

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation

Park Planning Updates

January 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.
- Facility and Site Assessments have been completed by the Project Team. OHM Advisors, the consultant on the project, is in the process of designing a working Asset Management dashboard for Parks. Staff has been providing ongoing feedback to the dashboard design.
- An update on the project will be given to PAC at an upcoming meeting.

2. Barton Nature Area Border to Border Trail Project

- The Border to Border Trail through Barton Nature Area is complete. Additional tree and shrub planting will take place in the spring.

3. Barton / Bandemer Pedestrian Tunnel Project:

- Planning and coordination for construction is underway. Construction is anticipated to begin in March of 2025 with a tentative track outage date in early June of 2025.

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.
- 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 has been drafted and is currently being reviewed.
- There is some funding available for Phase I improvements, but more is needed before the splash pad can be constructed.

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

- Construction is anticipated in spring 2025 for the Leslie Golf Course bridge and late summer/early fall for the Sylvan Park bridge.

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.
- 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.
- The RFP for a Farmers Market Study is in development.
- An update was provided to PMAC at the July 18th meeting.
- Minor demolition activities started on January 24th at the Market Building. Major Demolition is anticipated to begin in February. Once a schedule has been determined, Staff will inform the community about the upcoming parking lot closure via on-site signage, social media posts, and the weekly GovDelivery newsletter. The DDA and the Kerrytown District Association will be notified as well.

7. Fuller Parking Lot and Border to Border Trail Renovation

- Bids were received and contractor was selected. Contract is going to City Council for approval on 12/16.
- Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation is interested in assisting to funding the Border to Border trail scope of work.
- Construction is anticipated in spring and will be completed prior to the pool opening in late May.

8. Gallup Park Bridge Construction

- The ribbon cutting event took place on October 24th and the bridge is open to traffic and construction is complete.

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 winter 2025, with construction anticipated in 2025.

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.
- Demolition of the Veterans Memorial Park Shelter is anticipated to take place this Spring, prior to the start of the Baseball/Softball Season.

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 will be given to PAC at an upcoming meeting.