

Ralston-Central Park/Hoskinson Park Update continued...

The sidewalk along Brooks Drive is nearly complete but sections of the walk were awaiting work by Century Link to remove and underground their service boxes in the area. The remaining sidewalk sections will be poured making that a viable walking path for people as soon as the work can be scheduled.

The park construction plan called for new street lights along Brooks Drive in October/November of this year but a several weeks ago Xcel's contractor, Par Electric, arrived on site and began removing the street light fixtures. Rather than face any further confusion, Xcel was told to remove the poles from the south side of street. The City has put up reflectors along curb lines and delineators at each of the "bump outs" and ECI has ordered the new LED light fixtures. As soon as the new fixtures arrive (8-12 weeks out) they will be installed. The schedule for the new street lights is now early in the fall.

Some weeds are good weeds...especially those that are along the creek banks of the new channel. According to FEMA and Corp of Engineer requirements, the creek banks must be stabilized to prevent erosion. The permanent stabilization plan calls for approved specific seed types and a special erosion control blanket. As you may recall, the spring was extremely wet and the seeding could not take place. Now we are outside of the approved planting window for the seeding and permanent blanket so the temporary blanket and the weeds are serving to maintain the creek banks. The seeding and permanent blanket will be put in place in September according to strict specification. In the meantime we have been instructed to leave the weeds along the creek bank alone. ECI has been instructed to do weed control in all flat surfaces of the park including the bump outs. The weeds on the creek bank will be trimmed with a weed whacker and the remainder of the park will be mowed.

The current schedule for park construction shows work on utilities, concrete, hard court surface, parking lot and irrigation over the summer. Work on the park furnishings and fixtures, playgrounds, and some initial landscaping will be done in the fall and construction of the picnic structure and bathroom building will begin. Work on the building and other structures will continue through the winter. Completion of the landscaping will resume in the spring and we are still anticipating an opening date in May, 2014.