



Recreation Department  
Annual Report 2011

Sports Events Magazine, a national trade magazine, has chosen Findlay, Ohio as People’s Choice for “Up and Coming” Outstanding Sports Destination in 2011.

Tourism in Findlay/Hancock County also experienced a “record in tourism traffic” in 2011 due in part to the numerous tournaments and events the City’s sporting venues 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 2011 exceeded \$9 million, due to the numerous sporting 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 2011. 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. expense).

**2011 Recreation Full Time Staff:**

**Lu Draper**, Superintendent  
Recreation/Community and Facilities  
**Pat Wright**, Recreation Administrative  
Supervisor

**Mike Gallaher**, Grounds Worker IV/ Facility  
Operation Manager  
**Nicole Flugga**, Activities Coordinator/Programs  
**Dee Yoxthimer**, Clerk  
**Levi Butler**, Activities Coordinartor/Maintenance

**2011 Seasonal Staff CUBE and Diamonds:**

**9- Customer Service Attendants**  
**5- Skate Guards**  
**4- Skate Instructors**

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

**Programs, Services and Facilities**

**Adult Slow Pitch Softball**

For over 26 years, the city has offered a fun and competitive adult slow-pitch softball program. The city provides two sessions each year, spring and fall. The American Softball Association (ASA) sanctioned league hosted 130 teams in 2011, participating in Men’s B, C, D division, Co-Ed B, C, D division and a Women’s Division.

- **Spring and Summer Season** – (82 teams) - 38 men’s teams and 44 co-ed teams
- **Fall Season** (48 teams) - 18 men’s teams, 22 co-ed teams, and 8 women’s teams.

SPRING/SUMMER SEASON		SUMMER LEAGUE'S CHAMPS	FALL SEASON		FALL LEAGUE'S CHAMPS
Division	# of Teams		Division	# of Teams	
Women's	0	N/A	Women's	8	Dark Horse
Men's B Tues	8	TNT/Flippin Jimmy's	Men's B	5	Wesson Family Practice
Men's C Wed	16	S & S Landscape	Men's C	8	Orion Cancer Care
Men's D Thur	14	Norada Lanes	Men's D	5	Sons of Pitches
Co-ed B	15	Millstream Area Credit Union	Co-ed B	7	A J's Heavenly Pizza
Co-ed C	17	Marine Corp / AMVETS	Co-ed C	7	Miller Rigging
Co-ed D	12	The Crew	Co-ed D	8	Wood's Trucking
TOTAL	82*			48	

\*An increase of 15 teams overall!

**Tri-County Umpire Association** –we contract for umpiring services for all adult softball seasons.

**2011 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
Women's Softball	1-Umpire	No Scorekeeper	Total \$23 per game



**“Peep Drop”**

The annual Easter event took on a new, look since the Peep Drop began in 2010. Approximately 3000 children and parents were excited and hopeful to see colorful peeps, each outfitted with their own parachute “exiting” from a helicopter hovering over The Marathon Diamond Fields. Participants greatly enjoyed this exciting event. All enjoyed doughnuts, juice, cotton candy, popcorn, sno-cones, music, contests and games. The arena was filled with giant inflatable climbing toys for additional fun and entertainment.

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



The fifth annual holiday event at the Huntington Bank Arena attracted over 100 children and their parents. They enjoyed ice-skating to Christmas music, decorating ornaments to hang on the tree at center ice, cookies, hot cocoa and especially greeting and skating with Santa.

### First Night Out Celebration

The CUBE once again proved to be a safe haven for our area youth to ring in the New Year! 2011 was over 450 skaters enjoyed our Fourth year for the annual giant CUBE drop in the arena and lobby of balloons. Admission was \$10 per person, which included ice skate rental, five hours of ice-skating, music, games and other festivities.

### Birthday Parties at the CUBE

In 2011, 32 birthday party packages were sold and enjoyed by approximately 480 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 187 rooms in 2011; 54 more than 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 State Plumbing License renewal 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
- Hancock Regional Planning Commission – New Zoning Guidelines Work Session

### Shelter House Rentals at Riverside Park

The Recreation Department continued with the duties of securing shelter house reservations and fee collections in 2011. 299 Shelter houses were reserved in 2011 and over 276 shelters were used by non-profit organizations – which chose the comfort and ambience of Riverside Park, Band Shell, and shelter houses for their fund-raising events.

The Allen P Dudley Memorial Band Shell continued to host Wednesday evening FREE Concerts in the Park during the summer months in cooperation of the City of Findlay, Hancock Park District and local area businesses. Some of our community members use the band shell for their wedding ceremony.

### The CUBE

The CUBE exceeded all expectations during the 2010 – 2011 season – more visitors enjoyed the CUBE's activities both on and off the ice for youth, adults and families. The CUBE now has 2- ice season per year September – March followed by an 8 week summer session in May and June.

Some minor renovations were done in the off-season at the CUBE, including new headers in the underground infrastructure of the arena. The lobby/concession area boasts new rubber flooring, tables, and chairs.

2011 Ice Season kicked off with an "Ignite the ICE" open house in conjunction with FAHA, Silver Blades, Gliding Stars, Findlay High School Varsity and JV Hockey. Free skating and lessons were available, along with informational tables promoting on ice activities, a swap meet and used equipment sale. The event was attended well and will be an annual event to kick off the fall ice season.

### Findlay High School Hockey

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 Holiday Tournament and an Alumni Hockey Game each year in the Huntington Bank Arena at the CUBE.

### Findlay High School Junior Varsity Hockey

A new program for Findlay High School during the 2010-2011 season was a Junior Varsity Hockey Program. An agreement, as above, was instituted for ice usage.

### [Silver Blades Figure Skating Club](#)

Silver Blades Celebrates Its 37th 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. Silver Blades is 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 approximately 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 ISI competition in November. This year's competition hosted 150 skaters from the Tri-State area for the weekend.

### [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!

### [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 two 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.

### [CUBE Thanksgiving Youth Hockey Tournament formerly known as the Donnie Naugle Memorial Tournament](#)

As we know; for 20 years the Donnie Naugle Jr. Memorial Hockey Tournament has been a fixture on the November calendar, and an annual event to highlight the post Thanksgiving weekend at the CUBE. In 2011, this tournament now known as "IGNITE THE ICE" returned as a new event with the Findlay Recreation Department and Findlay Amateur Hockey Association (FAHA) in cooperation with the Hancock County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Ohio Logistics working together to continue to provide an exceptional experience. With 2011 being the debut year the tournament was small in the number of teams, but a huge positive experience for the squirt teams from surrounding communities. One of the welcomed changes included a skills competition for all participants.

### [Findlay's Men's Hockey League](#)

The Findlay Men's Hockey League is a non-profit association that brings together Adult 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 Monday – Friday Mom and Tot

10a-11a

Wednesday mornings are busy with home schooled children and their families

### Adult Only Skate

11a-12p

### Drop In Adult Hockey

12p-1:30p

Hockey enthusiasts from many adult age groups drop in on a regular basis to brush up on their hockey skills

### Weekend Evening Skate Sessions

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

### Weekend 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 includes skate rental.

### Learn to Skate Sessions

WeSkate Learn to Skate program instructed by Skate Pro Shelly Bressler and her coaching staff is always a very popular event at the CUBE. The sessions are created to be affordable for all and a great learning experience for youth and adult alike. Rather, it is recreational skating introduction to figure skating or ice hockey; we tailor the program to the needs of each individual. A Holiday Session was added in 2011 the week between Christmas and New Years and was a very popular session. Free Public Skate immediately following the skate lesson is also included.



## ICE RENTAL RATES 2011

<b>Classification</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
Findlay Amateur Hockey Association	445	Hours per Year
Silver Blades Figure Skating Club	408	Hours per Year
Findlay Men's Hockey League	366	Hours per Year
Findlay High School Varsity Hockey	139 Practice Hours	14 Game Hours
Findlay High School Jr. Varsity Hockey	40 Practice Hours	10 Game Hours
Gliding Stars Findlay Chapter	37.5	Hours per Year
Perrysburg High School	15 Practice Hours	0 Game Hours
Other*	20	* Just Say No, Virtual Academy, Schools, Churches & Clubs
<b>Total</b>	<b>1494.5</b>	<b>Hours per Year</b>

### Off Season Cube Activities

Every event brings a new experience for the CUBE and our community. The CUBE may be hosting a Mixed Martial Arts Contest one weekend, an Ice Skating Extravaganza the next, or a concert for the young and young at heart.

### Some of Our Anchor Dry Floor Events at the CUBE And Park Events

WFIN/WKXA Leisure Living Home Show  
The Arts Partnership Concert Series  
Mixed Martial Arts  
Peep Drop  
Back to School Summer Slam

Flag City Balloonfest @  
Emory Adams Park  
Wine & Arts Festival @  
Riverside Park



### 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 at the Marathon Diamonds. Coaches, teams, and fans enjoy five lighted infields (four skinned, one grass) separate admission gates, built-in bleachers, concessions and exceptional grounds keeping.

### 2011 Highlights at The Marathon Diamonds Include

#### Youth Baseball - Diamond Dawg Travel Teams Home Games and Tournaments

- Flag City Challenge
- Triple Play Challenge
- Baseball Blast

#### Girl's Fast-Pitch Softball Home Games and Tournaments

- Flag City Fire Cracker
- Greg Miller Memorial Tournament
- ASA – U-16 State Softball Tournament

#### Young Miss Softball Association Regular Season games

- All – Star Games
- League Championship Games

#### Baseball Players Association Tournament (BPA)

- Sundown Showdown
- I-75 Tournament

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

District Baseball Tournament

#### Findlay Youth Baseball

- Regular Season Games
- City League Championship tournament
- All-Star Game and Tournament

## University of Findlay

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

### **Other Activities included**

Wolves Baseball Tournament, University of Cincinnati intra-mural tournament, Special Olympics Regional Competition.

### **Nations World Series Ultimate Baseball Tournament**

Forty-three travel baseball teams gathered to represent their community and to play a schedule that included over 100 baseball games from July 15, through July 19, 2011 at Marathon Diamonds. The activities began with the annual parade of teams, followed by a skills contest and players social and pin trading event. Highlights included "Ultimate" youth travel teams from throughout Ohio made up of players aged 11, 12, 13, and 14. 2011 was the second year of Nations in Findlay Ohio, with approximately 75% of teams utilizing area hotel and motel rooms. Area businesses supplied all awards, trophies, and apparel for the tournament.

The Marathon Diamonds is also home to [ASA U-16 Girls STATE Fast Pitch Softball Tournament](#), where 56 of the best teams from throughout our state took the field in Findlay Ohio for this annual event. 2011's roster was the single largest STATE fast pitch tournament in history and the largest event at the Marathon Diamonds.

### **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.

Construction started in the spring of 2011, with anticipation of opening the field in the fall of 2012.

Construction costs for this facility's were provided by private funds. The finished product will be gifted to the City of Findlay.

### **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 lighted soccer fields in concert with 18 auxiliary soccer fields.

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.

The proceeds from the Flag City Classics are shared between Hancock Soccer Association's recreational program, the Findlay Soccer Club travel programs and a portion is donated to the National and International Relief Projects through Rotary.

### **Swale Park**

Due to the relocation of 4 softball fields from Emory Adams Park to Swale Park, the Swale took on a new look and gained new primary users. Young Miss Softball in cooperation with the City of Findlay Parks and Recreation Department gave Swale Park a small over-haul with some much needed clean-up, minor fence repairs, relocation of fences and base anchors, bleachers and dug out repairs which has now created a nice, usable, safe facility for girls slow pitch softball during their regular season and baseball during special tournaments.

### **Facility Inventory**

The City of Findlay has numerous fields and facilities that are utilized by our recreational partners and visitors alike year around. From in-line skate parks, sand volleyball courts, tennis courts, walking tracks, playgrounds, baseball, softball, football and soccer fields to an ice rink and swimming pool – the City of



Findlay's Parks and Recreation has many facilities to be proud of. For a complete listing of parks and facilities visit our website at [www.findlayohio.com](http://www.findlayohio.com)

**Park and Recreation Rules**

"Rules and Regulations Governing the Recreational Use of City Park Properties and Recreation Facilities" are available on the Findlay City website: [www.findlayohio.com](http://www.findlayohio.com); under Recreation.

**Volunteer Organizations**

Hancock Soccer Association	Young Miss Softball	Findlay YMCA T-Ball
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	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 Publishing	WFIN/WKXA	Ice Skating Institute	The University of Findlay Soccer Camp
United Way of Hancock County	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	Ohio Logistics	Lupus Foundation "Walk For Lupus"	March of Dimes "Walk for Healthy Babies"

Respectfully submitted:  
Lu Draper Superintendent,  
Recreation/Facility/Community

*For pricing on facility and field rentals, shelter house information and forms, field permits, special event permits 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.*