



# The City of Seven Hills, Ohio

## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS - PART III:



**The Lodge at North Park** will be a wonderful addition to our community. This new amenity is scheduled to be available to our residents early next year.

### DEAR RESIDENTS,

Welcome to Part III of the 2023 State of the City Address. This publication will be dedicated to our Parks and Recreation programs. Before we dive in, it is important to understand where our community was a few years ago. When I started in public service, I had a simple philosophy of two ears and one mouth. In walking the community and interacting with you every chance I could get, I heard the following: we want better streets, better sewers, and better parks. Your clear and consistent feedback led us towards the path we are on today. Once these goals were established, we first had to get our arms around financials. We then prioritized the projects you, our residents, told us you wanted improved. Based on these priorities, we implemented an ambitious street resurfacing program, cleaned all sewer lines over 3+ years, and completed numerous water management projects (as addressed in previous communications).

With these projects in motion, we were able to focus on your third priority: our parks! Long term planning takes time and thorough research to get it right. We thank you for your patience and support along the way. In 2020, we took an inventory of what our parks offered and compared that to a list of amenities within modern parks and what is popular in communities today. We also estimated what it would take to close that gap and went to the ballot with Issue 41. This was timed to coincide with the expiring recreation center bond. In doing this, we were able to LOWER the millage you were currently paying and fund significant improvements to our parks without impacting other city operations. Sufficient funds have also been set aside to maintain what is now being built. In 2021, we gathered a group of residents consisting of two families, two couples, two individual adults, and two seniors. The group members were sent a parks overview of current amenities at each park and asked a series of questions. We compiled data from these surveys and compared that to our original research. We discovered accessible restrooms and walking trails were mentioned by nearly everyone surveyed! We then set out to ensure there would be something for all activity levels and a distribution of assets throughout the city. While a typical community our size may have two parks, our founding fathers went forth with a neighborhood park approach that resulted in six parks throughout Seven Hills! Taking all the above into consideration, our Master Plan was created and unveiled to the community for further input through newsletters, public meetings, planning commission, and an informative video available on the city website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. The plan was divided into three phases with 2023 being the major turning point for our parks. We are excited to share with you what future brings for Parks and Recreation!



**Anthony Biasiotta**  
*Seven Hills Mayor*



**Jennifer Burger**  
*Parks & Recreation Director*

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# CALVIN PARK



## ON DECK AT CALVIN PARK:

Next up is installation of our much-anticipated baseball themed splash pad (see below). In addition, we plan to add an inclusive changing room facility, a brand-new concession stand (see bottom right), and pavilion shade structure near the splash pad to relax and enjoy time with friends and family! **Our splash pad was partially funded by a \$186,000 grant awarded by Cuyahoga County.**



Located at the east end of Maplevue Drive, Calvin Park was the previous home of Calvin Recreation Hall. Calvin Rec Hall was the "home" of Seven Hills Recreation before we had our current Recreation Center. Over the years, Calvin Rec Hall showed its wear and tear and has been closed to the public for almost 2 decades. After careful review it was determined the best course of action was to have the building demolished. However, our master plan research concluded that this land with a rich history as a community gathering spot in middle of our City was **the perfect location for our brand new splash pad.** We are utilizing previous utility connections and saving money. We intend to honor those the helped make the old rec center possible at our grand opening of our new amenity!

Calvin is most notably the home of 3 ball fields for various age groups. These fields were refurbished over recent years by amazing volunteers as well as city employees - making previously unsafe fields into the shining diamonds we see today! The beautiful scoreboard can serve three separate games at once!

Brand new signage welcomes residents and visitors to Calvin Park itself. A walking path surrounds these ball diamonds, and now, park goers can utilize our new fully compliant restrooms! This new restroom building was built with ample storage to help extend the life of our parks equipment, inclusive features for restrooms, and safe, secure updates to keep our investments protected for the life of our parks! **The best part is we received \$75,000 in funding from Ohio Department of Natural Resources to build this!**

Horseshoe players now enjoy new energy efficient lighting installed for safety and security - while area homes were not affected by this new technology of outdoor recreational lighting!

Our work at Calvin isn't done yet! In the next year or so we plan to add **updated playground equipment** and incorporate a **Disc Golf Course** to the north side of the park, connecting to the Somerset Basin area!

Our architects recommend taking advantage of our location and altitude by adding an **observation tower** to showcase the spectacular view of Downtown and the Cuyahoga Valley that is exclusive to Calvin Park.



## SUMMITVIEW PARK

This park, located on the City Hall / Recreation Center Campus has seen unbelievable growth over the last few years! Now used for more city events - like Oktoberfest, Concerts and Home Days, as well as youth & adult sports, Summer Day Camp, school events, and more, Summitview Park is a destination not to be missed!

The first of its kind in this area, our inclusive restroom has an adult-sized changing table to best fit the needs of our programming in this park. Did you know we offer space to Rec2Connect for an outdoor bike program, teaching differently-abled individuals to ride a bike?

This new restroom comes complete with storage for our programs, family changing room options, and the added convenience of being near the action! No more walking from far soccer fields all the way to the Rec Center - these restrooms are in the center of our most used fields!

Working with our neighbors at PCSD, we have made changes and upgrades to the baseball diamond at Hillside, such a drastic change from what we had only a few years ago! We have also supplied new drainage, nets, and padding to our volleyball court and completely redesigned our bocce courts to be the best around! Bocce leagues play weeknights - next spring sign your team up at the Rec Center front desk!



### WHAT'S NEW IN 2023:

Expanded paths for more walking opportunities, two nights of bocce leagues and indoor restrooms.



## JOHN GLENN PARK



One of the best hidden gems in the city is John Glenn Park! Located off Winchester Oval sits a beautiful new pavilion space with attached restrooms overlooking the green space of John Glenn Park! The playground itself was saved from the former school demolition. The playground was still very new at that time, and administration made efforts to keep the investment in excellent condition, reusing it in a City park.



### NEW AT JOHN GLENN PARK:

This year we connected and improved the walking paths around the park itself by adding to and updating what we currently have!

Residents enjoyed an updated tennis court and two brand new pickleball courts that opened over the summer!

By adding a small parking area, we can keep cars off the street while families enjoy the new updates in our park! Beautiful new sidewalks lead you to the west entrance of the park and paths. A water fountain with a bottle filler and pet station were added to complete the structure this past summer.

The future of John Glenn looks bright, as more custom playground features will be added to enhance your time spent in the community.



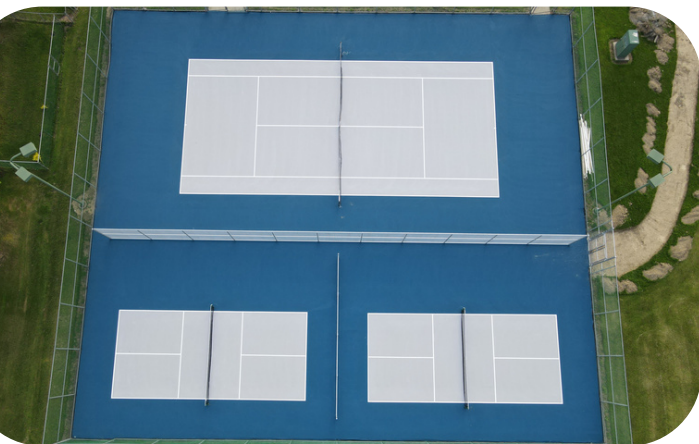
## MEIJER PARK

This park is officially named Meijer Park, thanks to Meijer Stores for the official sponsorships celebrated in the summer of 2022!



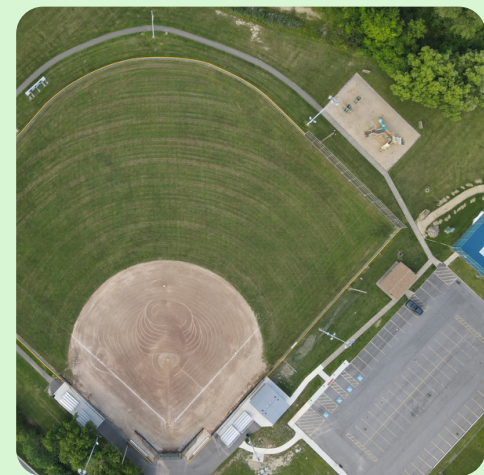
The antiquated press box and restrooms have been exchanged for modern, safe restrooms - with four inclusive stalls. We also have provided ample storage for ball field prep and volleyball equipment. New volleyball nets and pads will enhance our newly refurbished volleyball court! By utilizing NOPEC money, we upgraded to LED lighting for the ball field as well. With new,

amazing technology, we can turn our lights on and off remotely or set them via a schedule. Parking lot lights are set by sunrise and sunset scheduling to ensure around-the-clock park safety. These lights use much less energy than those previously installed, and they are specifically designed to remain illuminated in the park while not disturbing the area residents. Our scoreboard has also been replaced with an energy efficient LED board with a wireless remote control, and new bleachers can be found throughout the park!



### NEW AT MEIJER PARK:

This year brought an updated tennis court along with the much-anticipated pickle ball courts! New backstops were installed and updated dugouts are coming in 2024 to complete our ball field enhancements. A bottle-filler / pet water station was installed and LED lights for tennis and Pickle Ball courts will be ready for spring 2024 play!



# NORTH PARK



North Park has seen some of our more mellow changes - until now! In 2022, we officially opened the 20.3 acre Beverly Nature Preserve at North Park. Our volleyball court was moved away from the parking lot for safety reasons and is now properly sized for recreational and league play. New nets and pads, along with improved drainage, round out this project.

The baseball field has been resurfaced and saw plenty of action this past summer! The baseball field has been resurfaced and saw plenty of action this past summer! This field update was completed in house between our Service and Parks Crews! This field will be available to our Baseball Federation as well as program rentals like i9 sports. It is maintained throughout the year by our Parks & Recreation Department.

The Lodge at North Park had its' official groundbreaking on March 1st, 2023. Work on the adjacent parking lot has also begun nearby for ease of access and compliance for all those visiting the park.

## UP NEXT AT NORTH PARK:

The Lodge is set to be one of the most important new amenities proposed in our Parks Master Improvement Plan - this space will be used for community events, resident rentals, yoga classes, instructional classes, bird watching, enjoying the amazing view of Beverly Nature Preserve, and so much more!



*North Park to continue on next page...*

## ...North Park continued

This Spring also saw the replacement of our old playground with a brand new playground that matches our fitness course (see below)! The fitness course was made possible by the Community Development Supplemental Grant from Cuyahoga County. New fencing was also installed in 2023. Updated connecting paths, the Lodge, a new, additional parking lot and resurfacing of the current parking lot are underway and are scheduled to be completed in March 2024 to be ready for spring events!



### THE BEVERLY NATURE PRESERVE:

In 2022, we planted nearly 65 native species trees around our Preserve, which runs a 3/4 mile loop from the North Park entrance. This trail also extends to Belmont Ave in Brooklyn Heights, connecting our neighbors on the north side.



## CRICKET PARK



*"Investing in our Parks as a whole requires more than just paying for brick and mortar buildings. To care for these Parks, we have to invest in employees as well as time and equipment." - Director Burger*

This pocket park is small in size but mighty in fun! In 2022, we removed a dilapidated "playground" consisting of a few swings and benches. In its place, we installed a beautiful playground - great for younger kids - complete with a giant climbable cricket!

This playground is strategically located at the end of Cricket Lane, with immediate access to the walking path that runs behind the soccer fields and Hillside baseball diamonds - near our Recreation Center. The walking path is 1.5 miles down and back - from Panera Bread Restaurant on Broadview Road. Looking ahead to 2024- we are exploring the possibility of adding a small covered picnic pavilion to this park.



## CONCLUSION

This concludes our 2023 State of the City Address. I want to acknowledge Rachel Kucharczyk for her assistance in designing these addresses. Rachel works closely with our Parks & Recreation Department to bring an artistic touch to the community. If you've driven around town, you can't miss her creative painting of fire hydrants & city murals. Next up are plans to add creative touches to our parks. I want to express my gratitude to our residents for supporting this park initiative and the great support team that worked to bring it to fruition. I'm positive these amenities will be enjoyed for decades to come! Once again, I hope you

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony D. Biasiotta".

Anthony D. Biasiotta  
Mayor of Seven Hills

enjoyed reading all the aspects of your city government. With this latest edition, we have now covered many topics including community events, services, finances, safety forces, infrastructure improvement and last but not least, parks and recreation. I anticipate this being the last official communication of 2023. Until we chat again have a happy and safe conclusion to the year.