

Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation

Park Planning Updates

January 2026

Projects:

1. Asset Management Plan

- 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 have reviewed data and will be working with OHM Advisors on the next step of the project.
- Staff is continuing to work on the Asset Management Plan, integrating findings into our back end platforms.
- An Update will be given to PAC at the January meeting.

2. Barton / Bandemer Pedestrian Tunnel Project:

- The project is substantially complete and open to the public.
- Lighting installation is substantially complete.
- Some plant materials will be live staked in the spring.

3. 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.
- Construction is underway at Bicentennial Park. Splash Pad, Playground, and Restroom improvements are well underway. Play Equipment, Swings, and Splash Pad equipment have all been installed, with concrete and surfacing. Concrete work remains around the restroom facility and the parking lot.
- Phase II of the Bicentennial Park Improvements Project includes the repaving of the south parking lot, and adjacent park paths. Work on this phase has been completed for the year, and is anticipated to be completed early next year.

- Solar Panel Car Ports will begin going up this month, and are expected to be installed by the end of this year.
- Overall construction is currently on schedule, with an opening still anticipated for Spring 2026.

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

- Construction of Leslie Golf Course bridge is complete and the remaining steps include paving the bridge approach path. Paving is expected to be completed by the end of the month.
- The Sylvan Park bridge replacement project is currently on hold due to an unexpected utility conflict that requires re-permitting.

5. Fuller Parking Lot and Border to Border Trail Renovation

- Construction is nearly complete on the Fuller Parking Lot and Border to Border Trail. Restoration remains, and will be completed in Spring 2026. The Parking Lot and Trail are open for use.

6. Liberty Plaza

- The Mural project at Liberty Plaza mural project has been completed. This was a joint project between Parks and the DDA.
- Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation is partnering with the Ann Arbor DDA to perform additional planting improvements at Liberty Plaza. This work is just starting, the majority of work taking place in early 2026.

7. 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.
- Five Bids were received for this work. Staff is evaluating these bids, and will be presenting a recommendation at the January PAC meeting.

8. West Park

- 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.

- A survey to gather information on park activation will be published in the coming weeks.
- The West Park Community event was held in August. There was a good turn out, and future activation events are being planned.
- Bandshell Demolition Engineering has commenced, with a kick-off meeting happening at the end of October.

9. Park and Recreation Open Space (PROS) Plan

- Five Proposals were received for consulting services related to the development of the 2028-2032 PROS Plan.
- Three consultant firms were selected for interviews, and interviews have been completed. The selection team will be debriefing this month, and a recommendation will be made at the January PAC meeting.
- An introduction to the PROS Plan project will also be made at the January PAC meeting.