

Park Planning Project Update October, 2020

Argo Universal Access:

- An initial public meeting was held on Thursday, February 21st, 2019 at Northside Elementary to get feedback on a preliminary concept plan prior to pursuing grant funding.
- Council approved a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
- The grant application was submitted and preliminary scores were favorable. Final awards are determined in December.
- The Parks department met with the MDNR on site and presented to their board.
- The city was notified that our project is being recommended for award of a Trust Fund grant in the amount of \$300,000. The grant will be finalized this spring and disbursement is anticipated in the summer.
- Staff have hired architectural & engineering consultants and design is now underway.
- The project had administrative site plan approval.
- Delays with State legislature appropriation of the grant funds has affected our ability to start construction this fall, so we are now planning for construction to commence in fall of 2021.

Park Bridge Repairs:

- Bridge assessments were done on several park bridges (Barton Nature Area, Bandemer Park, Mitchell Field, and Gallup Park) and concluded that repairs are needed in order to preserve their use & structural integrity.
- The bridge repair and renovation work was put out to bid in early October and only one bid was received on October 25 from Anlaan Corporation in the amount of \$916,898.65. This exceeded the funding that Parks had available for the work so Parks worked with Anlaan and DLZ engineering to explore options to reduce costs and postpone parts of the work in order to reduce the project costs to fit available funding. The project scope was reduced by safely delaying repairs on the Bandemer Park bridges.
- Work was completed on all five bridges this spring.

Gallup Boatlaunch Pathway:

- Staff developed bid documents to repave a portion of the Gallup Park pathway on the north bank of the river between the livery and boat launch/dirt parking lot. This work is needed as part of ongoing maintenance and would include widening the path to meet current trail standards and fixing existing drainage issues.
- The contract documents for the project were bid through the City's Procurement Unit following standard procedures. Six bids were received and opened on August 5, 2020.
- The lowest responsible bid is from All Star Power Excavation, L.L.C. in the amount of \$245,209.00 for Crushing and Reshaping the Path (Option A), and \$365,743.00 to excavate the existing path and add a new limestone base.
- Staff hope to have the project constructed in spring of 2021.

Gallup Bridge/Road/Trail Schematic Design:

- The Gallup wooden vehicular bridge has reached its life span and we anticipate replacing the bridge in the next three to five years. Considering that both the park road and the Border-to-Border trail on the southern approach have deferred maintenance needs, we would like to take a holistic approach to design for the bridge, road, and trail in this area.
- SmithGroup, a design and engineering consultant under a standing contract, will assist Parks & Rec by developing Schematic Design plans for the project area that results in an overall Master Plan with proposed phasing of the project elements and cost estimates. The Schematic Design is intended to be used to apply for TAP grants through MDOT and SEMCOG at appropriate times to meet grant cycles based on the anticipated construction period.
- Throughout the process, SmithGroup will assist the City in public engagement strategies to allow the public to provide input that may influence design options, as well as the final preferred schematic design.
- An online survey was conducted to gather preliminary input from the community. Responses received will be used to inform design development.
- An online public meeting will be held later this fall to discuss design alternatives.

Veterans Memorial Park Pool Slide Stair Repair:

- The waterslide stair tower at Veterans Memorial Park pool is approximately 30 years old and has shown some deterioration of the steel substructure. A structural evaluation completed in Fall of 2019 provided recommendations for both short-term and long-term repairs. Short-term repairs were completed in-house by City staff. Long-term repairs were recommended to extend the life of the current slide structure, which include the cleaning and repainting of the stair tower steel and replacement of the wood railing to meet code compliance.
- The wood railing was replaced by City staff in Winter of 2019.
- City Council passed a resolution approving a contract to Seaway Painting for \$52,350 on September 8, 2020.
- Work to repair the steel structure including cleaning, replacement of steel members, and repainting was bid out, with construction anticipated for Fall 2020.

Court Repairs:

- Staff are looking to repair basketball and tennis courts in City Parks as part of ongoing maintenance. Courts under consideration are Southeast Area basketball court, Leslie Park basketball courts, and Burns Park tennis and basketball courts.
- The contract documents for the two projects were bid through the City's Procurement Unit following standard procedures. Two bids were received and opened on August 5, 2020.
- The lowest responsible bid for both basketball court projects is from Sommerset Paving in a total amount \$116,211.00
- Staff hope to have the projects constructed in spring of 2021. The Burns Park tennis and basketball courts are not in need of full replacement and can be repaired and resurfaced.
- Public input, in the form of a survey, was sought on whether to add pickleball courts to the Burn's Park tennis court site. The City received 219 responses:

- Option A: 45 – four dedicated tennis courts, no pickleball courts
 - Option B: 56 – three dedicated tennis courts, one tennis court with two pickleball courts over-striped
 - Option C: 121 – Three dedicated tennis courts, 2 dedicated pickleball courts.
- Staff hope to have the Burns Park tennis and basketball courts repaired and resurfaced in spring of 2021.

Farmer's Market Sidewall Study:

- Kohler Architecture is on a standing contract with the Parks Department for on-going design services, and they are currently working on a feasibility study for adding sidewalls to the Farmers Market canopy.
- The Farmer's Market operates during the winter season and the Market Manager and vendors are interested in exploring temporary sidewall curtains to improve comfort and protect vendor's products during cold weather.
- A structural analysis of the existing Farmers Market canopy has been completed and it is determined that additional reinforcements are needed to support the sidewalls.
- A final feasibility report for sidewalls has been created with recommendations and cost estimates for various scenarios.
- The sidewall concept was shared with the Public Market Advisory Board (PMAC) in March.
- Community engagement for this project has been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 crisis, as the Market adapts to changed operating conditions and procedures.

Playground Renovations:

- Improvements were being planned for West Park playground and Bromley playground this summer.
- Public meetings that were scheduled for mid-March were cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis.
- Public meetings were held to gather input from community members on initial designs.

Skatepark Lighting:

- The Ann Arbor Skatepark Commission has raised funds for the purpose of installing lighting at the Skatepark to extend the hours of use for this popular amenity.
- A request for proposals (RFP) was issued in November for lighting design services and the City received five proposals. A consultant has been selected and design work will commence this winter.
- The City intends to apply for a grant to help finance the project. Due to the long timelines associated with grants, construction would likely not commence until mid-2021.
- A design kickoff meeting took place on February 20th.
- This project is resuming this Fall.

Bandemer-Barton:

- Consultant has been selected to perform updated feasibility study on Bandemer-Barton connection and pathway in Barton
- Initial public meeting to solicit input was held on Tuesday, February 26th, 2019 at 6:30pm at Forsyth Middle School. The majority of feedback from the initial public meeting, emails and online forms has been mostly supportive of the project.
- A final report has been submitted and is under review.