



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Council Chambers

4717 Main Avenue

Agenda

1. Opening of Committee Meeting

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Sunshine Law Certification

2. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

3. Special Guest Presentation

- a. Mary Gonia-Glauser, Executive Director, Ashtabula County Animal Protective League

4. City Manager's Report

5. Parks & Recreation Committee Report

- a. April Agenda/Minutes

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Plan for homeless situation in Downtown Ashtabula
- b. Clean Up Ashtabula Day
- c. Kayden Park trash can situation
- d. Revision of Codified Ordinance Chapter 759 Temporary Stores to include food truck language
- e. Parks & Recreation Board - member vacancy

7. New Business

8. Next Meeting

- a. May 10, 2022, 4:00 p.m. Council Chambers
Special Guest: Sarah Bogardus, 503 Corporation Executive Director

9. Adjournment

www.cityofashtabula.com



CITY OF ASHTABULA
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

"Our mission is to provide and maintain, quality green spaces and Recreational facilities and partnering with our citizens, businesses, and neighbors to enhance the quality of life for all who live in and visit Ashtabula."

Mary L Graves
Chair

Ken Vanyo
Vice Chair

Mary Kiehl
Secretary

Earl Tucker, Trevor Sprague, Margaret Distler
Board Members

April 5, 2022 5:00PM

City Council Chambers, Key Bank Building

CALL TO ORDER

Let us have a moment of silence to reflect on our mission statement.

ROLL CALL/QUORUM

READING (IF REQUESTED) AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 2022 MINUTES

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

GUESTS

- MY NEIGHBORHOOD COLLABRATIVE

OLD BUSINESS

- OHIO PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION (OPRA) MEMBERSHIP
- GO OVER PARK SURVEY RESULTS

NEW BUSINESS

- SET SCHEDULE FOR SUMMER PARKS VISITS

Suggested schedule: Smith (MAY), Walnut (JUNE), Kaden (JULY), NORTH/SOUTH (AUGUST),

Point Park (SEP), Nappi (OCT)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT MEETING MAY 3, 2022 5:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT



City of Ashtabula Park Survey Results 2/10/2018

Report prepared by Melinda McNutt

Photos Courtesy of Carl Feather

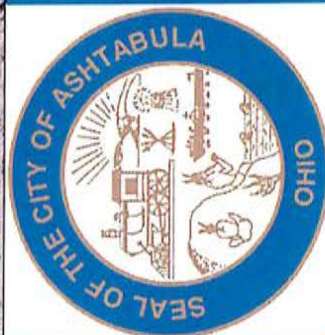


Table of Contents

- Executive Summary, Page 3
- Survey Demographics, Page 4
- **Survey Part I**
 - Feedback about Walnut Beach, Page 5-12
- **Survey Part II**
 - Feedback about Smith Field, Page 13-18
- **Survey Part III**
 - Hobbies, Page 19 – 22
- **Survey Part IV**
 - Feedback about Winter Recreation, Page 23
- **Survey Part V**
 - Feedback about Improving Access to the Water Front, Page 24-25
- Next Steps Moving Forward, Page 26

Executive Summary

In November of 2016, the City of Ashtabula Parks Board successfully passed a \$1.5 mill operating levy that would allow for park improvements and upgrades over a 5-year period.

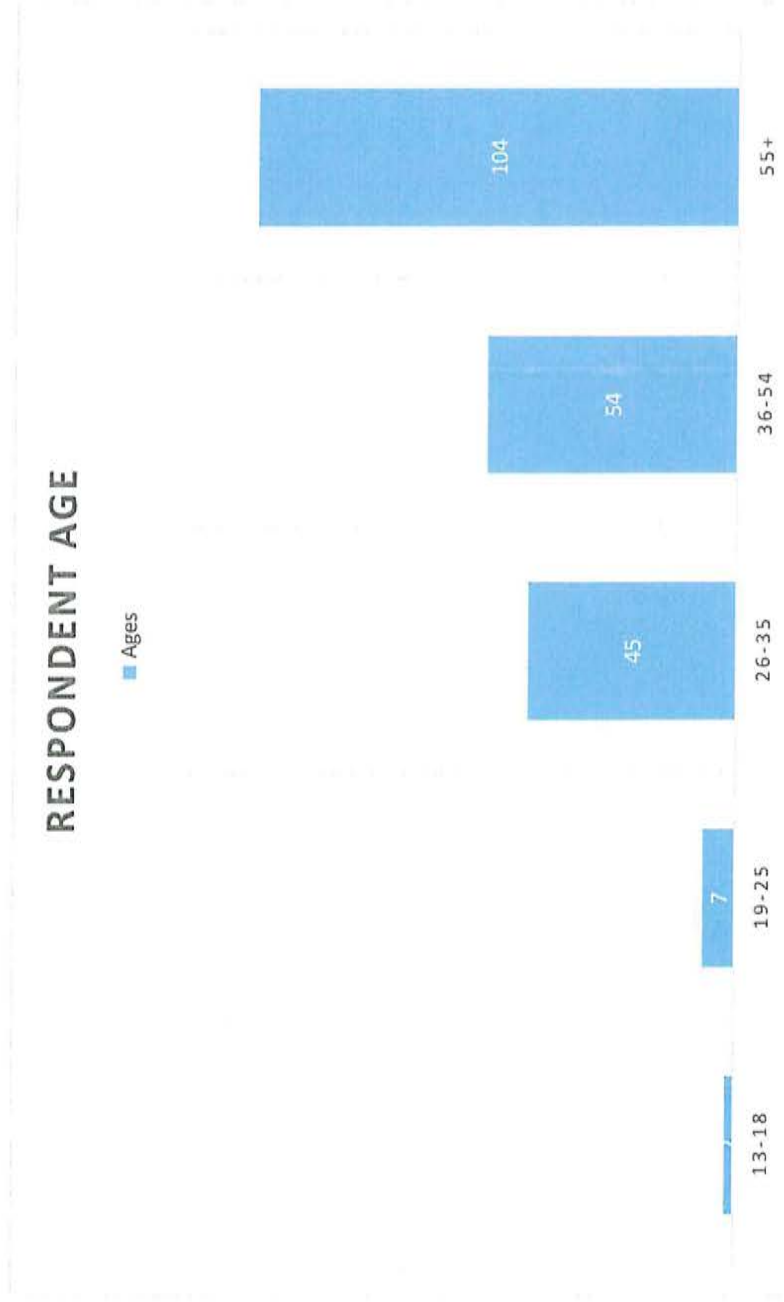


In August of 2017, the Park Board began planning for the implementation of the operating levy by developing a strategic plan. The process included taking an inventory of the condition of all city parks, and discussion around launching a community-wide survey process by collecting online feedback and gathering feedback through town hall forums. The data collected in this report will help set the tone and format for these future meetings.

The online survey results found in this document were circulated within the community beginning on January 12, 2018 and lasted until February 13, 2018.

Key Demographics of the Survey

- 235 Total Survey Respondents
- 28% of respondents had at least 1 child under the age of 12 in their household
- 55% of respondents live in the city of Ashtabula
- 85% of respondents living in Ashtabula have been a resident for more than 5 years



Survey Part I

Feedback about Walnut Beach

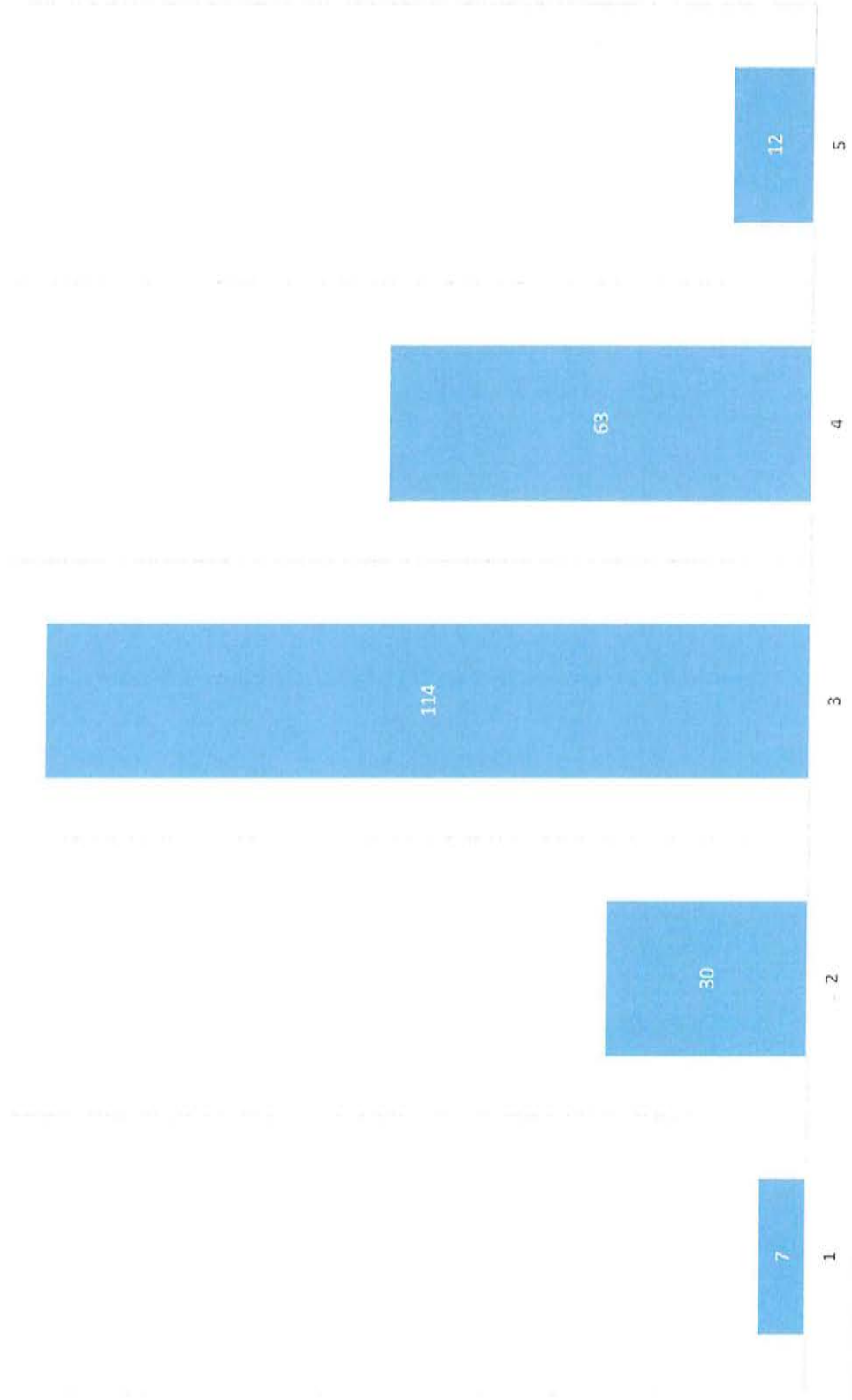
How often do you visit Walnut Beach?

- Once in a while – 57%
- Regularly – 24%
- As much as possible – 15%

Top 3 reasons people visit Walnut Beach

- 50% of responses said their primary reason for visiting Walnut Beach was to watch the sunset.
- 43.3% of responses said their primary reason for visiting Walnut Beach was swimming / sitting on the beach.
- 35.5% of responses said their primary reason for visiting Walnut Beach was to look for beach glass.

PLEASE RATE THE OVERALL QUALITY OF WALNUT BEACH



Upgrades that ranked the most important in order.

- 1.) Updating and repairing the concession stand.
- 2.) Extending the board walk.
- 3.) Paving the road leading to the break wall.
- 4.) Outdoor showers to rinse off sand.
- 5.) Improving shade at the playground / in general.

Most important recreation people wanted to see at Walnut Beach

Amphitheater for outdoor music and performances

Additional Suggestions for Recreation or Upgrades to Improve Walnut Beach

(80 total comments)

- **Total Comments Asking for Better Beach Cleanliness – 22**
 - **Total Comments Asking for Better Beach Safety and Security – 12**
 - **Total Comments Asking for Better Concession Stand Management – 12**
 - **Total Comments Asking for More Events – 8**
 - “Public events, concerts, market, festival.”
 - “Additional concerts and/or movies.”
- “Since there are several museums and a library, it would be nice to have them all come together for more activities and events.”
- **Total Comments Asking for More Dog Friendliness – 5**
 - “Small section for dog park with good signs.”
 - “Separate dog area so animals allowed on the beach.”
 - “Allow dogs to be at the beach on a leash.”

Comments Continued:

- **Total Comments Asking for Improved Handicap Access or Upgrades for Adults– 5**

- “More accommodations for senior’s elderly adults.”

- “It’s a good beach, but it could better for adults who want more active lifestyle than just sitting on beach or hanging around the concession stand.”

- “Adult swings and more benches would be nice.”

- “Improved handicapped access to the waterfront is essential.”

- “Please put some benches along the way for people who can only walk short distances at a time!”

- **Total Comments Asking for More Boardwalk Repairs –3**

- “The boardwalk MUST be repaired and extended for our elders and not as capable residents.”

- **Total Comments Asking for Better Access to the Break Wall – 2**

- **Total Comments Asking for Basketball Courts – 3**

- **Positive comments regarding parking lot improvements – 2**

- **Comments Asking for Designated Space for a Wedding – 2**

- **Total Comments Asking for a Skate Park – 1**

- **Total Comments asking for Tennis Courts – 1**

General Feedback About Walnut Beach

"I would like to see shade trees added."

"Signage for plants and animals found at the beach."

"Small concession stand that sells beach related items - sunscreen, towels, sunglasses, etc."

"A main entry point to the beach."

"Need tree trimming on hill."

"Butterfly garden."

"A nature center at the pavilion."

"Water slide on the old ski run."

"Picnic pavilion moved to the side where the beach is. Need to make upgrades to attract more family events such as an amphitheater and toboggan run for winter."

"Arcade games (not rental but available)."

"Designated Fishing area."

How do you typically get to Walnut Beach?

- Drive – 213 Total
- Walk – 38 Total
- Bike – 13 Total
- ACTS Bus – 2 Total
- Bike – 2 Total

Feedback Regarding Rental Equipment at Walnut Beach

There were 150 total responses. Each respondent could choose one rating per a category.

Kayaks - 27 respondents said they were “Highly Likely” to rent a Kayak, but 67 respondents said they were “Not Likely” to rent a kayak.

Paddleboards – 24 respondents said they were “Highly Likely” to rent a Paddleboard, but 66 other respondents said they were “Not Likely” to rent a kayak.

Comments for suggestions for additional rental equipment.

(37 Total Comments)

- Jet Skis – 8
- Volleyball – 3
- Bocce Ball – 1
- Horseshoe – 1
- Rollerblades – 1
- Coolers – 1
- Paddleboats – 1
- Sailboats – 1
- Windsurfing – 2
- Canoes and Kayaks – 1
- Snow Shoes / Snow Skis – 1
- Frisbee Golf – 2
- Winter Sledding – 1
- Sand Toys – 1
- Snorkeling – 1
- Bike Rental – 1
- Strollers or Wagons – 1

Other Feedback – (22 comments)

“Remove brush area north of new parking lot to open view of sunset and make it look much safer.”

“It’s time for Ashtabula to ‘LEED’ by establishing the Lakefront Entertainment, Education & Environment District (LEED), an alliance including Bridge Street, Lakeshore Park, Hubbard House, Maritime Museum, & Point Park. Start to think of Walnut Beach as an anchor entertainment center in this District – a distinctive, separate entity which will only thrive if it works in cooperation with others.”

Survey Part II

Feedback about Smith Field

How often do you visit Smith Field? (235 total responses)

- Never – 46%
- Once in a while – 45%
- Regularly – 6%

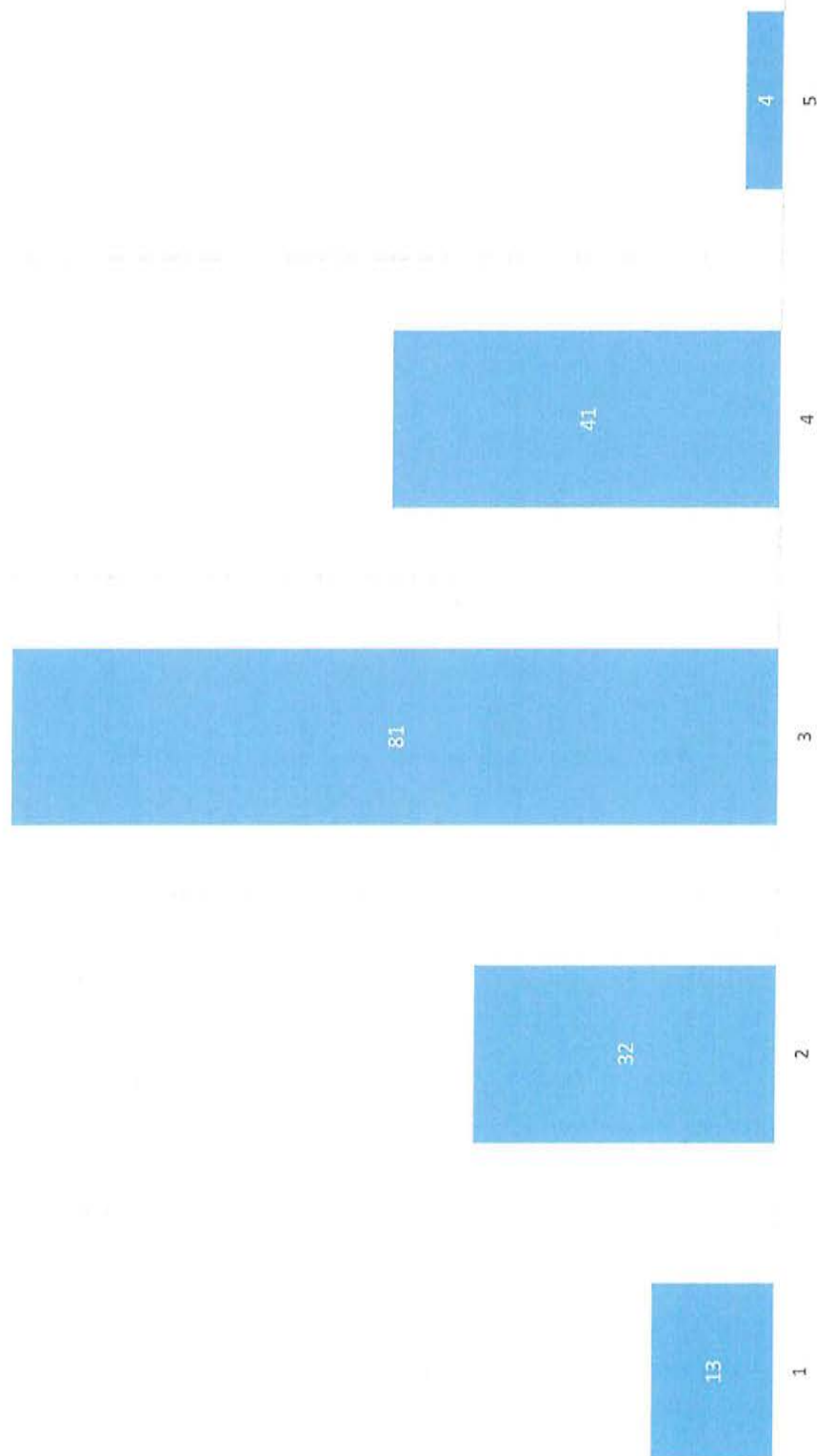
This is significantly lower than the responses to visiting Walnut Beach

- Once in a while – 57%
- Regularly – 24%
- As much as possible – 15%

Primary Reason for Visiting Smith Field? (138 total responses)

- Walking Track – 61%
- Dog Park – 31.9%
- Baseball – 15.2%

OVERALL RATING OF THE QUALITY OF SMITH FIELD



Variety of Things to Do

- 59 Total “Poor” Ratings

Kid Friendliness

- 46 Total “Poor” ratings

Dog Friendliness

- 14 Total “Excellent” ratings

Which Upgrades Would You Like to See at Smith Field?

- Better Biking and Walking Access – 23 Total “Most Important” ratings.

What Recreational Opportunities Would You Like to See Be Added?

- Splash Pad Sprinkler Park – 51 Total “Most Important” ratings.
- **Outdoor Fitness Equipment** – 37 Total “Most Important” ratings.
- Playground Equipment – 36 Total “Most Important” ratings.

Suggestions for Additional Amenities or Improvements and Other Comments at Smith Field

(62 responses)

Total Comments in Favor of a Splash Pad – 8

- “A splash pad anywhere in Ashtabula would be AMAZING to have!”
- “We need a splash pad. The new one in Orwell is nice at Eagle Park but the drive stinks.”

Total Comments in Favor of Moving the Splash Pad to a Different Location -2

- “I think a splash pad for this community would be amazing!!! I think you could choose a much better location.”
- “Move sprinkler pad to walnut beach.”

Total Comments Referencing the Walking Track – 3

- “Upgrade the walking track. Pavement is failing in places. Workout stations along the track is a great idea.”
- “Exercise stations around walking path that you stop at and do an exercise at each station. EX: 10 pushups on lap 1 and 2, next station 10step ups on lap 1 and 2 and 15 on lap 3.”
- “More lighting on the walk path.”

Total Comments Asking for Better Cleanliness – 3

Comments Referencing Better Maintenance- 2

Comments Referencing Better Security – 2

Comments Referencing the Dog Park – 1

"Great park. Dog park needs more promotion. How about a flyer/brochure to distribute to all the vet clinics?"

Comments Referencing Better Park Promotion - 2

"Beautify park signage area, including flowers and evergreens."

"Not aware of what is available there."

"It has greatly improved over the years, but it may not be well promoted. Get more word out about what there is to do, see, experience there."

Comments Referencing the Baseball Field – 4

"Remove baseball diamond."

"Remove baseball diamond and install park."

"Upkeep on the baseball field! All city baseball/softball parks are neglected and nonfunctioning!"

Total Comments asking for a Pickleball Court – 2

Other Ideas

" Install a water fountain."

"Bring in other open concept play sports or availability to use the ball diamond. The park is just a walking path."

"Increase the uses of the park."

"Consider something for business people who want to eat lunches at the park (food trucks?). Make it a lunch destination for nearby businesses/industries."

"Rock wall would be cool."

"Need bike path leading to park from different area of town and neighborhoods."

"I never visit because I am a senior and do not have transportation."

How Do You Typically Get to Smith Field?

- Drive – 173 Total
- Walk – 12 Total
- Bike – 9 Total
- ACTS Bus – 1 Total

Survey Part III

Top Hobbies of Survey Respondents

228 Total Responses

- Walking – 193 Total
- Watching the Sunset – 164 Total
- Biking – 118 Total
- Gardening – 100 Total
- Photography – 82 Total
- Canoeing / Kayaking – 79 Total
- Fishing – 68 Total
- Bird Watching – 62 Total
- Running / Jogging – 50 Total
- Snowboarding / Sledding – 38 Total
- Basketball – 34 Total
- Kite Flying – 27 Total
- Baseball / Softball – 24 Total
- Volleyball – 22 Total
- Ice Skating – 22 Total
- Tennis – 20 Total
- Sailing – 17 Total
- Rollerblading – 15 Total
- Rock Climbing – 15 Total
- Geocaching – 14 Total
- Powerlifting – 14 Total
- Boating – 10 Total
- Scuba Diving – 8 Total
- Skateboarding – 7 Total

General Comments on What Additional Recreation Should Be Made Available in the City

40 Total Comments

- Comments Referencing a Need for a Tennis Court - 4
- Comments Referencing a Need for a Basketball Court – 3
- Comments Referencing a Need for Ice Skating - 2
- Comments Referencing a Need for a Pickle Ball Court – 3
- Comments Referencing a need for a Splash Pad – 4
- Comments Referencing a Need for More Playground Equipment – 4
- Comments Referencing a Need for More Recreation and Play Activities – 1
- Comments Referencing a Need for Music or Concerts in the Park – 2

Other Comments

"The city lacks organized recreational programming."

"I would like to see more promotion for the hiking trails. Create a map to indicate how many miles each segment is and show where and how they connect."

"Activities for families all season long."

"Putt-putt or mini golf course. Ice Skating near the Lift Bridge area."

"Adult playground equipment."

"Bocce ball, large chess, games, large checkers."

General Park Feedback

(72 responses)

Comments Asking for Better Marketing and Promotion – 4

"Lots of people are not aware of these parks including me who is not originally from here so a kiosk downtown would be nice having info on area events and parks."

Comments Asking for a Viewfinder at Point Park - 2

Other Comments

"Lighting at the stairs at The Point."

"It would be nice to see more music/events at the park with access to food trucks."

"A picnic pavilion at Point Park would be awesome!"

"How can private entities, e.g. neighborhood groups, civic organizations, clubs, businesses, etc., take responsibility (sponsorship) for but not ownership of these parks? The willingness to do so will demonstrate their true importance. It's time for the city to stop subsidizing these properties to the extent that it is."

Survey Part IV

Do You Have Any Suggestions for Improving Winter Recreation Activities?

68 responses

- Comments Referencing a Need for Ice Skating – 34
- Comments Referencing a Need for Sledding – 27
- Comments Referencing a Need for a Toboggan Run – 8
- Comments Referencing a Need for Snow Ski / Snow Shoe Rental – 10
- Comments Referencing a Need for Ice Fishing – 3
- Comments Referencing Better Snowmobile Access – 2

Other Comments

“Clear Walnut beach for sledding, add ice rink at Smith field.”

“A sledding hill and toboggan run needs to be established at Walnut Beach Park. Ice skating at Smith Field.”

“Yes....getting rid of the tennis courts next to the Harbor Library and making a skating rink in the winter and a park with a gazebo for weddings/activities in the summer.”

“More sledding areas with hot chocolate stands.”

Survey Part V

Suggestions for Improving Access to the Waterfront

70 responses

- **Comments Referencing Paving the Road Leading to the Break Wall – 16**
“Better road and parking near break wall perhaps with some grills and tables.”
- **Comments Referencing a Need for an Improved Board Walk at Walnut Beach – 7**
- **Comments Referencing a Need for an Improved Bike Lanes – 5**
- **Comments Referencing a Need to be able to Launch Kayaks and Boats at the Break Wall – 4**
- **Comments Referencing a Need for Better Marketing – 2**
“Trailblazer signs need to be put out on I-90 to tell the world where the beach is located.”
- **Comments Referencing a Need for More Lookout Points – 2**
“Need more lookout points near lake and river, more bridge Street sightseeing.”
- **Comments Referencing a Need for a Boat Launch – 3**
“Marina's boat launch, look at Geneva state park marina. It's beautiful and open and safe. Mimic that area, add food options, drink stops and developing the waterfront.”
“A city-owned boat ramp that is free to its residents. For non-residents there should be a \$5 fee to use it.”
“Improve access points for kayaking, canoeing, etc.”

▪ **Comments Referencing a Need for a Board Walk / Walk Way / Fishing Pier on the Break Wall – 6**

“Would like a fishing pier with safe access rather than walking a mile down the break wall.”

“A handicap ramp and flat area on break wall to fish and view lake.”

Additional Comments

“Need a place to drive and watch sunset from car.”

“We need more restaurants on the water. Ashtabula is such a beautiful area and the water front is barely utilized!”

“Cut trees along the bluff behind Hubbard House and Harbor Topky Library to create a stunning lake view.”

“Place a very tall flag pole at highland beach park and light with existing power. The flag would serve as a land mark to local boaters. The current lighting is not helpful for viewing navigation lights or stars.”

“Make Walnut Beach handicap accessible. People with mobility issues cannot get to the water easily.”

“Put in birdwatching platforms in that area north of the water plant. Birdwatching is a huge tourism deal these days - take advantage of it!”

“Charge access to waterfront areas you improve in the future to maintain amenities.”

Next Steps Moving Forward

- Utilize e-mail addresses from the survey process to attract community members to attend an upcoming town hall meeting.
- Use the e-mail addresses collected for future marketing purposes.
- Create a city parks e-mail database.
- Create a city parks Facebook page.
- Prioritize outcomes from the survey data collected.
- Circulate results to interested community organizations and leaders.
- Hire a parks event and marketing coordinator.

Questions? E-mail Melinda McNutt at melindamcnutt@gmail.com

PARKS & RECREATION MEETING

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Members present: Earl Tucker, Mary Graves, Margaret Distler, Mary Kiehl, Trevor Sprague

Member excused: Ken Vanyo

Guests: Ward 4 Councilperson Jodi Mills, My Neighborhood Collaborative members Toni Kohler and Pete Bean

Mary Graves called the meeting to order.

Approval of the March meeting was motioned by Trevor Sprague and second by Margaret Distler, minutes were approved as written.

Guests: My Neighborhood Collaborative, Toni Kohler reported the MNC park committee is still working on their proposal for Kadon Park. Will update us at a later time.

Old business:

Ohio Parks and Recreation Association membershipall agreed this is not necessary for our P&R committee
Park Survey from 2018 – discussed, somewhat incomplete, needs assessment with more age groups. Earl mentioned looking at the Bird Hauck Plan for those on the committee that have not read it. Discussion on whether another type of survey should be done. P&R needs a need assessment before a master plan of the parks can be made.

Mary Graves also reported there is no update on a 7th member of the Parks & Rec committee.

Mary also reported someone reached out to her regarding additional pickle ball courts in the city. Maggie Distler Suggested maybe this could be part of the Smith Field complex....even if it is just taping off an area of the parking lot.

Jodi Mills reported on the city wide cleanup for Saturday, April 30, 2022. Everyone can meet at the KeyBank Parking lot at 8:30 am for supplies and directions.

Aqua has given the city a \$1000 donation and will take part in cleaning up Walnut Beach on Wednesday, April 13, 2022.

Ashtabula County will be supplying gloves and bags.

Koski Construction will be participating in cleaning an area on Friday, April 29th.

Ms. Mills also reported the water drainage issue at Walnut Beach sidewalk will be done this Spring per Mr. Timonere. Waiting for the soil to dry out.

Ms. Mills reported for the City Manager that the plans for Smith Field are moving along. P&R fund could be about \$80 thousand dollars.

New business:

Schedule for meeting at different parks each month. Trevor suggested our group meet and tour one or two parks each month for our meetings. On May 3rd, P&R committee will meet at Walnut Beach for a tour, then go to Point Park and the Topky tennis/pickleball court.

Mary Graves noted that Earl Tucker, Trevor Sprague, and Mary Kiehl's appointment to the P&R committee expires on May 21, 2022. Will await City Manager and City Council approval on reappointments.

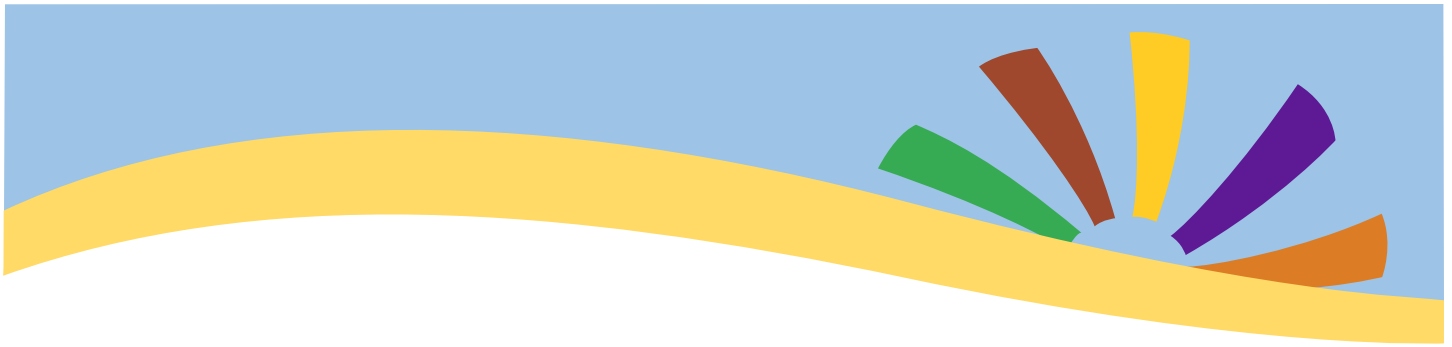
Cornelius Park fountain: Has Larry Fargo completed the fencing?

Concession stand at Walnut Beach: committee would like to see if some landscaping rocks (or rocks from the beach pile) can be placed around the perimeter of the stand along with some driftwood?

Next meeting will be May 2, 2022 at 5 pm at Walnut Beach (weather permitting)

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Mary Kiehl, Secretary



CLEAN UP ASHTABULA

* Let's take pride in our city and our community by coming together for a great cause and help support Earth Day! Please RSVP with contact person and number of volunteers in group by Monday April 18th. Lunch will be provided.

Saturday, April 30th 9a—noon

RAIN OR SHINE

**City of Ashtabula Municipal Building Parking Lot
4717 Main Avenue—Park Avenue entrance**

RSVP:

Jodi Mills—ward4@cityofashtabula.com or 440-812-5916

Jane Haines—ward5@cityofashtabula.com or 440-998-1635

