

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation

Park Planning Updates

October 2025

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.

2. Allmendinger Park Improvements

- The Allmendinger Park Accessibility Improvements project has wrapped up. Sections of the asphalt trail that had failed have been repaved. Restoration of the site is ongoing.

3. Barton / Bandemer Pedestrian Tunnel Project:

- Construction has begun and the project is expected to be completed in late fall of 2025.
- A scheduled 48-hour railroad track took place on June 3-5 allowing the concrete tunnel to be placed beneath the tracks.
- During construction, the pedestrian bridge from Huron River Drive into Barton Nature Area will be closed. Access to Barton Nature Area is available from the north west near Barton Dam.
- The gravel parking lot off Huron River Drive, just south of the pedestrian bridge, will also be closed for the duration of construction.
- Construction is continuing on the Tunnel Project. Landscaping and Trees are being planted this week.
- The Elizabeth Dean has agreed to fund additional trees around the Tunnel, which are also being installed this week.

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.
- 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. Concrete work is being formed this week, and is expected to be poured next week. Work on the asphalt parking lot off Ellsworth Road is nearly complete. Solar Panel Car Port work is just beginning and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

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

- Construction is anticipated for Fall of 2025
- Construction of the Sylvan Park bridge is expected in late fall 2025

6. Farmers Market

- 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.
- The Farmers Market Office Building has been demolished.

7. Fuller Parking Lot and Border to Border Trail Renovation

- Construction is underway on the Fuller Parking Lot and Border to Border Trail. Work is expected to be complete by the end of October.

8. Liberty Plaza Mural

- The Mural project at Liberty Plaza mural project has been completed. This was a joint project between Parks and the DDA.

9. 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.
- Engineering documents have been completed, and are anticipated to be bid this month with construction anticipated in spring 2026.

10. 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.
- The shelter has been demolished. Restoration efforts are underway and expected to be completed this month.

11. 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 wholistic 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 will commence next week.

12. Park and Recreation Open Space (PROS) Plan

- An Request for Proposal (RFP) has been published seeking experienced consultants to assist park staff with the creation of the 2028-2032 PROS Plan. The PROS plan is required to be updated every 5 years by the State of Michigan in order to qualify for potential grant funding. The RFP process will begin in early 2026, with adoption by the end of 2027.