

Park Planning Capital Project Update January 2012

Argo Dam Walkway

- An engineering consultant is studying the feasibility of widening the walkway over Argo Dam.

Beckley Park

- Improvements included replacement of the playground structure, additional picnic tables and trees, replacement of the pathway through the park and alongside Fairview Cemetery, and a new bocce ball court. The project is essentially complete except for some lawn restoration.

Bluffs Park

- Plans are underway to create a new entry at the recently purchased Elk's property. A public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15 at City Hall to discuss the project. Work will take place this winter and next summer.

Buhr Park

- The entry road and parking lots will be renovated to replace the deteriorated surfacing and improve stormwater drainage. New pathways to connect the facilities in the park and improve pedestrian circulation will be a part of this project. Construction should take place in spring/fall of 2012 with the project phased to allow the facilities to remain open during construction. Construction bids were received, and the project is slated for the March 5 Council meeting.

Cobblestone Farm

- The historic buildings are being assessed by an architect to prioritize future renovations projects.

Forest Ave. Plaza

- This plaza is located next to the Forest Ave parking structure. Funding was contributed by the developer of 601 Forest and Zaragon II to improve the plaza. Work is being done in conjunction with the DDA. Two public meetings were held and improvement items prioritized. A final design will be completed this winter.

Gallup Park

- Design for renovation of the livery, the entry road and pathway, and the dock area is essentially complete. The goals for the project include improving barrier free access and safety and will include redesign of the entry to the Livery, new barrier free docks for boating and fishing, renovation of the meeting room, and barrier free upgrades around the facility. We received a \$300,000 grant to implement the project.
- A second grant was awarded by the MDNR to do preliminary engineering to renovate the boat launch. Design is underway, and a public meeting will be scheduled to discuss the design.

Hunt Park

- Access steps were constructed along Daniel Street next to the retaining wall. The project is complete except for final grading and planting.

- A public meeting was held to discuss possible expansion of the Project Grow garden, however, it was decided to keep the size as is, and provide half plots.

Island Park

- The Greek Revival Shelter and the historic bridge have deteriorated due to wildlife and water damage. The restoration project includes replacement of all the wood trim and repair of the concrete. The roof was replaced in October. The project is under construction, with most of the trim replacement complete. Finish painting and stucco work will take place in the spring, 2012.

Leslie Science and Nature Center

- A stormwater and pedestrian circulation master plan is being developed to improve the pathway system, comply with the ADA, and decrease impervious surfaces. Work will include construction of a barrier free path to the raptor enclosures. A public meeting was held on January 19.

Placid Way Park

- A public meeting was held to discuss improvements to the park and a survey was sent to park neighbors. Improvements will include replacement of the play area, and additional park furniture and landscaping. Design is underway.

Riverside Park

- The entry pathway and park road (Canal Street) will be improved to create better separation between pedestrians and vehicles and to replace the deteriorated asphalt.
- The parking lot will be relocated to the northwest side of the park to remove it from the floodway.
- A public meeting was held at Island Park to discuss improvements, and a concept plan was developed. The work will be done in conjunction with repair work to Canal Street by Public Services.

Senior Center

- The restrooms are being renovated this coming May. The construction will include three barrier free restrooms.

Skate Park

- A grant was received for design and construction of a Skate Park in Veterans Memorial Park.

South University Park

- A public meeting was held on January 10, 2012 to discuss improvements to the park using donated funding. Improvements will include a pathway through the park, landscaping, and a refurbished ½ basketball court.

Veterans Memorial Park Ice Arena

- A solar shade structure on the pool deck is being funded by a grant from the Energy Office. The project is complete except for the solar panels, which are being implemented under separate contract.
- The pool locker rooms renovation is complete.
- The concrete plaza adjacent to the ice arena (north of the existing entry plaza) has been converted to a rain garden to accept water from the arena roof. The

project is being handled by Systems Planning and the County Water Resources Commission and being funded through the State Revolving Loan Fund.

West Park

- There have been several issues with the underground storm system that was constructed as part of the renovation project. These are being addressed and will be resolved next construction season. A public meeting was held in January and a second one is scheduled for February to inform the public of progress and receive input.
- The tennis courts are currently under construction. Due to poor weather, the paving will be delayed until spring, 2012.
- The historic pergola as well as the planting and sitting area on Miller Ave will be renovated in Spring, 2012.

Winewood Thaler Park

- Renovations included a new play area, reconstructed half basketball court, benches, landscaping, walks, and sand play area. The project is complete except for restoration.