



City of Pataskala Parks and Recreation Department Council Report

Parks

Lenier A. 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. See attached images of proposed parking and new fields proposed as a part of the 2023/2024 budget cycle.
 - 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 September 6th 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. 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. 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
 - Fence portions where people possibly walking on private property
 - Improve path from street to park
 - Plant trees at property lines (future fence between trees)
 - We received input into possible changes to the Citizens Park improvement plan from Councilman Walther. We are looking at how to incorporate some/all of those suggestions moving forward.



Parks

Lenier A. Crawford
Parks Manager

- **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 will begin to get cost estimates and receiving RFQ's for this project to ensure that we complete the project prior to summer of 2023.

Park Project completed/to be completed:

- Internal work for this project will begin the first week of October.
- 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.

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. An ordinance to amend our fee structures and add the computer lab will be in front of council by the 1st meeting in November 2022.

Aquatics:

- New lifeguard class will be advertised in late September. This course will be a hybrid course. This course will take place in December at our police station.
- Pending budget availability, we are seeking to begin limited 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.