Park Planning Project Update
April 2021

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.
- Bids have been received and are being reviewed by staff. An anticipated resolution is expected to be presented at the May 2021 PAC session.
- Construction is anticipated to begin after Labor Day 2021 and be completed in spring 2022.

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. We anticipate selecting a consultant by end of April with the study beginning in July 2021.

Gallup Boat launch Pathway:

- Staff developed bid documents to repave a portion of the Gallup Park pathway on the north bank of the river between the livery and boat launch/dirt parking lot. This work is needed as part of ongoing maintenance and would include widening the path to meet current trail standards and fixing existing drainage issues.
- The contract documents for the project were bid through the City's Procurement Unit following standard procedures. Six bids were received and opened on August 5, 2020.
- The lowest responsible bid is from All Star Power Excavation, L.L.C. in the amount of $245,209.00 for Crushing and Reshaping the Path (Option A), and $365,743.00 to excavate the existing path and add a new limestone base.
- City Council approved a resolution awarding the construction contract to All Star Power Excavation, L.L.C. on 11/05/2020.
- Construction for the path improvements project started the week of April 1 and is anticipated to be complete by the beginning of June 2021, weather dependent.

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.

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 is from Sommerset Paving in a total amount $116,211.00
  Staff hope to have the projects constructed in summer of 2021.
- 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 is anticipated to begin in late spring 2021.

Tennis Court Repairs at Burns Park:

- The Burns Park tennis and basketball courts are not in need of full replacement and can be repaired and resurfaced.
- Public input, in the form of a survey, was sought on whether to add pickleball courts to the Burn's Park tennis court site. The City received 219 responses:
  - Option A: 45 – four dedicated tennis courts, no pickleball courts
  - Option B: 56 – three dedicated tennis courts, one tennis court with two pickleball courts over-striped
  - Option C: 121 – Three dedicated tennis courts, 2 dedicated pickleball courts.
- Staff hope to have the Burns Park tennis and basketball courts repaired and resurfaced in summer of 2021.

- An ITB document was prepared for the work – with bids received on March 9th, but the bid needs to be reissued as both submitted bid packages were incomplete. We hope to have an update at the May or June PAC meeting.

Farmer's Market Sidewall Study:

- Kohler Architecture is on a standing contract with the Parks Department for on-going design services, and they are currently working on a feasibility study for adding sidewalls to the Farmers Market canopy.
- The Farmer's Market operates during the winter season and the Market Manager and vendors are interested in exploring temporary sidewall curtains to improve comfort and protect vendor's products during cold weather.
- A structural analysis of the existing Farmers Market canopy has been completed and it is determined that additional reinforcements are needed to support the sidewalls.
- A final feasibility report for sidewalls has been created with recommendations and cost estimates for various scenarios.
- The sidewall concept was shared with the Public Market Advisory Board (PMAC) in March.
- 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.

Bromley & West Park Playground Renovations:

- Improvements were being planned for West Park playground and Bromley playground this summer.
- Public meetings that were scheduled for mid-March were cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis.
- Public meetings were held to gather input from community members on initial designs.
- Cost estimates and designs for Bromley Park & West Park have been finalized. Construction will begin in Mid-May and be completed in June.

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.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in May and be completed by the end of June.

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-2021.
- A design kickoff meeting took place on February 20th.
- This project is on hold until early 2022.

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 are developing a Memorandum of Understanding to outline the agreement for coordination between the agencies on this project.

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.