



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

➤ **New Items**

• **Foundation Park**

- Ball diamond maintenance.
 - We will be adding infield dirt to all ball diamonds in the month of January to help with the drainage of the area.
 - We anticipate adding drainage pipe on diamond 2 and 3 along the first and third base lines during the winter season once the ground is frozen to minimize damage to the area during pipe installation.
- Cold Storage Structure
 - The Licking County Permit for this structure was approved. The plans have been sent to the contractor. We are now waiting for it to be scheduled.

• **Freedom Park**

- Walking Path
 - The walking path project will begin the week of January 22nd. The estimated time of completion of the project is 4 weeks. The project per the contract will be completed by June 6th, 2024.
- Basketball Court
 - We have received one quote for the asphalt work for the basketball surfacing. The quote came in at over \$50,000, which is over our budget amount for the project.
 - The department is seeking additional companies to provide quotes on this project. A possible option is to discuss with the Public Service Director to add the project to the RAMP program should we not find a quote in our budget. Joining the RAMP program can provide savings due to the economy of scale.

- **Liberty Park**

- We are adding mulch to the entrance of the path and inside the wooded playground location.

- **Karr Park**

- The Licking County Soil and Water team have chosen our park for the stream team. The stream team course is being held on April 2nd on site. The stream team is a Volunteer Citizen Science Stream Monitoring program that the LCSWCD administers. The training focusses on macroinvertebrates, habitat, and chemical parameters. Karr Park has easy stream access, in a relatively unstudied watershed (Muddy Fork). We are very excited to host this event.

- **Recreational Program**

- Soccer Program
 - We held a coaches meeting on Saturday January 13th.
 - We discussed the upcoming season, field usage, scheduling, and rosters for the upcoming soccer season.
- Facility Reservations
 - We discussed softball field usage times and proper field maintenance.

- **Ongoing Items**

- **Seasonal Parks and Recreation Recruiting**

- We are currently advertising for all parks and recreation seasonal positions.

- **Foundation Park**

- The Parks Department will continue to maintain the walking trails during the winter season.
- We have started the winter turf management process for the soccer fields. We will continue to blanket and top-dress all soccer fields as needed.
- Ball diamond maintenance.
 - We will add infield dirt to all ball diamonds in January to help with the area's drainage.
 - We anticipate adding drainage pipe on diamond 2 and 3 along the first and third base lines during the winter season once the

ground is frozen to minimize damage to the area during pipe installation.

- Cold Storage Structure at Foundation Park
 - The parks department will be constructing a 25 ft x 60 ft enclosed structure for additional cold storage. The structure will have a large garage door along with a man door for personnel access.
 - The Licking County Permit for this structure was approved. The plans have been sent to the contractor. We are now waiting for it to be scheduled.

- **Municipal Park**

- A message board will be installed near the trail at Municipal Park to be used for community park announcements.
- In February or March, we will add infield mix to this diamond ball as a part of our routine maintenance efforts.

- **Karr Park**

- We will be cutting back the overgrowth along the tree lines at Karr Park during the winter season.
- The Licking County Soil and Water team have chosen our park for the stream team. The stream team course is being held on April 2nd on site. The stream team is a Volunteer Citizen Science Stream Monitoring program that the LCSWCD administers. The training focusses on macroinvertebrates, habitat, and chemical parameters. Karr Park has easy stream access, in a relatively unstudied watershed (Muddy Fork). We are very excited to host this event.

- **Citizens Park**

- The parks department has surveyed this property and started laying out the areas where a split-rail fence will be installed.
 - The Faith Ann entrance that connects the woods to the Northwest Corner of the park will be included with this small project.
 - This project is now scheduled to begin the week of January 22nd.. The goal is to have the fence finished by April or May.

- **Volunteer Park**

- We will begin routine maintenance on the ball diamonds in the upcoming weeks.
 - Ball diamond mix is required on the east field and will be scheduled.

- **Freedom Park**

- The Freedom Park Improvements Project (walking path project) is a joint venture with the Licking County Parks District. The Parks Department will use the available funds in this year's budget cycle to cover the cost of the project up front. Once the project is complete, we will receive \$25,000 from the Licking County Parks District.
 - A preconstruction meeting was held in mid-December for the walking path project. The project is tentatively scheduled to begin the week of January 22nd.
- Basketball Court
 - We are seeking quotes to lay down asphalt for the basketball courts we plan to install this coming year. This project will not exceed the bidding threshold, but the Parks Department is gathering quotes to ensure we receive the best values possible.

- **Liberty Park**

- Playground/woods
 - Parks staff is planning to do the following projects at Liberty Park:
 - We are adding mulch to the entrance of the path and inside the wooded playground location.
 - Cut trees down past the bridge to establish a safe trail around the pond.
 - This is expected to occur in the off-season (December-February).

- **Park Manager Updates**

- Youth Soccer
 - As of January 17th, we have 245 registrations.
- Employee certifications
 - During the off-season, the Park Maintenance Coordinator will obtain his license to apply herbicides.
 - This is a great example of Jase Fravel's initiative and will be very beneficial to the overall operations of the Parks Department.

Respectfully submitted,

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