

Around Town

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By Billy Ray McKelvy

De Queen Mayor

As the year ends, the City of De Queen is finishing up work on two major grant projects for city parks.

Construction was recently completed on a one-mile walking trail at the sportsplex on Hwy. 70 West. This trail is built of base material and crusher fines which will pack to form a hard surface suitable for walking or riding a bike. This trail is a new option for people who walk for exercise.

The trail is complete except for a little clean-up work. The construction was funded by a state grant for \$41,000. The city's share of the project was fulfilled by labor and in-kind donations.

Work was completed last week on a major electrical project at Herman Dierks Park. During the project, all overhead power lines were relocated underground as a safety measure. Also, the buildings in the park were rewired to replace wiring that was as much as 40 years old.

State grant funds will pay for half the cost of the electrical project.

The City of De Queen has also received a \$2,000 tree grant as part of the Tree City USA program. Park employees are planting 52 trees at Herman Dierks Park and at the Sportsplex. The remainder of the grant was used for equipment used in tree projects.

Last summer, the city also paved all of the streets in Herman Dierks Park.

Herman Dierks Park was 50 years old in 2006. With these updates, the park is in great shape for the years ahead.