

Grant Park Masterplan

Presentation Narrative

September 7, 2016

Updated November 29, 2016

The Grant Park Masterplan is a joint effort of The Galena Foundation and The City of Galena. It was approved by the Galena City Council on April 11, 2016. It is made up of 11 Short Term Projects and 14 Long Term Projects that will be individually done over a period of several years as requested by the city council. Galena native and landscape architect David Greibe assisted in developing the masterplan and has also performed an analysis of the landscape history of Grant Park and has developed design elements that are complementary to the history and the community. Mark Moran from the City of Galena is managing the overall project list and the budgeting for the individual projects. All work needs to be scheduled around activities in the park, especially Country Fair and weddings.

Short Term Projects

1. Tree Removal / Trimming

Certified arborist Jon Kelley performed a tree survey in Grant Park. Work will be performed to remove trees, trim trees, and support trees. Work to be performed from mid-2016 into early 2017. Need to develop a tree replacement plan as part of the overall masterplan. Cost will be covered by The Galena Foundation.

2. Clean Up Plants Around Fountain

City of Galena staff are cleaning up this area to improve site lines around the fountain and through the park in preparation for the long term project.

3. Aerate and Seed Bare Areas

City public works staff and others will perform the work. Clean up was done in Spring 2016. Aerate and seed bare areas in 2017 after tree work is complete.

4. Fountain Repairs and Improvements

Galena Foundation has been maintaining fountain using funds leftover from the original fountain restoration project. This year the fountain pump was replaced. Fountain will be repaired and repainted. Fountain figures will be restored. Jeremy White of White Construction is doing the work. Work to be completed in 2017.

5. Pergola Restoration

Work includes clean, repair and paint as well as new period LED light fixtures. Work to be done in Spring 2017 by Jeremy White of White Construction. City is handling the project with funds provided by the Galena Foundation.

6. Shelter Restoration

Work includes clean, repair and paint as well as new period LED light fixtures. Work to be bid this winter and done in Spring 2017. City is handling the project with funds provided by the Galena Foundation.

7. Fix Erosion

Erosion has occurred at the Kohlsaas Bridge entrance to the park due to pedestrians taking a shortcut. This work will now be included in the long term project to improve this entrance to the park.

8. Sidewalk Repair / Replacement

Sidewalk repair / replacement will be done as needed by the City's designated contractor. Work was done in Fall 2016 as part of the Concrete Replacement at Soldier's Monument.

9. Concrete Replacement at Soldiers Monument

The concrete surrounding the Soldiers Monument was replaced by the City's designated contractor, Jackson Concrete and Excavating in Fall 2016. The base of the monument will be repaired by Paul Jackson who has experience in repairing monuments.

10. Paint Lampposts, etc.

The City's designated contractor painted the lampposts and some other articles in Summer 2016 while painting other stairs and railings in the city.

11. Van Buren Street Clean-Up

City public works staff and neighbors have cleaned up the area around Van Buren Street. State of Illinois Historic Sites has cleaned up their property as well. This work is in preparation for the long term project.

Long Term Projects

1. New Main Entrance / Reconstruct Elliptical Garden

The Van Buren Street Entrance will become the main entrance to the park. This will complete the pedestrian corridor from downtown through the park and on up to Grant's Home with side connections to the Depot and the Galena River Trail. The entrance as well as the elliptical garden will be reconstructed to make this a dramatic entrance. Consideration is being given to reconstruct the famous eagle that once hung over the southwest entrance and hang it at the new main entrance at Van Buren Street. Cost of work will be covered by The Galena Foundation and the City of Galena as well as through private donations. Ongoing plant maintenance will be covered by The Galena Foundation administering the James O'Bel Trust. It is anticipated that this work will be done in 2017.

2. Reconstruct Fountain Surroundings

The fountain surroundings have become a hodgepodge of plantings and urns that totally disrupt the site lines through the park and have become unsightly over the years. A new, planned planting scheme will be established in the area around the fountain that will enhance the beauty of the fountain and make it a focal point of the park. Cost of work will be covered by The Galena Foundation and the City of Galena as well as through private donations. Ongoing plant maintenance will be covered by The Galena Foundation administering the James O'Bel Trust. It is anticipated that this work will be done in 2017.

3. Reconstruct Planting Beds

The planting beds at the intersection of several walkways have become a hodgepodge of plantings that have become unsightly over the years. Also, there is considerable damage due to foot traffic especially during Country Fair. A new, planned planting scheme will be established in the area. This is one of the photo op areas in the park, especially for weddings and proms, because of the view of the city. Cost of work will be covered by The Galena Foundation and the City of Galena as well as through private donations. Ongoing plant maintenance will be covered by The Galena Foundation administering the James O'Bel Trust. It is anticipated that this work will be done in 2017.

4. Upgrade Entrances

The entrances other than Van Buren (previously described) need to be upgraded to better handle pedestrian traffic and minimize damage to the park. This needs to include wider sidewalks that will funnel pedestrian traffic into the park as well as landscaping and plantings. Low level limestone retaining walls will be used, especially at the Kohlsaas Bridge entrance. Cost of work will be covered by The Galena Foundation and the City of Galena as well as through private donations. Ongoing plant maintenance will be covered by The Galena Foundation administering the James O'Bel Trust. It is anticipated that this work will be done in 2017.

5. Handicap Access

Designated handicap access will occur via designated parking and accessible sidewalk next to the shelter on the north end of the park. Cost of work will be covered by The Galena Foundation and the City of Galena as well as through private donations.

6. Low Maintenance Plantings on Embankment

Low maintenance plantings will be installed on the "Grant Park" embankment. The plantings will be selected to be compatible with the maple trees along the embankment, especially in the fall. This will add to the beauty of the park as seen from the walkway on the floodwall and from Prospect Street. Cost of work will be covered by The Galena Foundation and the City of Galena as well as through private donations.

7. Remove Sidewalk to Nowhere

Sidewalk is left over from the old southwest entrance that was eliminated after the automobile bridge across the river was removed. City public works staff removed it and patched and reseeded the area after Country Fair in 2016.

8. Remove Stairs to Nowhere

The history of these stairs is unknown. The railroad is concerned about people trespassing on their property. City public works staff removed it and patched and reseeded the area after Country Fair in 2016.

9. Limestone Terrace Walls

Limestone terrace walls similar to what are seen on Riverside Drive are proposed for the area adjacent to the playground and basketball court. These low walls will become a place to sit and watch the kids play or to watch an event like music in the park if the basketball court was used. The level terraces will also add additional space in the park for Country Fair events. Limestone terraces would also be added when the Johnson Street Restoration is completed. Cost of work will be covered by The Galena Foundation and the City of Galena as well as through private donations. City of Galena is considering a bronze plaque program similar to that used for park benches and picnic tables.

10. Restore Johnson Street Bricks

Johnson Street is the last surviving brick street in Galena and is protected by city ordinance. It is proposed to restore the street and to add storm water control via permeable drainage beneath the bricks as part of the City's green initiative. The street would then become a part of Grant Park and could be used to support activities in the park. Cost of work will be covered by The Galena Foundation and the City of Galena as well as through private donations.

11. Improve Signage and Wayfinding

Improved signage and wayfinding will be installed throughout the city and the park to guide people to the park, downtown, Grant's Home, the Depot and the Galena River Trail.

12. Major Van Buren Street Improvements

Van Buren Street will be visually improved to help connect Grant Park to the Grant Home site. This may include streetscape improvements, plantings and other features to 'soften' the look of the street.

13. New Playground Equipment – Kiwanis Club

The Galena Kiwanis Club has raised funds to design and install new playground equipment in Grant Park that meets current safety codes and standards. This work will be completed in Spring 2017 once the tree work is complete.

14. Improve Basketball Courts – Neighborhood Group

Neighborhood group has suggested that the basketball courts be improved. This would include modern adjustable height goals and a new concrete surface. City engineering staff are investigating this.

