



Parks

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Lenier A. Crawford
Parks Manager

City of Pataskala Parks and Recreation Department Council Report

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide quality programming that's inclusive to all residents in our community by offering sports, health and wellness opportunities as well as giving the community options to take advantage of our open spaces.

Administrative

- **Ordinance 2022-4433 Amending Municipal Fee Schedule Section D (Parks and Recreation)**
 - *This ordinance will adjust the fees for recreation programs offered by the city. Over the last year, the department identified several services/recreational items absent from the current fee schedule. The Exhibit A provided (as the attachment) has all proposed changes of added and updated items highlighted in yellow. Fees for the youth soccer league and the adult softball team fees were planned increases for the 2022 program year so those two are the only “adjustments”. All other yellow highlighted items are additions to the fee schedule*
- **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.
 - Due the cost of the full project we are considering the option to engineer in 2023 for additional parking on the property then use the \$100,000 which is currently budgeted for the 2024 year for parking lot improvements. Cost of the parking based on the engineer's estimate is **Parking Lots: \$71,137**. This cost estimate for the parking lot proposed is not enough parking. Come January late or in February we will have several exhibits with parking lot options within the park to show council and to gather feedback.
 - With the \$100,000 budgeted in 2024 we believe it should be invested in additional parking within Foundation Park.
 - Phase 1: Parking Expansion 2023/2024 (10,000 in 2023 and 100,000 in 2024)



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Licking Park District:

Freedom Park Walking Path- ~2700-2900 linear ft of aggregate path within the park. Please see attached project review regarding this project

- The engineers project cost is estimated to cost \$73,007 and Pataskala is requesting 50% from Licking Park District. This was approved by the LPD for 2023.
- *Seeking to put project out to Bid by February 1st*
- *Working with Verdantas to do the following:*
- *Project: Walking path with a alternate bid to include the parking lot expansion*

Park Projects completed/to be completed:

- Material bay structure at Foundation Park maintenance garage area completed. Seeking to add concrete to at least 2 of the bays in 2023 for materials such as mulch/topsoil/ball field mix for top dressing soccer/ball fields
- We are maintaining all asphalt paths within the parks through the winter months

Parks and Recreation News/ New Updates:

- LH has circulated a survey and has nearly 100 students interested in joining an esports league/club. The school would use/rent our facility for there said program. This is all still in the planning stage and no action has taken place on this. As of right now they intend to use the facility come Fall of 2023.
- The department will ask SWL/LH parks advisory board reps to attend a school board meeting promoting the idea of their schools forming a high school Esports club while using our computer lab and online platforms. 2-3 days per week using a school representative during the school year and potentially during the summer months.

Aquatics:

Columbus Pool Management Group:

- At the October Finance Committee, the committee wanted the department to seek options of outside businesses/organization to operate the aquatic facility. As a result, the parks department had a meeting with The Pool Management Group Thursday November 17th to investigate the option. We are going through some due diligence to learn about the business and then will report to you at the 2nd meetings in January 2023 for a full conversation with council regarding pool operations and its future.
- The information we are gathering from the pool company are below:
 - Turnkey Operations
 - Lifeguards for all operations: Open Public Swim, Swim Team, Parties, concessions
 - Contractual Services Quote/Contract



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Aquatic Hiring Process

- *A PBR meeting is being schedule for January 4th to approve current job application for the aquatic operations.*
- *While we are looking at other pool mgt options, we are still going through the hiring process to ensure that we stay on schedule. The goal is to hire/onboard as many our previous staff early in the year to allow for training to begin in March 2023*
- *Once we have enough employee to cover the programs, we are wanting to offer for the residents then the department will stop recruiting.*
- *While we are looking at a company to take over the aquatics (pool) operations we are still actively seeking lifeguards for the upcoming year. This will allow us to move forward if we keep the aquatics program. It will/can also be used as contacts for the new company should we decide to go that route*