

Lineberger Park Red Dirt Report

Wondering what's going on at Lineberger Park? The City of Gastonia Parks and Recreation Department is undertaking Phase One of its Lineberger Park Master Plan. This \$1.2M project was made possible in part to a half million-dollar grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. Terms of the agreement required the City to at least match the amount of the gift, which was awarded through a competitive proposal process that included recreation departments from across the state.

Pinnix, Inc., the general contractor of the first portion of the project, is well underway with developing the site. The Parks and Recreation Department will complete the project with additional facilities and landscaping. Barring weather delays, the opening is scheduled for the spring of 2009.

Besides creating a new entrance off of Avon Street, and providing lots of interior parking spaces, the featured amenities include a lighted, basketball court with stadium-style seating, a ticket booth/restroom facility, two small group picnic shelters, and a quarter mile extension of the greenway trail.

Don't miss the new "sprayground," a zero-depth water spray park area that will have a variety of sprays and mists designed for those who don't mind getting a little or a lot soaked! Take aim with the chipmunk water cannons or hang out in the rainbow spray loops - just look for the water tower and "leaky" street signs to show the way.

Last of all, a new pedestrian bridge will take visitors over the existing miniature train tracks and into an area that includes a 30 x 30 picnic shelter, a tot lot play area, and a playground for 5-12 year-olds. Add in the open, grassy area for lawn games, plus the miniature train operation, and this spot is sure to be birthday heaven.

One last piece of the Master Plan for this section of the park includes preserving a "footprint," or space for a future carousel. Designated for an area next to the ticket booth, it is hoped that this "wish" may one day become a reality through a private donation or community-wide fund-raising effort.

Striving to meet the needs of all residents through opportunities designed for the worthy use of leisure time, the Gastonia Parks and Recreation Department is thrilled to be able to provide these new recreational facilities and thus make a positive impact on the quality of life for the citizens of Gastonia.