



Participant Profile

Fairview Park, Ohio

2015

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Civic Campus: Gemini Recreation Center, James B. Daley Football Stadium, Fairview High School, Cuyahoga County Public Library – Fairview Park Branch

Introduction to Fairview Park, Ohio

If you ask the residents of Fairview Park, Ohio, why they love their city, most will say because of the feeling of community that exists here. Although Fairview Park is an inner-ring suburb of Cleveland, a major American city, a small town ambience is present in the community that breeds civic pride and longevity among its residents. Many



Fairview Park Showcase Garden Award Winner

residents have lived in Fairview Park their entire lives or have returned home after time away. Even those new to Fairview Park immediately feel at home because everyone is so welcoming.

Well-maintained homes are the focal point of Fairview Park's beautiful neighborhoods. From starter bungalows to Cape Cods to colonials, Fairview Park offers a blend of housing options to fit your needs, no matter what stage of life you are in. A variety of

apartment and condominium complexes provide additional housing choices. To ensure the stability and attractiveness of our neighborhoods, the city conducts an annual property maintenance program of Fairview Park's residential properties.

Recreational opportunities abound in Fairview Park. The Gemini Center, the city's state-of-the-art 93,000 square foot recreation and community center, features a variety of recreational amenities, including leisure and competition pools, a splash area, a running track, a fitness area, basketball courts, and much more. A variety of classes and special programs are offered for all ages. The Gemini Center also serves as a gathering place for Fairview Park residents as well as visitors to the community. It is a frequent meeting place for community and civic organizations and has rental areas often used for both public and private events. City parks offer 70 acres of leisure and recreation space, including Bohlken Park, the area's premier sports park, and Bain Park, the city's first nationally recognized historic district. If that weren't enough, the beautiful Cleveland Metroparks borders the



Bohlken Park

city's eastern edge and provides two public golf courses, hiking and biking trails, and manicured picnic areas.

The city's public school system and two private schools are committed to excellence in educating children, attracting young families that select Fairview Park to put down roots. The city's six churches are also dynamic participants in the community and stand as testimonials to the spiritual faith of Fairview Park's early settlers.

Fairview Park's two main commercial districts offer abundant shopping opportunities for all your everyday needs. Westgate Shopping Center, located at West 210 Street and Center Ridge Road, is a retail destination for residents throughout western Cuyahoga County and been a major employment center in Fairview Park for decades. The Lorain Road business corridor features businesses of all sizes and sectors conveniently located along the city's main street.

One of Fairview Park's greatest strengths for its residents and businesses alike is its location, which eases travel throughout Cuyahoga County and beyond. Interstates 71, 90, and 480 run through or in close proximity to the city, and Cleveland Hopkins International Airport is just around the corner. Downtown Cleveland, Lake Erie, and other popular locales are accessible via short drives.

Welcome to Fairview Park, Ohio – *A Great Place to Grow!*

2015 Participant Information

Population Category: Medium-size city

AIB Participation History: None

Population: 16,641

Website: www.fairviewpark.org

Contact Name: Matthew Hrubey

AIB Committee Chair Contact: Mary Benko

Area in Square Miles: 4.68

Acres of Recreation: 696.1*

Do You Have a Volunteer Coordinator? No



Fairview Park City Hall

* This acreage statistic includes Cleveland Metroparks land located in Fairview Park.

Floral Displays – Attracting Attention with Colorful Plants

Municipal

- The most visible floral program in Fairview Park is the annual hanging basket program. This program was initiated by the City of Fairview Park in 2010 to improve the aesthetics of Lorain Road, the city's main thoroughfare. Each year the baskets are planted by a local nursery and maintained by the City's Service Department. In 2013, thanks to a federal Community Development Block Grant award, the City was able to purchase additional equipment to expand the hanging basket program into City parks and other key locations through Fairview Park such as major intersections and city gateways. Expanding the program also increased the resources needed to effectively care for the flowers. In response, the City purchased a high capacity water truck in 2014.



Hanging Basket on Lorain Road

Residential

- Each summer, the floral and landscaping efforts of our homeowners are recognized through the Fairview Park Garden Club's Showcase Garden Award program. Approximately 14 properties win this award each summer and receive a sign for their front yard that recognizes the achievement.

Community Involvement

- The Fairview Park Garden Club plants and maintains a number of public spaces throughout Fairview Park: City Hall, Fairview Park Cemetery, city gateways, Morton Park, Bain Park Cabin and Gazebo, Civic Garden, and planters in front of Fairview Shopping Centre. The Garden Club fundraises each year for materials to plant these locations.
- In 2015, the Fairview Park Garden Club will be planting a butterfly garden at Morton Park to attract and sustain Monarch butterflies.

Business



Corrigan Craciun Funeral Home – Fairview Park Showcase Garden Award Winner

- Businesses and commercial properties can also receive recognition through the Fairview Park Garden Club's Showcase Garden Award program. *See above for program description.*
- Each year, Fairview Shopping Centre plants an elaborate floral display that is a showpiece of the community. Fairview Shopping Centre was the first shopping center built on Cleveland's west side and resides in the heart of Fairview Park's central business district.

Landscaped Areas – Designed Tree, Shrub, Turf, and Perennial Plantings

Municipal

- The City of Fairview Park’s Recreation and Parks Department and Service Department collaboratively maintain all public green spaces.
- The Fairview Park Recreation and Parks Department plans to enhance the aesthetics of our City parks through the installation hardscape and plantings with a consistent design.
- The City of Fairview Park replanted two of its most popular public spaces in 2014—the Gemini Center and Bain Park Cabin and Gazebo—following a brutal winter of harsh, snowy weather.



New Landscaping at Gemini Recreation Center, 2014

Residential



Fairview Park Showcase Garden Award Winner

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Business

- Businesses and commercial properties can also receive recognition through the Fairview Park Garden Club's Showcase Garden Award program. *See above for program description.*

Community Involvement

- In 2015, the Fairview Park Garden Club, in conjunction with the City of Fairview Park, began investigating the creation of an Adopt A Spot/Garden program for the community. Development of this program began in order to solicit additional volunteerism to assist in the routine maintenance of landscaping in public places. A review is underway of how neighboring communities operate such programs. Local Girl Scout Troop 70347 adopted the flower beds at the Bain Park Cabin in 2015.



Girl Scout Troop 70347 at Bain Park Cabin

Urban Forestry

Municipal

- The Arbor Day Foundation recognized Fairview Park as a Tree City USA community for a 23rd consecutive year.
- The City of Fairview Park celebrates Arbor Day annually with tree plantings. Between 2014 and 2015, the Service Department planted four Chokecherry trees in vacant streetscape beds along Lorain Road in front of City Hall.
- The City of Fairview Park had previously installed street trees along portions of Lorain Road to enhance the streetscape. The City is actively working to replace empty beds as well as extend the trees into the western end of Lorain Road.
- The City of Fairview Park hired a municipal tree contractor in 2009 to develop a tree inventory and management plan for the community.
- The City of Fairview Park's website includes lists of recommended trees and trees prohibited per City ordinance.
- The Fairview Park Service Department assesses as needed any hazardous tree conditions located in the public right-of-way.
- The City of Fairview Park is seeking a corporate foundation grant to restore and grow the City's urban tree canopy. Fairview Park has lost many trees over the last several years due to structural defects, disease, automobile accidents, and other causes. The City has been unable to replace these trees due to revenue losses from state and local sources. This grant would allow us to replant former tree locations as well as plant additional locations identified as suitable for trees.



Arbor Day Tree Planting in front of City Hall, 2015

Residential

- The Fairview Park Service Department runs an annual Adopt-A-Tree Program to encourage the planting of more residential street trees throughout the community. Homeowners purchase a tree from a local nursery or garden center and the Service Department will pick up and plant the tree at no additional cost.

Community Involvement

- City ordinance provides for a Shade Tree Advisory Committee comprised of volunteer residents that promotes and encourages the strategic planting of trees throughout Fairview Park.
- On April 11, 2015, community volunteers planted, staked, and fenced approximately 130 trees along Coe Creek in Bain Park. This project was completed as part of an Ohio EPA grant awarded to the City of Fairview Park. This planting was operated in conjunction with the Fairview Park Green Team's annual Freshen Up Fairview Park event, which in past years targeted litter collection, leaf raking, and general sprucing up of public spaces. This year's focus was reforesting Coe Creek's riparian zone.



Fairview Park family plants tree at Freshen Up Fairview Park event, 2015

Environmental Effort – Sustainable Development and Awareness

Municipal

- The City of Fairview Park contracts with Republic Services for the curbside collection of rubbish, recycling, yard waste, and bulk waste.
- A special curbside collection of live Christmas trees takes place each January in Fairview Park. This collection is provided through the City of Fairview Park's contract with Republic Services.
- The City of Fairview Park contracts with Simple Recycling for curbside collection of clothing, textiles, shoes, and small household goods. The City receives \$20 per ton of materials collected, which is then reinvested in community recycling education. As of July 9, 2015, Simple Recycling is averaging 1,666 lbs. of collectibles weekly from 86 homes in Fairview Park.
- The City of Fairview Park offers to its residents two paper shredding events each year. In 2014, 12,344 pounds of paper were recycled between the two events. To date, these events have been funded via a grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District.



Annual Shredding Event, May 2014



*After Photo of Coe Creek Streambank Restoration Project,
April 2015*

- The City of Fairview Park collects computers, household hazardous waste, and tires on specialty days. These materials are then transported to the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District, which ensures they are recycled properly.
- The City of Fairview Park received a grant from Ohio EPA to restore 170 linear feet of eroding Coe Creek streambank, reconnect 125 linear feet of floodplain, and plant over 200 native trees and shrubs over 1/3 acre of riparian area in Bain Park.

- The City of Fairview Park is coordinating a restoration project designed to daylight a section of Coe Creek, restore fish passage, reconnect floodplain by removing debris, plant native plants to stabilize streambank and riparian areas, and manage the removal of invasive species along a 1.5 mile stretch of the creek corridor.
- The City of Fairview Park received an Ohio EPA grant to retrofit 7,630 square feet of parking lot at Fairview Park City Hall with pervious pavement to reduce untreated storm water runoff and demonstrate the feasibility of this storm water best management practice in the community and throughout Northeast Ohio.
- City ordinance integrates storm water management and soil and erosion control into development activities as a means of minimizing damage to public and private property, minimizing degradation of water resources, and promoting and maintaining the health, safety, and welfare of Fairview Park residents.
- The City of Fairview Park assisted residents in creating a community garden in 2008. After a 2015 expansion, the Fairview Park Community Garden now features 68 garden plots and is utilized annual by over 100 gardeners.
- The City of Fairview Park provides and services recycling receptacles in City parks and public facilities.

Business

- In 2015, the Fairview Park City Schools renegotiated its waste hauling contract with Republic Services and now offers full-service, single-stream recycling for each of its school buildings and the Board of Education offices.



Fairview Park Board of Education Offices

- In 2014, the Fairview Park Green Team facilitated a partnership between the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District and local apartment complexes. As a result, one apartment building—200 West Apartments—expanded the recycling services offered to tenants. A second apartment building—Willowood Manor—added full recycling services while, at the same time, reducing the cost of its waste hauling contract.
- In 2010, the Positive Education Program (PEP) opened the Prentiss Autism Center in a redeveloped commercial building in Fairview Park. This 33,000 square foot building was redeveloped into the community’s first “green” building. It holds silver-level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

Residential

- A number of Fairview Park homeowners have disconnected their downspouts and installed rain barrels to help better manage storm water during poor weather events.

Community Involvement

- The Fairview Park Green Team encourages and advocates for sustainable practices among the residents of Fairview Park through educational and outreach events.
- The Fairview Park Green Team acts as a steward of Coe Creek, Fairview Park's sole natural resource, by identifying and working to resolve areas of concern.
- The Fairview Park Green Team seeks out new and special recycling opportunities for the Fairview Park community, including the collection of both unwanted, broken holiday lights and campaign yard signs.
- The Fairview Park Green Team hosts an annual community clean-up day – Freshen Up Fairview Park. In years past, the event has focused on collecting litter, raking leaves, pulling weeds, and the general sprucing up of public spaces.
- The Fairview Park Green Team works with Fairview High School staff to provide students with opportunities for environmental education and awareness.
- Gardeners at the Fairview Park Community Garden are looking to formalize a food donation program where excess produce is donated to the Fairview Park Hunger Center.
- The Fairview Park Garden Club installed a rain garden at Gilles-Sweet Elementary School to demonstrate the storm water management best practice.



Fairview Park Home Using Rain Barrel

Heritage Preservation – Preserving Your Past for Future Generations

Municipal

- City ordinance provides for a procedure to designate local historic landmarks.

Residential

- The Fairview Park Historical Society recognizes 100+ year old homes in Fairview Park through the Century Home Program and the placement of specially designed markers.

Business

- In honor of the 100th anniversary of the 1914 Women's Suffrage march in Cleveland, the Emerald Necklace Inn coordinated a luncheon and tour to celebrate Josephine Saxer Irwin, Fairview Park's local suffragist and first female member of City Council. Proceeds from this luncheon went toward the purchase of 10 weeping cherry blossom trees that were planted in Fairview Park Cemetery, a place of interest to Josephine Saxer Irwin.

Community Involvement



Fairview Park Historical Museum

performs a series of public presentations regarding myriad historical topics, including an annual presentation specific to the history of Fairview Village/Park.

- The Fairview Park Historical Society provides monthly historical articles for inclusion in the City's e-newsletter to educate people about the community's heritage.

- The Fairview Park Historical Society maintains the archived records, files, and artifacts of churches, schools, businesses, civic organizations, century homes, and individuals and families that played a strong role in Fairview Park's history.

- The Fairview Park Historical Society created a museum at Bain Park Cabin to house and showcase the history of Fairview Park.

- The Fairview Park Historical Society

- The Fairview Park Historical Society published *Fairview Park in Historical Review*, a book that records the evolution of Fairview Park from a farm community in Rockport Township to its current iteration.

- The City of Fairview Park, Fairview Park Historical Society, and residents successfully collaborated on nominating Bain Park Cabin to the National Register of Historic Places. Bain Park Cabin was officially designated on June 16, 2013.



Bain Park Cabin, home of Fairview Park Historical Museum and Archives

- A resident coordinates an Adopt A Tombstone program that identifies, repairs, and restores neglected grave markers at Fairview Park Cemetery. This includes gravestones for servicemen and people influential in the development of Fairview

Village/Park. Restoration efforts have assisted in obtaining additional historical information that is provided to family members and other researchers.

- The Adopt A Tombstone Coordinator offers free walking tours and scavenger hunts for individuals and groups as an interactive approach to promoting knowledge of Fairview Park history and those buried at Fairview Park Cemetery.

- Grave sites are spruced up and decorated with flags in preparation for the City's annual Memorial Day celebration.

Overall Impression

Municipal

- The City of Fairview Park publishes a monthly community e-newsletter to inform residents of news and events.
- City ordinance prohibits dogs in City parks to prevent neglected dog waste.
- The City of Fairview Park worked with a local graphic designer and resident to create a banner that now hangs along city streets and in city parks.
- In 2015, the Fairview Park Recreation and Parks Department created and implemented a recreation needs assessment to solicit feedback on current offerings and suggestions for future programs, park development and improvements.



City of Fairview Park banners located throughout city

- The City has undertaken a beautification project to purchase enough lit Christmas wreathes and associated equipment to line Lorain Road. This project, which began in 2013 as part of a Community Development Block Grant project, will be completed over a five-year period.
- The City of Fairview Park owns a street sweeper vehicle to keep the city streets tidy.
- In 2015, the City of Fairview Park's Service Department repaired the decorative hardscape in front of City Hall.
- The City of Fairview Park operates an annual Street Repair Program targeted at maintaining the quality of Fairview Park's public streets. The program is funded by a 0.25% income tax, the tax dollars from which go into a fund dedicated to street maintenance and associated capital improvements. The Street Repair Program is now in its 26th year.

Residential

- The Fairview Park Building Department conducts an annual property maintenance program to help ensure the preservation of maintenance standards in our residential neighborhoods. Visual inspections are performed from the street or sidewalk to determine whether a structure complies with all applicable codes and regulations.

Business

- Fairview Park has a Storefront Renovation Program that assists commercial property owners with making façade improvements and/or correcting exterior code violations to their property. These improvements lead to revitalized neighborhood commercial areas, elimination of blight, and enhanced livability of surrounding neighborhoods. The program is administered by the City of Fairview Park on behalf of Cuyahoga County.



Bonnie's Bar and Grille – Before and After Photos for Storefront Renovation Program

Community Involvement

- The Fairview Park Community Council selects one or more residents each year as Fairview Park's Citizen of Year. Selection is based on candidates' unpaid volunteer service to the people and community of Fairview Park. Fairview Park Community Council is an organization consisting of over 20 community clubs and organizations whose mission is to provide a forum to network, increase visibility, generate awareness of their efforts and presence in the community, and share ideas, information and announcements on a quarterly basis.
- Journey Community Church is instituting a "Love Week," which is seven consecutive days of community service projects.
- Eagle Scout projects have greatly impacted Fairview Park's America in Bloom activities, including expansion of the community garden; community garden amenities including a shed, fence, and compost bins; and the addition of amenities and access to City parks.
- The Fairview Park Garden Club fundraises each year specifically for the purpose of civic beautification throughout the community.
- Four local community organizations collectively sponsored Fairview Park's America in Bloom entry fee and judges' lodging expenses.



Fairview High School seniors volunteering during Seniors Helping Seniors event, 2014

- Seniors Helping Seniors is an intergenerational program through which Fairview High School seniors assist senior citizens in the fall with cleaning up their yards.

Best Idea

The best idea the Fairview Park community chose to implement in 2015 is the development of a communitywide civic beautification strategy. Members of Fairview Park's America in Bloom Steering Committee intend to use the judges' report and the comments therein as a foundation for identifying areas of improvement. Our theory is that a community has difficulty viewing itself objectively due to over familiarization. We welcome the fresh perspective of our America in Bloom judges.

Itinerary & Map

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

- 1:10 pm Estimated arrival time of judges' flight from Chicago Midway.
- 1:30 pm Transport judges from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport to Emerald Necklace Inn in Fairview Park.
- 1:50 pm Judges check in at Emerald Necklace Inn.
- 3:00 pm Fairview Park community representatives arrive at Emerald Necklace Inn. Tour begins.

Primary destinations:

- Civic Campus: Gemini Center, James B. Daley Football Stadium, Fairview High School, Cuyahoga County Public Library – Fairview Park Branch (on bus)
- Lorain Road business corridor (on bus)
- Morton Park (on bus)
- Fairview Park Community Garden (on foot)
- PEP Prentiss Autism Center (on foot)

(Duration: 2 hours)

- 5:00 pm Dinner

Location:

Dominic's Santos Italian Restaurant
21467 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, Ohio 44126
www.santosfairview.com

(Duration: 1.5 hours)

- 6:30 pm Judges transported back to Emerald Necklace Inn. Remainder of evening is allocated as personal time for judges. Information on evening amenities in close proximity to the Emerald Necklace Inn will be provided at check in.

(continued)

Thursday, July 23, 2015

8:00 am Breakfast at Emerald Necklace Inn. Judges meet and greet with members of Fairview Park's America in Bloom Steering Committee.

(Duration: 1.5 hours)

9:30 am Tour resumes.

Primary destinations:

- Civic Garden / RiverSouth / Cleveland Metroparks (on foot)
- Fairview Park Cemetery (on foot)
- Coffinberry Neighborhood (on bus)
- Sample home with rain barrel (on foot)
- Bohlken Park (on bus)
- Fairview Park City Hall (on foot)
- Valley Forge Neighborhood (on bus)
- Seabury Avenue (on bus)
- Bain Park and Bain Park Cabin (on foot)

(Duration: 2.5 hours)

1:00 pm Lunch

Location:
Bain Park Cabin

(Duration: 1 hour)

2:00 pm Review period for judges. Dinner provided during this time period.

Location:
Bain Park Cabin*
*(*this location is subject to change based on judges' needs)*

(Duration: 3 hours)

5:15 pm Transport to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport

(Duration: 20 minutes)

Contacts

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