

Northside Park Renovation - Project Update

January 4, 2008

The following is an update of progress on the Northside Renovation project since the October 20, 2007 public meeting. The Wheaton Park District has approved contracts with our consulting engineer to develop construction documents from the conceptual plan and apply for permits to construct the project. The first step in this process is to complete a more detailed survey of the park and acquire soil samples throughout the park. This work is currently underway.

The scope of work for design and permitting was approved by the Wheaton Park District board of commissioners at the November 28 and December 19 board meetings. The approved scope of work is divided into six components:

1. This component involves work that is required to allow the culvert at Main Street to be widened. This includes: shoreline restoration and reconfiguration, docks, weir replacement, replacing the northeastern bridge, and additional floodplain storage.
2. Improving pedestrian access throughout the park by replacing the southwest bridge, constructing two additional bridges from Murray and Boy Scout Island, and constructing new pedestrian paths.
3. The former maintenance facility at the southwest corner, that is located partially within the floodplain, will be removed and replaced with native plantings. We will also explore replacing the existing warming shelter with a new facility that can be used year round.
4. The park district is required to provide floodplain storage and detention for the renovation of Northside Pool and an acquisition at Lincoln Marsh during the 1990's. While this construction will occur within the Lincoln marsh adjacent to Gary Avenue, it is critical to the Northside project because these areas will be used to stage soil recovered from dredging.
5. Sanitary and storm sewer improvements will be constructed at the Boy Scout cabin and adjacent to the pool parking lots.
6. The least visible, but largest part of the project will be dredging of the bottom of the lagoon. This will provide increased access, improved fishing and wildlife habitat, and improve the overall aesthetics.

The majority of this planning will occur within the next couple of months with a permit submittal anticipated in late March 2008. The permit review process is anticipated to take between six and nine months. This will allow construction to begin during 2009.

We are also looking at improvements throughout the rest of the park. Some of the different areas being looked at include:

- Parking areas – reconfiguring for better circulation and increased capacity
- Ball fields – improvements to the existing baseball/softball fields and soccer/football fields
- Cabins – improving accessibility and renovating
- Sled Hill – increasing the size of the hill and redirecting it away from the lagoon
- Playground – Planning for the scheduled replacement of the equipment
- Planting Plan – Planning for replacement and addition of trees, shrubs, and planting beds
- Interpretive signage – educational signage about the renovation, history, and ecosystem

Public participation is encouraged and appreciated. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Mike Benard at (630) 510-4945 or Rob Sperl at (630) 510-4975.

