

FOLLOW THE LEADER

A Publication for the employees of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

July 2015

S

ince joining the Recreation and Parks team one month ago, I have made my way around to meet staff and participants, visit centers and experience the depth and breadth of what we do every day and the impact we have on our citizens. This is an amazing department and I am very happy to be here.

Two weeks ago, I was excited to participate in the unveiling of our new food truck, affectionately known as the “Strawberry Truck.” Strawberries were served with the lunches to the delight of the hundreds of kids there that day. The truck will be making its way to underserved areas to deliver meals to kids.

Camps are in full swing! I had the wonderful opportunity to lead a group of kids in the Therapeutic Recreation program in the song “Alligator!” We’ve got the climbing wall out there, swimming, boating, fishing, golfing, tennis, and the Zoombezi Bay trip coming up – what a summer! And what wonderful memories we are helping to create.

I’ve also had the chance to meet with our Maintenance staff at Alum Creek. There is quite a job to do there and I’m so pleased with the job being done. Dodging rain drops is a tough way to cut grass and work in the trees.

Berliner is packed with summer leagues and tournaments. The Cultural Arts Center has a new exhibition starting. Educational Gardens are growing with plenty of rain. Human Resources has survived summer hiring and Fiscal is busy with the 2nd quarter review and starting the 2016 budget.

Summer is never complete without special events and I am looking forward to the Jazz & Rib Fest later this month and attending our Cap City Nights events. FountainSide events are also underway.

We have a new program this summer called *Find Me in the Park– It’s TREEmendous*. Artists have created must see diverse treehouses for Wolfe, Whetstone Park of Roses, Goodale, Schiller and Westgate parks. Really great work and I think it will bring people in the park.

I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and work with you. I’m excited by what we do and the potential of what, together, we can do.

Have a great summer!



Tony Collins
Director





Find Me in the Park

It's *tree*mendous!

Presented by  FIFTH THIRD BANK



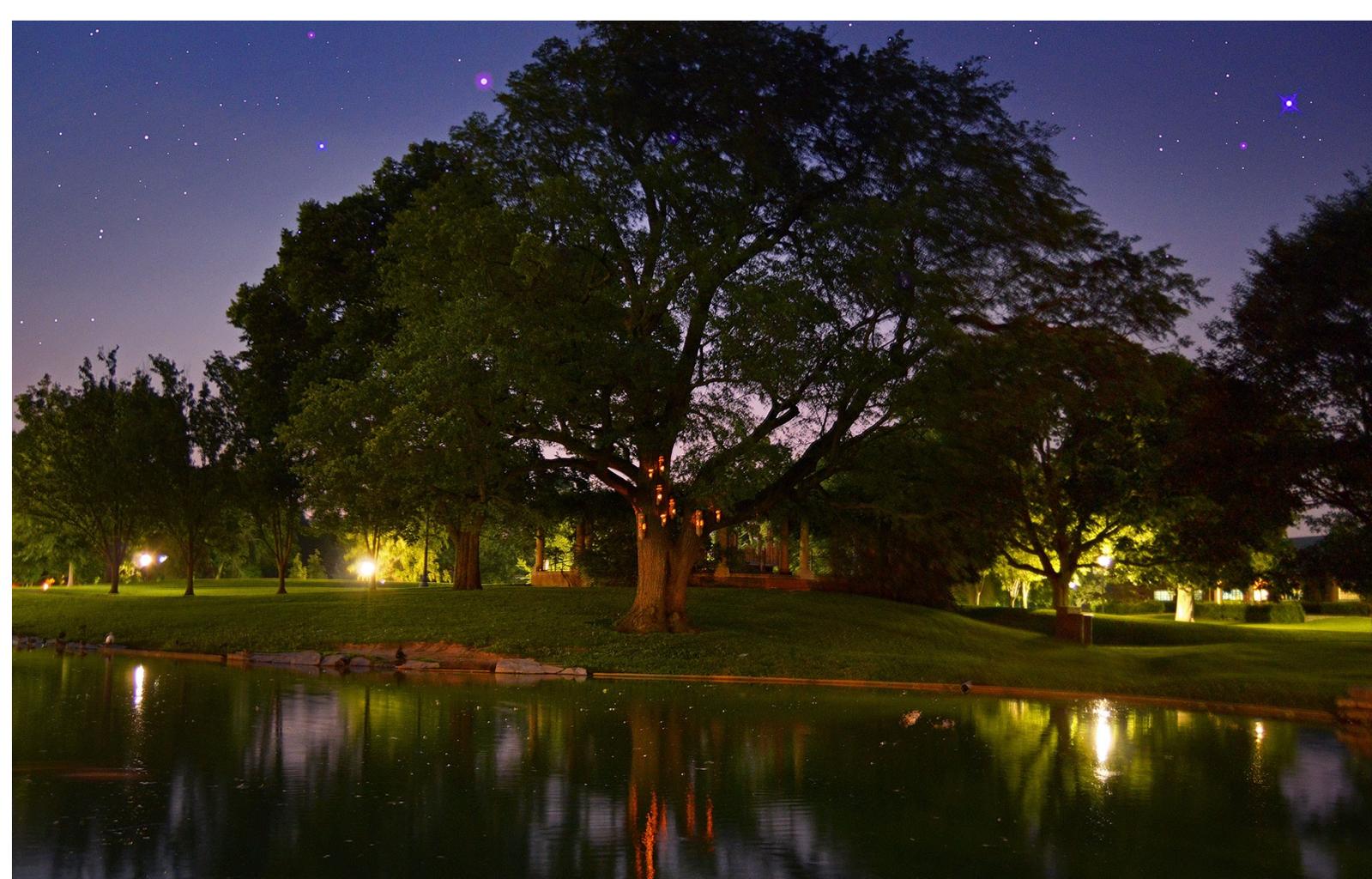
 www.ColumbusRecParks.com

5 treehouses with **3** ways to find them! This summer Fifth Third Bank is sponsoring a new program for us called *Find Me in the Park- It's TREEmendous*. This project will create a buzz among the public and get them to join us in our parks. Five of our parks, Goodale, Schiller, Westgate, Whetstone and Wolfe Parks, are each hosting a hidden treehouse within their boundaries. We are inviting the public to come to the park and find the artist-created treehouses perched in the trees.

Instead of telling people exactly where the treehouses are located, we are providing them with three ways to find them on their own. We are providing a treasure map or, as we like to call it, a TREEmendous map (above). This map, which can be picked up at select 5/3 locations or at our rec centers, provides

clues and GPS coordinates for each treehouse. Coordinates can be plugged into a smartphone or GPS device to find the treehouses. Second, our website will have the map and GPS coordinates. Finally, people can find them by geocaching. We have setup a geocache page for each of the five parks. Don't know what geocaching is? Visit www.geocaching.com.

Each treehouse is unique and fun to find! It is possible that the public will have a hard time finding them and will ask you for additional clues if you work in a recreation center or in the parks. We do suggest that they try using at least one of our three methods to search for the trees before asking for help. Call anyone in Development with questions. The program will run through September 20.



A must see! Castle in tree and photo by Kenny Cramer, Special Events

Have you Joined the Geocache Craze?

As part of the Find Me in the Park—It's TREEmendous project, Development also placed and registered geocaches in Whetstone, Wolfe, Westgate, Goodale and Shiller Park. What is Geocaching?

Geocaching is a wonderful way to explore the world around you and discover new places in your hometown that you never knew existed.

It is a scavenger hunt using either a GPS device or a smartphone app and online hints to lead participants (geocachers) to hidden containers (caches). Caches are hidden around the world and even in outer space! Each cache contains a logbook for geocachers to sign and can vary in size and shape. Geocachers can then log their cache finds on the geocaching website and speak with other geocachers about their adventures.

If you are new to the world of geocaching, then we recommend you to check out their website, www.Geocaching.com. There they have informational videos, FAQs, history and tips on joining the exciting world of geocaching.

Check it out! We hope to find you in the park.

crpd staff news.....

Congratulations to **Chad Karg**, Permits, on the birth of his son, Charles Graham, on March 31.

Condolences to the family of **Dave Denney**, Maintenance, who passed away on April 11. Dave was also the son-in-law of **Ray Pendell**, Golf.

Congratulations to **Jim Davis** (most recently of Permits) on his retirement from the Department in June. Mr. Davis has worked for the Department for almost a half-century in many capacities. His dedication, knowledge, and leadership will be sorely missed.

A shout out to **Jeff Barr**, Zone Manager Maintenance, on achieving accreditation of Certified Parks and Recreation Professional. Great job Jeff!

Columbus was recognized as a 2015 Playful City USA community! We are being honored with this award due to our efforts to focus on play and for creating kid-friendly, family-friendly communities! Way to go Columbus!

News You Can Use from Development

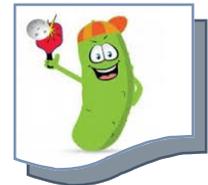


Branding is important! Before sending that next piece out to be professionally printed, please run it by Development.



Do you Want to Play Pickleball?

Just in time for Summer, Clinton Como and Whetstone tennis courts 1 and 2, have been altered for outdoor pickleball games. Interested players will need to bring their own net, paddles and balls for these first come, first served courts.



Summer Food Truck Off and Running

On June 24 under beautiful skies, the Columbus Recreation and Parks Food Truck made its debut appearance in Columbus. Council President Andy Ginther, Councilwoman Jaiza Paige and Director Collins welcomed the 100 or so children to Dodge Park. The food truck will venture into places not served by our 270 feeding sites. Children ages 1-18 can participate in the program which provides safe places for youth to get FREE nutritious meals. **Joe Morgan**, who recently retired from Brentnell, will be the driver. Be sure to wave to Joe as he goes by in the "strawberry truck"!



DAVID SANBORN

EDDIE PALMIERI

DR. LONNIE SMITH

JOHN PIZZARELLI

CHIEELI MINUCCI & SPECIAL EFX
FEATURING MARION MEADOWS

JAZZ & RIB FEST

JULY 17-19

Celebrate summer with hot ribs and cool jazz along the **Arena District riverfront** in **McFerson Commons** and **North Bank Park**.

Savor mouth-watering ribs, chicken and more from 23 award-winning barbeque teams while kicking back to the sounds of internationally renowned jazz artists and top local talent on three stages.

Admission is FREE!

Visit www.HotRibsCoolJazz.org for details.

Friday and Saturday | 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
Sunday | 11:00 AM – 8:30 PM