

Park Planning Project Update April 2022

Argo Universal Access:

- An initial public meeting was held on Thursday, February 21st, 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.

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 kickoff meeting took place and interviews with staff will be scheduled shortly. Presentations to PAC and CODI are planned for later this spring.

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.

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 2022.

Farmer's Market Sidewalk 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.

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 20th.
- Bids were received for this project and a contract is going to City Council for approval.

Bandemer-Barton:

- 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 26th, 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 2nd 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.

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 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.

Gallup Park Sink Hole

- A sinkhole has formed along the Border-to-Border Trail in Gallup Park. It has been fenced and barricaded off from the public. The sinkhole has not affected the running surface at this time.
- Stantec has been hired as a consultant to help investigate the sink hole and prepare a few options for the City to repair to damaged culvert. JF Brennan was hired to perform an underwater investigation of the damaged culvert. The on-site inspection was completed on 11/10/2021. A report from JF Brennan was provided to staff in December 2021, and was shared with Stantec.
- Stantec has prepared a draft report on the sinkhole with recommendations for repair. The report is being shared with MDOT Rail for approval. Once approved, the repair work can likely be completed by Park Operations staff.
- The sinkhole repairs are substantially complete and awaiting topsoil and restoration in the spring.

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 two meetings to discuss community engagement through a survey and focus group meetings.
- An online survey is posted and available for the public to provide input and feedback.

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.

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.

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.