

2021

# CITY OF OWOSSO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT





# INTRODUCTION

Thank you to the city of Owosso voters for passing the 2018 Historic Sites and Parks millage. This funding has been instrumental in the work the Parks and Recreation Commission has been able to complete.

Work began at Bennett Fields in the spring of 2020 with a new gravel parking lot and fixes to a drainage issue that caused flooding in the existing parking lot and caused water to run into Bennett Field. The city also purchased new grills and picnic tables for several parks and completed work on the Bentley Park Splash Pad, resulting in a large reduction in maintenance costs.

The Commission carried that momentum into 2021 completing projects at Harmon Patridge Park, Bentley Park, and Collamer Park. In response to residents requesting outdoor pickleball courts, the Parks and Recreation Commission added two new pickleball courts at Bentley Park. Pickleball combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong and can be enjoyed by all ages and skill levels. These are the first outdoor pickleball courts in Owosso.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has also completed exciting projects at Collamer Park and Hopkins Lake. A new, larger fishing dock was installed at the lake and a second smaller dock was purchased to be installed on the east side of the lake. House of Wheels worked with the city to place hundreds of trail markers on Kiwanis trails to make them easier to navigate. The Kiwanis donated \$10,000 for play equipment, a resident volunteered to design wayfinding signs for the Disc Golf course, and the Masonic Lodge donated funds for stocking Hopkins Lake with fish.

Going into 2022, the Commission looks forward to completing projects at Collamer Park, beginning work on the canoe/kayak landing at the old Junior High site, painting the amphitheater, and beginning work on a new five year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



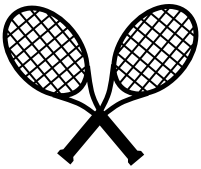
# 2021 COMPLETED PROJECTS

## Internet and Security



The pandemic highlighted a need for access to high-speed Internet. In response, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted to invest in infrastructure and partner with DayStarr Communications to offer free Wi-Fi at Bentley Park. DayStarr provides internet service at no cost to the city. Internet access also allowed the Commission to address ongoing vandalism issues by installing cameras at the Park. This project was funded with millage funds.

## Pickleball and Tennis Courts



The two tennis courts at Bentley Park were in very poor condition. The cracks were repaired and the courts were repainted. Two new pickleball courts were also installed on a previously unused space at the courts and the basketball courts were re-striped. This project was funded with millage funds.



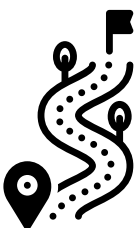
## Dock at Hopkins Lake

The fishing dock at Hopkins Lake had been built as a Kiwanis project in 1995. Over 25 years later it was in poor condition and needed to be replaced. A new, larger floating dock was purchased from Feighner Docks, for \$28,000 and installed by DPW in spring 2021. This project was funded with millage funds.



## Pavilions at Harmon Patridge

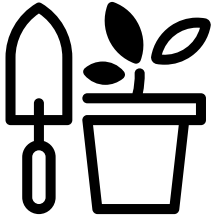
There was damage to the front two pavilions at Harmon Patridge Park caused by squirrels or other animals. DPW repaired the damage and painted the pavilions this summer.



## Trail Markers at Hopkins Lake

Volunteers organized by House of Wheels installed almost 200 color-coded trail markers on the Kiwanis Trails at Collamer Park. The city purchased supplies and the City Manager volunteered to cut out the trail markers in his free time.

# 2021 COMPLETED PROJECTS CON'T



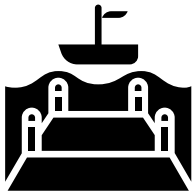
## **Garden Adoptions for Fayette Square**

An amazing team of gardening volunteers stepped up to adopt the gardens at Fayette Square. Josephine Slingerland, Jeanne and Randy Nesbit, Cindy Nosis, Rosemary Wilson, Jayne Slingerland Brown, Jodi Slingerland Marrah, Gordon Pennington, Elizabeth Byrne, and Zach Gilna, thank you for your time and dedication to the gardens!



## **Fun with the Fire Department**

The Owosso Fire Department came to Bentley Park on a particularly hot August day. Residents were able to meet the firefighters, see the inside of the firetruck, and best of all, they turned on the fire hose to create a refreshing mist for kids of all ages to play in.



## **Second Dock at Hopkins Lake**

The Parks and Recreation Commission used millage funds to purchase a second, smaller dock for the east side of Hopkins Lake. This project from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be helpful for launching boats.





# UPCOMING PROJECTS

Project	Summary	Timeline/Key Points
Concrete Canoe/Kayak landing with stairs at the former middle school site	This project is a partnership with Friends of the Shiawassee River. Saginaw Bay WIN has provided a \$9,900 grant. Millage funds will be used to fund the remainder of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The necessary permits have been obtained</li> <li>High water levels pushed this project to summer 2022.</li> </ul>
Grove Holman Pool Building Renovation	A \$150,000 DNR grant was obtained to renovate the building for use as a warming center for the ice rink and sledding hill. \$50,000 in millage funds will also be used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The total project has a budget of \$200,000</li> <li>The low bid was \$434,000</li> </ul>
Amphitheater Painting	The Parks and Recreation Commission committed \$3,800 for internal and exterior painting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The amphitheater board is going to find a contractor.</li> <li>Expected to be done summer 2022</li> </ul>
Improvements to Disc Golf Course	Wayfinding signage and maps will be installed at the Collamer Park disc golf course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPW placed sign posts along the disc golf course</li> <li>Signs have been ordered and will be installed Spring 2022</li> </ul>
Fish Stocking at Hopkins Lake	The Masonic Lodge donated \$2,500 for bluegill and large mouth bass for Hopkins Lake.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff attempted to purchase fish in the spring and fall but experienced supply issues</li> <li>A new vendor will be used for a spring 2022 purchase</li> </ul>
Collamer Park Playground	The Kiwanis Club donated \$10,000 for play equipment. Parks and Recreation will use approximately \$2,500 in millage funds to complete the project. The Commission is also accepting donations for a large climbing boulder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play equipment was ordered November 2021</li> <li>DPW will install Spring 2022</li> </ul>



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the City of Owosso Parks and Recreation Commission for their time and commitment to Owosso's parks:

Andrew Workman

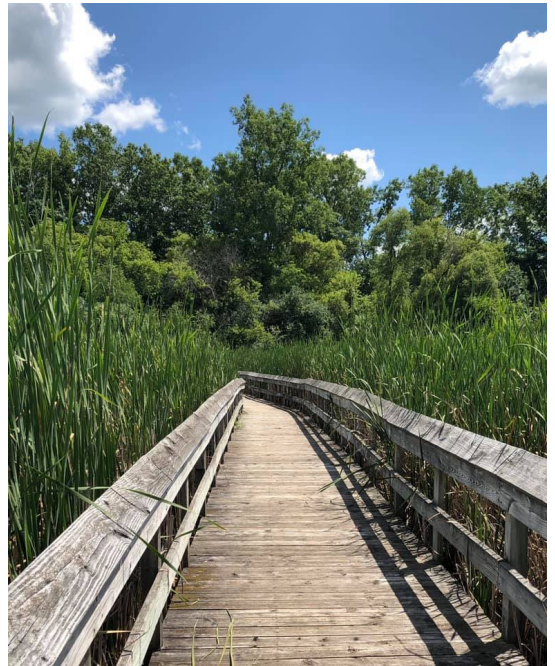
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