



Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, *in association with the Smithsonian Institution*

Newsletter

Issue #71, Winter 2015

Copper Queen Plaza Park...

"The Grassy Park Revitalization Project"

During the past year, the proposed plans for the "Grassy Park" Revitalization Project were thoroughly reviewed, debated, negotiated, opined, approved, disapproved, gossiped, blogged, facebooked, flicker-ed, committee-ed, and council-ed! Now that the project is COMPLETE (with just a wee little bit remaining to finish!), we would like to share with you the story of what we actually did and offer you a visual tour through the project with as many pictures as we can fit into this newsletter!

Copper Queen Plaza Park was nicknamed "Grassy Park" in the 1930s because it offered a flat grassy area for Old Bisbee residents. Over the past decade, the Park deteriorated significantly, as have far too many urban parks during these past years as government funding was prioritized elsewhere. As you can see from the images below, grass became a memory and the sidewalks were severely cracked, uneven, and dangerous. The planting beds lingered with a few extremely hardy, though not all aesthetically enchanting, plants. As a Museum, we share with our guests our pride in our heritage and our community.



Members of the Park Revitalization Committee (left to right)

Alfredo Resendiz, Master Cuts Landscaping; Buck Umphres, Freeport-McMoRan, Copper Queen Branch; Andy Haratyk, City of Bisbee Public Works & Project Co-Director; Kay Lynn Cummins, City Parks & Recreation Committee; Albert Hopper, Architect, Carrie Gustavson, Museum & Project Director; David Smith, President of the Board, Bisbee Council on the Arts & Humanities; Glenn Smalley & Stacy Mueller, Bisbee Soil Program. Not Shown, Tom Klimek & Raul Hidalgo, City of Bisbee Public Works; Mike Jawoski & Robert Quintanar, Freeport-McMoRan, Copper Queen Branch; Cado Daily, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Water Wise Program.

The Park in which we are located reflected quite the opposite; thus the Grassy Park Revitalization Project! *[continued page 2]*

Copper Queen Plaza Park, locally known as "Grassy Park," before we started the Revitalization Project

*Southeast Section, 2013
looking west*



*Southwest Section, 2014
looking west*



*Southwest Section, 2014
looking east*



*Northwest Section, 2014
looking north*



Copper Queen Plaza Park underwent many changes in its 110 year history. However, our inspiration for what we did in the Park comes from the early 20th century with a focus on the 1930s!



Copper Queen Plaza Park 1905 (southeast quadrant) notice the line of trees fronting the headquarters building



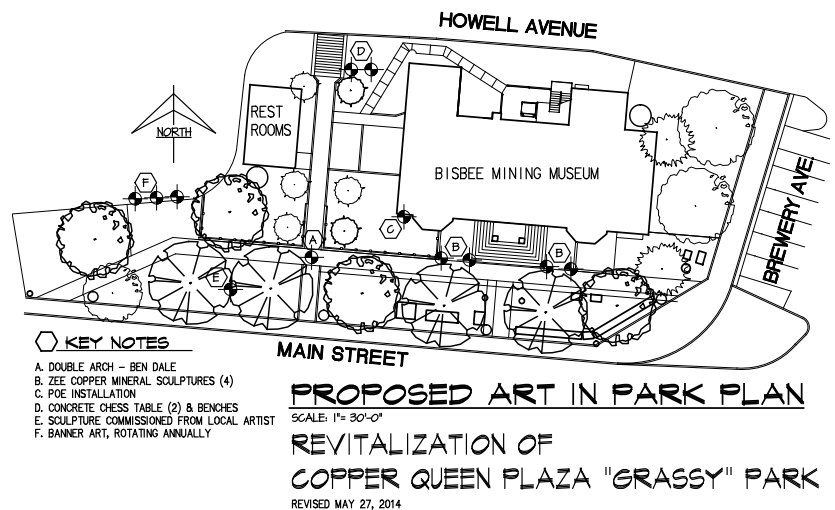
Copper Queen Plaza Park 1930s (southeast quadrant) the same trees matured!



Copper Queen Plaza Park 1930s (northwest quadrant) notice the elegant formality of the Park layout

Beginning last summer (2014), we talked with the City of Bisbee, owners of the Park, as to their support for a park revitalization project under the Museum's leadership and met with an enthusiastic response (here it is important to keep in mind that the Museum is a private nonprofit organization, not governmental). We then talked with Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold (now Freeport Minerals, Inc.) regarding their Bisbee Soils Program and they graciously agreed to work with us on scheduling the soils reclamation work. For those not living in Bisbee, the Bisbee Soils Program is a major environmental initiative undertaken by Freeport-McMoRan to replace soils contaminated by the historic mining of the early 20th century.

As we started to assess what needed to be done and what we would like on our "wish list," mumbling became interwoven in the conversation with as many polite descriptive terms for "this or that is in really-really-really bad condition" as we could find; such as, and in no particular order, this is... broken, damaged, dangerous, defective, ruined, worn out, wrecked, crummy, shoddy, vandalized, ailing, sick, or basically dead. Through this mumbling, we identified that which we had to fix, replace, alter, or add.



Working with Architect Albert Hopper, a preservation architect with whom the Museum has done a number of projects, we mapped out the Park and laid out a design to restore the Park to its former beauty of the 1930s as witnessed in our archival photographic collection. Being an ardent supporter of "Arizona Local First," but with the slight redefinition to "Bisbee Local First," we worked with our local contractors to create the project budget of about \$100,000. The Bisbee Soils Program budget was placed at about \$200,000.

We then went before City Council and received unanimous support for the proposed project. Next step: funding. In this, community support for this project was extraordinary, as was the support from our Museum members! We were able to raise \$64,000 in less than two months to serve as a match for the \$34,000 grant application from the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation! Included in the \$64,000 match were donations from all our local contractors for in-kind services to augment their work! Once funded, the work plan appeared deceptively simple! We would close the park between Memorial Day and Labor Day. During the first half of the Summer, we would take everything out; during the second half of the summer, we would put it all back!

Beginning the project, we removed a number of trees, but (and somewhat misunderstood), we left a number of trees as well. The two magnolia trees planted in the 1950s were pruned back and irrigated in the hopes of saving them, as was the large Arizona Cedar that was also planted in the 1950s. The two magnolias as they bloomed twice in the Fall, so in this I think we succeeded!

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The 1st half of the Grassy Park Revitalization Project - taking everything out (or from my perspective, the “easy” part), June 2014



The 2nd half of the Grassy Park Revitalization Project - putting everything back (or from my perspective, my first and last adventure into the complex world of the general contractor), July - August 2014



New Sidewalks!

The sidewalks went in first. My first lesson as a general contractor was the complexity of scheduling the various pieces of the project, such as the electrical & irrigation conduit had to be laid under the sidewalk before we could lay the concrete. Also, this is where I learned that “grade” didn’t mean something like 8th grade, or perhaps 11th, but the thickness of the concrete above the dirt & gravel foundation... much to the amusement of our very patient sidewalk people! I now know that we have a 2 1/2-inch grade with a 3-inch toe... and I know what that means!

New Irrigation!

Previously, the Park had a really-really-really-broken-worn-out-vandalized irrigation system. With the generosity of Freeport-McMoRan, Copper Queen Branch and the Bisbee Soils Program, we now have an irrigation system comprised of six individual units, custom designed for underground drip irrigation for the trees and gardens and sprinkler systems for the grassy areas.

New Electrical!

Taking advantage of the true success of the “taking everything out” phase of the project (see above!), the City of Bisbee Public Works added new junction boxes in strategic places around the Park to provide electricity for events.

The Grassy Park Public Art Initiative, which will be the subject of our Spring/Summer newsletter, also provided new lighting for all the art that has been and is being installed; there is electrical conduit going every which way in the Park!

Refurbished Stairs!

The stairs leading from the Park to the Copper Queen Hotel were refurbished and the handrails added. In the foreground is one of a pair of concrete chess/checker tables that are part of the Grassy Park Public Art Initiative, celebrating our local artists. Wanting to create a space where history and art can play together, the base of this art installation is modeled from the balustrade fronting the 1931 Cochise County Court House!

The trees pictured on the first page of this newsletter are examples of the trees we removed due to their really-really-really-bad condition (the mumbled descriptive adjectives were damaged, ailing, sick, vandalized, and dangerous with protruding roots creating a tripping hazard). We planted six trees to combine with two existing trees to create that line of shade trees down the front of the Park as seen in the 1930s photographs as well as two Italian cypress to complete what was once a parallel line of cypress trees along the sidewalk and stairs leading to

the Copper Queen Hotel. We also planted two shade trees, one near the flagstone patio and one to provide shade for the two new chess tables near the west entrance to the Museum.

Once the trees were removed, giving the Park a rather forlorn appearance until we were able to plant the new trees, the second step was replacing the contaminated soil. This was the most work-intensive and major part of the project and was done under the very competent and generous

[continued on page 6]

The 2nd half of the Grassy Park Revitalization Project - putting everything back [continued]



New, Recycled Brick Patios!

As part of the Bisbee Soils Program, the contaminated soil was replaced under the patios fronting the Museum front and western entrances. Master Cuts, the contracted landscapers under the Program, gave us beautifully installed patios using our recycled brick.



New Flagstone Patio!

Due to the totally unexpected need to replace the sewer line located under the original flagstone patio, this patio was replaced with the addition of a planter bed fronting the tall retaining wall. Banksia Roses were planted behind three wrought-iron benches once the patio was finished.



New Trees!

In the two pictures above, on the left is one of the Ash trees and on the right are two of the Chinese Pistache, both low-water/low-maintenance trees. Being an absolutely 100% amateur arborist, I didn't know that our lovely "12- to 15-foot tall trees" promptly lost 4-feet when planted (didn't know that they measured the height from the base of the container)! Again, I would like to acknowledge the generosity of Freeport-McMoRan, Copper Queen Branch and the Bisbee Soils Program for excavating the really-really-really big holes for the trees and serving as human forklifts to move these 1,000-pound trees into place!



New Decorative Rock!

In looking towards the tenets of environmental stewardship (+ the cost of water in Arizona!), we reduced the grass footprint 50% and used a 3/8-inch decorative rock around the mining cars.



New Fencing!

Project Architect Albert Hopper inspects the new, custom fencing installed around the garden beds. The fencing was designed to compliment the 1906 fencing (left) but incorporating the "hair-pin loop" to protect anyone from being hurt by the spikes.



New Plants!

One happy City of Bisbee Public Works Operations Manager looks upon some of the 500 plants ordered for the three garden beds in the Park. Although shifted somewhat as to location (one historic garden is now the public restroom), the formal gardens of the 1930s are back!



New Grass

... and this is just the beginning! Look at the next page of this newsletter for the results! The City also overseeded with rye grass to keep the park green during the winter.

And this is what we did... Grassy Park in the September rains, 2014
We brought back the trees (although we have to have a little patience to let them grow), the gardens , and the grass!



[Left] Southeast Section looking east [Right] Southeast & Southwest sections looking west



[Left] Northwest & Southwest Sections looking southwest [Right] Northwest Section looking south.



direction of Freeport-McMoRan, Copper Queen Branch and the Bisbee Soils Program. With clean soils, we began the process of replacing the Park sidewalks, brick and flagstone patios. We replaced the irrigation system (subject to all the mumbled adjectives in the preceding text!), re-surfaced the stairs, fenced and planted the gardens, added new electrical outlets for events, and refurbished the park benches. Take your time looking through the many pictures of the project and I hope you have enjoyed our visual story of the Grassy Park Revitalization Project, minus the oft-times very loud sound effects of construction!

As with all large projects undertaken by nonprofit organizations, this project could not have possible without the amazing support of our community and Museum members! All told, we invested \$360,000 to restore the Park to its former beauty, not including the City of Bisbee Public Works investment for the sewer replacement and new electrical outlets!

Thank you!

Museum Happenings

47th Annual Membership Reception

***Wednesday
March 25, 2015
5:30 - 7:00 pm
at the Museum***

Catered by Cafe Roka

\$25/person

\$45/couple

***For Information
& Reservations
contact
Museum Staff at
[520] 432-7071***

***or make check payable to
the Bisbee Mining &
Historical Museum
PO Box 14, Bisbee
AZ 85603***

***Reservations
required***

***Reservation deadline
Friday, March 20th***

COPPER QUEEN PLAZA PARK

"GRASSY PARK" REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Donor List

APACHE SIGNS	BISBEE WOMEN'S CLUB
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2014

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will & in your estate
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annual gift!**

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**We would like to thank the
following for their wonderful
support**

Alice Metz Bequest

**John & Sylvia Iriarte Riddle
Bequest**

Joy & John Timbers Bequest



Grassy Park Dedication Ceremony *[Ribbon cutting crew, from left to right]*

Project Architect Albert Hopper • City of Bisbee Mayor Adriana Badal • City of Bisbee Public Works & Project Co-Director Andy Haratyk • Site Manager, Freeport-McMoRan, Copper Queen Branch Robert Quintanar • Superintendent VRP, Freeport-McMoRan, Copper Queen Branch Buck Umphres • Museum & Project Director Carrie Gustavson, • City of Bisbee City Manager Justin Johnson & his son Jaren • Public Art Initiative Sloane Bouchever • President of the Board of Directors, Bisbee Council on the Arts & Humanities [nonprofit governing authority of the Museum] David Smith



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The Grassy Park Revitalization Project