



1 Left: Exterior in mid-May (now the curbs are in the parking lot). Right: rendering of main area and family hub for reference.

Imagination Center at Reindahl Park Update

Staffing: Our new Imagination Center supervisor, Rosemary Medrano, has dived deep into the City's hiring process, conducting interviews for maintenance staff, library assistants, and clerks. We are close to finalizing those hires, and have made offers to librarian positions throughout the system based on the librarian vacancies created by librarian transfers to Imagination Center. Those permanent positions will formally begin in July and Imagination Center staff will begin working together as a group at our Library Service and Support Center in July, or continuing to fill in at their current locations. An enormous shout out to Krissy Wick for managing the daunting and time-consuming process and timeline of hiring and training 21 new staff members, and also to Isis Newman, our neighborhood supervisors, and our City HR team.

Construction: We have an officially approved 10 day extension to the construction timeline of the project due to past weather issues at the earlier stages of the project. At present, this extension will still allow us access to the building to install shelving and furniture, but staff won't be able to work on-site without protective equipment until full occupancy is achieved, now slated for August 14. We are watching the timeline extremely carefully and adjusting regularly to be sure we open before the end of September 2026. Monthly construction updates are available on the [Engineering Department's project page](#) and shared out through the [Library's email newsletter](#), too.

Grant progress: We have recently completed a desk audit for the \$4.25 million Flexible Facilities Program grant and are working through formal acceptance of our \$1.2 million Non-State Grant award from the Wisconsin Department of Administration.

In the Park: Our public art project - *The Passage of Being* by Nate Page - was formally approved, as you'll see in the media releases at the end of this report. Installation details are being worked out, and the artist will be on site for some community engagement appearances once the artwork is in place. Madison Parks is planning for the playground to be replaced with a new accessible playground in spring of 2027 and is gathering feedback now from residents. The new park will have an Eric Carle theme – I can already envision the accompanying book displays and story hours!

Upcoming Imagination Center tours: Fridays, June 12, 26, July 10, 2pm – please [RSVP to attend](#)