



City of Pataskala Parks and Recreation Department Council Report

Parks

Lenier A. Crawford
Parks Manager

Administrative

- Parks advisory board made motion on October 4th to amend Section D of the fee schedule. Sections to be amended are:
 - Youth Soccer Fees
 - Softball Fees
 - Add computer/media center fees
 - Changing shelter rental fees. We have many rentals each year and would love to evolve our offerings by giving renters access to equipment that can be used on site at the reserved facility. For example: Foundation Park rental we could offer flag football, soccer balls, basketballs, fishing poles and bait etc. to ensure that the experience in the park is enhanced

- **Foundation Park: Athletic Field Development Project:** This project focuses on 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.
 - Please see attached final image of proposed phase 1 of improvements. Cost estimates and updates site images for project is being worked on by Verdantas. Once received the parks department will share with council if it occurs prior to Mondays October 17th Council meeting

- **Citizens Park planning:** At a previous 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. However, none of the plans for the location of future amenities are set in stone. The parks department will evaluate the best options for placement. The administration's position is that the amenities would be an upgrade to the park and should be pursued. Here are some ideas for citizens park to appease residents and to ensure we improve our city park facilities.
 - Pave existing parking lot and do not enlarge
 - Put up a single basketball hoop at non-entrance end of parking lot (maybe even stripe a half court)
 - Gravel walking path around perimeter
 - Grade/seed/mow areas for pickup soccer practices or possibly flag football in future



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- Fence portions where people possibly walking on private property: Hoping to complete some of this work prior to 2023
- Improve path from street to park
- Plant trees at property lines (future fence between trees)

- **Licking Park District:**

- **Freedom Park Walking Path-** ~2700-2900 linear ft of aggregate path within the park.
 - This topic was discussed by the district at their September meeting. The project cost is \$50,000 and Pataskala is requesting 50% from Licking Park District. This was approved by the LPD for 2023. We are still working to get cost estimates from Verdanas. Once we obtain the estimates, we will then seek RFQ's for this project to ensure that we complete the project prior to summer of 2023.

Park Projects completed/to be completed:

- Pool has been winterized with antifreeze as of October 12th.
- Dugout construction and base installation project is scheduled for this Fall. Material have been ordered and delivered. Estimated time of completion is the end of October. Project is proposed to take 5-8 full days once started.
- Material bay structure at Foundation Park maintenance garage area.
 - Storage bay structure materials will be ordered once a suitable quote for material and labor is found. Estimated completion of this project is the end of 2022 calendar year. The same contractor working on park dugouts will be the same to construct our material bay structure.
- New stub to Conaway's Trail has been added to the woods. We have been battling wet spots for year and finally were able to create a stub that vacates the worst wet areas of the path when large rain events occur.



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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.
- Currently LH is planning to circulate a survey to gather interest. Prior to the end of 2022 there was discussions to host a FIFA and Rocket League Day in the lab.

Aquatics:

- New lifeguard class will take place in December at our police station.
- We are seeking to begin hiring for the 2023 season starting in November 2022. 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.