



## Recreation Department Annual Report 2010

### General Overview

**SportsEvents Magazine, a national trade magazine, has chosen Findlay, Ohio as People's Choice for "Up and Coming" Outstanding Sports Destination in 2010.**

**Tourism in Findlay/Hancock County also experienced a "record in tourism traffic" in 2010 due in part to the numerous tournaments and events the City's sporting venues and facilities offered visiting teams, as well as the Recreation Department's commitment to offering the best hospitality and facilities, while assisting our Recreation Partners with logistics and expertise in hosting a successful tournament.**

**The overall Economic Impact to our community in 2010 exceeded \$9 million, due to the numerous sporting and special events, along with tournaments our facilities have hosted.**

Budget cuts and the recession was also a challenge, it played a major role in the Recreation Department's operation in 2010. However, quality of life, healthy living lifestyles for adults, and youth alike were abundant as we experienced the most successful fiscal year in the history of the Department (revenue vs. expenses).

The Department was forced to lay-off two full time employees in November 2009 due to budget cuts and constraints.

#### **2010 Recreation Full Time Staff:**

**Lu Draper**, Superintendent Recreation/Community and Facilities

**Pat Wright**, Recreation Administrative Supervisor

**Mike Gallaher**, Facility Operation Manager

**Chester Caudill** – Maintenance (April – December)

**Dee Yoxtheimer**, Clerk

#### **2010 Seasonal Staff CUBE and Diamonds:**

**Nicole Flugga**, Marketing and Special Events

**Jay K. Simko**, Field/Ice Maintenance

**Jay A. Simko**, Facility Maintenance

**9- Customer Service Attendants**

**5- Skate Guards**

**5- Skate Instructors**

**5- Casual Labor (field and facility maintenance)**

### **Programs, Services and Facilities**

#### **Adult Slow Pitch Softball**

For over 25 years, the City has offered a fun and competitive adult slow-pitch softball program. The city holds two- seasons where 114 teams participated in 2010.

**Spring and Summer Season** – (76 teams), 36 Men's Teams and 40 Co-ed Teams and

**Fall Season** (38 total teams), 17 Men's Teams and 21 Co-ed Teams.

SPRING/SUMMER SEASON		SUMMER LEAGUE'S CHAMPS	FALL SEASON		FALL LEAGUE'S CHAMPS
Division	# of Teams		Division	# of Teams	
Men's A/B	13	<b>TNT – Flippin' Jimmy's Burgers &amp; Wings</b>	Men's Mon	10	<b>Kibbee's</b>
Men's C Wed	13	<b>AJ's Heavenly Pizza</b>	Men's Wed	7	<b>Dr. Wesson's Bunt Pirates</b>
Men's C Thur	10	<b>SPI Reapers</b>	Co-Ed	21	<b>A J's Heavenly Pizza</b>
Co-Ed A	8	<b>Jac &amp; Dos</b>			
Co-Ed B	14	<b>AJ's Heavenly Pizza</b>			
Co-Ed C	18	<b>Dave's Hideaway</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>			<b>38</b>	

**Tri County Umpire Association** –we contract for umpiring services for both Adult softball seasons.

**2010 Tri County Umpire Association game structure**

Men's Softball	2 Umpires	1 Scorekeeper	Total \$44 per game
Co-Ed Softball	1 Umpire	No Scorekeeper	Total \$23 per game

**Shuffle Board League**

Shuffleboard continued throughout the spring, summer and fall months at the shuffleboard courts at Riverside Park. During inclement weather and/or the winter months – portable shuffleboard courts were purchased by the Recreation Department for play at the CUBE on Tuesday mornings.



**“Peep Drop”**

The annual Easter event took on a new look in 2010. Approximately 3000 children and parents were hopeful to see candy peeps, each outfitted with their own parachute “jumping” from a helicopter hovering over The Marathon Diamond Fields. Unfortunately, the helicopter pilot deemed that it was too windy to complete the mission, but the participants enjoyed peeps, which were given out along with

doughnuts, juice, cotton candy, popcorn, and sno-cones, music and contest and games were enjoyed by all participants. The arena was filled with giant inflatable climbing toys.

**“Skate with Santa Claus”**



*“Yes Virginia there is a Santa Claus and he loves to Ice Skate at the CUBE!”*

The fourth annual holiday event at the Huntington Bank Arena attracted over 100 children and their parents. They enjoyed ice-skating to Christmas music along with greeting and skating with Santa.

**First Night Out Celebration**

Fourth annual giant CUBE drop and lobby of balloons was enjoyed by over 450 skaters again this year. Admission was \$10, which included ice skates, five hours of ice-skating, music, games and other festivities.

### **Birthday Parties at the CUBE**

In 2010, 45 birthday party packages were sold and enjoyed by approximately 540 party attendees, at the CUBE, package includes private party room, pizza, soda, skate rental and ice skating.

### **Meeting Room Rentals**

Community groups at the CUBE rented 133 rooms in 2010; other city departments enjoyed the amenities the CUBE's meeting rooms offer including, but not limited to:

- Findlay Police Department – Tactical Training
- Findlay Health Department Plumbing training session
- Findlay Fire Department - Training
- Mayor's Office – Employee Service Award Anniversary Luncheon
- Findlay Water & Sewer – Billing software conference
- Findlay Engineering Department – Pre-Bid Conference

### **Shelter House Rentals at Riverside Park**

The Recreation Department continued with the duties of securing shelter house reservations and fee collections in 2010. The renovations of Shelter House #15 continue to make it one of the more popular shelters at Riverside Park. 232 Shelter houses were reserved in 2010 and over 263 shelters were used by non-profit organizations – who chose the comfort and ambience of Riverside Park, Bandshell, and Shelter Houses for their fund raising events.



The Allen P Dudley Memorial Band Shell continued to host Wednesday evenings FREE Concerts in the Park during the summer months in cooperation of the City of Findlay, Hancock Park District and local area businesses.

### **The CUBE**

The CUBE exceeded all expectations during the 2009 – 2010 season – more visitors enjoyed the CUBE's activities both on and off the ice for youth, adults and families.

### **Additional Equipment Purchases**

The Cube was awarded the bids and purchased much needed ice equipment from the University of Findlay. U of F closed their doors to Klaus Arena in the spring of 2010. The city will pay for the equipment in installments over 3-years from the Capital Improvement Fund.

### **Included in Purchase**

- Model 520 and HD 2543 Zamboni Ice Resurfer
- Model Z945E-85020 propane powered ice edger
- Miscellaneous Goals and Nets
- Dasher board with hardware,
- Player and Official Box including netting above glass
- Natural Gas Refueler
- 135 Pair of rental skates including storage bins
- Bleachers, Dehumidifiers, hose and cart reel



***"It's a hard job; thank goodness somebody loves to do it"***

### **Findlay High School Hockey**

A new agreement with Findlay High School was successfully negotiated and agreed upon for the 2009 – 2010 season. FHS agrees to pay for game ice while they will continue to practice free of charge Monday through Friday. Along with league and non-league games, Findlay High School Hockey hosts an annual Christmas Holiday Tournament and an Alumni Hockey Game each year at the CUBE.

### **Findlay High School Junior Varsity Hockey**

A new program for Findlay High School during the 2009-2010 season was a Junior Varsity Hockey Program. An agreement, as above, was agreed upon for ice usage.

### **CUBE Ice Partners**

#### **Silver Blades Figure Skating Club**

Silver Blades Celebrates Its 36th Year of Skating Excellence in Hancock County, Silver Blades is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing quality figure skating to the Findlay-Hancock County region. Silver Blades began in 1974 when the Hancock Recreation Center, now the CUBE, was built to house events that promoted skating and other recreational activities. Since that day, the Silver Blades Figure Skating Club has continued to grow due to the support of the community, the Recreation Department, and by the excitement generated by club members. We are the only Figure Skating Club in Northwest Ohio that has an Annual Ice Skating Show, "Ice Classics".

Silver Blades Figure Skating Club is affiliated with the Ice Skating Institute (ISI). Silver Blades Figure Skating Club, currently has around 100 members, ranging between the ages of 4 and 18. Silver Blades Figure Skating Club hosts the annual Silver Blades Ice Classic, a Holiday Ice Show and two competitions one in January, and one in November of each year, all at the CUBE

#### **Gliding Stars – Findlay Chapter**

Gliding Stars, Inc. was originally founded in 1994 by Elizabeth M. O'Donnell. Ms. O'Donnell is an accomplished figure skater who turned her talents toward providing an extensive program of adaptive ice skating for people of all ages and challenges. She did this so they could experience a part of normal life and the life-changing effects of regular exercise, social interaction, teamwork, family sharing, and a few hours of fame during the end-of-season Ice Extravaganza performance!

We are excited to announce that Gliding Stars now calls The CUBE their new home. They have an annual show and they are a great organization.

#### **Findlay Amateur Hockey Association**

The Findlay Amateur Hockey Association or FAHA was established in the 1960's as the area's youth hockey organization. The Hancock Recreation Center, or The Cube, as it is known today, was not built at this time and players skated out of Bowling Green, Ohio's ice arena. The following year, players traveled to Lima to use their ice facilities. Finally, the Hancock Recreational Center was open. Currently, FAHA uses the Cube for their ice needs. FAHA is sanctioned through the USA Hockey organization.

FAHA hosts a "Winter Freeze House Tournament" for three divisions: Mini-Mite/Mite/Squirt, over three weekends in February. Many teams from in and around Ohio and surrounding states travel to The CUBE to compete in this USA Hockey sanctioned tournament.

**Donnie Naugle Memorial Tournament – At The CUBE** (The Courier - November 29, 2010) For 19 years the Donnie Naugle Jr. Memorial Hockey Tournament has been a fixture on the November calendar, an annual event to highlight the post Thanksgiving weekend at the CUBE this year's tournament, however, will be the last of the annual Donnie Naugle Hockey Tournaments. With bigger cities staging more and more youth hockey tournaments, many of the teams that used to attend the Donnie Naugle Memorial Tournament are opting to stay closer to home during the holidays. Or if they do travel, they are choosing to compete in larger tournaments.

## **Findlay's Men's Hockey League**

The Findlay Men's Hockey League is a non-profit association that brings together players from all over Northwest Ohio to play organized spring, fall and winter league hockey games at the CUBE. The Findlay Men's Hockey League offers four (4) levels of play, which allows everyone, from the experienced player down to the first time skater, the chance to play the great game of ice hockey.

## **Public Skating**

Public skating continues to be very popular with teens and families alike. The CUBE has taken a leap in attendance at both evening and afternoon sessions. Average attendance during the evening sessions is 325 and the afternoon sessions 110.

## **Daytime Skate Sessions**

After many requests we now offer 3 weekday-skate sessions –

**Mom and Tot** – Monday – Friday mornings from 10a-11a

**Adult Skate** – Monday – Friday mornings from 11a-12p

**Drop In Hockey** – Monday – Friday from 12p-1:30p

**“Be Healthy Now”** participants also skate Monday through Friday mornings.

## **Evening Skate Sessions**

Admission rates in 2010 for evening skate is \$5, music is always playing. The demographics for evening skates are mainly junior high and high school teenagers. Skate Rental is \$2.

## **Afternoon Skate Sessions**

The demographics consist of younger children and families; also service groups such as Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, and Youth Church groups attend many of the afternoon skate sessions. The admission fee of \$5.00 includes skate rental.

## **Learn to Skate Sessions**

In 2010, Learn to Skate offered both 4-week classes and 4-day classes. Both experienced good attendance. A fifth session was added in order to accommodate the demand. Total Learn to Skate participants, 105.

<b><i>Classification</i></b> Explanation of pricing policy for each group	<b>Prime Hours</b> Mon - Thursday 4p-10p, Fri-Sun 8a-11p Holidays and Weekends	<b>Non – Prime Hours</b> Mon – Thurs 8a – 4p Mon – Thurs after 10p
Ice Partners (300 plus hours)	\$190	\$170
Ice User (225-299 hours)	\$210	\$190
Ice Renters (224 hours or less)	\$230	\$210
Birthday Party Package	During Open Skate	\$120/10 guests
<b><i>Ice Partners</i></b>	<b><i># of Contracted Hours</i></b>	
Findlay Amateur Hockey Association	333	
Silver Blades Figure Skating Club	410	
Gliding Stars – Findlay Chapter	13	
Findlay Men's Hockey League	269	100
Findlay High School Varsity	60	80
Findlay High School Jr Varsity	10	24
Perrysburg High School	20	
Bowling Green Skating Club	20	
Other *	25	
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>1160 Hours</b>	<b>204 Hours</b>

\*Other includes – Just Say No – City and County Schools – Special Groups

## **2010 Spring and Summer Ice**

For the first time in the history of the CUBE; during the spring of 2010 we offered spring/summer ice to our Ice Partners, birthday party goers, Learn to Skate groups, and open skate attendees. This brought a new experience to everyone involved as well as a pleasant activity for our users.

## **Off Season Cube Activities**

Every event brings a new experience to the CUBE and our community. The CUBE may be hosting a State Gymnastic Meet one weekend, a one-hundred mile bicycle race the next, or a concert for the young and young at heart.

## **Some of Our Anchor Events**

- ***WFN/WKXA Leisure Living Home Show***
- ***Halker's Gym -State Gymnastics Meet***
- ***The Guess Who Concert***
- ***Rockin the Rink***
- ***Hancock Handlebars – Hancock 100***
- ***Mixed Martial Arts***
- ***Nations World Series Youth Baseball Tournament*** –Registration, coaches social, players social, movies, and games
- ***Truck "Rodeo" and Flea Market***



## **The Marathon Diamonds**

Take me out to the ballgame! Over 900 games were played at this premier facility for league play, tournaments, and The University of Findlay's spring and fall seasons of baseball and softball for the first full season at Marathon Diamonds. The Marathon Diamonds plays host to dozens of tournaments in only its second year. Coaches, teams, and fans enjoy five lighted infields (four skinned, one grass) separate admission gates, built-in bleachers, concessions and exceptional grounds keeping.

## **2010 Highlights at The Marathon Diamonds Include**

### **Youth Baseball - Diamond Dawg Travel Team Tournaments**

Flag City Challenge  
Triple Play Challenge  
Baseball Blast

### **Girl's Fast-Pitch Softball Tournaments**

Flag City Fire Cracker  
Greg Miller Memorial Tournament

### **Young Miss Softball Association**

Year-End City Champion Tournaments

### **Baseball Players Association Tournament (BPA)**

Sundown Showdown

### **Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA)**

Regional Baseball Tournament

### **Findlay Youth Baseball**

Regular Season Games  
Nations World Series Ultimate Baseball Tournament – boys age 14 – 17

### **University of Findlay**

Men's Baseball spring and fall programs  
Ladies' Softball spring and fall programs



ASA – U-16 State Softball Tournament

Regular season games

I-75 Tournament

City League Championship tournament

### **Flag City Youth Football Complex**

Conversations began in early 2010 between private and public entities to establish a timeline for the construction of a Youth Football Facility to be located in the northeast corner of the Flag City Multi-Sports Complex, near the CUBE.

Many individuals and groups have committed countless hours and services to get the plan in place. Construction is scheduled to start in the spring of 2011.

### **Rotary Arena and Soccer Complex**

The Rotary Arena and Soccer Complex is a grand example of how public and private investors can work seamlessly to build a facility locally. After the relocation of four softball fields to other areas within the city, this soccer facility became a reality. The complex consists of two premier soccer fields in concert with 18 auxiliary soccer fields.

In the fall of 2010, the Flag City soccer classic debuted under the lights on the new fields at Emory Adams. Players were introduced under a shower of fireworks and to the thunderous applause of the hundreds of volunteers who helped make the premiere fields a reality.

Hancock Soccer Association currently hosts the Fall Classic Recreational Soccer Tournament and Flag City Classic Tournament. Additionally, several large soccer tournaments are in the works to be held at Rotary Arena. This in turn will go a long way in making Findlay an outstanding destination to host soccer events and continue to impact our local economy.

### **Field Inventories Synopsis**

The City of Findlay is fortunate that we possess many types of facilities: softball fields, baseball fields, a skate park, tennis courts, shuffleboard courts and many more. The reality, however, is that there never seem to be enough playable facilities.

In order to combat that problem, the Recreation Department and many of our Recreation Partners have come together to find ways to make the facilities useable for more than one activity. In the near future, you may see pickleball leagues on a tennis court, or Young Miss Softball playing on a field that historically has been used only by Findlay Youth Baseball. In summary, we will still need additional facilities to keep up with the growth and direction of our community along with the increased usage by our Recreation Partners, but we can keep those needs to a minimum with proper utilization of each facility.

### **Park and Recreation Rules**

During 2010, we realized that our Park Rules and Regulations were somewhat outdated. Along with reworking the facilities and their uses, The Park Rules and Regulations also received much attention and updating. With that in mind, and along with the assistance of The Park and Recreation Board and many other staff members and volunteers, our re-written "Rules and Regulations Governing the Recreational Use of City Park Properties and Recreation Facilities" are now available on the Findlay City website: [www.findlayohio.com](http://www.findlayohio.com) under Recreation.

### **Volunteer Organizations**

Many of our volunteer organizations are charged an administrative fee of \$75.00 per season. This fee helps defray costs of meeting room use, help with scheduling facilities, copier charges, and many other administrative services provided to each group.

#### **Volunteer Organizations**

Hancock Soccer Association	Young Miss Softball	Adult Flag Football
Findlay Youth Baseball	Findlay Girls' Fast-Pitch Softball	Church League Softball
Findlay Area Swim Team	Flag City Youth Football	Findlay Co-Ed Volleyball
Silver Blades Figure Skating Club	Findlay Amateur Hockey Association	Women's Volleyball
Findlay Men's Hockey League	Gliding Stars	Shuffle Board Club
Findlay YMCA At Riverside Pool	Findlay YMCA T-Ball	Findlay YMCA Flag Football

### Other Recreation/Community Partners

Hancock Park District	Fifth Third Bank	Flag City Balloon Fest Committee	The University of Findlay Men's Baseball
Findlay Noon Rotary Club	WFIN/WKXA	Ice Skating Institute	The University of Findlay Soccer Camp
United Way of Hancock County "Truck Rodeo"	Craig and Mary Lou Anderson	Huntington Bank	The University of Findlay Women's Softball
Disc Golf of Findlay	Marathon Oil Company	Y.M.C.A.	Findlay City Schools
Findlay Optimist Club	Rettig Brothers Enterprise	Hancock Youth Leadership Program	Ohio High School Athletic Assn
Hancock Leadership Program	National Lime & Stone Company	Extreme - It Mixed Martial Arts	National Alliance on Mental Health NAMI
The Arts Partnership "Concert Series"	Century Health Focus on Friends Chili Cook Off	Open Arms Domestic Violence Center "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes"	Hancock County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Millstream Area Credit Union	Alzheimer's "Memory Walk"	Findlay Digital Academy	Wine Fest Riverside Park
Life Point Community Church	Arts Partnership Concert Series	Lupus Foundation "Walk For Lupus"	March of Dimes "Walk for Healthy Babies"

Respectfully submitted by:  
 Lu Draper  
 Recreation, Facility & Community Superintendent

*Park and Recreation Rules and Regulations, Field/Facility Inventories and the Economic Impact Study can be found on the City's website [www.findlayohio.com](http://www.findlayohio.com) under Recreation.*