In late September 2021, work began on Phase I of the Veterans’ Memorial Park Pavilion which entailed the construction of a concrete Alaskan slab to support the future pavilion.

Through a grant from the Hoehl Family Foundation and support from the City of Vergennes, businesses and private citizens, Phase I (a $300,000 project) was completed in late November. The Pavilion Committee is VERY fortunate that EVERY professional who worked on this project donated much of their time, expertise and/or materials. We would not have been able to accomplish this phase without these gifts; the collaboration between the vendors was seamless. Many thanks to Pete Zelonis of Artisan Engineering, Brent Rakowski of Otter Creek Engineering, Tim Parent and crew of Parent Construction, JP Carrara & Sons, Glen Peck and Brian Fraser of Peck Electric, and Gary Dupoise of D & F Paving – what a team we had!

In late December, the greater community geared up for the first skate on the new surface. The new slab is more than a basketball court/ice rink. The reinforced Alaskan Slab is designed to hold the load of a pavilion-type building. With this recent completion, the hope is to move forward by seeking financial support for Phase II - which is to erect a pavilion over the new recreation surface.

Once Phase II comes to fruition, the pavilion will serve as a gathering place that is universally accessible for all ages, abilities, and socio-economic status. Sheltered from sun and inclement weather, the new surface will be protected from the elements for year around enjoyment. Fully lit, the structure will also extend recreational opportunities during the evenings.

The newly developed space will include 3 basketball courts, 3 pickleball courts, shuffleboard and, in the winter, a 160’ x 70’ ice skating rink. The shuffleboard court will become a universally accessible activity. In addition, the pavilion will create a multipurpose environment for picnics, events, performances, birthday parties, educational workshops, exercise classes and more. The greater Vergennes community, as well as the Addison Northwest School District students and staff, will have access. The majority of events and activities will be free of charge and open to the public.

A pavilion will help to protect the concrete surface from sun, rain and snow allowing the recreational space to last for years as well as provide shade in the summer for events and sports. In the winter we currently have to shovel and snow blow our 160’x70’ ice rink. Last year alone over 100 volunteer hours were spent maintaining the ice. With a roof to protect the ice rink in the winter, volunteer hours will be dramatically cut as the pavilion
will protect the ice from rain, snow, and the softening of warm, sunny days. This pavilion not only expands the activities we can safely provide, but it also protects our surface and allows us to maintain this valuable community asset for the future.

As public space promotes both the physical and mental health of community members, the Pavilion Project has become even more important. These spaces encourage physical activity and socialization. More recreational programming can occur due to a dedicated and inviting safe space. It is our belief that the pavilion will help promote the quality of life within the community.

Vergennes Parks and Recreation, with support from Vergennes Partnership, have begun fundraising for Phase II of the Pavilion Project - estimated at $875,000. And while we recognize this to be a huge endeavor, we are continuing to pursue grant opportunities along with a series of fundraising event as well.

We invite you to support the Pavilion Project today. Your tax-deductible donation will help benefit the community for years to come. Thank you for your consideration!

Should you have any questions, please contact:

**Kathy Rossier**, Vergennes Parks & Recreation Committee Chair  
**Martha DeGraff**, Vergennes Parks & Recreation Coordinator  

**Julie Basol**, Vergennes Partnership, Coordinator of Marketing & Development

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January 18 Skating Party