



Council Report

City of Pataskala Parks Department

Chris Sharrock, Asst. City Administrator

➤ New Items

- Motion

- Strader's Garden Center

- Strader's Garden Center has 226 perennial plants and shrubs that they wish to donate to the Pataskala Parks System. The plants have a value of \$6,270.74. This donation will have to be accepted by council due to the dollar amount.
 - The Parks Department will come up with an efficient plan on where to put these plants and shrubs throughout the city's parks.
 - Parks Advisory Board member Beth Kolp is organizing a group of volunteers to come in on August 11 and prep several mulch beds in anticipation of installing the donated plants.

- Freedom Park

- Basketball Court

- The basketball court project is complete. We have seen a very large number of our residents using this new park feature.

- Karr Park

- Shelter house analysis

- We had the shelter house structurally inspected at no cost by The Garland Company.
 - They provided a thorough analysis of the exterior of the shelter house with suggested repairs.
 - Those suggestions will be used as a part of our CIP proposals in the future.
 - Because the analysis and suggestions are free of charge, we will have them do the same report for all of the shelter houses in the parks system.

- The timeline to complete these reports is by the end of the year.

- **Volunteer Park**

- Fence Repairs
 - The fence repairs at this park are expected to take place the week of August 5th.

- **Liberty Park**

- Fencing
 - The fence around the parking lot was hit by a car around 7-8-24. That fence is scheduled to be repaired on 8-1-24.

- **Municipal Park**

- Softball Field Bleachers
 - The Parks Maintenance Coordinator replaced all of the seating boards for this set of bleachers on 7-19-24. The existing seats had deteriorated to a point that they were no longer functional.

- **Recreation Program**

- Pool Chlorine Pump
 - The automatic chlorine pump at the pool has malfunctioned. This resulted in a chlorine level that was too high on July 23. The repair for this equipment cannot be completed until the week of August 5.
 - In the meantime, the chlorine pump is being operated manually. Chlorine levels are being checked every half hour, at the end of the day, and again first thing in the morning. This practice will continue until the equipment can be repaired and we can return to automatic operation.

➤ **Ongoing Items**

• **Foundation Park**

- Ball Diamond Maintenance
 - We anticipate adding drainage pipe on diamond 2 and 3 along the first and third base lines later this year, following the baseball/softball season.
- Rain Barrel Workshop
 - The Parks Department will be working with Licking County Soil and Water to host a Rain Barrel workshop on August 10th from 9-11 am.

• **Municipal Park**

- Volleyball Court
 - We have received a quote from BSN and are now awaiting another. We anticipate having a new volleyball net in place by mid-August.
- Hemlock Control
 - The parks department has been performing checks for Hemlock. We have found, cut, and sprayed this plant in several areas within the park. We will continue to monitor the hemlock along the pathway to minimize exposure and risk to visitors to the park.
- Softball Field Bleachers
 - The Parks Maintenance Coordinator replaced all of the seating boards for this set of bleachers on 7-19-24. The existing seats had deteriorated to a point that they were no longer functional.

• **Karr Park**

- Compost area
 - This composting area was rarely used, if ever. We will plant low maintenance, native plants in the area once the compost area is removed.
 - This area has been filled in in preparation for planting.
- Peace Pole project
 - This project is to install a “Peace Pole” at Karr Park. The Peace Pole will be donated to the city by The Granville Friends organization.
 - The Peace Pole will be a wooden post measuring 4 inches by 4 inches by 8 feet tall. The Peace Pole will

display a message reading “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in the English, Hindi, Spanish, Somali, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Algonquin languages.

- The parks department is working with Parks Advisory Board member Jean Hunkler to receive the Peace Pole in preparation for Installation within the next couple of weeks.
- Shelter house analysis
 - We had the shelter house structurally inspected at no cost by The Garland Company.
 - They provided a thorough analysis of the exterior of the shelter house with suggested repairs.
 - Those suggestions will be used as a part of our CIP proposals in the future.
 - Because the analysis and suggestions are free of charge, we will have them do the same report for all of the shelter houses in the parks system.
 - The timeline to complete these reports is by the end of the year.
- **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.
- **Volunteer Park**
 - Fence Repairs
 - The fence repairs at this park are expected to take place the week of August 5th.
 - Lions Grove Trees
 - The parks department has identified 4 of the trees planted as a part of the Lions Grove that are in bad shape. We will take the necessary steps to inform the Lions Club and Rocky Fork about the trees’ condition.
- **Freedom Park**
 - Basketball Court
 - The basketball court project is complete. We have seen a very large number of our residents using this new park feature.

- **Liberty Park**

- Fencing

- The fence around the parking lot was hit by a car around 7-8-24. That fence is scheduled to be repaired on 8-1-24.

- **Park Manager Updates**

- Municipal Pool

- Columbus Pool Detection was hired and came to the facility on May 22nd.

- As shown in their report, several repairs were needed to prevent water loss. The pool facility was closed to the public and the swim team on June 13th for the final repairs to be made.

- One line coming from a skimmer in the pool will need to be excavated and repaired. This will take place after this pool season, but before the pool season begins in 2025.

- Pool Chlorine Pump

- The automatic chlorine pump at the pool has malfunctioned. This resulted in a chlorine level that was too high on July 23. The repair for this equipment cannot be completed until the week of August 5.

- In the meantime, the chlorine pump is being operated manually. Chlorine levels are being checked every half hour, at the end of the day, and again first thing in the morning. This practice will continue until the equipment can be repaired and we can return to automatic operation.

- Youth Soccer

- As of 7/10/2024, we have 527 participants registered for the fall soccer season.

- We anticipate 6 middle school teams.

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- The Parks Department will come up with an efficient plan on where to put these plants and shrubs throughout the city's parks.

- Parks Advisory Board member Beth Kolp is organizing a group of volunteers to come in on August 11 and prep several mulch beds in anticipation of installing the donated plants.
- Employee certifications
 - The parks manager will be obtaining a renewal of license to operate the pool facility this season. The parks manager anticipates obtaining the AFO certification or the CPO certification.
 - The parks manager will be renewing his Certified Parks and Recreation Professional Certification prior to September. This is a two-year certificate period. This is due in September 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

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