



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT
JULY 2025

Robinette Park Playground Ribbon Cutting

August 15th | 12pm

Join us for the grand opening of the NEW
Robinette Park Playground!

Robinette Park
761 Enola Ct.
Vandalia, OH 45377



Advisory Board Members

- Lenny Maenza, Chairperson
- Tara Landis, Vice Chairperson
- Rick Scherer, Secretary
- Lydia Baker
- Larry Taylor
- Holly Herbst
- Corey Follick, City Council Representative
- Bob Costello (Emeritus Status)

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members,

I am honored and excited to step into the role of Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Vandalia. It is a privilege to continue to work in a Community with such a strong commitment to enhancing quality of life through parks, recreation, and Community engagement.

As I begin this new chapter, I want to express how much I value the role each of you plays in guiding our Department's mission. Your leadership and Community insight are instrumental to our continued success—and I'm eager to collaborate with you moving forward.

One of my top priorities will be the successful implementation and alignment of our work with the goals set forth in the **Parks and Recreation Master Plan**. This plan represents not only a roadmap for the future, but a shared vision shaped by the Community's input and the Advisory Board's commitment. I'm excited to help bring that vision to life—whether through expanding programming, improving park amenities, enhancing connectivity, or advancing inclusive practices.

I look forward to discussing your priorities, listening to your feedback, and working together to ensure our Parks & Recreation system continues to grow in ways that reflect the values and needs of our Residents.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time. I look forward to meeting with the Advisory Board into the future and working closely with you to serve our Community with excellence.

With appreciation,

Alicia McCracken

Vandalia Parks and Recreation Director



latest news

PARKS

- The stone work at the Art Park Amphitheater has received the graffiti protection coating.
- Staff is working on installing some shade tarps above the bench areas at the Helke Park Pickleball Courts.
- Ballfield prep continues, we have begun the field prep for this fall's soccer season.
- Staff is working on preparing the storage room area at the Municipal Building. This room will aid the City Manager's Office Staff with more storage space as part of the office reconfiguration plan.
- Preparations for the annual VRC pool shutdown. Several contractors are scheduled to be on-site making repairs.
- Maintenance to the exterior stair railing at the Justice Center.
- Staff cleared a drain tile at the Golf Clubhouse to improve stormwater drainage away from the building.
- Assisting in preparation and tear down for many Special Events.

- The Robinette Park playground and the Vandalia Recreation Center's Ricky's playground are both open for use. Staff removed the exiting play equipment and surfacing. Thank you to Public Works for loaning us their excavator to aid in this process. We recently finished the soil work and seeding at the Robinette site.

Robinette Park



Ricky's Playground



TREE CITY USA / URBAN FOREST

- Planning for street tree replacement of the eight trees east of Interstate 75.
- Watering of trees planted within the last year is currently taking place as needed.
- Fence line clearing and low limb removal at Poplar Hill Cemetery.
- Weed control in landscape beds and pruning of low limbs Citywide.

RECREATION CENTER

FACTS

- June 2025 VRC Visits - 17,400 vs June 2024 VRC Visits - 15,452
- June Birthday Parties - 25 Total - 7 Resident / Member; 18 Non-Resident
- 175 Insurance Based Members visited the VRC 10 or more times in June.
- YTD we have 1,302 active Insurance Based Memberships.
- June was a high daily admission month with revenues of \$32,000.

- Staff is gearing up for the VRC annual pool shutdown Monday, July 28-Friday, August 8.
- Aaron Messenger met with Greg Bergman to discuss swim meet times and team practices for the 2025-2026 Butler Aquatics Club season.
- Staff is working on rolling out our new scheduling software When to Work.

RECREATION

- The September-December Program Guide is final. Registration will begin Wednesday, August 6.
- The next phase of the Robinette Park Project, including the splashpad, shelter, and additional parking is now out to bid. Bidding will close August 8.
- Alicia McCracken and Aaron Messenger met with Cole Mancz this week to work on a possible Story Walk project.
- Popsicle Patrol is out and about at our Parks and will be for the rest of July and August. Staff is taking out popsicles to kids at various Parks. This has been a great engagement with the park goers!



ATHLETICS

- The Boys 10u All-Star team won the Silver Bracket Championship at the Miamisburg Rec All-Stars.



- The Boys 12u All-Star team won the Silver Bracket Championship in the Miamisburg Rec All-Stars.

- The Girls 10u All-Star team finished in 2nd place at the Miamisburg Rec All-Stars.



- To date, 280 kids have signed up for Youth Soccer. The Youth Soccer coaches meeting was held Tuesday, July 22, and practices will begin Monday, August 4.
- Summer Adult Softball tournaments are beginning. The season is running long due to makeup games from the rain.
- The Special Olympics is renting a softball field for their practices and games through August.

FITNESS

- August FREE Class Spotlight is Cardio Physique with Sue on Saturdays at 7:00am.
- August FREE Climb Day is Tuesday, August 12.
- August Inclusive Fitness Classes – Friday, August 1, 15, 29, from 10:30am-11:15am.
- The 25 Days of Summer Challenge - Complete 30 minutes of physical activity for 25 days during July, and win a free t-shirt! 135 patrons are participating, and Staff secured Medicare Resource Center to sponsor the t-shirts.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



- Summer CampREC is currently in week 9, only 2 weeks left! It's been a great summer and we're already looking forward to next year! Sara Moyer and Staff have taken some time to evaluate what has gone well this summer, and what areas we would like to focus on more next year.



Completed Events

- **Sizzling Sides w/ Eat Pretty Darling** was held on Tuesday, July 15. This adult cooking class explored delicious summer barbecue sides that are perfect for elevating your cookout! 7 participants registered for this program.
- **Summer Splashtacular** was held on Friday, July 18 at the Sports Complex from 11:30am-2:00pm. This was a free event where we teamed up with the Fire Department to provide a soaking good time! Several hundred people attended this event.
- **Parent & Me Adventure Camp** was held on Monday, July 21 at Helke Park. This was our 2nd Parent & Me camp of the summer. There were 10 participants. The theme of this 9:00am-12:00pm camp was Animal Adventure. Participants enjoyed a variety of camp games, crafts, songs, and stories during their morning with us!
- **Multi-Sport Camp w/ Skyhawks** was held from July 21-25 at the Sports Complex from 9:00am-4:00pm every day. Campers ages 7-12 got to try multiple sports and learn the rules for them. Beyond skill development, participants also learned sportsmanship and teamwork. 12 participants registered for this camp.

Upcoming Events

- **Flag Football Camp** – Monday, August 4-Friday, August 8 - 9:00am-4:00pm
- **Dorie & The Daddy-O's** – Saturday, August 9 - 11:00am-12:00pm
- **ABC's are Yummy! w/ Eat Pretty Darling** – Saturday, August 9 - 10:00am-11:00am
- **Sports & Recreation Camp** – Monday, August 11-Friday, August 15 - 9:00am-4:00pm

- **Brixilated Summer Camp** – Monday, August 11- Friday, August 15 - 9:00am-4:00pm
- **Sunset Palm w/ Miss Elissa** – Monday, August 11 - 6:00pm-8:00pm
- **Paulette's Princess Party - Moana's Island Adventures** – Tuesday, August 12 - 5:30pm-7:30pm
- **STEAM Lab Camp w/ Stemily Studios** – Monday, August 18-Friday, August 22 - 9:00am-4:00pm
- **Art Outside the Box w/ Art Adventures** – Monday, August 18-Friday, August 22 - 9:00am-4:00pm
- **Pokémon Playtime** – Monday, August 18 - 5:30pm-7:00pm
- **Homeschool Takeover** – Friday, August 29 - 11:30am-2:00pm

SENIOR CENTER

- Through June, there were 743 Members, with 15 being new in June.
- The August Newsletter is now available, and can be found on the website.
- VanTran - 821 one-way rides YTD; 189 one-way rides in June.
- The Golden Qi class was popular in June. This seated Tai Chi class was averaging 15-20 participants.

- New window blinds were installed in the Card Room.



CASSEL HILLS POOL

- To date, 566 Resident/Taxpayer passes and 444 Non-Resident passes have been sold.
- 24 half-priced memberships have been sold.
- June 2024 visits-6,400; June 2025 visits-6,060. Summer weather has returned to help with attendance.
- All-inclusive swim time was offered at CHP on July 23 from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

CASSEL HILLS GOLF COURSE

- The Golf Course hosted Elements IV golf outing on July 19. This was their 18th anniversary of the event. 88 players attended this year, but the event was cut short by rain.

- The irrigation project has started and broke ground this week. Staff is communicating this to customers when making tee times. No holes have been affected at this time.





- Marty Szturm used an outside company to clear small trees and Honeysuckle on holes 15 and 16. We have received many compliments and hope to clear other holes in the future.

2025 PARK BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The 2025 in-person Park Board Meeting schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, February 19, 6:30 PM - Senior Center
- Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 PM - Cassel Hills Swimming Pool
- Wednesday, August 20, 6:30 PM - Sports Complex
- Wednesday, October 1, 6:30 PM - Cassel Hills Swimming Pool
- Wednesday, November 19, 6:30 PM - Recreation Center
- Sunday, December 7, 5:00 PM - Recreation Center

If you have any discussion topics for the August 20 meeting, please let Alicia know!