

Oxbow Bend Activity Area Improvement Project

The Oxbow Bend Activity Area Improvement Project at Riverbend Recreation Area started in June 2025, and while playground development and pedestrian walkway construction are finished, work continues. This includes the pavilion, parking lot striping, ground restoration, and more. The Oxbow Bend Activity Area should be open by June 2026.

Project components include a new parking lot, curbs, and drainage; Veterans Pavilion to replace Shelter #5, which was constructed in the 1980s; a new playground with better accessibility, high play value, and play components for children age 2 to 12; and new pedestrian walkways within the improvement area.

The Hancock Park District was fortunate to have received state grants and private restricted donations to serve as a form of supplemental revenue and help fund the project. Restricted donations are for the playground and Veterans Pavilion. Grants and donations will fund approximately 93% of the total design and development cost.



A playground rendering for the Oxbow Bend Activity Area



A Veterans Pavilion rendering for the Oxbow Bend Activity Area

As a separate project, additional Loop Trail improvements are tentatively planned for 2026. The remaining sections of asphalt along the Loop Trail from the Oxbow Bend Activity Area to the Big Oaks Activity Area will be removed and repaved with concrete. This includes the spur trail loop leading to Shelter #1 and the Mariann Dana Younger Memorial Pavilion. When construction starts, the Loop Trail will be closed.