

The City of Plano Memorial Park Veteran's Memorial Construction

1. Who approved this project and how is it funded?

The Veteran's Memorial was approved as part of the 2005 Bond election.

2. How much will the Veteran's Memorial and Memorial Park improvements cost?

The total cost of the project including design, construction and art work is \$2,000,000. Improvements include a Veteran's Memorial with public art, a parade ground area, trail improvements, extensive tree planting and associated park improvements. A plan of the improvements is available on our web site at www.planoparks.org under Help Center, Construction Projects.

3. Who decided what the new Veteran's Memorial will consist of?

In September of 2005, the City of Plano Public Arts Committee began discussions on the scope of work and what kind of art would be displayed in our Veteran's Memorial. An artist was engaged to work with the design team on planning of the memorial.

On January 10, 2006 the project planners began a series of seven community meetings seeking input from veterans and other community members. The final scope of work was approved by those who participated in the public meetings, as well as by the Public Arts Committee, the Parks and Recreation Planning Board and by the City Council.

4. Who is the artist selected to do the bronze art for this project?

Artists from around the nation submitted their credentials for this project. Each applicant's specialties, talents and styles were evaluated and discussed.

The Public Arts Committee, veterans, and involved local citizens selected Mr. David Newton as the artist for the project. David is a respected Dallas artist with many local, national, and international commissions among his credits.

5. Why are trees being removed?

Many of the trees being removed from the park are short-lived trees such as Bradford Pear which have reached the end of their life cycle. These trees would have eventually been removed even if the Veteran's Memorial were not being constructed. Some of the other trees being removed are in poor condition and in need of replacement. Efforts will be made to save and transplant healthy, quality trees that need to be moved in order to accommodate the Veteran's Memorial and other improvements. There will be more new trees planted than existing trees removed.

6. What will happen to the existing memorial tree plaques?

All of the existing memorial tree plaques will be saved and reinstalled as part of this project. If a plaque is damaged it will be restored or replaced. If a tree associated with an existing memorial plaque is removed, a new tree will be installed and the plaque will be placed adjacent to the new tree at no cost to the sponsor. A record of the location of every plaque will be kept and available to the public.

7. Why did it take so long to begin construction?

The last of our seven community input meetings occurred in August of 2006. Shortly after that staff briefed the Park and Recreation Planning Board and City Council then staff and our Consultant began work on design. Between September 2006 and February 2007 we were required to complete a FEMA Flood Study and a Geotechnical Engineering Study of the job site because it is located partially in the 100-year flood plain.

In March of this year we began on the actual construction documents for bid. On September 7 bids were opened and on September 24 City Council awarded a contract to Cole Construction.

Work is scheduled to begin in December.

8. When will construction be complete?

Construction is scheduled to be complete in August of 2008. The art work is expected to be installed shortly after construction is complete.

9. Will the playground and trail be open during the construction?

Yes, the trails leading through the park and the children's playground will be open during construction. There will be areas that will be restricted for use at different times. Park users should pay close attention to signage and barricades while construction is in progress.

10. Who can I contact for more information?

Please call the Plano Parks and Recreation Department at (972) 941-7250 if you have any questions or concerns. This information is also available on-line at www.planoparks.org under Help Center, Construction Projects.