

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation

Park Planning Updates

May 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 will be presented to PAC at the March PAC Meeting.
- The ADA Transition Plan will be presented to the Commission on Disability Issues (CODI) on April 17th.

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.

3. Barton – Bandemer Pedestrian Connection Project

- The Barton-Bandemer Pedestrian Connection project has been split into two separate phases. The first phase will include the paving of the Border to Border Trail from the Barton Dam parking lot on the west, through the Barton Nature Area oxbow, and ending at the southeastern bridge. This phase was bid this fall for construction in spring/summer of 2024 and is awaiting contract approvals.
- The second phase of the project will be the construction of the tunnel, pathway approaches, and paving the parking lot near the south end of the south bridge. This phase is intended to be bid this winter and constructed in late summer of 2024, but is awaiting permit approvals from Amtrak and EGLE.

- The Trail Phase project has begun and work is underway between the parking lot and north pedestrian bridge. Construction within the oxbow peninsula is expected to begin in the next couple weeks.
- Construction is anticipated to extend into September and we expect the trails on the oxbow to be closed during this time. There may be temporary closures of other trails as needed during construction.
- The pedestrian tunnel project (Phase 2) is out to bid and closing it mid-May. We should have updates at the May PAC meeting regarding the project and anticipate asking for contract approval at the June PAC meeting.
- We also have an RFP out for a construction management and engineering firm to oversee construction of the tunnel.
- 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 will be reused as nature play feature on site. The playground will open when the trail project is complete.

4. 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 are being finalized.

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

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

6. Farmers Market

- Washout has been observed near the foundation of the Farmer's 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 for a Farmers Market Study is in development.

7. Gallup Park Bridge Construction

- Construction has resumed and is underway at the new bridge. The center pier is nearly complete and work on the abutments and other pilings are ongoing.
- The City is looking to accelerate construction by having crews on site 6-days a week as staffing and workload allows.
- Contractor anticipates a 2-day closure of river traffic during a weekday when beams are being set. The planned dates are next Thursday May 23 and Friday, May 24.
- There may be other impacts to river traffic during construction so please check for project updates on the webpage.

8. 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.

9. Lockett Park Playground Improvements

- Construction on the Lockett Park Playground has begun. Improvements are anticipated to be complete by the beginning of May.

10. 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.

11. Veterans Memorial Park Ice Arena:

- The ice arena improvements project is complete.

12. 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.

13. 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 alternatives 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 is being planned for the May PAC meeting.