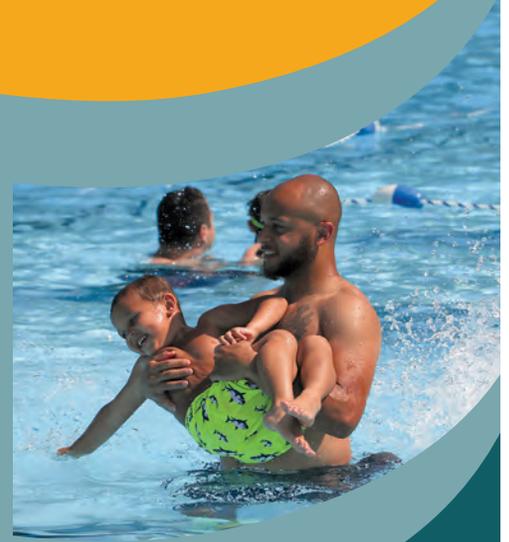


# 2018 Year in Review



## Three Pillars of Parks & Recreation

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recognizes the importance parks and recreation has on a community. The Gahanna Parks & Recreation team works hard to provide a variety of programs, events, and spaces for residents to connect with the community and the environment. The NRPA established the three pillars: **Health & Wellness, Conservation, and Social Equity.**

**Health & Wellness** – Whether someone wants to participate in a yoga class, play pick-up games of basketball, or take advantage of one of the 73 community garden plots to grow fresh produce, Gahanna Parks & Recreation strives to ensure opportunities to lead a healthy lifestyle.

**Conservation** – The City of Gahanna was pleased to maintain status of Bee City USA, Tree City USA and the Herb Capital of Ohio, and has over 768 acres of parkland. Great efforts over the last several years have been made to renovate landscaping at our local parks, swimming pools and gardens to incorporate pollinator-friendly flowers, shrubs, and trees. These projects include a native planting bed adjacent to a local café, maintenance of wildflower prairies at Gahanna Woods Park, micro-climate designs at the Geroux Herb Garden and implementation of several “low-mow zones” in several parks in an effort to reduce soil erosion, slow stormwater runoff and filter pollutants from storm water.

**Social Equity** – One of the many great things about parks is that they are maintained for everyone to use, regardless of an individual’s race, gender, age, orientation, or ability. The new West Side Park was designed for all children, regardless of their ability, to come out and play. The Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation also provides financial assistance for those families or individuals who wish to participate in a variety of programs, including pool memberships, camp programs, and senior center activities.

## Mission Statement

*The Mission of the Parks & Recreation Department is to provide recreation opportunities and parks and trail stewardship services to the people of Gahanna so they can be healthy and well while they explore and learn in our community.*

The **Camp Friendship Camping Company** is accredited through the American Camping Association and provides youths the opportunity to grow and learn with activities and field trips each summer. There were 378 individuals who participated in a total of 2,009 camp spaces throughout the year.



**30** Community Partner Events in Creekside

The department supported **30 different community events** at Creekside Plaza and Park.

Gahanna hosted **15 different 5K races/walks** in 2018. Plenty of opportunities to connect with a local cause and stay healthy and fit in the process.



Creekside Attendance

**8,000**

Nearly 8,000 people who attended **Creekside** connected with local businesses and vendors.



**38,000** Pool Visits

The City operates two aquatic facilities; **Gahanna Swimming Pool and Hunter's Ridge Pool**. These sites hosted over **38,000 visits** in 2018. Nearly **4,000 members** visit throughout the season, in addition to those visiting for swim meets, swim lessons, or for a day in the sun.



Rounds of Golf

**16,619**

FORE! The Gahanna Municipal Golf Course hosted 16,619 **rounds of golf** through both members and league play. Golfing gets people outdoors and promotes health and wellness, and the ability to socialize with others in the community regardless of ability.

The **urban tree canopy** provides many benefits to our community including safety, environmental health, and aesthetic value. Trees provide habitat to many of the wildlife species found throughout Gahanna. In 2018, 85 new trees and 300 seedlings were planted throughout Gahanna.



**44,175** Special Event Attendees

44,175 individuals attended a **special event**, connecting citizens and visitors with our parks, programs, and the community.

**2,098 individuals** participated in a variety of **recreational programs**, including; youth sports, outdoor education and paddling, educational, and health and fitness.



Active Adult Members 55+

**546**

The Gahanna Senior Center had **546 members** and saw more than **16,550 visits**. Members connect with their peers and participate in a variety of activities and trips, all in a welcoming space.

Square Feet of Pollinator Beds Established

**9,974**



In a continued effort to be a **pollinator friendly community**, 9,974 square feet of new pollinator friendly beds were created, with over 70 planters and baskets established. The Parks team also maintained the previous 15,201 square feet of beds previously established throughout the city.

The Parks Team mowed over 5,349 acres of park land. That's like mowing a football field 4,052 times.

**2,000** Herb Day Attendance

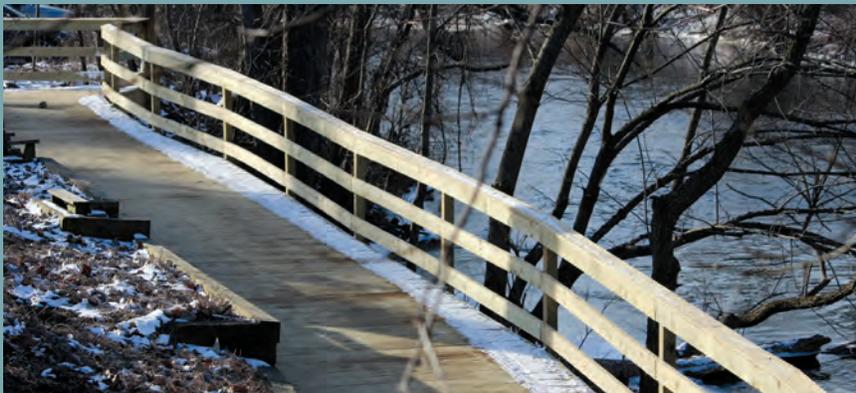


Over 2,000 people attended **Herb Day** in the Herb Capital of Ohio.

## 2018 Financial Dedication



**New Park on West Side** – The Parks & Rec Team applied for several grants and received almost \$600,000 in funding for the construction of the park, 33% of the total funds needed. The Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation, NRPA & Niagara Bottling, Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Nature Works, State Capital Improvement, and Ohio & Gahanna Kiwanis Clubs have all dedicated financial support for our community through this project. Our team is committed to exploring additional funding sources to continue to connect our community to our parks.



**Boardwalk** – The skilled Parks Team rebuilt the boardwalk near the Creekside Café, along the Big Walnut Creek. Because of the talent and ingenuity of our team performing this work, the City of Gahanna saved roughly \$80,000.



**Front Pool Liner** – The installation of the liner in the front pool of the Gahanna Swimming Pool provided a resourceful option to ensure the safe and effective operation of the facility for future years.

## A Look Ahead

### New Park on Westside

In 2018, the accessible playground, parking lot, and restroom facility were completed at the park. Pending future funding, other amenities could include: shelter and picnic space, expanding the trail, fitness stations, and basketball/pickleball courts.

### South West Floodplain Park

Concept plans for the potential development of the land have been created; however, until additional funding is secured, finalization of plans and construction is unable to happen.

### Big Walnut Trail

Section 4 of the Big Walnut Trail was completed in the Fall of 2018, connecting both existing trail sections with a bridge across the Big Walnut Creek. The final, most southern, section (Section 8) cannot be completed until additional funding is secured.