

September 10, 2014

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For Further Information, contact
Mayor Dave Wood, 258-1601

**MISHAWAKA PROCEEDING WITH SIGNIFICANT
CENTRAL PARK RENOVATION
PARK CLOSED UNTIL SUMMER OF 2015**

The City recently awarded the planned renovation of Central Park to Ziolkowski Construction of South Bend. The project came in slightly under the architects estimate at 4.75 million dollars. Ziolkowski has informed the City that they plan on fencing off the construction area this week. This will essentially close the center of the park until the summer of 2015.

During construction, the Riverwalk will remain open, although there will be ornamental lighting placed on the Pedestrian Bridge which will require intermittent temporary closure of the bridge.

In working with my staff and the Park Board, the park will be transformed into a “*city-wide destination family park*”. We were fortunate to have a talented design team led by Mishawaka Landscape Architects Lehman and Lehman, architects from DLZ of South Bend, and civil engineers from Lawson Fisher Associates of South Bend working on the project.

Mayor wood indicated “We look at each one of our parks as unique, and Central Park’s history as a company picnic area, located adjacent to the river, in close proximity to the downtown, and connected by the riverwalk system, dictated a more significant investment than just play equipment.” He further elaborated “We look at our parks along the river and riverwalk system as a string of pearls. Each one different but contributing to the greater system. The proposed improvements although significant, are intended to be a once in a generation investment.”

The following is a list of some of the key elements of the Park for all ages:

- For older kids, a 28 foot tall rope climbing tower will be installed. As far as we know, this will be the tallest “play” climber in the United States. Although a typical young teen may look down on traditional play areas, we believe that this will have universal appeal.
- For younger kids, concrete storm pipes will be set into a hill to provide a realistic tunnel crawl experience without the dangers associated with actual storm pipes.
- A variety of standard play equipment will be provided including swings, slides, and climbers that overall could accommodate over 100 kids at a time.
- A programmable interactive fountain that will provide relief from the heat in summer.
- Five rentable pavilions. Four smaller pavilions that will accommodate a typical birthday or family picnic at 24-30 persons. One larger pavilion that can accommodate 70 with a decorative fireplace.

- A new restroom building. Rather than creating large rooms with multiple stalls, the building will contain 5 family sized restrooms for occupancy by one individual or family at a time. The building will be situated between the main play area of the park and the riverwalk to serve both functions.
- An open event lawn surrounded by a multipurpose walk. This will replace the existing softball field and will be an ideal place to fly a kite, watch fireworks, or even sled in the winter.
- The existing tennis courts will be redone to provide one fenced tennis court and one fenced full court basketball court. Other notable park improvements include tiled play surfacing, new site furnishings, decorative lighting, and gateway signage.



Proposed Central Park Main Pavilion and Outdoor Fireplace



Proposed interactive fountain