



# City of South Haven

## North Beach Improvement Project

### Frequently Asked Questions

May 12, 2016

#### **What stage is the project currently in?**

The project is still in its planning stages. A conceptual plan was submitted with the grant application to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to secure funding needed to undertake some much needed improvements to the North Beach Area, but it is not the final plan for the project.

Public input is welcome at this stage and the City is still seeking public comment as they finalize the plans.

#### **When will construction begin? When is it expected to be complete?**

The City hopes to begin construction after Labor Day of 2016. The City expects the project to be completed before Memorial Weekend of 2017.

#### **Will access to the beach be limited during construction?**

No, the beach will stay open. There may be some parking that will be unavailable for several days due to road construction.

#### **Will public safety vehicles be able to access the area (and adjacent properties) during construction? Will property owners/renters be able to access properties during construction?**

Yes. The required road work will not cut off access by property owners/renters, beach visitors, or public safety vehicles.

#### **How will trash be hauled?**

The City will continue its regular trash pick-up services. There will be no interruption of service.

#### **Will the beach area's existing lights be reused? Will the bases stay the same so the plaques can be mounted on them? Are they night-sky compliant? If not, will they be night-sky compliant?**

The bases and plaques of the existing lights will remain the same. The only impact to the existing lighting will be changing out the tops of the lights to make them more energy efficient and night-sky compliant. The lights were given as a gift to the City by SHOUT.

#### **Are the locations of bike racks and other features finalized?**

The locations of the bike racks are not final. The conceptual plan simply reflects the quantity of items (such as bike racks) for which the City requested grant funds.

**Under the current conceptual plan, are the walkways accessible for people with disabilities?**

The location of the beach’s walkways was undertaken with input from the Disability Network of Southwest Michigan. The walkways are located to be near to accessible parking spaces and to create accessibility at both ends of the beach.

**What is a non-motorized watercraft lane?**

The non-motorized watercraft lane is a section of the water that is dedicated to canoe and kayak users and will be buoyed off from swimmers and motorized watercraft. The lane is a connection to the Lake Michigan Water Trail, which was a critical element of the grant application that gave the project the necessary points to ensure it received funding. The location of the access was done at the strong suggestion of the funding agency, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, during a site visit to review the project scope.

**Is the playground equipment in the conceptual plan the finalized option?**

The playground equipment in the conceptual plan was chosen using input provided through the North Beach planning process, while taking into account what is required for accessibility and the funding agencies as well as budgetary parameters. In addition to the one which was submitted to the funding agency as a “typical” setup that could be used as part of the grant application, we will try and find other options at the public input meetings for persons to provide input on before selecting the final setup for submission of the final design plans to the DNR for approval. The options may be somewhat limited at the funding amount possible but we will explore what other options are available that meet the grant requirements and funding constraints.

