

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation

Park Planning Updates

August 2024

Projects:

1. ADA Transition Plan

- Staff have received a final draft of the ADA Transition Plan. Altura Solutions was at the December PAC meeting and gave a presentation outlining the process and findings.
- PAC was provided the ADA Transition Plan Document in January. Staff and Altura Solutions will be present at the March PAC meeting, to answer any questions that the commission may have.
- A resolution to recommend approval of the ADA Transition Plan was presented to PAC at the March PAC Meeting.
- The ADA Transition Plan was presented to the Commission on Disability Issues (CODI) on April 17th.
- City council adopted the ADA Transition Plan for Parks (R-24-166)

2. Asset Management Plan

- Parks issued an RFP seeking a qualified engineering/consulting firm to collect data and create an asset management plan for the park system.
- The objective of the asset management plan is to assist parks in planning for future projects - short term, medium term, and long term.
- The RFP was released in November, with the anticipation of having a consultant selected and under contract by Spring 2024.
- One proposal was received for the project, from OHM Advisors.
- PAC will be acting on a resolution for the Asset Management Plan at the February 2024 meeting. A presentation will be given outline the scope of the project.
- PAC Recommended approval of the Asset Management Plan at the February 2024 meeting.
- The Parks Asset Management Plan resolution was passed by City Council at their April 1 meeting. The draft contract is being finalized, and work is expected to kick off in May 2024.
- The Kick-Off meeting for the Parks Asset Management Plan was held the Week of June 10th. The project is now underway.
- Three Pop-Up Events have been scheduled to inform the community about the Asset Management Plan: 8/21 8am – 12pm at the Farmers Market, 8/21 2pm – 5pm at Fuller Park Pool, and 8/26 2pm – 6pm at West Park.
- Assessments of Facilities are anticipated to begin in late September/early October.

3. Barton Nature Area Border to Border Trail Project

- The Border to Border Trail through Barton Nature Area is complete, except for some tree and shrub planting that will take place in the fall.
- A large oak tree near the parking lot was nearly dead and had to be removed to prevent the potential for limbs to fall on trail users. The fallen tree was transformed into a nature play feature on site. The playground is now open and named “Great Oak Nature Playground”.

4. Barton / Bandemer Pedestrian Tunnel Project:

- Davis Construction was selected as the contractor being recommended for the construction contract to build the tunnel. They were the highest scoring firm out of six bidders.
- Wade Trim was selected to provide Construction Engineering and Inspection services for the project.
- Both contracts, as well as a cost sharing agreement with Washtenaw County, were approved at the August 8th City Council Meeting.

5. Bicentennial Park (former Southeast Area Park)

- Parks has received funding from the State of Michigan for the construction of a Splash Pad at the future Bicentennial Park.
- Staff has begun work on design of the splash pad, talking with manufacturers, engineers, contractors, as well as other municipalities/agencies that have recently installed splash pads.
- In addition to the splash pad, many other improvements are being planned for the park. A community engagement plan will be developed to get an understand of community desires, needs, and wants for the future of the park.
- We have signed a Work Statement with ROWE Professional Services, to do Design, Engineering, Bid Assistance, and Construction Administration.
- Topographic survey has been completed.
- Design on the splashpad and the restroom building have begun.
- PAC was recommended approval of purchasing splash pad and playground equipment at the December 2023 meeting. An overview of the project was also be provided at this meeting.
- Plan reviews have been submitted to both the State of Michigan (EGLE) and Washtenaw County for review.
- Bid Documents for the Bicentennial Park Project were finalized in May.
- Michigan Recreation Construction (MRC) has been engaged as a Best Source procurement policy to act as the General Contractor on the Project. Their experience and expertise as a Splash Pad installer was recommended by Aquatix, the manufacturer of the splashpad equipment. In addition, Ann Arbor Parks has a well – documented history of successful projects with MRC, including the Gallup Universal Access Playground.
- Staff received a quote from the contractor for the job, and are currently reviewing. The project schedule will be a moving target, as funding is still being secured for construction.
- The Bicentennial Park renaming ceremony was held on July 11th at Bicentennial Park.
- EGLE Review is still underway on the project. Engineering documents are being updated to include requested changes. Staff will meet with MRC in the coming weeks to discuss the proposal.
- Phase II engineering documents are underway, for repaving of the two existing parking lots, and opening of the park road. ARPA funding, which was approved by City Council, will be used for Phase II.

6. Bridge Repairs (Leslie Golf Course and Sylvan Park)

- Engineering and permitting is underway with anticipated construction in summer of 2024 (Sylvan) and fall of 2024 (Leslie GC).

7. Burns Park

- The Burns Park Tennis and Pickleball Court re-surfacing project has been completed. The Courts are now open for use.

8. Farmers Market

- Washout has been observed near the foundation of the Farmers Market office building. The sidewalk has begun to sink as well, indicating a water problem underneath. Hubbell, Roth & Clark (HRC) has been asked to do an investigation to help determine the cause. Staff continue to work through possible options.
- An investigation into the Farmers Market found that the foundations of the Market building were compromised. The Market Building will be shut down starting May 1, and staff will be moved to a temporary structure onsite.
- Parks is preparing to do a full market study. An RFP will be released for a consultant to do an assessment of the current market, complete community engagement, and help provide a direction for the future of the market.
- Presentations were given to PAC and PMAC (Public Market Advisory Commission in February.
- A Storage container was placed on site to begin migration from the existing Market Building. A construction trailer is also on site which will be used as a temporary office for Market Staff.
- A proposal was received from Hubbel, Roth & Clark (HRC), to provide bid documents to demolish the existing market building. The RFP (RFP# 24-41), was published June 11th, with bids due back on July 3rd.
- Six proposals were received to demolish the Farmers Market Office Building. The RFP also contained the demolition of Veterans Memorial Park Picnic Shelter, 415 W. Washington Ave, and 721 North Main. Staff are currently evaluating proposals through the City's Best Value Procurement process.
- 21st Century Salvage was selected for the Demolition of the Farmers Market Office Building. Scheduling of this project is still being determined with the Contractor, but will take place between January 2 and April 26, as minimize impacts on Market operations. Work is not permitted to take place on Saturday or Sunday. The RFP for a Farmers Market Study is in development.
- An update was provided to PMAC at the July 18th meeting.

9. Gallup Park Bridge Construction

- Surface coating is complete on the bridge.
- Earthwork on the bridge embankments is underway, as well as layout and preparation for the new trails.
- Ledge stone is being placed along the abutments to prevent scour from undermining the bridge foundation.
- Stone veneer work is beginning on the bridge walls
- The bridge is currently expected to be open to traffic in late September.

10. Liberty Plaza Planting

- Staff is working with InSite Design Studio to redesign the plant beds at Liberty Plaza. Plans and Bid Documents have been completed and published to the City's Procurement Page. Unfortunately zero proposals were received for the work.
- Staff is reviewing the bid package, and will be re-issuing at a future date.

11. Lockett Park Playground Improvements

- Construction on the Lockett Park Playground is complete, and the playground is open.

12. South Maple Park Tennis Courts

- The South Maple Tennis Court project has resumed, looking at replacing the existing tennis courts with new tennis courts. Due to EGLE regulations, placing the court in the existing location is not permitted. Two options have been developed, and community engagement has started with a survey asking community members to weigh in.
- We received over 200 online survey responses and staff are analyzing results. Construction is anticipated for Spring 2025.

13. Veterans Memorial Park Shelter Demolition

- Consultants have revised the Construction Documents, and the project will be rebid in fall of 2023, for demolition to take place in 2024.
- The Veterans Memorial Park Shelter Demolition project was rebid. Staff received one bid and are currently reviewing the proposal.
- Staff re-bid the Veterans Memorial Park Shelter Demolition, included in RFP 24-41, with the Farmers Market office building. Six proposals were received for this work, and staff are currently evaluating using the City's Best Value Procurement process.
- 21st Century Salvage was selected for the Demolition of the Veterans Memorial Park Shelter. Scheduling of this project is still being determined with the Contractor. Demolition will finish no later than October 2025.

14. West Park Bandshell

- The Community Engagement Project is currently underway.
- An online survey is currently live and will conclude Monday, October 23rd.
- We have held seven Pop-Up Events at West Park have been successful. Thus far we have held 7 events,
- A virtual meeting was held on Monday Sept 11. A recording of the event has been posted to the West Park Bandshell page.
- An in-person public meeting was held on Wednesday, October 11 and was well-attended.
- A stakeholder meeting was held on Wednesday, October 18th.
- Staff is working with SmithGroup on alternative designs for the bandshell. A second round of engagement has not yet been scheduled but will take place once alternatives are available.
- An update on West Park was given at the May PAC meeting.
- Based on extensive feedback from the community, SmithGroup was authorized for an additional benchmarking study, which will help identify similar projects in other park systems. This data will help inform both City Staff and the public on what has been successful elsewhere.

- Benchmarking for the West Park Bandshell project is nearly complete, and information will be shared with the community once complete.
- A Pop-Up event is scheduled for August 26, from 2pm-6pm at West Park, to review findings from the first round of engagement, highlight information from the benchmarking process, and to discuss the Asset Management Plan.