

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation

Park Planning Updates

May 2025

Projects:

1. 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.
- 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 is reviewing and verifying findings.

2. Allmendinger Park Improvements

- Construction has begun and is expected to be completed by early July.
- The tennis court will be temporarily closed for approximately one week starting on 5/8.

3. Barton Nature Area Border to Border Trail Project

- The Border to Border Trail through Barton Nature Area is complete. Additional trees and shrubs were planted this spring.

4. 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 outage is planned for early June, where the concrete tunnel will be placed beneath the tracks. During this outage, the Bandemer vehicle bridge from Barton Drive will be closed and the construction area will be closed to both vehicles and pedestrians.
- 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 northwest 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.

5. 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.
- A construction contract for Phase II improvements to the parking lot and pathways was approved by City Council. The contract has been executed, and work will start after Labor Day 2025.
- A construction contract for Phase I improvements including the splash pad, playground, and restrooms was approved by City Council at the March 17, 2025 session.
- The construction agreement with Michigan Recreational Construction, Inc. has been executed. Staff is working with the contractor to determine the schedule. Work is anticipated to begin this spring.

6. 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 summer/fall 2025

7. 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.
- 21st Century Salvage was selected for the Demolition of the Farmers Market Office Building. Scheduling of this project is still being determined with the Contractor, but will take place between January 2 and April 26, as minimize impacts on Market operations. Work is not permitted to take place on Saturday or Sunday.
- Electrical demolition is currently taking place, which involves the separation of the market building from the overhead structure. This work allows both the farmers market and artisan markets to continue to run with power after the market building has been demolished.
- The Farmers Market Office Building is in the process of being demolished. Above grade work has been completed. Below grade work will commence the week of 5/12, and then restoration work will begin the week of 5/19.

8. Fuller Parking Lot and Border to Border Trail Renovation

- Patching will be performed this spring.
- Construction is not anticipated until Fall of 2025.

9. 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. Unfortunately zero proposals were received for the work.

- Staff is reviewing the bid package, and will be re-issuing at a future date.

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.
- Engineering documents are underway, and are expected to be bid in summer 2025, with construction anticipated in spring 2026.

11. 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. Remaining work at Veterans Memorial Park includes irrigation work, adding an accessible path to the playground, and restoring the site with lawn.

12. 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 was given at the May PAC meeting.
- Based on extensive feedback from the community, SmithGroup was authorized for an additional benchmarking study, which will help identify similar projects in other park systems. This data will help inform both City Staff and the public on what has been successful elsewhere.
- Benchmarking for the West Park Bandshell project was completed and shared with the community at the last pop-up event at West Park. The report has been uploaded to the West Park Bandshell website, along with the Community Engagement Summary from the first round.
- 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.