

BARBER PARK FAQ

Q: What is Phase I of Barber park development?

A: This will be the most significant project at Barber Park we've ever done. Phase I improvements include a new nature theme playground, a sprayground, additional accessible paved pathways and improved amphitheater components to complement the existing pavilion. We hope to have completion of Phase I sometime in 2021 and open the amenities in late spring 2022. This project will greatly improve the quality of life for our residents and greatly enhance the experience for existing park users! These new amenities will improve our physical and psychological health, strengthen our community, and make our village and neighborhoods more attractive places to live and work.

Link to conceptual plan:

<https://mahomet.recdesk.com/RecDeskPortal/Portals/13/Final%20Master%20Plan%20Phase%20I%20Final-page-001.jpg>

Q. What are the other phases in the park plan, when will they be done?

A. Future phases include additional parking, additional raised sports fields, lighting and irrigation for sports fields, native plantings/wetland areas, paddle launch, education space and additional multipurpose pathways. Future phase construction is dependent upon additional grant awards and funding. There is currently no firm timeline for completion of all phases.

Q. When will Phase I be completed?

A. Construction will likely occur in 2021 with official opening of the amenities by Spring 2022.

Q. Doesn't it flood?

A. The development of Phase I components will be outside of the 100-year flood plain. Careful consideration and preliminary engineering has been made to account for the flexibility of flooding. Additional engineering, design and permitting will help to ensure that any development will be protected from flood prone areas. During most of the floods at Barber, the flooding occurs in the bottom lands closer to the river.

Q. What grant is this?

A. The Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program is a state-financed grant program that provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. The federal Land & Water Conservation Fund program (known as both LWCF and LAWCON) is a similar program with similar objectives. Both are managed in Illinois by the Department of Natural Resources with concurrent application due dates, equal grant maximums and similar general rules. The grant award is a matching grant up to \$400,000 maximum.

Q. How can I contribute?

A. MPRD staff will soon be announcing a number of ways to contribute. Any donation is matched dollar for dollar by the grant. In the meantime, if you'd like to donate today, simply send a check to:

Mahomet Parks and Recreation Dept.
Barber Park Fundraiser
503 East Main Street
Mahomet, IL 61853

Q. Why don't you build a pool there?

A. Simply put, we can't afford a pool or the operation costs without a significant change in our revenue structure. Here's a link from the *Mahomet Citizen* that summarizes this topic a bit more - https://www.mcitizen.com/news/th-in-a-series-mahomet-parks-and-rec-has-grown/article_d3e97016-8df7-11e9-b8d5-1ba787b8179e.html

Q. 13 Acres also needs upgrades, why not there?

A. Believe it or not, 13 Acres is not owned by the Village of Mahomet, it's owned by the School District. We continue to have a very positive relationship with the school district. MPRD maintains and programs a large portion of the park in exchange for it's use. Therefore, until such time as MPRD has ownership we're hesitant to invest/develop the grounds.

Q. Will this project raise my taxes?

A. No! This project will be funded by the Parks Capital Improvement Fund, Fundraised Dollars and the IDNR Grant