

Board of Marina, Parks & Forestry
Parks & Forestry Report
May 7, 2024

Park Division

- The following Park CIP projects should be completed by the end of June.
 - Cleveland Park splash pad



- Kiwanis Park, six court pickleball courts



- Veterans Park, four court pickleball and basketball court



- Kiwanis Park Trail to New Jersey Avenue



- Sheboygan County Bicycling group have held several work nights with the group at Kiwanis Park already. They continue to work with IMBA to finish up a comprehensive trail plan for the park.

- Redevelopment planning for Fountain Park – Several city staff met with Parkitectre + Planning, to walk Fountain Park and discuss goals of the planning. Attached to this report are the minutes from the meeting.
- Wildwood Sports Complex operations – As of February 5, the City has a one-year agreement with Fox Valley Athletics to operate the Wildwood Sports Complex and facilitate the running of the softball leagues. Unfortunately, there has been maintenance concerns at the complex but DPW crews have been working to get things up and running before the start of the season in mid-May. The item of most concern is a sanitary sewer main break in the outfield of field two.
- The Streets and the Parks departments worked together for a few weeks in March to clean up storm damage trees in several areas of Evergreen Park. This is left over storm damage from the June storm of 2022.
- All park restrooms officially open May 15 and Evergreen Park opened to vehicles on May 1st.

Sheboygan Fountain Park Redevelopment Kick Off Meeting **Minutes**



April 25, 2024

- 1) Introductions/Roles
 1. See attached list

- 2) Project Background
 1. Goals
 - 1) History of the Site
 - 1) Park is used for farmers market (Wednesday and Saturdays) and Pops Band concerts. Otherwise largely underutilized
 - 2) Fountain is a maintenance issue but stones are important element
 - 2) Project Need
 - 1) City desires to activate space for 12 months of the year
 - 2) Address urban camping problem
 - 3) ADA issues throughout the park. Several falls in the last year
 - 3) Project Planning Extent
 - 1) Entire park block should be analyzed. The park is the diver between "uptown" and "downtown"
 - 4) Existing Features
 - 1) Band Shell
 - 1) Situated in low corner. Creates blind spots and dead zones
 - 2) Too large for its current programming
 - 3) Contains Sheboygan music hall of fame plaques
 - 2) Monument
 - 1) Several exist in the park, Civil war and Spanish American War. Civil war monument is one of several in the State. This element cannot be moved
 - 3) Fountain
 - 1) Halprin designed element. It is falling apart and is a hazardous element within the park. One main drain to very large recirc tank/filtration system in underground vault. Confined space issue
 - 2) Large stones in center are the iconic piece that could be saved
 - 3) People get into the fountain even though it is signed. Water is tested daily
 - 4) Mechanical systems are failing
 - 4) Pathways
 - 5) Several types and widths exist in the park. Additional pathways have been added to accommodate the farmers market needs. These are not uniformly designed or located. Main path widths are not sufficient for farmers market use. Surrounding turf areas have been decimated
 - 6) Site Furnishings
 - 1) Some bike racks do exist in the park. Could use more if we increase programming
 - 2) Benches exist in the park. Two types were visible
 - 7) Other facility upgrades (restrooms, parking, bike racks, etc)
 - 1) No ADA parking exists adjacent to the park currently. This needs to be addressed
 - 8) Lighting
 - 1) City did lighting study for 8th street corridor. City to send the study

- 2) Path lighting was upgraded recently to LED fixtures
- 9) ADA upgrades
 - 1) Pathways are heaving causing trip hazards
 - 2) Steps are problematic
 - 3) No ADA seating was observed
- 5) Programming
 - 1) Existing
 - 1) Farmers market
 - 2) Pops Band
 - 3) Holiday parades and celebrations
 - 4) Lobster boil
 - 5) Speeches, etc
 - 2) Proposed
 - 1) 12 month activation
 - 2) Iconic space for community
 - 3) All ages
 - 4) Smaller music venue
 - 5) Water feature (honor "Fountain Park"). NOT a vertical feature splashpad
 - 6) Ice
 - 7) Warming area
 - 8) Restrooms in better location
 - 9) Game area
- 2. Stakeholders
 - 1) Outreach
 - 1) City to help setup stakeholder meetings (virtual)
 - 2) PIM to get feedback on initial concepts
 - 2) Wishlist
 - 1) City provided initial wishlist for consideration
 - 2) Want to cater to young professionals, seniors, etc
- 3. Budget
 - 1) Capital
 - 1) City currently has a placeholder of \$500k. Discussion agreed that this is a starting point and the budget will be established once concepts have been prepared
 - 2) Grants
 - 1) None have been explored yet
 - 3) Donations
 - 1) None have been explored yet
 - 4) Phasing
 - 1) The project will likely need to be phased
- 3) Scope/Schedule Recap
 - 1. Kick Off **April 25, 2024**
 - 2. Concept Development **May/June**
 - 3. Review **Meeting late June**
 - 4. Concept Refinement **July**
 - 5. Graphics Preparation **August**
- 4) Other Topics?
 - 1. Many large trees have been lost lately in storms etc
 - 2. City treats the remaining ash trees in the park

3. Discussion regarding closing 8th street during large events. Farmers market gets very busy at 8th Street intersections
4. Site used to be a cemetery. City believes this has been cleared and no cultural or archeological issues remain
5. Potential need for food trucks in or around the park

5) Site Walk

6) Adjourn

7) Meeting attendees:

Joe Kerlin	Superintendent of Parks and Forestry
Tim Bull	City Forester and Park Supervisor
Scott Plehn	Park Forman
Heather Burke	DPW Business Manager
Aaron Groh	Interim DPW Director - With Kapur
Bradley Casey	City Administrator
Marie Foss	City Administrator Assistant
Diane McGinnis Cassey	Director of Planning and Development
Ryan Sorenson	Mayor of Sheboygan
Blake Theisen	Parkitecture
John Reynolds	Parkitecture

Forestry Report May 7, 2024

Tree work completed so far in 2024

- Trees Pruned: 1200
- Trees Removed: 30
- Tree Planted: 315
- Branches Down: 70
- Stumps Ground: 5

Arbor Day – Celebrated at Jaycee Quarry Park on Earth Day 4-22-24

- 46 years Tree City USA
- 4 years Tree City of the World



New Altec 70' bucket truck



2024 DNR Urban Forestry Grant (\$50,000)

- Dead tree removals
- Ash injections for EAB control
- Letters for tree work
 - Website updates

2024 – 2027 DNR Inflation Reduction Act Grant (\$294,000)

- Site Preparation/stump grinding (220)
- Replanting 5:1 ratio (1,100)
- Planting site inventory
- Ash injections for EAB control

