

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation

Park Planning Updates

April 2026

Projects:

1. Asset Management Plan

- The objective of the asset management plan is to assist parks in planning for future projects - short term, medium term, and long term.
- An update on the Asset Management Plan was provided to PAC at the February 2025 session.
- Staff are working with the consultant to review findings for facilities.
- Non-Facility Data has been uploaded to the Asset Management Dashboard. Staff have reviewed data and will be working with OHM Advisors on the next step of the project.
- Staff is continuing to work on the Asset Management Plan, integrating findings into our back end platforms.
- An update on the Asset Management Plan was provided to PAC at the January Meeting.

2. South Barton Bridge Replacement:

- Staff submitted a grant application for a \$400,000 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, and are exploring other grant funding opportunities.
- Staff are preparing a request for proposals to hire an engineering firm for design of the new structure.

3. Barton / Bandemer Pedestrian Tunnel Project:

- The project is substantially complete and open to the public.
- Live staking and additional grading and seeding was completed last week.

4. Forsythe Park Improvements:

- Core Spaces is building a large residential building adjacent to Forsythe Park, and in lieu of providing park land, they are making improvements to Forsythe Park.
- Construction is expected to begin in mid-may and be complete in early September.

5. Fuller Park Playground Improvements:

- The City received funds from the University of Michigan for redevelopment of the Fuller Park playground.
- Design is underway and a public meeting is expected in the next month.
- Construction is expected to begin after Labor Day and be completed in late fall.

6. Mushroom Park Playground Improvements:

- A large oak tree had to be removed due to gradual decline that posed potential safety risks.
- The tree will be used to create a nature playground next to the existing playground in Mushroom Park, similar in style to what was done at the Great Oak Nature Playground in Barton Nature Area.
- A public meeting will be held this Thursday, 4/23 at 7pm on Zoom.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in Mid-May and be completed in early summer.

7. 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.
- 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.
- The Bicentennial Park renaming ceremony was held on July 11th at Bicentennial Park.
- Construction is underway at Bicentennial Park. Splash Pad, Playground, and Restroom improvements are well underway. Play Equipment, Swings, and Splash Pad equipment have all been installed, with concrete and surfacing. Concrete work remains around the restroom facility and the parking lot.
- Phase II of the Bicentennial Park Improvements Project includes the repaving of the south parking lot, and adjacent park paths. Work on this phase has been completed for the year, and is anticipated to be completed early next year.
- Solar Panel Car Ports will begin going up this month, and are expected to be installed by the end of this year.
- Construction is currently on schedule, with an opening still anticipated for Spring 2026.

8. Bridge Replacement (Leslie Golf Course and Sylvan Park)

- Construction of Leslie Golf Course bridge is complete and the remaining steps include paving the bridge approach path. Paving is expected to be completed by the end of the month.
- The Sylvan Park bridge replacement project is currently on hold due to an unexpected utility conflict that requires re-permitting.

9. Fuller Parking Lot and Border to Border Trail Renovation

- Construction is substantially complete on the Fuller Parking Lot and Border to Border Trail. Restoration remains, and will be completed in Spring 2026. The Parking Lot and Trail are open for use.

10. Liberty Plaza

- The Mural project at Liberty Plaza mural project has been completed. This was a joint project between Parks and the DDA.
- Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation is partnering with the Ann Arbor DDA to perform additional site improvements at Liberty Plaza. Improvements to the space include improving accessibility, replacing site furnishings, and installation of new plants throughout the existing beds.

- Work on improvements is anticipated to begin in April and be complete by June. The Plaza will be closed during construction, with barricades and signage being installed.

11. 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.
- PAC recommended a Construction Contract with Brencal Contractors, Inc. at the January meeting. The contract will be going to City Council on March 3rd for approval. Work is expected to begin this summer.
- Council approved the construction contract with Brencal Contractors, Inc. for the work at South Maple.
- A Pre-Construction meeting was held with Brencal Contractors. Work is anticipated to begin this month, and will run in conjunction with the Dexter Road Park project. Work is expected to be complete by the end of 2026.

12. Dexter Road Park

- The Dexter Park development project is anticipated to begin this summer. In January, PAC recommended approval of a Construction Contract with Brencal Contractors, Inc. for the work.
- Improvements to the park include a basketball court, pavilion, and other site amenities.
- This project is being done in a collaboration with the Ann Arbor Housing Commission.
- Council approved the construction contract with Brencal Contractors, Inc. for the work at South Maple.
- The Dexter Road Park renaming survey has now closed. Submissions are being reviewed by Park Staff.
- A Pre-Construction meeting was held with Brencal Contractors. Work is anticipated to begin this month, and will run in conjunction with the South Maple Park project. Work is expected to be complete by the end of 2026.

13. West Park

- An update on the West Park Bandshell project was given at the March PAC session. Staff introduced a recommendation to demolish the bandshell structure, and move forward with a comprehensive visioning plan for West Park as a whole. A resolution will be brought to PAC at the May Meeting, with a recommendation to demolish the bandshell structure, and move forward with a holistic visioning process.
- Staff will be presenting a resolution to PAC to recommend to City Council to demolish the bandshell.
- Staff has been in discussions with consultants for future visioning of West Park. This work will not begin until approval has been given to demolish the bandshell.
- Park staff is also working on an activation plan for West Park that will take place throughout demolition of the bandshell and visioning of the park. The goal of activation, is to provide opportunities for the community to use the park in ways that it hasn't been done before, and to build upon the energy and moment that came from the first round of engagement.
- A survey to gather information on park activation will be published in the coming weeks.

- The West Park Community event was held in August. There was a good turn out, and future activation events are being planned.
- Bandshell Demolition Engineering has commenced, with a kick-off meeting happening at the end of October.
- Engineering is still underway, with bid documents for the work anticipated to be complete later this spring.
- Groundwater monitoring wells were installed around the bandshell site.

14. Park and Recreation Open Space (PROS) Plan

- Five Proposals were received for consulting services related to the development of the 2028-2032 PROS Plan.
- Three consultant firms were selected for interviews, and interviews have been completed. The selection team will be debriefing this month, and a recommendation will be made at the January PAC meeting.
- An introduction to the PROS Plan project will also be made at the January PAC meeting.
- PAC is being presentenced with a resolution to recommend approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Agency Landscape + Planning to assist with the development of the 2028-2032 PROS Plan.
- City Council approved the Agency Landscape + Planning contract at the March 2nd meeting. The contract is being finalized, and work is anticipated to begin in April.