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East Palestine City Park: Your Questions Answered

Take a dive into City Park Updates, Progress, & FAQ

Our East Palestine City Park continues to be one of our community's most cherished gathering spaces. While construction and renovations have brought updates to the grounds, the heart of the park remains exactly what our residents know and love- a place for family, friends, and memories. Many have wondered whether the ongoing improvements meant big changes, but we are happy to share that the park still offers all of the familiar features that make it a favorite destination for residents, athletes, and visitors alike.

From disc golf to our well-used sport courts, the park's most popular amenities remain fully available this summer. Better yet, the renovations open the door for future enhancements, including the potential extension of our walking trail- a welcome addition for walkers, runners and nature lovers.

Despite the ongoing improvements, the park continues to host many of our village's beloved events throughout the year. Community clean-up days, sports activities, and seasonal celebrations will all continue as planned, keeping the park at the center of local community life.

The new playground, designed with direct input from East Palestine's children, will feature a dynamic mix of play experiences including obstacle-course elements, a wooden playset zone, a modern play structure, and a "jumping pillow", a two-inch-thick bounce surface that adds a fun, energetic twist to the new space. This refreshed, reimagined play area will be accessible and inclusive, including many opportunities with those with physical disabilities to access and play.

As Phase 2 of City Park revitalization focuses on the new pool, the playground represents major progress for Phase 3. The Village is optimistic for a 2027 opening of the playground. Bids for Phase 3 were released in late February/early March, with submissions due March 9. Review meetings begin in early April, marking another step in bringing this community-designed space to life.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Pool & Playground Updates

When will the pool be open? Is the pool open to non-EP residents?

The park pool is on track to be completed and opened for Memorial Day weekend 2026. However, construction timelines for completion depend on final gas line work from Enbridge. Due to this factor, the Village cannot confirm the opening date until that work is complete. Yes, the East Palestine park pool always has been open to everyone and will continue to be with the new pool.

Will the pool be rentable for parties?

Yes, pool rentals will return once the facility officially opens for the season.

What are the pool pass prices?

Pool pass rates are part of the 2026 Park Rates Ordinance, which began its first reading on March 9, 2026. Some rates will remain the same, and some will be updated. *Veterans and active-duty military receive free passes.* Full details will be posted on the Village website once approved.

Is the Village hiring for lifeguards and summer staff?

Yes, those interested in applying for lifeguard, ticket booth attendants (both must be 16yrs+), or concession stand staff (15yrs+) may visit the Municipal Office at 85 North Market Street. Applications are due by April 15 at 4pm. The season runs Memorial Day weekend (tentative) through the end of August 2026. Lifeguards cover their own certification but earn a \$150 reimbursement when they complete the full season.

What is the timeline for the new playground? Will there be shade?

The playground will not be open this summer, and it is unlikely that it will be completed before fall of 2026. The construction of the playground *does not* depend on the pool's construction or completion. Yes, there will be shade at the playground and surrounding areas. Some trees were removed due to infrastructure needs or poor health and safety. Strategic replanting will occur, ensuring more shade in those areas, along with implementing shade structures.

Park Access, Facilities, Rentals and Rates

Is the park open during construction?

Yes. The East Palestine City Park remains open throughout construction, and residents are encouraged to visit and enjoy the amenities that are currently available:

- Sand volleyball courts
- Pickleball courts (may create your own league!)
- Basketball courts
- Disc Golf course (highly rated and newly improved!)
- Baseball fields
- Park pond
- Pavilions and gazebos (open for rental)

The park pool and playground remain closed until construction is complete. Security remains in place at our park, including cameras with monitoring.

Are the old public bathrooms being removed? What bathrooms will be available?

Yes, the two older bathroom buildings will be replaced. The pool building will include an external bathroom that remains open to the public, and additional bathrooms will be replaced as part of the ongoing park improvements.

Are pavilions being fixed?

There are no major upgrades planned at this time for pavilions, and maintenance will continue one pavilion at a time as needed.

What facilities are rentable? Are rental costs staying the same?

Park rental rates are included in the 2026 Park Ordinance that began its first reading on March 9, 2026. Some rates will stay the same, but others may be updated. Final rates will be posted on the Village website after approval. Full rental guides with photos will be released in the coming month. Residents are able to rent:

- Pavilions
- Gazebo
- Ballfields (league scheduling required)



! Fireworks at City Park have been confirmed for July 2026!

EP FUN facts
Did you know East Palestine was once known for its "Strawberry Special" train? During peak growing seasons, railcars full of fresh EP strawberries were shipped across the region—fast enough to arrive the same day!

SPRING cleaning TIPS

Cleaning tips for your home!

Things you may forget to clean indoors during your Spring-cleaning checklist:

- **Refresh your mattress:** Vacuum the surface, sprinkling with baking soda, let it sit for 30min, vacuum again, and rotating if possible.
- **Wash curtains and wipe your blinds:** Most curtains can go straight into the washing machine. For blinds, close them, wipe with a damp microfiber cloth, flip, and repeat.
 - Refreshing curtains and mattresses will help those with allergies to dust, hair, or other seasonal dander.
- **Clean your light fixtures:** Remove glass covers and wash them in warm, soapy water. Dust bulbs with a dry microfiber cloth and wipe fixture before returning glass covers. *Wiping a warm/hot bulb with a damp cloth will make the bulb break!*
- **Wash baseboards and trim:** Use warm water and a drop of dish soap, a microfiber cloth, and run it along the baseboards and trim of your home. *For easier execution, tie the cloth to the end of an extension. This will be helpful, so you do not have to be on your hands and knees. However, will not remove dirt and dust from baseboards if they require more elbow grease.*

Remember these key points to a vibrant and welcoming exterior:

- **Power-wash high traffic areas:** Porches, steps, sidewalks and driveways all collect winter grime. Even a simple hose with a high-pressure nozzle can lift dirt and brighten concrete.
- **Clear gutters and downspouts:** Remove leaves and debris so spring rain may drain properly. Run water through the downspout to ensure it flows freely. *(If you are unable to do this, you may have a neighbor who is able to assist you).*
 - This is important to ensure water does not come inside your home or down walls.
- **Tidy flower beds:** Remove leaves, sticks, overgrown plants, and leftover fall/winter debris. This is a great first step to prepping for spring gardening!

Spring is Blooming in EP!



EP Area Chamber of
Commerce

Spring Fling

April
4th | SATURDAY | 10-4

FAMILY FUN DAY

Let's welcome spring the best way we know how, together! Our Spring Fling will be filled with kids crafts, a fun Garden Trail experience, tasty food trucks, and lots of reason to stroll, shop, and celebrate our community. Come out, bring a friend, and help us make downtown bloom!



Leading partner for metals industries in the US, Canada, and Mexico

SMS Group Inc. provides new equipment, digital technologies, green-steel solutions, upgrades and maintenance services for metal producers across North America. As part of the global SMS group family, the company is headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with 21 regional locations in the United States- one being right here in East Palestine on State Route 14.

SMS Group: Engineering Strength of Our Community

A global leader with deep roots, driving innovation and opportunity in East Palestine

SMS Group Inc. has a long history of shaping the metals industry through innovation, engineering excellence, and forward-thinking solutions. The company's North American operations is a network that allows SMS Group to stay closely connected to the customers and communities it serves.

As part of the global SMS Group family, the company provides new equipment, digital technologies, green-steel solutions, upgrades and maintenance services for metals producers throughout the nation. Their work touches nearly every corner of the industry, from modernizing steelmaking processes to developing cleaner, more efficient technologies that support a sustainable future.

Here in East Palestine, SMS Group's Unity Township location reflects the company's commitment to both industry and community. The facility plays a key role in supporting regional manufacturing while offering stable, skilled jobs that strengthen the local workforce. Many of the employees who work there are long-time residents- people who not only contribute to the company's success, but also to the daily life of our village.

SMS Group's presence in East Palestine is more than just industrial- it is a partnership. Their team continues to invest in innovation, safety, and long-term growth, helping ensure that our region remains a meaningful part of the broader metals landscape. As the company looks toward the future of green steel and advanced digital solutions, East Palestine remains firmly on the map as a place where progress and community meet.

The Village of East Palestine is preparing for spring yard debris collection, and residents are encouraged to take part in keeping our community clean and well-maintained. To request pickup call the Village Office at **330-426-4367 ex. 20**, scan the QR code, or submit an online request form: **EP Public Service Request form**. This service is available to East Palestine Residents only). Please review the guidelines below to ensure crews can safely and efficiently collect your materials.

Not accepted:

- Whole cut trees
- Grass clippings

Accepted items (with requirements):

- Branches: must be 3-4 inches in diameter, cut into 4-5 foot sections, with all cut ends facing the same direction and placed in manageable piles.
- Leaves: must be in biodegradable bags (available at local hardware stores) and kept to a manageable weight.
- Shrubbery trimmings and small twigs: must also be in biodegradable bags and kept to a manageable weight.

This program gives residents the opportunity to help maintain and beautify our community by removing downed limbs, branches, sticks and moderate yard waste from their private property. Proper disposal prevents unsightly accumulation, protects stormwater drainage systems, and supports regular yard maintenance. Allowing debris to build up can create health and safety concerns, including attracting vermin and obstructing proper drainage. By following these guidelines, residents help keep East Palestine clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone.

YARD DEBRIS

PICK UP

MARCH 15TH - MAY 15TH





THIS MONTH IN East Palestine's History

April 1875: The village gets its first sidewalks

As downtown businesses grew along Market Street, the village approved its first wooden sidewalks in April of 1875. Before this, residents navigated dirt paths that turned into mud every spring. The new walkways were celebrated as a sign that East Palestine was becoming a "proper town".

April 1883: A big month for our railroad

In April of 1883, the railroad repair shops in East Palestine were running full force, employing dozens of locals. These shops became one of our most important employers and helped shaped our identity as a hardworking, industrial community. Many employees lived along West and East Clark Street due to the short commute.

April 1910: The brickyard hits a production record

East Palestine's famous brickyards were thriving in the early 1900s, and in April of 1910, marked a record production month. Local brick was shipped across Ohio and Pennsylvania, helping build streets, factories and storefronts throughout the region.

April 1921: Expansion of telephone service

In 1921, our village announced expanded telephone lines, which allowed more homes and businesses to connect. Operators worked from a small switchboard downtown, and residents were able to quickly reach neighbors and nearby towns.

April 1948: Volunteer firefighters get new equipment

Through successful fundraising efforts in 1948, the East Palestine Fire Department added new hoses and upgraded their gear- this marked a major community milestone and at the time was a reminder of how often residents came together to support local safety services.

April 1965: The first Community Spring Clean Up day

Long before our tradition of community clean-up days, East Palestine held its first organized spring clean-up in April 1965. Residents gathered to clear brush, tidy streets, plant early flowers, and more. This is now an annual tradition organized by Village Administration with support of the Street Department and Utilities Department, depending on the type of clean-up.

Community Events

April 2026

2

Blankets & Brews Workshop
6pm @ EP Eagles

3

Covington Easter Egg Hunt
11am @ Covington Skilled Nursing
and Rehabilitation

4

EP Kids Fishing Day
8am @ EP Park Pond

4

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
9-11:30am @ EP Park Community
Center

4

EP Area Chamber of Commerce
Spring Fling
10am-4pm @ Downtown EP

14

State of the Schools
6pm @ EPHS Auditorium

18

EPACT Home Repair Fair
10am @ The Way Station

25

Pure Flight Disc Golf Tournament
8am @ EP City Park

25

The Meadows at Covington Craft
Show 10am @ Covington Skilled
Nursing and Rehabilitation

30

Charter Review Commission
6pm @ the Municipal Building

Events brought to you by epohio.org.

East Palestine City Schools "State of the Schools"

Go beyond the classroom with Superintendent Dr. Rook

Ever wonder what is really happening inside the halls of our East Palestine Schools? Whether you have a student at a desk or haven't stepped foot in a school building in years, the health of our schools is the heartbeat of our village.

On Tuesday, April 14th, we are pulling back the curtain. Join Superintendent Dr. James Rook and our building principals for an evening of direct conversation and "insider" updates. This is not a report of dry numbers. It is a chance for every resident to hear the "why" and the "how" behind our district's direction:

The Big Picture: Get a transparent look at the district's overall health and strategic goals from Dr. Rook.

Building-Level Deep Dives: Hear directly from principals about the specific progress, performance and unique challenges within each of our buildings.

A Look Ahead: Be the first to hear about upcoming plans that will shape the future of our local education and property values.

Join the conversation:
We are excited to share the momentum building at EP Schools. This is your opportunity to stay informed, get involved, and see firsthand the great things our students and staff are accomplishing.

Date: Tuesday, April 14th, 2026

Time: 6:00PM

Location: EPHS Auditorium 360 West Grant Street, East Palestine, Ohio, 44413

Mark your calendars- our schools belong to the whole community!



Spring Production: Disney's The Little Mermaid



SCHOOL Spotlight



Business HIGHLIGHT



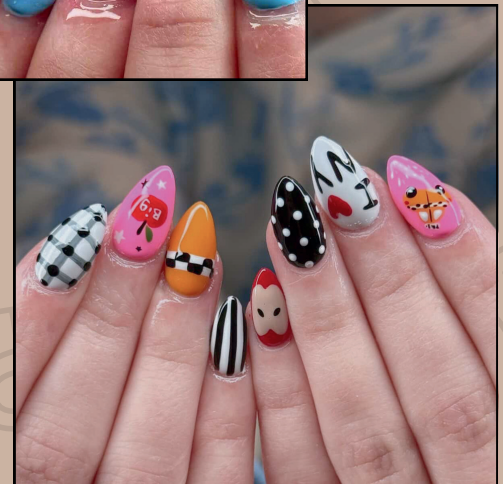
Lahna's Nail Nirvana (LNN Beauty) by Alahna Arter

Lahna's Nail Nirvana, located at 67 North Market Street in the heart of downtown East Palestine, has become a standout destination for beauty and selfcare. Owned and operated by East Palestine High School alumna Alahna Arter, the salon has grown into a vibrant asset for the community, offering a welcoming space where creativity and craftsmanship meet.

Arter entered the nail profession in 2022 and will celebrate two years of business later this year in September. While she never initially imagined owning her own business, Alahna has embraced the journey wholeheartedly. Her goal is to build long-term roots in East Palestine and contribute to the continued growth of the downtown district. She loves seeing new storefronts open and enjoys being part of a supportive network of local entrepreneurs. Shares, "I could not ask for a better deck of cards, or place for me."

For Arter, the art of nails is a perfect blend of passion and profession. She enjoys the creativity, the variety, and the opportunity to make every appointment and design unique to her clients. Each day brings new designs, styles and ideas, allowing her to fully thrive in her craft while building a career that supports her.

Lahna's Nail Nirvana continues to shine as a testament to local talent, dedication and the bright future of East Palestine's small business community. Thank you, Alahna!



67 N. Market St. EPO 44413



Lahnas Nail Nirvana



85 North Market Street East Palestine, OH 44413

@villageofepohio    



Did you know East Palestine was a greenhouse powerhouse? By the mid-1990s, our village was one of Ohio's largest producers of commercial flowers and plants. Local greenhouses shipped blooms across the Midwest.