

City of Maumee

Rolf Park Softball



Annual Report 2018

Mr. Joe Camp
City of Maumee - Department of Public Service
400 Conant St. Maumee, OH 43537

Mr. Camp:

The following report details adult and youth softball usage at Rolf Park for the months of March, 2018 through October, 2018.

YEAR 2018 IN REVIEW

Rolf Park is home to Maumee High School, Gateway Middle School, and Maumee Elementary 2nd - 5th grade spring softball. Maumee has a varsity and a Junior Varsity team. Throughout the season, we are the home of Maumee Youth Girls Novice Softball, Maumee Recreation Department Adult softball, Maumee Thunder Travel Fast pitch Softball, and FAST Fall softball. In addition to these regular leagues, our facility hosts up to 15 weekend events or tournaments each year. **There were in excess of 1,500 games** played on the softball fields at Rolf Park from March to October this past year.

SOFTBALL EVENTS HOSTED BY ROLF PARK THIS YEAR:

O.H.S.A.A. DIVISION TWO – SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT

O.H.S.A.A. DIVISION ONE – DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

We have hosted this tournament since 1995

A.S.A. Rising Starz 8U, 10U and 12U Regional tournament

We have hosted this tournament since 2007

Pre Season A.S.A. Classic – National Qualifier

We have hosted this tournament since 2009

S.G.S. “Toledo Tune Up” - World Tournament Qualifier

We have hosted this tournament since 2002

A.S.A. Farley Memorial Tournament

We have hosted this tournament since 2017.

A.S.A. Independence Classic – National Qualifier

We have hosted this event since 2008.

S.G.S. and U.S.S.S.A. “Shootout” - World Tournament Qualifier

We have hosted this event since 2001

S.G.S. 10U, 12U, 14U, and 16U League tournaments

These end of season “house league” tournaments have all been played at Rolf Park since 2009.

A.S.A. “Fastpitch Classic”

We have hosted this event since 1995.

A.S.A. Wizard Wind Down 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U

We have hosted this tournament since 2006.

A.S.A. Wizard Grand Finale 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U

This year was the inaugural “Grand Finale”

Travel team tryouts

S.G.S travel organization rented our facility for tryouts at the end of July.

Fall League

The F.A.S.T. Fall fast pitch softball league played on Sundays in September and October. We host the Maumee teams and several teams from outside of Maumee will use Rolf as their Home field during this season for a fee.

University of Toledo Club Softball Team

This fall marks the first season that the University of Toledo has had a club softball team and they chose Rolf to be their home field. They played games on October and will play games next Spring as well.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Eight of the tournaments listed above held at Rolf brought teams to the City of Maumee that were predominantly from out of town. The commerce generated at local hotels, restaurants, entertainment establishments, and stores is very difficult to put a number on, but my best estimation would certainly put it into "6 figures".

The Rolf Park softball staff is thankful to City Council and the Department of Public Service for providing us with the means to maintain our fine facility. The tournaments would not be successful without the continued assistance of the City of Maumee. We receive countless complements on the cleanliness of our facility and the superb upkeep of the fields themselves.

DAILY OPERATIONS

This past year was my 8th season working at Rolf Park for the City of Maumee. It marks my third year as manager of the softball complex. (The five previous years I spent as an assistant manager at the Rolf Park Pool.) I appreciate all of the assistance I receive from Don Garrett with our daily operations. Whenever I need something, Don is there to take care of it. One specific example is the turf management system. I think that it is very important to stay on top of the turf grass management at the park. I am referring to weed control, fertilizing, periodic spraying for pesticides, and spraying for weed abatement around the playing fields, warning tracks, perimeter fencing, and parking lot. We had many new employees on the recreation staff. Matt Dalton, Shelby Bundy, Shae Magers (part-time), Noah Pasquinelli, Brooke Morey, and Caleb Brown joined a superb veteran staff of Tyler Iwinski, Alex Cintron, Connor Friend (part-time), Zach Graven, Jacob Buck, Evan Cliff, and Nick Drown. The staff has such pride in the work they do at Rolf and they do an outstanding job! Some of the specific

examples of improvements that were made this season include: Painting of doors in the south press box building, painting all 16 foul poles, and replacing all of the home run distance signs on the fences.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

I would appreciate the office of Public Service recommending the following items to City Council. I would be willing to present rationale for these improvement items to City Council in order to facilitate approval. I will meet with you personally to discuss any specific items that need clarity. Thank you in advance for including me in the planning and discussion sessions for the following improvements.

COMPUTER FOR MANAGER'S USE

For the past three years I have used my own personal laptop to take care of City business and I haven't minded doing so. However, the computer I am currently using is getting old and unreliable. It sits in the South pressbox from March until October, taking in all of the dust that flies around. I have purchased a new laptop for my family but refuse to bring it into the dust-filled environment of Rolf.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR PITCHER'S AREAS

I would like to see us install mound wedges on all 8 fields to help preserve the quality of the pitchers' areas. Currently, when we hold a weekend tournament, there are as many as 8 games played on any field in one day. As a result of the pitchers' drag foot dragging in the exact same spot for an entire day, causes damage to that area that is dangerous to anyone pitching on the fields. The mound wedges would be buried just under the surface of the pitching areas and would keep the pitchers' drag foot to dig in any deeper than the depth of the wedge. Currently, at the end of a tournament day, the trenches created by the pitchers can exceed 6 inches in depth. I have included a website where you can look at the product I'm proposing.

<https://beaconathletics.com/store/field-maintenance/jox-box-bases-pitchers-mound/>

NEW FENCING FOR SOFTBALL FIELDS C, D, 3, 4

The softball field fencing was installed in 1985. These fences are 27 years old. The current fences are in poor shape. We attempt to repair them, but there is major damage on all of the fields. We even had a young girl cut her arm on a rusted out gate in July.

SECURITY CONCERNS – PERIMETER FENCING

As my predecessor did, I will recommend that a perimeter chain link fence that is identical in size, height, and color to the pool fence be erected on the park's south boundary as soon as possible. Access to the park from the Middlesborough condominiums has to be controlled. The park closes at dark, but people are entering the park after dark from southwest areas. The residents are throwing trash into the park and breaking down the split rail fence on a regular basis. This area needs to be cleaned up and secured. Dog owners bring their pets in from these areas as well. They allow their pets to run free and violate the leash law. They do not clean up feces on the athletic fields or spectator areas. Young people use the park as a cut through from the apartment / condominiums and from Reynolds Road to Cass Road.

Our north boundary is the turnpike. It has a chain link fence. Half of our west boundary is already chain link fence (Sportsmall) or 6 foot privacy fence (Cornerstone parking). I recommend replacing the current split rail fence with chain link fencing on the entire south border. I also recommend fencing the open boundary at the Sportsmall entry area. Lockable gates will be necessary at the Sportsmall, but I do not believe that a gate on the south border by the condominiums is a good idea. If one is installed it should be a locking pedestrian gate located by the new employee parking lot behind ball fields B and C.

NEW BLEACHERS FOR FIELD "A"

Please consider purchasing bleachers for this field that are larger than the current bleachers at the park. The new bleachers should be about 10 rows high and 21 feet wide. These would seat about 120 spectators on each side. These additional bleachers would be located next to the dugouts along the foul lines of the field. They should be elevated and handicap accessible. At several championship events last year we had from 300 - 500 spectators and BCSN cable sports at the games. We supplemented the seating with some of our other

bleachers, but we still had standing room only. Pads to facilitate placement of new bleachers could be done “in-house” by public service employees. Spectators seated in the current bleachers cannot see the scoreboards because the pads were poured too close to the team areas, which is the current location of the dugouts. New seating for this field is needed. Many of our current bleachers are in need of replacement.

FLAG VIEWING AREA

The park has one flagpole located next to the north building. I recommend the placement of a new flagpole in a location that allows viewing from the South softball fields. Since this will need exterior lighting, A location behind the pool would allow power to be pulled from the pool area. If this is possible, I also recommend that power outlets be included near the flagpole for auxiliary use by the park staff. It would provide power access to the pavilion area. This flag viewing area would be behind softball field A and would be next to the shelter and playground area.

PRESSBOX RENOVATION

The north pressbox / building was built in 1983. It is falling apart. The metal roof is leaking and needs to be replaced. One of the sinks in the women’s restroom rusted through and fell right off the wall. Consider renovation of the infrastructure of this building as well. Update the electrical and plumbing. Include wiring for cable and internet access. Attempt to match exterior renovations of this building with the building between the south fields. When I was hired in 2016, I was told that there would be a new pressobox built at the North end of the complex for 2017. I’m not sure what happened to change this, but the need for a new building is even greater now.

DUGOUTS FOR ALL SOFTBALL FIELDS

Dugouts on our fields are a priority as the next permanent improvement. They provide shelter, and they provide a barrier for participants and coaches. Maumee Youth Girls Softball, the Maumee Athletic Boosters, and Maumee Thunder Softball provided the funding for the dugouts on Field “A” several years ago. A set on Field “B” would be my next choice for new dugouts, followed by Field 1.

Joe, thank you for taking the time to read and consider this report. I encourage you to emphasize to City Council that the softball fields at Rolf Park continue to provide a quality environment for our participants and spectators. Department of Public Service and City Council support for improvements at Rolf Park is greatly appreciated. The improvements suggested in this report are to keep our facility in top condition. I would like to help keep the park in great shape for future generations of Maumee residents. Please pass my recommendations on to our members of City Council. I know that you are very aware of the conditions and operations at Rolf Park. Please try to impress upon council the need for improvements to our facility.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian W. Zattau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Brian W. Zattau, Manager
Rolf Park Softball