



2012

ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 102 years

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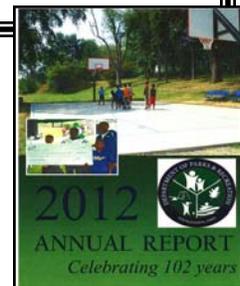
2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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ON THE COVER...

Homestead Park's newly resurfaced basketball court and benches provided through the Sprite Spark Grant. Coach & players from the Youngstown Little Chargers showing off the grant check.





City of Youngstown
Mayor and Members of Council

Mayor	Charles P. Sammarone
President of Council	Jamael Tito Brown
1st Ward Councilwoman	Annie Gillam
2nd Ward Councilman	T. J. Rodgers
3rd Ward Councilman	Nathaniel Pinkard
4th Ward Councilman	Michael Ray Jr.
5th Ward Councilman	Paul Drennen
6th Ward Councilwoman	Janet Tarpley
7th Ward Councilman	John R. Swierz

2012 Park & Playgrounds Committee

5th Ward Councilman Paul Drennen, Chairman
6th Ward Councilwoman Janet Tarpley, Vice-Chairperson
4th Ward Councilman Michael Ray, Member

Park & Recreation Commission



Anthony Spano

Secretary

Mr. Spano was appointed by former Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams on June 22, 2010.

Mr. Spano's term will expire on December 31, 2014.



Gerald Fordham,

Vice Chairperson

Mr. Fordham was appointed to his position by Youngstown City Council on September 25, 2008.

Mr. Fordham's term will expire on December 31, 2012.



Jason Roller

Member

Mr. Roller was appointed to his position by the Youngstown Board of Education on January 29, 2009.

Mr. Roller's term will expire December 31, 2013.



Terri Bryant

Member

Ms. Bryant was appointed to her position by former Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams on June 8, 2011.

Ms. Bryant's term will expire on December 31, 2015.



Nancy Walker-McCain

Member

Ms. Walker-McCain was appointed to her position by Youngstown City Council on February 23, 2012.

Ms. Walker-McCain's term will expire on December 31, 2016.

Financial Report

2012 Revenue and Expenditures

Appropriations	\$2,972,181.00
Expenditures	\$2,806,568.54
Balance	\$ 165,612.46

2012 Receipts

Building Rentals	\$ 43,109.98
Arlington Heights Recreation Center	\$ 15,810.00
Field Rentals	\$ 2,050.00
Golf Course Greens Fees	\$ 58,609.00
Golf Course Cart Rentals	\$ 34,962.25
Golf Course Tournaments	\$ 800.00
Golf Balls	\$ 364.00
Golf Tees	\$ 115.50
Golf Jackets	\$ 90.00
Golf Club Rentals	\$ 40.00
Swimming Pool	\$ 9,598.50
Concessions	\$ 2,912.95
Vending	\$ 2,748.56
Gas & Oil Drilling	\$ 1,226.65
Sale of Scrap	\$ 770.85
Other Miscellaneous	\$ 3,047.50
Total Receipts	\$ 176,255.74

Message from the Director



Youngstown is a Community Committed to Quality Living

I am thrilled to serve as the Director of the Youngstown Parks and Recreation Department. My team and the Board have been incredibly busy positioning the Youngstown Parks for the future since my arrival as Director in March 2012. We're exploring new programming opportunities, evaluating our community recreational facilities and reaching out to partners for creative collaboration.

This is an exciting time for the department as we are in the process of working on the city's first Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. This plan will guide the city in planning for future parks and recreation efforts. As part of that effort, we hope to hear from you. There will be several opportunities for input as this plan progresses. Please continue to check our website to see how you can become involved.

The Department of Parks & Recreation looks forward to continuing to provide recreational services to our community. We are committed to providing the Youngstown community the same quality of recreational services since our inception in 1910.

We are always looking for new program ideas and of course people to participate. If you have an idea for any new programs, feel free to put it in writing and submit to the Department of Parks & Recreation located in City Hall.

Youngstown Parks & Recreation Achieves Its Mission By:

- Providing a variety of recreation, education, and human service programs that contribute to the health and well being of people of all ages and abilities.
- Coordinating creative events that enhance community and add to the City's economic vitality.
- Promoting and expanding community partnerships, and opportunities for civic engagement that leverage resources to meet changing demands for recreation, human services, and acquisition of open space.
- Maintaining the community's investment in the urban and natural environment, with an emphasis on sustainability, safety, accessibility, aesthetic quality and fiscal responsibility.
- Using collaborative public processes to establish community vision and priorities for the City's park system; while taking a systematic, balanced approach to planning, development and rehabilitation of parks, natural areas, and recreational facilities.

Our top notch team of professionals continues to work hard to provide the quality programs, activities, and facilities that we are known for and that the public enjoys. Like many organizations, we are experiencing reduced budget and staffing levels, but with continued community collaboration and participation, the Department of Parks and Recreation can be a key driver in promoting economic development, enhancing the environment, and facilitating healthy lifestyles. On behalf of the department, I'd like to thank the community for the opportunity to serve you, and share with you a number of positive achievements completed over the past year due to your support.

- Fishing Derby with Warriors Inc.
- Fall Basketball program at Arlington Heights Recreation Center in collaboration with JJC and the CIRV program
- Summer open gym with JJC and the CIRV program
- Summer day camp program staff served over 800 children
- American Red Cross Learn to Swim program
- Safe Trick or Treat night with the Black Knights Association
- Lunch time with Santa at Wick Park pavilion with the Black Firefighters Association
- Earned the Tree City USA designation for the 5th year
- Improvements at the Stambaugh Golf Course in collaboration with the Friends of Stambaugh Golf Course
- Improvements at Wick Park in collaboration with City Scape and the Wick Park Neighborhood Association

In closing, I want to encourage you to get out into the parks and enjoy them.

Sincerely,



Robert Burke

“The Benefits of Recreation are Endless”

What's New...



Pictured above is the new Park Director, Bob Burke meeting 1st Ward Councilmember Annie Gillam.

On March 26, 2012, Bob Burke was appointed the new Director of the Park Department by the Park and Recreation Commission. Mr. Burke's education and experience as the former Community Center Director for the City of Newton Falls should prove to be an asset to the department. During the first nine months of 2012 he has appeared on several community based television programs promoting the facilities and programming available through the department. Also, the Vindicator published an article that focused on the many benefits the department has to offer. Mr. Burke has been busy familiarizing himself with the city parks and forming partnerships with area agencies and organizations to better serve the community through recreational programming.



(Left) Israel Lopez, a dedicated employee and laborer for the department retired in May 2012 and was recognized for his 23 years of service.



(Above) Mr. Burke checking out the play equipment at Crandall Park.



(Left) Alicia Anderson was recognized and awarded a plaque for her 10 years of commitment and service to the Park Department's Summer Day Camp Program.



(Above) Signage announcing the new park coming soon to the corner of Glenwood and Sherwood Avenues. Plans for the park include playground equipment as well as a basketball court.

2012 was a productive year for the department with several capital improvements being completed. With the assistance of grants and donations several projects were accomplished, one such project was the Stambaugh Golf Course clubhouse exterior improvements and the development of a concession area of which the “Friends of Stambaugh Golf Course” organization contributed financially.



Through the Sprite Sparks Park program, a \$25,000 grant was awarded to the department to refresh the basketball court at Homestead Park and provide the park with new benches, trash receptacles and concrete stairs at the east entrance of the building.



In 2012 development began on creating a new park to replace Fosterville Park. In 2010 the Fosterville property was sold to Bottom Dollar Foods to develop a retail grocery store. With the cooperation of several city departments and many community organizations such as the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, Bottom Dollar Foods, and the Idora Neighborhood Association, the beginning phase of the Glenwood Avenue Park project became a reality.



The department also completed a much needed open pavilion at the MVSD Park site on the city’s west side. The summer day camp staff and children were very appreciative of the new shelter as well as the area residents who now have a picnic area to utilize in their neighborhood.

In addition to the many facility improvements, the budget allowed for a new dump truck to add to the department’s fleet along with a tractor, woods unit, and zero turn mower to assist the maintenance crew with keeping the green spaces throughout the city cut and manicured.



Programs

Programming is an integral part of the Park Department and 2012 offered a variety of programs. In addition to past programs such as the annual Christmas tree placed on downtown's Central Square and the eight week Summer Day Camp program, new programs were instituted. One such program was "Hooked on Fishing" which took place at Crandall Park and was sponsored by a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The Park Department partnered with Warriors, Inc. to introduce and teach children the fundamentals of fishing. The pond was stocked and fishing poles and bait were provided to the youth and adults that took advantage of this free event.



The Youngstown Association of Black Professional Firefighters partnered with the department to offer 200 children the opportunity to have lunch with Santa at Wick Park during the holiday season. Donations of pizza, refreshments and toys were donated by area organizations to make the day an enjoyable experience for all that attended.



The Mahoning County Juvenile Court Sports Program and C.I.R.V. (Community Initiative to Reduce Violence) partnered with the Park Department to offer a free youth basketball league that took place each week at the Arlington Heights Recreation Center. A Tuesday afternoon open gym event was also offered at the center during the summer months for youth in the community through this partnership.



Free golf lessons at the Stambaugh Golf Course were given by the course's golf pro Dave Boos to registered children from the Summer Day Camp program eager to learn the fundamentals of the game of golf. Also free to the children in the community were swimming lessons given by the Red Cross at North Side Pool throughout the summer months.



A reoccurring summer event sponsored by the department is Jazz in the Park which was held on the park property located at the B&O Station also known as Spring Commons. Area bands performed Sunday afternoons to many jazz enthusiasts who took advantage of this free event. Another reoccurring event is the Junior Golf Tournament held in July at the Stambaugh Golf Course which had over 40 participants.

Each year the Department of Parks & Recreation sponsors an eight week Summer Day Camp program at six park sites throughout the city. In 2012 over 800 children were given the opportunity to experience educational and physical recreation. Camp began June 13th and ran through August 8th with free breakfast and lunch provided daily through a grant from the Ohio Department of Education.



Weekly sports tournaments take place teaching the children the importance of team work and good sportsmanship. A special guest, Brad Smith, a wide receiver for the NFL Buffalo Bills who grew up in the area visited the children at the camp's football tournament and spoke to the campers about receiving a good education, working hard and staying out of trouble.

Educational and cultural activities are also extended to the children that included learning about the culture and history of Australia and an African American cultural study featuring Whitney Houton's life and career as a professional singer. Recreational field trips that have an educational component are afforded to the campers which included the Oh Wow Children's Museum, YSU Smarts Center, Wagon Trails Animal Park and the Carnegie Science Center.

The campers also are given the opportunity to enjoy field trips to Chuck E Cheese, Youngstown Skate, Mahoning Valley Lanes for bowling and swimming at North Sided pool.

The entire program is created and supervised by an experienced and trained staff who embrace the opportunity to mentor and make a difference in the lives of the children who participate.

Parks & Facilities

In 2012 the department maintained 45 city owned properties to ensure the citizens of Youngstown a quality recreational experience and safe community in which to live. The employees of the department are instrumental in keeping 485 acres of park property maintained as well as the maintenance of tree lined streets and boulevards. Over 200 trees on city owned tree lawns and within the city parks were cut or pruned to ensure the safety of the citizens.



There are an abundance of recreational facilities available throughout the city. One of those facilities is the Arlington Heights Recreation Center and Park which has ample opportunities for the community to utilize. The center houses a fitness room and a full size gymnasium for exercising needs. In 2012, on average, 150 memberships were sold each quarter. Our memberships are priced very low so that everyone has the opportunity to become physically fit. Outdoor facilities include basketball courts, tennis courts, play equipment for physically challenged individuals as well as those who are not .



Other recreational opportunities available are the North Side Pool which operates from mid June through mid August. In 2012 over 8800 swimmers took the opportunity to utilize the facility in the warm summer months. Also available for outdoor recreation is the Henry Stambaugh Golf Course which opened March 19th and accommodated over 7500 golfers for the 2012 golf season.



The department also has rental sites such as Wick, Crandall, Lincoln, and Homestead Parks which offer indoor facilities as well as outdoor pavilions. Johnson and Lynn Parks offer outdoor pavilions and were available through the summer months. In 2012 all sites were reserved frequently. An estimated 20,000 or more visitors utilized the indoor and outdoor rental facilities this past year.



Football, soccer, rugby, kickball, softball and baseball were played at all available fields within the park system and are located city wide to accommodate organized leagues. Indoor and outdoor basketball courts were also utilized heavily throughout the city parks and at the Arlington Heights Recreation Center. During the summer months the Park Department's 10 tennis courts were available for anyone wanting to play.



For those looking to jog, walk, or run to get some fresh air and exercise, there are several sites available. The most popular being Wick Park's track which is one mile from start to finish around the park. Along the track are exercise stations to enhance your experience.



Information regarding memberships and rental fees are available online at www.cityofyoungstownoh.com or calling the Park Department at 330-742-8711.



Property Summary

The following list summarizes park property and facilities that are patrolled by security and landscaped and maintained by Park Department employees.

<i>Total Acreage</i>	<i>485.21</i>
<i>Locations</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>Buildings</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Equipped Playgrounds</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Modular Deck Systems</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>9-Hole Golf Course</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Multi-Purpose Skating Rink</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Swimming Pool</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Enclosed Picnic Pavilions</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Open Picnic Areas</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Jogging Path</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Sled Riding Location</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Tennis Courts</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Basketball Courts</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Football Locations</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Soccer Locations</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Hardball Diamonds (2 Lighted)</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Little League Hardball Fields</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Little League Softball Field</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Babe Ruth Hardball Field</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Softball Diamonds</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Practice Baseball Field (Back Stop)</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Bleachers</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Seating Capacity</i>	<i>17,000</i>
<i>Artificial Lakes</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Spray Fountain</i>	<i>2</i>



Mission Statement

To provide safe, quality parks and recreation to the community focusing on fitness, wellness, environmental education and mental and physical well-being. To sustain core programming, services and facilities through efficient and effective business practices.





*City of Youngstown
Department of Parks & Recreation
26 South Phelps Street
Youngstown, Ohio
330.742.8711*

www.cityofyoungstownoh.com