



Parks

—
Lenier A. Crawford
Parks Manager

City of Pataskala Parks and Recreation Department Council Report

**New to 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*
- The computer lab/esports room will be added to the fee schedule in the fashion of a facility rental. We would then seek outside organizations to use our facility for classes, clubs and more. The goal is to begin marketing the facility to chamber members, local school and other organizations that could benefit from the partnership between Tech r2 and Keytel.

- **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. See attached images of proposed parking and new fields proposed as a part of the 2023/2024 budget cycle.

- 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 improvements. Cost of the parking based on the engineer's estimate is **Parking Lots: \$71,137.**



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- 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)
 - *Working with engineers to maximize parking lot expansion project within Foundation Park. Seeking councils input as additional parking is added and the road through the park will also need attention.*
- **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 project cost is \$50,000 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*

Park Projects completed/to be completed:

- Material bay structure at Foundation Park maintenance garage area.
 - *Storage bay structure materials has been delivered as of Wednesday November 16th. Estimated completion of this project is end November. The same contractor working on park dugouts will be used to construct our material bay structure. In this structure we will have storage space for lumber, soccer goals, equipment attachment and raw materials such as rock and soil for athletic field maintenance.*



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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/club. As a reminder we have a total of 8 gaming computers
- 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.
- 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 1st and 2nd meetings in January 2023.*
- *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

- Renewal lifeguard class will take place in December 13th-15th at our police station. Have received over 10 applications for the 2023 season. A PBR meeting is being 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.
- *Attended Licking Heights High School on November 17th to recruit for the aquatic positions currently open. The department received many applications that will be reviewed by PBR in December.*