

Main Street offers season's greeting with new look

Sidewalk work finished, but walkway improvements continue

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Workers early in the week continued to upgrade a walkway between Main Street and Swede Alley that many people use to reach Main Street from the Old Town transit center. The walkway is expected to be completed by the week of Christmas. (Jay Hamburger/Park Record)

Main Street will offer season's greetings to shoppers with a new look.

City Hall is nearly finished with the second year of what is scheduled to be between seven and 10 years of upgrades along Main Street meant to make the shopping, dining and entertainment strip a more attractive place.

As the holiday shopping season started, crews hired by the municipal government continued to work. They are focused on a walkway between Main Street and Swede Alley known as the location of a bronze bear sculpture. The walkway is closed, and there were construction tents at the site this week.

Craig Sanchez, a City Hall staffer who is heavily involved in the work, said the crews have put down new pavers on the walkway. He said the walkway should be open by the week of Christmas.

The walkway is an important route between the Old Town transit center and Main Street. Sanchez said the improvements to the walkway will make the route to Main Street easier to find.

The bronze bear should be returned to the walkway by the middle of December. A sign at the site says it has been a long, hot summer and the bear, named Franz, needs to recharge. "I am currently in hibernation. I will be back for the Holiday Season," the sign also says.

The walkway closed for construction in early September. Sanchez said finishing work like installing landscaping and decorative lights is planned in the spring.

The crews completed sidewalk work by early October.

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Upgrades were made to the stretch of sidewalk on the west side of Main Street between the Heber Avenue intersection and the walkway with the bear bench and between 5th Street and Heber Avenue on the east side.

They also finished a new crosswalk and putting down new pavers at the Main Street-7th Street intersection. New storm drains were installed on the west side of Main Street between 4th Street and the Treasure Mountain Inn.

The Historic Park City Alliance, a group that represents businesses on or just off Main Street, supports the upgrades and closely monitors the work. Alison Butz, the executive director, said Main Street will be happy with the reopening of the walkway.

"Unfortunately it won't be done for Thanksgiving, but we're excited to unveil that in December," Butz said. She said Main Street is pleased the sidewalk work is completed. They offer "a fresh look and a clean look," Butz said.

"I think the sidewalk improvements will be noticeable . . . We're providing a better environment for people to explore Main Street," she said.

The seven to 10 years of upgrades planned along Main Street were undertaken in an effort to ensure the street remains competitive with outlying commercial destinations, particularly those at or close to Kimball Junction. City Hall is funding the upgrades through a voter-approved increase in sales taxes.