

Park Improvements
Report as of 5-21-09
Submitted by: Melody Sweat

The Park Department's focus through this month has been construction of Phase I of the Monon Trail; Phase II Monon ROW Acquisition, Westfield in Bloom; and Quaker Park Splash Park.

STAFF

Parks through the Public Works 2009 budget has hired 1 summer employee, Zachary Chianello as a water technician. We also hired two seasonal workers, Cole Thatcher and Jonathan Rogers to assist Scott Thompson with grounds and facility maintenance.

PARKS

Scott Thompson has been working hard to get the parks mowed and treated but Mother Nature has had other ideas. We will be treating the turf areas at all the parks for weeds as soon as we are caught up with mowing. Plans for irrigation at Asa Bales and Quaker will be forthcoming. 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.

Freedom Trail Park

I will meet with Nick Verhoff on Friday, May 22nd regarding a MOU on the stoning of the trails and Cross Country at the park. We will also verify the survey boundaries. We shall be on the June 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. The WYSI leadership is moving forward with their plans for construction of the restroom/concession building. We would like to coordinate construction so that we will be under construction at one time.

Other items regarding the site plan at Freedom Trail Park will be coordinated with DPW and park staff.

Freedom Trail parking lot islands are part of the Westfield in Bloom planting project. They will be completed this week.

I am continuing to work with playground designers for the play ground and hope to have a conceptual plan in place this 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. Hopefully that will pick up.

Asa Bales Park.

Asa Bales is a site for Westfield in Bloom (WIB) and we planted the entrance gardens on north side. The garden on the south end was included.

We shall be on the June 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 has received 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. Rob Lambert The damaged feature; the Spin and Spill should be returned next week. It is covered by warranty. We hope to open this weekend provided we pass the bacteria tests. Permits and approvals have been given by the Hamilton County Health Department.

TRAILS**Monon Trail (146th to 156th)**

All the rain in May slowed down the construction project but as long as it does not rain next week we should be complete for the June 6th. We do not want them to put down the final layer of asphalt until all the heavy equipment is no longer being used.

Monon Trail (Viking Meadows)

Neil Van Trees has reworked the bid documents for this segment of the trail and plans to have them ready by next week. We will proceed as soon as possible.

Monon Trail North

We should be finalizing four additional donations (AgReliant, Alvis Family, John Menonna and Jeff Delello) in the next couple weeks. The appraisals for Custom Concrete will be done next week and then we will be able to send them a proposal. Neil is working on the Kamin property design. Once we have that we can get estimates we can begin the conversations with their attorney, Steve Cook. They are not interested in selling. I am continuing to work on the other properties and will advise the Board of Works as soon as we have made some headway.

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. There is nothing new to report.

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. There is nothing new to report.

Other Projects

Westfield in Bloom (WIB)

On May 16th the WIB committee and volunteers planted gardens in Red Man Park, Freedom Trail Park, Asa Bales Park and Quaker Park. Jim Gipinski, with Heartland Growers has donated all the plants and fertilizer we will need all season.

We coordinated with the DWNA and the City on the 175th Birthday Party. That day the hanging baskets and planters were planted. I hope you all agree that this is a wonderful addition to Westfield's Downtown and parks. The WIB committee has worked so hard on this project. We want to encourage residence and business to get registered for the competition.