

Park Improvements
Report as of 4-29-09
Submitted by: Melody Sweat

The Park Department's focus through this month has been spent on five projects Freedom Trail Park, Simon Moon Park, Monon ROW Acquisition, Westfield in Bloom and Arbor Day.

PARKS

Pre-emergent and fertilizer have gone down at all parks, except Freedom Trail. We will be treating the turf areas at all the parks for weeds as the weather permits. Plans for irrigation at Asa Bales and Quaker will be forth coming. Maintenance for all park sites will continue but our focus is on the four developed sites: Asa Bales Park, Freedom Trail Park, Simon Moon Park and Quaker Park.

Parks through the Public Works 2009 budget will be hiring 1 summer employee, a water technician. This person's job responsibility is attached. This will leave us short one summer employee from what we had last year.

Freedom Trail Park

This month the Advisory Plan Commission approved the site plan for Freedom Trail Park. There is much to do. Quotes for the stone trails have been received and are being forwarded to Westfield Washington Schools for their consideration. We shall be on the May School Board Meeting Agenda in regards to the transfer of ownership of this property from the School Corporation to the City. In working with Neil Van Trees, we plan to have a bid package ready soon for the construction of the roadway. I will be meeting in the near future with the WYSI leadership regarding their timeline for construction of the restroom/concession building. Construction including all cost of the restroom/concession/storage building will be the responsibility of WYSI

Other items regarding the site plan at Freedom Trail Park will be installing berms and reshaping four existing berms on site. We have a source for the necessary dirt but will incur cost for equipment rental (bulldozer). We plan to maximize time and equipment for the berms and the construction of the parking lot. Kurt Wanninger and I have discussed the availability of the DPW workers for this project. Prairie planting of these areas will be done following the earth moving.

There is \$10,000 in the Park Operating budget for the roadway at Freedom Trail Park. The trail's surface will be stone; we are hoping to have an agreement with the School Corporations regarding the trail surfacing in the park. Funding will come from the Community Development Project Fund budget to cover the seed for the prairie planting. The reinforced turf parking area along with the cost to stone the drive will cost in the neighborhood of \$41,000. So we are looking at using \$31,000 from Park Impact Fee Fund.

Freedom Trail parking lot islands are part of the Westfield in Bloom planting project.

I am continuing to work with playground designers for the play ground and hope to have a conceptual plan in place by summer. At which time a funding source will need to be identified through the 2010 budget process.

Simon Moon Park

The sledding hill continues to develop although the dirt deliveries have been slow. We anticipate this picking up with nice weather and hope to have the hill finished by the end of May. If we do then we should be okay with planting the grass.

Arbor Day 2009 (April 25th) was a great success. We received the ALCOA Foundation Grant in the amount of \$5000. We had 104 volunteers and planted 67 trees, mulched and watered all the trees. We are going to follow up with staking as the very wet weather and high winds have already taken a toll. Additional large trees have been donated by TMT Nurseries and will be placed at Freedom Trail Park.

Asa Bales Park

The restroom restoration from last year's fire is about finished. Light sensors still need to be replaced; Bob Rushforth is doing this today. I will be ordering a new baby changing table for the restroom. The restrooms will be opening Friday for the season. Two additional cameras are being installed at the park. IT is working on the software on the police laptops.

Asa Bales will be a site for Westfield in Bloom (WIB) and we are planning to enhance the entrance gardens on north side. Other gardens at the park will be enhanced with plant donations from the WIB committee.

We have a broken slide at Asa that has been blocked off. It will cost \$2000 to replace so we are looking at blocking this opening properly. There are no funds budgeted for playground equipment replacement in 2009.

We shall be on the May School Board Meeting Agenda in regards to the transfer of ownership of this property from the School Corporation to the City.

Quaker Park

Quaker Park will be receiving a major landscaping rework as part of Westfield in Bloom. Many of the existing perennials have been moved to fill in other beds at Quaker and Asa Bales. All of the annuals are being donated by Heartland Growers.

The Splash Park has been re-engineered by Rob Lambert and so we are looking forward to the operations working more efficiently this season. We do have one feature that is damaged. The Spin and Spill is the largest piece at the park. It is covered by warranty. We are working now to get it removed and shipped back to Texas for repair. They have told us once received it will be a 10 day turn around. So we should not have a problem with opening the splash park on May 22nd.

TRAILS

Monon Trail (146th to 156th)

Construction has resumed and we are ahead of schedule. Mark your calendars so to not to miss the Trail Ribbon Cutting and Dedication of the Alyn Burnell Mile. This event is scheduled for Saturday, June 6th @ 10AM at the Greyhound Pass Trailhead.

Monon Trail (Viking Meadows)

Neil Van Trees is preparing the bid documents for this segment of the trail and plans to have them ready by next week. The wage hiring is May 4th. We intend to have this section of the Monon Trail completed within the same time line as 146th to 156th Street if at all possible. Donna Luley is still pursuing stimulus money for this section. Let's hope it comes through.

Monon Trail North

We have secured our first donation of the Monon ROW in phase 2 of the trail. St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church donated ½ the ROW just north of where the Westfield Business Park starts. We hope this will catapulted more donations. Many others are in the works but we will need to purchase some parcels. Mayor Cook and I have been meeting with landowners. We have several meetings over the next few weeks so we are hoping to have more donations soon.

Midland Trace Trail

Discussions have continued with Brian Zaiger and the class action suit regarding the Midland Trace ROW and Noblesville quit claiming their rights to Westfield. This suit deals with a few adjacent landowners against the City of Westfield and the City of Noblesville. Brian would be able to explain this better than I.

Brain is also working with the attorney for Sander Glen regarding their land donation and with Mr. Delello on his land donation. I believe the Mayor is following up with Mr. Bob Barker on the piece they are to build. I have been working with Matt Skelton on the other pieces that the City is to obtain from zoning agreements. Now that Matt is the Director of Community Development I will need to work with Brian to finish up on this process.

Other Projects

Westfield in Bloom (WIB)

The Community Planting Day is Saturday, May 2nd. Volunteers will be planting gardens in Red Man Park, Freedom Trail Park, Asa Bales Park and Quaker Park. Jim Gipinski, with Heartland Growers is donating all the plants and fertilizer we will need all season. Heartland has also planted and is growing the 60 hanging baskets and 4 bridge baskets we will displayed in Downtown. These will be placed on May 15th in conjunction with

Westfield's 175th Birthday Party. Westfield in Bloom is happy to partner with the DWNA in the beautification of Downtown Westfield.

Hamilton County Probation Department

I have arranged to have the youth and adult Hamilton County Probation Department workers assist the park department through out the growing season with park project as well as two weekends that will be dedicated to cleaning up Downtown. We are coordinating the downtown clean up work days with the Westfield Public Works Department and the Downtown Westfield Neighborhood Association. These workers will help with weeding and grounds maintenance in the parks, watering and other park projects and events. The estimated cost savings to the park department is around \$10,000.

JOB DESCRIPTION

PARK DEPARTMENT WATER TECHNICIAN

Seasonal - full time position (May through September)
Some weekends required (every 3rd week)
Valid driver's license and good driving record required
Must be able to speak, read and write English

The Water Technician for the Westfield Park Department's job responsibilities include daily monitoring the Splash Park @ Quaker Park; daily watering the downtown flower baskets and planters; daily watering all gardens in the Westfield City Parks and public spaces and maintaining the Park Departments watering truck and equipment.

Other responsibilities include:

- Submit daily Splash Park water testing results to the Park Director to report to the Hamilton County Health Department.
- Daily clean and maintain Splash Park – coordinating with Westfield Water Utility when necessary
- Complete and maintain daily watering checklists for downtown and each park and public space garden
- File completed daily reports weekly with the Park Director
- Monitor garden conditions and report to Park Director as needed
- Assist Park Department Grounds and Facility staff as needed
- Perform other tasks as assigned by Park Director
- Act as the eyes and ears for the Westfield Park Department