

## **Northside Park Renovation – Update 4 October 21, 2009**

It has been a couple of months since my last update. In the mean time, there has been a lot of recent activity.

### **Training**

The Wheaton Fire Department completed several weeks of training in the old maintenance shop that concluded with cutting holes through the roof and walls in order to practice accessing building interiors during a fire. This was valuable training on a type of building that they don't typically get the opportunity with. In addition, the Wheaton Police Department utilized the building to perform some SWAT team training.

### **Construction**

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the park in the last week or two, it has a much different look:

- Fencing has been installed around the perimeter of the construction zones.
- Cohee hill has been stripped of topsoil in preparation of increasing its size with soil that will be removed from the north end of the park.
- Trees and brush have been removed from the perimeter of the lagoon and the area along Gary Avenue. We have stockpiled some of the chips created from these trees for use throughout the park district.

### **Site Access**

Our contractor, E.P. Doyle and Son, has been willing to allow more access to the park than originally anticipated. They have permitted parking adjacent to the tennis courts off of West Street and the softball field on the north end of the park continues to be accessible. The ball field on the south side of the park and the adjacent playground are open as previously indicated. The fencing has limited the ability to walk around the park and cross the bridges over Winfield Creek. Local residents, including Wheaton North students, have been instructed to detour around the park via Main Street and Cole Avenue. This is a much safer route than trying to walk along Gary Avenue.

### **Pictures**

Throughout the project, pictures are taken on nearly a daily basis to track the progress. In addition, two members of the Friends of Northside Park committee have shared some extensive photo journals of the park. These provide a great idea of the ranging conditions of the lagoon over the years and a detailed baseline for the changes that are yet to come. I will be posting a selection of pictures at [http://www.wheatonparkdistrict.com/pgs/parks/northside\\_renovations.html](http://www.wheatonparkdistrict.com/pgs/parks/northside_renovations.html) as the project progresses.

### **Questions or Comments?**

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