

**Bowling Green
Parks & Recreation
Five Year Master
Plan
2022-2026**



*Enhancing quality of life through
Parks, Programs & Facilities.*

Core Values:

Community
Commitment
Education
Service
Health

PROCESS

The planning process was begun very early for this five-year plan to ensure that there was enough time for all of the steps prior to having to make the decision on the amount for the next levy. That proved to be a very good decision when something called COVID 19 came along and forced some postponements!

- Community Focus Group Meetings (5 were scheduled, 4 were held, the last one was cancelled due to COVID) – October 2019 – March 2020
- Recreational Needs Survey was designed and ready to mail in March 2020; this was postponed due to COVID. Survey was redesigned and administered in March 2021.
- Preparation of Major Financial Needs Document (mostly facilities & infrastructure for the next five years) – March 2021
- Park Board & Foundation Retreat (SWOT Analysis) – August 2021
- Staff Retreat (SWOT Analysis) – August 2021
- Review of current Five-Year Plan
- Continual discussion and interaction with citizens and users

PARAMETERS & ASSUMPTIONS

- When putting together the last five-year plan BGPR's biggest priority was to maintain the acreage and facilities that we have. The department had experienced tremendous growth over the last 15 years prior in order to meet the needs of our citizens. The time had come to focus on taking care of what we have, especially some of our aging facilities and infrastructure so that we can continue to meet citizens needs for years to come. This new five-year plan will be a continuation of that theme; maintaining the parks, programs & facilities!
- Revenue sources will remain through the five-year span – levy, fees for service and income tax.
- The levy that was put on the ballot in November 2021 was a five-year, replacement levy at the same milage. The decision to keep the milage at the same amount was due to the uncertainty of the economic climate due to COVID and not wanting to ask citizens to pay significantly more in taxes. With that decision though comes the understanding that this money will maintain the parks, programs & facilities. This will not allow for significant growth in the parks, programs & facilities.
- The City's lease with the BG Country Club is currently through 2025; for the purposes of this plan we assume that the City will renew that lease. This is however up to the discretion of the Mayor & City Council and is not something decided by BGPR or its advisory board.

- Accomplishing all of these items in the five-year span will be dependent on donations, grants, partnerships and the support of our Foundation.
- The priority in terms of which year each item will be accomplished will be determined with the budget process and goals established each year of the five-year span. This plan will also be revisited annually to track progress and revise as necessary.
- Items that we can't control or forecast beyond the current budget year: minimum wage, price tag for projects that will have to be bid out and the overall health of the economy (especially with continued impact due to COVID).
- The needs and desires of the citizens always seem to be greater than our financial resources so to that end the department always seeks to prioritize what we provide by working with local agencies and facilities that provide similar recreational services so as not to duplicate these services.
- As with all plans – this is a living, breathing, fluid document. Try as we may to plan there will be things that surface which require adjustment and may cause projects to be moved forward or pushed back.

PARKS

BG Athletic Fields

- Continue to expand and enhance the outdoor obstacle course while maintaining the native areas included in that section.
- Add storage shed for obstacle course equipment and maintenance equipment. Work with BGHS art teachers and students to have murals painted on this shed.
- Add shade structures

Bellard Park – maintain as is

Black Swamp Preserve – work with joint owner WCPD

Carter Park

- Continue to manage the established natural area
- Replace both playgrounds with an Inclusive Playground – partnering with Wood County Plays
- Hub building/garage/park restroom LED lighting upgrades
- Pave hub building axis drives & entire parking lot
- Softball field fencing repairs/replacement

- Build four outdoor pickleball courts at front of the park near the water tower – fundraising for this will be done in partnership with a group of pickleball enthusiasts and the support of our Foundation
- Disc Golf course upgrades to increase the challenge level of some holes – partnering with GAS Disc Golf & Visit BG

City Park

- Stone Shelter – new shingle roof & patio
- Needle Hall – new roof
- Kiwanis Shelter – new metal roof
- Maintenance Building – new roof
- Replace Rink/East restroom roofs
- Pave loop & parking lots
- Add paved walking trail around the loop (in all spots possible)
- Backflow installation
- Wall refurbishment
- Horseshoe area reconfigured – leaving one or two pits & adding concrete cornhole sets and other newer outdoor game features
- Maintenance garage expansion/roof replacement/office upgrades/salt storage area
- Add permanent benches to Needle Hall stage area
- Add shade structures at Eli Joyce Ball Diamond
- Add shade structure by skatepark

Conneaut/Haskins Park – maintain as is

Dunbridge Soccer Fields

- Change irrigation system to domestic water supply/abandon well

Raney Playground – maintain as is

Ridge Park

- Replace concrete entry leading to sidewalk/add handicap parking space(s)
- New storm sewer tap when W/S abandon line running through park

Simpson Garden Park

- Two art sculptures are in the works to be added when complete
- This park will have its own master plan updated. Gardens are ever changing; its anticipated that several of the gardens will need to undergo a change in design/refresh.
- Potentially add third bay to storage facility
- Continue Paving Trails

Wintergarden/St. John's Nature Preserve

- Replace HVAC in the Rotary Nature Center
- Nature room/office remodel/improvements (insulation, drywall/paint, carpet tiles)
- New property development: trails, overlook, benches & rustic shelter
- Feasibility study on small wetland area in new acreage
- Native plantings project in front section of park (started in 2021, should be completed by 2024)
- Additional parking area either on the new acreage or additional row of angled paved parking down entrance road
- Updates to Sader garage (siding, gutters, garage doors, electric)
- Continue to follow the parks ecological restoration plan

System Wide:

- ADA Issues continue to be addressed at all parks – these can be costly!
- New entry signs at all parks; the recycled lumber signs are faded
- Begin adding and/or upgrading security cameras
- Convert all outdoor restrooms to timed locks so they can be secured when parks are closed
- Work with City Arborist to maintain trees located within the parks

PROGRAMS

BGPR will continue to provide the wide variety of programs, classes and events for all ages. Some of the major areas that we are looking to increase, modify or expand in the next five years are:

- Continue to keep with current and evolving fitness trends in our Group Fitness Classes
- Further develop Family Recreational programming and events
- Seek out opportunities to partner with other agencies in developing programs for select demographic groups that are harder to reach or where working with agencies helps us expand our reach with existing demographics.
- Work on developing communication and relationships with local athletic departments to better reach out to athletes of a younger age so that we can develop more fitness programs geared towards engaging them.

- Continue to find a balance between revenue generating programs and free programs/events for the community.
- Work with the City's new Community Affairs Coordinator in improving our outreach and helping to get the word out about our facilities, programs, and events.
- Running/Walking Clubs
- Natural Resources program staff will look to increase sustainability programs by working with the City's Sustainability Coordinator
- Continue to work with partners & sponsors (examples of major partners are BG Schools, Library & WCCOA)

FACILITIES

For All Facilities:

- ADA Issues
- LED Lighting Upgrades necessary
- Continually review rental policies & prices

Trails

- Help to connect parks via trails throughout the city (walking & biking) – this will probably not mean funding from our budget but helping through partnerships, grants, etc.

City Pool & Waterpark

- Speed Slide – this will more than likely be obtained through sponsorships and fundraising but as this facility enters year number ten it would be advantageous to add a new component to keep numbers and revenues up.
- Replace pool VGB drain covers
- Replace sand filter media
- Pool pumps/motors refurbishment
- Replace diving boards
- Refinish zero depth swing post/cover
- Replace shade umbrellas

Community Center *some costs are split with the building partners*

- Projects for replacement or renewal around 2025 include: Roof, HVAC Renovation, Electrical, Windows & Doors, Plumbing, Masonry, Paving & Interior Painting.
- Estimated lifespan for other items is 20 - 25 years and the building opened in 2005 so we need to plan for 2025 – 2030 time-frame. We will need to continue

putting aside money each year to pay our portion of these repairs. This is the worst-case scenario and some of these items may or may not need to be completely renovated within this time frame.

- Exterior analysis – leaks, caulk, entry gutters, etc.
- Parking lot island cut through(s)
- Replace break room counters
- Replace fitness flooring
- Reconfigure front desk area/partitions/back counter
- Continue conversion of KKC to game/party room

Simpson Building

- Replace office/banquet room windows
- Update hallway – replace paneling, remove popcorn ceiling
- Backflow installation
- Replace meeting room countertops/sink

Veterans Building

- Office furniture & computer in small office
- Condenser fencing/RHU floor drain
- Sound engineer analysis of atrium & follow recommendations

ADMINISTRATION

- Assist with the Community Action Plan
- Create a Long-Range Infrastructure Plan (LRIP)
- Create a Land Acquisition Policy
- Work on Succession Planning Within the Department
- Address Workload of Maintenance Employees
- Work with the Foundation to update Donation & Memorial Policies – have a book of opportunities available
- Support the Foundation in their fundraising efforts
- Work with BGSU Rec Center, Wood County Hospital & Woodlane on opportunities for citizens to access indoor pool opportunities

- Work with County Administration & the new Dog Warden to market/communicate the services they offer, specifically a dog park located within BG City limits
 - *Consider opportunities to repurpose public land that may be suitable for off-leash areas; and
 - *Work with a committee of citizens to establish walkable, accessible neighborhood dog parks.
- *(These items were added to the Master Plan by City Council on May 2, 2022.)

SUMMARY

We need to focus on maintaining and taking care of our parks, programs and facilities, while being aware and open to new opportunities.

Life is Better with Bowling Green Parks & Recreation!

11/29/21