



Ohio City Incorporated's Near West Recreation Program Scope of Work

Accomplished Work (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026):

Annual Summary (as of 5/1/2026. Can provide updates at the end of the year on 6/30/2026):

- Youth Participants: 1,104 (on track for 1,500)
- Youth Sessions (Practices, Games, Classes, Series): 1,043 (on track for 1,400)
- Volunteer Coaches: 157 (on track for 200)
- Sports Programs & Activities: 7 (on track for 12)
- Special Sports/Community Events: 11 (on track for 15)

Program: Learn to Play – Tennis

Overview: We offered a 5-week introductory clinic (July/August) using fun games and drills to teach tennis fundamentals at Jefferson Park.

Participation & Impact:

- Number of kids served: 26
- Number of sessions: 10
- Volunteer coaches: 4
- Participants were offered a free opportunity to attend Tennis in the Land. We had 5 families attend.

Program: Summer Camps

Overview: We partnered with JumpStart Sports to host two full weeks of summer camp at City Life Center. Each week had a different theme, but overall both camps focused on physical activity, sportsmanship, and teamwork. This provided a much needed late summer camp gap needed for families on the Near West Side

Participation & Impact:

- Projected number of kids served: 27
- Projected Total Number of Days: 10 (2 full weeks)

Program: Soccer

Overview: Our youth soccer league featured five coed divisions this season: U5, U7, U9, U12, and U15. This streamlined structure reflects a slight adjustment from previous years and was

designed to create more balanced competition while ensuring equitable playing time across teams.

The season ran from August 18 through October 18. Each team practiced at least once per week and competed in Saturday games beginning the weekend after Labor Day. The U9, U12, and U15 divisions each had the opportunity to play at least one weeknight game under the lights at Brookside, and the U12 and U15 divisions concluded the season with playoffs.

We continued to prioritize youth leadership development by rehiring many of our experienced high school-aged soccer officials and recruiting and training several new teen referees. In total, six former NWR participants served as referees this season, gaining valuable work experience while giving back to the league.

The league also remained committed to expanding access to youth who may not otherwise have opportunities to participate. We welcomed two U15 teams from Resource Cleveland, an organization that serves refugee youth, and partnered with a local school to field U7 and U9 teams, helping ensure underserved students could take part in the league.

This season also included a meaningful moment for our community. One of our long-time coaches and supporters, Coach Haggerty, passed away in late 2024 shortly after the conclusion of the season. In 2025, we held a special ceremony with his family and dedicated the season in his honor. The U15 division will now be known as the U15 Coach Haggerty Division. To continue his legacy, we also established the Coach Haggerty Enrichment Fund, which provides NWR U15 players with opportunities to continue playing soccer during the winter and spring seasons. So far, four teens have received scholarships through this fund.

Participation & Impact

- Number of kids served: 522 kids (boys and girls ages 4-15)
- Number of Teams: 36 Teams
- Number of practices and games: 324 practices and 144 games. Total 468.
- Number of Volunteer Coaches: 74 coaches

Program: Learn to Play – Family Yoga

Overview: In partnership with Little Zen Yoga, we offered mindfulness-based yoga for children (ages 4–9) and their families during October and November.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Number of Kids Served: 11
- Projected Number of Families Served: 6
- Projected Number of Sessions: 5

Program: Volleyball

Near West Recreation offered two coed youth volleyball divisions—Junior Division and Senior Division—along with a Learn to Play Series designed for younger athletes ages 7–10.

The 2025 volleyball season ran from October 13 through December 11, with teams practicing and/or playing games twice each week. Both divisions concluded the season with playoffs. Following each division's championship match, all teams were invited to take part in our annual Blacklight Volleyball Night, featuring round-robin games under blacklights and culminating in a

fun, community-centered Kids vs. Coaches/Parents match during our Blacklight Volleyball Party.

Our Learn to Play Series ran for five weeks in November and December, focusing on skill-building and teaching the fundamentals of volleyball through fun, engaging drills. No games were played during this introductory program, allowing young athletes to build confidence and technique in a supportive setting.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Number of Kids Served: 173
- Number of Teams: 13
- Number of Practices & Games: 130 practices + 53 games. 183 total
- Number of Volunteer Coaches: 24

Program: Basketball

Overview:

Near West Recreation's youth basketball league featured five divisions this season:

- **Coed Divisions:** U8, U10, and U12
- **Single-Gender Divisions:** U15 Girls and U15 Boys

To promote equity in playing time and create appropriate skill matchups, we initially planned to divide both the U10 and U12 divisions into Recreation and Competitive brackets. While registration numbers did not allow us to split the U12 division, we were able to offer both U10 Recreation and U10 Competitive divisions. This structure helps ensure players of all skill levels have a meaningful experience while also providing an affordable alternative to club or AAU basketball for families seeking higher levels of competition.

The season is currently underway, running from January 19 through March 21. Teams in the U8, U10, and U12 divisions practiced once per week and played games on Saturdays throughout February and March. The U12 division will conclude with playoffs the week of March 16, and all teams will play a seeded final game on March 21.

The U15 Boys division practiced once per week and held games on Mondays and Wednesdays during February and March. Their season will also conclude with playoffs during the week of March 16.

The U15 Girls division was restructured this season into a Girls Night program for players ages 12–15. Participants met on Wednesdays, with the first four weeks focused on skill development and the final four weeks dedicated to skill competitions and games.

Participation & Impact:

- Number of Kids Served: 345
- Number of Teams: 30 Teams
- Number of Practices & Games: 248 Practices + 119 Games = 367 Total
- Number Volunteer Coaches: 55 Coaches

Program: Learn to Play – Lacrosse

Overview: Our lacrosse program will run March 31 – April 30. We hosted a six week session for ages 7 to 12. Participants learned the fundamentals of lacrosse and end up playing 3v3 and

4v4 games toward the end of the series. Each participant was given a lacrosse stick to encourage play after the series.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Number of Kids Served: 15
- Number of Sessions: 6
- Projected Number of Volunteer Coaches: 3

Program: Learn to Play – Squash (Currently Working with Urban Squash Cleveland to Schedule Program)

Overview: The squash program typically takes place in April and May but will move to August/September to better align with their youth program that starts in September. This change, will give kids the opportunity to participate in the Learn to Play series to then tryout and be apart of the team and after-school program at Urban Squash Cleveland.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Projected Number of Kids Served: 15 (ages 7-12)
- Projected Number of Sessions: 5
- Projected Number of Volunteer Coaches: 2

Program: Track (Begins April 20)

Overview: The track season will run from April 20 to June 24 with practices taking place twice a week. Athletes will train in long-jump, turbo javelin, shot put, sprints, and relays. We plan for the team to participate in two intra-squad meets and two to three away meets with other track organizations.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Number of Kids Serving: 55 (ages 7-14)
- Projected Number of Practices & Meets: 18 practices + 4 meets = 22 sessions
- Number of Volunteer Coaches: 6

Program: Baseball & Softball(Begins May 4. Season will run into new fiscal year)

Overview: The season will run from May 4 to July 25. Tee-ball, coach pitch, and 12U baseball teams will practice once weekly and play Saturday games, with weeknight games added in July. Softball and 15U baseball teams will practice once a week and play weeknight games with partner leagues. To encourage community building, we will host a big Opening Day and End of Season cookout along with Ice Cream family day in the middle of the season.

We were also able to add pitching clinic series to help our 12u and 15u baseball players prepare for the season. Twenty baseball players are participating in this series.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Number of Kids Serving: 350(ages 4-15)
- Number of Teams: 26
- Projected Number of Practices & Games: 250 practices + 126 games = 376 sessions
- Volunteer Coaches: 65

Program: Community Classes, Events & Other Activities

In addition to our core leagues and Learn to Play programs, Near West Recreation is committed to offering a wide range of community-focused events and classes designed to strengthen neighborhood connections, create family-friendly experiences, and promote wellness for all ages. These efforts provide valuable touchpoints for families who may not participate in traditional sports programs but still want to engage with their community.

Special Programming & Events:

- **North Coast Yard – Second Saturdays:**

Near West Recreation hosted a soccer activity during the July 12 Second Saturdays event at North Coast Yard.

- **NWR Day with the Lake Erie Crushers:**

On July 27, more than 43 NWR youth and parents attended a special day at the ballpark for NWR families.

- **Tennis in the Land:**

Five NWR families attended the professional tennis event on August 16, giving youth participants a unique opportunity to watch the sport played at a high level.

- **PlayBall CLE Day with the Cleveland Guardians:**

More than 300 tickets were distributed to NWR baseball and softball players and their families to attend the August 31 Guardians game.

- **NWR Charge Nights:**

We hosted an NWR Charge Night on December 13, with over 35 youth and adults attending the game and participating in the on-court big flag experience. Additionally, we provided 50 tickets to families for the November 22 game and 100 tickets for the March 8 game.

- **Lake Erie Monsters Game:**

We provided 35 youth and family members with tickets to attend a Lake Erie Monsters game on November 8. For many of the youth, it was their first time attending a hockey game.

- **NWR Cavaliers Night:**

Near West Recreation hosted an NWR Cavs Night on Sunday, April 5. Selected youth participants had the opportunity to participate in the Cavs Cheer Tunnel before the game. Over 90 youth and parents attended.

- **Spring Jam Spring Break Camp:**

OCI lead a Spring Break camp for 15 CMHA students, featuring a mix of STEAM activities, arts and crafts, physical fitness, neighborhood pride activities, and two field trips during CMSD spring break.

- **Holiday Celebrations:**

More than 450 youth and family members participated in our annual Neighborhood Halloween Fall Walk (October 24) and holiday partner events including The Nutcracker (December 5), Deck the Halls (December 19), and Ohio City Easter Egg Hunt (April 4).

- **Ohio City Kid Fest (May 16):**

We will host our first annual Ohio City Kid Fest, a free summer kickoff event featuring games,

activities, and more than 15 community organizations connecting families with summer and early fall programs.

• **North Coast Yard/Cleveland Soccer Foundation - 2026 Youth Soccer World Cup Tournament:**

Near West Recreation will have a team in the 4v4 U14 soccer tournament being hosted on Friday, June 12

• **School Support Events (Back-to-School & End-of-Year):**

NWR works with local schools and community partners to support end-of-year and back-to-school events. As of May, we have attended four events and plan to participate in at least one additional events before the end of the fiscal year.

Program Expansion Update: Family Activities, Community Classes, and Senior (55+) Programming

While we initially planned to pilot several new programs in FY2026—including Family Activity Nights, Community Classes, and Senior (55+) activities—we will not be able to implement these programs as originally scheduled. However, we have made meaningful progress toward launching these initiatives in the next fiscal year.

Over the past several months, we conducted a community survey to better understand the interests and needs of families in our network. The response was extremely strong, with over 4,000 votes submitted across a range of potential programs and activities. This feedback is helping us prioritize which offerings would have the greatest impact.

Based on the survey results, we have begun identifying and connecting with potential instructors and program leaders who could support these initiatives. Throughout the spring and early summer, our team will focus on planning and partnership development so that we are well positioned to launch these programs in FY2026–2027.

Proposed Work (July 2026– June 2027):

Quick Annual Projection Summary

- Youth Participants: 1,500
- Youth Sessions (Practices, Games, Classes, Series): 1,500
- Volunteer Coaches: 225
- Sports Programs & Activities: 14
- Special Sports/Community Events: 25
- Adult/Senior Participants: 75
- Adult Sessions (Series, Class): 15

Program: Learn to Play – Tennis

Overview: A 5-week introductory clinic using fun games and drills to teach tennis fundamentals taking place in July/August.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Projected number of kids served: 25
- Projected total number of sessions: 10
- Projected volunteer coaches: 3
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Program: Summer Camps

Overview: Building on the success of last year's camp, Near West Recreation will again partner with JumpStart Sports to host three full weeks of summer camp. Two weeks will focus on general physical activity, sportsmanship, and teamwork through a variety of games and activities, while the third week will feature a soccer-focused camp. These camps help fill an important gap at the end of the summer, a need frequently expressed by families in our community.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Projected number of kids served: 35
- Projected Total Number of Days: 15 (3 full weeks)

Program: Learn to Play – Squash

Overview: In partnership with Urban Squash Cleveland (USC), the squash program will take place in August and September. Kids will be introduced to the sport and have game like matches towards the end of the series. We have pushed this series to more closely align with USC program schedule. This will give kids more opportunity to participate in squash after the series.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Projected Number of Kids Served: 15 (ages 7-12)
- Projected Number of Sessions: 5
- Projected Number of Volunteer Coaches: 2

Program: Soccer

Overview: We will offer five coed divisions in our youth soccer league: U5, U7, U9, U12, and U15.

Each team will have one scheduled practice per week and compete in weekly Saturday games beginning after Labor Day. Players in U9, U12, and U15 divisions will also have the opportunity to participate in at least one night game under the lights at Brookside Reservation. The season will culminate with playoffs and/or a tournament for the U12 and U15 age groups.

We aim to rehire many of our experienced high school-aged soccer officials and will recruit and train 2–3 new teen referees this season, reinforcing our commitment to youth leadership development.

In addition, we plan to host at least two teams from Resource Cleveland (serving refugee youth) and may partner with up to two additional community organizations to provide league access for underserved students.

We plan to give out 3-4 Coach Haggerty Enrichment Funds for soccer players in our U15 division to seek other soccer opportunities in honor of the late Coach Haggerty.

Projected Participation & Impact

- Projected number of kids served: 475+ kids (boys and girls ages 4-15)
- Projected Number of Teams: 35+ Teams
- Projected number of practices and games: 300 practices and 155 games. Total 455
- Projected Number of Volunteer Coaches: 70+ coaches

Program: Learn to Play – Family Yoga

Overview: In partnership with Little Zen Yoga, Near West Recreation will offer two mindfulness-based family yoga series: one for children ages 3–6 and their caregivers, and another for children ages 7–12 and their families. These sessions will focus on movement, mindfulness, and relaxation in a fun, welcoming environment that encourages families to practice wellness together.

We are also exploring the possibility of adding a teen and young adult yoga series, based on interest. Before launching this option, we plan to survey participating families to better understand demand and ensure the program meets community needs.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Projected Number of Kids Served: 20
- Projected Number of Families Served: 8
- Projected Number of Sessions: 10

Program: Volleyball

Overview: Near West Recreation will offer three coed youth volleyball divisions in 2026—Beginner, Junior, and Senior—along with a Learn to Play Series designed for younger players ages 7–10. In previous seasons we offered only two divisions, but due to growing participation over the past two years, we are adding a third division to better group players by age and skill level. This adjustment will create more balanced teams and a more positive experience for all participants.

The 2026 season will run from October 12 to December 11, with teams practicing and/or playing games twice per week.

To close out the season, the Beginner Division will participate in a Blacklight Round Robin event, while the Junior and Senior Divisions will compete in a season-ending playoff tournament. The season will conclude with our annual Blacklight Volleyball Party, featuring a fun and community-focused Kids vs. Coaches/Parents match.

Our Learn to Play Series will run for five weeks in November and December, focusing on skill development and introducing the fundamentals of volleyball through fun and engaging drills. No games will be played during this introductory program, allowing young athletes to build confidence and develop their skills in a supportive, low-pressure environment.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Projected Number of Kids Served: 135+
- Projected Number of Teams: 12
- Projected Number of Practices & Games: 120 practices + 50 games = 170 sessions
- Projected Number of Volunteer Coaches: 20

Program: Basketball

Overview: Near West Recreation will offer a dynamic youth basketball program featuring five divisions:

- Coed Divisions: U8, U10, and U12
- Single-Gender Divisions: U15 Girls and U15 Boys

To promote equitable playing time and better skill matchups, both the U10 and U12 divisions will be divided into Recreation and Competitive brackets. This structure ensures players of all ability levels have a meaningful experience while also providing an affordable alternative to club or AAU basketball for families seeking a higher level of competition.

The 2027 season will run from January 18 to March 20. Most teams will practice once per week and play games on Saturdays, while the U15 Girls and U15 Boys divisions will play weeknight games. The season will conclude with playoff and championship tournaments for the U12 and U15 divisions.

The U15 Girls division will be structured similarly to our Learn to Play model, with a strong emphasis on skill development, confidence-building, and girls' empowerment. We plan to partner with Resource Cleveland to create a unique and supportive basketball experience for pre-teen and early teen girls.

If gym space and interest allow, we will also offer a six-week high school open run series. Many teen boys in our neighborhood enjoy basketball but may not make their high school teams. This open run will provide a safe and welcoming space for teens to stay active, build skills, and continue playing the game they love

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Projected Number of Kids Served: 330 (ages 7-17)
- Projected Number of Teams: 30
- Projected Number of Practices & Games: 270 practices + 135 games = 405 sessions
- Projected Number Volunteer Coaches: 60+

Program: Learn to Play – Lacrosse

Overview: Our lacrosse program will run in April and May. We will host two sessions – U9 and U12. Participants will learn fundamentals of lacrosse and end up playing 3v3 and 4v4 games toward the end of the series.

We are also exploring the possibility of adding a U7 session, based on interest and new types of lacrosse sticks that support younger athletes. Before launching this option, we plan to survey participating families to better understand demand and ensure the program meets community needs.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Projected Number of Kids Served: 40 (ages 7-12)
- Projected Number of Sessions: 10
- Projected Number of Volunteer Coaches: 3

Program: Track

Overview: The track season will run from April to June with practices taking place twice a

week. Athletes will train in long jump, turbo javelin, shot put, sprints, and relays. We plan for the team to participate in two intra-squad meet and two to three away meets with other track organizations.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Projected Number of Kids Served: 45 (ages 7-14)
- Projected Number of Practices & Meets: 20 practices + 4 meets = 24 sessions
- Projected Number of Volunteer Coaches: 6

Program: Baseball & Softball

Overview: In 2027, Near West Recreation will offer four baseball divisions and two softball divisions, with an updated structure designed to better align players by age and skill level. Similar to the division refinements we made in our basketball and volleyball programs, this approach helps create more balanced teams and a more positive experience for all participants.

A new Coach Pitch / Kid Pitch hybrid division will be introduced to help bridge the gap between beginner coach-pitch play and traditional kid-pitch baseball. This division will give advanced coach-pitch players an opportunity to gradually transition to kid-pitch while also allowing newer players to develop their skills before moving fully into the kid-pitch level.

Proposed Division Structure:

- Coed Tee-Ball (ages 4–6)
- Coed Coach Pitch (ages 6–8)
- Coed Coach Pitch / Kid Pitch Hybrid (ages 8–10)
- Coed 12U Baseball (ages 10–12)
- 12U Softball – Girls Only (ages 10–12)
- 15U Softball – Girls Only (ages 13–15)
- 15U Baseball (ages 13–15)

The season will run from early May through the end of July. Tee-ball, Coach Pitch, the Hybrid division, and 12U baseball teams will practice once per week and play games on Saturdays, with some weeknight games added in July. Softball and 15U baseball teams will practice once per week and compete in weeknight games with partner leagues.

To strengthen community connections among families, we will host a large Opening Day celebration, a mid-season Ice Cream Family Day, and an End-of-Season cookout to celebrate the players and the season.

Projected Participation & Impact:

- Kids Served: 350(ages 4-15)
- Teams: 25
- Total Practices & Games: 250 practices + 126 games = 376 sessions
- Volunteer Coaches: 65

Program Expansion: Family Activities, Community Classes, and Senior (55+) Programming

Family Activity Nights (Planned for FY2027)

Based on strong community interest, we plan to introduce several themed family events such as Parent's Night Out, Community Dances, and other evening activities that provide affordable, welcoming opportunities for families to gather and connect.

Community Classes (Planned 2027)

We are exploring a variety of new class series for youth and families—including art, fitness, cooking, and creative movement—to expand Near West Recreation's non-sport programming.

Senior (55+) Activities (Planning Phase)

Historically, Near West Recreation has focused primarily on youth and family programming. As part of our long-term vision of becoming a more intergenerational community recreation hub, we are beginning to explore opportunities to serve older adults in the neighborhood.

In the coming months we will:

- Continue outreach and conversations with potential partners and instructors
- Identify priority activities based on survey feedback
- Develop pilot program models for activities such as pickleball, chair yoga, bingo, and Zumba

This planning phase will allow us to thoughtfully design programs that reflect community interest and ensure we have the right instructors and structure in place before launching these new initiatives

Special Programming & Events for FY2027:

Near West Recreation will continue to offer a variety of special programs and events that bring families together and expand opportunities for neighborhood youth. The activities listed below represent our current plans for FY2027; however, we remain flexible and will pursue additional opportunities that benefit our families when they arise. In addition to these events, we share a bi-weekly newsletter with our network highlighting affordable local programs, community events, and family resources.

- **NWR Family Sports Nights**
We will continue creating opportunities for youth and families to attend live sporting events and experience Cleveland's vibrant sports culture. Current partners include the Cleveland Guardians, Cleveland Cavaliers, Cleveland Charge, Lake Erie Monsters, and Lake Erie Crushers, and we will explore new partnerships with organizations such as the Cleveland Crunch, Mid-American Conference (MAC), and the Cleveland Sports Commission.
- **Holiday Celebrations**
We will continue hosting beloved community traditions, including our Halloween Bash, Holiday celebrations, and Easter Egg Hunt—free and inclusive events designed to bring families together and strengthen neighborhood connections. We plan to serve over 500 kids and families between these multiple holiday events.
- **School Support Events (Back-to-School & End-of-Year)**
Near West Recreation will continue partnering with local schools and community

organizations to support back-to-school and end-of-year celebrations that connect families with resources and celebrate student success.

- **Family Movie Nights (September Friday Nights)**

As part of Ohio City Incorporated's commitment to family-friendly programming, we will host a Friday evening outdoor movie series at Novak Park in September, featuring family activities and games prior to each movie.

- **Spring Jam Spring Break Camp (CMSD Spring Break Week)**

We will lead a Spring Break camp for 20 CMHA students, featuring STEAM activities, arts and crafts, physical fitness, neighborhood pride activities, and two field trips.

- **Ohio City Kid Fest (Mid-May)**

We will host our second annual Ohio City Kid Fest, a free summer kickoff event featuring games, hands-on activities, and participation from 10+ community organizations connecting families with summer and early fall programs and resources.