



City of Vandalia Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Virtual Community Meeting 2-17-22

Questions and Answers

1. What plans are there for updating playgrounds and building inclusive features such as fenced in playgrounds, wheelchair accessible play, or splash pads? We have a significant population with special needs that are not being catered to.

Great question! The City has already met with the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities and has invited Dr. Pamela Combs who is on our steering committee. We are very excited about incorporating inclusive approaches to all aspects of service delivery. This year, Vandalia City Council allocated a large portion of the American Rescue Plan dollars that the City is receiving for updating park and playground equipment. A playground replacement project will kick off later this year with intentions of installing new inclusive playgrounds in late 2022 or early 2023.

2. Have you considered reducing cost with Autonomous mowers?

Not at this time.

3. Are there plans to create more large scale events through the Parks & Rec such as a holiday light display? Seeing more events to bring in people from out of town and also bringing the town together would be great.

The Parks and Recreation Department is continuously looking for new and exciting events to develop for the community. The Master Plan process will provide clear direction on the desires of residents and facility users in terms of programs and events that should be considered in the future. Our department is also working with the Vandalia Arts Committee to establish larger scale events and activities at the Art Park. Several "Music in the Park" concert events and a Community Fall Festival are planned for this summer and fall at the Vandalia Art Park. The City Manager has solicited funds from the State Capital Budget Bill in the amount of \$400,000 for Art Park Amphitheater improvements which would create additional opportunities for large scale events in Vandalia .

4. Though I know it has been looked at in the past, is there any progress on making it easier to connect with the bike path from Vandalia?

YES! The City of Vandalia and Five Rivers Metro Parks won and received a ~\$2.1 million grant to construct a multi-use trail and on-street facilities to connect to the Great Miami River Trail at Taylorsville Metro Park. This project is currently under design and we anticipate that the project will be completed in 2024. This improvement will start near Fricker's, down South Brown School Rd. and out National Rd. to Taylorsville Metro Park.

5. I will not be able to stay until the end (have to coach at the Rec Center actually) but hoping there is significant consideration in replacing Cassell Hills Pool with an indoor/outdoor 8-lane facility directly in the field on the east side of the Rec Center, immediately on the other side of the current 4-lane lap pool. Swimming is very large in the area (Butler Aquatics Club, Butler High School, Fair Valley, Cassell Hills) and significant funds can be brought in with an additional outdoor facility that can be enclosed during winter months.

The Master Plan process will give residents and facility users the opportunity to provide input as to the future of Cassell Hills Swimming Pool as well as provide a potential direction for aquatic facilities and programs in the future.

6. Would love to see more community events at the parks with music and food trucks!

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<https://oh-vandalia.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/7420/events-2022>

7. I would love to see more nature play facilities! A sensory garden would be beautiful and so beneficial for our community's children. Would this be feasible in Helke Woods?

This year, Vandalia City Council allocated a large portion of the American Rescue Plan dollars that the City is receiving for updating park and playground equipment. A playground replacement project will kick off later this year with intentions of installing new playgrounds in late 2022 or early 2023. As part of the planning process, residents will be given the opportunity to share ideas such as nature play facilities and inclusive play options. The Master Plan process will also afford residents the opportunity to provide input concerning play facilities.

8. What is the plan to correct existing problem of the horrific odor along bike trail at Taylorsville State Park?

The bike trail in question, which is not operated by the City of Vandalia, is located in a Five Rivers Metro Park, Taylorsville Park. We would, though, like to provide information as to the possible cause and resolution. This year, Governor DeWine awarded the City of Vandalia, via the Tri-Cities North Region Wastewater Authority, a \$2.4 million grant to conduct a cured in place sewer reinforcement project. Recently, a sewer collapsed that had to be repaired - thus the construction last summer. There are of course retention and vents associated with the large interceptor lines that deliver wastewater from Tipp City and Vandalia to our treatment plant in Huber Heights. We hope that helps!

9. Would be great to see the sports complex be used to bring in money to the parks and not left empty the majority of the time. Seems to be no effort into running tournaments or events or renting out to organizations to fill our parks when not being used for in house leagues.

The parks and recreation department has a facility use policy and program that allows travel organizations and teams to rent fields for games and tournaments. Several organizations currently use the Sports Complex for this purpose. We are always open to making the fields available when not in use by our recreation programs. In 2021, the City of Vandalia utilized fields at the Sports Complex for our youth baseball/softball program as follows: 216 for scheduled practices, 208 games and one weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) baseball tournament. Fields were also used for 80 adult coed softball games. A total of 254 travel/select team practices and 48 games were held at the Sports Complex (independent of the City of Vandalia youth program). Vandalia-Butler Schools used the fields at the Sports Complex for 150 high school and middle school team practices as well as 58 games.

10. What about the pocket parks and installing play equipment?

The Master Plan process will address the future of all parks and facilities in Vandalia, including pocket parks, and which amenities the community may desire for these parks. As part of the Master Plan process a series of Park to Park Community meetings will be held this summer. Residents will have the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas at these meetings.

11. Any thoughts about coordinating any of this with Butler Township residents?

The Master Plan process will allow Vandalia residents a number of opportunities to provide input including participation in a statistically valid survey, online survey and community input events in our parks. Butler Township residents will have the opportunity to provide online survey input during the process.

12. The largest area of interest to me would be the addition of an indoor/outdoor 8-lane pool at the VRC. This would allow the VRC to provide the community with year round programs including

water fitness, learn to swim, adult swim, and swim team. The current four lane pool does not support the community size and demand.

The Master Plan process will give residents and facility users the opportunity to provide input as to the future of Cassel Hills Swimming Pool as well as provide a potential direction for aquatic facilities and programs in the future. The plan will provide direction for facilities and amenities over the course of the next 10 years.

13. Would be nice to re-pave the Helke Park Pickleball Courts.

The Master Plan process will give residents and facility users the opportunity to provide input as to the future of the Pickleball Courts at Helke Park along with other amenities. The plan will provide direction for facilities and amenities over the course of the next 10 years.

14. We would love for there to be a dog park added to Robinette park. There is a ton of space there for one and it would be great to safely take the dogs off the leashes there while my wife takes the kids to the playground.

There is currently a dog park on Webster Street, next to the Animal Resource Center, operated by Montgomery County. All City of Vandalia park facilities and amenities will be reviewed during the Master Plan process. Residents and facility users will have the opportunity to provide input concerning each of our parks and what type of amenities they desire.

15. I like G Bergman's comment to increasing the pool/aquatic facilities in Vandalia. I would also like to see less outside groups using Cassel Hills Pool and the VRC aquatics/facilities. I understand the need for community outreach, etc. However, please ensure that outside groups will be carefully screened so that everyone using Vandalia facilities understand that all patrons will be treated respectfully while using that facility. No inappropriate/disrespectful behavior will be tolerated.

Public spaces in the City of Vandalia are open to the public. Revenues from non-residents play a vital role in keeping our facilities and programs affordable for all users. For example, 38% of membership and 73% of daily admissions at the Recreation Center are non-residents. At the Senior Center 60% of membership is non-resident. At Cassel Hills Pool, 312 of 1,043 total memberships are non-residents but we limit the number of non-resident membership sales. As you can see, non-resident memberships and daily admissions have a significant impact on our revenue generation as a department.

Staff is trained on our policies and procedures and are tasked with assuring these guidelines are followed by members and guests to ensure a safe and positive experience. We will continue to work with our staff, so they are prepared to handle the wide-array of challenges they are asked to manage.

16. Has consideration been given to making the use of the Rec Center and Cassel Hills Pool a “resident” only facility?

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17. I know a large part of our community is below the poverty line, or qualify for free meals at school due to financial difficulties. Looking at the Rec Center's prices I can see that a membership is not economically feasible for a large part of our community. Have there been any conversations about creating a sliding scale or lowering costs so more of our citizens can utilize our fantastic facility?

The Parks and Recreation Department has a Youth Scholarship Fund that allows students in the Vandalia-Butler City School District that are eligible for free or reduced lunch the opportunity to receive financial assistance for Recreation Center Membership, Summer Camp and Youth Athletic Programs. Here is a link for more information about the scholarship fund:

<https://www.vandaliaohio.org/472/Youth-Scholarship-Fund>

18. We can't wait to see what is added on, especially for kids with special needs. We are hoping for more adaptive equipment, so all kids can play. A great example is in Beavercreek, Owen's Place- A universally accessible playground and recreational area. We love the 2 swings at Helke, but for future accessible equipment please put near handicap parking spaces.

The City of Vandalia is committed to meeting and exceeding requirements under the ADA transition plan including accessible parking. The City has already met with the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities and has invited Dr. Pamela Combs who is on our steering committee. We are very excited about incorporating inclusive approaches to all aspects of service delivery. This year, Vandalia City Council allocated a large portion of the American Rescue Plan dollars that the City is receiving for updating park and playground equipment. A playground replacement project will kick off later this year with intentions of installing new inclusive playgrounds in late 2022 or early 2023. Thank you for sharing input concerning the location of handicap parking spaces in relation to our new inclusive playgrounds that are being planned for later this year and into 2023. This input will be shared with staff and committee members as planning for these amenities begin.

19. We love the 2 swings at Helke, but for future accessible equipment please put near handicap parking spaces. A typical kid can walk to those swings in 1 minute, our daughter takes about 10 minutes because she flops. Some kids with special needs are runners too, you like equipment near the car.

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20. Soccer fields at the rec could be rolled, flattened out. The JV and Varsity soccer teams practice there b/c HS football teams have the HS fields. I see too many rolled ankles on that field, it's a mound. The baseball fields are great in the spring, but come later summer the upkeep isn't as great. Slash pads are always great too. Thank you

Thank you for the input concerning the soccer fields and baseball fields at the Sports Complex. This information will be shared with appropriate staff as well as incorporated into the Master Plan meeting notes for discussion. The Master Plan process will give residents and facility users the opportunity to provide input as to future park amenities.

21. My family and I recently moved to the Foxfire neighborhood. The neighborhood does not have any parks or playgrounds that accessible safely by walking or biking due to distance and/or traffic on Brown School Road. There is a lot in the neighborhood that is already set aside for the city to use as a public space. I would ask that this would be considered for a new playground/park structure as there are other young families that would benefit. The number of people that would benefit from this will greatly increase with the Fischer Homes neighborhood expansion that is coming. Thank you for your time.

The City of Vandalia will consider the development of pocket parks and this particular parcel of land in Foxfire in the Master Plan Process. The City anticipates taking ownership of this parcel of land in the future. Foxfire residents will be included in the planning process, playing a vital role in the design of this piece of park land.

22. First of all, Thank You very much for taking inclusion into consideration. We have lived in Vandalia 19 years and usually take our daughter who has limited mobility to A.S.K playground in Eaton or Owens Park in Beavercreek. It will be so nice to be able to stay in my neighborhood and allow her to interact with her peers and also allows me, as a parent to be able to be a part of my community.

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23. On Cassell Hills Pool- 2 days a week, would be amazing for residents & butler township only! Or 2 days a week no daycares. The community is growing, 50 + homes going in Yorkshire and possibly new townhouses behind Copperfield. I also heard new homes over by Brown School Rd.

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NR revenues account for % of our total revenue

24. In the alternative of “resident only”, would “Member only” be a consideration ?

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25. For the extended bike path, has there been any thought about having a facility in close proximity that would rent out bikes and "duet" bikes which are ADA accessible?. This could be something that could generate additional revenue for the community. Especially helpful for those individuals who do not have the means to transport their bike (s) to the trail.

This could be a possible opportunity for an entrepreneur and the City of Vandalia would be happy to work with an interested party on this type of venture.

26. A drive thru Christmas light show would be great like what's in Centerville and Franklin area. (Going back to help families with individuals with special needs).

We are excited that the Master Plan process will provide clear direction and input on the desires of residents and facility users in terms of programs and events that should be considered in the future. The City of Vandalia must take into consideration the total cost of ownership and required staffing when planning events of this nature.

27. Additional tennis courts? That would be awesome!

The Master Plan process will give residents and facility users the opportunity to provide input as to the future of tennis court and other park amenities such as pickleball, volleyball and basketball courts. The plan will provide direction for facilities and amenities over the course of the next 10 years.

28. A dog park would be great!

There is currently a dog park on Webster Street, next to the Animal Resource Center, operated by Montgomery County. All City of Vandalia park facilities and amenities will be reviewed during the Master Plan process. Residents and facility users will have the opportunity to provide input concerning each of our parks and what type of amenities they desire.

29. I know that a lot of the playgrounds are 20+ years old with obvious wear and tear. What is a realistic time-line to see updated equipment or repairs made to the existing equipment? I know a lot of young parents travel to other communities to visit their nicer playgrounds, I myself have traveled around Dayton to see them. It would be great to see one of our playgrounds become one of those "destination" facilities.

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30. Would you consider having longer hours for the Rec center? I don't know that it needs to be open 24 hours but do think it should be having longer hours especially on Sundays.

The current opening/closing hours for the Rec Center are based on user trends over the past 20 years. We will review our opening/closing hours as part of the Master Plan process and we are currently researching the feasibility of members having access to the Rec Center 24-hours a day. Expansion of hours may match a need for local shift workers that could result in additional revenues. The Master Plan process will be instrumental in future decisions.