



**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT
OCTOBER 2025**

Welcome to the Team Kayla!

**We are happy to announce
our NEW Recreation Facility
Manager:**



Kayla Sensenbaugh

Kayla brings a wealth of experience from working with several parks and recreation organizations in Dayton, Ohio and Wichita, Kansas. She earned her master's degree in Recreation and Tourism Management from Clemson University and her bachelor's in Organizational Leadership from Wright State University. She is excited to serve the Vandalia community by continuing to provide excellent recreational experiences to the City and go above and beyond to serve everyone who walks through the doors.

Robinette Park - Breaking Ground on the Splashpad and additional parking!



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)

PARKS

- Cassel Hills Pool winterization continues with water lines and addition of antifreeze.
- Earth moving equipment is onsite and in operation at the Robinette Park splash pad and parking area locations. The storage area in the restroom building has been cleared out in preparation for their work.
- We have begun broadleaf weed control at select sites in the City.
- Exterior building maintenance has been completed at the Facility Maintenance Garage.
- Assisted with set up, hayrides, and tear down at the Fall Festival.
- The main driveway lighting at the Sports Complex failed. An apparent lightning strike caused some electrical issues, which Building Maintenance Staff have addressed.
- Replaced the 13 Recreation Center banners with new banners. Thank you to Public Works for the use of their bucket truck.

TREE CITY USA / URBAN FOREST

- A median was struck by a vehicle. The plants survived, but two solar lights did not.
- Four shade trees on the south side of the Robinette Park playground were installed, and two evergreens were planted at the Sports Complex behind the information banner fence. We also planted shrubs and perennials at various locations, as needed.
- In the National Road streetscape, east of I-75, eight stumps are being removed in preparation for eight new trees.
- Landscape maintenance included weeding of some of our landscapes, control of honeysuckle, poison ivy, etc. at the Helke park disc golf area.
- Working on our 2025 Tree City USA application.

RECREATION CENTER

FACTS

- September 2025 VRC Visits - 14,805 vs September 2024 VRC Visits - 12,229
- September Birthday Parties - 26 Total
- 240 Insurance Based Members visited the VRC 10 or more times in September.
- VRC Childcare continue to be popular! 2025 YTD visits-4,539 vs. 2024 YTD visits-3,246. Shout out to Sara Moyer and her staff!

RECREATION

- The January – April 2026 Program Guide: Staff are working on their programs and other recreation initiatives.
- We are in the final stages of regaining Spectrum service at the VRC. This has been a long process, but glad things are getting resolved. The next steps is to wait for installment of new equipment.
- Aaron met with Alicia McCracken on Wednesday, September 24, to discuss and plan a VPRD Business Continuity Plan, needed if we were ever to experience a cyber-attack.
- Rudy Wells, Jerrod Hill, and Aaron Messenger met with Travis from Water Boys Construction on Friday, October 17, to discuss the potential for a water feature replacement in the VRC Pool. They did a walkthrough, and Travis will send us a quote for the work.

- Alicia McCracken and Aaron Messenger met with Zac from Fantasy Drones to discuss the potential for a drone show for the Parks & Recreation Department. They went over logistics and pricing, and will see if this show is feasible for the future.
- Aaron met with Kristin Cox on Monday, October 13, to discuss the Music in the Park series for Art Park in 2026. They reviewed potential dates/times and will discuss with the Vandalia Arts Council, along with the proposed budget.
- Recreation Coordinator Maecie Burkhardt attended “The Supervisor Program” on October 21 and 22. The Supervisor Program focused on effective supervision strategies that are useful for day-to-day challenges of being a Supervisor. The two-day program was designed to be engaging with job embedded opportunities for growth. This program was delivered by individuals who shared personal and real-world experiences.

ATHLETICS

- On Friday, October 10, the Friday Coed Fall Softball season came to a close with the winners being Fricker’s. They went 9-1 for the season.



- On Monday, October 13, the Monday Men’s Fall Softball season came to a close with the winners also being Fricker’s. They went 10-0 for the season.

- The last home games of the 2025 Youth Fall Soccer season were hosted at the Sports Complex on Saturday, October 18. Around 56 games were played on our home fields this season.
- As of 10/20, 129 kids are enrolled in various grades of our Youth Basketball program and 31 enrolled in Instructional Basketball.
- On Monday, October 13, Maecie got in touch with High School Basketball Coach, Andy Holderman, to give him the dates for our Instructional Program. The Butler Boys Basketball program will be running it again.

FITNESS

- November FREE Class Spotlight is HIGH Fitness with Taylor on Thursdays at 5:30pm in the studio.
- November FREE Climb Day is Tuesday, November 11.
- November Inclusive Fitness Classes – Friday, November 7 and 21, from 10:30am-11:15am.
- Maintain Campaign, sponsored by Hock’s Pharmacy, begins November 19.
- New Class: Line Dancing with Julie every Thursday morning at 8:30am in the studio, and every second Thursday night at 6:30pm. She would also like to teach more classes.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



- Sara Moyer will continue to be a part of the MVRAC Summer Camp Training Day committee for this upcoming summer. Meetings for this committee will start in the new year.
- Sara has begun scheduling interviews for November and December with returning Camp Staff for Summer CampREC 2026. As interviews are completed, Staff will be assigned to either the younger or older camp group, or serve as a floater/sub to assist both groups. Age group specific training will also be provided based on each Staff Member's assigned group.

Completed Events

- **Vandalia Fall Festival** was held on Saturday, October 11, from 12:00pm-6:00pm, at the Vandalia Sports Complex. This event was packed full of plenty of activities and entertainment for the whole family to enjoy. There was live music from Stranger, food trucks, a pumpkin patch, corn pit, vendors, inflatables, games, and so much more! We welcomed a crowd of a couple thousand attendees to enjoy this event!



- **Homeschool Takeover** was held on Friday, October 17, from 11:30am-2:00 pm, at the VRC. Homeschool groups and families were invited to come out and enjoy everything the VRC has to offer; swimming, climbing wall, gym activities, and Luther's Jungle. We had 32 families (120 people) attend this Homeschool Takeover.

Upcoming Events

- **Bug's & Boo's w/ Dr. Insecta** will be held on Friday, October 24, in the VRC Gymnasium. Creepy, crawly, and totally cool! Dr. Insecta is back with his spooky Halloween show, Bugs and Boos! Meet real bugs, learn fun facts, and enjoy a few friendly jump scares along the way. Costumes encouraged! Stick around after the show to enjoy some festive Halloween treats! There are currently 6 families registered for this program. The registration deadline has been extended and will allow walk-ins until we reach capacity. Social media has been updated.
- **Halloween Hangout** will be held on Saturday, October 25, at the Vandalia Sports Complex from 11:00am-2:00pm. Come out and have a spooky good time at the Halloween Hangout! There will be food trucks, hayrides, Trick-or-Treat, inflatables, kid's activities, Halloween costume judging, many craft vendors, and more!

SENIOR CENTER

- Through September, there were 804 Members, with 21 being new in September.
- The November Newsletter is now available, and can be found on the website.
- VanTran - 1,411 one-way rides YTD.
- 55 Senior Center Member Volunteers were invited to the October 24 volunteer lunch.
- Bob and Kathy Reed do an outstanding job with our Senior Travel program. They have celebrated 3 years with us and have escorted over 500 seniors on trips in those three years. We appreciate them!

CASSEL HILLS POOL

- Closed for the Season.

CASSEL HILLS GOLF COURSE

- The irrigation project is in the final stages. They are connecting the main line to the pumphouse this week and finishing up the holes. They should be done next week.
- Greens were aerated last week. Marty and his crew sanded them the next day.
- October has been very nice, so play continues to be steady.

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 November 19 meeting, please let Alicia know!