



Council Report City of Pataskala Parks Department Lenier Crawford, Parks Manager

➤ New Items

• New Operational Updates

▪ Soccer Program

- Fall Youth Soccer registration.
 - We have 565 participants so far.
- The Summer soccer season had a total of 83 registrants.
 - Our volunteer coaches are helping to make the youth soccer program excel. We have great volunteers who have helped the parks department continue to build and grow. The Pataskala Youth Soccer League focuses on developing our youth soccer athletes through their time in middle school to ensure that they are ready to compete at the highest level possible when they reach the high school level.
- We are seeking to fill 10 vacant coaching positions.
 - August 13th: Youth soccer coaches meeting at Volunteer Park

➤ Ongoing Items

• Foundation Park

- The basketball courts have been refurbished with new backboards and rims that were purchased in 2019.
- We have noticed a significant amount of pickleball activities in the park.
- The tractor shows have been running smoothly in the park this summer.
- Planning Conaway's Trail fence work for safety concerns.
 - The poles we installed were removed by park goers and thrown into the river. We are still planning to replace them in the summer with sturdier material.

- **Municipal Park**

- The new lights have been installed.
- We will be adding electric service to the Municipal Park shelter pole to ensure our security cameras can cover the shelter and playground areas. We are waiting for the contractor to meet on site to confirm work and cost. This will be completed in the summer of 2023.
- The dog pot station is complete.
- The basketball courts have been refurbished with new blackboards and rims purchased in 2019.

- **Karr Park**

- Planning bathroom updates
 - We will have a contractor out to replace the sink fixtures at Karr Park. We will be receiving quotes this month for this project.

- **Citizens Park**

- *The Parks Board will be having its August 15th meeting in Citizens Park at 7 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss future improvements for Citizens Park.*
 - As you may remember, Council previously heard from residents in the area who were opposed to making some improvements at this park because of the increased use of the park that would occur.
 - The Parks Board would like to invite any member of council who is interested, as well as local residents, to attend this meeting and participate in the discussion.
- Citizens Park Fence Project is planned for this year.
- Fish stocking of the pond is complete.
- Aeration equipment for this park has been installed. The necessary electric work for the aeration equipment will soon follow.

- **Volunteer Park**

- At 4 pm on August 26th, Pataskala Lions Club will be hosting and dedicating the Lions Grove at Volunteer Park.
- Parts of the fence around LEADS have been repaired and more will be installed this summer prior to the event on August 26th. The remainder of the fence repairs will take place late in the fall, preferably when the ground is wet for a cleaner installation.
- We drag the ball diamonds weekly.

- Soccer pitch preparation, including having the goals up and the lining done for 2 of the 5 MSSA teams in the Fall league will be complete by August 6th.
- **Freedom Park**
 - Freedom Park Improvements project
 - The walking path and the parking lot at Freedom Park will be the base bid. The basketball court and volleyball court projects will be alternate bids.
 - This project bid opening will be advertised in late September of 2023. We are aiming to open the bids the week of October 23rd.
 - Once a bid is selected, an invoice will be sent to LPD to receive the \$25,000 for their share of this project. Following that, we will come back to the council for a supplemental to account for those funds.
- **Liberty Park**
 - Playground/woods
 - The tree line along the back of the park has been cut back. We also cleared out inside the play area and the path leading to the Morrison Farm neighborhood.
 - Parks staff has planned to do the following projects at Liberty Park:
 - Cutting trees down past the bridge to establish a safe trail around the pond.
 - Adding fencing within the woods which connect Morrison Farm neighborhood and Liberty Park along the newly cleared path. There is a lot of traffic from that neighborhood to the park. We will use a maximum of 6 split rail fence pieces to create an aesthetically pleasing entranceway into the park.
- **Park Manager Updates**
 - The Parks Department will be represented in the street fair parade on August 19th.
 - Met with Rotary Club on July 20th. It was a great meeting talking about our parks and what they have to offer to our community.

- We had discussions about partnering with the Rotary Club in the future to replace many of the invasive species we have in the parks system.
 - Removing the Callary Pear trees.
 - Mitigating the effects of the Emerald Ash Borer.
 - Selectively removing the dead trees.
 - We will be keeping some of the dead trees that do not present safety hazards in order to create nature trails and to establish habitat for future parks programs.

Respectfully submitted,

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