

City of Pataskala Parks and Recreation Department Council Report

Lenier Crawford, Parks Manager

Pool News: The new pool hours are in effect and have generally been accepted by the patrons that have annual memberships. The Administration will continue to evaluate situations on a case-by-case basis should someone ask for a different solution than the one offered by the city.

Foundation Park: Athletic Field Development Project: Preliminary planning for the future of our parks and recreation program growth. Parking will be included in the plan as well.

- Currently in our unfunded CIP we have athletic field improvements. We are in the process of obtaining a feasibility study for Foundation Parks open space to add additional fields to help with our existing programs (Soccer) and will be a resource for other leagues within the community who need open athletic field space for practices and games. In the month of August, I will be bringing to council a feasibility study which will outline the core services for our maintenance department and the associated cost to operate our existing programs and maintain a level of aesthetics which is expected in our community. We will then compare to the greenspace being proposed for additional athletic all-purpose fields.

Citizens Park planning: The goal this year is to apply for a nature works grant for Citizens Park. We are currently waiting on a site plan from Midstate Recreation. The nature works grant does carry a 25% match requirement from the city. The goal would be to apply for improvements two years in a row. This year's grant would mostly be allocated for engineering. This grant application is now due July 15th.

- When finished the project will include:
 - Add/Upgrade Parking lot on site
 - Add caged basketball court
 - Add an aggregate walking path around the perimeter of the park and connect to Faith Ann (Taylor Rd)
 - Grade field area to add greenspace so that its usable space for the West Side of Pataskala. Athletic Fields

Licking Park District: The Administration and the Mayor met with the Licking County Park District on July 22, 2022. We discussed a possible collaboration on a dog park and brainstormed about other projects and funding coming from the Park District to Pataskala. On a side note, the Director of the LCPD, Richard Waugh, has resigned effective September 2022. No word yet on who his replacement will be.

Parks and Recreation News/ New Updates: Licking Memorial will be using our facilities for Walk with a Doc program on July 30, 2022. The event will take place at Karr Park.