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Splash pad work to begin next week

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GREENFIELD — They may not need it now, but residents can expect a summer cool-down to be available by the end of this year.

Construction on a new splash pad at Hillside Park is set to begin next week with site preparations occurring today.

Construction of the \$250,000 project will be completed by the end of the year with a grand opening expected for late spring.

During construction, there will be limited access to the Grove Street parking lot. The playground and basketball court will remain open for use. The contract for the project was awarded to Mountain View Landscaping of Chicopee.

Funding for the splash pad is through a \$200,000 grant from the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and \$50,000 from town funds.

The 30-by-70-foot splash pad will be located next to the park's playground. Hillside Park borders Conway, Elm, West and Grove streets.

It will include overhead and ground sprays managed through a computer system that controls which valves open and close.

Recreation Director Christy Moore said the project will help make the park more family friendly and encourage more community use.

Neighbors of Hillside Park have complained to town police and the Public Safety Commission about illegal

activities, including drug deals and destruction of park benches and tables, that are happening inside the park. Neighbors have also called on town government to make the park more family-friendly through more community use and policing.

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