

Evansville West Side Park and Leonard-Leota Park Improvements

Project Process Report | September 9, 2021

What's New?

The Architectural and Engineering team has begun to serve as a partner to the City of Evansville for these dynamic park and recreation projects that will serve and support the community for generations to come. The community vision for a new multi-purpose aquatics facility and West Side Park improvements is gaining momentum, and the creative and energetic team is here to help. In addition, the transition of the new splash pad at Leonard-Leota Park will further revitalize the community, all while being sensitive to this beautiful and historic park.

The MSA team, along with Water Technology, Incorporated (WTI) and Rettler Corporation, are uniquely skilled to support these efforts to not only meet the City's goals, but exceed them. There is plenty to do with a tentative desire to open in the spring/summer of 2023. The project kicked off in August with a series of City leadership and fact-finding efforts. Drone flights of West Side Park and Leonard-Leota Park, along with detailed site surveys, were performed. Discussions began with goal-setting, revisiting, and in some regard building upon the previous "big picture" project scope/vision as described in the previously approved referendum. The kickoff was followed by Aquatics, and Athletic Field Stakeholder Meetings, where public input was received. In summary, initial efforts included:

- **Site Survey and Drone Flights** completed in mid-August
- **Project Kick-off Meeting** held Aug. 9, 2021
- **Aquatics Programming Meeting** held Aug. 25, 2021
- **Athletics Stakeholder Meeting** held Sept. 3, 2021

Next in September, the Design Team will study and prepare preliminary site concepts. The team will share the initial concepts with the City's Leadership Team for comments and further development. These concepts will then be shared at a Public Open House Discussion in Mid-October to foster community input and further inform the best project possible.

The City has also separately engaged the Baker Street Consulting Group to provide Innovative Consulting Services for Nonprofits to organize and develop a Fundraising Feasibility Study to determine the appropriate next steps for effective and systematic fundraising. Such a planning study can do much more than deciding the fundraising potential for a capital campaign. It can also be leveraged to build a roadmap for successful annual fund development, strategic planning, and capacity-building initiatives with the specific underlying goal to advance the missions and visions of Evansville through inspiring counsel, bold leadership, and innovative solutions that drive transformative, sustainable change.

***Project StoryMap:** Stay tuned next month for online project updates following the Public Meeting.*



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