



Council Report

City of Pataskala Parks Department

Lenier Crawford, Parks Manager

➤ **New Items**

- **Foundation Park**

- Pond Aeration Project
 - Electric installation for the aeration system will be installed once the contractor verifies the schedule.
- Energy Cooperatives Operation Roundup Grant Application
 - The application has been mailed as of 3/12/2025.
- Foundation Park Trail
 - Conaways Trail river banks have been eroding each year. The parks department has identified an area within the woods to be observed this spring season. There are no current concerns for safety for those walking the path.
 - Areas on the aggregate path need some attention due to washout. Within the woods along the trail, we will be focused on removing trip hazards present by tree roots along the walking path.

- **Municipal Park**

- Parking Lot
 - Parking Blocks to be placed along the east end of the parking lot were delivered. The parks department will be painting the blocks yellow prior to installing them on site. This work is scheduled for the week of March 24th.

- **Parks Manager Updates**

- Fall Youth Soccer Registration Numbers
 - As of March 12, we have 705 registrations for the spring season.
- Parks Building Maintenance (Shelters)
 - The parks department met with Garland Company and their contractors on site at all of the city parks. The contractors are creating quotes at this time. Once the quotes come back the

administration will then make a decision with prioritized work based on the report. We should know by the first council meeting in April which projects will be undertaken in 2025.

- Grant Opportunities for Parks Department
 - ODNR Land and Water Conservation Grant (Pending approval)
 - Applying for \$100,000 to extend the parking lot project at Foundation Park
 - NatureWorks Grant (June 2025)
 - Applying for \$150,000 to further extend the parking lot project at Foundation Park
 - ODNR Land and Water Conservation Grant (Late 2025)
 - Applying for \$500,000 to further extend the parking lot project at Foundation Park
- Licking Park District Event Collaboration
 - LCPD seeks to partner with the Pataskala Parks & Rec Department to bring the LCPD Music in the Park program to Foundation Park
 - This event will happen on July 3rd
 - This event will be put on at no cost to the city
 - The Parks Manager plans to have the concession stand open with a limited menu during this event
 - The Parks Manager will also have soccer balls, fishing poles, and basketballs available for families attending the Music in the Park event to use.
 - This event is a small example of the efforts that the Parks Manager is making to utilize LCPD programs within the City of Pataskala.

➤ **Ongoing Items**

- **Foundation Park**
 - The Foundation Park Parking Lot Project
 - The administration applied for an ODNR Land and Water Conservation Grant. This grant will be used along with the \$100,000 in the 2024 budget to increase parking areas in the park.
 - Still waiting for the award announcements
 - Pond Aeration Project
 - The parks department has identified a contractor to dredge the pond. This work has been rescheduled for the summer months due to the risk of turf damage prior to spring activities and events.

- Energy Cooperatives Operation Roundup Grant Application
 - The Parks Department has identified a need for enhanced security at the Conaway's Trail Shelter and will be applying for an \$10,000 grant through the Energy Cooperatives Operation Roundup program. This funding will be used to:
 - Install an electric panel.
 - Add 1–2 security cameras.
 - Install a pack light for improved visibility.
 - Energy Cooperatives staff will handle the installation of the electric panel, with a local electrician extending the connection to the shelter and adding the light. Security cameras will be provided and installed by State Security, the same company we've successfully partnered with in the past.
 - This grant would fully cover the cost of these improvements, enhancing safety and usability at the shelter. Application will be submitted by the 7th of March.
- Foundation Park Trail
 - Areas on the aggregate path need some attention due to washout. Within the woods along the trail, we will be focused on removing trip hazards present by tree roots within the walking path.
- **Municipal Park**
 - Volleyball Court
 - The department has decided to wait until early spring to install the volleyball system due to the winter weather approaching.
 - Parking Lot
 - Parking Blocks were ordered and once delivered staff will install along the parking lot edge and near the pool building.
- **Volunteer Park**
 - Ball Diamonds
 - All ball diamonds will receive attention in late February/ early March. Additional infield mix material is required on the east ball diamond.
- **Citizens Park**
 - Fence Installation Project
 - This project will be continuously worked on through the spring season. We aim to complete 150 ft of fence each trip on site.

- **Liberty Park**
 - Ongoing Maintenance
- **Freedom Park**
 - Licking County Park District (LCPD)
 - Walking Path Signage
 - Signage for the walking path has been approved, we are now waiting for delivery. Once received, the sign will be installed.
 - This is the final requirement from the LCPD before we can submit for the \$25,000 grant reimbursement for the completion of the walking path at Freedom Park.
- **Karr Park**
 - Ongoing Maintenance
- **Park Manager Updates**
 - Athletic Field Maintenance
 - Athletic field maintenance for ball diamonds and soccer fields have begun.
 - The parks maintenance coordinator will use the off-season to study and to take the state test to be a licensed herbicide applicator.

Respectfully submitted,

Lenier Crawford CPRP

Parks Manager

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