



# KNOXVILLE SOUTH WATERFRONT

## Monthly Newsletter

Website Information:

No. 06-10 (July/August/Sept 2010)

[www.cityofknoxville.org/southwaterfront](http://www.cityofknoxville.org/southwaterfront)

### PROJECT UPDATES

#### Blount Avenue Reconstruction

Southern Constructors, Inc. has finished the installation of utilities, and the sidewalks for the new Blount Avenue streetscape are 90% complete, extending between the Norfolk South Railroad Underpass and Hawthorne Avenue.

The base course for the vehicle travel lanes is now being installed; with paving scheduled to start in the first week of September. We appreciate the patience of neighborhood residents as the project moves toward its August completion date. As always, if you encounter any problems, please give Dave Hill a call at 215-3764.

#### SW Brownfields Grant

The environmental engineering firm, S&ME, has prepared a draft database as a starting point to perform petroleum and hazardous substances assessments using a SW \$400,000 EPA grant. Several properties have been identified as priority assessment sites, and contact with owners is underway to determine if they are willing to participate in the grant program.

#### Cityview Riverwalk

Construction of the first section of South Waterfront Riverwalk, adjacent to the Cityview condominiums project, is 90% complete. Installation of lighting, safety handrails, and landscaping should be finished by the end of September. Once both the Riverwalk and Blount Avenue reconstruction activities are completed, we plan to have a groundbreaking to officially open this section of linear park space. We believe the Riverwalk will be something all citizens will value as setting the bar for quality South Waterfront design and construction.



### CITYVIEW RIVERWALK CLOSED DURING BOOMSDAY WEEKEND

Despite all efforts to complete the Blount Avenue and Cityview Riverwalk construction projects before the end of August, work on these public improvements will continue into September. As a result, please be advised that the **Cityview Riverwalk will be closed to the public during Boomsday (Labor Day) weekend.** Lighting is not yet operative, and several hand rails have not been installed, so public visitation for the time being is considered hazardous, especially at night. We hope to have a grand opening sometime in October to officially welcome the Riverwalk to the assortment of public spaces Knoxville offers to its citizens and visitors.

### TVA / USACE 26A/404 PERMIT: PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT

After several years involving several federal and state agencies, it now appears that the 26A/404 permit application for three projects (Suttree Landing Park / Waterfront Drive, Knoxville Shoals Promenade, and Baker Creek Landing) is nearing completion. The lead agencies involved are the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the U.S Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). Work on the schematic designs and permit application began in June 2007, with most of the technical work completed by mid-2009. A final element required to complete the environmental review process is the **Programmatic Agreement**, which describes steps the City of Knoxville must take to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The TN State Historic Preservation Office has been heavily involved in drafting the Programmatic Agreement, which requires inventories of both archaeological and historic resources within the South Waterfront Redevelopment Area. The Knoxville City Council will consider approval of the Programmatic Agreement on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Pending approval, the 26A/404 permit will be issued with a life of 15 years. The City of Knoxville will have 6 months to complete the required inventories. The City's Historic Zoning Commission will have an opportunity to review and approve the inventories, followed by state and federal agency review. Opportunities for public review of the inventories will be announced in the future.

### SW-UT PEDESTRIAN / BICYCLE BRIDGE

The City of Knoxville has entered into contract negotiations with Lawrie & Associates of Alexandria, Virginia as the most qualified lead engineering firm to enter into contract negotiations to design a pedestrian/bicycle bridge that will span the Tennessee River from the South Waterfront to the University of Tennessee's Thompson-Boling Arena. Local firms that have partnered with Lawrie & Associates include Wilbur Smith Associates, S&ME, Inc., Carol R. Johnson Associates, Sanders Pace Architecture, the O'Hanlon Group, and Cannon & Cannon.

Completion of the scope of work and contract has been delayed to project complexities. The contract is now scheduled to go to City Council for approval in late September or early October, pending TN Dept. of Transportation review and approval. Bridge design and environmental permitting will be complex, and will take 2-3 years for completion.

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