

Park Improvements
Report as of 2-20-09
Submitted by: Melody Sweat

Park Department project planning is moving ahead but not much work has taken place in February. The Park Department is looking forward to warmer weather.

Quaker Park

Plans are underway for planting the gardens at Quaker Park following the theme for Westfield in Bloom.

We are still working on irrigation quotes, the splash park filter system maintenance, and replacing the broken pipes. The splash park apparatus clean up will be done as soon as weather permits.

Simon Moon Park

The sledding hill continues to develop. We are receiving additional FREE dirt each week. We are hoping to have enough donated dirt by April so the sculpting of the hill will be completed and we can begin planting in May.

Kurt Wanninger has agreed to pay for the new chain link fence and gate (\$5,375) out of Waste Water funds and the erosion control (\$8,000) out of Storm Water. And he has also graciously agreed to provide the necessary man hours to get this project completed.

The Alcoa Grant was submitted on time and we should hear next week if we are receiving an award. These funds will go toward the Arbor Day Trail tree planting at Simon Moon Park.

The planting plans for Simon Moon are underway and the gardens will be following the theme for Westfield in Bloom.

Asa Bales Park

Westfield Public Works employees did a fantastic job of cleaning up of the trees that were cut as part of the hazardous tree inspection. We have one very large tree in the play ground yet to come down and then the cutting will be completed for this year.

Plans are underway for new garden plantings at Asa Bales Park in the spring of 2009. This will be in conjunction with Westfield In Bloom. A turf improvement plan is in place and park visitors should notice a big improvement in the turf in the spring and summer. Irrigation quotes are being sought for the north side of Asa Bales Park at this time.

Freedom Trail Park

Westfield Public Works employees did a great job of cleaning up of the trees. There is still chipping that needs to be removed.

Plans are underway for new plantings in the parking lot beds in the spring of 2009. This will be in conjunction with Westfield In Bloom. A turf improvement plan is in place and park visitors should notice a big improvement in the turf in the spring and summer.

The Wild Life Habitat Improvement Grant is no longer available to Cities. So we will be looking at alternative ways to fund the project to restore areas at Freedom Trail Park back to native Indiana habitat.

The meetings with stakeholders on the following development plans are winding down. We have discussed and proposed plans for future on site parking; restroom/concession/storage building plans; playgrounds; a shelter; landscaping and berming and creating a "Friends" group for Freedom Trail Park. These meetings have been very productive. Members of the Westfield staff are helping with engineering and estimating the cost of implementation. We plan to move forward with the site plan for Freedom Trail Park at the March Board of Zoning Appeals. We will need variances of standards for parking lot surfacing; curbing; parking lot landscaping and on site landscaping requirements for shrubbery. We have a letter of support from the Westfield Washington School Board and will have representatives from Silver Lakes HOA, Willow Creek HOA and WYSI speak in support of the project. We will then appear before the Advisory Plan Commission in April.

I am seeking design plans for the play ground at Freedom Trail Park. The hope is that we can design a universal destination play ground for this site. As we narrow the plans they will be brought forward for consideration by the Board.

TRAILS

Monon Trail (146th to 156th)

Construction will resume on the Trail project as the weather permits.

Plans are underway for the dedication of this first mile as the Alyn Bernell Mile. *This is a secret.* Alyn has been involved with the development of the Monon Trail starting in Indianapolis and in Carmel. As a Westfield resident he always pushed for us to continue what are neighbors to the south began. We are very happy to honor Alyn by dedicating this first mile in Westfield to him. The ribbon cutting and dedicating ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 6th. Mark your calendars.

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 the end of February. We intend to have this section of the Monon Trail completed within the same time line as 146th to 156th Street.

Monon Trail North

Meetings are taking place with landowners to discuss securing the ROW for the trail. To date the Hebrew Congregation; Custom Concrete; AgReliant and Craig Kaiser have agreed to donate their property.

The Mayor and the trail team will be meeting next week to strategize our approach for the remaining property.

Per the grant requirement this trail must be build by December 31, 2009.

Midland Trace Trail (East Leg)

This section of the Midland Trace Trail (Grey Road to Union Street) is designed, engineered and we have construction plans. Right of Way is 85 % obtained. We need to find the funding source for this project. It was included in the stimulus request Westfield submitted.

Midland Trace Trail (Maple Knoll Apartments)

We have worked out an agreement with Buckeye Pipeline and now need to finalize the plans with Sheehan the developer for the Maple Knoll Apartments. There is a wetland issue that is being examined. Construction should be completed on the trail segment from Springmill Road west this spring.

Other Projects

I want to make the Board aware of our new project “Westfield In Bloom” (WIB). This City wide beautification program will impact the entire community. The Park Department is the vehicle driving this initiative but the volunteers are running this project. We have discussed placing planters and hanging baskets in the downtown area. We are seeking donations for these items. Indiana Brick will be donating 12 planters that they will build and also the stepping stones that we will give as awards and thank you’s to our Judges. Heartland Growers is a major player on this team. They will be growing the baskets for us and donating a lot of plant material. We will be working with the Westfield Downtown Neighborhood Association and the Grand Junction Task Group as we move forward with our focus on Downtown Westfield. This initiative is not limited to the Downtown area and we hope to see participation throughout the City. We will be presenting to WeCan next month. The program brochure will be printed by mid March.

It is my plan to come back before the Board of Works in the next few months with a City Tree Inspection Program; a Fill in the Gap Trail Connection Plan; and a revised capital project budget.