



Park District of Ottawa County
770 SE Catawba Rd. | Port Clinton, OH 43452
(419) 707-4051
www.ottawacountyparksoh.org

PRESS RELEASE

News Media Contact:

Jannah Wilson
Executive Director
(419) 707-4051
jwilson@ottawacountyparksoh.org

February 23, 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Park District of Ottawa County grant program helps entities improve access to outdoor recreation spaces

Port Clinton, OH, February 23, 2026 – The Park District of Ottawa County Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program has awarded \$220,000.00 to Ottawa County political subdivisions. The yearly grant program, now in its fifth round of funding, assists entities in their efforts 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, executive director of the Park District of Ottawa County (PDOC).

Recipients of the 2026 round of the Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program are:

- Catawba Island Township, *Tennis Court Refinishing at Heigel Park*, \$20,000.00, to repair and resurface the existing tennis courts to restore playability, safety and aesthetic quality.
- Allen Township, *Allen Park Playground Equipment Improvement*, \$42,000.00, to replace old playground equipment.
- Danbury Township, *Lake Point Park Picnic Table Replacement*, \$5,000.00, to replace eight deteriorated wood picnic tables with eight 7-ft. long ADA accessible recycled material picnic tables to be located within the confines of the shelter house at Lions Park at Lake Point.
- Ottawa County Health Department, *West End Park Community Improvement Project*, \$32,800.00, to improve the existing playground at West End Park by expanding the designated playground area and installing three new pieces of playground equipment.

- Benton Township, *Benton Township Pickleball Courts and Basketball Hoop*, \$46,700.00, to add two pickleball courts and a basketball hoop with a three-point line.
- Put-in-Bay Township Park District, *Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve Agricultural History Improvements*, \$23,500.00, to restore historical buildings and equipment to preserve the history of the Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve.
- Village of Genoa, *Genoa Veterans Park Trail Improvements*, \$50,000.00, to construct one new walking trail, and pave on top of the existing stone paths around the recreation fields.

Grant applications were due January 9, 2026, and were open to Ottawa County political subdivisions and public libraries. Grant applicants were permitted to 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 could 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.

With a mission of “preserving, enhancing, and connecting Ottawa County’s natural and recreational resources for the enjoyment and benefit of all,” the Park District of Ottawa County recognizes the importance of forming partnerships to provide maximum outdoor recreation access and safety to all county residents and visitors. The Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program provides deserving entities with the financial assistance they need to increase and improve outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

A grant panel comprised of local professionals and community members reviewed each application received and made their award recommendations to the Board of Park Commissioners. The panel considered priority projects, collaboration with current Park District project planning, conformance with application requirements, cost/benefit ratio, maintenance, safety issues, regional significance, and population served in its decision-making process.

The Board of Park Commissioners voted to approve grants at the Feb. 10, 2026, public meeting. Award letters were emailed to recipients on Feb. 12, 2026.

An interactive Grants Map is available on the Park District’s website 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. The 2026 projects will be added to the Grants Map as projects are completed by the recipients. The Park District Grants Map can be viewed online at www.ottawacountyparksoh.org/grants/park-district-grants-map/.

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.