



# North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation

## 2015 Annual Report

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 2015 City of North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department's Annual Report is a review of the past year. This report presents an overview of our highlights, accomplishments, and challenges we experienced.

The Parks and Recreation Department continues to meet the budget challenges from year to year by controlling expenditures and maximizing our revenues. These challenges are met head on by our dedicated staff who strives to offer quality programs that have an impact on the well being of the North Ridgeville community. We take pride in offering quality programs that recover a portion of the operational expenses through fees, fundraising, grants and sponsorships.

In 2015 the department took on a restructuring which provided us the opportunity to hire Meredith Brescilli to oversee the tot & youth programs. The addition of Meredith to our staff will afford us the opportunity to expand our tot & youth leisure programs to the community.

We as a staff work hard to create a sustainable, safe and fun environment for everyone to take part in. I am thankful to have a fantastic staff and volunteers. In 2016 we are looking forward to continued growth, evaluation and sustaining a quality of life for the residents of North Ridgeville.

We hope you enjoy reading about your Parks and Recreation Department's activities from 2015.

On behalf of the North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department, thank you for your unending support of our programs and services.

Sincerely,

*Kevin M. Fougrousse*

Kevin M. Fougrousse  
Parks and Recreation Director



### **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.

### **2015 Mayor & City Council:**

Mayor: G. David Gillock  
Safety Service Director: Jeff Armbruster

At-Large / Council President: Kevin Corcoran  
At-Large / President Pro Tem: Bernadine Butkowski  
At-Large: Roseanne Johnson

Ward 1: Terrence Keenan  
Ward 2: Dennis Boose  
Ward 3: Dr. Ronald Arndt  
Ward 4: Robert Olesen

### **2015 Parks & Recreation Commission:**

Chairman: Dennis Boose  
Vice Chairman: Cathy Ebenschweller

Council Liaison: Dennis Boose  
School Board Liaison: Kelly McCarthy  
Active Members: Ben Gommel  
Chris Turay  
Cathy Ebenschweller

### **Department Staff:**

Director: Kevin Fougrousse  
Program Supervisor: Frank Vacha  
Program Supervisor: Meredith Brescilli

### **North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation**

7307 Avon Belden Road  
North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039

Phone: (440) 353-0860  
Fax: (440) 353-0845

Website: [www.nridgeville.org/parksandrec](http://www.nridgeville.org/parksandrec)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/northridgevilleparksandrec](https://www.facebook.com/northridgevilleparksandrec)

## PROJECTS



### Outdoor Fitness Equipment:

Six pieces of outdoor fitness equipment purchased from Snider & Associates and manufactured by Greenfield Outdoor Fitness were added to South Central Park. These 6 pieces which include an elliptical, stair climber, rower, recumbent bike, chest press and lat pull down machine were added to the hillside overlooking the lake. The equipment was funded by the Communities Preventing Chronic Disease Grant (formerly Grant 1422) which was made possible through our partnership with the Lorain County General Health District. Total project cost was \$25,665.00.

### Artistic Bike Racks Added To Park System:

If you went through our park system you may have noticed that we were missing an element that goes hand-in-hand with parks...Bike Racks. Thankfully in 2015 this matter was addressed as we had 6 artistic bike racks manufactured by AJ's Welding and installed in every park. The bike racks are action words: Leisure, Fun, Play, Sport, Bike and Park and add a creative and artistic twist on the modern bike rack. The total project cost was \$13,827.00 and was funded by the Communities Preventing Chronic Disease Grant (formerly Grant 1422).



### South Central Park Parking Lot Repaved and New Lighting Added:

The parking lot was repaved this spring by the North Ridgeville Service Department. The Service Department removed six decorative islands, removed the old parking lot lights and installed new ones, moved a catch basin and re-striped the parking lot. The parking lot capacity increased from 166 total spots to 186. Total project cost was \$66,185.44 and was funded by the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund.

## Accessible Walkway Project: Phase 1

The Parks and Recreation Department received a \$43,000.00 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to construct a six-foot wide asphalt walkway at Shady Drive Complex. Phase 1 of this two-phase project started in the fall and was completed in early November. The new walkway will now allow individuals to walk the park on a safe path. The project was awarded to Mould Plantation at a cost of \$84,660.00 to complete. The project was funded through the Park and Recreation Trust and the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund. Phase 2 is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2016.



## No Tobacco Policy Implemented:

One of the bigger accomplishments happened in July when the Parks and Recreation Department became only the 2<sup>nd</sup> community in Lorain County and the 5<sup>th</sup> in the State of Ohio (provided by [www.no-smoke.org](http://www.no-smoke.org)) to have a tobacco-free park system. The Parks and Recreation Department, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Lorain County General Health District (LCGHD) worked diligently for months to put in place a comprehensive policy that would make our park system healthier and cleaner. But, we didn't stop there. We also provided individuals with information on how to quit utilizing tobacco products making available on our website the LCGHD Tobacco Cessation along with the State of Ohio quit line.

## Updates to Safetyville Building:

A new floating hardwood floor in the main facility was added, wainscoting was installed on the walls and the old carpet was removed and ceramic tile was added to the storage room and bathrooms. The facility was in need of a facelift and the transformation is magnificent. The total project cost was \$17,624.99 and funded by the Parks and Recreation Improvement Fund.



- **New Picnic Tables & Trash Receptacles** were added to South Central Park and Frontier Park. Over the past four years we have been slowly updating our amenities in our park system. This has been made possible by the Lorain County Solid Waste Grant. Total project cost was \$11,849.37.
- Additional **Security Lighting** was added in South Central Park. The work was performed by Graham Electric. Total project cost was \$1,705.00.

# PARKS

## SOUTH CENTRAL PARK: PAVILION & GAZEBO RENTALS

YEAR	2013	2014	2015
Pavilion 1 (whole)	53	55	59
Pavilion 1 (half)	04	08	06
Pavilion 2	35	49	51
Pavilion 3	20	26	35
Gazebo	01	11	00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>151</b>

## SHADY DRIVE COMPLEX: FIELD RENTALS

2013	2014	2015
13	15	26

*\*numbers are based on "individual renters" not total number of fields or dates rented*

## SHADY DRIVE COMPLEX: BATTING CAGE RENTALS

2013	2014	2015
08	17	18

*\*numbers are of "renters" not total number of dates*



# PROGRAMS

The Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of programs for tot, youth, adult and the senior population in North Ridgeville. We strive to enrich the quality of life by offering programming that strengthens your mental, emotional and physical well-being. Programming addresses the national obesity epidemic by encouraging the development of healthy lifestyles, strong minds and fit bodies. In 2015 the Parks and Recreation Department continued to perform at a high level by increasing the number and diversity of program offerings.

## RECREATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION NUMBERS:

YEAR	2013	2014	2015
Youth Sports	1,228	1089	1,151
Adult Education	139	209	204
Summer Camp	133*	172	141
Group Fitness	2,014	2,337	2,845
Tot Programs	368	326	421
Youth Programs	181	127	24
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,063</b>	<b>4,260</b>	<b>4,786</b>

\*2013 summer camp was 6 weeks, moved to 7 weeks in 2014.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Cleveland Stache Dash:

We hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mustache Themed 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run-Walk on Saturday, November 7. The weather was fantastic (mid 50's, sun) and the race was even better. We had a total of 356 runners and walkers that took part which was a positive increase of +11 from 2014. Each participant went home with a race bag and a hooded sweatshirt. The race raised \$6,957.17 for the department and we can't thank the participants, sponsors, volunteers, police and fire department enough for their contribution in making the race a success.



### Daddy Daughter Dance:

Our annual Daddy Daughter Dance which has been offered every year since 2012 is one of our more popular events. The dance is held for girls K-5<sup>th</sup> grade to mingle with their friends and watch their dads make fools of themselves dancing the night away. It is held at North Ridgeville Middle School from 7:00-9:00 PM. We decorate the space; offer a sit-down dinner, photographer and a DJ. We had a total of 69 couples (138 people) in 2015.

### Zumbathon:

Our Zumbathon® started in 2014 as a way to promote fitness but also as a way to raise money for a charity. In 2015 we decided to raise money for Andrew Ody. Andrew is the son of North Ridgeville Police Officer Christopher Ody and in 2014 Andrew suffered a horrific accident which left doctors wondering if he would survive. Andrew is a fighter though and not ready to leave this earth. His TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) has left him with right-sided weakness, cognitive delays and aphasia. Andrew continues to require intense physical, occupational and speech therapies. With mounting medical expenses our community was able to raise \$1,270.00 to help Andrew and his family. We are looking forward to seeing Andrew's continued progress and we are happy to support such a fantastic family.

### Independence Day Celebration:

Our City Independence Day Celebration which is typically held on July 3 is a very special and cherished holiday in North Ridgeville. The community comes together once a year to celebrate our nation's birthday. The annual Independence Day Celebration takes place in South Central Park. The evening activities start at 7:00 PM with our Party in the Park which consists of bounce houses, balloon twister, food vendors, live music and of course a firework show. We estimated 4,000 people attended in 2015.

### Tots Trick or Treat:

In 2015 we had a total of 206 kids ranging from toddlers to 5 year olds make the walk through City Hall sporting their Halloween costumes and receiving goodies from our generous employees. The parents and kids are very appreciative of our efforts and the kids receive a jump start on receiving Halloween candy.



### Fall Fest:

Held the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October the Parks and Recreation Department hosts a family-friendly event full of activities. Held from 4:00-6:00 PM in South Central Park attendees get an opportunity to enjoy hay rides, a magician, pumpkin painting, bounce houses and an interactive DJ. Food is provided by Kurtz Concessions and they offer up some of the fall goodies that everyone loves around that time of year. Fall Fest is estimated to draw 900-1,000 people and is free to attend.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Spookville: Presented by North Ridgeville Lions Club

Quarter mile haunted forest, little kid maize, and food options takes place in South Central Park on a Friday and Saturday in October. Spookville had 1,500+ spectators go through the haunted forest and raised an estimated \$3,000 for the North Ridgeville Lions Club. They do a fantastic job of decorating the park with the assistance of Parks and Recreation and our Grounds Maintenance Department.

### Fishing Derby:

The Fishing Derby is held the first weekend in May from 8:00 AM-noon in South Central Park. The event is free to kids ages 3-18 and is sponsored by Parks and Recreation, North Ridgeville Fire Department, and North Ridgeville Fishing Club. The department stocks the lake every year typically with trout and blue gill and each participant goes home with a t-shirt. We had 150 kids take part in 2015 and some participants went home with some fantastic prizes.



### Tree Lighting:

Our tree lighting kicks off the holiday season with the lighting of the Christmas Tree and the Gazebo. Christmas carols are sung by the North Ridgeville Choir which is led by William E. Davis. Decorations are provided by local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops. The tree lighting runs in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce's annual Holiday on the Ridge.

### Santa's Calling:

Santa's Calling is just as it sounds. Our North Ridgeville Lions Club acts as Mr. & Mrs. Claus to call kids that range in age from 3-8 years old. Parents fill out a form with what the kids want for Christmas along with some other information to make sure they stay on Santa's nice list. This two-night event had a total of 60 kids in 2015.

### Touch-A-Truck:

This free event is offered to kids ages 2-10 and is held in the North Ridgeville High School parking lot. Fire trucks, police vehicles, cement mixers, a school bus and so much more is on display for the kids to interact with. All the vehicles are donated for the day which is held in June. We had an estimated 120 kids in 2015.



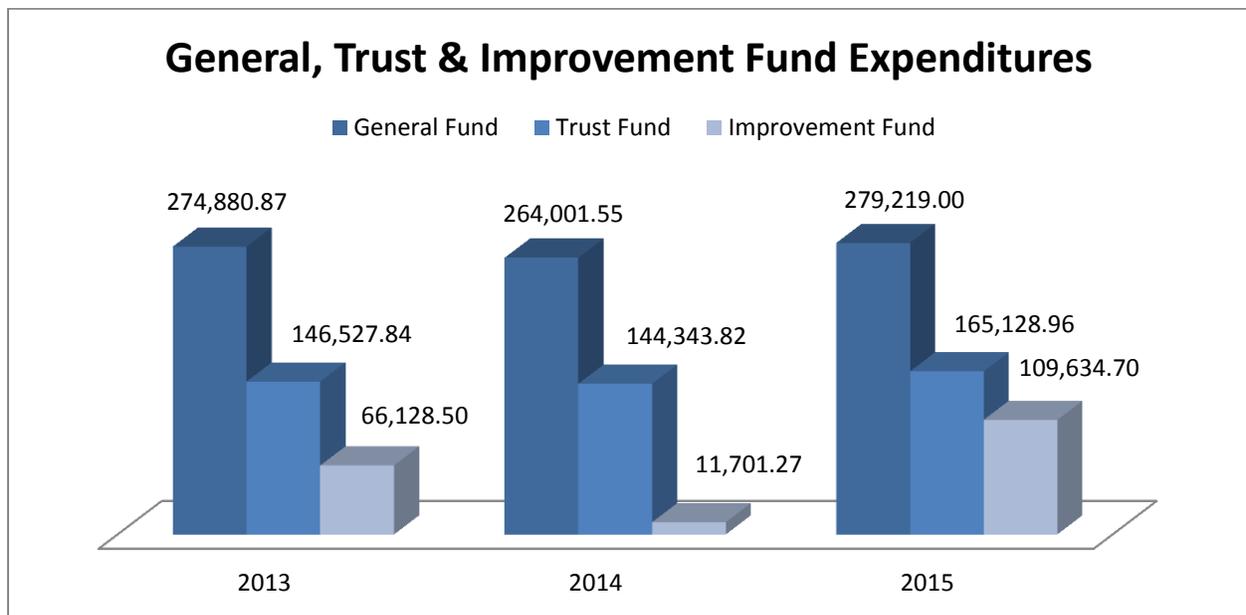
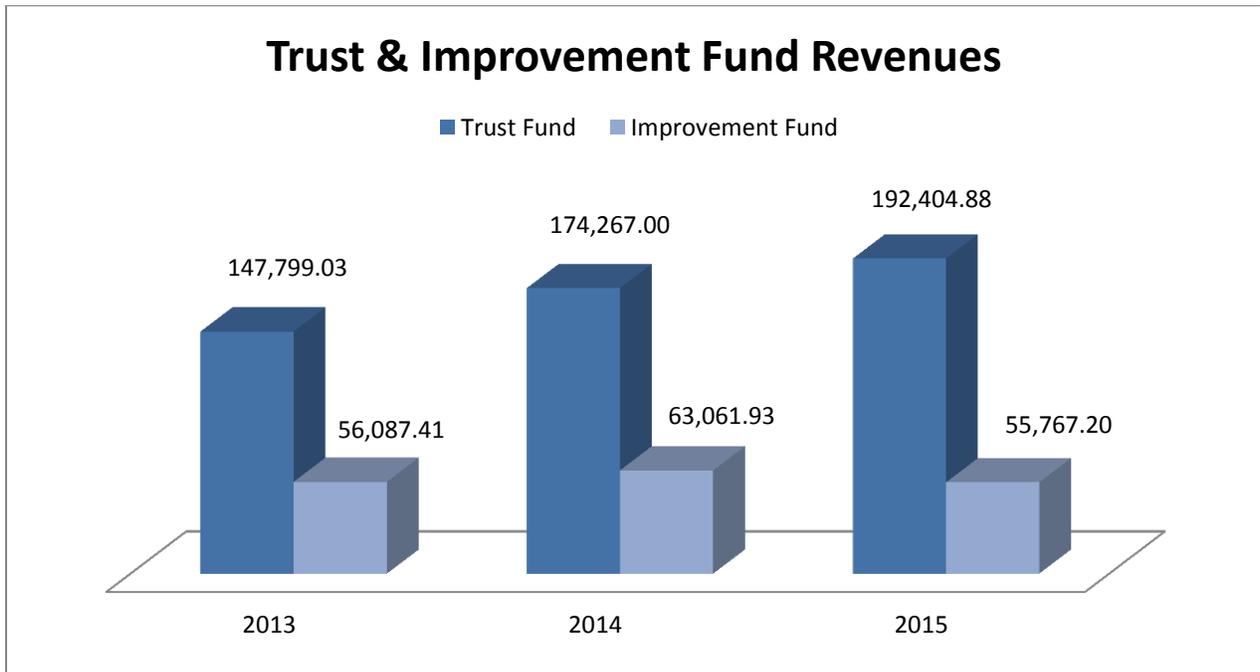
### Lorain County Pride Day:

This county-wide program is an opportunity for residents of North Ridgeville to play an active role in improving not only the parks but also the community. Held in May from 9:00 AM-noon volunteers tackle projects such as mulching, painting, trash pick-up and so much more. We receive on average 120 volunteers who spend their morning beautifying our wonderful community.

# BUDGET

The Parks and Recreation Department oversees 3 budgets: General, Trust and Improvement Funds. In 2015 the total actual revenue collected was \$248,172.08 (trust & improvement revenue) with expenses totaling \$553,982.66 (general, trust & improvement fund expenses). At the end of 2015 the Trust Fund had \$187,852.71 available and the Improvement Fund had \$185,432.36.

The Parks and Recreation budget is for the operation of recreation programs, special events, rentals, part-time and seasonal staffing, office operations and miscellaneous park expenses. Revenues are generated from programs, sponsorships, donations, grants and rental fees.



### South Central Park – Tennis Court Project:

The department is partnering with North Ridgeville City Schools to address the rehabilitation of the existing tennis courts while adding a fifth court to benefit the North Ridgeville City Schools' tennis program. We are applying for a NatureWorks Grant through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources which is due May 1. The NatureWorks grant program provides up to 75% reimbursement assistance for local government subdivisions (townships, villages, cities, counties, park districts, joint recreation districts and conservancy districts) for the acquisition, development and rehabilitation of recreational areas. The North Ridgeville City Schools has applied for the Steve Harvey/State Farm High School "Get to a Better State" grant.

### Memorial Tree Program:

With the assistance of the Parks and Recreation Commission we will be rolling out a Memorial Tree Program to the residents of North Ridgeville in 2016. The Memorial Tree Program provides residents an opportunity to recognize important occasions such as anniversaries, weddings, births and retirements, as well as to memorialize the loss of a loved one. This program is open strictly to residents at a cost of \$300.00. An application must be completed prior to the planting which takes place in the fall and spring only. We are looking forward to unveiling this program to our residents and hope that it adds a beautification aspect to our park system.



### South Central Park – Recycling Initiative:

In spring 2016 the department will be rolling out a recycling program that will be initiated on a trial basis in South Central Park. Working with Republic Waste the park will be equipped with a recycling dumpster and recycling containers will be placed at strategic locations in the park. There will be no added work load to our staff. They will not have to sort the recyclables to rid it of waste, all that will be done at the Republic Waste facility. Our hope through marketing and positive literature park users will start actively recycling bottles, cans and paper.

### North Ridgeville Heart & Sole Challenge:

Moving into year two the North Ridgeville Heart & Sole Challenge is looking to keep the momentum moving forward by providing our residents with education pieces, amenities and programs that will hopefully improve their quality of life. In 2015 we had our kickoff event to introduce North Ridgeville Heart & Sole to the community, we added amenities to our park system, hosted a plant-based seminar that drew 400+ to the North Ridgeville Education Center to hear Jane Esselstyn speak and so much more. In 2016 we are looking to expand on what we have accomplished and be a main stay in the community for years to come.

