

City of Pataskala Parks and Recreation Department Council Report

Lenier Crawford, Parks Manager

Administrative

- **Foundation Park: Athletic Field Development Project:** Preliminary planning for the future of our parks and recreation program growth. Additional parking will be included in the plan as well for this facility improvement.
 - 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. The Pataskala Extreme Club soccer program is willing to help partner to make this phased project a success. Discussions are in their infancy currently, but the thought is there from Leo Haley (Club Director). The youth soccer program (Recreation) has seen over 1000 total registrations in 2022. He is willing to help with fundraising to offset cost and investing into the project.
- **Citizens Park planning:** August 16th parks board meeting was held in Citizens Park. We had 3 families in attendance that live in the Glenbrooke subdivision. During our meeting two families had concerns with adding a larger parking lot near their home. None of the plans for the location of future amenities are set in stone which will allow for the department to evaluate the best option that will benefit park users and the residents who live in the neighborhood.
 - Nature Works Grant was submitted in July for Citizens Park improvements. 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 in 2022 and 2023. This year's grant would mostly be allocated for engineering.
 - 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:** After discussion at the 8/1/2022 council meeting, the parks manager met with the Parks Board to discuss options at Freedom Park. I have contacted the district via telephone and email to discuss changing the scope of the project partnership. We have decided the following:
 - **Freedom Park Walking Path-** ~2700 linear ft of aggregate path within the park
 - This topic may be discussed by the district at their next September meeting. The district now has a new parks director. With the transition we will most likely see a visit from him in the near future.

Park Project completed:

- Freedom Park: Trees trimmed and large islands facing Taylor Rd have been manicured.
- Municipal Park: Ball diamond has been dragged weekly and we will maintain this standard
 - Dugout construction and base installation project planning is in process. Hoping to start this project in mid-late September as a part of our 2022 CIP
- Material Bay installation at Foundation Park maintenance garage area.
 - Prepping our maintenance building to add bin blocks for materials. We will install a 20x20 concrete pad to hold our mulch, dirt and other materials as a part of this 2022 CIP project.
- Volunteer Park: Fence Project ahead as Leads starts preschool soon and we have several fence rails and post that have been damaged. Fence has been installed for the Leads Center.
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Parks and Recreation News/ New Updates:

- News:
 - Soccer Season started August 27th
 - Pool Last Day: September 5th Labor Day
 - Operating Hours: 12p-7pm
 - September 10th Pace with Passion 5K race.
 - This event was a reschedule from the May event that was rained out.