



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 8647

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

www.a2gov.org

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Amy Kuras, Parks Planner, 734.794.6230, extension 42590 / akuras@A2gov.org

WEST PARK TO CLOSE TEMPORARILY MARCH THROUGH SEPTEMBER DURING MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Feb. 25, 2010 — West Park will be closed to the public during major park improvements starting in March (exact date is weather-dependent) and running through September. The tennis courts on Huron Street, however, will remain open. The park is located close to downtown Ann Arbor, between Miller and Huron, and Chapin and Seventh.

The project will feature stormwater quality improvements, including structures and planted bioswales, to help reduce phosphorous levels in the Allen Creek, provide flood control, enhance the wetlands within the park and increase biodiversity.

Park improvements include reconstructed pathways, a new pathway from Seventh Street, access stairs from the western entrance on Huron Street, seat walls at the bandshell built into the hillside, a relocated basketball court, and rebuilt parking lot. The recreational components, including the baseball field and open field area will remain, although the open field area will be regraded to allow for better drainage. The park will feature native prairie and wetland plantings with a boardwalk and overlook.

While West Park is closed, residents are encouraged to visit other nearby parks, including play areas at Waterworks (between 7th and 8th and Washington and Liberty) and Maryfield Wildwood (on Westwood off of Dexter Ave). A complete list of city parks can be found at www.a2gov.org/parks (the “Parks Info” tab on the left column).

The project is being funded through the State Revolving Loan fund, as well as with federal stimulus funds (ARRA), and Park Maintenance and Capital Projects Millage funds, and is being planned in cooperation with the Water Resources Commissioner's Office. For more information, please contact Amy Kuras at akuras@a2gov.org or at 734.794.6230, extension 42590.

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Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit (www.a2gov.org/news). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates (www.a2gov.org), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor). The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.