

# Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation

## Park Planning Updates

November 2024

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### Projects:

#### 1. ADA Transition Plan

- City council adopted the ADA Transition Plan for Parks (R-24-166)

#### 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 Kick-Off meeting for the Parks Asset Management Plan was held the Week of June 10th.
- Assessments of Facilities are expected to be complete by December 2024.
- Park assessments are ongoing and will continue into 2025.

#### 3. 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.
- A large oak tree near the parking lot was nearly dead and had to be removed to prevent the potential for limbs to fall on trail users. The fallen tree was transformed into a nature play feature on site. The playground is now open and named "Great Oak Nature Playground".

#### 4. Barton / Bandemer Pedestrian Tunnel Project:

- Davis Construction was selected as the contractor being recommended for the construction contract to build the tunnel. They were the highest scoring firm out of six bidders.
- Wade Trim was selected to provide Construction Engineering and Inspection services for the project.
- Both contracts, as well as a cost sharing agreement with Washtenaw County, were approved at the August 8<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting.
- 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.

#### 5. 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 11<sup>th</sup> at Bicentennial Park.
- A construction contract for Phase I improvements was presented to PAC at the September meeting, and a contract for Phase II improvements was presented to PAC at the October meeting.

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

- Engineering and permitting is underway with anticipated construction in summer of 2024 (Sylvan) and fall of 2024 (Leslie GC).
- Bids have been received for this project and a contract is being presented for PAC's review at the November meeting.

#### **7. 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.
- 21<sup>st</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **8. Gallup Park Bridge Construction**

- The ribbon cutting event took place on October 24<sup>th</sup> 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 fall 2024, 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.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Salvage was selected for the Demolition of the Veterans Memorial Park Shelter. Scheduling of this demolition should take place in the spring of 2025..

#### **12. 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.
- 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 is nearly complete, and information will be shared with the community soon.