



Park District of Ottawa County
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Up to \$220,000 in awards available through Park District of Ottawa County grant program
Executive Director to answer grant questions, conduct workshop on Oct. 15

Port Clinton, OH, September 30, 2025 – The Park District of Ottawa County Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program is back for its fifth round of awards, and up to \$220,000.00 is available to distribute amongst Ottawa County political subdivisions and public libraries.

The Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program Guidelines, including grant eligibility and requirements, can be found on the Park District of Ottawa County website, www.ottawacountyparksoh.org, starting on Monday, Oct. 6. There, users can also view an interactive Grants Map denoting the numerous entities throughout all parts of the county that have received grant monies to help provide greater access to public outdoor recreation spaces, facilities, trails and/or recreation equipment to maintain public outdoor recreation spaces, facilities and/or trails.

Jannah Wilson, executive director of the Park District of Ottawa County (PDOC), will host an in-person meeting discussing the 2026 Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program in-depth and answering questions from attendees. This optional meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15 at the Park District of Ottawa County Offices inside the Shores & Islands Ohio Port Clinton Welcome Center Conference Room, located at 770 SE Catawba Rd. in Port Clinton, 43452. Registration is encouraged, but not required, and can be done by emailing jwilson@ottawacountyparksoh.org or calling (419) 707-4051. A Microsoft Teams link will also be made available to those who cannot attend in-person. A recording of the meeting will be posted to the PDOC website.

Grant applicants may request up to \$50,000.00 to be used for permanent improvements to public outdoor recreation spaces, facilities, and/or trails, or equipment to maintain spaces/facilities/trails. Grant funding may also be used for engineering if the plans correlate with an outdoor recreation improvement on property owned or under long term lease to the entity applying for the grant.

This year the Park District has updated and streamlined the application process by utilizing an online application system through Jotform. The new online application will make the grant application easier to complete and submit. The application submission link will be provided in the Grant Guidelines document.

To date, the Park District has funded more than 25 projects throughout Ottawa County including sports park renovations, park improvements on South Bass Island, storywalk trails, trail surface improvements, strategic assessments for community parks and recreational equipment, improvements to community playgrounds, among others.

“The goal of the grant program is to improve access to outdoor spaces, aid in the development of active transportation routes to parks and points of interest, and bolster public outdoor recreation opportunities within Ottawa County,” said Jannah Wilson, park district executive director. “It was the consensus of the Board of Park Commissioners that a program of assistance to Ottawa County political subdivisions would increase benefits from tax dollars and provide greater access to outdoor recreation opportunities in Ottawa County.”

Applications for the 2026 Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program will be accepted through Jan. 9, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. Application scoring will be conducted Jan. 19-23, 2026. A grant panel comprised of local professionals and community members will review each application received and make award recommendations to the Board of Park Commissioners. The panel will consider priority projects, collaboration with current Park District project planning, conformance with application requirements, cost/benefit ratio, maintenance, safety issues, regional significance, and population served.

The Board of Park Commissioners will vote to approve grants at the Feb. 10, 2026, meeting. Award letters and contracts will be sent out on Feb. 19, 2026.

Contact Park District of Ottawa County Executive Director Jannah Wilson at jwilson@ottawacountyparksoh.org or (419) 707-4051 with any questions regarding the 2026 Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program.

The Park District of Ottawa County is dedicated to preserving, enhancing, and connecting Ottawa County's natural and recreational resources for the enjoyment and benefit of all. To learn more about the Park District of Ottawa County, visit ottawacountyparksoh.org and follow the Park District of Ottawa County at www.facebook.com/parkdistrictofottawacounty.

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