



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

➤ **New Items**

• **Mowing**

- Mowing operations at our seven parks began on March 27th.
 - This is the single most time-consuming aspect of the Parks Department's daily responsibilities during the mowing season.
 - Parks Department staff were able to begin mowing all soccer fields on April 8th in preparation for the spring season.

• **Freedom Park**

- Fence Installation
 - The parks department will begin installing fence along the parking lot at this location now that the trail is 98% complete. We will leave several sections open to allow for the contractor to return and complete the field work along with the final trail stub connecting to the parking lot.
- We have added additional trash cans for this park.
- We anticipate adding 1-2 additional tables in the shelter house. The tables are being put together by park staff and will be transported to the park once assembled.
- Basketball Court
 - The administration has a pre-con meeting on April 11th to go over the site and the planned work.

• **Foundation Park**

- We have placed an order for playground mulch for the south end playground.
- The softball building will be painted this coming month to help revitalize the look and preserve the existing structure.
- The hot water tank in the concession stands (soccer) failed and was replaced.

- 7 Bradford pears trees were removed from Foundation Park. These areas had the stumps ground and the soil re-leveled.
- Recent rain event
 - The recent heavy rain event washed silt and debris onto many areas of the walking path in the wooded area, causing a slippery walking surface.
 - The Parks Department is currently working to clean up this silt and debris from the path.

- **Recreational Program**

- Soccer Program
 - The soccer program has 780 players in the league with nearly 80 teams.
 - On April 6th, the parks manager hosted a coach's clinic for the volunteer coaches.
 - During this meeting, the parks manager invited Dr. Tom Turner (Coach Education) from the Ohio Soccer Association. He conducted CPR and emergency response training for new coaches in the U4-U7 division. The parks manager ran the training for the U8+ age groups in conjunction with Dr. Turner.
 - A large portion of this meeting was an exercise of our emergency action plan with our volunteer coaches.
- Municipal Pool
 - Preparations for the upcoming pool season are underway.
 - Rainwater is being pumped out of the pool the week of April 9th. We will begin pressure washing the pool facility the week of April 15th.
 - Lifeguard training and concession stand training programs are currently underway.
 - We have a contractor coming out to verify the location of our underground lines at the pool.

- **Municipal Park**

- Walking Path Bridge
 - The recent heavy rain event caused a log jam and some erosion to take place at the walking bridge along the walking path.

- The bridge is closed until we can get an engineer to inspect the bridge and ensure its safety before re-opening.
- The Public Service Department has already removed the log jam. They also reinforced the banks around the walking path bridge to reduce the damage that may occur in future flooding events. We are very grateful for the assistance provided by the members of the Public Service Department.

➤ **Ongoing Items**

• **Foundation Park**

- The Parks Department will continue to maintain the walking trails during the spring season.
 - The recent heavy rain event washed silt and debris onto many areas of the walking path in the wooded area, causing a slippery walking surface.
 - The Parks Department is currently working to clean up this silt and debris from the path.
- 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 necessary to achieve proper grading and to accommodate the longer baselines for this diamond.
 - 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.

- We are currently seeking a new vendor for this material due to less-than-ideal customer service experiences with them.
 - Walking Path Bridge
 - The recent heavy rain event caused a log jam and some erosion to take place at the walking bridge along the walking path.
 - The bridge is closed until we can get an engineer to inspect the bridge and ensure its safety before re-opening.
 - The Public Service Department has already removed the log jam. They also reinforced the banks around the walking path bridge to reduce the damage that may occur in future flooding events. We are very grateful for the assistance provided by the members of the Public Service Department.
- **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 has been rescheduled and is being held on April 26th. 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.
 - The ball diamond mix has been on back order for some time now, but we have maintained dragging at least once per week.

- **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 is nearly complete as of 3/4/2023. The construction of the walking path has gone very well, and the contractor (Petty Farms) has been great to work with.
 - The walking path is currently open for use; however, the project is not yet complete. Due to wet weather, the dirt work to dress up the construction area has been delayed. We anticipate the project to be completed no later than the end of April.
 - The parks department will begin installing fence along the parking lot at this location now that the trail is 98% complete. We will leave several sections open to allow for the contractor to return and complete the field work along with the final trail stub connecting to the parking lot.
- We have added additional trash cans for this park.
- We anticipate adding 1-2 additional tables in the shelter house. The tables are being put together by park staff and will be transported to the park once assembled.
- Basketball Court
 - The administration has a pre-con meeting on April 11th to go over the site and the planned work.

- **Liberty Park**

- Playground/woods

- Parks staff is planning to cut trees down past the bridge to establish a safe trail around the pond.
 - This is expected to occur in the off-season once seasonals begin working.

- **Park Manager Updates**

- Soccer Program

- The soccer program has 780 players in the league with nearly 80 teams.
 - On April 6th, the parks manager hosted a coach's clinic for the volunteer coaches.
 - During this meeting, the parks manager invited Dr. Tom Turner (Coach Education) from the Ohio Soccer Association. He conducted CPR and emergency response training for new coaches in the U4-U7 division. The parks manager ran the training for the U8+ age groups in conjunction with Dr. Turner.
 - A large portion of this meeting was an exercise of our emergency action plan with our volunteer coaches.

- Municipal Pool

- Preparations for the upcoming pool season are underway.
 - Rainwater is being pumped out of the pool the week of April 9th. We will begin pressure washing the pool facility the week of April 15th.
 - Lifeguard training and concession stand training programs are currently underway.
 - We have a contractor coming out to verify the location of our underground lines at the pool.

- Staffing

- Aquatics

- Interviews have started. We will have employees completing the onboard process throughout the months of March and April.

- 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.
- Mowing operations at our seven parks began on March 27th.
 - This is the single most time-consuming aspect of the Parks Department's daily responsibilities during the mowing season.
 - Parks Department staff were able to begin mowing all soccer fields on April 8th in preparation for the spring season.

Respectfully submitted,

Lenier Crawford
Parks Manager
lcrawford@ci.pataskala.oh.us
(740) 927-3512