



Press Release

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Venetian Gardens Redevelopment Moves Forward with Kids Korner Renovations

Since originally being built in the 1930's under the WPA, the canals and gardens of Venetian Gardens have been a centerpiece of the Leesburg community. In 2014, the Leesburg City Commission conducted a series of public workshops, soliciting input on how to best use and revitalize the park. After several workshops the Commission approved a multi-phased plan.

One of the biggest undertakings associated with Phase I of this project is improving the northwest corner of the park, commonly known as Kids Korner. These efforts aim to redevelop play equipment and construct a splash pad. The first step of the enhancements in this area is to construct a new playground. The old Kids Korner wooden playground will close on March 7th and the equipment will be dismantled and removed over a period of several weeks. The City Commission selected Game Time as the supplier for the new playground and the final configuration and list of equipment is currently being developed. Plans call for the new playground to open for the 4th of July.

The Venetian Isle Apartment complex near Kids Korner was demolished in 2015 so that additional green space, parking and a larger venue for the splash pad can be provided. Design of the splash pad is underway with a summer 2017 opening anticipated.

"While it sad for kids who will not be able to enjoy the playground the next several months, it is exciting to be starting on the new playground that is going to blow their minds. We have been working hard for the past few years to bring back Venetian Gardens as the *Jewel of Leesburg* and enhance the quality of life for our community," said Mayor Jay Hurley. "By the time phase one is complete and everyone can see our vision coming to fruition, I think community excitement will take off and the following phases will take place a lot sooner and easier. Like any project the negative downside is the building process, but we hope to move as quickly as possible with minimal impact on the community. The Jewel is coming back!"

For more information on the Kids Korner renovations, please contact the City of Leesburg Public Works Department at 352-435-9442 or e-mail Public.Works@LeesburgFlorida.gov.

Leesburg is a progressive city of more than 21,000 residents in northwest Lake County. The city government serves twice as many people with its electric, gas, water, wastewater and fiber-optic public utilities. Leesburg also is a central hub for commerce, attracting 50,000 people to work each weekday. For more information, visit www.leesburgflorida.gov.

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