



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

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### ➤ New Items

#### • Foundation Park

- Ball diamond maintenance
  - Parks staff, with assistance from the Public Service Department, increased the cleared area of the infield to accommodate 90 ft baselines.
    - This work will be finished once we spread the 60 tons of infield mix currently on order. This amount of infield mix is needed to achieve proper grading and to accommodate the longer baselines.
      - The infield mix will be spread inhouse by Parks staff members.
  - 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.
    - If this project doesn't occur prior to the season we plan to complete this work late in the year 2024.
- Cold Storage Structure
  - The project has started and is expected to be completed no later than 2/16/2024.
    - The final county inspection is set for February 15<sup>th</sup> for the cold storage building.
- Soccer Field Maintenance
  - Several areas of the soccer fields have been identified as needing dressed with top soil.
    - Parks staff members have been working on getting the athletic fields ready for the upcoming soccer season beginning at the end of March.

- **Freedom Park**

- Walking Path

- The walking path project started on 2/12/2024. Petty Farms expects this job to last roughly two weeks.

- 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.
    - We pursued a second quote from Law General. This quote is expected to be under our budget for the project. We anticipate having this quote by 2/16/2024.

- **Recreational Program**

- Soccer Program

- The next Coaches meeting is set for February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Police Station. Time of meeting is set for 10:30am
    - Registration closes February 15<sup>th</sup>. This includes late registration.
    - As of 2/14/2024 we have 649 total registrations.
      - The soccer program is very successful and continues to grow every year.

- **Staffing**

- Aquatics: Interviews have been moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> week of February for all aquatic positions

- **Ongoing Items**

- **Seasonal Parks and Recreation Recruiting**

- We are currently advertising for all parks and recreation seasonal positions.
    - Aquatics: Interviews will begin the 4<sup>th</sup> week of February for all aquatic 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.
  - Several areas of the soccer fields have been identified as needing dressed with top soil.
    - Parks staff members have been working on getting the athletic fields ready for the upcoming soccer season beginning at the end of March.
- Ball diamond maintenance.
  - Parks staff, with assistance from the Public Service Department, increased the cleared area of the infield to accommodate 90 ft baselines.
    - This work will be finished once we spread the 60 tons of infield mix currently on order. This amount of infield mix is needed to achieve proper grading and to accommodate the longer baselines.
      - The infield mix will be spread inhouse by Parks staff members.
  - 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.
    - If this project doesn't occur prior to the season we plan to complete this work late in the year 2024.
- 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 project has started and is expected to be completed no later than 2/16/2024.
    - The final county inspection is set for February 15<sup>th</sup> for the cold storage building.

- **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.
    - We will be using most of our split rail fence stockpile at Freedom Park. Once that project is complete, we will move on to this project at Citizens Park.

- **Volunteer Park**

- We will begin routine maintenance on the ball diamonds in the upcoming weeks in preparation of the LHYA season starting mid-March.
  - 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.
  - The walking path project was originally set to begin the week of January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The estimated time of completion of the project is 4 weeks. The project per the contract will be completed by June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

- This project has not started due to inclement weather. We anticipate it starting in early February.
  - 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 has sought out Law General for a quote for the basketball court asphalt pad. We anticipate this quote to be under budget. Once received, we will bring the lowest and best option to council for consideration.
- **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**
  - Soccer Program
    - The next Coaches meeting is set for February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Police Station.
    - Registration closes February 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - As of 2/14/2024 we have 649 total registrations.
      - The soccer program is very successful and continues to grow every year.
  - 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,

Lenier Crawford

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