

PRESS RELEASE

Whitney Commons

A new five-acre community park, Whitney Commons, is coming to Sheridan, Wyoming soon. Whitney Benefits, Inc., will break ground this summer and complete the project by June 2003. Located at the old brewery site, the park will be surrounded by the Fulmer Public Library, the YMCA, and the Senior Center. Already a neighborhood with a strong presence of community service organizations, the addition of "Whitney Commons" will indeed create a well-rounded activity hub for the citizens of Sheridan.

The park plan includes a number of attractions designed to appeal to people of all ages and interests. Several features include a universally accessible play structure designed for fun and safety, large turf areas supporting any number of informal leisure activities, vintage lighting illuminating pedestrian walks and bike paths, and close circuit cameras providing park security and on-line viewing of park's activities through a Whitney Commons website.

In addition, park improvements include planting of over 100 trees and 250 shrubs. Several existing trees within the park area are in poor condition and cannot be saved. A number of planting beds filled with trees, shrubs, and perennials will encircle a fountain. Many of the plantings planned for the garden are native to the area.

Highlights of the park include the following:

- ❑ AMPHITHEATER - An outdoor amphitheater with 5 tiers of seating will comfortably accommodate 160 to 200 people. Concerts, theater presentations, and outdoor classroom programs are just some of the activities suitable for this amphitheater.
- ❑ PLAZA AREA - A 5,000+ square-foot paved plaza area adjoins the amphitheater. The plaza will accommodate large gatherings of people for festivals and a variety of special events.
- ❑ WATER FEATURE - A fun way to cool off on a hot day, this interactive playground is designed with a surprising water display. Designed with water conservation in mind, the feature employs low-volume, user-activated nozzles and water storage for reuse as park irrigation.
- ❑ LABYRINTH - A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY, A PHYSICAL PATH - The labyrinth will be based on the labyrinth located at the Chartres Cathedral in France. A labyrinth is a two-dimensional pattern with only one path through that dates back to medieval times. At that time, Christian believers were expected to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land at least once in their lifetime. For many, this was not possible. As a result, the labyrinth was created to symbolically represent the journey to the Holy Land. Today, many find in walking the pattern from one end to the other, a means to relax, meditate, and free up the mind.
- ❑ A BIT OF HISTORY: One of Sheridan's first buildings, originally the Mandel Post Office, now owned by the Wyoming Society of the Colonial Dames of America, will make its permanent home in the park. Edward A. Whitney, for whom the park is named, established Sheridan's first bank in the building, which was moved and enlarged upon, from the Mandel Post Office. Whitney resided in living quarters above for the remainder of his years.