

ANNUAL REPORT



59
Parks
27
Leagues

2,920
Rentals

147,392
Participants

Weis Park Splash Pad

COMPLETED 2025



CANTON
PARKS AND RECREATION

2025 WITH CANTON PARKS & REC



Each day, Canton Parks and Recreation brings neighbors together through beautiful parks, recreational programs, and events that foster connection, promote wellness, and create lasting memories.

Over the past year, we made meaningful investments across our park system, strengthening neighborhood spaces, enhancing facilities, and expanding opportunities for residents of all ages. From the renovation of the historic Timken Gatehouse to improvements throughout our parks, this work reflects our commitment to preserving what makes our parks special and building for the future.

In 2025, our parks were alive with energy, welcoming thousands of residents and visitors to community events, recreation leagues, and tournaments. As we look ahead, we remain focused on continuing this momentum, investing in our parks, expanding access, and creating vibrant spaces where our community can come together for generations to come.

Signature Moments



- Restoration of the historic Timken Gatehouse, preserving a key piece of Canton's history while creating new opportunities for community use.
- Stadium Park named an official stop on the 2025 Ohio Holiday Lights Trail, featuring some of the state's most spectacular holiday displays.
- Four new Police in the Parks locations dedicated throughout the city, connecting residents with public safety through information and events.
- Community events reached record-high participation, welcoming more residents to our parks than ever before.



CPR Staff at We Believe in Canton in Harmont Park & the NFL First Play in Stadium Park.

2025 INVESTMENTS



Brians Park

- Officially dedicated as a Police in the Parks location
- Installation of security cameras, decorative pergola structures, park benches, and historical signage

Canton Garden Center

- Asphalt paving of roadway leading to gardens

Garaux Park

- Construction of new park pathways
- Athletic field improvements and upgrades

Harmont Park

- Construction of new park pathways
- Officially dedicated as a Police in the Parks location
- Installation of security cameras and historical signage

King Park

- Officially dedicated as a Police in the Parks location
- Installation of security cameras, decorative pergola structures, park benches, and historical signage

Maryland Park

- Officially dedicated as a Police in the Parks location
- Installation of security cameras, decorative pergola structures, park benches, and historical signage

Monument Park

- Installation of electrical service for events and holiday light displays

Nimisilla Park

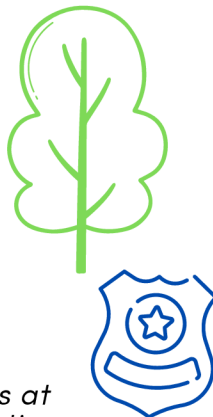
- Restoration of historic brick walkway
- Parking lot improvements and paving



Brand new Play Structure at Harmont Park.



ABOVE: Uncovering the historic brick walkways at Nimisilla Park. RIGHT: Police in the Park dedication in honor of Chief Thomas W. Wyatt at Vassar Park.





Built in 1911, the Timken Gatehouse remained vacant for decades until its full restoration in 2025.



ABOVE: Brand new Play Structure at Stark Wayne Schrader Park.

RIGHT: Willig Field Complex proudly serves as the official home of the Silver League



Stadium Park

- Renovation of historic Timken Gatehouse
- Installation of pedestrian bridge crossing raceway
- Roadway reconstruction and surface improvements
- Site landscaping and beautification enhancements

Stark Wayne Schrader Park

- Facility repairs and structural improvements
- Installation of new play structure and swings

Vassar Park

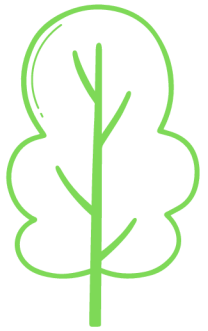
- Officially dedicated as a Police in the Parks location
- Installation of security cameras, decorative pergola structures, park benches, and historical signage

Waterworks Park

- Installation of electrical service for events and displays

Weis Park

- Planted 118 shade and evergreen trees
- Construction of new park pathways
- Athletic field improvements and upgrades



Willig Field Complex

- Facility repairs and structural improvements



Investing in parks, play, & community spaces across the City of Canton.

PARKS IN ACTION

In 2025, over 40 public events welcomed over 58,000 participants, from festivals and seasonal celebrations to community gatherings and family activities that keep our parks vibrant. Community spaces remained in high demand, with 1,012 shelter and room rentals serving more than 50,600 residents and visitors.



Opening Day at Thurman Munson Stadium



Sweat Now, Wine Later Adventure Race



Youth Catfish Derby



Summer Serenades in Stadium Park

SPECIAL EVENTS IMPACT REPORT

From festive lights to fun runs and everything in between, thousands of memories were made in our parks this year. Here's a snapshot of the community moments we shared:

Opening Day at Thurman Munson Stadium: Over 300 players, families, and fans kicked off the youth baseball season.

Sweat Now, Wine Later Adventure Race in Martindale Park: More than 150 participants enjoyed a one of a kind race blending fitness, fun, and the outdoors.

Youth Catfish Derby at Westbrook Park: Nearly 300 young anglers and their families cast a line and reeled in the fun.



Canton Parks and Recreation staff brought The Wizard of Oz to life at Trunk or Treat

Summer Serenade in Stadium Park with the the Canton Symphony Orchestra and Stark Parks: More than 200 attendees gathered for an evening of live music in the park.

Trunk or Treat in Stadium Park: Moved to the Civic Center due to rain, 1,870 attendees and over 60 vendors had a ghoulishly good time!

Trunk or Treat at the Edward "Peel" Coleman Community Center: More than 500 children and families came together for a fun and festive celebration.

Holiday Light Up in the Park: Approximately 800 attendees gathered to kick off the holiday season with the annual lighting of Stadium Park.

Holly Pine Lane: Over 2,000 visitors strolled through the Garden Center for the holiday tree display, cookies and punch, and visits with Santa.

Holiday Hayrides: Over 400 participants enjoyed hot chocolate and hayrides through **Stadium Park** to see the holiday lights.

Letters to Santa: North Pole Mailboxes were placed outside the **Canton Garden Center** and inside the **Edward “Peel” Coleman Community Center**. Staff responded to over 200 handwritten letters, cards, and pieces of artwork delivered to Santa Claus.

RECREATION



Athletics continued to thrive across our park system. In 2025, **76 tournaments** across multiple sports brought **12,524 participants** to our parks and facilities.

League play remained strong, with **27 youth and adult leagues** totaling **188 teams** and **1,792 players**. From adult softball and volleyball to youth baseball, NFL Flag Football, tennis, T-ball, and bocce, these programs provided opportunities for residents of all ages to stay active and engaged.

Facility use also remained high, with **1,868 field and court reservations** supporting a total of more than **37,000 participants** throughout the year. Pickleball continued its rapid growth, accounting for over **1,200 reservations** and more than **14,700 participants**, while additional rentals across multiple sports, including activity at the Willig Turf Complex, contributed to strong overall usage.



These numbers reflect more than participation. They represent families in the stands, young athletes building confidence, neighbors connecting, and community traditions continuing year after year.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

We hosted **2 youth summer camps** at the **Edward “Peel” Coleman Community Center** and **Weis Park**, along with additional partner programs with the **Canton Garden Center** and the **YMCA** that served approximately **200** children. Once again, we were proud to provide free breakfast and lunch for all registered day campers.



WHAT'S COMING IN 2026

We have big plans for 2026, with projects underway and in development to enhance and revitalize our parks, creating more inclusive, welcoming, and vibrant spaces for residents of all ages.

We welcome new Park Commissioners Scott Russ and Tim Miller, and extend our sincere thanks to outgoing Commissioners J.R. Rinaldi and Fonda Williams for their leadership and oversight of many park projects, levy campaigns, programs, and events. Their dedication, guidance, and commitment to Canton Parks and Recreation has had a lasting impact on our community, helping to shape and strengthen the parks and experiences residents enjoy today.

Stadium Park

- Challenger obstacle course addition
- New playground swings
- Inclusive saucer swing feature
- Stone waterfall repairs and enhancements



Monument Park

- New park lighting system
- Walking pathway paving and improvements
- Expanded holiday light displays

Waterworks Park

- New entrance signage
- Expanded holiday lighting



Stadium Park Challenger Course



Weis Park

- Additional park structures
- Upgraded lighting



Crenshaw Park

- New recreational amenities
- Accessibility and ADA upgrades
- Site improvements in partnership with Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority

Nimisilla Park

- Asphalt paving and parking lot improvements

Mother Goose Park

- Restoration of scenic wall and "Willy the Whale"

Preston Young Sr. Park

- Exercise structure, saucer swing, and paving of basketball court
- Addition of shaded seating with tables

Westbrook Park

- New swings

& MORE!