

# Nashville's Centennial Park phase two detailed

Jen Todd, jtodd1@tennessean.com

Published 9:18 p.m. CT Oct. 6, 2016



(Photo: Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects)

Landscape architect Thomas Woltz doesn't want to restore Centennial Park, as much as revive the historical and ecological significance of it.

Woltz, owner of the firm [Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects](http://www.nbwla.com/) (<http://www.nbwla.com/>), is launching into phase two of the Centennial Park project, with \$22 million of the \$30 million goal already donated.

## Centennial Park \$22M phase two renovation announced

[\(https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/2016/09/09/centennial-park-announces-22m-phase-two-renovation/90090066/\)](https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/2016/09/09/centennial-park-announces-22m-phase-two-renovation/90090066/)



Landscape architect Thomas Woltz detailed the phase two projects at Centennial Park. (Photo: Submitted)

"The park is telling you its history," Woltz said. "It's like the park has found its voice."

The 119-year-old urban park's history is rooted in strong women, from the land itself, which was owned by Ann Cockrill, the state's first woman to receive a land grant and Nashville's first teacher, to the location of Nashville's largest women's suffrage rally.

Cockrill Springs was also a watering stop for travelers along the Natchez Trace.

While the first phase daylighted the spring and created a more permanent space for Musicians Corner, this second phase will focus on the "heart of the park."

### **The Great Lawn**

Woltz plans to "reimagine" the "front lawn of Nashville," by preventing a collection of mud and puddles during events like the Tennessee Craft Fair, and allowing it to quickly rebound from a rain or crowded event.

The firm will install a drainage system underground as well as irrigation, and grade the ground so there is a slight incline to drain rainwater.



A rendering of what Centennial Park could look like, including reshaping the edges of the lake and creating tree-lined pathways perpendicular to the Parthenon. (Photo: Courtesy of Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects)

The Women's Suffrage Monument will be placed on the walkway near the Parthenon, fairly low to the ground.

[\(https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2016/08/24/alan-lequires-women-suffrage-monument-unveiled-centennial-park/87150580/\)](https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2016/08/24/alan-lequires-women-suffrage-monument-unveiled-centennial-park/87150580/)

Concrete paths lined by large, native trees will be created for trucks to carry event gear. The paths will also feature limestone benches.

"Tennessee was the deciding vote in women's suffrage to get the right to vote, but the work is not done," Woltz said. "We make it more relevant by positioning (the monument) in the middle of this walk."

### Lake Watauga

Woltz plans to reshape the edges of the lake and add native plants to surround and dip into the water to "improve the biodiversity (and) the cleanliness of the water."

In some areas, the lake will lose its bordering wall, where guests can walk to the edge of the lake.



The Parthenon at Centennial Park will have new lighting every evening after the completion of the second phase of the park's renovation. (Photo: Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects)

### Parthenon

Lighting designer [Linnaea Tillett](http://www.tilletlighting.com/) (<http://www.tilletlighting.com/>) has been hired to light the Parthenon at night. As the sun goes down, the Parthenon will "wake up slowly," with the progression lasting about one hour. Lights can change during holidays and events as well. "It's very subtle," Woltz said.

### Band shell

Originally slated to be demolished, the firm is going to restore the band shell, install a concrete drive so vehicles have better access for stage setup, and provide more native plants.

The Nashville Shakespeare Festival will continue to operate at this site until a permanent Shakespeare Theater, included in the master plan, is built.

### Events pavilion

The events pavilion will be replaced with one of similar size but higher ceilings and ceiling fans to move air along during hot summers. It will be an open-air facility.

Phase two will also install a new gate and plantings at the West End Avenue entrance.

Reach Jen Todd at 615-313-2760 or on Twitter [@jentoddwrites](#).

Read or Share this story: <http://tnne.ws/2e7lxWV>