

Rotary Park Progress Report – January 2015

Fellow Rotarians,

In an effort to increase communication on the progress of Rotary Park, I will be providing a monthly progress report for publication in the newsletter. I hope that these progress reports will show the diligence and commitment of County staff at executing the project and bringing it to completion by fall of 2015. Staff has been working hard to catch up on the project and its needs. After speaking with the Department of Natural Resources, a phased approach to all components of the park's completion is of priority. At this point, Hooker and DeYoung is adjusting the scope of the project for Phase 1. This phase will focus on completion of four components: kayak launch and path, parking lot improvements, handicap accessible playground, and infrastructure to support restrooms.

The Department of Natural Resources – who is providing the funding for construction, has requested that site plans and rebid of all construction costs be submitted for review, prior to approval to move forward. Given the phased approach, the scope of work has changed significantly.

We have been working diligently to provide the DNR these plans and bid documents. In the meantime, we have negotiated an easement with the Muskegon Family YMCA for parking access to Rotary Park. We have also requested Revel to complete two “coming soon” project signs that outline the wonderful financial support that has been provided for Rotary Park. These two signs will be installed along the bike trail on Western Ave and near the Muskegon Family YMCA, facing the parking lot. The signs will be full color digital prints in a wood frame that will have a brochure holder affixed to it. These signs will feature a site design, similar to signs that were posted at the Downtown Farmers Market. As soon as site plans are completed, the signs will be installed. A brochure is being developed to promote the exciting developments. Each phase grant funded recreational programming will be highlighted in the brochure. The installation is targeted at February of 2015.

County staff has identified the phase 2 as a project for submission to the Department of Natural Resources for 2015 grant funding. This application will be submitted in April of 2015. Notification will be provided in fall of 2015. Phase two will center on the restrooms and picnic pavilion.

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