

Prentis Park Project Nears Bid

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The Prentis Park pool project is heading into exciting times.

Up until now, all of the work on the project has been either in planning or behind the scenes work, but Vermillion Park and Recreation director Jim Goblirsch informed the Vermillion City Council on Monday that it is time to move forward and bid out the project.

"On Dec. 7, I am going to come to the council and ask for your approval to put the bonds out for bid," he said. "We will be asking for you to authorize the bidding of this project, which we are looking to do in early January. December 7 is the meeting we have scheduled for the authorization of that."

Goblirsch said that things are progressing very well at Prentis Park.

"As you can see there have been some additions to the Prentis Park Ball Field, with the restrooms finished for both the baseball field and the park," he said. "The baseball field trees have been trimmed, with some of them being cleared. The electric company has done a nice job over there rerouting the power throughout the park for the parking lots and the pool. A lot of that groundwork that we can see has been done. It is nice to get that stuff done so when the time comes to break ground on our other projects we can move forward quickly."

As for what is planned at the pool area of Prentis Park, Goblirsch said it is very similar to what was proposed to the public.

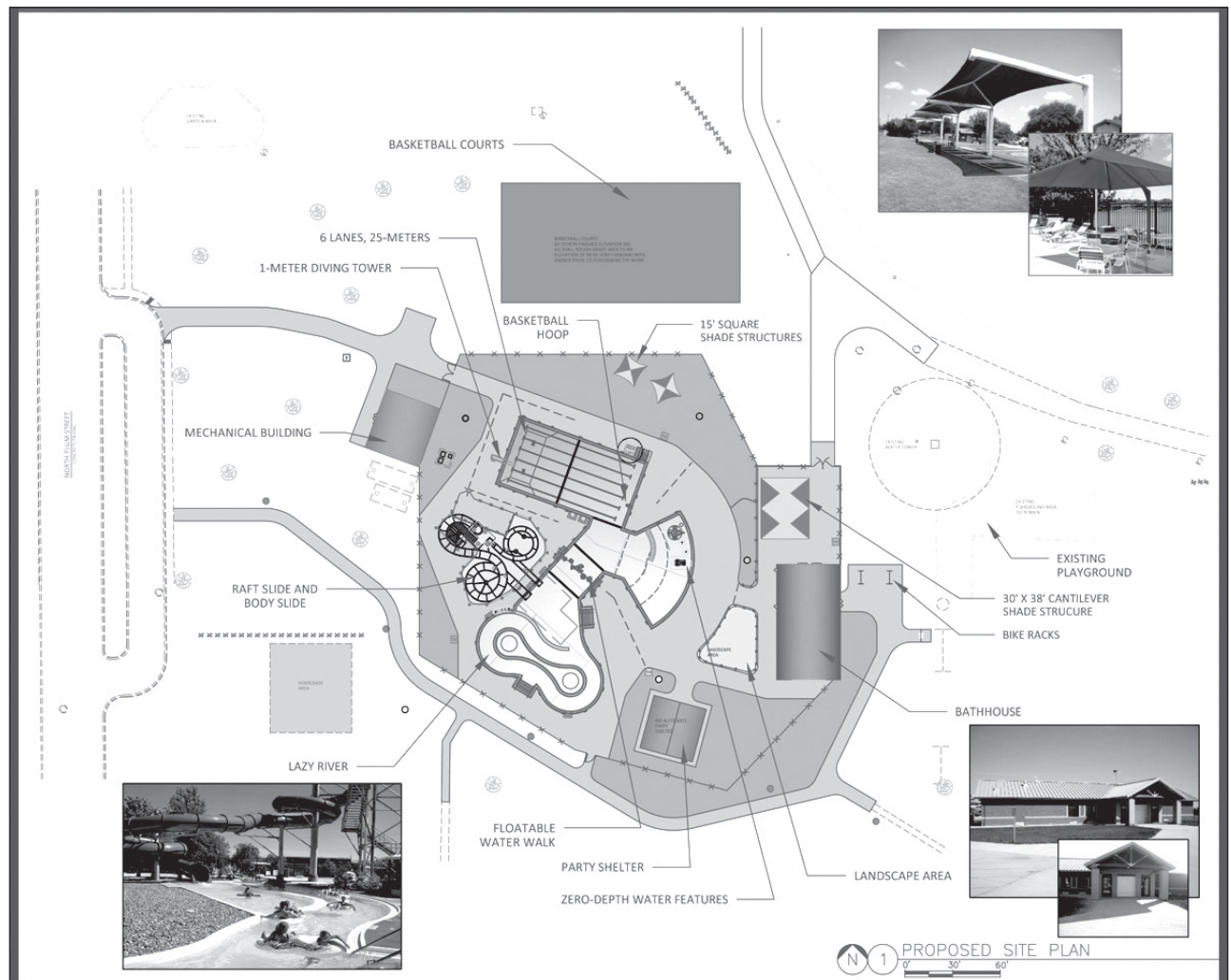
"There probably won't be a final design until Dec. 7," he said. "It isn't too far away from the original design. Not too much has changed. The same features we have been telling you about, just more solid ideas."

Those solid ideas include many that the board expressed their excitement over.

"We are looking to put in a double cantilever two-pole shade structure for the concession area," Goblirsch said. "It will provide 30x38 foot structure that will provide lots of shade. We are looking at putting a similar structure in the pool area instead of a solid structure because the cost is about three times less."

He gave a general overview of the new facility. "The lazy river will be roughly 180-feet long," Goblirsch said. "There will be a zero-depth entry on the pool. So, it starts at no water and slides down to about 4-feet of water. There will be an in water bench which will be almost a blocker for the pool, because one of the concerns was we were taking away the wading pool. There will be two big slides, one a tube slide and the other a body slide. We are going to have a six-lane 25-meter pool, where we will keep 1.5 lanes open and dedicated to lap swimmers, at this time. A large floatable play feature. A low-dive similar to what we have now."

Goblirsch expanded on a few of the items. "The bathhouse will have a rolled up door so we have a nice access and people will not have to be opening and closing doors," he said. "They can go right up to the counter, where we will have a multi-level counter for ADA necessity, as well as a little bit higher counter for safety reasons. It will have a big open ceiling. There will be men's and women's changing rooms, as well as two family changing



rooms, one of those will be ADA accessible, the other will not. We will have a roof over everything."

He said the two slides will provide thrills for younger children and older alike.

"The big slide is a tube slide which will then be allowed to go into the lazy river," he said. "So, you won't even have to get off the tube, you can just keep riding around the river. It is a little bit of a slower slide and we will have tubes for both one and two person riders, which will be nice in allowing people to change up who they go down with. The other slide is more of a speed slide, a thrill factor. We wanted to include something a little bit more exciting for our older children. We think it will compare to the high dive. The enclosed tube slide will have what looks like neon lights coming through. There will be a full canopy over the slide structure to provide some shade for our slide attendants up on top. We will get a bid from the construction company as well as two other vendors."

Goblirsch said the theme of the park will be sports. "It is pretty generic but has a lot of color," he said. "We will put a slide feature in the zero-depth area that will allow kids to slide off it, climb on it. It is a softer plastic and will allow for a lot of interactivity with all of the features com-

ing off it. Some of the other features will be little shooters where the water shoots out of it."

He said one feature that he is excited about is the water walk.

"What a water walk area is, is where the kids crawl across four or five floating flat soft items," he said. "We are looking to see if we need another float. The one big feature in the lap pool will be a floating baseball bat similar to the alligator at Wild Water West in Sioux Falls, which will be removable. This will be for the older kids, 10-14 years old."

He said there will be shade structures that will have multi-colored tops. They are planned to be 15x15 feet. But the placement of them has not been decided.

"These features we will ask for included in the base bid as well as ask for additional bids," Goblirsch said. "They will be installed by the contractor so we do have a warranty. The volume of water will be less than what is used in the current pool, but it will be more usable water. We really tried to meet all levels of age groups. We tried to design it so everyone has something to do. We tried to design it so it is marketable for parties, private rentals and we think we can draw people from other communities, as well."

Honoring Vermillion's Teacher Leaders

Editor's Note: Part two of a two part series.

November 16-20, schools across the nation celebrate the National Education Association's American Education Week.

"Every day in schools across the country, educators help students learn, grow and achieve," said Lily Eskelsen Garcia, NEA President, on their website. "Every November since 1921 we celebrate American Education Week to recognize and honor all those who work together for student success."

Natasha Gault, 8th Grade Earth Science Teacher at Vermillion Middle School, decided to honor four teachers she has worked with in developing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) projects.

For more information on American Education Week, visit www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm.

CARRIE MART: GROWING A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

In the past seventeen years, Carrie Mart has seen the Austin Elementary kindergarten curriculum grow. "When I started teaching, students attended a half-day kindergarten program. The Austin Elementary kindergarten program has grown to a full-day kindergarten program that now includes common core standards."

To become a seventeen-year teaching expert, Carrie Mart received both her Bachelors Degree in Science and a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of South Dakota. Mrs. Mart has combined this advanced education with a passion for children and for scientific learning. Under the development of Mrs. Mart, the scientific kindergarten curriculum is beginning to grow both in knowledge and in experience. The Austin Elementary kindergarten curriculum has begun to



COURTESY PHOTO
Carrie Mart has taught 17 years in the Vermillion School District's Austin Elementary kindergarten.

include a hands-on fruit and vegetable gardening project.

The Vermillion Area Community Foundation has generously provided Mrs. Mart with funding to make the kindergarten gardening project a reality at Austin Elementary School. The funds will be used to purchase classroom gardening supplies. The supplies include: Indoor plant grow lights, germination stations, planting trays, transplant pots, and a classroom weather station.

The gardening curriculum will be based on the STEM model of learning, which includes Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Mrs. Mart explains that, "The gardening curriculum will be a

hands-on project that will help students understand how plants grow. Students will begin to understand how to grow healthy fruits and vegetables." Mrs. Mart further recognizes that her students don't often get the opportunity to grow healthy fruits and vegetables. "Gardening is something that students can truly benefit from and can use throughout their lives," shares Mrs. Mart.

"STEM is a differentiated instruction that all students can learn and benefit from. It isn't just a science lesson. It is cross curriculum, hands-on learning from the moment they walk into the classroom until the school day is over," explains Carrie Mart.

Student began their STEM gardening experience this fall as the students travelled to Heikes Farm. Kindergarten students were able to tour the local community share farm. Students were able to choose a pumpkin and a gourd to take home with them. Students also completed learning stations that educated children on food growth and farm life.

Future STEM experiences will include involving local gardening professionals to visit the kindergarten classroom. Within the classroom setting, students will use science as they watch different types of plants develop through the plant life cycle. Students will use technology as they integrate a digital weather station into the decision making of when to water and how to plant. Students will use engineering to determine the need and necessities for water retention and transplanting. Students will use mathematics as they explore plant growth and growing conditions. Mrs. Mart expresses that, "The kindergarten students will also grow their own plant to take home to share with their family." She hopes that, "By building and sharing this knowledge will increase the likelihood of a healthier lifestyle."

Mrs. Mart looks forward to watching her students grow in both knowledge and experience. She states that, "My students will begin to learn meaningful information about gardening, being healthy and taking care of the environment. The best part is that the students are having fun and learning at the same time."

Health Sciences Career Fair Attracts Employers From Region

USD students and anyone interested in learning about jobs and internships in the health industry are invited to attend Friday's University of South Dakota School of Health Sciences Career Fair in Vermillion. At least 25 employers will be on hand.

The event runs 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 20 in the Lee Medical Building atrium and includes opportunities for all School of Health Sciences majors: addiction studies, communication sciences & disorders, dental hygiene, health sciences major, health services administration, kinesiology & sport science, medical laboratory science, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant, public health and social work.

- The employers, from six states, registered to attend:
- Aegis Therapies, Fort Smith, Arkansas
 - Aureus Medical Group, Omaha, Nebraska
 - Avera, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 - Big Stone Therapies Inc., Ortonville, Minnesota
 - Blue Stone Therapy Solutions, West Des Moines, Iowa
 - Bryan Health, Lincoln, Nebraska
 - Central Nebraska Rehabilitation Services LLC, Grand Island, Nebraska
 - CHI Health, Omaha, Nebraska
 - Horizon Health Care, Howard, South Dakota
 - Huron Regional Medical Center, Huron, South Dakota
 - Indian Health Service
 - Interim HealthCare, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 - LifeScape, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 - Pioneer Memorial Hospital & Health Services, Viborg, South Dakota
 - Prairie Lakes Healthcare System, Watertown, South Dakota
 - Prioricare Staffing Solutions, Spearfish, South Dakota
 - Regional Health, Rapid City, South Dakota
 - Sanford Health, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 - Sanford Vermillion Medical Center, Vermillion, South Dakota
 - SD Department of Correctional Health, Springfield, South Dakota
 - Sioux Falls VA HCS, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 - South Dakota Human Services Center, Yankton, South Dakota
 - St. Luke's Health System, Boise, Idaho
 - Tri-State Nursing, Sioux City, Iowa
 - Unity Point Health, Sioux City, Iowa
 - Volunteers of America, Dakotas, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

When Life Changes, Review



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