
Chesterfield Township park, bridge projects to improve Salt River access

Several upgrades slated for 2019

By Katelyn Larese klarese@digitalfirstmedia.com @katelynlarese on Twitter
Dec 28, 2018



The Jefferson Avenue bridge over the Salt River in Chesterfield Township is set to be replaced in 2019. Katelyn Larese – Voice

As 2019 gets underway, Chesterfield Township residents can expect to see a slew of improvements throughout the community.

Projects slated for the coming year include the township's paddle park along the Salt River, as well as the replacement of the Jefferson Avenue bridge over the river. Additional park improvements, fire station upgrades, water main enhancements and other projects are also in the works.

"I am full of excitement and optimism for what 2019 will bring to Chesterfield Township," Supervisor Dan Acciavatti said, "highlighted by enhancements to our infrastructure, improved public safety and the continuation of implementing best practice policies and procedures across all areas of our township government."

Acciavatti outlined the township's plans for improving efficiencies and services relating to five focus areas: leisure services, public safety, public works, community development and general government.

Leisure services

The New Year will bring various enhancements and investments to the township's parks, non-motorized paths and natural waterways.

The long-awaited Webber Paddle Park will be constructed off of Jefferson Avenue along the Salt River. The project will be completed in coordination with the reconstruction the Salt River bridge,

"When complete, both projects will set the stage to open the Salt River to increased access to kayakers and recreational activities," Acciavatti said.

Jefferson Avenue will be closed in early March as the bridge project gets underway. The new bridge will be 40 feet wide with a 10-foot pedestrian pathway. The work is expected to be completed in late July.

"The bridge, when complete, will be aesthetically pleasing and will result in a slight increase in clearance for boat traffic along the Salt River," Acciavatti said.

Chesterfield Township participated with the cost of the design of a new water main that will cross the Salt River, along with the lighting on the new structure.

Officials expect the federal government to begin the restoration of the Salt River bottom land and reopen the Hooker Road pedestrian path by the end of the year.

The supervisor also plans to continue presenting options to the board of trustees to combat phragmites, which he said is damaging the natural ecosystem in the township.

A new Veterans Memorial Park will be unveiled at the municipal complex on Sugarbush Road. Furnishings from the park site on Community Center Drive will be relocated to the grounds where a Marine memorial is being completed.

"Our Veterans Park will be a place where the residents of Chesterfield can honor the sacrifice of the members of our armed services," Acciavatti said. "Flanked to the south by Selfridge and the addition of the southeast Michigan veterans facility will solidify Chesterfield Township's commitment to our veterans."

A potential state grant could help fund parking lot improvements at the complex.

Substantial upgrades and improvements are slated for Brandenburg Park. The township secured a \$97,500 grant to move forward with the softening and repair of the seawall, which has been in disrepair for the past decade. The existing sport courts will also be resurfaced and rebuilt.

Public safety

In the coming year, officials expect continued efficiencies and advancements with the township's newly created public safety model.

"The efficiencies of our public safety model have resulted in a structurally balanced budget," Acciavatti said. "The days of general fund transfers and an unsustainable financial model for our first responders are over."

"I expect to propose a decrease in the millage rate required to fund our public safety department in the near future," he added.

A substantial upgrade is coming to Fire Station #1 on 22 Mile Road. The \$1.5 million project will update the 30-year-old facility with proper housing arrangements and additional bays for first responder equipment.

Officials have budgeted \$400,000 for "potential" updates to Fire Station #2 on Jefferson Avenue, which was temporarily closed following an intermittent "brown out" of the station that began in September 2017.

"I expect board direction during the first quarter to determine the future of that facility," the supervisor said.

The public safety department is also coordinating with other agencies to help combat the widespread opioid crisis.

"By using real incident data, I expect the continued enhancements to our community's safety specifically relating to pedestrian safety, traffic enhancements and an overall reduction in our crime rate," Acciavatti said.

Public works

Capital improvements to underground infrastructure are planned for 2019.

The water and sewer department is expected to start several water main enhancements throughout the community. The water main along 23 Mile Road will begin to be updated, along with a pressure reducing station on Gratiot Avenue near 25 Mile Road.

Sanitary sewer investments will also be taking place. The Miller Court pump station project will be completed in early 2019.

The water and sewer department will again attempt to receive board approval to upsize the undersized sewer pipe that will service the North West District of the township, Acciavatti said, noting the project is vital to ensuring the township is development ready.

"We will also be investing in our roadways," the supervisor added. "It is painfully clear that we must participate in the solution to repair and replace our deplorable roadways.

"We will continue to participate in our new opportunity to re-gravel 3 miles of gravel roads a year in coordination with the Macomb County Department of Roads. I will be presenting to the board a request to perform a PASER study for all the roadways in Chesterfield Township to determine the current condition and expected life span of our roadways.

"I also intend on presenting to the board of trustees a special assessment district match program to assist with the repairing of our subdivision streets. By partnering with the Macomb County Department of Roads, along with a township special assessment district match program, I anticipate more subdivisions will initiate special assessments to begin the process of replacing our roadways."

Community development

The township is expected to experience continued sustainable growth in residential, industrial and commercial developments in 2019.

A 160,000-square-foot veterans facility is set to be constructed at the former Seville Manor site.

"We look forward to working with the state of Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs during the transformation of this important parcel."

BJ's Warehouse is slated to break ground south of Cabela's on Town Center Drive.

"2019 will also bring continued efforts to streamline our development processes and procedures to ensure that we remain an attractive place to invest in," Acciavatti said.

General government

Officials plan to continue to update service contracts and find efficient best-practice policies and procedures to ensure residents are receiving the best possible government services.

"2019 will bring improvements of community relations and information delivery through our redeveloped website, along with an enhanced social media presence," the supervisor said.

Katelyn Larese is local news editor of The Voice. She can be contacted at 586-273-6196 or klarese@digitalfirstmedia.com.