

**Valerie Wax Carr**  
Director

1755 Town Park Boulevard  
PO Box 278  
Green, OH 44232-0278  
PHONE: (330) 896-4176  
FAX: (330) 896-6606  
EMAIL: [VWaxcarr@cityofgreen.org](mailto:VWaxcarr@cityofgreen.org)

February 12, 2019

Dear City Council,

I read a copy of James Ahlstrom's letter in Granicus to Councilman Justin Speight regarding the condition of our ballfields. I recently spoke to Mr. Speight and told him I would be happy to review the concerns. However, I wanted to share this information with all of you.

The letter states 40% of scheduled games were cancelled in 2018. My staff reviewed the data from last year and we have determined that 808 youth league games were scheduled. Of these, 79 games were cancelled due to weather/field conditions. This equates to 9.7% of all youth games cancelled, during a season of rainfall above the normal average by 125% according to the National Weather Service. The city field maintenance crews are responsible to maintain daily, 20 playing fields in our community. During the 2018 season, a total of 1,122 baseball/softball games were scheduled when the adult leagues are included. As a side note only 12 of the 314 adult league games were not rescheduled due to weather. Due to this volume of maintenance we are investing in new equipment to assist our ballfield maintenance crews to improve the quality of workmanship. As you can see our fields have a great number of games scheduled on them. We are considering having 2 field maintenance/prep teams address the 20 fields. In addition, we are re-training our staff as to the Best Maintenance Practices related to infield maintenance and repairs.

The city has taken steps over the past several years to improve the quality of the infields on city owned/operated ballfields. This started with the construction of East Liberty Park where the city intentionally invested in a manufactured ballfield mix. We then renovated all fields at Greensburg Park with the same material. Of course, I was not here at the time, but there were contractor issues that ultimately resulted in poor conditions. After hearing of feedback from the youth leagues this past year, the parks division immediately engaged with an engineering firm to perform survey work and develop a grading plan to aid the city in efforts to improve these fields. The survey work was completed late in 2018 and the grading plan delivered a just few weeks ago. Beginning next week, our engineering department will begin obtaining quotes for this work. City Council allocated \$50,000 of parks capital reserve funds in the 2019 CIP for this project. The infield renovation may cause down time of one week, as weather permits, as the city wishes to perform this work in advance of the regular scheduled games of our youth leagues at the park.

The city has also invested parks capital money in renovating the Kreighbaum Park fields and the fields located at the Green Youth Sports Complex; which is the land that is leased to the city from the Akron-Canton Airport. In addition, we took great care in developing the field at Kleckner to insure it would be playable by spring and for the entire season.

It is also the responsibility of volunteer parents to ensure the fields remain in good condition. Each ballfield location is equipped with hand tools. Coaches and volunteer parents which have access to these tools are encouraged to rake the batters' boxes, pitchers' mounds, and sliding areas within the base paths, to help reduce erosion of material and ponding of water, in the event of rain. Sometimes this doesn't always happen, so we are considering additional training this season for the teams.

The maintenance of our fields is a partnership with the leagues which use them. We value this partnership and will work to ensure it remains positive; all for the young boys and girls that find so much enjoyment playing the game of baseball and softball. We are all committed to ensuring Green has the best possible playing facilities for all youth participating in sports.

Sincerely,



Valerie Wax Carr  
Director of Public Service