

## **Park Planning Project Update November 2022**

### **Argo Universal Access:**

- An initial public meeting was held on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at Northside Elementary to get feedback on a preliminary concept plan prior to pursuing grant funding.
- Council approved a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
- The grant application was submitted and preliminary scores were favorable. Final awards are determined in December.
- The Parks department met with the MDNR on site and presented to their board.
- The city was notified that our project is being recommended for award of a Trust Fund grant in the amount of \$300,000. The grant will be finalized this spring and disbursement is anticipated in the summer.
- Staff have hired architectural & engineering consultants and design is now underway.
- The project had administrative site plan approval.
- Delays with State legislature appropriation of the grant funds has affected our ability to start construction this fall, so we are now planning for construction to commence in fall of 2021.
- Seven bids were received to perform the work. Staff is presenting a resolution to PAC at the June 2021 meeting.
- PAC Approved award of contract to Brock & Associates. The contract is on the July 20, 2021 City Council Agenda. Construction is anticipated to begin after Labor Day 2021 and be completed in spring 2022.
- Construction is underway with final completion expected by Spring 2022. Concrete sidewalks have been installed, the existing building is being renovated, and the restroom addition is underway.
- The fishing pier and accessible dock have been installed.
- Project is substantially complete with minor punch list items being completed.

### **ADA Assessment and Transition Plan for Parks:**

- A request for proposals has been published to hire an ADA consultant to develop and implement a comprehensive ADA review of the city's park system, identifying deficiencies and recommending solutions.
- Proposals from consultants were received and interviews held by a selection committee composed of park staff and the chair of the Commission on Disability Issues.
- Eleven Proposals were received, and a consultant was selected to perform the ADA Transition Plan. Staff will be presenting a resolution at the June 2021 meeting.
- Work is anticipated to begin late summer/early fall.
- The ADA Assessment and Transition Plan contract with Altura Solutions, LLC was recommended for approval in the June PAC meeting
- The Altura Contract and ADA Transition Plan were presented at the 9/15/2021 Commission on Disabilities (CODI), prior to being placed on the City Council Agenda.
- The contract with Altura Solutions, LLC was altered to include assessments of all Park Properties.

- The contract with Altura Solutions, LLC. was approved for the February 7, 2022 City Council Meeting. The contract has been executed.
- The project kicked off in Spring 2022 and staff interviews have been completed.
- Presentations were made to both PAC and CODI, outlining the process of the Transition Plan.
- The Altura consultant team has begun the process of analyzing parks and facilities. They are scheduled to be back in Ann Arbor mid-July, at which point select staff will follow along for training purposes.
- The first public engagement session was held virtually on July 14, 2022. A recording of the event has been posted on the Park Planning webpage.
- The online survey closed on July 31. Consultants are reviewing and analyzing the results. This survey data will help inform the consultant team and city staff about accessibility needs
- The second public meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 12 from 6-7pm. The event will be a hybrid, taking place in-person at the AADL Downtown Branch, and virtually on Zoom. The focus of this meeting will be to provide an update on the ADA Transition Plan, and allow for us to engage the community on prioritization of barriers/challenges.
- The second public meeting for the ADA Transition Plan was held on Wednesday, October 12 from 6-7. It was held both in-person and virtual via Zoom. Between the two events, we had approximately 16 participants.
- An 90% draft is anticipated to be provided to Parks by the end of the month.
- Staff is currently coordinating with Altura on Training Modules. Eight ADA Training Modules will be held starting in January 2023.
- Altura will present ADA Transition Plan findings at an upcoming PAC Meeting.

### **Gallup Bridge/Road/Trail Schematic Design:**

- The Gallup wooden vehicular bridge has reached its life span and we anticipate replacing the bridge in the next three to five years. Considering that both the park road and the Border-to-Border trail on the southern approach have deferred maintenance needs, we would like to take a holistic approach to design for the bridge, road, and trail in this area.
- SmithGroup, a design and engineering consultant under a standing contract, will assist Parks & Rec by developing Schematic Design plans for the project area that results in an overall Master Plan with proposed phasing of the project elements and cost estimates. The Schematic Design is intended to be used to apply for TAP grants through MDOT and SEMCOG at appropriate times to meet grant cycles based on the anticipated construction period.
- Throughout the process, SmithGroup will assist the City in public engagement strategies to allow the public to provide input that may influence design options, as well as the final preferred schematic design.
- An online survey was conducted to gather preliminary input from the community. Responses received will be used to inform design development.
- An online public meeting was held on 11/11 and to get community input on preliminary design alternatives.
- A final report with design recommendations is being developed by the consultant team.
- City Council approved the use of \$2.3m in American Rescue Plan funds for this project.

- An engineering consultant has been selected to design the new bridge and the contract is being executed.
- Design work was kicked off in September.
- A mussel survey is also underway to determine if there are any threatened or endangered species in need of relocation prior to construction.

### **Basketball Court Repairs at Leslie Park and SE Area Park:**

- The contract documents for the two projects were bid through the City's Procurement Unit following standard procedures. Two bids were received and opened on August 5, 2020.
- The lowest responsible bid for both basketball court projects was from Sommerset Paving in a total amount \$116,211.00 City Council approved a resolution to award Sommerset Paving the construction contract for both basketball courts on December 7, 2020.
- Court improvement work for both Leslie Park and SE Area Park started at the beginning of June 2021.
- The court improvement projects at SE Area Park and Leslie Park were completed in fall 2021.
- Staff is exploring the process to add murals to the court in Spring/Summer 2023.
- SE Area Park has some peeling of the surface. The contractor was alerted, and repairs will be made under the 1-year warranty. Due to temperature dropping, peeling will be fixed in Spring 2023.

### **Farmer's Market Sidewall Study:**

- Community engagement for this project has been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 crisis, as the Market adapts to changed operating conditions and procedures.

### **Leslie Science & Nature Center Playground:**

- Parks and Recreation Services is providing funding for design and construction of the first phase of a nature playground at the Leslie Science and Nature Center. These funds will also be used to develop designs and materials that will be used for further fundraising for subsequent phases of the playground's construction. The intent is that this work will help galvanize additional fundraisers for the remaining playground elements.
- The first phase of the nature playground was completed at the end of June 2021. A slide was purchased as part of phase one, but will not be installed until phase two, which is anticipated to start in summer of 2022. Fundraising efforts for the second phase are still underway.
- The second phase of the nature playscape has begun, and the slide that was purchased in 2021 has been installed.

### **Skatepark Lighting:**

- The Ann Arbor Skatepark Commission has raised funds for the purpose of installing lighting at the Skatepark to extend the hours of use for this popular amenity.
- A request for proposals (RFP) was issued in November for lighting design services and the City received five proposals. A consultant has been selected and design work will commence this winter.

- The City intends to apply for a grant to help finance the project. Due to the long timelines associated with grants, construction would likely not commence until mid-2022
- A design kickoff meeting took place on February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Bids were received for this project and City Council approved this contract. It is in the process of being executed.
- Lightpoles have been installed, and the project will be complete in the near future.

#### **Bandemer Bridge Repairs and Renovations:**

- Inspections revealed that the vehicle and pedestrian bridges in Bandemer Park are in need of rehabilitation to ensure their continued use.
- Bids were received for this project in April and are anticipated to go to City Council in June, pending PAC recommendation.
- Construction would be anticipated for Fall of 2022.
- City Council approved this contract.
- Both bridges closed after Labor Day and will remain closed until project completion in November.
- Removal of the existing bridge decking and stringers has begun.
- The Bandemer Bridge project will be wrapping up in the next few weeks.

#### **Bandemer-Barton Pedestrian Connection and B2B trail extension:**

- Consultant has been selected to perform updated feasibility study on Bandemer-Barton connection and pathway in Barton
- Initial public meeting to solicit input was held on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:30pm at Forsyth Middle School. The majority of feedback from the initial public meeting, emails and online forms has been mostly supportive of the project.
- A draft final report has been submitted for review.
- An online public meeting to discuss recommendations and solicit community input was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> with over 70 attendees.
- PAC approved paving the Border-to-Border trail in Barton Nature Area.
- Next steps are for the City to coordinate with County Parks to secure funding.
- The City and County Parks have developed a Memorandum of Understanding to outline the agreement for coordination between the agencies on this project.
- Design Engineering has begun and the City is working on getting the necessary approvals from the railroads.
- A 30% drawing set has been reviewed and additional design studies are underway

#### **B2B Trail Improvements from Mitchell Field Bridge to Gallup Park Vehicle Bridge:**

- Staff developed bid documents to repave a portion of the B2B trail that runs from Mitchell Field to the Gallup Park vehicle bridge. The work is needed as part of ongoing maintenance and would include widening the path to meet current trail standards, fixing existing drainage issues, and replacing existing site amenities.
- Anticipated Construction is to start at the beginning of August 2021, with completion in fall 2021.

- The contract documents for the project were bid through the City's Procurement Unit following standard procedures. Eight bids were received and opened on March 2, 2021.
- The lowest responsible bid is from E.T. Mackenzie Co. in the amount of \$564,286.00 to replace as an asphalt path (Option A), and \$646,595.50 to replace as a concrete path (Option B). PAC recommended approval of this contract at their March meeting. The bids are now being reviewed by the purchasing and legal departments for compliance with the Responsible Purchasing Policy. An update will be provided at the May PAC meeting.
- City Council approved a contract with E.T. Mackenzie Co. in the amount of \$646,595.00 to replace the existing asphalt path with a new concrete path. Construction is anticipated to begin August 1, 2021, with construction completed in fall of 2021.
- The path was opened in Mid-December for the public to use. Site Furnishings have been installed. Restoration work will be taking place throughout spring and summer 2022.

### **West Park Bandshell**

- Hubbell, Roth, and Clark (HRC) has been hired to investigate reported cracks to the foundation of the bandshell at West Park.
- An initial investigation found the structure to have movement in the foundation, and it was decided to close the bandshell off to the community.
- The final report on the investigation is expected to be released in October 2021, with options for repair and rehabilitation.
- The final report was made public and published to the Park Planning webpage. Staff need to digest the report and generate a work plan to move forward with the bandshell.
- Staff has been in contact with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to discuss the bandshell. A grant was awarded in 1994 for improvements from the DNR, which carried along obligations.
- Staff has received feedback about its obligations to the DNR regarding the bandshell and will begin moving forward with a plan for community engagement.
- Staff has met with SmithGroup to review a community engagement proposal. HRC, who performed the original investigation, will be participating in the engagement process as well. We are anticipating reaching out to the community in early 2023. We will provide an update to PAC regarding our engagement strategy.

### **Parks and Recreation Open Space (PROS) Plan**

- Staff has begun work on an update to the Parks and Recreation Open Space (PROS) Plan. The majority of this work, including community engagement will take place in 2022.
- The PROS Plan is the city's vision for parks and recreation in Ann Arbor and is officially part of the City of Ann Arbor Master Plan. The PROS Plan provides an overview of the park system, including a physical description of the city, administrative structure and budget information, and a detailed inventory of existing parks, facilities, and programs. It identifies parks and recreation needs and deficiencies and proposes major capital park projects for existing and new parks. The plan outlines the progress that has been made, as well as goals and objectives for future planning guided by input gathered through an extensive

public process. It also establishes criteria to evaluate open space and natural features for optimum land use and potential parkland acquisition.

- The PROS plan is updated approximately every five years and is necessary to maintain eligibility for Michigan Department of Natural Resources grants.
- The Task Force has had three meetings to discuss community engagement through a survey and focus group meetings.
- The online survey concluded in early June, and we received over 2,000 responses.
- A public meeting took place on Wednesday, June 29 from 12-1pm. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the public about the PROS plan process, share some initial feedback from the survey, and gather feedback about the park system.
- A second public meeting is currently being scheduled for either August 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> and will be held at Buhr Park. We are coordinating this effort with summer camps that are being held at Buhr Park. The format of the public meeting will be more of an Open House style meeting, rather than a formal presentation with question and answers.
- The second public meeting was held at Buhr Park on Thursday August 25 from 3-5pm. Feedback from the public open house will be included in the PROS Plan.
- Staff has completed a draft of the 2023-2028 PROS Plan. Approval from City Council is being sought on November 11, 2022 to open the draft plan up for public review. Presentations on the draft plan was given to PAC and Planning Commission at their October meetings.
- Staff is seeking approval to distribute the PROS plan to the community and adjacent municipalities at the November 10 City Council Meeting. If approved, an open comment period of 42 days will begin.

### **Upper Mallets Creek Drain / Churchill Downs Natural Floodplain Area**

- The Mallets Creek Drain project at Churchill Downs has been ongoing for the last few years. In 2021, Community Engagement was held with the adjacent neighbors, to hear their concerns and comments on the project.
- Construction Documents are being prepared and will be released for Bids in Spring 2022.
- A follow-up community engagement session took place on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 to update the neighbors on progress that has been made.
- Construction is underway at Churchill Downs. Construction is anticipated to be completed in fall of 2022.
- A planned neighborhood walk-through – scheduled for July 20 – was cancelled due to storms in the area.
- The Churchill Downs Natural Floodplain Area should be at substantial completion in the coming month.

### **Veterans Memorial Park Ice Arena:**

- Flooding was observed in the Ice Arena at Veterans Memorial Park several times throughout 2021, following large rain events.
- Park Staff reached out to Hubbell, Roth & Clark (HRC) to perform a forensic investigation on the structure. HRC performed an initial investigation as part of Phase I and believe that water is getting into the building because of Deteriorated and leaking joints between the top of the masonry block walls and the bottom of

the prefabricated wall panels. In addition, they believe the masonry wall is no longer sealed from the weather, allowing moisture to permeate in.

- HRC will begin Phase II shortly in which some of the wall panels will be removed in order to get a better understanding of the issue. As part of Phase II, HRC will also develop bid documents to resolve the flooding issues.
- HRC estimates the construction costs will be \$300,000.
- HRC is working on construction documents for this scope of work.
- HRC and RAM Construction will be at the arena on July 19<sup>th</sup> to inspect the wall cavity. This inspection will involve removing a portion of the pre-fabricated concrete panels, allowing the structural engineers to get a more detailed look at what the existing conditions are.
- HRC and RAM Construction completed the exploratory investigation of the Ice Arena on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The investigation helped HRC confirm the cause of the flooding.
- Staff has met with HRC to determine the cause of water entering the ice arena. The proposed fix is going to come in two waves. Staff has received bids to install weep holes in the base of the existing block wall, and hope to have construction begin this fall. This first phase of construction will eliminate future water from entering the building. Phase two is proposed to take place next spring, after the ice arena closes in May, and will involve fixing flashing on the roof, replacing steel structural members that have been damaged, repointing the CMU wall, and repainting. Total estimates for work is around \$350,000.
- Installation of the weep holes has been completed by RAM Construction.
- The remaining bid package is expected to be complete by mid-November. The bid package will be put out for our bid in December, with hopeful construction to take place in Spring of 2023.

#### **Veterans Memorial Park Shelter Demolition:**

- The existing park shelter at Veterans Memorial Park, adjacent to the softball and baseball fields is scheduled to be demolished later this fall, or spring 2023.
- The structure has been closed for several years and is disrepair, requiring removal.
- Hubbell, Roth & Clark (HRC) has been hired to create bid documents, assist with bidding and permitting, and to help with construction administration.
- Staff are currently reviewing the 80% complete construction document set, and plan to release an RFP this summer. The anticipated demolition is either fall 2022 or spring 2023.
- Bid Documents were supplied to City Staff. Staff is working on the RFP package and plan to issue later this fall for work to begin Spring 2023.

#### **Veterans Memorial Park Slide Structure:**

- The structural support structure for the water slide was in need of immediate repairs. The slide was shut down for structural inspection and construction. Repairs have successfully been made, and the slide is up and running again.

#### **Lockett Park Playground Improvements:**

- Lockett Park Playground Improvements will be taking place in Spring of 2023.
- A community engagement meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 16 from 7pm-8pm. If interested in participating, please visit the park planning webpage ([a2gov.org/parkplanning](http://a2gov.org/parkplanning)).