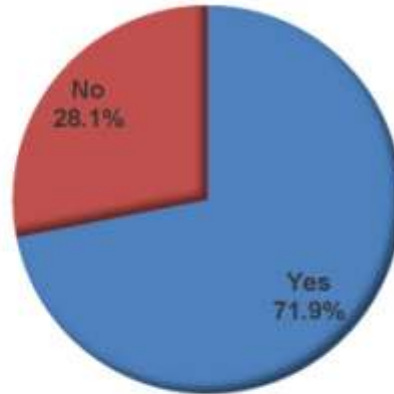
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| Yes |  | 71.9% | 434 |
| No |  | 28.1% | 170 |
| answered question | | | 604 |
| skipped question | | | 11 |

12. If you answered "Yes" to Question 11 above, please indicate how often you or members of your household visited an indoor public recreation center outside of North Ridgeville within the past year.

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|---|------------------|----------------|
| 1 to 5 visits |  | 25.3% | 134 |
| 6 to 10 visits |  | 15.1% | 80 |
| 11 to 19 visits |  | 12.1% | 64 |
| 20 or more visits |  | 30.0% | 159 |
| Did not visit an indoor recreation center in the past 12 months |  | 17.5% | 93 |
| answered question | | | 530 |
| skipped question | | | 85 |

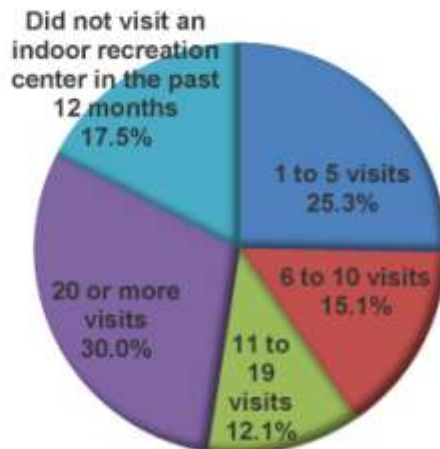
Question 11

Have you or a member of your household visited a public indoor recreation center outside of North Ridgeville in the past year?



Question 12

If you answered "Yes" to Question 11 above, please indicate how often you or members of your household visited an indoor public recreation center outside of North Ridgeville within the past year.

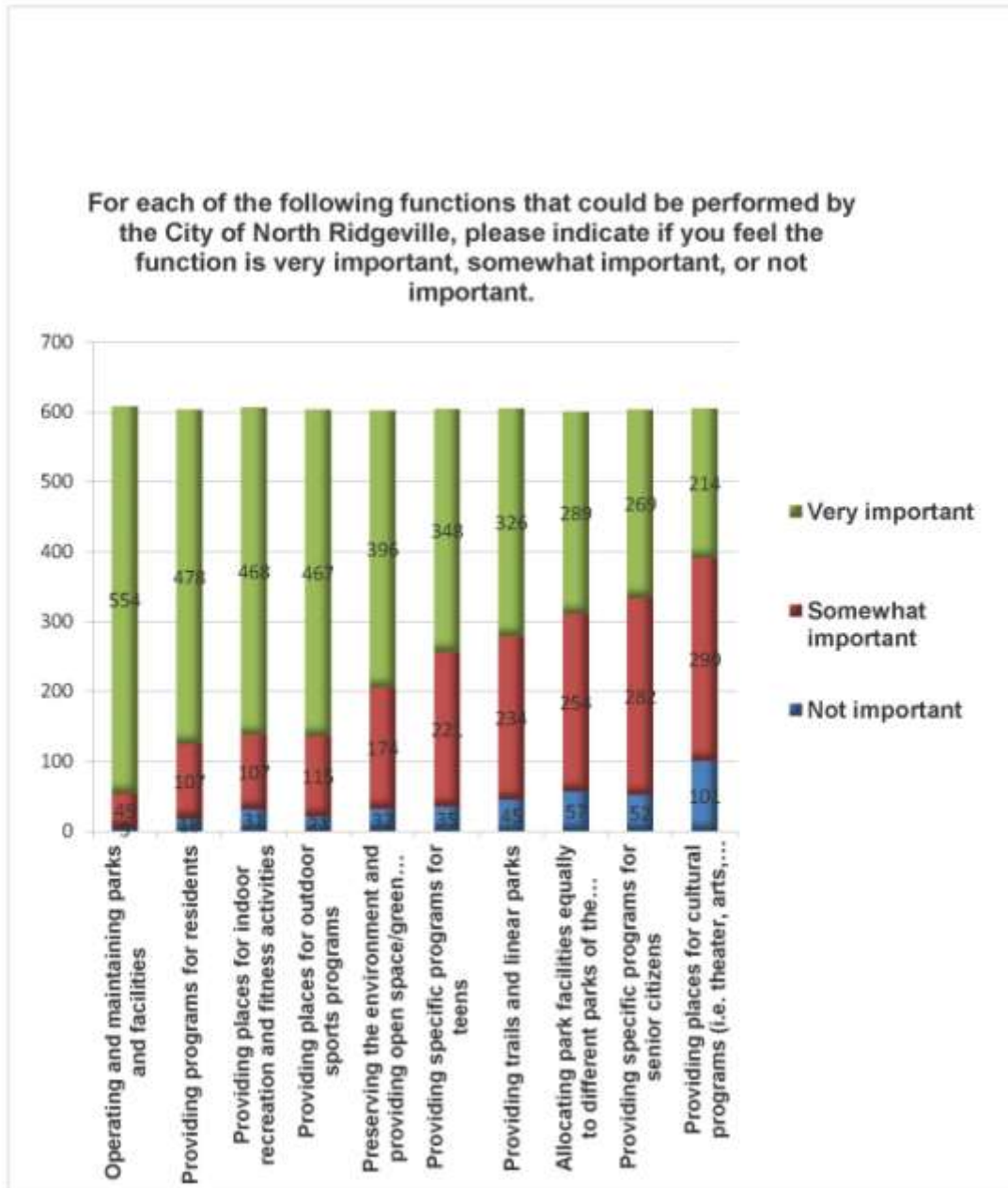


Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

13. For each of the following functions that could be performed by the City of North Ridgeville, please indicate if you feel the function is very important, somewhat important, or not important.











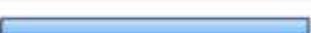









| | Very important | Somewhat important | Not important | Response Count |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Providing places for outdoor sports programs | 77.4% (467) | 19.1% (115) | 3.5% (21) | 603 |
| Providing places for indoor recreation and fitness activities | 77.2% (468) | 17.7% (107) | 5.1% (31) | 606 |
| Providing programs for residents | 79.3% (478) | 17.7% (107) | 3.0% (18) | 603 |
| Operating and maintaining parks and facilities | 91.1% (554) | 8.1% (49) | 0.8% (5) | 608 |
| Allocating park facilities equally to different parks of the community | 48.2% (289) | 42.3% (254) | 9.5% (57) | 600 |
| Providing trails and linear parks | 53.9% (326) | 38.7% (234) | 7.4% (45) | 605 |
| Providing places for cultural programs (i.e. theater, arts, dance) | 35.4% (214) | 47.9% (290) | 16.7% (101) | 605 |
| Providing specific programs for senior citizens | 44.6% (269) | 46.8% (282) | 8.6% (52) | 603 |
| Providing specific programs for teens | 57.6% (348) | 36.6% (221) | 5.8% (35) | 604 |
| Preserving the environment and providing open space/green space | 65.8% (396) | 28.9% (174) | 5.3% (32) | 602 |
| | | | answered question | 609 |
| | | | skipped question | 6 |

Question 13






Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

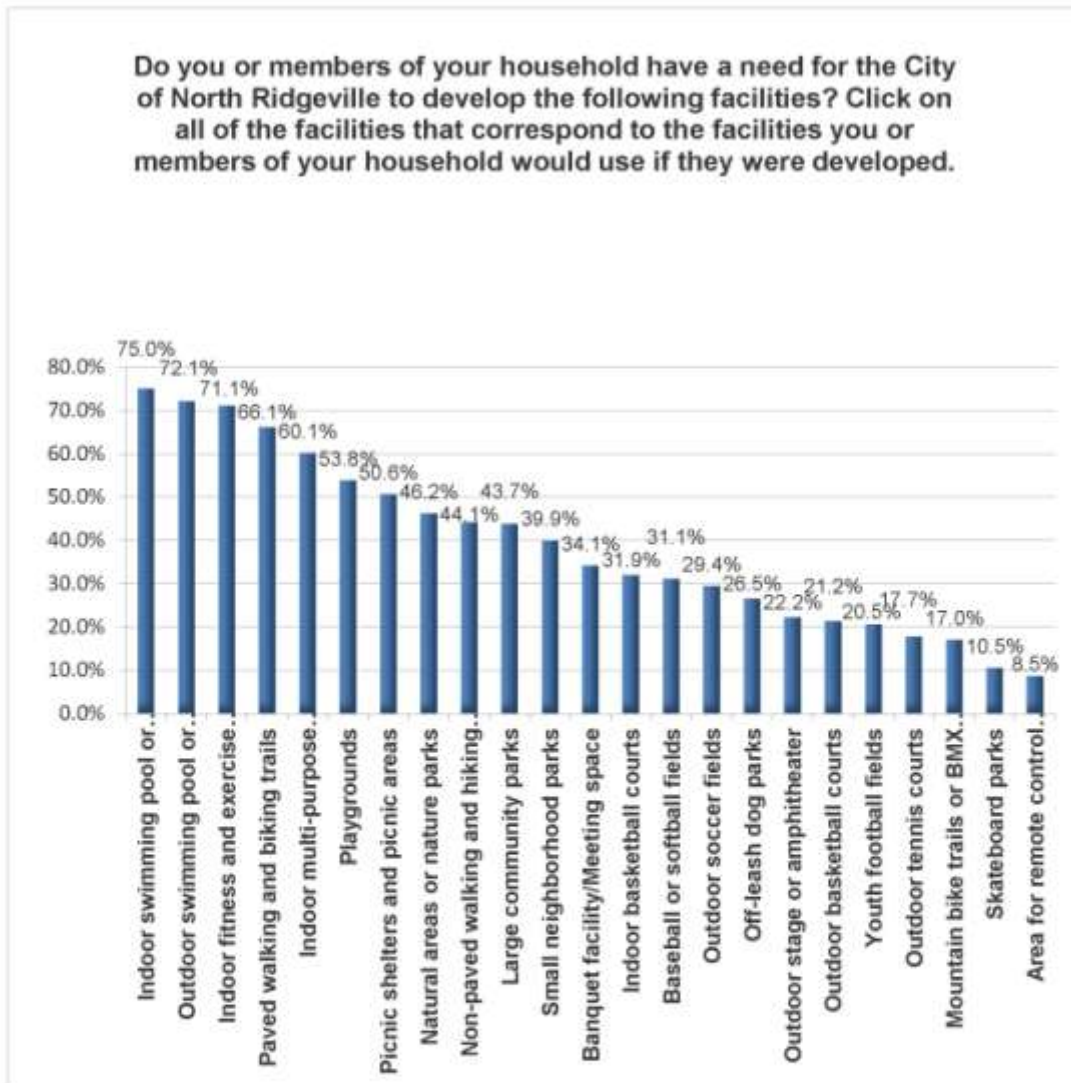
14. Do you or members of your household have a need for the City of North Ridgeville to develop the following facilities? Click on all of the facilities that correspond to the facilities you or members of your household would use if they were developed.

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|--|------------------|----------------|
| Small neighborhood parks |  | 39.9% | 239 |
| Large community parks |  | 43.7% | 262 |
| Baseball or softball fields |  | 31.1% | 186 |
| Youth football fields |  | 20.5% | 123 |
| Outdoor soccer fields |  | 29.4% | 176 |
| Off-leash dog parks |  | 26.5% | 159 |
| Non-paved walking and hiking trails |  | 44.1% | 264 |
| Paved walking and biking trails |  | 66.1% | 396 |
| Mountain bike trails or BMX track |  | 17.0% | 102 |
| Natural areas or nature parks |  | 46.2% | 277 |
| Playgrounds |  | 53.8% | 322 |
| Picnic shelters and picnic areas |  | 50.6% | 303 |
| Skateboard parks |  | 10.5% | 63 |
| Outdoor swimming pool or aquatic center |  | 72.1% | 432 |
| Outdoor stage or amphitheater |  | 22.2% | 133 |
| Outdoor tennis courts |  | 17.7% | 106 |
| Indoor multi-purpose community center |  | 60.1% | 360 |
| Indoor basketball courts |  | 31.9% | 191 |
| Indoor swimming pool or water park |  | 75.0% | 449 |
| Indoor fitness and exercise facilities |  | 71.1% | 426 |





















Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

| | | | |
|--|---|-------|------------|
| Area for remote control planes, cars, etc. |  | 8.5% | 51 |
| Outdoor basketball courts |  | 21.2% | 127 |
| Banquet facility/Meeting space |  | 34.1% | 204 |
| answered question | | | 599 |
| skipped question | | | 16 |

Question 14



Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

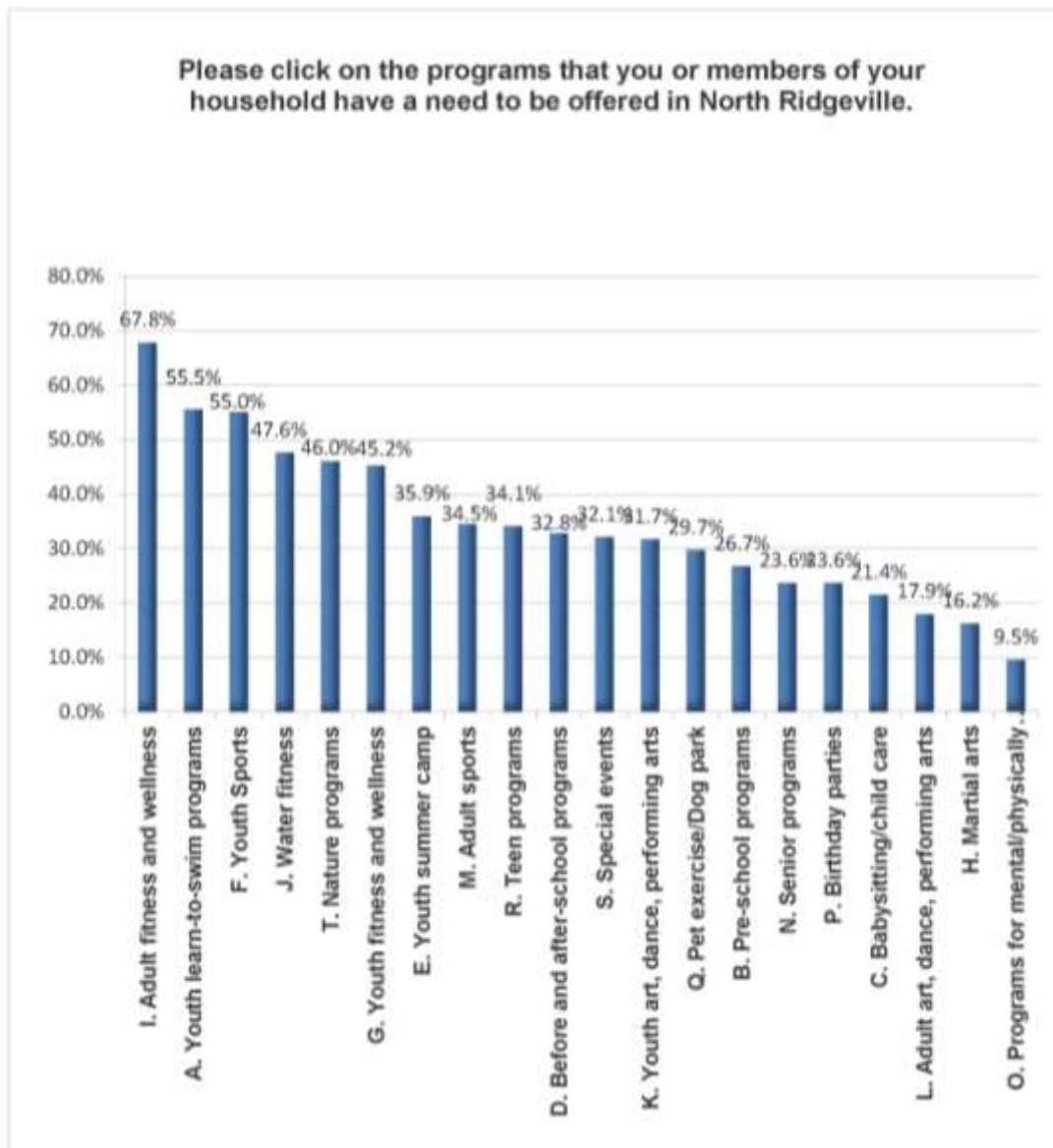
| 15. Please click on the programs that you or members of your household have a need to be offered in North Ridgeville. | | | |
|--|---|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| A. Youth learn-to-swim programs |  | 55.5% | 322 |
| B. Pre-school programs |  | 26.7% | 155 |
| C. Babysitting/child care |  | 21.4% | 124 |
| D. Before and after-school programs |  | 32.8% | 190 |
| E. Youth summer camp |  | 35.9% | 208 |
| F. Youth Sports |  | 55.0% | 319 |
| G. Youth fitness and wellness |  | 45.2% | 282 |
| H. Martial arts |  | 16.2% | 94 |
| I. Adult fitness and wellness |  | 67.8% | 393 |
| J. Water fitness |  | 47.6% | 276 |
| K. Youth art, dance, performing arts |  | 31.7% | 184 |
| L. Adult art, dance, performing arts |  | 17.9% | 104 |
| M. Adult sports |  | 34.5% | 200 |
| N. Senior programs |  | 23.6% | 137 |
| O. Programs for mental/physically challenged |  | 9.5% | 55 |
| P. Birthday parties |  | 23.6% | 137 |
| Q. Pet exercise/Dog park |  | 29.7% | 172 |
| R. Teen programs |  | 34.1% | 198 |
| S. Special events |  | 32.1% | 186 |
| T. Nature programs |  | 46.0% | 267 |

Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

Other (please specify) 31




















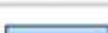

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| answered question | 580 |
| skipped question | 35 |

Question 15



Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

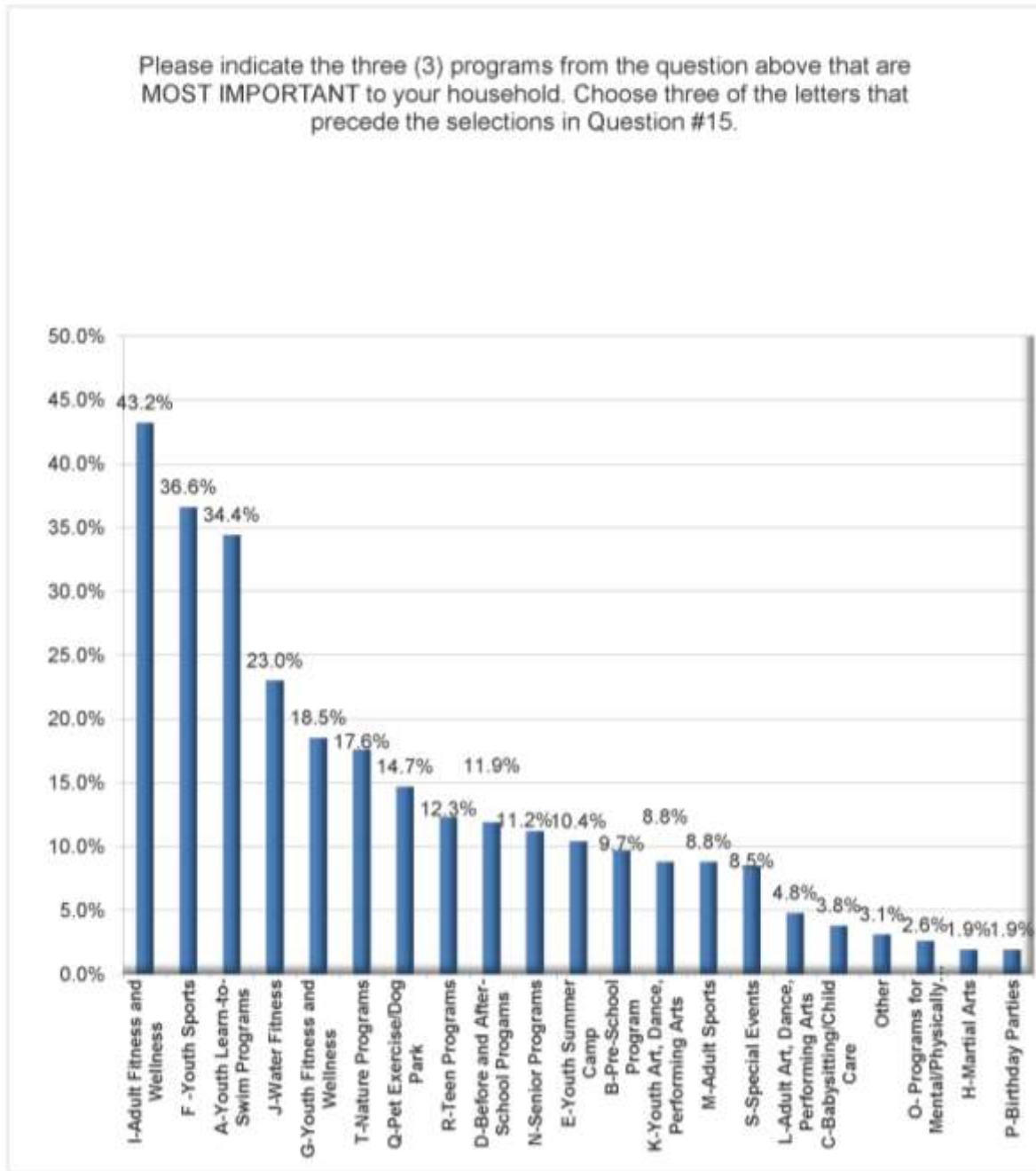
16. Please indicate the three (3) programs from the question above that are MOST IMPORTANT to your household. Choose three of the letters that precede the selections in Question #15.

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-------|---|------------------|----------------|
| A |  | 34.4% | 199 |
| B |  | 9.7% | 56 |
| C |  | 3.8% | 22 |
| D |  | 11.9% | 69 |
| E |  | 10.4% | 60 |
| F |  | 36.6% | 212 |
| G |  | 18.5% | 107 |
| H |  | 1.9% | 11 |
| I |  | 43.2% | 250 |
| J |  | 23.0% | 133 |
| K |  | 8.8% | 51 |
| L |  | 4.8% | 28 |
| M |  | 8.8% | 51 |
| N |  | 11.2% | 65 |
| O |  | 2.6% | 15 |
| P |  | 1.9% | 11 |
| Q |  | 14.7% | 85 |
| R |  | 12.3% | 71 |
| S |  | 8.5% | 49 |
| T |  | 17.6% | 102 |
| Other |  | 3.1% | 18 |

Appendix C – Web Survey Summary










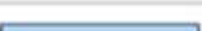









| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| answered question | 579 |
| skipped question | 36 |

Question 16







Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

17. Listed below are potential improvements that could be made to existing parks. Please check ALL the improvements you would most like to have made to parks in North Ridgeville.

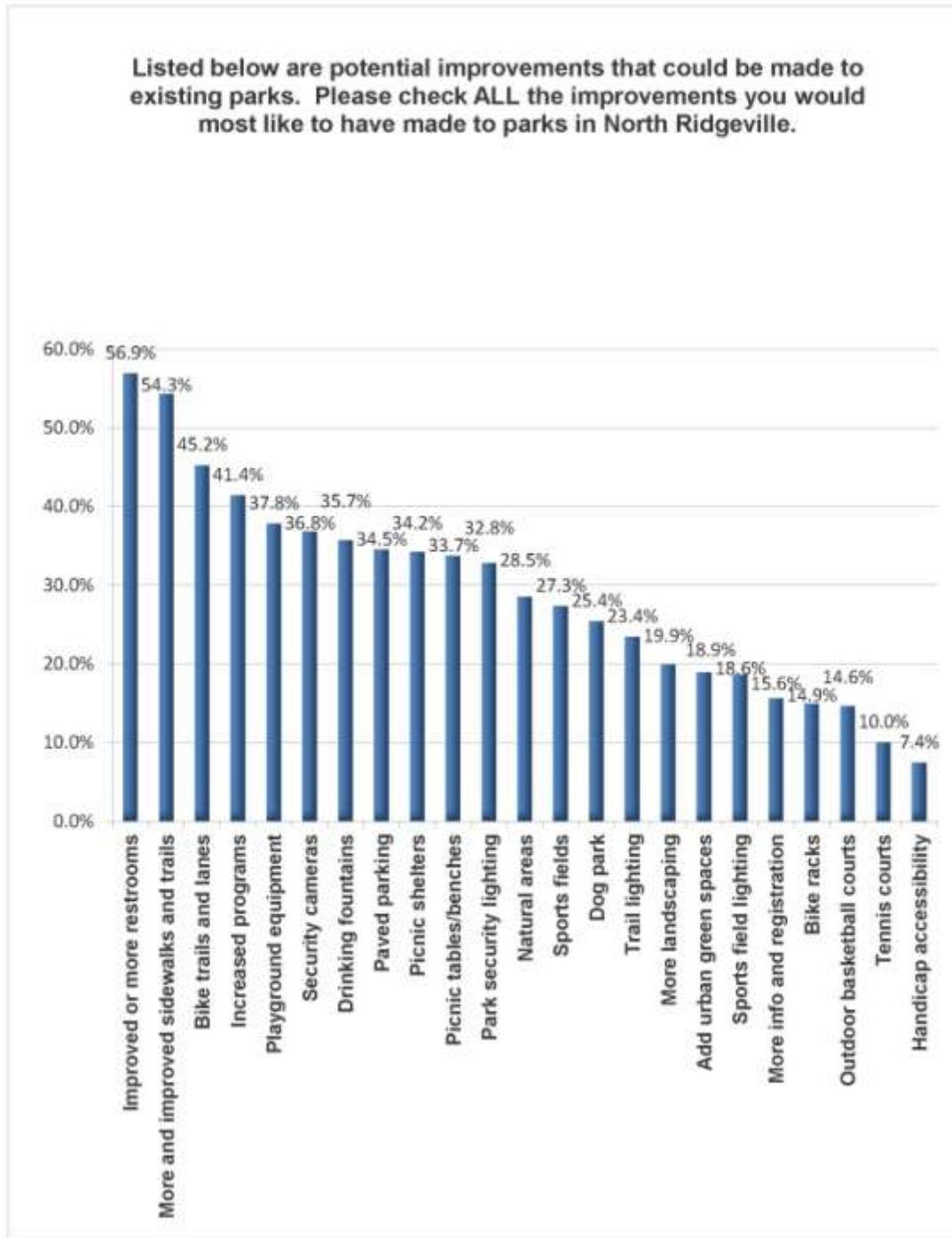
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|---|------------------|----------------|
| Paved parking |  | 34.5% | 201 |
| More and improved sidewalks and trails |  | 54.3% | 316 |
| Drinking fountains |  | 35.7% | 208 |
| Improved or more restrooms |  | 56.9% | 331 |
| Trail lighting |  | 23.4% | 136 |
| Natural areas |  | 28.5% | 166 |
| Tennis courts |  | 10.0% | 58 |
| Playground equipment |  | 37.8% | 220 |
| Bike racks |  | 14.9% | 87 |
| Picnic shelters |  | 34.2% | 199 |
| Picnic tables/benches |  | 33.7% | 196 |
| Outdoor basketball courts |  | 14.6% | 85 |
| Sports fields |  | 27.3% | 159 |
| Sports field lighting |  | 18.6% | 108 |
| Handicap accessibility |  | 7.4% | 43 |
| Park security lighting |  | 32.8% | 191 |
| Security cameras |  | 36.8% | 214 |
| More landscaping |  | 19.9% | 116 |
| Increased programs |  | 41.4% | 241 |

Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|------------|
| More info and registration |  | 15.6% | 91 |
| Add urban green spaces |  | 18.9% | 110 |
| Dog park |  | 25.4% | 148 |
| Bike trails and lanes |  | 45.2% | 263 |
| | | Other (please specify) | 59 |
| | | answered question | 582 |
| | | skipped question | 33 |

Question 17

Listed below are potential improvements that could be made to existing parks. Please check ALL the improvements you would most like to have made to parks in North Ridgeville.



Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

18. If you had \$100 in new funding, how would you allocate the \$100 among the following type North Ridgeville? Choose from the pull-down menus in each box. (Please be sure your total ad

Dollars

| | \$0 | \$10 | \$20 | \$30 | \$40 | \$50 | \$60 |
|---|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Acquisition of land for open space/green space / future park land | 23.7% (51) | 29.8% (64) | 20.5% (44) | 9.3% (20) | 4.7% (10) | 8.8% (19) | 0.5% (1) |
| Development of walking and biking trails | 11.3% (32) | 30.9% (87) | 27.0% (76) | 12.1% (34) | 4.3% (12) | 7.1% (20) | 1.4% (4) |
| Improvements/maintenance of existing parks, playgrounds, and picnic areas | 9.6% (27) | 38.4% (108) | 26.3% (74) | 11.4% (32) | 2.8% (8) | 7.8% (22) | 0.0% (0) |
| Improvements/construction of new game fields (i.e. softball, soccer, baseball, football, etc.) | 23.9% (51) | 30.5% (65) | 18.8% (40) | 6.6% (14) | 6.1% (13) | 9.9% (21) | 0.9% (2) |
| Development of new outdoor family aquatic center | 7.8% (31) | 9.8% (39) | 11.6% (46) | 11.4% (45) | 10.4% (41) | 26.3% (104) | 4.3% (1) |
| Development of new outdoor parks and recreation facilities (i.e. playgrounds, shelters, etc.) | 17.5% (41) | 37.6% (88) | 27.8% (65) | 9.4% (22) | 2.1% (5) | 4.3% (10) | 0.0% (0) |
| Development of new indoor recreation facilities (i.e. gyms, exercise equipment, activity rooms, etc.) | 5.1% (21) | 9.2% (38) | 15.0% (62) | 16.0% (66) | 10.0% (41) | 24.0% (99) | 4.9% (2) |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |





Question 18

If you had \$100 in new funding, how would you allocate the \$100 among the following types of parks and recreation facilities and services in North Ridgeville?

| Answer Options | Average Expenditure | Rank |
|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| Development of new outdoor family aquatic center | \$43.48 | 1 |
| Development of new indoor recreation facilities (i.e. gyms, exercise equipment, activity rooms, etc.) | \$42.28 | 2 |
| Development of walking and biking trails | \$23.90 | 3 |
| Improvements/maintenance of existing parks, playgrounds, and picnic areas | \$20.82 | 4 |
| Improvements/construction of new game fields (i.e. softball, soccer, baseball, football, etc.) | \$19.58 | 5 |
| Acquisition of land for open space/green space / future park land | \$19.07 | 6 |
| Development of new outdoor parks and recreation facilities (i.e. playgrounds, shelters, etc.) | \$16.41 | 7 |

Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

19. How strongly would you support a recreation tax to fund the development and operation of the types of parks, recreation, trails, programming, facilities and activities that are most important to you and members of your household?

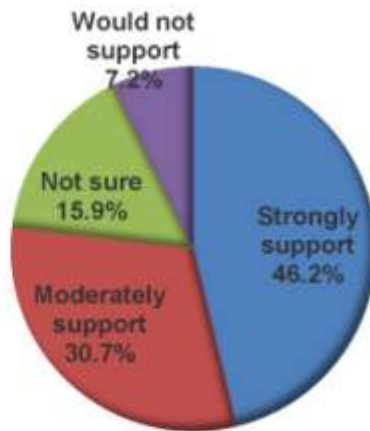
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| Strongly support |  | 46.2% | 276 |
| Moderately support |  | 30.7% | 183 |
| Not sure |  | 15.9% | 95 |
| Would not support |  | 7.2% | 43 |
| answered question | | | 597 |
| skipped question | | | 18 |

20. What is your age?

| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| 14 years old or under |  | 0.2% | 1 |
| 15-19 years old |  | 0.3% | 2 |
| 20-24 years old |  | 0.7% | 4 |
| 25-34 years old |  | 19.1% | 115 |
| 35-44 years old |  | 43.8% | 263 |
| 45-54 years old |  | 17.3% | 104 |
| 55-64 years old |  | 11.1% | 67 |
| Over 65 years old |  | 7.5% | 45 |
| answered question | | | 601 |
| skipped question | | | 14 |

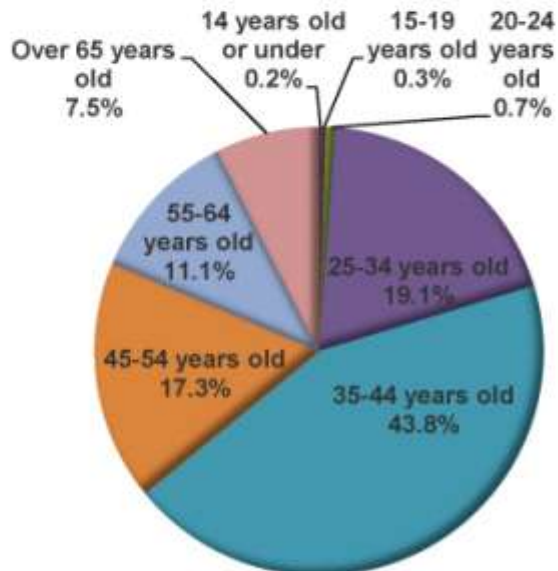
Question 19

How strongly would you support a recreation tax to fund the development and operation of the types of parks, recreation, trails, programming, facilities and activities that are most important to you and members of your household?



Question 20

What is your age?





21. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are of the following ages?

Household members

| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | n |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------|-------|
| 0-9 years old | 9.8% (36) | 38.0% (140) | 37.5% (138) | 12.0% (44) | 2.7% (10) | |
| 10-19 years old | 14.2% (38) | 46.1% (123) | 31.1% (83) | 6.7% (18) | 1.9% (5) | |
| 20-34 years old | 16.4% (35) | 44.1% (94) | 39.4% (84) | 0.0% (0) | 0.0% (0) | |
| 35-44 years old | 8.1% (28) | 36.9% (128) | 55.0% (191) | 0.0% (0) | 0.0% (0) | |
| 45-54 years old | 19.2% (35) | 48.9% (89) | 31.9% (58) | 0.0% (0) | 0.0% (0) | |
| 55-64 years old | 28.9% (35) | 46.3% (56) | 24.8% (30) | 0.0% (0) | 0.0% (0) | |
| 65-74 years old | 47.9% (45) | 31.9% (30) | 20.2% (19) | 0.0% (0) | 0.0% (0) | |
| 75 or over | 70.0% (49) | 21.4% (15) | 8.6% (6) | 0.0% (0) | 0.0% (0) | |
| | | | | | | answe |
| | | | | | | skipp |

22. What is your gender?

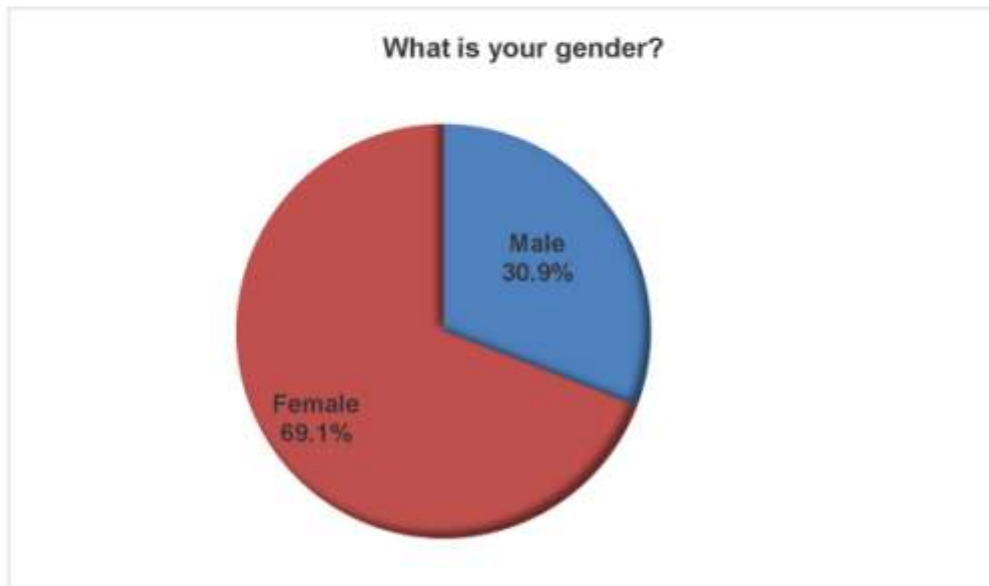
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|----------------|
| Male |  | 30.9% | 184 |
| Female |  | 69.1% | 412 |
| answered question | | | 596 |
| skipped question | | | 19 |

Question 21

Counting yourself, how many people in your household are of the following ages?

| Answer Options | Representing |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 0-9 years old | 588 |
| 10-19 years old | 363 |
| 20-34 years old | 262 |
| 35-44 years old | 510 |
| 45-54 years old | 205 |
| 55-64 years old | 116 |
| 65-74 years old | 68 |
| 75 or over | 27 |
| | 2,139 Total People |

Question 22



Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

23. What recommendations would you like for the City of North Ridgeville to consider in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan? (maximum of 100 characters and spaces)

| | Response Count |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 395 |
| answered question | 395 |
| skipped question | 220 |

Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

Question 23 - What recommendations would you like for the City of North Ridgeville to consider in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan?

| Indoor Recreation Center | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | We need a Rec center! |
| 2 | Rec Center |
| 3 | rec center |
| 4 | activities. We could use some park spaces around town with picnic tables and pavillions. There isn't anywhere except South Central to have a picnic. |
| 5 | much more utilized and beneficial to the city. This should be the top priority followed by acquiring more park space in various quadrants of the city. |
| 6 | we need an indoor facility. |
| 7 | Recreation center! |
| 8 | North ridgeville needs a rec center. our community is growing so fast and nowhere for are children to go swimming, programs etc. as well as adults to workout at and adults programs. |
| 9 | Rec Center like Strongsville has or Y like Avon has |
| 10 | Ridgeville. Anything that does not do that will be a waste of money; overcrowding in any part of the total facility will discourage people from attending. |
| 11 | indoor facility like Westlake |
| 12 | We spend @ 700 \$ /yr at other community centers for programs for ourselves and our children. Most of our neighbors do likewise. Most of our recreation dollars go to the city of North Olmsted! We would much rather keep the money here in North Ridgeville! The baseball and soccer programs here are outstanding. I'm sure swimming would be too if we had the right facilities. |
| 13 | Most interested in an indoor & outdoor aquatics center, as well as a full scale health & fitness center. |
| 14 | Outdoor Pool & Indoor Rec Center |
| 15 | Most importantly, a community rec center for the well-being of the entire family in addition to competing with neighboring communities and an off-leash dog park so the residents of North Ridgeville have a local resource to exercise their canine companions which is otherwise prohibited, this would also promote more friendships with others in the community |
| 16 | We need to consider the growing families in this community and keep our money in our own city instead of the neighboring areas such as the YMCA in Avon, EMH Health Center, and The Four Seasons. We need to have facilities like these to enhance our city. |
| 17 | IN Door swimming and rec. area |
| 18 | nr is the only commuity around that doesnt have a ymca or indoor pool or rec center. nr citizens have to go to other communitites to use facilities that we should have here. Isnt that why we pay taxes?? |
| 19 | An indoor swimming pool that could be used all year round but large enough to not be over crowded. Also more soccer fields. Root road complex is too congested and a little confusing. |
| 20 | indoor space large enough for the growing city. |
| 21 | Why spend to build an outdoor pool and only use it for 3 months. Indoor pool and rec center, low fees for residents, higher for non- |
| 22 | An aquatics center for indoor and outdoor activities |
| 23 | We belong to EMH fitness center because of the arthritis programs.Cannot afford this & your programs. |
| 24 | New Recreation Center |
| 25 | With so many young families and children, we really need an indoor recreation facility!!! |
| 26 | A recreation facility with exercise/workout equipment. Also a pool for family enjoyment/entertainment and a gym. |
| 27 | I would like to see a stand-alone ballot initiative to raise money to build a recreation center similar to the one built in Fairview Park. |
| 28 | North Ridgeville NEEDS a recreation center that includes an outdoor olympic sized pool. Only a few developments in North Ridgeville have swimming pools. I know that as a teacher at North Ridgeville High School, the kids would use and pay to use the facilities. Is it possible to share the costs of an outdoor rec center with the school district? |
| 29 | Create a community recreation center |
| 30 | Fitness facility and indoor/outdoor pools |
| 31 | A rec center for residents and their families. More walking/biking trails. |
| 32 | Indoor Recreation Center and swimming pool |
| 33 | A fitness facility with an indoor and outdoor pool, track, exercise rooms, weights, meeting rooms, outdoor tennis courts and an outdoor trails. Please look to other cities like Westlake, Avon Lake and Fairview Park which have wonderful facilities. We find the additiona of a city pool of utmost inportance. |
| 34 | A recreation center with both indoor and outdoor activities. |
| 35 | Indoor rec facilities |
| 36 | I would love to see an outdoor pool facility as well as an indoor facility. The indoor pool facility would also include a gym/activity |
| 37 | There have been some great improvements to our parks over the last few years - splash pads, better program offerings. We really need a pool and a community center would be great as well. |
| 38 | rec. center with indoor and outdoor pools with a splash zone. the splash zone we have now is a joke |
| 39 | I feel an aquatic and fitness center would continually bring new families into our community. |
| 40 | Recreation Center with both indoor and outdoor pool, basketball courts, structured activities for children. |

Appendix C – Web Survey Summary

| | |
|----|--|
| 41 | Please acquire land along Center Ridge (Marc's Plaza) and replaçe it with an attractive activity center. Truly, anywhere along Center Ridge would be an improvement |
| 42 | Indoor and outdoor rec and aquatic center PLEASE! |
| 43 | Our growing family would love the city of north Ridgeville to open a rec center as well as swimming pools for our community. are family always has to go outside of lorain county to enjoy swimming. and my husb and and i would love for there to be a fitness center for adults. as well as programs for our children to take part in. north ridgeville is a young growing community, if we build a rec ceter, it would bring in more residents. |
| 44 | An indoor recreation park would be nice to have in the city, but the need for an outdoor pool is needed. Several pools in the area are limited to residents only. The ymca in avon fills the need for indoor activities at this time. |
| 45 | To help pass the levy for this improvement it would be important to attach perks for our seniors. Maybe allocate special space for them inside the rec center. Please dont drag your feet. This city needs rec center and aquatic center badly |
| 46 | We need a rec center for fitness and aquatic activities- Indoor/Outdoor |
| 47 | Please consider a rec center of some kind. If you want to use a model of a youth summer camp, See North Olmsted. |
| 48 | Rec center with an indoor swimming pool, summer is too short and there are lots of outdoor pools, we have 3 to choose from but nowhere to go in winter |
| 49 | I would love an indoor rec center. Most other big cities have them |
| 50 | Indoor Aquatic Center |
| 51 | Recreation center, bike lanes |
| 52 | In order to make our community competitive to other communities it is important to have a great rec center. |
| 53 | recreation facility like in other cities that have in-door and out-door activites and equipment |
| 54 | recently moved from fairview park to north ridgeville, strongly recommend a rec center! |
| 55 | recreation center |
| 56 | an indoor recreation center including pool |
| 57 | Build an indoor recreation center; maintenance and improvement of existing facilities, more green space |
| 58 | I think an indoor facility would be ideal for a growing community like North Ridgeville. Also, more trails and picnic areas to spread out through the city for the growing population. |
| 59 | We need a rec center with indoor swimming pool -- I travel to Berea or Avon to use their facilities. This would be a great asset to |
| 60 | please consider a indoor aquatic center such as what n olmstead has. every community has one except n ridgeville. I have to go outside my comm and use other towns services. |
| 61 | rec center with in/outdoor pool, improved fields for sports (esp. soccer), rent pavilions for park income |
| 62 | A City Recreation Center that is centrally located would be a great benefit for the residents. I would drop my gym membership, even if there was a cost to attend. |
| 63 | would love to see a rec center like middleburg hights rec center! |
| 64 | Build a YMCA center and provide residents a discount. Outside residents who work in city also can earn a discount. |
| 65 | We need a community center. |
| 66 | Multi-use fieldhouse and rec center similar to the lodi facility/ expanded soccer/basketball facilities |
| 67 | Recreation center only for residents |
| 68 | Need indoor facility similar to Westlake or Strongsville |
| 69 | Indoor aquatic and recreation center, bike path and sidewalks, Would like to stay in our own city for services and activities we currently travel outside of the city to enjoy. |
| 70 | Provide more areas/activities for young teens. Recreational and Cultural |
| 71 | take a more pro active stance on delveoping a recreational center |
| 72 | It would be nice to have a rec center similar to north olmsted |
| 73 | Outdoor or indoor aquatics facility |
| 74 | Need indoor rec space |
| 75 | I would like a rec center and indoor swimming pool so we don't have to go elsewhere. |
| 76 | Rec Center with Gym |
| 77 | an indoor/outdoor city pool and more soccer fields. |
| 78 | More space for soccer fields, more things for children to do in the city, sidewalks on all roads so kids & adults are safe, REC center with basketball, swimming indoor & outdoor, & fitness center, public transportation, no more pay to participate in our schools, better schools for the future of our children!!!! |
| 79 | we need to offer comparable sports and wellness activities to our community and especially our teens |
| 80 | We need a family friendly rec center!!!! |
| 81 | Added activities for children and teens and an indoor water area/park. |
| 82 | A recreation center would serve ALL community members YEAR ROUND. |
| 83 | Have an outdoor/indoor swimming facilities, Charge admission fee. Pay for itself. Some programs to promote the arets for children and adults. Fitness center |
| 84 | fee based indoor/outdoor aquatic center, dog park, security, theater arts |
| 85 | Bike, hiking and walking trails, City Recreation center (includes pool, and various sports and activities) |
| 86 | outdoor swimming, rec. center, indoor soccer, more outdoor soccer fields |

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| | |
|-----|---|
| 87 | would love an outdoor and indoor pools and basketball courts |
| 88 | Public pool like they have in Bay Village, Recreation center. It's a growing community that needs to have these resources. |
| 89 | Community Fitness/Rec Center, Indoor/Outdoor Aquatic Center |
| 90 | We need a Rec center!!! Pools!! Would help draw new people to community! |
| 91 | Rec center, outdoor pool |
| 92 | Indoor banquet facility / Indoor rec center |
| 93 | indoor and outdoor pool with slides, grills, picnic tables. |
| 94 | Build a Rec Center that can accommodate, Senior Activities and produce revenue for the city, special events, tournaments etc. |
| 95 | Recreation center |
| 96 | a rec center that has a indoor/outdoor pool and fitness center |
| 97 | PLEASE BUILD A REC CENTER WITH AN INDOOR/OUTDOOR AQUATIC CENTER ONLY OPEN TO NR RESIDENTS! |
| 98 | Indoor waterpark like in westlake, for membership or rental, multi-purpose facility. NEED SIDEWALKS BAD |
| 99 | Indoor recreation center is needed. Cuyahoga Falls should be used as a model. |
| 100 | Indoor facility that is family friendly with tight security |
| 101 | I would love to have a recreation center. indoor and outdoor pools, residents only! Like westlakes rec center. Thanks!!!! |
| 102 | new indoor or outdoor city pool, rec center |
| 103 | To Build a Rec Center in NR |
| 104 | We need an indoor fitness center. I give ~\$1,000 a year to adjacent cities for their indoor sports / water programs. |
| 105 | Swimming pools |
| 106 | Outdoor and/or indoor pool, additional landscaping at existing parks; new pavement sidewalks/lots |
| 107 | Build a facility such as the YMCA in Avon next to the high school and the school kids could use the facilities as part of their sports programs. |
| 108 | Banquet space is badly needed in our community. |
| 109 | Some type of recreation center including an aquatic program for kids. |
| 110 | An Indoor/Outdoor Aquatics Center |
| 111 | Build a YMCA |
| 112 | outdoor fitness equipment at parks and trails, and a indoor recreation facilities. |
| 113 | Build a rec center with indoor and outdoor pools. A good model would be the rec center in Middleburg Hts. |
| 114 | City needs a recreation center with pool, there are no public pools around and many developments prohibit private above ground |
| 115 | Fitness and swimming |
| 116 | Rec center |
| 117 | Build a rec center so that all your residents do not continue to support Avon for thier YMCA- keep the money within our city |
| 118 | Recreation center with a pool and exercise equipment for residents. |
| 119 | I would like to see a City of North Ridgeville Recreation Complex comparable to Westlake or North Olmsted Recreation Centers. Our community is growing and we have many new families that would use the facilities. |
| 120 | Recreation Complex- Indoor/Outdoor Pool, Playground, Picnic, Sports, Trails, Fitness & Activities |
| 121 | Would love to be able to have a place like Rocky River or Fairview Park has... We take swim lessons through them and go with family to their pools just bc North Ridgeville had nothing. I would rather pay more tax and give my money back to my own city. |
| 122 | We would love a rec center and/or aquatics center. Right now we go to Oberlin/ N.Olmsted for that. We have considered moving out of N.R. and one reason is lack of a recreational center/aquatics. I understand this would cost taxpayers \$ so its all a dream |
| 123 | need a rec center....so many families use fairview, north olmsted, and westlakes. We need one in our city |
| 124 | Indoor rec center/community gym, outdoor water park |
| 125 | an outdoor pool and rec center |
| 126 | There are vast areas of land on the Dettorre (meadow lakes) area that sit vacant. This land could be used to for a pool and recreation area. Please build some pools and enforce splash pad for residents only. NO DAYCARE! Get a Rec. Fac. and POOL!! |
| 127 | Rec center, outdoor pool for residents only and a skate park for teens to stay out of trouble |
| 128 | We need a rec center that includes a indoor and outdoor pool and fitness center, so many of us go to other cities for swim lessons and fitness!!!! |
| 129 | PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE MAKE A REC CENTER WITH AN INDOOR AND OUTDOOR POOL!!! |
| 130 | Indoor pool for year round usage ... a need for every age group |
| 131 | Develop a Rec Ctr - aquatics & other phys. activites, comm. ctr for perf. arts, programs, etc. |
| 132 | Recreation Center w/indoor and outdoor pools & fitness; improvements to existing fields; paved parking |
| 133 | I think a community rec center is the best way to go. As a community we are competing with North Olmsted and Westlake who both have community/rec centers. Many residents head to these places due to the cities lack of accomodations |
| 134 | rec. center |
| 135 | Recreation facility with indoor pool and possibly outdoor swimming pool/water park complex |
| 136 | North Ridgeville needs a nice indoor recreation center comparable to Westlake, Strongsville etc.... |
| 137 | I feel that we need an indoor recreation facility which will be used year round to include a fitness center, pool, tennis, basketball, |
| 138 | Indoor recreation facility and aquatic center! |
| 139 | Rec center, Ice Skating & skate park would be great! |

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| 140 | North Ridgeville residents would GREATLY benefit from a rec center and outdoor/indoor pool. My family, as well as many other North Ridgeville families that we know, spend a great deal of money on an annual basis at nearby rec centers/YMCA's aquatic programs, sports programs, and art programs. We have lived in N.R. for over 10 years and have been waiting for the day when we could get a public pool and rec center, just like North Olmsted and Westlake. I would gladly spend the money in North Ridgeville if we could get the same facilities as Westlake and North Olmsted. Many of the families we know agree with this. As a mom, many of the N.R. moms I know discuss how we have been wanting a rec center and pool in N.R. for years. |
| 141 | Community Rec Center (pool, exercise, meeting rooms), possibly joint use w/ schools - and bike trails. |
| 142 | I would love to see North Ridgeville build a new Rec Center. |
| 143 | create rec center with indoor/outdoor pool. check out aquatic center at middleburg heights |
| 144 | The High School used to have a swim team which had to use Oberlin College for practice. Please consider building an aquatic center for use by all residents of North Ridgeville. |
| 145 | A rec center with indoor fitness facilities and pool. Winters are long here. And an off leash dog park. |
| 146 | swimming pool and rec center |
| 147 | I think you have a strong idea of what people are looking for improvement wise for the Parks and Recs idea. Indoor facilities, more programs, more parks, and improved spaces. |
| 148 | I am very happy with our parks and the maintenance of them. Our family would love to see a rec center and/or city pool. Thank you for making the splash pad for residents only.) |
| 149 | I would love to see a Rec center in North Ridgeville! I feel the neighboring cities should only use it if they work here. |
| 150 | Indoor/outdoor rec center with a pool |
| 151 | I rather give my money to north ridgeville for a recreation building than Avon |
| 152 | rec center. too many of us give money to other cities for this |
| 153 | A rec center would be fantastic. Perhaps something similar to Middleburg Hts or Oberlin Splash Zone. |
| 154 | community center with a pool is very important...kids need a place to keep busy and out of trouble |
| 155 | outdoor or indoor pool a rec center |
| 156 | Workout and Swimming facility for the residents. I think our current parks are amazing. |
| 157 | Would love a city rec center. |
| 158 | The bottom line is that a city of this size should have an indoor rec center and pool for its residents. |
| 159 | It would be nice to have an official rec center with a pool. |
| 160 | swimming facilities - perhaps some kind of indoor/outdoor structure so it's not wasted during winter |
| 161 | Community rec center with pool, or just community pools and aquatic centers,, fix up south central park and improvements to football/baseball fields. |
| 162 | Recreation Center...See Strongsville Rec |
| 163 | Would love to see an indoor walking track |
| 164 | I think the city needs to consider a public pool, or a recreation center. Walking and biking trails as well. |
| 165 | Indoor sports complex...mandatory!! |
| 166 | Swimming pool, indoor/outdoor |
| 167 | Family Recreation Center |
| 168 | INDOOR SWIMMING POOL FITNESS CENTER |
| 169 | We spend a lot of time & money to be members at Westlake Rec. It would be wonderful to keep our \$ here by participating in swim & fitness classes near home. |
| 170 | Rec Center with indoor and outdoor pools |
| 171 | Recreation Center should be priority. |
| 172 | rec center with indoor pool and indoor soccer field(s) as we pay other cities and facilities to use their equipment, fields and that is money that could be kept right here in our own city. |
| 173 | We need an indoor/outdoor pool for residents. The indoor could be a fun play area like the one in Rocky River. |
| 174 | Have youth rec activities that are not on Sunday... Plan an indoor rec center with pool and courts |
| 175 | Recreation center, adult sport leagues, swimming pool |
| 176 | New Recreation Center |
| 177 | Indoor swimming for winter. I have pools for summer in our development. More walking trails. |
| 178 | City recreation center with indoor & outdoor pool, playground, pavilion/picnic areas |
| 179 | Outdoor pool and a kick ass rec center (look at Rocky River and Westlake, we can be just as awesome) |
| 180 | Recreation Center with a pool for the community |
| 181 | indoor rec center, something like the surrounding communities have. I spend money in Avon for this. |
| 182 | Swimming facilities. Indoor and Outdoor would be ideal, but at least the ability for summertime facilities. |
| 183 | Rec or fitness center, |
| 184 | Indoor Rec Center and swimming |
| 185 | Obviously, a full recreation center with indoor and outdoor pools. Swimming Classes and swim teams. Fitness Equipment. Indoor Softball/Baseball for winter leagues. Skate park would be a nice option. |
| 186 | Recreation center with aquatics!!! PLEASE!! |
| 187 | City recreation center!! |

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| 188 | build a ymca over by the bowling alley |
| 189 | An exercise facility. |
| 190 | Consider pre-membership sale of an indoor recreation & fitness center to fund project |
| Outdoor Aquatic Center | |
| 1 | Looking at homes in the area. A commitment to constructing a pool would solidify our decision on NR. |
| 2 | I think an outdoor aquatic facility would be great! |
| 3 | pools for teens to swim. indoor n outdoor were the only city who doesnt have pools. |
| 4 | Waterworks like in Prince William County would be awesome |
| 5 | Consider having a gated pool park like Avon Lake where residents pay 1 dollar but can only get in my showing a valid drivers license. Also, it is gated and feels safer. |
| 6 | outdoor swimming pool with yearly pass option. |
| 7 | Outdoor Pool & Indoor Rec Center |
| 8 | Would love to see a similiar outdoor waterpark like avon lake and rocky river have. If you do an outdoor waterpark, would love for it to be only for residents of north ridgeville. non-residents could get in only with a resident. still saw a lot of daycares coming to the splash pad this year that were from other cities. For a rec center I'm ok with non-residents coming in to use it, but residents should be charged less than non-residents. Would really love to see outdoor/indoor swimming facilities and rec center. In the short term the restrooms at the parks need a lot of improvement. they are always gross and dirty and toilets/sinks overflowing and they stink. We go to other cities for alot of these services (pools, rec centers, pavilion rental for parties) because north ridgeville does not |
| 9 | Please please please can we have a community pool!!!! |
| 10 | An aquatics center for indoor and outdoor activities |
| 11 | More facilities for children and teens, there is nothing for them in our community for the summer, namely swimming. |
| 12 | outdoor pool, outdoor pool, outdoor pool, outdoor pool... need i say more? =P |
| 13 | To enrich the North Ridgeville living experience, I think an outdoor pool is #1 and indoor pool/rec center is #2 in terms of priority. The city is growing and developing and these amenities would be even more of an incentive to live here. |
| 14 | pool, more baseball fields, nature centers |
| 15 | We do need an outdoor pool to teach young children how to swim which is very important; however, I have concerns about the cost. Our schools and roads need to come first! |
| 16 | A swimming pool facility is a must. |
| 17 | we need a city pool. Live in meadow lakes, the largest development in the city and aren't allowed to have a pool!!! |
| 18 | Outdoor aquatic center!!!!!! |
| 19 | Definitely need an outdoor pool and more fields for youth sports. It's embarrassing that we have to travel to other communities to |
| 20 | Outdoor or indoor aquatics facility |
| 21 | I think we definitely need to think about a community pool/aquatic center so that we can take our kids there. Also would love to see expanded sports fields. |
| 22 | Build a public pool, and clean up south central park as it is pretty filthy. |
| 23 | an indoor/outdoor city pool and more soccer fields. |
| 24 | Have an outdoor/indoor swimming facilities, Charge admission fee. Pay for itself. Some programs to promote the arets for children and adults. Fitness center |
| 25 | fee based indoor/outdoor aquatic center, dog park, security, theater arts |
| 26 | Development of new outdoor family aquatic center |
| 27 | outdoor swimming, rec. center, indoor soccer, more outdoor soccer fields |
| 28 | Developing a complex or investing in a complex that can hold mulitple sporting events (youth & HS age). Also, have a pool in NR would be excellent don't like going to RR or other communities to use their pool. |
| 29 | would love an outdoor and indoor pools and basketball courts |
| 30 | Public pool like they have in Bay Village, Recreation center. It's a growing community that needs to have these resources. |
| 31 | We need a Rec center!!! Pools!! Would help draw new people to community! |
| 32 | Rec center, outdoor pool |
| 33 | indoor and outdoor pool with slides, grills, picnic tables. |
| 34 | I think we need a pool and possibly a rec Center. Maybe our city can work with The YMCA too. Or some other organization. If we are going to stay an up and coming city we need to improve our rec and schools! |
| 35 | We would love a pool! |
| 36 | fill in the not in use Swimming Pond... ADD A OUTDOOR POOL!!!!!! please. add small membership fee to pool. please |
| 37 | Definately would like to see at lease an Aquatics center. My daughters love to swim and feel it would get used greatly. |
| 38 | Try to get a swimming pool. Maybe get volunteer lifeguards. Maybe have volunteer parents to monitor the children when they in or near the pool. I would volunteer a couple of hours a week. |
| 39 | friendliness! NR is ranked as one of the worst cities for riding in NE OH. And as one who does ride her bike, I can tell you that it's true!! |
| 40 | North Ridgeville needs a pool!!!!!! |
| 41 | Outdoor and/or indoor pool; additional landscaping at existing parks; new pavement sidewalks/lots |
| 42 | Pool, Pool.....POOL!!! |

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| 43 | Outdoor pool |
| 44 | Recreation pool, no developments have them & people are considering moving because of it!!! |
| 45 | Please build an outdoor pool!! This community is in desparate need of activities for kids to do in the summer time. |
| 46 | Improve Sports facilities and more importantly build an outdoor pool/aquatic center. I would be willing to pay tax for a complex on this or rec center of sorts. |
| 47 | A public swimming pool, indoor or out, would be OUTSTANDING! |
| 48 | Swimming pool |
| 49 | Indoor rec center/community gym, outdoor water park |
| 50 | an outdoor pool and rec center |
| 51 | An Outdoor community pool, more trees and landscaping throughout the developments-we need more trees!!! |
| 52 | A community pool |
| 53 | pool |
| 54 | Please take out splash pad and put in pool! My son has slipped multiple times on the concrete of the pad. Luckily no major injuries |
| 55 | I am constantly trying to find a swimming pool to go to in the summer that is close by. I go to Oberlin Splash Zone which takes a good 20-25 minutes. Also looking for swim lessons for my girls is close to impossible. We need a city pool and rec center. |
| 56 | Desperately need aquatic facility. Need more neighborhood parks. |
| 57 | outdoor aquatic areas |
| 58 | swimming pool and rec center |
| 59 | Definitely aquatic center!!! |
| 60 | A community pool is needed very badly!!!! The price of admision will keep it running!!!! |
| 61 | I would like to see a place to swim and a skate park! Our youth need to be active in a positive way! |
| 62 | Swimming pool, and city sidewalks |
| 63 | swimming pool / aquatic center |
| 64 | To put in an outdoor swimming pool facility!!!!!!! |
| 65 | A pool/aquatic center and walking/bike trails would be important as well as summer camps for children that are a full day to accommodate working parents. We need something to keep our children active and safe in the summer. |
| 66 | Swimming pool, indoor/outdoor |
| 67 | I would love to see a city pool |
| 68 | We NEED an outdoor pool in NR! It is too expensive (or sometimes non-residents aren't even allowed) to swim in other communities' pools. Please consider a pool! |
| 69 | This city REALLY need a swimming pool...It is a shame it doesn't have one yet.... |
| 70 | Rec Center with indoor and outdoor pools |
| 71 | Pool |
| 72 | Visit the outdoor park next to the Westlake Rec Ctr, or any Westlake park, for examples |
| 73 | Aquatic Center with Swimming and Diving Lessons. |
| Improve and Maintain Existing Parks | |
| 1 | Improve and maintain all parks |
| 2 | This is not a suggestion of building some new elaborate park or community area but I would like for restrooms to be maintained and cleaned in the existing parks we have, specifically south central and the soccer complex. It is an embarrassment to our city and our programs to invite residents from other cities to our events and have disgusting/unsanitary restrooms that do not have toilet paper! It is embarrassing to hear the comments as well as demonstrates a lack of pride in our parks. |
| 3 | return Frontier Park to it's natural state for hiking/walking. get the football out of taxpayers backyards |
| 4 | just better care of the baseball diamonds |
| 5 | Take care of what you have, and make sidewalks. |
| 6 | Improve what you have currently, don't throw money down a bottomless pit - a city pool or city run rec center. You should see how much money is lost yearly by neighboring citys on these two items. |
| 7 | Victory Park needs to improve its soccer fields and be more supportive of the community soccer needs. They have all that city land and are unreasonable with sharing space or giving bad fields with no goals. We need independant soccer fields for the kids away from businesses to help the league grow and help our high school kids programs too. Every sport gets all kinds of resources and even though soccer is growing like crazy, it gets the least support. The High school soccer field is tucked way in the back and not even maintained well. They don't support the kids who love the game of soccer and that needs to change. |
| 8 | improvement of the soccer fields... it is an embarresment to play at n ridgevilles soccer complex at this point. I just came from avons program and what a hugh difference. |
| 9 | Make more inviting (landscaped, mowed, etc.). Better maintenance of parks. South Central is run down – Tennins courts are cracked, need painted, have weeds growing in them. Entereance is unactractive. |
| 10 | Upgrade the facilities you already have. Sanitary facilities, good water supply, improved trails, picnic areas. |
| 11 | Our children and grandchildren live here in N. Ridgeville. We would like to see South central kept cleaner and not so crowded with people from outside the area. Also , a pool indoor or out would be welcome. |
| 12 | Increase the size and access to South Central Park |
| 13 | Aquire Thibo Estate & Kleinholtz property, add community gardens to supplement the park department. |

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| 14 | When I got to the park system I go to the Cleveland Metroparks. I don't have to deal with kids being dropped off and left to cause a ruckus. I say clean up OUR parks and get rid of the riff raff!!! |
| 15 | Clean South Central up, it looks really bad. City pool and rec ctr |
| 16 | Fix up South Central-too many trees, not enough usable space, need walking trails, more parking |
| 17 | I think something needs to be done with the football fields at Frontier Park. A couple days of bad rains and the fields are horrible. Last year the fields there were disgusting!! |
| 18 | I would really like to to see lights on the soccer fields at Root Road and a small play structure at Root Road. |
| 19 | Build a public pool, and clean up south central park as it is pretty filthy. |
| 20 | I would like to have a play ground added to the Root Road Soccer Complex for the young kids and more soccer fields around the city for the bigger kids. We don't have anymore space!!! |
| 21 | Better care for the bathroom at the sports fields. Wonderful to have but not when uncared for. |
| 22 | South Central Park desperately needs some maintenance. It has such nice playground equipment and a beautiful splash pad, but the sign into the park, the parking lot, and the grounds are embarrassing. It would be nice to see some tastefully maintained |
| 23 | Need to do a better job maintaining and improving existing parks. |
| 24 | Shady Drive and Frontier Park should be a priority. These, in my opinion, are the two most utilized facilities we have. Compared to other communities I have visited, our sports fields are functional at best. Frontier Park is a mess. People seem to be joining private or other community programs ie Victory Park, Hot Stove, etc. This is reflected in the Baseball programs weak participation this year. An investment in Shady Drive would not only increase registration, but also provide a much needed Home Field for the High School Baseball Team. Frontier Park is just a mess. It needs drainage, walking paths, benches or bleachers, and parking. If Pay to Play is here for good, Families need an affordable Sports alternative. |
| 25 | paving a walkway at shady drive complex from diamond #1 all the way down to tball/coachpitch diamonds. |
| 26 | Improve Sports facilities and more importantly build an outdoor pool/aquatic center. I would be willing to pay tax for a complex on this or rec center of sorts. |
| 27 | Improving all baseball grounds, including grass areas. Creating adult sport programs/leagues, basketball especially |
| 28 | PARK SECURITY! Too many teens playing on equipment and their language offensive. |
| 29 | clean up South Central Park- it looks BAD. Shady Drive is beautiful. the main park is a dump. get a local nursery to sponsor park and clean it up |
| 30 | I am a lifelong resident of North Ridgeville so was my Father and his father. I would like to purchase a bench in for south central for a park. If I may? |
| 31 | improved ADA compliance at shady drive baseball complex and paved parking areas through out shady drive |
| 32 | please hire security for the park, splash pad area, too many out of towners hang out there |
| 33 | In general, it seems like North Ridgeville parks, etc. are not as "nice" aesthetically as those of other cities in the area. |
| 34 | Improve soccer field on root rd., too wet, swampy. More fitness classes offered during day hrs., indoor fitness, New schools!!! |
| 35 | Keep current parks updated and work on bike/walking trail. |
| 36 | New playgrounds, especially for children ages 2-6yrs old. |
| 37 | unable to be used, which really is disappointing with small kids. we just walk to the library for my son to pee, not a good impression for the park district. |
| 38 | *** FIX VICTORY PARK*** That park could be something phenomenal and its awful!! We had tournament softball games there and it is an embarassment to our city!! Finish what was started! Make it grand! It's prime space and could be awesome for our |
| 39 | Security cameras at South Central Park since there is a lot of theft there. |
| 40 | Some of the areas in the parks look trashy in that although it is natural debris, it could be somewhat cleaned up. Grading should be worked on- South Central has massive flooding and muddy areas when it rains. The paths in SC need widened and repaved. |
| Bike/Walking Trails | |
| 1 | #1 trails for walking and biking #2 improvements to soccer fields- esp now that games and practices are being held at Lear North. The field lines are not maintained well and there are no bathrooms; this really does not look good when visiting teams come from Wadsworth, Norwalk and Medina and have no where to go to the bathroom after driving for an hour. |
| 2 | we live off island road and would love to be able to bike to the library/park/school area. Would love to be able to stay in town to do hiking/walking/ biking and outdoor activities instead of having to drive 20-25 minutes to other communities to meet these needs bike paths! trails!! outdoor pool!!! please!!!! |
| 3 | need sidewalks for people to walk safely in this city |
| 4 | Kids need to be able to ride their bike to school or to the park safely. |
| 5 | Safe walking/biking trails |
| 6 | more walking trails |
| 7 | Outdoor walking and biking trails. Aquisition land to keep natural. Dog park. NO REC/AQUATIC CENTER--WOULD NOT |
| 8 | The sidewalks in N. Ridgeville are non-existent in some areas. Having said that, I'd really like to see a off-leash dog park and more walking/biking trails since it is not very safe to walk on the road. |
| 9 | work with existing/neighborng rec & fitness centers; increase non-car transportation options (bike/sidewalks) |
| 10 | Would like to see longer walk paths that are free for residents and well maintained |
| 11 | Development of biking trails/lanes throughout the city; currently have to ride on the busy roads to get to the parks and local establishments. If we want our kids to be able to ride their bikes, we need safe places for them to do so! |

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| 12 | BETTER WALKING AREA AND AN AREA TO HOLD THE NORTH RIDGEVILLE GARDEN CLUB MEETINGS |
| 13 | Increase sidewalks throughout city so that people can bike to the parks that we have. That would be a great improvement that wouldn't require more land. |
| 14 | Trail connecting existing parks. Less emphasize on team sport complexes. |
| 15 | More parks, bike trails or lanes, and more green space. |
| 16 | Bike, hiking and walking trails, City Recreation center (includes pool, and various sports and activities) |
| 17 | A walking trail at our main park South central can be used for different events as well |
| 18 | Paved and dirt biking trails |
| 19 | I would like to see more sidewalks in general and more programs offered to adults |
| 20 | Swimming pool, and city sidewalks |
| 21 | Allow biking in Sandy Ridge or create biking trails. Have un paved biking trails. Basketball and tennis expansion. |
| 22 | A pool/aquatic center and walking/bike trails would be important as well as summer camps for children that are a full day to accommodate working parents. We need something to keep our children active and safe in the summer. |
| 23 | walking/bicycle trails |
| 24 | Bike Trails and Lanes. |
| More Sports Fields | |
| 1 | I would be excited if NR Parks & Rec worked to develop new land with additional sports fields. Our city's soccer community is growing quickly and could use more space. |
| 2 | Additional soccer fields with lights |
| 3 | being a part of the nr cornfest kickoff was a wonderful experience and great for the city. we can use more fields, lighting to bring more to the city |
| 4 | we need more soccer fields to support our growing program and the needs of our future and facilities we can be proud of. not like victory park... |
| 5 | Our soccer league are growing beyond belief...WE NEED MORE FIELDS!!!!!!! |
| 6 | Development of land for more soccer fields and an Recreation Center |
| 7 | As the soccer program is growing, and based on the recent success of the soccer tournament, I would like to see more soccer |
| 8 | Definitely need an outdoor pool and more fields for youth sports. It's embarrassing that we have to travel to other communities to |
| 9 | We need room for the kids to play sports, There isnt enough space for these kids to play the sports they love! Thank you! |
| 10 | an indoor/outdoor city pool and more soccer fields. |
| 11 | More space for soccer fields, more things for children to do in the city, sidewalks on all roads so kids & adults are safe, REC center with basketball, swimming indoor & outdoor, & fitness center, public transportation, no more pay to participate in our schools, better schools for the future of our children!!!! |
| 12 | More areas for sports |
| 13 | Central location for an ALL sports complex. Will reduce costs in maintaining multiple sites. |
| 14 | outdoor swimming, rec. center, indoor soccer, more outdoor soccer fields |
| 15 | Developing a complex or investing in a complex that can hold multiple sporting events (youth & HS age). Also, have a pool in NR would be excellent don't like going to RR or other communities to use their pool. |
| 16 | We need more soccer fields to help our NRASL program. They don't have anymore space for the older players and they are forgotten as they move on to high school. |
| 17 | We need more full sized soccer fields for our community. Our kids have no place to play games anymore and the High School can't support the teams with the fields they have. |
| 18 | Expand the areas that are available for organized and pick-up soccer and install bicycle lanes on streets. |
| 19 | Additional Youth sports programs and fields for those programs. |
| 20 | sell the neighborhood parks to buy more land at shady then build a complete rec complex with NR schools and eatontwp |
| Programming | |
| 1 | More exercise programs such as being offered now. Signed up for yagalates and would like to belly dance. Will use programs as |
| 2 | U8 soccer - teach soccer, not just put them right from -0- practices to games - they new more instructions!! |
| 3 | more variety of art and wellness programs for all age levels in the recreation programming |
| 4 | Offer options for a broad spectrum of the population rather than small, specific demographic groups (kids, srs) |
| 5 | Hire a new program director. |
| 6 | Parks & rec, should take charge & run all activities within the city including, soccer, baseball, football etc. Hire more help if needed |
| 7 | keep offering belly dance with Alana Schultz. Thanks. |
| 8 | Programming, swimming, basegball etc. are all already provided through the county park system, Ymca etc. I see no need for the city to offer duplicate programming when we already pay taxes to support the county park system. |
| 9 | More activities to keep teenagers more physically active and out of trouble |
| 10 | Fitness classes every evening to give more opportunity for regular attendance. Better facilities for the classes. Walking trails! |
| 11 | Would love to see more suport for the local soccer program |
| 12 | more activies for autistic |
| 13 | Non-sports related people need stuff too! |

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| 14 | I think you have a strong idea of what people are looking for improvement wise for the Parks and Recs idea. Indoor facilities, more programs, more parks, and improved spaces. |
| 15 | I would like to see more sidewalks in general and more programs offered to adults |
| 16 | More free programs for the toddler-kindergarten crowd... stuff like the dinosaur weekend. They can even be smaller, educational programs for young kids too. |
| Dog Park | |
| 1 | Dog park, paved walking trail, clean up duck poop at South Central park. |
| 2 | Very much hope that a Dog Park ill be part of the Master Plan! Am an avid dog lover who feels the efforts of Friends of the Park to stump for a Dog Parkhas been admirable! But they have tried for several years to move forward with this, all to no avail thus far. I realize thre are many more worthy projects to consider, but the addition of the Dog Park as Friends of the Park envisioned it, would really be a wonderful addition to our city! |
| 3 | Dog park and exercise trail |
| 4 | put more benches around the parks/trails. Make a dog park. |
| 5 | Dog park would be nice, but unfortunately would present more problems than it is worth because people won't watch their dogs, pick up poop, etc. When we have recreation for people, then maybe a dog park. |
| 6 | Dog walking area, around pond or central park.... |
| 7 | I would like to see a place to swim and a skate park! Our youth need to be active in a positive way! |
| 8 | putting a fenced in dog park in woods area of south central park like Avon Lake's Park |
| Other New Facilities | |
| 1 | Picklball Courts |
| 2 | More playgrounds and outdoor areas |
| 3 | Add pickleball facilities. It is a safe, fun and aerobic game. It is the fastest growing sport in the country. |
| 4 | I would like access to a garden similar to the senior garden on Chestnut Ridge Road by Route 83. Better summer day camps for kids. And current bussing really STINKS for families who opt for private schooling. |
| 5 | Seeing as you took away the horse trails ... HORSE TRAILS! |
| 6 | Hockey Rink is in large demand for the area. For example, Avon and Avon Lake have recently started high school hockey and their home rink is extremely far. Large revenue for city and great time for HS hockey! |
| 7 | Skateboard park |
| 8 | Skate park for teens to stay out of trouble |
| More Parks | |
| 1 | I'm disabled. There are no parks within scooter range of me. Having area parks around the city would be wonderful. The kids need a place to play(skateboard, swim, hang out, bike, etc) |
| 2 | Purchasing land off of center ridge rd that will tie the east side of the city to the west I feel there's a break in the city that prevents sustainable growth and a visible park or green space would help, and bring back south centrals swimming pond! |
| 3 | More parks, bike trails or lanes, and more green space. |
| 4 | we need more land for our park system, the city is growing and so should our parks. |
| 5 | More parks, bike trails or lanes, and more green space. |
| 6 | I think you have a strong idea of what people are looking for improvement wise for the Parks and Recs idea. Indoor facilities, more programs, more parks, and improved spaces. |
| 7 | Small neighborhood parks!!! Living here with basically one park (S. Central) has always frustrated me; my kids can't walk or bike there safely |
| More Activities for Children | |
| 1 | Kids are the future of N. Ridgeville we need to give them the tools they need to become successful |
| 2 | More space for soccer fields, more things for children to do in the city, sidewalks on all roads so kids & adults are safe, REC center with basketball, swimming indoor & outdoor, & fitness center, public transportation, no more pay to participate in our schools, better schools for the future of our children!!!! |
| 3 | Give teens and younger kids something positive to do safely and add s a lil fun |
| 4 | Our teenagers need something constructive..... |
| 5 | the more that is available for the kids, the more we keep them off the streets, and develop them into contributing adults |
| 6 | A pool/aquatic center and walking/bike trails would be important as well as summer camps for children that are a full day to accommodate working parents. We need something to keep our children active and safe in the summer. |
| 7 | We need areas to keep our youth occupied that is affordable to the residents. |
| More Open Space and Green Space | |
| 1 | I love the area. Before building any more housing (apartments or single family homes) allow for green space and put back green space that has already been destroyed by all the housing construction. There are numerous unsold properties in numerous developments and apartment buildings. There is no current need for more housing in the area and the roadways/traffic patterns can't support it anyway! There is also plenty of shopping available so don't destroy more green space/property by building shopping strip malls, drug stores, gas stations, etc. Every blade of grass does not have to be paved over. |
| 2 | Make the city enforce its contracts with developers. Meadow lakes should have a rec center of its own, walking trails avd |

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| 3 | Work with Western Reserve Land Conservancy to acquire green space and make accessible to residents, keep splash pad open Monday of Labor Day weekend! |
| 4 | More green spaces not allocated to an orgaized sport. |
| 5 | instead of more housing space needs to be used for land conservation/preservation. |
| 6 | PRESERVING some natural, green areas for wildlife. Swimming facilities |
| Funding | |
| 1 | Assess fees to new residential units & any "shopping strip" builders |
| 2 | think of why we have to leave town for parks and rec and fix it, keep our \$ local :) |
| 3 | Do your best to conserve and make the best use of scarce tax dollars. Consider user fees. |
| 4 | Not raising taxes |
| 5 | Continue as present. Do not increase funding! |
| 6 | Focus on governing, not play/recreation. Play/recreation costs SHOULD be provided by those that participate, NOT the general public. Hint: PAY TO PLAY |
| 7 | Ridgeville has always made it rather easy for businesses working out of a house with a mere \$20-25.00 permit. It is timefor these businesses to begin to pay what the other businesses pay in town in taxes to help support the city, recreation and schools. |
| 8 | affordability, corporate sponsorship, relationship with NR schools to utilize |
| General Support for Parks and Recreation | |
| 1 | do whatever you want to do, but make it QUICK! |
| 2 | Only make our facility open to our cities citizens. Bring something to our community like how Avon brought the YMCA ! We need something that will attract more young home buyers into our city versus our neighbors. |
| 3 | enjoyed our experience at Splash Pad, playground, shelter and fishing pond |
| 4 | Thanks. Kevin is an energetic leader, I suggest if you have a Master Plan that you try to incorporate any community groups (i.e. green teams) to assist w/design & future programs to maintain. Helps community take ownership to sustain / improve what exists. Best of Luck, this is a balancing act! (expecially if tax funding is part of the game plan). |
| 5 | Keep our parks on the forefront of development and improvement within our City. If we want our City to grow, we need to offer |
| 6 | build baby build |
| General Community Improvement | |
| 1 | Not sure, but we really need to clean up our City, starting with the intersection of Rt 83 & Center Ridge, the BP gas station, the dry cleaner, the weeds, etc. etc. we need pride in our lovely town to keep it clean. |
| 2 | The City does a good job of supporting extracurriculars - but would like to see more. I think that there is a realization that it's important, especially with the growth of young families in our area. Let's try to keep these families in the community! |
| 3 | We have wonderful facilities available currently the baseball fields are in good shape and have much to offer and the parks we have and splash pad are great! Money is tight but I understand the need to support maintainance of these facilities. Not sure if I can shell out more money just for new things with out it being justified |
| 4 | I would like for the city to have a nice town center with a clock tower or gazebo and nice landscaping around it. |
| Policies | |
| 1 | No smoking policy in city parks/playground areas. Disgusting how many butts are tossed on ground near and at the SC Park playground area alone (by teh benches). needs to be cleaned up and posted "no smoking"! This area is for the kids...smokers need to be more aware of this and stop doing it in the parks! |
| 2 | Make outdoor areas accessable to non-residents. News of the Splash Pad being monitored has kept our family away from NR parks this summer. We are former residents, and surrounding communities let "open" areas remain accessible. |
| 3 | Adding a desire for North Ridgeville - BUT BLOCKING OUT NON RESIDENTS!!!! They are ruining these parts. |
| 4 | Have someone on site during summer hours to check ID's for splash pad. They could keep themselves busy with cleaning restrooms and tiding the area for 7 hours a day at min. wage, I think we could support that need. |
| Senior Activities and Senior Center | |
| 1 | Senior Center is embarrassing. |
| 2 | new senior center |
| 3 | seems like most is offered to childen and teens, were seniors and tax paying adults may be overlooked. early morning exercise is non existant. Sandy ridge is closed and you offer no early morning class so I joined a gym. Work with what you have first, no use building and taxing until you have the people taking the classes. |
| Improve Schools | |
| 1 | actually, I believe the schools are our first priority. we are very badly in need of new buildings |
| 2 | I would love to have the items above but passing the school levy (s) are really of the greatest importance and I can't see voting for this until we get out schools properly funded for operating and expansion (new buildings). Wish it could all happen. |
| Negative Comments | |
| 1 | Forget about it! The city should not be in the recreation business. |
| 2 | Can not afford any more taxes to support extras, why not fix/improve what city already has. Fireworks at Victory Park kind of ruined the community feel and don't want my tax money to pay for outsiders who don't pay fairly to take advantage of all the city facilities. |
| 3 | stop putting more things in place till you can afford to salt roads safely. |
| 4 | FIND A BETTER USE OF TAXPAYERS DOLLARS |

Appendix D – Benchmarking Comparisons

Park and Recreation Department Benchmark Survey
Prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
Park Land Comparisons

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--|--|
| | | TOTAL ACRES IN YOUR TOWN | | | | |
| AGENCY | POPULATION | DEVELOPED PARK ACRES | PERCENT UNDEVELOPED | TOTAL PARK ACRES | CITIZENS PER DEVELOPED PARK ACRE (B/C) | TOTAL PARK ACRES PER 1000 RESIDENTS (E/(B/1000)) |
| North Ridgeville | 29,911 | 135 | 77% | 434 | 221 | 14.51 |
| Liberty Township | 33,000 | 248 | 23% | 322 | 133 | 9.76 |
| Beavercreek City and Township | 48,436 | 256 | 69% | 815 | 189 | 16.83 |
| Oxford Parks and Recreation | 9,500 | 139 | 13% | 159 | 68 | 16.74 |
| Mason Parks and Recreation | 38,000 | 201 | 33% | 301 | 189 | 7.92 |
| Anderson Township Park District | 44,000 | 265 | 48% | 510 | 166 | 11.59 |
| Middletown | 51,303 | 298 | 14% | 346 | 172 | 6.74 |
| Colerain Parks | 60,000 | 90 | 14% | 105 | 664 | 1.75 |
| Miami Township - Clermont County | 36,000 | 131 | 67% | 398 | 274 | 11.06 |
| Sycamore Township | 20,000 | 64 | 20% | 80 | 313 | 4.00 |
| Clearcreek Township | 30,000 | 61 | 76% | 255 | 490 | 8.50 |
| Evendale Recreation Department | 3,700 | 52 | 23% | 68 | 71 | 18.38 |
| Hamilton Township | 25,000 | 61 | 82% | 340 | 408 | 13.60 |
| Moraine Parks & Recreation Dept. | 7,000 | 136 | 28% | 188.5 | 52 | 26.93 |
| Delhi Township Parks & Recreation | 33,000 | 55 | 45% | 100 | 600 | 3.03 |
| Blue Ash - City of | 12,767 | 162 | 10% | 180 | 79 | 14.10 |
| Bowling Green | 32,000 | 105 | 50% | 210 | 305 | 6.56 |
| Celina City Parks | 10,000 | 31 | 75% | 124 | 323 | 12.40 |
| Centerville-Washington Park District | 56,000 | 504 | 46% | 934 | 111 | 16.68 |
| Grove City Parks and Recreation | 33,113 | 338 | 25% | 450 | 98 | 13.59 |
| Fairborn | 32,370 | 343 | 50% | 686 | 94 | 21.19 |
| Hamilton | 62,000 | 1,040 | 20% | 1,300 | 60 | 20.97 |
| Miamisburg | 19,839 | 387 | 28% | 537 | 51 | 27.07 |
| Sidney | 20,019 | 544 | 20% | 680 | 37 | 33.97 |
| Washington Township | 55,000 | 37 | 0% | 37 | 1,486 | 0.67 |
| West Carrollton | 14,000 | 104 | 20% | 130 | 135 | 9.29 |
| Wilmington | 12,000 | 125 | 50% | 250 | 96 | 20.83 |
| Vandalia | 25,000 | 256 | 20% | 320 | 98 | 12.80 |
| Kettering | 57,502 | 416 | 0% | 416 | 138 | 7.23 |
| Average | 31,448 | 230 | 35% | 366 | 246 | 13.4 |
| Median | 32,185 | 151 | 27% | 311 | 136 | 12.6 |

Appendix D – Benchmarking Comparisons

Park and Recreation Department Benchmark Survey
 Prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
 Budget Comparisons

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|--|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| BUDGET SUMMARY | | | | INCOME & REVENUE | | | | | | | (O/C) | | | | |
| AGENCY | POPULATION | OVERALL ANNUAL BUDGET | EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (C/B) | GENERAL FUND | USER FEES / RENTALS | GRANTS & FOUNDATIONS | DEDICATED RECREATION TAX | DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES | OTHER | TOTAL | AVERAGE OF GRANTS / DONATIONS RECEIVED | AVERAGE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGETS | PERCENT OF BUDGET AS SALARIES | PERCENT OF BUDGET AS EXPENSES | OTHER |
| North Ridgeville | 29,911 | \$487,345 | \$16 | 59% | 31% | | | 10% | | 100% | | \$74,672 | | | |
| Liberty Township | 33,000 | \$411,000 | \$12 | 100% | | | | | | 100% | | | 60% | 40% | |
| Beavercreek City and Township | 48,436 | \$1,632,400 | \$34 | 85% | 15% | | | | | 100% | | | | | |
| Oxford Parks and Recreation | 9,500 | \$1,750,000 | \$184 | 100% | 33% | 5% | | | | 138% | \$50,000 | \$300,000 | 42% | 22% | |
| Mason Parks and Recreation | 38,000 | \$6,314,633 | \$166 | 55% | 44% | 1% | 0% | | | 100% | \$10,000 | \$2,000,000 | 49% | 51% | |
| Anderson Township Park District | 44,000 | \$3,700,000 | \$84 | | 20% | 20% | 60% | | | 100% | \$150,000 | \$500,000 | 47% | 53% | |
| Middletown | 50,000 | \$140,000 | \$3 | 100% | | | | | | 100% | | | 44% | 56% | |
| Colerain Parks | 60,000 | \$1,400,000 | \$23 | 90% | 2% | 8% | | | | 100% | \$180,000 | \$35,000 | 41% | 71% | |
| Miami Township - Clermont County | 36,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$42 | 100% | | | | | | 100% | | | 42% | 54% | |
| Sycamore Township | 20,000 | \$450,000 | \$23 | 100% | | | | | | 100% | | | 7% | 93% | |
| Clearcreek Township | 30,000 | \$300,000 | \$10 | 100% | | | | | | 100% | | \$300,000 | 24% | 79% | |
| Evendale Recreation Department | 3,700 | \$1,375,000 | \$372 | 100% | | | | | | 100% | | \$88,000 | 52% | 48% | |
| Hamilton Township | 25,000 | \$150,000 | \$6 | 100% | | | | | | 100% | \$0 | \$115,000 | | 77% | |
| Moraine Parks & Recreation Dept. | 7,000 | \$2,762,865 | \$395 | 67% | 33% | | | | | 100% | \$0 | \$180,000 | 47% | 45% | |
| Delhi Township Parks & Recreation | 33,000 | \$525,000 | \$16 | 85% | 10% | | | 5% | | 100% | | | 33% | 67% | |
| Blue Ash - City of | 55,000 | \$5,500,000 | \$100 | 60% | 40% | | | | | 100% | | \$2,700,000 | 55% | 30% | 15% |
| Bowling Green | 32,000 | \$2,000,000 | \$63 | 22% | 38% | 1% | 33% | | 6% | 100% | \$20,000 | \$40,000 | 62% | 36% | 2% |
| Celina City Parks | 10,000 | \$930,000 | \$93 | 43% | 14% | 43% | | | | 100% | \$400,000 | \$400,000 | 55% | 45% | |
| Cenerville-Washington Park District | 56,000 | \$2,639,332 | \$47 | 0.3% | 1.6% | 5.3% | 89.2% | | 3.6% | 96% | | \$1,639,659 | 57.5% | 18.8% | 23.7% |
| Grove City Parks and Recreation | 33,000 | \$1,300,000 | \$39 | 7% | 80% | 5% | 0% | 8% | | 100% | | \$700,000 | 70% | 25% | 5% |
| Fairborn | 32,000 | \$1,012,389 | \$32 | 85% | 4.5% | 1.5% | 0% | 0.5% | 8.5% | 100% | | \$160,000 | 59% | 32% | 9% |
| Hamilton | 62,000 | \$1,800,000 | \$29 | 100% | | | | | | 100% | | \$0 | 50% | 40% | 10% |
| Miamisburg | 20,000 | \$4,060,700 | \$203 | 42% | 57% | 1% | | | | 100% | | | 56% | 44% | |
| Sidney | 20,000 | \$1,374,776 | \$69 | 95% | | 5% | | | | 100% | | \$742,038 | 71% | 29% | |
| Washington Township | 55,000 | \$2,600,000 | \$47 | | 60% | | 40% | | | 100% | | \$100,000 | 55% | 40% | 5% |
| West Carrollton | 14,000 | \$900,000 | \$64 | 90% | 5% | 5% | | | | 100% | | \$120,000 | 68% | 32% | |
| Wilmington | 12,000 | \$519,400 | \$43 | 20% | | | 80% | | | 100% | | \$20,000 | 65% | 25% | 10% |
| Vandalia | 25,000 | \$3,797,010 | \$152 | 67% | 33% | | | | | 100% | | \$518,812 | 73% | 27% | |
| Kettering | 57,502 | \$9,543,936 | \$166 | 58% | 41% | 1% | | | | 100% | | \$2,691,000 | 57 | 43 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 0% | | | | | |
| Average | 32,898 | \$2,156,730 | \$90 | 72% | 30% | 8% | 38% | 5% | 6% | 101% | \$101,250 | \$635,691 | 269% | 203% | 10% |
| Median | 32,500 | \$1,450,000 | \$47 | 85% | 33% | 5% | 37% | 5% | 6% | 100% | \$35,000 | \$300,000 | 55% | 44% | 10% |

Appendix D – Benchmarking Comparisons

**Park and Recreation Department Benchmark Survey
Prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
Staff Comparisons**

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| | | PARK ACRES | | TOTAL STAFF | | | | | | | |
| AGENCY | Population | Total Park Acres | Citizens per park acre (B/C) | Full-time - year round | Part-time Year Round | Part-time Seasonal | Other | Total Employees | Total Acres per Employee (C/I) | Total Employees per 1000 Population (I/(B/1000)) | Full Time Employees per 1000 Population (E/(B/1000)) |
| North Ridgeville | 29,911 | 116 | 258 | 8 | 1 | 2 | | 11 | 10.53 | 0.37 | 0.27 |
| Liberty Township | 33,000 | 243 | 136 | 4 | 0 | 0 | | 4 | 60.75 | 0.12 | 0.12 |
| Beavercreek City and Township | 48,436 | 815 | 59 | 16 | 2 | 17 | | 35 | 23.29 | 0.72 | 0.33 |
| Oxford Parks and Recreation | 9,500 | 159 | 60 | 11 | 7 | 42 | | 60 | 2.65 | 6.32 | 1.16 |
| City of Mason Parks and Recreation | 38,000 | 301 | 126 | 22 | 148 | 6 | 3 | 179 | 1.68 | 4.71 | 0.58 |
| Anderson Township Park District | 44,000 | 510 | 86 | 22 | 20 | 30 | | 72 | 7.08 | 1.64 | 0.50 |
| Middletown | 50,000 | 346 | 145 | 1 | 0 | 3 | | 4 | 86.50 | 0.08 | 0.02 |
| Colerain Parks | 60,000 | 38 | 1,579 | 8 | 4 | 15 | | 27 | 1.41 | 0.45 | 0.13 |
| Miami Township-Clermont County | 36,000 | 398 | 90 | 7 | 3 | 19 | | 29 | 13.72 | 0.81 | 0.19 |
| Sycamore Township | 20,000 | 80 | 250 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 1 | 80.00 | 0.05 | 0.00 |
| Clearcreek Township | 30,000 | 255 | 118 | 1 | 0 | 5 | | 6 | 42.50 | 0.20 | 0.03 |
| Evendale Recreation Department | 3,700 | | | 6 | 25 | 34 | | 65 | | 17.57 | 1.62 |
| Hamilton Township | 25,000 | 340 | 74 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | 2 | 170.00 | 0.08 | 0.04 |
| Moraine Parks & Recreation Dept. | 7,000 | 189 | 37 | 9 | 46 | 240 | | 295 | 0.64 | 42.14 | 1.29 |
| Delhi Township Parks & Recreation | 33,000 | 100 | 330 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 2 | 24 | 4.17 | 0.73 | 0.12 |
| Blue Ash - City of | 55,000 | 180 | 306 | 18 | 50 | 150 | | 218 | 0.83 | 3.96 | 0.33 |
| Bowling Green | 32,000 | 210 | 152 | 16 | 2 | 70 | | 88 | 2.39 | 2.75 | 0.50 |
| Celina City Parks | 10,000 | 124 | 81 | 4 | | 46 | | 50 | 2.48 | 5.00 | 0.40 |
| Centerville-Washington Park District | 56,000 | 934 | 60 | 22 | 0 | 8.7 | | 31 | 30.42 | 0.55 | 0.39 |
| Grove City Parks and Recreation | 33,000 | 450 | 73 | 17 | 45 | 75 | 4 | 141 | 3.19 | 4.27 | 0.52 |
| Fairborn | 32,000 | 686 | 47 | 7 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 22 | 31.18 | 0.69 | 0.22 |
| Hamilton | 62,000 | 1,300 | 48 | 11 | 0 | 70 | | 81 | 16.05 | 1.31 | 0.18 |
| Miamisburg | 20,000 | 537 | 37 | 16 | 12 | 125 | | 153 | 3.51 | 7.65 | 0.80 |
| Sidney | 20,000 | 680 | 29 | | | | | 0 | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Washington Township | 55,000 | 37 | 1,486 | 10 | 60 | 50 | 20 | 140 | 0.26 | 2.55 | 0.18 |
| West Carrollton | 14,000 | 130 | 108 | 7 | 2 | 46 | | 55 | 2.36 | 3.93 | 0.50 |
| Wilmington | 12,000 | 250 | 48 | 4 | 1 | 50 | | 55 | 4.55 | 4.58 | 0.33 |
| Vandalia | 25,000 | 320 | 78 | 24 | 60 | 120 | | 204 | 1.57 | 8.16 | 0.96 |
| Kettering | 57,502 | 416 | 138 | 32 | 51 | 379 | 103 | 565 | 0.74 | 9.83 | 0.56 |
| | | | | | | | | 0 | | | |
| Average | 32,898 | 371.41 | 214.11 | 11.11 | 21.00 | 60.29 | 22.00 | 89.85 | 22.84 | 4.67 | 0.43 |
| Median | 32,500 | 301 | 86.27 | 9.00 | 3.50 | 34.00 | 3.50 | 55.00 | 3.84 | 2.09 | 0.33 |

Appendix D – Benchmarking Comparisons

Park and Recreation Department Benchmark Survey
Prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
Athletic Fields Comparisons

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--------|---|---------------------|---|----------|---|----------|---|
| AGENCY | Population | SOCCER | | SOFTBALL / BASEBALL | | FOOTBALL | | LACROSSE | |
| | | Fall | Citizens per field - Prime season (B/C) | Spring | Citizens per field - Prime season (B/E) | Fall | Citizens per field - Prime season (B/G) | Fall | Citizens per field - Prime season (B/I) |
| North Ridgeville | 29,911 | 16 | 1,869 | 17 | 1,759 | 4 | 7,478 | 0 | |
| Liberty Township - Butler County | 33,000 | 21 | 1,571 | 18 | 1,833 | 6 | 5,500 | 0 | |
| Beavercreek City and Township | 48,436 | 33 | 1,468 | 22 | 2,202 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Oxford Parks and Recreation | 9,500 | 7 | 1,357 | 5 | 1,900 | 1 | 9,500 | 0 | |
| Mason Parks and Recreation | 38,000 | 22 | 1,727 | 19 | 2,000 | 5 | 7,600 | 0 | |
| Anderson Township Park District | 44,000 | | | 16 | 2,750 | 3 | 14,667 | 0 | |
| Middletown | 50,000 | 15 | 3,333 | 8 | 6,250 | 4 | 12,500 | 0 | |
| Colerain Parks | 60,000 | 6 | 10,000 | 10 | 6,000 | | | 0 | |
| Miami Township - Clermont County | 36,000 | 19 | 1,895 | 10 | 3,600 | 2 | 18,000 | 0 | |
| Sycamore Township | 20,000 | 5 | 4,000 | 11 | 1,818 | | | 0 | |
| Clearcreek Township | 30,000 | 7 | 4,286 | | | | | 1 | 30,000 |
| Evendale Recreation Department | 3,700 | | | | | | | 0 | |
| Hamilton Township | 25,000 | 7 | 3,571 | 15 | 1,667 | 2 | 12,500 | 1 | 25,000 |
| Moraine Parks & Recreation Dept. | 7,000 | | | 11 | 636 | | | 0 | |
| Delhi Township Parks & Recreation | 33,000 | 3 | 11,000 | 9 | 3,667 | 1 | 33,000 | 0 | |
| Blue Ash - City of | 55,000 | 7 | 7,857 | 12 | 4,583 | 1 | 55,000 | 0 | |
| Bowling Green | 32,000 | 4 | 8,000 | 5 | 6,400 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Celina City Parks | 10,000 | 7 | 1,429 | 10 | 1,000 | 0 | | 2 | 5,000 |
| Centerville-Washington Park District | 56,000 | 31 | 1,806 | 21 | 2,667 | 0 | | 2 | 28,000 |
| Grove City Parks and Recreation | 33,000 | 0 | | 24 | 1,375 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Fairborn | 32,000 | 12 | 2,667 | 15 | 2,133 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Hamilton | 62,000 | 12 | 5,167 | 34 | 1,824 | 2 | 31,000 | 0 | |
| Miamisburg | 20,000 | 12 | 1,667 | 11 | 1,818 | 0 | | 1 | 20,000 |
| Sidney | 20,000 | 12 | 1,667 | 13 | 1,538 | 0 | | 2 | 10,000 |
| Washington Township | 55,000 | 3 | 18,333 | 1 | 55,000 | 0 | | 0 | |
| West Carrollton | 14,000 | 8 | 1,750 | 8 | 1,750 | 0 | | 1 | 14,000 |
| Wilmington | 12,000 | 3 | 4,000 | 8 | 1,500 | 1 | 12,000 | 1 | 12,000 |
| Vandalia | 25,000 | 15 | 1,667 | 13 | 1,923 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Kettering | 57,502 | 18 | 3,195 | 43 | 1,337 | 18 | 3,195 | 0 | |
| Average | 32,296 | 12 | 4,309 | 14 | 4,584 | 2.0 | 17,872 | 0.4 | 18,000 |
| Median | 32,000 | 8 | 2,931 | 12 | 1,912 | 1.0 | 12,500 | 0.0 | 17,000 |

Appendix D – Benchmarking Comparisons

Park and Recreation Department Benchmark Survey
 Prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
 Aquatic Center Comparisons

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------|---|
| OUTDOOR AQUATIC CENTERS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AGENCY | POPULATION | Y/N | Approx. Number of gallons | Approx. square feet of water surface | Year opened | Total annual attendance | Number of family passes | Number of individual passes | Average number of days in operation per year | Annual revenue | Annual expenses | Cost Recovery | Annual Expense per gallon | Notes |
| Oxford Parks and Recreation | 9,500 | 1 | | | 1970 | 21,000 | 124 | 19 | 85 | \$60,000 | \$101,000 | 59% | | |
| Mason Parks and Recreation | 38,000 | 1 | 390,000 | 13,200 | 1995 | 32,518 | 787 | 248 | 90 | \$191,172 | \$199,934 | 96% | \$0.51 | |
| Middletown | 50,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Evendale Recreation Department | 3,700 | 1 | 335,000 | | 1999 | 18,000 | 150 | 3 | 100 | \$23,000 | \$140,000 | 16% | \$0.42 | |
| Moraine Parks & Recreation Dept. | 7,000 | 1 | | | 2000 | 50,546 | 149 | 846 | 95 | \$580,000 | \$1,076,206 | 54% | | |
| Blue Ash - City of | 55,000 | 1 | 550,000 | | 1979 | 50,000 | NA | NA | 75 | NA | NA | | | |
| Bowling Green | 32,000 | 1 | 350,000 | | 1960 | 19,600 | 308 | 83 | 83 | \$118,500 | \$125,000 | 95% | \$0.36 | |
| Celina City Parks | 10,000 | 1 | 800,000 | | 1997 | 20,000 | | | 90 | \$37,000 | \$90,000 | 41% | \$0.11 | |
| Grove City Parks and Recreation | 33,000 | 1 | 246,420 | | 1999 | 60,646 | 447 | 704 | 100 | \$330,000 | \$330,000 | 100% | \$1.34 | |
| Tipp City | 9,721 | 1 | 370,000 | 11,491 | 2005 | 50,653 | | | | \$387,874 | \$379,391 | 102% | \$1.03 | |
| Miamisburg | 20,000 | 1 | 420,000 | 16,500 | 1997 | 59,118 | 683 | 414 | 100 | \$349,649 | \$506,687 | 69% | \$1.21 | |
| Sidney | 20,000 | 1 | 613,300 | 16,470 | 1989 | 32,800 | 380 | 195 | | \$87,000 | \$138,000 | 63% | \$0.23 | Major renovation in 1989; renovated in 2002; slides added in 2003 |
| West Carrollton | 14,000 | 1 | 413,000 | 59,350 | 1985 | 33,000 | 217 | 106 | 106 | \$191,571 | \$185,450 | 103% | \$0.45 | |
| Vandalia | 25,000 | 1 | 221,000 | | 1974 | 25,000 | 422 | 118 | 90 | \$138,500 | \$138,209 | 100% | \$0.63 | |
| Avon Lake | 22,602 | 1 | 450,000 | 16,400 | 2007 | | | | | \$223,119 | \$226,596 | 98% | \$0.50 | |
| Marion | 36,689 | 1 | 398,000 | 14,650 | 2012 | | | | | | | | | |
| Kettering | 57,502 | 1 | | | 1990 | 52,868 | 2730 | 1,142 | 100 | \$345,281 | \$258,995 | 133% | | |
| Huber Heights | 38,278 | 1 | 468,815 | 21,072 | 2012 | | | | | | | | | |
| Average | 26,777 | 1 | 430,395 | 21,142 | | 37,554 | 582 | 353 | 93 | \$218,762 | \$278,248 | 81% | \$0.62 | |
| Median | 23,801 | 1 | 405,500 | 16,435 | | 32,900 | 380 | 195 | 93 | \$191,372 | \$192,692 | 95% | \$0.50 | |

Appendix D – Benchmarking Comparisons

Park and Recreation Department Benchmark Survey
 Prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc.
 Recreation Centers Comparison

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | |
|----------------------------------|------------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------|------------------------|-----------|-------------|---------|-----|
| AGENCY | POPULATION | Y/N | Square feet | Year opened | Total annual attendance | Number of annual members | Family memberships | Individual memberships | Total annual income /revenue | Total annual expenses | Cost Recovery | Multi-Purpose Rooms | Gyms (No. of game courts) | Fitness Area - Cardio/Fr ee weights | Indoor Pool | Indoor track | Theater | Ice Rink - # of sheets | Teen Area | Senior Area | Kitchen | |
| Oxford Parks and Recreation | 9,500 | 1 | | 1970 | | | | | | | ?? | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Mason Parks and Recreation | 38,000 | 1 | 158,000 | 2003 | 314,144 | 18,110 | 15,487 | 2,623 | \$2,410,383 | \$3,460,424 | 70% | | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| Anderson Township Park District | 44,000 | 1 | 12,000 | 2004 | | | | | \$140,000 | \$96,000 | 146% | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Evendale Recreation Department | 3,700 | 1 | 52,000 | 1991 | 117,000 | 2,600 | 1,535 | 65 | \$218,000 | \$656,000 | 33% | | 2 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Moraine Parks & Recreation Dept. | 7,000 | 1 | 50,000 | 2000 | 90,000 | 1,100 | | | \$250,000 | \$1,076,000 | 23% | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Blue Ash - City of | 55,000 | 1 | 120,000 | 1979 | 158,000 | 11000 | 2300 | 1300 | \$500,000 | \$1,250,000 | 40% | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Bowling Green | 32,000 | 1 | 40,400 | 2001 | | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Hamilton | 62,000 | 1 | 10,000 | 1945 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Washington Township | 55,000 | 1 | 80,000 | 1988/2006 | | | 780 | 1192 | \$1,617,538 | \$2,737,585 | 59% | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 0 | 2 | |
| Vandalia | 25,000 | 1 | 60,000 | 2001 | 180,000 | 6000 | 2900 | 1800 | \$1,117,637 | \$1,313,694 | 85% | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Kettering | 57,502 | 1 | 145,000 | 1990 | 666,662 | | 112 | 8812 | \$1,620,521 | \$2,977,530 | 54% | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Average | 35,337 | 1.00 | 72,740 | | 254,301 | 7,762 | | | \$984,260 | \$1,695,904 | 64% | 1.5 | 2.3 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.3 |
| Median | 38,000 | 1 | 56,000 | | 169,000 | 6,000 | | | \$808,819 | \$1,281,847 | 57% | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |