



August
2015

West Des Moines eNewsletter



Tom Hadden, City Manager

The summer construction season is well under way, and although it's often viewed as an inconvenience, it's actually a sign that our community is healthy. We're fortunate that careful planning allows us to tackle needed repairs and improve our streets and sewer systems. When you see those familiar orange cones and experience short-term delays, make a mental note that the area will improve for the long-term once construction crews finish their projects.

The new website is up and running

If you haven't visited us lately at www.wdm.iowa.gov, you'll want to check out our new website. You may need to update your bookmarks and delete your most recent browsing history in order for links to work correctly. Our new design should make it much easier for you to find the information you need.

Exciting changes in store for the City Campus Watershed

If you visit City Hall or take a leisurely stroll around the pond, you'll see the first phase of our City Campus Pond Watershed Improvement Project on the hillside just southwest of the building. The Parks and Recreation Department will be using grant funds to plant native grasses and flowers on the slope to the southeast of the pond. To find out more of what's in store for this area, read the article on page 4.

Census enumerators are now going door-to-door

Census takers are currently knocking on doors in our community. These individuals are residents from the metro area who have passed a background check and accepted a demanding job. Our success depends on everyone taking a few moments to answer their questions. We're also still recruiting for crew leaders and enumerators, so if you're interested, read the article on page 2 and complete a U.S. Census Bureau application that is available on our [website](http://www.wdm.iowa.gov).



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Mayor urges you to answer your door when the Census knocks!

Don't be surprised when someone from the Census Bureau knocks on your door and asks questions about you and your family for the Special Census!

Mayor Steven Gaer says it's important for residents to open their doors when Census takers knock and spend a few minutes answering their questions.

"This Census means a great deal to everyone in this community," he said. "If we can show our population has increased, we'll be eligible to receive an extra \$2.2 million in road use tax revenue over the next five years that we can use for road maintenance projects."

Census takers are now going door-to-door in our neighborhoods asking residents the name, age, gender and the relationship of each person in a household. They also will ask about the race of each person, if they are of Hispanic origin and whether the dwelling is rented or owned.

All Census workers will carry a U.S. Census Bureau ID badge, and no one will ever be asked for other identifying information, such as a Social Security number or checking account number. Mayor Gaer

said all information collected by Census takers is confidential, and the law applies whether or not you are a U.S. citizen.

"Everyone counts in West Des Moines, and I want all our residents to know their information is completely confidential. Our success depends on everyone feeling good about this process and taking a moment to make sure they are counted," he said.

Gaer also said West Des Moines is still recruiting for crew leaders and enumerators. Any-

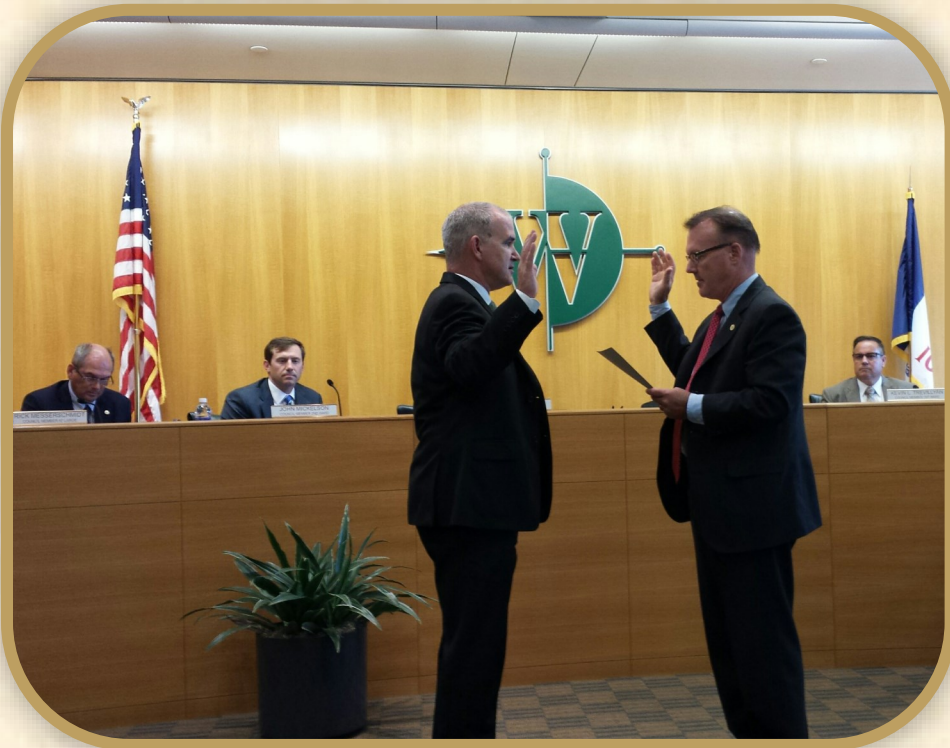
one interested in applying should complete a U.S. Census Bureau application which is available on the City's [website](#).

For general questions or to verify if a person works for the U.S. Census, please contact the WDM Special Census Office at (515) 223-6245.



The U.S. has been conducting a Census of its population every ten years since 1790! West Des Moines is now conducting a Special Census, which local governments request to qualify for additional funding. Participating in a Census is a proud tradition for Americans. Make sure you're counted!

West Des Moines welcomes our new Fire Chief!



Mayor Steve Gaer conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Craig Leu, West Des Moines' new Fire Chief, at the July 27 City Council meeting.

Craig Leu comes to us from Park City, Kansas, a suburb of Wichita. He has 24 years of experience in fire service, including 11 years in management with the Sedgwick County Fire District #1.

Residents may notice extra truck traffic in West Des Moines

A local contractor has started hauling dirt in order to meet a requirement for its work on the Grand Avenue Phase 5 Improvement Project. Trucks will be used to move dirt from an area west of South 88th Street (north of the Microsoft Data Center) to Grand Avenue just southwest of Raccoon River Park.

The dirt will be used by crews working to widen that stretch of Grand Avenue, which was built in 1936, into a four-lane road. It also will be used to elevate the new road so that it's less susceptible to flooding.

Trucks are authorized to haul the dirt on approved routes on [public streets](#), Monday through Saturday, from approximately 30 minutes after sunrise to 30

minutes before sundown. The contractor estimates crews will need approximately 35 working days to move all the dirt that is needed for the project.

West Des Moines City Manager Tom Hadden says it's a positive sign for the community that numerous construction projects are under way.

"Over time, aging roads become more and more expensive to maintain, so investments in major projects help us keep costs under control and improve traffic flow," he said, "We're fortunate to be in a position to make these improvements, and we appreciate everyone's patience as we make progress on some of these big jobs."

Make way for the City Campus Pond Watershed Improvement Project!

If you think you've noticed some changes to the hillside just southeast of City Hall, you're right!

The Parks and Recreation Department is implementing the first phase of the City Campus Pond Watershed Improvement Project that is partially funded through an Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Water Quality Initiative Grant.

The City received \$33,000 to plant 11 acres of native grasses on the slope to the southeast of the pond. Crews will use diverse seed mixes that include grasses and a large variety of showy native flowers. Expect to see the existing non-native vegetation killed off, the soil worked and seed planted this fall.



Phase 2 of the project will involve soil restoration on the mowed turf areas of the pond. The soil around the City Campus is compacted with a high clay content which leads to water running off turf areas directly into the pond. Later this fall, the site will be aerated using a deep-tined aerator with gypsum and crews will apply compost.

The overall goals of this project are to demonstrate ways to reduce runoff and water pollution, to improve the pond's water quality and

educate the nearly 800 property owners in the pond's watershed.

For more information, call the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department at 222-3447.



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What is a watershed?

Watershed—noun

:a region of land within which water flows down into a specified body, such as a river, lake, sea or ocean.

Hazardous Waste Drop-off Event at City Hall was a success!

On Saturday, June 27, residents in West Des Moines brought over 7,200 pounds of household hazardous waste to City Hall for proper disposal during a morning drop-off event. That averages out to over 26 pounds of material per vehicle!

Crews opened trunks and removed materials from 8 a.m. to noon. The top five items collected at the event were:

1. Used oil (1230 pounds collected)
2. Pesticides (1132 pounds collected)
3. Oil-based paint (1,128 pounds collected)
4. Fuels (581 pounds collected)
5. Bases (580 pounds collected)

Household items that should never be put in regular trash include products with labels that warn the items are “toxic, flammable or should be kept out of reach of children.”



How easy and convenient can this be? Curbside service with just the pop of your trunk!



Special hazardous waste drop-off events make it easy for you to dispose of hazardous material for free. It's a great opportunity to look under the kitchen sink or in your garage or storage shed for old items or unwanted products such as antifreeze, deck stain, pesticides, flammable liquids, oil-based paints, motor oil and filters, antifreeze, batteries and CFL light bulbs.

If you missed this event, visit the Metro Hazardous Waste year-round facility located just outside of Bondurant (a half mile off I-80 and Highway 65) at 1105 Prairie Drive SW. The site is open to residents for free disposal of up to 75 pounds of hazardous products.

For more information about safe and smart disposal options, visit www.WherItShouldGo.com.



Crews carefully identify and sort the hazardous waste so it's easy to dispose of properly.

Street sweeping keeps us safe and looking good



Street cleaning in West Des Moines involves cleaning arterial and residential streets, Valley Junction business area streets and alleys, and City parking lots.

Arterials and residential streets are swept once every 5-6 weeks. The Valley Junction business area is swept every two weeks. In total, approximately 450 lane miles of streets and more than 150 cul-de-sacs are routinely cleaned by the City.

Zoned areas of our City are assigned for cleaning April 1 through December 1, weather permitting. To watch a video of a crew in action, visit the [Street Sweeping section](#) of our website.



Mark Your Calendar!

Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off & Paper Shredding Event
Saturday, September 12, from 8 a.m. to 12:00 (noon)
West Des Moines Public Works

Additional details will be provided in the September e-newsletter.

City crews and volunteers assisted with flood control

West Des Moines residents faced a challenging commute on June 25. With over 5 inches of rain falling between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m., the Walnut Creek basin quickly approached flood stage, and the Raccoon River caused several streets to be temporarily closed. In addition, Raccoon River Park was closed due to flooding.

Public Works crews worked around the clock for several days to ensure streets were safe. Parks and Recreation staff also worked tirelessly to clean up and reopen Raccoon River Park. A big thank you also goes out to all the volunteers who helped fill sandbags!



Your Fall issue of WDM Magazine is here

It may not seem right that the Fall issue of the City's WDM magazine will soon be in your mailbox, but we've been busy working to make sure you have all the details you need once the kids are back to school and the weather begins to transition into cool days and cooler nights!

This issue includes everything you need to know about Parks and Recreation programs, and useful tips about mulching and composting, frequently asked questions about the emerald ash borer, fireplace maintenance and safety, library programs and services and much more.

Please note that registration for Parks and Recreation programs begins on **Tuesday, August 11, at 8 a.m.**



School supply donations still needed

West Des Moines Human Services will be holding its annual school supply distribution for qualifying low-income households the week of August 10. Last year, 374 children received backpacks and school supplies due to the generosity of our community.

Please consider donating supplies or making a cash contribution which allows items to be purchased in bulk. **Needed supplies include:** folders, notebooks, colored pencils, markers, crayons, calculators, supply boxes, glue, scissors, rulers, protractors, compasses, paper, pencils, erasers, pens and backpacks. Please drop off your donation to the Human Services office at 139 6th Street by **Friday, August 7**. Thank you for your support!



Please join West Des Moines Human Services on Sunday, **September 27**, at Flemings Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar for the 6th Annual **Sunday Supper In Our Town** fundraising event to raise dollars to assist our low-income, elderly and disabled neighbors.

Share a delicious meal, great conversation and a wonderful evening of giving back to the community. Tickets are \$125 each.

Sponsorships also are available. Please call 222-3663 for more information or visit the City's [website](#).

2015 Solid Waste Events for WDM Citizens

Mark your calendar now so you don't miss these important dates!

March 30	Yard Waste Pick-Up begins on your normal trash collection day
April 11	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off & Paper Shredding, 8 a.m. – Noon, West Des Moines Public Works
April 18	Scrap Tire Drop-off, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., West Des Moines Public Works
May 21	National Public Works Week Celebration, 4 to 7 p.m., Valley Junction Farmer's Market
June 1 – 5	Annual Spring Cleanup – On your regular trash day. <i>Watch for new details!</i>
June 27	Hazardous Waste Drop-off, City Hall, 8 a.m. to Noon
Sept. 12	Scrap Appliance, Metal Drop-off and Paper Shredding, 8 a.m. to Noon, West Des Moines Public Works
Nov. 28	Yard Waste Pick-Up Ends
Dec. 28 – Jan. 8	Winter Yard Waste & Christmas Tree Collection

A number of Hazardous Waste Drop-off Events will be scheduled in our area by Metro Solid Waste Authority and will be posted on their website when available. Just visit www.whereshouldgo.com.

Yard waste pick-up is available for all West Des Moines residents who are eligible for solid waste collection (single family homes up to and including 4-plex units).



For more details, check the calendar on the City's website at www.wdm.iowa.gov or call the Public Works Department at 222-3480.



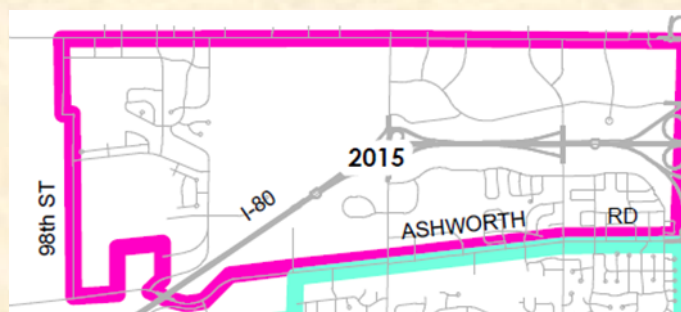
Construction Updates

Click the orange cone icon to see updates anytime on our website!



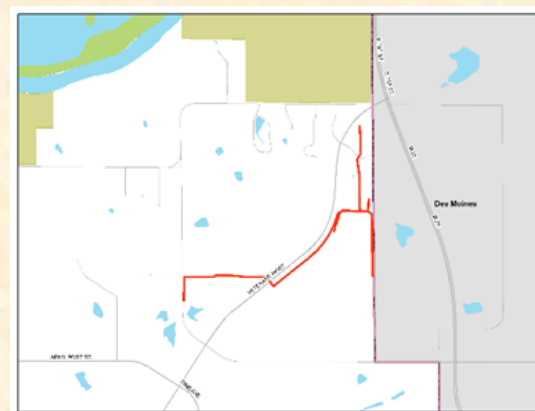
2015 Sidewalk Program

Residents were given approximately 75 days to make repairs or let the City perform the repair (in which case a property owner should figure \$12.50 per square foot for a 4-inch thick sidewalk and \$14.06 per square foot for a 6-inch thick sidewalk). The area of the program this year is primarily I-35 to 98th Street from University Avenue to Ashworth Road. Notices are out and Public Works has received 80 calls with questions or concerns about the repairs.



Frink Creek Sanitary Sewer

Construction of the Frink Creek Sanitary Sewer began on April 20, 2015. Lift station construction is approximately 50% complete including installation of the wet well, valve manhole, meter manhole and associated piping. Installation of the gravity main serving properties along S. 1st Street is complete. Restoration of this area is expected to be completed the week of July 27. The contractor is currently working on installation of the gravity sewer and force main along Veterans Parkway. Pipe installation is approximately 40% complete.



Ashworth Road Low Pressure Sewer

This project includes installation of a low pressure sanitary sewer in the 5400 and 5500 block of Ashworth Road. Sewer main installation is complete and the contractor has installed grinder pumps and services to all properties along the project. The project is substantially complete. A project walk-through was held June 12 and it is anticipated that the project will be accepted shortly.



Construction Updates

2014 PCC Reconstruction Project (Vine Street – 6th Street to 9th Street)

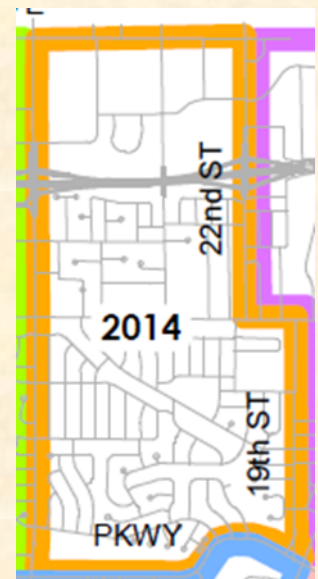
This project will reconstruct Vine Street from 6th Street to 9th Street. The contractor has completed everything on the 6th to 8th Street section including the sod. The section from 8th Street to 9th Street is open and the contractor is working on punch list items. Turf restoration will occur this fall.



2014 Sidewalk Program

Staff sent approximately 833 notifications to property owners in the general area of 19th Street to Valley West Drive from E.P. True Parkway to University Avenue. Should the City perform the repairs, a property owner should figure \$12.50 per square foot for a 4-inch thick sidewalk and \$14.06 per square foot for a 6-inch thick sidewalk.

Staff reviewed the area in March 2015 based on the revised defect criteria. That review removed approximately 230 additional properties from the project. Those residents were notified the week of April 13. The project has been reduced to 329 affected properties. The assessment notifications have been sent to property owners.



2015 HMA Resurfacing Project

The contractor has completed the necessary concrete patching prior to the asphalt paving. They are paving Woodland Ave/12th Street, 25th Street and 31st Street. The DOT contractor has just a few minor items near the EP True bridge so our contractor will begin work as soon as they complete the Ashworth Road segment. The contractor is currently working on Ashworth Road and will be on that section for about two weeks. All streets should be completed prior to school starting.



Construction Updates

2015 PCC Reconstruction Project (2nd Street) – Railroad Avenue to Walnut Street

This project will reconstruct 2nd Street from Railroad Avenue to Walnut Street. The contract has been awarded. Mid-American Energy has relocated the gas lines and the City's contractor has completed all storm sewer work for the project. The contractor has paved the 100 block of 2nd Street and they are working on pavement removal in the 300 block.



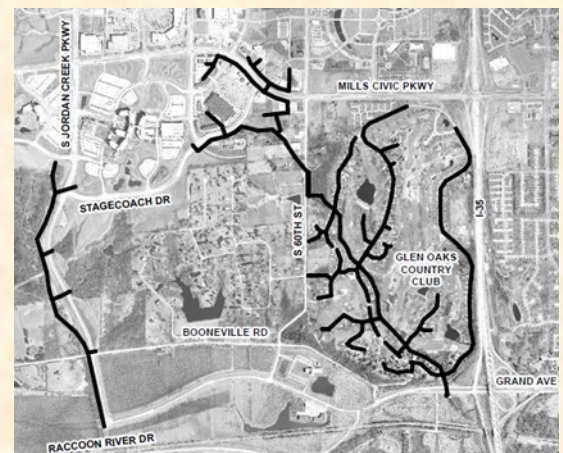
2015 Sewer Lining Program

The contractor has finished the sewer lines and is currently lining the sewer mains. We expect completion by early August.



2015 Sewer Cleaning & Televising Program

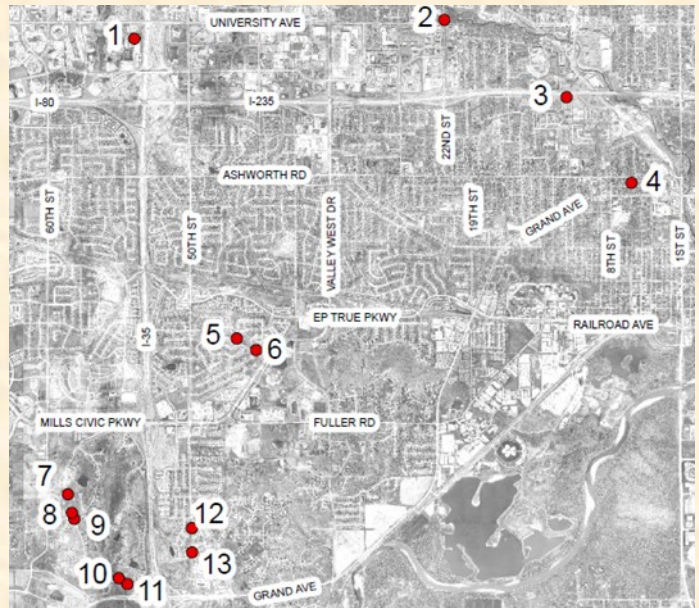
The contractor is working on the project and is approximately 75 percent complete. Crews are currently working in the Glen Oaks area.



Construction Updates

2015 Sewer Rehabilitation Program

This project will address 13 locations of necessary sanitary sewer repairs. The locations are indicated by the red dots on the vicinity map. The contractor has completed six of the thirteen locations. Crews are currently working in the Glen Oaks area.



2015 Sump Pump Program

This project will install sump pump collector lines along Stonebridge Road, 49th Street and Elm Street. The contractor will start on Stonebridge Road the week of July 27.



2015 Valley Junction Brick Paver Repair Program

This project will repair settlement issues with the brick pavers between the concrete sidewalks and the back of the curb. The contractor has completed all brick repairs and is working on punch list items.

Construction Updates

Thornwood Area Sanitary Sewer—Phase 3

This project includes installation of approximately 1,400 feet of sanitary sewer along S. 35th Street north of Grand Avenue. Work began the week of May 11th and has included manhole and pipe installation adjacent to Grand Avenue. Major construction is complete and a walk-through was held on June 10. Seeding and final restoration are complete. It is anticipated that the project will be accepted shortly.



Grand Prairie Parkway Interchange

The construction of the Grand Prairie Parkway Interchange is a joint venture between the cities of Waukee and West Des Moines. Waukee is the lead agency with the Iowa DOT responsible for construction observation and administration. The contractor began work last fall completing culvert extensions and site preparation. The contractor has completed I-80 shoulder strengthening and demolition of the rest areas. Grading of the ramps is in progress. Storm sewer installation began the week of June 1. Work has continued on grading and utility installations, but wet weather and utility conflicts have delayed grading operations in the eastern quadrants.



Fox Creek Trunk Sewer—Phase 1

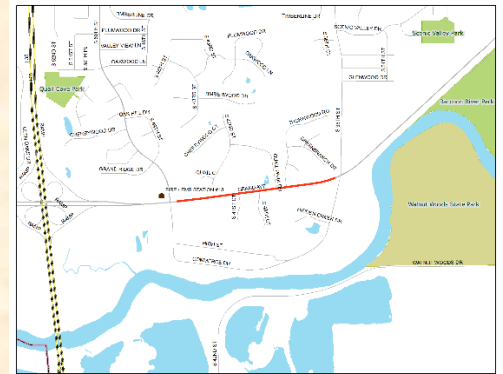
Fox Creek Trunk Sewer construction includes installation of approximately 6,300 feet of sanitary sewer and began the week of May 11. Work to date has included tree clearing. The contractor began to mobilize equipment on July 15 and bore pit excavation along Mills Civic Parkway began on July 20. Sewer installation is expected to begin concurrently.



Construction Updates

Grand Avenue Phase 6—S. 35th Street to S. 50th Street

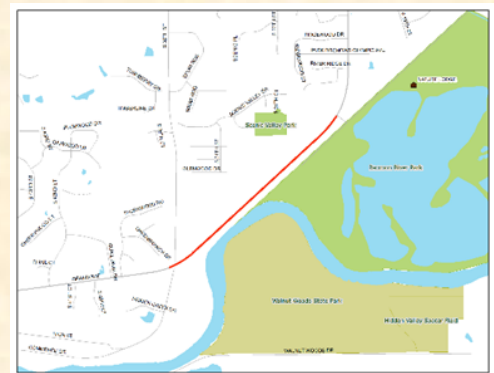
Grand Avenue Phase 6 includes reconstruction of Grand Avenue from S. 35th Street to S. 50th Street. Grand Avenue closed for construction on May 26, and will remain closed for the duration of the project. In order to maintain access to properties along and south of Grand Avenue, a detour from the north along S. 42nd Street was established.



Work continues on storm sewer extensions near S. 35th Street and import of fill material for Stage 1. Utility relations are progressing in cooperation with grading operations. Mass grading operations are nearly complete. Subgrade preparation and trimming began the week of July 20 immediately followed by paving of Phase 1 from S. 35th Street to S. 40th Street. Excavation for the box culvert east of S. 50th Street began the week of June 8. Construction of the box culvert is expected to take several weeks.

Grand Avenue Phase 5—Raccoon River Park to S. 35th Street

Grand Avenue Phase 5 was bid through the Iowa DOT on May 19, 2015 and awarded to Corell Contractor, Inc. at the June 1, 2015 City Council Meeting. Grand Avenue closed for construction on June 22 and will remain closed for the duration of the project. To date, work has included mobilization of equipment, delivery of materials to the site and culvert installation. Import of fill material began on July 14 and is expected to take several weeks.



22nd Street and Kingman Avenue Turn Lane Extension

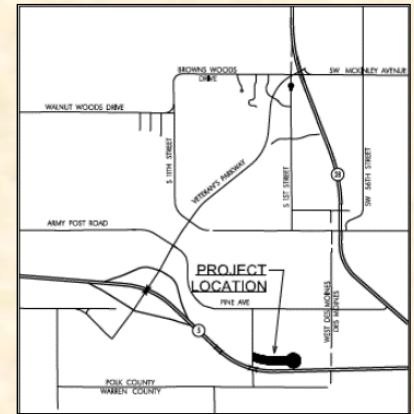
The 22nd and Kingman turn lane project was awarded on June 15. The project will lengthen the 22nd Street left turn lane south of Kingman Avenue by 160 feet to provide additional storage and reduce delays. A preconstruction conference was held on July 2. The contractor will begin work the week of July 20.



Construction Updates

White Crane Road — S. 8th Street to Dead End

The White Crane Road project includes approximately 2,300 feet of paving to provide access to the Microsoft Alluvion data center and the MidAmerican Energy substation. The project was awarded to Elder Corporation on July 13, 2015. A preconstruction conference was held on July 16, 2015.



Remember: You can access the latest construction updates anytime by clicking on the orange cone icon on our website!

It's almost time for Illumifest!



Saturday, September 26!

