



## **Neighbors band together to raise funds for beloved park**

*Grassroots effort needs at least \$20,000 for new playground at Reeder Park*

Nestled in the family-friendly Villages of Miami neighborhood in Miami Township, Reeder Park is a hidden gem in need of repair. Freshly cut grass attracts playful children and their families, but an aging playground sits fading in the bright sunshine that often leaves visitors wanting for shade. What remains of a sand box is barely useable, while a jungle gym swing and merry-go-round are long dismantled. But, a



determined group of neighbors are working to bring their beloved park back to life.

A neighborhood advisory council is raising funds for the Reeder Park Fund project. With a minimum of \$20,000 needed, \$2,685 has been raised so far toward the installation of new playground equipment and some type of cover that can provide a little shade.

“The neighbors are sad that the kids no longer have a swing or merry-go-round,” Ramona Dishman, Villages of Miami resident, said. “I can’t wait to see the neighborhood children’s smiling faces out here again.”

Revenue streams for township parks across Ohio have long been drying up, but the township successfully secured \$80,000 in alternative funding for park improvements in 2017. The amount is expected to increase by \$5,000 per year over the next ten years. Some of that money has already been spent to demolish old tennis courts and renovate the ball diamonds at Miami View Park. It will also help pay for upgrades to access driveways and parking lots, among other projects within the township’s nine parks.

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“The board has made the township park system and finding ways to fund them, a priority in the strategic plan. We understand that it is crucial for residents to have a place to relax and enjoy the outdoors with their families,” Andrew Papanek, board president, said.

The township has renovated an old trash can and a picnic table, and provided a second picnic table to Reeder Park. The Dayton Foundation and the Miami Township Public Works Department are working as advisors to the council. A \$500 corporate donation from Waste Management, \$500 matching donation from a neighbor, and \$1,020 raised during National Night Out activities have certainly helped sweeten the pot.



“At this rate, we hope to have enough funds by early 2018 to replace the playground equipment and create some much-needed shade,” Dishman said.

A donation fund has been set up through The Dayton Foundation. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation by check, please make it payable to “The Dayton Foundation for the Reeder Park Fund” and send to: The Dayton Foundation, 40 N. Main St., Suite 500, Dayton, OH, 45423, or visit [www.daytonfoundation.org](http://www.daytonfoundation.org) to donate by credit card.

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