

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 youth soccer program (Recreation) has seen over 1000 total registrations in 2022.
 - **Citizens Park planning:** At the last council meeting several residents spoke regarding the proposed Citizens Park Improvements. We are taking concerns seriously as it relates to size of the parking and specific location of each proposed amenity. Phase one of the grant proposal was to do drainage work and a large parking lot. If council's pleasure is to change the scope, the submitted grant application will need to be amended. To do this the parks department would need to reach out to the ODNR grants coordinator. None of the plans for the location of future amenities are set in stone which will allow the parks department to evaluate the best options for placement. The administrations position is that the amenities would be an upgrade to the park and should be pursued.
 - 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:**
 - **Freedom Park Walking Path-** ~2700-2900 linear ft of aggregate path within the park.
 - This topic will be discussed by the district at their next September meeting. The project cost is \$50,000 and Pataskala is requesting 50% from Licking Park District.
 - We had the pleasure to meet the new Parks Director Kyle Lund on September 7th. We spoke of the proposed changes for the path and future cooperative ventures. Richard Waugh is officially no longer with the district.

Park Project completed:

- Foundation Park parking lot on North end of the facility has been double chip and sealed
- Municipal Park: Ball diamond has been dragged weekly and we will maintain this standard
 - Dugout construction and base installation project is scheduled for this Fall. Material have been ordered. Once materials have been delivered the contractor will begin project. Estimated time of completion in 2nd week of October. Project is proposed to take 5 full days once started.
- Material bay structure at Foundation Park maintenance garage area.
 - Storage bay structure materials will be ordered in October. Estimated completion of this project is the end of October.
- Removed a tree from Muddy Fork: Prep for River Round Up

Parks and Recreation News/ New Updates:

Esports:

- Licking Heights is interested in using the Computer Lab. They are in the process of investigating how to start a high school esports program. As a reminder we have a total of 8 gaming computers. See attached draft ideas for Esports future. Fee schedule amendments coming.
- The Licking County Developmental Disabilities donated 4 gaming controllers in July to the City of Pataskala.

Aquatics:

- New lifeguard class will be advertised in late September. This course will be a hybrid course.
- We are seeking to begin hiring for the 2023 season starting in November 2023. Lifeguard training is a long-term commitment and requires skills training in the off season for greater retention of information. Our lifeguard training requires 4 hours per month. Pool operations and first aid/cpr are revisited often.