

Rolling Dunes Court Expansion Project Update

The Rolling Dunes Expansion Project is... rolling along!

What we have done so far?

In June, Parks Division crews removed the existing panels with Native American carvings and illustrations, and stored them at Public Works. We know that citizens were concerned when they saw the panels disappear, but do not worry! The panels will be preserved and placed back in the park when the project is done. We anticipate using the panels in a similar fashion, as wind breaks near the new shelter.

In September, Park Division crews cut down the trees within the construction area, as well as other small shrubs, and removed limbs from several trees that encroached into the work area. The City's contractor, Ray Wells, Inc, began their work on the project by removing the east side fencing material, cut the edge of the existing tennis court to provide a clean edge to pave to, and began excavating to remove the organics and other undesirable soil from the court expansion area.

During their work, two additional trees on the east side of the expansion area were removed. As the crews excavated, the roots of the two trees were within the excavation area and if the trees had remained, over time the tree roots would have heaved the court surface. Additionally, when projecting the court surface out 35 feet from the existing court area, we would have been placing 3 feet of fill material on top of the roots and base of the tree. Over time, the trees would not have been able to survive with the additional soil. Due to these factors, we removed the trees and planned to plant replacement trees in the future.

With the completion of removing the undesirable soils, importing clean sand, and compacting the fill material, Ray Wells, Inc. brought in the base rock, graded, and compacted the rock in preparation for paving the court extension. With great progress and a favorable weather window, the contractor was able to paved the court expansion area on Tuesday, September 24th.

In October, our fencing contractor installed the new posts and fencing fabric material along the perimeter of the expansion area. Parks Division crews removed the old benches and installed the newly refurbished benches in the court area. Crews also installed new wind screen fabric. The fabric, which is a tightly woven material to block the wind, creates a sail effect and if not installed correctly can damage the fencing. Many years ago, the sail effect pushed over the fence on the west side of the court which required extensive bracing. In consultation with a professional tennis court maintenance consultant, they recommended that we only install a 6-foot-wide screen instead of the full 10-foot-wide material that was on the fence before. The 6-foot material will create less strain on the existing fence, but actually provide better wind screening since it is a higher-grade material. The wind screen fabric is only needed on the west and north fences since that is the direction of the prevailing winds.

What we still have left to do?

With unforeseen delays early in the project we were unable to resurface the courts like we had hoped before the weather set it. For the crack repairs and the surfacing material to cure properly, we needed to have warmer weather, including having the sun in a higher position in the sky. With the lower angle of

the sun, we were not able to get enough radiant heat to warm the court surfaces and will now have to wait for the spring to finish the court expansion.

What about the new restrooms and shelter?

The Florence City Council approved the purchase of a CXT DK-4 precast concrete restroom facility. CXT restroom building is a precast concrete building that will be delivered to the site ready to use and requires no construction, CMU blocks or tilt-up panels. The structures are manufactured with high-strength precast concrete floors, walls and roofs which are aesthetically pleasing. They are vandal resistant and are designed for extreme weather conditions, including our harsh coastal environment. The buildings also meet all local and state building codes, including ADA. The CXT DK4 building will feature two single-user, fully ADA compliant restrooms and one single-user restroom, for a total of three restrooms.

The design of the facility provides one additional room that can be used as dedicated storage for our local Pickleball Club's equipment, such as portable nets and squeegees. The building also features a full-length mechanical room so that City staff will access to the plumbing and electrical systems, as well as the ability to store janitorial supplies.

The restroom facility was ordered in September and takes 180 days to be manufactured. This places the anticipated delivery date mid-March 2025. As we get closer to the installation date, the existing picnic shelter and restroom facility will be removed and a gravel pad will be prepared for the building to be placed upon. During this time, when the existing restroom facilities are removed, temporary 'port-a-potties' and hand wash station will be installed.

Once the bathrooms are placed onsite, construction will begin on installing the new picnic shelter. The new shelter will be an open timber structure to help with sight lines through the shelter and park.

More information and project updates when they are available on the City Project website located at this address: <https://bit.ly/RollingDunesExpansion>