

City of Pataskala Parks and Recreation Department Council Report

Lenier Crawford, Parks Manager

Administrative

- **Parks Advisory Board meetings being held in park in 2022**
- **Project updates**
 - **Aeration of Ponds:** Installation of the aeration system at Liberty Park is done and working great
 - Liberty Park is the only pond we will be completing this summer. Citizens Park will be delayed until construction can be completed on a new headwall (also this summer) (Public SERVICE)
- **Pool Season is here:** Still waiting on thermal overloads. We have seen great response this year with membership thus far and swim lessons.
 - **Pool news:** Here within a week or two the aquatic facility will not have water due to the Utility water project nearby. We are considering closing for the two days. More information to come (Utilities Director)
- **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. We are working with Verdantas to obtain a site image of the site work. This feasibility study will be completed by September 2022 to ensure that parks department can potentially apply for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (ODNR) This is a 50% match grant for the development and rehabilitation of recreation areas. We are also considering other alternative means of funding a project to this capacity. See attached draft exhibit.
- **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: Working with the Director to meet regarding the LPD Governmental Partnership Program that begins in 2023. We are considering a project within Freedom Park. Extending the parking and a potential for a small dog park on site.

Parks and Recreation News/ New Updates:

- News:
 - **Pool Recruiting to cover operating hours continues. We have plenty of employees but due to vacations and summer activities for most of the staff we are still recruiting to help cover gaps. The recruitment includes lifeguards and swim instructors/guest services.**
 - **June 29th, 2022, Parks Manager will be taking an exam to become a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP):**
 - **We are offering a summer youth soccer program in July This allows for interested youth to continue to participate in soccer activities until the fall soccer season starts.**
 - **Licking Memorial will be using our facilities for Walk with a Doc program on July 30th.**
 - **Outdoor Adventure Day: Fishing, Archery and more: June 18th, 2022**
 - **United Way 5k July 2nd, 2022: Confirmed the race for July 2nd. Registration is on going**