



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

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### ➤ New Items

#### • Freedom Park

- Fence Installation
  - The parks department will begin installing fence once the basketball project is complete to avoid conflicts with contractors.
- Basketball Court
  - The Basketball Court project is nearly complete. The contractor is expected to finish the dirt work around the court and the striping of the court by May 3, weather dependent.
  - We have found enough money in savings from other projects to allow the purchase of all 6 basketball hoops. This will allow us to complete this project near the beginning of summer.

#### • Karr Park

- Shelter House Concrete Building
  - A group of volunteers from the Nazarene church in town painted the concrete structure at the shelter house for us on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We are very grateful for their assistance.

#### • Municipal Park

- Walking Path Bridge
  - The walking path bridge at Municipal Park was inspected by American Structure Point following the heavy rain event on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. No issues were found with the bridge, and it was re-opened to the public.
  - American Structure Point is also inspecting the other two walking path bridges: one at Mill Street and one in Liberty Park. All three bridges will be inspected on a 5-year rotating basis moving forward.

- Walking Path Fence
  - A group of volunteers from the Nazarene church in town painted the walking path fence for us on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We are very grateful for their assistance.

- **Recreational Program**

- Municipal Pool
  - Preparations for the upcoming pool season are currently underway.
    - The pool was painted the week of April 29<sup>th</sup> to allow for proper cure time before water is added the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - We have implemented a policy to not open the pool if it is not expected to be above 70 degrees by 2 pm. This decision will be made by looking at the forecast at 2 pm the day prior.
    - Residents will be notified by the pool membership communication program, the City Facebook page, and the Discover Pataskala App should a closure occur.
    - Implementing this procedure allows for appropriate staffing and adequate notice for the staff.

➤ **Ongoing Items**

- **Foundation Park**

- The Parks Department will continue to maintain the walking trails during the spring season.
- Ball diamond maintenance.
  - Parks staff has installed 60 yards of infield mix as of 4/9/24 on diamond 3.
    - Applying 60 yards of infield mix is needed to achieve proper grading and to accommodate the longer baselines.
  - 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.

- **Municipal Park**

- A message board will be installed near the trail at Municipal Park to be used for community park announcements.
- We will be adding infield mix to this diamond ball as a part of our routine maintenance efforts.
- Walking Path Bridge
  - The walking path bridge at Municipal Park was inspected by American Structure Point following the heavy rain event on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. No issues were found with the bridge, and it was re-opened to the public.
  - American Structure Point is also inspecting the other two walking path bridges: one at Mill Street and one in Liberty Park. All three bridges will be inspected on a 5-year rotating basis moving forward.
- Walking Path Fence
  - A group of volunteers from the Nazarene church in town painted the walking path fence for us on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We are very grateful for their assistance.

- **Karr Park**

- The Licking County Soil and Water team have chosen our park for the stream team. The stream team course was rescheduled and is being held for April 26<sup>th</sup>. 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.
- Shelter House Concrete Building
  - A group of volunteers from the Nazarene church in town painted the concrete structure at the shelter house for us on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We are very grateful for their assistance.

- **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**

- Routine mowing and maintenance are ongoing at this park.

- **Freedom Park**

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  - We have found enough money in savings from other projects to allow the purchase of all 6 basketball hoops. This will allow us to complete this project near the beginning of summer.

- **Liberty Park**

- Playground/woods
  - Parks staff is planning to cut trees down past the bridge to establish a safe trail around the pond.

- **Park Manager Updates**

- Municipal Pool
  - Preparations for the upcoming pool season are currently underway.
    - The pool was painted the week of April 29<sup>th</sup> to allow for proper cure time before water is added the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - We have implemented a policy to not open the pool if it is not expected to be above 70 degrees by 2 pm. This decision will be made by looking at the forecast at 2 pm the day prior.
    - Residents will be notified by the pool membership communication program, the City Facebook page, and the Discover Pataskala App should a closure occur.

- Implementing this procedure allows for appropriate staffing and adequate notice for the staff.
- Employee certifications
  - The parks manager will be obtaining a renewal of license to operate the pool facility this season.
  - Several returning aquatic employees will be taking the course to become an Aquatic Facility Operator with the Parks Manager to ensure that we have more than one staff member that is qualified to run the operation.
  - The parks manager will be renewing his Certified Parks and Recreation Professional Certification prior to September. This is a two-year certificate period.

Respectfully submitted,

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