

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation

Park Planning Updates

June 2026

Projects:

1. Asset Management Plan

- An update on the Asset Management Plan was provided to PAC at the January Meeting.
- Staff are currently working with the Asset Management Dashboard, fine tuning outputs and making adjustments as necessary. An executive summary is being finalized, outlining the process, and showing key findings.

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. Cobblestone Farm Event Barn Improvements:

- Temporary structural supports have been added to the Event Barn, and staff are working with an engineering firm to design permanent repairs to the barn's structure.

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 this summer and completed by the end of the year.

5. Fuller Park Playground Improvements:

- The City received funds from the University of Michigan for redevelopment of the Fuller Park playground.
- A public meeting was held last week and the design has been finalized.
- 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.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in July and be complete in the fall.

7. Bicentennial Park (former Southeast Area Park)

- The Splashpad Construction is complete, and awaiting final inspection from the County Health Department. The inspection is anticipated to take place Tuesday, June 16. Once approved, the splash pad can open to the Public. Parks will share opening details with the public on social media.
- A Dedication Event is taking place at Bicentennial Park on July 10th, 11th, and 12th. Details to come about the event – which will include food trucks, games, activities with the US Olympic Committee, and Rotary Club.

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. Liberty Plaza

- Hardscape Improvements are complete at Liberty Plaza. Planting installation started last week, and is expected to be complete by the end of the month.

10. South Maple Park Tennis Courts

- Work has begun with the clearing of trees and Site Prep at South Maple Park. Work will take place throughout the year, and is expected to be completed by November.

11. Dexter Road Park

- Work has begun with the clearing of trees and Site Prep at South Maple Park. Work will take place throughout the year, and is expected to be completed by Spring 2027.
- Renaming of Dexter Road Park is underway. Staff are reviewing suggestions made by the community, and will be sharing with PAC at an upcoming meeting.

12. West Park

- Engineering is wrapping up, and a bid package is expected to be released within the month.
- The anticipated demolition schedule will have work starting this fall, with the majority of work being completed by winter. Planting and Restoration will be taking place in Spring 2027.
- The West Park Visioning project is being created, and once a plan is finalized, it will be shared with PAC.

13. Park and Recreation Open Space (PROS) Plan

- The PROS Plan update is beginning, and a kickoff meeting is planned for later this month.
- We expect a heavy focus on community engagement through summer and into fall.

14. Veterans Memorial Park

- The Veterans Memorial Park Pool has been opened for the 2026 Summer Season. Work was completed to safely reopen a portion of the facility, allowing for the pool to be used.

- Several areas of the park are still closed to the public, including ballfields #1 and #2, and the Tennis Court. Staff has approved a proposal for a fencing contractor to make needed repairs to the backstops and fencing. Once complete, the entire park will be opened to the public.
- The Veterans Memorial Ice Arena Facility is still being assessed. A final report on the extent of the damage, as well as costs is being finalized, and expected by the end of the month.