

Painesville Township gets new park



A community

park in Painesville Township has recently been completed. The idea for the park came about after a Painesville Township couple donated two parcels of land to the Lake County Land Bank. Andrew Cass —

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By Andrew Cass, The News-Herald

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Painesville Township has a new neighborhood park thanks to the Lake County Land Reutilization Corp.

The park, located at Sycamore Drive and Pontiac Avenue, has a playground and a small pavilion with picnic tables

The idea for the park arose after Painesville Township residents Robert and Margaret Esterle donated land to the Lake County Land Reutilization Corp., more commonly referred to as the Land Bank, in 2014.

The parcels had previously been a tree-filled lot, said Land Bank Executive Director John Rogers, who is also a state representative.

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With the work complete, the Land Bank is handing over the title of the park to Painesville Township, which will be responsible for its maintenance.

“We’re excited as a community to have the first community park under our ownership and management,” said Painesville Township Trustee and Land Bank board member Gabe Cicconetti. “It’s nice to be expanding to offer recreation space.”

The project is valued at \$175,000. The Land Bank received a \$27,000 Community Development Block Grant to pay for playground equipment and a \$3,000 from the Painesville Community Investment Corp. With Cicconetti’s help, the Land Bank also received two \$1,000 donations from the Allstate Community Grants program. The rest of the cost was covered by the Land Bank.

“With the cuts in local government funds that have occurred at the state level, recreational improvements, let alone other types of improvements, such as the demolitions that are ongoing, are a little hard to come by, because the cities or communities have to be cognizant of making sure they have police and fire protection and everything else,” Rogers said. “So this is one way we’ve been able to help one of the communities in the county.”