

## MAUTHE/MICKLER/YELLOW CREEK/PARK AVENUE/NEBO/LYON PLAT

Fifth Street Park sits on 7.2 acres of land – one of the original six parks/playgrounds that served the city residents over the years.

Fifth Street Park operated from the mid 1950's to the mid 1970's. The park resides in the second ward in the NW section of the community. Residents would come picnic and enjoy family atmosphere, playground equipment provided recreational activities. Merry-go-rounds, swing sets, teeter totters; enjoyable events and entertainment were available.

Although the city still operates Mauthe Park, the city's main source for recreation; it has turned over Yellow Creek Park to Mill Creek Metro Park to operate on a 50 year lease.

All the other park recreations pretty much deserted operations due to budget restraints. Except for maintaining grass cutting, the city leases Nebo Park to the Struthers Little Wildcat Organization. Park Avenue was sold to a local resident; Lyon Plat is now an Elementary School.

Mickler Park located on the NE side of the City has seen several improvements made in partnerships with the City's School District. Its use is for soccer and baseball program utilization. Renovations to the seating and stands were done by utilizing bleachers salvaged when the new High School Football Complex was erected. Also, a kick wall was installed for soccer practice warm ups.

Fifth Street Park renovations began in 2009 planning. Mayor Stocker and Council continue to clean up and replace culverts which transport runoff water through a creek that channels water from Boardman, Youngstown and Struthers to the Mahoning River. Overgrown foliage, tires and appliances were removed; dams were constructed to slow water flow during heavy storms eliminating flooding of the park. Grading and seeding has been performed this year to further improve the 7.2 acres. Local contracting company Rudzik Excavating once again donated their labor and equipment on the restoration project. The city utilized storm water funds to hydro seed the graded areas and grass will replace dead bushes and weeds.

A new bridge was constructed by an Eagle Scout Troop in 2009 making the creek crossing assessable and beautifying the area.

Mayor Stocker feels confident that through continuous planning that Fifth Street Park will become a place for residents to enjoy for a picnic, walk or ride on a swing set.

We would like to build on what's been accomplished. The city will explore grants that are available through Ohio Department of natural Resources for future funding for equipment. The park will be secured by police patrols both by bike & K-9 Unit whom will conduct unannounced visits.

The grading design will allow for police units to enter and exit the park.

The city will maintain the facility but for certain will not allow for the park to be neglected as it has been for the past two decades due to the lack of care.