

FOLLOW THE LEADER

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

October 2015



It's been an amazing summer! Many thanks to each of you for the work you put in to give our citizens endless opportunities for access to parks, opportunities for recreational and development for our community.

Berliner Park hosted great events, our downtown was filled with a plethora of activity, Find Me in the Park offered hours of treasure seeking fun to families, grass looked great (signage not so much – we'll work on that), lots of summer hiring done, golfers enjoyed the beautiful courses, our "strawberry" food truck made it's much needed debut, and summer camps were a delight for the thousands of kids who participated! Our park and facilities crews are providing outstanding spaces and places for our community to be active. Thank you to all of our team members working hard to provide excellent opportunities for our citizens.



Tony Collins
Director

Now, as we are deep into fall, we have some exciting things in motion. Recently, our management team met at Big Run Park and did some strategic planning for our upcoming capital budget. With a large list of needed projects and limited dollars, hard decisions need to be made to guide our future investment. I think it's important to include staff in these types of decisions. As we move forward, I plan to engage with our entire team to further define our brand, strategic priorities and goals. We are collecting input from our 2014 Master Plan, our CRPD Commission, the Mayors office, and our Council representatives to help define key focus areas/priorities.

The focus areas are still in draft format and can be summarized the following:

Smart Growth: Invest in current assets; grow infrastructure and assets when it is market driven and financially feasible. Be focused on core services.

Financial Sustainability: Find the most appropriate, efficient, and cost effective ways to operate; create sustainable programs; Identify and develop private funding; work as a regional partner.

Communications : Share our culture, impact and general work product with internal and external audiences. Share Our Story.

Organizational Development: Organize, educate and empower staff members to be effective, efficient ambassadors of the Department.

Excellence in in Program and Service Delivery: Find innovative ways of creating and delivering market-based programs and services.



We are in the beginning stages in this process but know it will be an invaluable tool as we move forward.

I look forward to an exciting fall. Thank you for all that you do.

All the best,

Tony

CRPD STAFF NEWS.....

Sincere condolences to **Craig Scarpitti** (Airport Maintenance) whose Mother passed away July 10.

Condolences to **Craig Seeds** (Maintenance) and **Lindsay Seeds** (Development) on the loss of their father and grandfather, respectively, in August.

Condolences to **George Shaw** (Aquatics) on the loss of his father in August.

Welcome to **Brandi Braun**, new Chief Communications and Development Officer. Brandi is at 1111.

Congrats to **Terri Maloney-Houston**, Woodward Park Leader and co-chair of the Art Committee, who won two awards in juried art competitions this summer. "Leaf Ring," a sculpture comprised of 10,000 individual porcelain leaves, won best of show at both *Ohio Rising, Juried Art Competition* in conjunction with The Lancaster Festival (July 23-August 1, 2015) and *The View: Juried Landscape Competition*, Rosewood Gallery, Kettering OH (May 18-June 19).

Jeff Derr, Sports, is happy to announce the birth of their son, Marshall James Derr, on April 17.

Congratulations to **Jeff Barr**, Park Maintenance, who was selected to be the City of Gahanna's new Parks and Facilities Superintendent. Jeff had been with Park Maintenance for four years. Good luck in your new position!

Condolences to **Terry Cornett**, Gillie, on the loss of his beloved Grandmother.

Congrats to **Jimmy Johnson**, Gillie, who announced his intended retirement from CRPD at the end of the year.

Congrats to **Casey Smith**, Outdoor Ed, on the birth of their new son, Sawyer Forest Smith, on September 30.

Economic Impact of our

Sports Section:

\$62.3 million so far in 2015.

We make a difference.

CRPD Makes a Difference!

This letter was submitted to *Follow the Leader* from Teresa Featherstone, Center Manager at Barnett Recreation Center. Teresa says, "I feel as though this letter from this grandma could speak for the many kids we see at all of our centers in the summer everywhere. "

To Whom It May Concern:

There's nothing greater than the Barnett Recreation Center in the summer. My boys have been participating in this program for 4 years and they love it. This summer has been most exciting the fishing, bike riding, robot making and the trips they went on were the best ever. I'm a grandmother raising grandchildren and this program has helped me a lot to keep my boys off the streets. When they gave the bikes *that was wonderful because they didn't have one. The counselors are great. I hope they continue the program. I don't know what I'd do without it.*

*Thank You,
Rinda Walker*



** Bikes were given as part of the Kids Cycle Columbus program which is a partnership between CRPD and the Health department's Institute for Active Living. The institute has secured grant money for the last 3 years for bikes at 5 of our sites. Kids are asked to participate in an 8 week program that teaches them bicycle safety. If the kids attends the majority of the rides, they are given the new bike they have been riding, a lock, lights and a helmet. About 10 bikes are given away per site. This year, the participating sites were: Barnett, Indian Mound, Dodge, Tuttle and Holton.



CRPD is now on Instagram! Check us out at:
 CoIsRecParks
 Send us photos! Have ideas? We're interested!

Alum Creek Trail Opening

The Grand Opening for the Alum Creek Trail happened on October 1. At 22 miles, the Alum Creek Trail is the longest continuous greenway in Central Ohio. Trails are a priority of our residents and the 2014 Master Plan. Trails have a profound effect on the community by providing alternative transportation, spurring economic development and providing access to parks and recreational opportunities.

This trail opening is a milestone for Central Ohio; it is the result of years of collaboration and partnerships with public and private partners including Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Franklin County Metro Parks, Franklin County Engineer's Office, City of Bexley, City of Westerville, Ohio Dominican University and may more.

Kudos to Planning and Design, especially **Brad Westall**, for his years of leadership and hard work to design and build this trail. Also, great job to **Jenny Horn, Kevin Neff, Jason Nicholson, Ron Keller, and Brandi Braun** for their organization of the event.



People are Checking You Out!

That's right, the program or facility that you manage or participate in is getting noticed. We can learn a ton about ourselves as a department by simply viewing our website analytics. You would be surprised to find out which programs or facilities are getting the most views. Our department's analytics are collected through Google and give us great insights as to what our community wants to learn more about. For instance, did you know that outside of our Recreation and Parks homepage, that our "Find a Program," "Shelterhouse," and "Olentangy Trail" pages got the most views so far in 2015? In fact, those three pages contributed 85,000 page views within this year alone!

As a whole, our department website will likely have close to one million page views this year! So let's take advantage of this. If you have material that you think could help update your programs or facilities webpage, or would just like to know how your page is performing, let us in the Development area know. We are always looking to update our pages, because after all, people are indeed looking!



Come Join Westgate at the Blue Jackets Game

Monday, December 14 @ 7:00PM



TICKETS: \$25 / PERSON

Includes Pre-game tailgate at Westgate

****FIRST 47 TICKETS SOLD WILL HAVE A SEAT ON THE
FOX SPORTS FAN EXPRESS BUS**

**THE BUS WILL PICK US UP AT WESTGATE
AND TAKE US TO AND FROM THE GAME!**

*****ALL OTHER TICKET HOLDERS WILL NEED TO DRIVE ON THEIR OWN.**

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY

NOVEMBER 11

5:00PM-6:00PM

PRE-GAME TAILGATE AT WESTGATE:

FOOD PROVIDED: HOT DOGS, CHIPS, DRINK

EVERYONE WELCOME TO BRING A DISH TO SHARE

Call Denica at 5-3264 for more details and to purchase tickets

To All Staff Who Place Warehouse Orders:

If you are new to the Lucy Warehouse Ordering site, or you are just having trouble using it, use the link below for Step by Step instructions for placing your order.

<P:\Fiscal\FORMS & INSTRUCTIONS\Warehouse Lucy Ordering Instructions.pdf>

If the link does not work for you, just open up the Fiscal folder in the P drive, then the Forms & Instructions folder then scroll to the bottom where you will find the "Warehouse Lucy Ordering Instructions" document.

These instructions are designed for first time users. Please save a copy to your files to share with new employees or employees who rarely place orders.

Hopefully this will clear up most questions, but if you have any further questions about the Lucy ordering site you may call the DOT Help Desk at 645-5758.

This site is still evolving so you may see some changes occurring in the future but the basic steps should remain the same.

Empty Bowls Coming

It is that time of year again to eat the wonderful soup concoctions made by our staff and volunteers. Empty Bowls, an international fight against hunger, is right around the corner. For a donation of \$10, you will receive a hand crafted bowl and lunch of soup and bread. All proceeds benefit the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

Please join us at one of these events:

Friday, November 6	10 am – 1 pm	Gillie Center
Wednesday, November 11	11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Martin Janis Center
Thursday, November 12	11 am – 1 pm	Jerry Hammond Center
Friday, November 13	11:30 am – 2 pm	Whetstone Community Center
Saturday, November 14	11 am- 2 pm	Hillcrest Baptist Church
		Parkview Methodist Church
		St. Luke Lutheran Church
		Woodward Park Recreation Center
Sunday, November 15	Noon- 2 pm	Eastminster Presbyterian Church
Thursday, December 10	11:00am-12:30pm	1533 Alum Creek
Friday, December 4		Grand Illumination



For more information, contact Wendy Frantz at 645-7427 or wmfrantz@columbus.gov.



HAUNTED OVERNIGHT

October 30, 7 pm - October 31, 10 am

Ages 7-12

Columbus Resident Cost \$25

Non-Resident Cost \$30

Wear your favorite costume. We'll have a spooktacular time playing games, doing crafts, taking a night hike, sitting around the campfire making S'mores, and much more!



Standing L-R, James Douglas, Council Member Jaiza Page, Jerry Page, Director Tony Collins

The Columbus Boxers, Coaches and Boxing Committee members awarded Council Member Jaiza Page with a Plaque and honorary belt for her fundraising efforts back on May 2nd when she reserved a theater at the Arena Grand and sold tickets to view the Mayweather V Pacquiao fight. The event raised over \$8,500 for the Columbus boxing program.



Fall II PLAY Deadline is Nov 21

"Sky High" Loft Exhibit by Robie Benve Runs through October 30



Line Dancing on the Scioto



Path in the Prairy



Thankful Ending

Grand ILLUMINATION

DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS

LIGHTING CEREMONY | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

Kick off the holiday season with the Grand Illumination of downtown Columbus as thousands of twinkling lights and festive holiday décor illuminate the Scioto Mile. In the spirit of giving, help support the Mid-Ohio Foodbank by purchasing a piece of handcrafted pottery through the Empty Bowls project. For information, visit www.SciotoMile.com.



EVRO Holiday Party



Friday, December 4
From 12 Noon to
1:30pm
Franklin Park