

# Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation

## Park Planning Updates

March 2024

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### Projects:

#### 1. ADA Transition Plan

- Staff have received a final draft of the ADA Transition Plan. Altura Solutions was at the December PAC meeting and gave a presentation outlining the process and findings.
- PAC was provided the ADA Transition Plan Document in January. Staff and Altura Solutions will be present at the March PAC meeting, to answer any questions that the commission may have.
- A resolution to recommend approval of the ADA Transition Plan will be presented to PAC at the March PAC Meeting.

#### 2. 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.
- The RFP was released in November, with the anticipation of having a consultant selected and under contract by Spring 2024.
- One proposal was received for the project, from OHM Advisors.
- PAC will be acting on a resolution for the Asset Management Plan at the February 2024 meeting. A presentation will be given outline the scope of the project.
- PAC Recommended approval of the Asset Management Plan at the February 2024 meeting.
- The Parks Asset Management Plan resolution will be on the April 1 City Council Agenda.

#### 3. Barton – Bandemer Pedestrian Connection Project

- The Barton-Bandemer Pedestrian Connection project has been split into two separate phases. The first phase will include the paving of the Border to Border Trail from the Barton Dam parking lot on the west, through the Barton Nature Area oxbow, and ending at the southeastern bridge. This phase was bid this fall for construction in spring/summer of 2024 and is awaiting contract approvals.
- The second phase of the project will be the construction of the tunnel, pathway approaches, and paving the parking lot near the south end of the south bridge. This phase is intended to be bid this winter and constructed in late summer of 2024, but is awaiting permit approvals from Amtrak and EGLE.
- The Trail Phase project expects to begin work March 7<sup>th</sup> beginning with tree clearing. Construction is anticipated to extend into September and we expect the trails on the oxbow to

be closed during this time. There may be temporary closures of other trails as needed during construction.

#### **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.
- Staff has begun work on design of the splash pad, talking with manufacturers, engineers, contractors, as well as other municipalities/agencies that have recently installed splash pads.
- In addition to the splash pad, many other improvements are being planned for the park. A community engagement plan will be developed to get an understand of community desires, needs, and wants for the future of the park.
- We have signed a Work Statement with ROWE Professional Services, to do Design, Engineering, Bid Assistance, and Construction Administration.
- Topographic survey has been completed.
- Design on the splashpad and the restroom building have begun.
- PAC was recommended approval of purchasing splash pad and playground equipment at the December 2023 meeting.. An overview of the project was also be provided at this meeting.
- Plan reviews have been submitted to both the State of Michigan (EGLE) and Washtenaw County for review.
- Bid Documents for the Bicentennial Park Project are being wrapped up, and are expected to be published by the end of March.

#### **5. Bridge Repairs (Leslie Golf Course and Sylvan Park)**

- a. Engineering and permitting is underway with anticipated construction in summer of 2024 (Sylvan) and fall of 2024 (Leslie GC).

#### **6. Farmers Market**

- Washout has been observed near the foundation of the Farmer's Market office building. The sidewalk has begun to sink as well, indicating a water problem underneath. Hubbell, Roth & Clark (HRC) has been asked to do an investigation to help determine the cause. Staff continue to work through possible options.
- 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.
- A presentation was given to PMAC in February, and will be to PAC at the February meeting.
- Staff is working on securing a temporary structure to be used for Farmer Market operations throughout the building closure.
- A proposal was received from Hubbel, Roth & Clark (HRC), to provide bid documents to demolish the existing market building.
- The RFP for a Farmers Market Study is in development.

#### **7. Gallup Park Bridge Construction**

- The existing bridge was intended to remain in service through construction until the new bridge had been completed. A routine inspection found that one of the two beams had significant cracking and the bridge was at risk of failure. The City had to close the bridge to traffic and due to continued pedestrian use, made the decision to demolish the bridge for public safety reasons. Currently there is no bridge access in that area but there is a pedestrian detour route available that routes around the Universal Access Playground and boat launch.
- The early closure and demolition of the bridge was very unfortunate for all the community members who rely on it, including Huron High students. While we are thankful that the issue was caught before anyone was hurt, losing the bridge has created challenges for how to move forward with completing the new bridge and maintaining park operations until access is restored.
- The City has made the decision to shift the new bridge 19' to the east to avoid utility conflicts and to allow for expedited construction of the new bridge. Construction will resume soon.

#### **8. Liberty Plaza Planting**

- Staff is working with InSite Design Studio to redesign the plant beds at Liberty Plaza. Plans are expected to be completed this fall, with installation taking place in summer/fall 2024.

#### **9. Lockett Park Playground Improvements**

- Construction on the Lockett Park Playground is scheduled to start in the Middle of March, with anticipated completion in April 2024.

#### **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.

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

- The ice arena improvements project is complete.

#### **12. Veterans Memorial Park Shelter Demolition**

- This project has been temporarily put on hold. We received one proposal from the project, and it was considered not complete.
- Consultants have revised the Construction Documents, and the project will be rebid in fall of 2023, for demolition to take place in 2024.

#### **13. West Park Bandshell**

- The Community Engagement Project is currently underway.
- An online survey is currently live and will conclude Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 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 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 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.