



2025 City of Cuyahoga Falls Park and Recreation Department Annual Report

January 8, 2026

Sara Kline, Superintendent

The Cuyahoga Falls Park and Recreation Department had a busy, productive and exciting year in 2025! With multiple capital projects, community events, specialized programming and increased numbers at our facilities, we are pleased to report that the department continues to be an integral part of our city. On behalf of the entire staff, I'd like to thank the Park Board, Mayor Walters and Administration, and City Council for your support. Additionally, a special thank you goes to the community members of our city. Without the participation and support of our residents, patrons and visitors, the Park and Recreation Department would be unable to fulfill our important mission. We look forward to an even bigger and better 2026, and pledge to continue providing excellent services to all!

The Park Department has several divisions and facilities that have contributed to this report. While each area specializes in certain tasks, everyone contributes to our success and no one division could operate without the others.

Park Maintenance

Matt Schaad (manager)

Tommy Miller, Joe Cambria, Bob Stutler, Dan Nienhaus, Rich Burgan, Steve Morr, John McIntyre, Scott Zimmerman, James Jansen, Chris Lee, Mike Furby, Frank Hutchins, John Derhammer, Joel Stanley, Jon Burt, TJ Harris, Sean DeJesus, John Gillen, Charnae Chatman

Numerous part-time and seasonal employees

Over the past year, the Park Maintenance division has managed the upkeep of all the city parks, public areas downtown (including parking garages), maintained lodges and facilities and completed numerous capital improvement projects. They have provided support for community events, downtown festivals and assisted other departments as needed. Working seven days per week, as well as holidays, this group of employees is critical to the functioning of every aspect of the department.

Some of the projects and responsibilities the maintenance division has tackled in 2025 include:

- Capital improvements at Kennedy, Indian Mountain, and Preston Parks
- Maintain and operate aquatic facilities
- Manage landscaping, mowing and related tasks at all parks
- Clean, maintain and manage public areas in the downtown area
- Provide support for community events including Easter Egg Dash, holiday tree lighting, downtown summer events, National Night Out, weekly car shows and heritage festivals
- Assist with snow and ice control during storms
- Maintenance of fitness equipment and sports facilities at the Natatorium and in the parks
- Regular upkeep, maintenance and improvement at all department buildings and facilities
- Provide valuable “eyes on” presence in our parks and facilities

Natatorium, Waterworks and Sport Leagues

Kathy Burt (director)

Beth Cirwinski, Judy Conway, Jason Pullin, Jordan Pagni, Heather Novelli

over 250 part time employees, many who work at both locations depending on the season

2025 was a productive year at the Natatorium. Through facility upgrades, expanded aquatics and fitness programming, and a focus on customer service, staffing, and sustainability, the Nat made measurable progress in participation, revenue growth, and member experience.

Natatorium

Facility & Operations

- 30+ facility improvements across fitness, aquatics, locker rooms, and public spaces
- Refreshed high-traffic areas: paint, flooring, carpet, terrazzo restoration
- Added/replaced fitness equipment in UpperFit and LowerFit
- Locker room upgrades: new shower flooring, sauna benches, ADA changing tables, fixture upgrades
- Safety & efficiency: added cameras, expanded sanitation stations, reorganized maintenance
- Aquatics equipment investments improved class quality and safety

Programming & Participation

- 22 weekly water fitness classes, including new evening options
- Maintained program consistency during facility shutdowns
- Group Swim Lessons: 5 sold-out sessions, \$52,211 revenue
- Private Swim Lessons: 836 completed, \$27,735 revenue
- Open Swim & pop-up swims during high-demand periods
- Pickleball: 4 courts, 6 days/week
- Fitness classes and off-site/inclusive offerings expanded (Chair Yoga growth)
- Homeschool Gym & Swim and Summer Camp programs sold out

Staffing & Community Partnerships

- 6 lifeguard certification classes; 80 lifeguards employed in Summer 2025
- 12–14 active Lifeguard Instructors
- Partnerships: Special Olympics, local school districts, Cuyahoga Falls Fire Dept. Dive Team

Member Experience

- 30 part-time Member Relations staff supported daily operations and sales
- Retail updates improved visibility
- Facebook following: 9,300+
- Outreach: wellness fairs, Metro Parks, business memberships

Financial Highlights

- Group Swim Lessons: \$52,211
- Private Swim Lessons: \$27,735
- Adapted Aquatics (APS): \$1,495
- Summer Camp Profit: \$2,209
- Insurance-Based Membership Revenue (SilverSneakers/Renew Active):
 - Nov 2024 YTD: \$472,835 → Nov 2025 YTD: \$526,153 (+11.27%)
- 2025 Projection: \$570,153 (+10.5% vs 2024)
- Growth driven by increased SilverSneakers participation and stable Renew Active enrollment

Looking Ahead – 2026 Priorities

- Continued investment in facility & aquatics infrastructure
- Strategic pricing adjustments for sustainability
- Launch Semi-Annual paid-in-full membership option
- Introduce Body Mind Harmony Martial Arts programming

Water Works Family Aquatics Center

Season Overview

- Strong summer season, overcoming weather challenges.
- Over \$1M in summer revenue

Rescues & Safety

- Total Rescues: 216 (+15 vs 2024)
 - Bottom of Drop: 142 | Bottom of Bigs: 33 | Outside Lap: 4
 - Lazy River: 29 | Superman: 1 | Inside Lap: 7
- EMS Calls: 4 (+3 vs 2024), all precautionary, no transports

Concessions Highlights & Revenue

- Soft Serve: 19,017 units – \$35,440.50
- Pizza Slice: 5,364 units – \$10,728.00
- Hotdog: 4,134 units – \$10,383.50
- Can of Pop: 4,955 units – \$9,910.00
- Dip n Dots: 1,722 orders – \$8,610.00
- Chicken Tenders: 1,320 orders – \$7,920.00
- French Fries: 2,353 orders – \$7,059.00
- Pretzel w/ Cheese: 2,014 orders – \$7,049.00
- Devitis Sub: 939 subs – \$5,634.00

Operations & Staffing

- Program Supervisors: Jason Pullin & Jordan Pagni; supported by K. Burt.
- Lifeguard training & certifications successfully completed.

Programs & Attendance

- Extended season access for pass holders during Natatorium shutdown – well received.
- Outdoor water fitness classes highly attended; patrons requested more in 2026.
- Daily Visit Totals – August 2025: Residents 1,310 (\$17,624) | Non-Residents 2,559 (\$54,638) | Total \$72,262
- Daily Visit Totals – August 2024: Residents 630 (\$8,543) | Non-Residents 1,364 (\$29,361) | Total \$37,904

Weather Impact

- Multiple closures due to rain/low temperatures:
 - May: 5/24–5/25, 5/27–5/31
 - June: 6/1, 6/8–6/9, 6/14, 6/17, 6/19, 6/30
 - July: 7/10, 7/31
 - August: 8/21

Membership & Pass Sales

- Early 2026 Special Sale Memberships: 458 – \$42,447

- Residents: 212 – \$15,260 | Non-Residents: 246 – \$27,187
- Water Works Pass Sales (12/1/24–7/8/25): 5,559 – \$503,719.09 (up from \$436,910.54 in 2024)

Facility Enhancements & 2026 Outlook

- Playground installed spring 2025 – popular addition.
- 2026 plans: fresh slide paint, upgraded signage, railing painting.
- Extended season, slight membership fee increases, and anticipated Mobile Rec visits.

Wading Pools, Ice Rink, Leagues, and more

Community & Training Initiatives

- May 2025: Hosted citywide training session with Community Support Services (Akron) – *“Be The Helping Hand – Understanding Homelessness and Ways to Help”*

Wading Pool Visits

- Linden Park Wading Pool – 3,200 swimmers
- Lions Park Wading Pool – 3,091 swimmers
- Oak Park Wading Pool – 6,536 swimmers
- *Total Wading Pool Swimmers – 12,827*

Water Works Family Aquatics Center Season Pass Holders

- Residents: 2,861 (8 ages 2 & under)
- Non-Residents: 2,694 (9 ages 2 & under)
- *Total Pass Holders: 5,555*

Special Events

- Fall Family Fishing Day at Water Works Parks: 33 pre-registered + 10 walk-ins; at least 3 rainbow trout caught & released

Ice Rink

- Total 2025 Skate Rentals – 3,584

Adult Sports Leagues

- Monday Night Men’s Basketball League – 8 teams
- Volleyball Leagues:
 - Fall Session – 16 teams
 - Winter Session – 16 teams

Program Team

Tara Sinsley, Heather Novelli, Laura Colant

Senior/Adult Programming (Heather Novelli)

- In 2024, we had 10 Program Offerings for Seniors/Adults (in addition to our Arts and Cultural and Community Events)
- In 2025, we had 36 Program Offerings, **a 260% increase from 2024!**
- 18 programs and offerings are scheduled for the first trimester (Jan-Apr) for 2026!

Insurance Revenue: SilverSneakers/Prime, Renew Active/Optum

November, 2024 vs. November, 2025 (total year end reporting not yet available)

- At the end of Nov. 2024, \$472,834.90 (\$351,629.90 SilverSneakers, \$121,205 Renew Active)
- At the end of Nov. 2025, \$526,153.10 (\$400,126.10 SilverSneakers, \$126,027 Renew Active), **a 11.27% increase from Nov. 2024**

2025 End of Year Projection

- 2024 total revenue was \$516,038.30 (\$384,266.30 SilverSneakers, \$131,772 Renew Active)
- The department projects \$570,153 for 2025 total revenue. (\$433,626.10 SilverSneakers, \$136,527 Renew Active),
a 10.5% increase from 2024

Quirk Cultural Center and Arts Programs (Laura Colant)

- The new beginner pottery class we added this year has been very successful. Pottery classes still usually sell out in minutes when registration opens.
- One of our pottery instructors, David Kruk, was awarded an artist-in-residency position at the LUX Center for the Arts in Nebraska. Although we lost him as an instructor, we are proud of his accomplishments and thankful we had him sharing his knowledge with the Quirk community.
- Glazeware monthly membership registration has almost doubled this year. We were averaging 9 participants in 2024, and now see 15-18 each month.
- We added another adult ballet class on Thursdays this year, in addition to the two classes we already had on Tuesdays.
- Although still a small event, the Bicycle Fun Day had a larger turn out than last year.
- Night Glaze classes continue to sell out each month.
- We are happily busting at the seams - we continue to find creative ways to grow the arts classes while working with limited space in Quirk.
- Shawn O'Malley took over as the band director this year and has been doing a fantastic job.
- The ghost hunt sold out again and everyone had some sort of paranormal experience that evening.
- We now have chair yoga at Quirk on Tuesdays!

Community Events/Adapted and Inclusive Programs/Kids Summer Programs (Tara Sinsley)

Summer Programs

Mobile Rec We added Downtown Wednesdays at the splashpad, which were pretty well attended and we'll continue those in 2026. Adding Water Works Park and Keyser Park to schedule has received positive feedback from families, especially those that used to attend Valley Vista. The end of the summer event was a great success and so much fun for the kids and staff!

Flicks on the Falls These events have morphed into our Friday Fun Nights, which expanded from Flix events and now include family friendly activities and at least two different giveaways each night. These were so fun and we received so many words of appreciation and thanks from the community! Some highlights were the Wicked event with characters and music, and the Christmas in July event with animals and lots of Christmas fun. We had 5 Friday night events in 2025.

Keyser Barn Concert Series The weather affected these events again in 2025, but were all rescheduled and held this past summer! Finding food trucks to come out there for a smaller crowd continues to be difficult, but having good relationships with our vendors always helps. Our attendance holds steady around 100-200 people for each concert.

Picnics in the Park These neighborhood-focused events were held at four local parks, Lions, Linden, Quirk, and Oak Parks. We did not anticipate the positive reaction we would get from these small, but effective events! With free hot dogs, chips, water, and treats, these events were highly attended. More to come in 2026!

Camps

All Abilities Summer Camp Another fun week with over 35 children of all abilities! We had the traveling farm and music therapy as special treats during the week.

Community Events

Daddy Daughter Date Night Sold out both nights with over 120 people attending each night!

Annual Easter Egg Dash Held at both Keyser and Water Works Parks again this year, both being highly attended with over 500 people at each location!

Mom Prom Sold out event again.

National Night Out A very popular, annual event that is put on in collaboration with the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department. We experienced great attendance this year.

Quirk-o-Ween An annual Halloween event at Quirk that encourages safe and all age friendly trick-or-treating in an indoor setting. The community continues to enjoy the inflatable haunted house with free snack and trick or treat throughout the building!

Fall Family Day at Water Works It was a beautiful day with a great turnout! We did a repeat of 2024, with little changes because it's been working so well!

Tree Lighting Ceremony This continues to be our largest and highest attended event in the City! With crowd estimates of over 3000 people in the very cold weather, we added a drone show and inflatable slide this year.

Adapted Programs

Adapted Day Program

The Tuesday/Thursday program sells out daily at 40 friends!! They have the option to do music, dance, fitness, and now we added Drum Ball class! We did try to add Wednesdays to the schedule, but it seems like they already have different activities planned on Wednesdays, so we went back to just Tues/Thurs for the Winter session. We now have a certified art therapist, music therapist, and drum ball instructors on payroll.

Demographic - Most popular program by age group

Senior

Program	Participant
Adult Activities 2025	358
Educational Programs	248
Artist Workshops	52
Glazeware Studio	29
Quirk Fitness for All	27
Pottery Studio	26
Quirky Clubs	6
Personal Training / Pilates Sessions Adjustments 2025	92
Personal Training Adjustments 2025	85
Pilates Reformer Sessions Adjustments 2025	15
Ages 55+ Activities	39
Adult & Senior Enrichment Experiences 2026	35
NAT Adult Fitness - WINTER 2026 (JAN - MARCH)	33
Adult Fitness - FALL 2025 (OCT - DEC)	32
Quirk Arts and Fitness - JAN - JUNE	32
Total	561

Adult

Program	Participant
Adult Activities 2025	368
Educational Programs	102
Glazeware Studio	81
Artist Workshops	79
Pottery Studio	76
Quirk Fitness for All	69
Quirky Clubs	2
Community Programs & Sports 2025	194
Special Events	166
Outdoor Adventures	17
Sports	13
Adapted Programs 2025	149
Personal Training / Pilates Sessions Adjustments 2025	109
Quirk Arts and Fitness - Adult 2026	78
Youth Activities 2025	53
NAT Adult Fitness - WINTER 2026 (JAN - MARCH)	24
Adult & Senior Enrichment	21
Total	972

Teenager

Program	Participant
Aquatics Fall/Winter 2025	25
American Red Cross Lifeguard Course	18
Adult FALL 2	2
Natatorium Swim Club Fall 1 *DO NOT SELL*	2
Natatorium Swim Club FALL 2	2
Swim Lessons- Level 4 FALL 2	2
Adult Fall 1 *DO NOT SELL*	1
Spring 2025 Aquatics	21
American Red Cross Lifeguard Course	15
Natatorium Swim Club	3
Swim Lessons- Level 3	2
Adult	1
Aquatics Summer 2025	17
Youth Activities 2025	12
Community Programs & Sports 2025	9
Youth Fitness JAN - JUNE	8
Total	109

Kid

Program	Participant
Youth Activities 2025	231
Arts	173
Homeschool Classes	37
Snapology	20
Recreation	19
Aquatics Fall/Winter 2025	194
Holiday Special Event	52
Swim Lessons- Level 1 Fall 1 *DO NOT SELL*	33
Swim lessons- Level 2 Fall 1 *DO NOT SELL*	31
Swim Lessons- Level 1 FALL 2	30
Swim Lessons- Level 2 FALL 2	28
Swim Lessons- Level 3 FALL 2	17
Swim Lessons- Level 3 Fall 1 *DO NOT SELL*	14
Natatorium Swim Club Fall 1 *DO NOT SELL*	11
Natatorium Swim Club	11
Total	837

Brookledge Golf Course

Scott Nickol, Phil Novelli, Kyle Rospert

Grounds and Agronomy

- Annual Bluegrass Weevil control was at acceptable levels, just minor breakthrough
- Summer Patch, Pythium Root Rot, & Pythium Root Dysfunction control was at 90%
- Nematode control throughout the season was 100%
- 35 consecutive days without rain through the month of August and early September
- Pump House & Irrigation system usage was up 3.5 million gallons from 2024

Projects

- \$20,000 of tree pruning completed
- Several trees removed around pump house
- 2 bridge decks were replaced
- Clubhouse parking lot was sealed and striped by Perrin Asphalt
- Last 3 pedestal boxes for irrigation system were updated with new communication receiver boards
- Ohio Drilling pulled motors, pumps, column pipe, & discharge heads from irrigation wells. To start pump house rebuild project
- 80 Tons of #4 gravel were added to existing landscape beds to complement the landscape renovation around the clubhouse from 2024
- 150' of auxiliary cart path was removed by the street department
- All course hole signs & posts were replaced. Signs & posts were custom made by Bright Ideas Sign Shop

Play

- Over 48,000 rounds played in 2025
- \$1,113,955.16 collected in greens fees in 2025

Assistant Superintendent Office

Michael Fallis

Included in Mike's portfolio of responsibilities is the management of special projects, facility upgrades for safety and accessibility, and operations of the Quirk Cultural Center. Mike is a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) and works with vendors to design, purchase and build our play equipment. Mike oversees the lodges and coordinates preparations and staffing of rental facilities. He represents the department at meetings and public events. An example of some of the projects Mike has completed in 2025 include:

- Energy audit and LED lighting upgrade plan with the Public Utilities & Community Outreach Coordinator.
- Resurfacing of Quirk hard surfaces and parking lots and addition of rear ADA ramp.
- Installation of adult changing stations through Summit DD.
- Various playground improvements.
- Resurfacing of the Woodridge School District tennis complex.
- Remodeling of the Downtown Pavilion lower restrooms after fire damage.





Main Office

Liz Morton, Tristen Haidet, Michelle Kurucz

2 part time office staff

The main office is the hub of our department and presence at City Hall. This office manages financial, personnel and clerical responsibilities for every division. Interacting with all staff and processing needs and requests keeps this team busy. Without their assistance, the work of the department would truly grind to a halt!

Purchasing

Brian Ehmann

Brian manages purchases for large projects and handles inventory controls, as well as obtains quotes as needed. He assists with HVAC operations and interacts regularly with vendors.

Thank you from the Cuyahoga Falls Park and Recreation Department!

