



Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
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TO: Clark Park Community Groups. CPC and other residents
FROM: John DeRuiter, Assistant Chief of Landscape Architecture
RE: Clark Park Phase 1 Construction Update
DATE: July 27, 2021

I am writing to provide an update on the upcoming project at Clark. We hope to begin work in the next month and finish next summer. This is a long email, so please take some time to digest the information and get back to me with questions.

We now have a construction contract in place for the improvements. Michigan Recreational Construction (MRC) will be doing the work. They are based in Detroit (headquarters are elsewhere) and do a large amount of work for GSD. They provide fair pricing, good work, and we are confident in their ability to do this job. Their website:
<https://www.buildingfun.com/>

As you may know, pricing has fluctuated wildly in the last 18 months, but we are still able to provide a great project to Clark Park. Through several funding sources, this project is valued around \$3.3M. Below is a list of the funded improvements, as well as reasons why certain things were not included.

Playground.

- The playground will be installed. This includes the ADA accessible mounds and components, large play structure, swings, and the area for small children. Unfortunately, we are not able to fund the zip line at this time but are holding the space for it if we can install later.
 - One light will be relocated.
 - The existing playground and community garden will be demolished soon.
 - The garden area will be replaced with a zone for students to gather, rather than in the street. If CPC wants a garden in the future, we think a much more suitable location would be in the sunny area between the parking lot and Clark Ave.

Splash pad.

- The splash pad plaza will be installed. The pump structure will be between the ice rink and courts. It will be a small dome structure built into the ground - accessible only to City plumbers.

New picnic shelter near the playground

- We have heard the request to salvage the existing picnic shelter and have determined it is not in the best interest of the project to do so. This new shelter will



be near the old one but pulled back slightly to improve health of a nearby tree as well as align better with the rest of the new playground.

Sports Courts Improvements

- The original plan was to completely remove these courts and rebuild new. In the bidding process, the contractor pointed out the condition is not as bad as originally thought, and an intensive repair process would suffice. Cracks will be dug out, leveled, filled, then the entire surface will get a new top. This will remove some fencing to allow passage from the parking lot to the playground, as well as replace any remaining fencing.
- Courts will be striped with 3 tennis courts, 1 futsal court, areas for bag toss and ping pong, a junior basketball court (with adjustable rim to keep it for children), outdoor fitness equipment, as well as areas for seating.
- During this process we will work together to determine color and look of the courts.

Vernor edge

- The edge along Vernor will be redone to create an inviting entry to the park and to the local businesses. The sidewalk will be pulled back from the curb and plantings similar to Scripps park will be installed. Walkway and seating areas will be installed, as well as cast iron entry arches at the two corners.
- One light will be relocated.

Benches/tables.

- At several locations throughout the park, we will install new benches. These have been designed by Disenos to match the existing historic benches in the park.

New trees

- Along the edges of the park installed through a separate GSD project.

These items were excluded from the project:

Tree maintenance.

- As we all know GSD and CPC did not see eye to eye on the proposed tree program. So, we decided to table this work so we can all have more time to understand the perspectives.
- There are a few trees that fall in the course of construction which will be removed. Including one honey locust by the playground, the crab apple at Clark, as well as the perennial garden along Vernor. We will also attempt to use any surplus funds to remove obviously dead/dying trees from the park. Either through this project or a separate GSD source. No healthy trees other than the ones in the direct line of construction will be removed.



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- The funded pieces of construction take into account the critical root zones of existing trees, and precautions will be taken to ensure their health.

Building work.

- GSD's plan was to begin the work on the buildings while we wait for further funding. CPC had a good point to wait on this work until it can be done in full. Our department will keep this in mind as funding comes up. For now, the buildings will stay as they are.
- The exception to this is the service yard by the buildings. We have already begun working with CPC staff to clean this area up. During this project we will work together to determine the extent of the cleanup.

Other two picnic shelters.

- We do not have the funds to replace these shelters at this time.

Stage.

- We do not have the funding to rebuild the stage, but should be able to update the electric service to something more weather resistant. The mosaic wall continues to deteriorate, and we all need to think about the future of that piece in the park...

Also, please note we have done work on the baseball fields already this summer, through separate projects. Our grounds crews are working their hardest given their current limitations to keep the park in shape, Anthony and I stay in close contact about this.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to finally getting the project underway.

John DeRuiter
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