The National Park Service (NPS) has still not approved the City’s request for conversion of a portion of Riverfront Park. The revision of the appraisal of the Detweiller Playground parcels, one of two properties being proposed as a replacement park, has been completed and submitted to IDNR. Like the revisions of the appraisals for the Simantel property (a replacement property) and Riverfront Park (the conversion parcel), the revised appraisal estimates the same value as the original version completed and submitted in December 2015. The submission of this final revision is the last step of which the City has been told is required of it prior to a final decision being made.

On Tuesday, June 27, 2017 the City Council will be asked to approve an amendment to the River Trail Redevelopment Agreement. This amendment will extend the “due diligence” window through the end of December 2017. One of the key deliverables that needs to be accomplished within this window is obtaining the approval from NPS of the conversion request. This decision will allow the developer to finalize his budget and secure financing. The extension of the due diligence window is required so that the tasks can be completed. The City has been able to secure commitments from the owners of the replacement properties to similarly extend the City’s purchase option contracts. Those contracts will be executed next week.