

Library Park Begins!

And like any ambitious undertaking, the development of Library Park will require patience. Major construction is involved. Bear with us, the end-results will be fabulous!

Unavoidably, Phase I will completely disrupt Library & Music Hall parking from **June 15 through the end of September**. Only a few (the final number not determined as of this writing) 10-minute spaces for picking up and returning Library materials, as well as one handicapped space will be available during construction. These spaces will be in front of the Library at the outset of construction; later in the summer, parking patterns will shift to the back of the building. When that happens, patrons will enter the Library through the Music Hall entrance. The ramped entrance at the side of the building and the Library book return box will be accessible throughout the construction period. The ACFL&MH will keep patrons informed about the process with signs, handouts and updates on the website and Facebook to keep patrons up to date.

The ACFL&MH recommends that patrons park on Library Hill itself. There are 20 spaces adjacent to the grounds. These provide enough parking for most Library use during the day. Incidental parking can also be found on Beechwood Avenue, Library Avenue and other streets above the Library.

For performances (Stage 62's *Spamalot* opens on July 20) and special events people will have to rely on the free shuttle that runs from the parking lot on Main Street to the ACFL&MH.

Phase I entails all the work from the building to the edge of the grounds. New sidewalks; a new driveway, with clearly delineated parking places and handicapped spots that meet code; new grading; lampposts in the parking area; benches around the building; a stately flagpole at the Library entrance. Phase I also includes the infrastructure for all the electrical and storm water management work that are part of Phase II: Library Park itself.

At the end of September beautiful magnolias will flank the Music Hall entrance, and handsome black gum trees will frame the flagpole that affirms the Library's role as a civic organization. There will be lovely plantings and benches around the building. The ACFL&MH's "erupting" sidewalks will be level and the parking lot will be safe and appropriately illuminated for the first time in the Library & Music Hall's history. Additional upgrades include decorative paving designating ceremonial space around the flag and a piazza in front of the Music Hall.

Library Park is slated for completion in September 2018. Despite the inconvenience, Phase I construction will give patrons so much to appreciate before then.