

Rotary Park Progress Report – February 2015

Fellow Rotarians,

We had a very busy January, meeting with both Hooker DeYoung and Alcoa Foundation to discuss the project and it's timeline for completion. As the County prepares to submit its recreational grant applications to the Department of Natural Resources, Rotary Park has been divided into two phases. Each phase is listed below with its respective timeline. Phase 2 is contingent upon award of grant funding through the DNR.

Phase #1 – To Be Completed by September 2015

This phase will focus on the handicap accessible playground, resurfacing and repairing the YMCA parking lot, construction of the fishing dock, path and handicap accessible kayak launch, transitional landscape and sod, path lighting and completion of the infrastructure for water and sewer necessary to install bathrooms and a picnic shelter. Phase 1 will be open for bid in the next 4 weeks. This phase will also include the signage outlining funding support, including the Alcoa Fishing Bridge and the Rotary sign that was discussed in past planning sessions. Ground breaking will take place in May. Construction of phase 1 will be completed by September of 2015. This phase is funded by the existing grants and donations that were gathered at the start of the project. This phase is expected to cost \$270,000 to complete.

Phase #2 – If funded by the DNR, will be completed by September of 2016

This phase will focus on the picnic shelter and restrooms. As originally designed, the picnic shelter and restrooms will be able to accommodate daily users as well as classes of children or groups for a day trip to the park. This phase will also include, if usage determines, the parking lot that was originally designed. Based on feedback and observation through 2015, project staff will be able to assess if there is a need for additional parking beyond what has been provided in partnership with the YMCA. If the parking is determined to be adequate for the park's use, we will omit this from the construction plan. This phase will also focus on aquatic habitat restoration, including native species plants that will provide educational opportunities to students throughout the Muskegon County area. DNR funding streams identified to support this phase include: Watertrail, Aquatic Habitat, Trust Fund and Land Water Conservation funding to complete this phase. It is anticipated that this phase will cost approximately \$500,000 to complete.

As reported in January, the primary expectations of the project, the fishing dock, kayak launch and playground will be accessible by the end of this coming summer. We appreciate the support and feedback of all of those vested in the outcome of this project. We are awaiting the digital file of phase 1, which Hooker DeYoung is working to provide us. Once we have this digital file, we hope to have the coming soon signs and brochures installed by the end of February. This will show the community what a great opportunity Rotary Park is to access the Lake Michigan Watertrail!

I encourage any Rotarian with questions, concerns, interests, or feedback to please feel free to contact me at 231-724-6808 or maximsparrowco@co.muskegon.mi.us. I am committed to sharing the progress at Rotary Park with Rotary, as well as the entire community.

Sincerely,

Connie Maxim-Sparrow
Rotary Park Project Liaison
Muskegon County Grants Coordinator