



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

256 John Scott Highway
Steubenville, Ohio 43952

JCBDD Adopts a Park

STEUBENVILLE- The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities is helping the community by partaking in the City of Steubenville's "Adopt A Park" program.

Assistant Superintendent Michael Zinno said the board took on the project this past summer at Pico Park, which is located on Pico Street across from the Jeffco Training Center, and the maintenance crew has been tending to the site with help from special needs clients known as consumers.

"The city council named 12 parks in Steubenville and asked if any organization would step up and help take care of them," Zinno said, adding that it helped the city's recreation department amid financial constraints. "As a result of that, we thought we could take care of it with our maintenance crew and several consumers. We're supported in part by local levies, so we wanted to give back to say thank you and maybe set an example for others to follow."

Crews work roughly once a week mowing the grass, trimming weeds, and doing other forms of upkeep and say it has been making a difference in the neighborhood.

"It seems that a lot of people are using it, so maybe a little of the pride's picked up," said maintenance worker Ed Kostecki, adding that it has been utilized by the training center and the public. "We started around June and [the board had] talked about adopting the park and were game for it."

He and maintenance worker Everett Skinner said they've heard positive feedback since they took on the project.

"Some people said they use the park now since we tend to it," added Skinner.

Even the consumers like participating.

"It's good. It's fun," said consumer Johnny Abshire.

Mayor Domenick Mucci praised the group for helping the city.

"With the current financial resources of the city and the restraints on our recreational budget, the Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities has stepped up by adopting the city park on Pico Street. The assistance with the upkeep of the park is a huge help to the City of Steubenville. It is also a wonderful opportunity for the individuals who attend Jeffco Workshop and Training Center to actively participate in the community in a meaningful way," Mucci said. "It is a great partnership that I hope can continue for many years to come."

(Photo Cutline: The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities is taking part in the City of Steubenville's "Adopt A Park" program by maintaining Pico Park near the Jeffco Training Center. Pictured, from left, are maintenance worker Ed Kostecki, consumer Thomas Huggins, consumer Johnny Abshire, and maintenance worker Everett Skinner.)

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