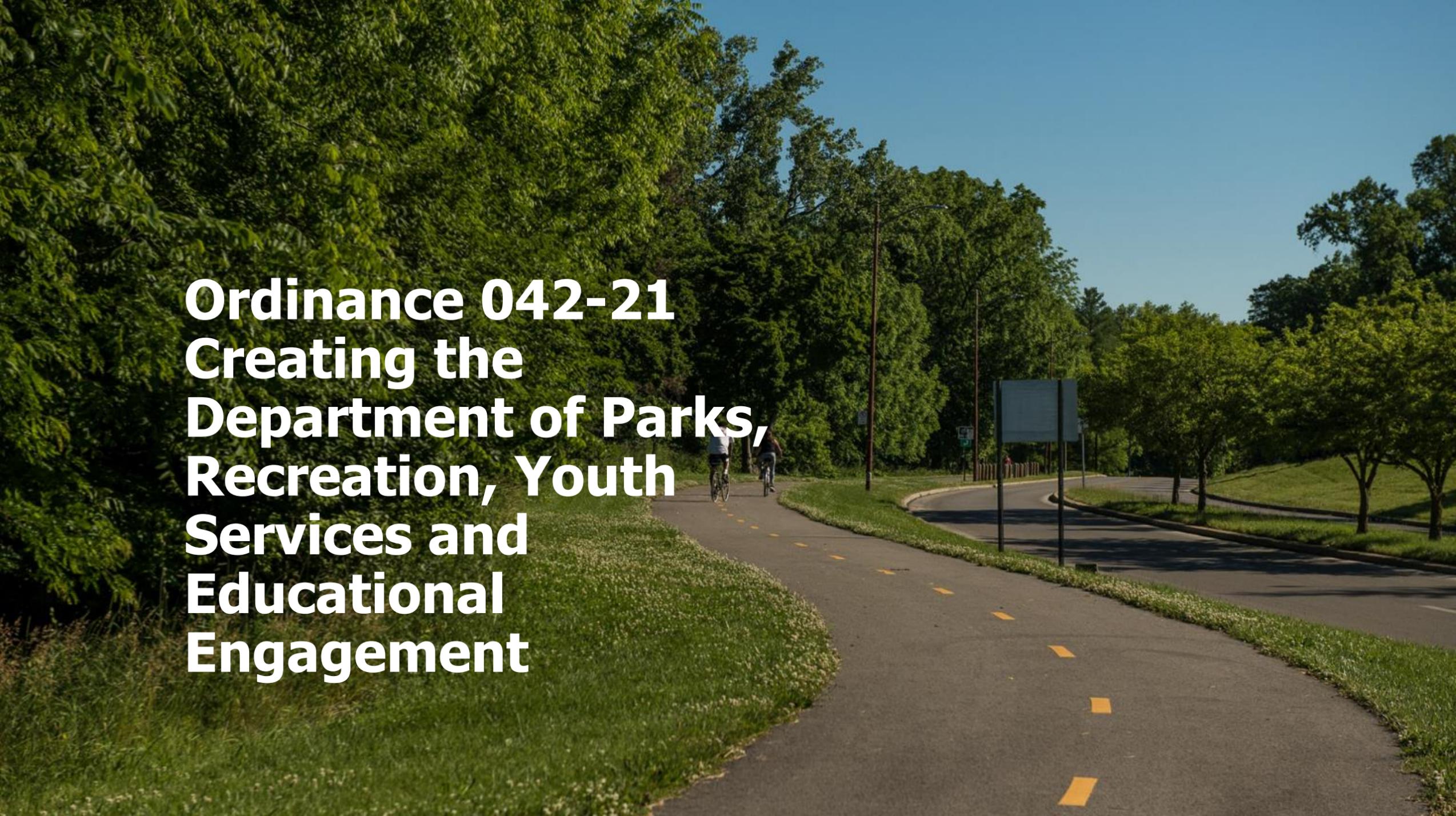




DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION,
YOUTH SERVICES & EDUCATIONAL
ENGAGEMENT

**Creating a City of
CHOICE**



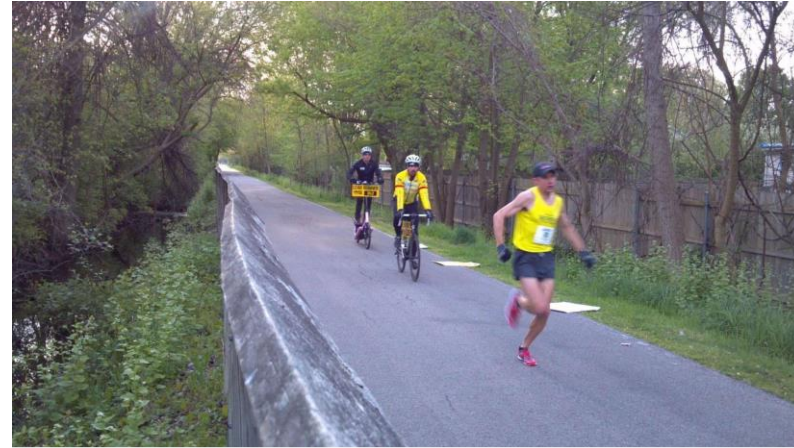
**Ordinance 042-21
Creating the
Department of Parks,
Recreation, Youth
Services and
Educational
Engagement**

A photograph of a tree-lined street with a teal overlay. The street is paved and lined with mature trees on both sides. In the distance, a car is parked on the right side of the street. The word "Background" is written in white text on the left side of the image.

Background

Parks & Recreation Vision Master Plan 2013

- Determined strengths as well as opportunities for operational efficiencies.
- Developed a Parks and Recreation *Vision Master Plan* to focus on how the Department can reposition itself as a positive economic tool for the City versus a “spend” department with little return on investment coming back to the community.



City of Toledo
Parks and Recreation Vision Master Plan
Final Report

April 2013

pros
consulting



Education, Recreation & Employment Committee

- Committee formed in 2016
- Committee visited all 129 City-owned parks in the spring of 2016
- Created a report of observations and suggestions
- Was to be used by Council in determining priorities with respect to the City's budget

City-Owned Park Tour Report and Resource Guide



Toledo City Council Education, Recreation & Employment Committee

Chair Councilwoman Dr. Cecelia M. Adams

Vice Chair Councilman Larry Sykes



District 1



District 2



District 3



District 4



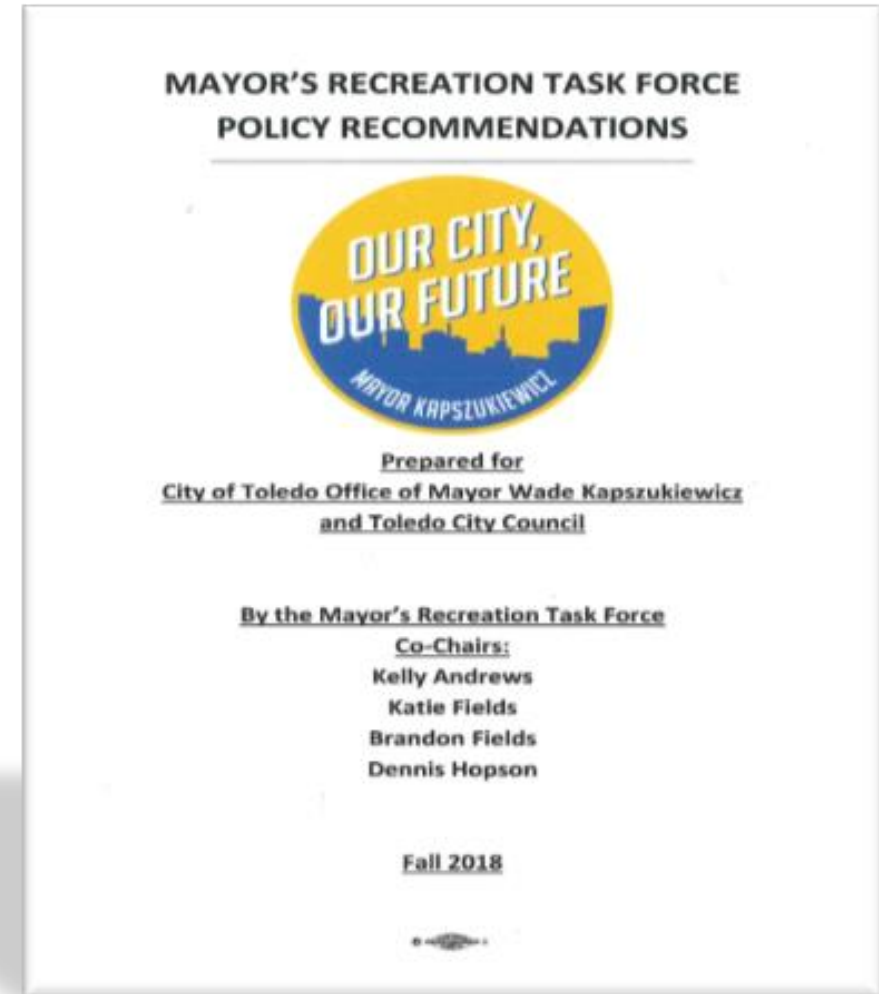
District 5



Ottawa Park Amphitheater

Mayor's Recreation Task Force Policy Recommendations

- The Recreation Task Force was created by Mayor Kapszukiewicz upon taking office in 2018.
- Tasked with evaluating recreation opportunities for all residents of the City of Toledo.
- The group assessed all city parks, recreational facilities and community centers and surveyed private, non-profit and school-based recreation programs.



Common Findings

Underfunded

Understaffed

Undermaintained

Common Recommendations

- Shrink the Parks and Recreation system to fit the decrease in population by eliminating small “pocket parks.”
- More efficient management of Community Centers and collaboration with non-profit partners.
- Removal of any and all unproductive, outdated, dangerous, and dilapidated equipment and amenities.
- Transfer natural areas under City management that are more suited to Toledo Metroparks because it is part of their mission.
- Improve recreational offerings by either city programming or community partnerships.
- Increased operational funding and dedicated capital funding.
- Focus on revenue generation.

Youth Services

- Youth Commission disestablished in 2018.
- Responsibilities for youth programming at the time to a Manager of Youth and Recreation within the Department of Public Service.
- The Board of Community Relations and the Youth Commission were consolidated into one new single board, the Human Relations Commission.
- This has had the effect of establishing youth services as a low priority area for the City.

Education

- 2019 Ohio Department of Education Report Card data illustrates a significant achievement gap among Toledo Public School students.
- Failure of the education system is the Community's problem.
- The City must demonstrate its commitment to helping close this achievement gap on TPS Achievement Tests and Ohio Graduation Tests.

Toledo City Lucas County	
District summary	
Overall grade	D
Performance index 2019	62.794
Performance index 2018	62.997
Performance index 2017	63.978
Component grades	
Achievement	F
Gap closing	F
Graduation	D
Progress	D
Improving at-risk K-3 readers	C
Prepared for success	F

Ohio Department of Education 2019 Report Card Data

A photograph of a park bench in a sunny park setting. The bench is made of dark wood slats and metal legs, positioned on a concrete pad. In the background, there are lush green trees, a playground with blue and yellow equipment, and picnic tables. The scene is bright and clear, suggesting a pleasant day in a well-maintained park.

Creating a City of **CHOICE**

Ordinance 042-21

1.1.5 | VISION FOR THE CITY OF TOLEDO PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

"To enhance the quality of life for the Toledo Community and further its economic development goals to create a community of choice to live, work, and play now and for future generations."

Creating a City of Choice

- It will put a system of **COMMUNITY COLLABORATION** on strategic planning for success in place, along with accountability measures.
- It will provide resources for programming and services necessary to maintain **HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS**.
- It will assure **OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL** in workforce development and career readiness, which leads to economic development and well-being of the City.
- It calls for a focus on **INCLUSIVE INNOVATION** in terms of access to City amenities and programming.
- It requires a **COMMITMENT TO CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND MAINTENANCE** of our parks and recreation facilities; and
- It provides a City support system for the attainment of **EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**, a core component of a sustainable and vibrant City.

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION, YOUTH SERVICES &
EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Creating a City of CHOICE.

Community Collaboration

Healthy Neighborhoods

Opportunity for All

Inclusive Innovation

Commitment to Capital Investment

Educational Excellence

Councilwoman Dr. Cecelia M. Adams, Chair

Education, Recreation & Employment Committee

Neighborhoods, Community Development & Health Committee



City Council

General Purpose of Ordinance 042-21:

- Codify the recommendations of the 2013 Parks and Recreation Vision Master Plan and the 2018 Recreation Task Force Recommendations.
- Create an administrative framework for the development of recommended policies and programming.

Ordinance 042-21

- Creates a system where planning for and maintenance of parks and amenities are a high priority city initiative;
- Improves lifelong recreational and educational opportunities for all residents;
- Creates a robust youth services program, developing a pathway to success for all Toledo youth in terms of education/workforce development and civic engagement; and
- Develops a system of community support in collaboration with educational partners to close the achievement gap in our local schools and attain educational excellence for all Toledo youth.

ORD. 42-21

Establishing the Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth Services and Educational Engagement by amending Toledo Municipal Code Section 127.13(b), repealing TMC Section 127.14 and enacting a new TMC Chapter 131 "Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth Services, and Educational Engagement"; authorizing the reappropriation of \$3,356,797 from the Department of Public Service, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Division to the Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth Services and Educational Engagement; and appropriating an additional \$2,500,000 from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund; and declaring an emergency.

SUMMARY & BACKGROUND:

Toledo City Council has determined that Parks, Recreation, Youth Services and Education are critical to quality of life and the health, safety and satisfaction of residents of all ages. Evidence proves that high quality parks and recreation systems, supportive youth programming developing pathways to success for city youth, and a successful and thriving educational system are critical for population retention and growth, and are drivers of strong economic development in the city. The city must prioritize these activities and develop a sustainable system of maintenance and support. Additionally, Mayor Kapszukiewicz formed the Recreation Task Force upon entering office in 2018. After months of study, a report was presented to the Mayor and Council that made recommendations as to recreation programming, maintenance of parks and facilities and funding. This legislation creates a system where parks and recreation once again become a priority for the city. Additionally, the elimination of the Youth Commission in 2018 created a void with respect to youth services and programming. This legislation also prioritizes this by creating a division that will be responsible for creating a system of support for developing and enriching the lives of young people. Finally, people need to have compelling reasons to choose Toledo as the place they want to live, work and raise a family. Employment opportunities are inextricably tied to education and training. Having an excellent school system is one incentive. The Division of Educational Engagement is created to develop a comprehensive plan for collaboration with educational partners and city support of initiatives aimed at achieving educational excellence for the betterment of all of Toledo. NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it ordained by the Council of the City of Toledo:

SECTION 1. That Toledo Municipal Code Chapter 127.13(b) "Commissioner of Public Lands Maintenance; duties" which reads as follows is hereby repealed:

127.13(b) Commissioner of Public Lands Maintenance; duties

The Commissioner of Public Lands Maintenance herein created shall execute the duties imposed upon him/her by ordinance of City Council and further duties as may be prescribed by the Mayor and the Director of Public Service.

The Commissioner of Public Lands Maintenance shall direct the facilities, operations and programs of all the following units: parks maintenance, cemeteries and weed control

Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth Services & Educational Engagement

Director
**Department of Parks,
Recreation, Youth
Services and Educational
Engagement**

Commissioner
**Division of Parks,
Recreation and
Community Enrichment**

Commissioner
**Division of Youth
Services**

Commissioner
**Division of Educational
Engagement**

Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth Services and Educational Engagement

- Direct the operations and maintenance associated with city-owned and/or controlled parks, recreation facilities and community centers;
- Have general charge of all park improvements;
- Create a business development strategy to increase revenue generation; and
- Have oversight of the Parks, Recreation and Community Enrichment Division, the Youth Services Division and the Educational Engagement Division.

Division of Parks, Recreation & Community Enrichment

- Develop a Comprehensive Recreation and Community Enrichment Strategy;
- Collaborate and contract with community partners to empower them to create and implement high quality recreational and community enrichment programs;
- Establish a system of support for community partners; and
- Creating a robust volunteer program to assist with programming, events and beautification projects.

Division of Youth Services

- Develop a Comprehensive Youth Development Strategy in coordination with the Human Relations Commission;
- Develop and promote relationships with youth services providers and area youth planning and coordinating bodies in furtherance of the Comprehensive Youth Development Strategy; and
- Develop relationships with private and public funders of youth services activities and seeking grant funding.

Division of Educational Engagement

- Improve collaboration and greater articulation with pre-k through university level school systems to develop a city support structure for improving educational outcomes; and
- Develop a Comprehensive Educational Engagement Strategy in coordination with educational partners to include support of planning, funding and implementation of a universal pre-k program, apprenticeships, academic mentoring, tutoring and coaching programs.



Budget

Budget

The Recreation Task Force recommendations from Fall of 2018 called for an increase in Parks and Recreation funding to 2% of the General Fund in the first 18 months, and a plan to increase funding to 4% of the General Fund budget over five years.

2021 Budget

- The 2021 budget included only **\$3,356,797** for parks and recreation activities, equating to approximately **1.2%** of the General Fund budget
- For 2021, **2.0%** of the General Fund would equate to a budget for Parks and Recreation of **\$5,662,371**.
- This is a difference of **\$2,305,574** from the recommended funding of 2%.

Ordinance 042-21 Budget Implications

- Requests a reappropriation of \$3,356,797 from the Division of Parks, Recreation and Forestry for currently budgeted Parks and Recreation Activities.
- Requests an additional \$2,500,000 from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund.



Thank you.

➡ toledo.gov