

Your favorite Valentine memory

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Chinese Garden may open Friday

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The Garden of Surging Waves may open Friday

By CHELSEA GORROW The Daily Astorian

The Garden of Surging Waves will likely be open Friday to the public, albeit in a nonceremonial way.

The temporary chain link fence is expected to come down at the end of the week, City Manager Paul Benoit confirmed. But Robinson Construction will make the final call. The opening comes after cracked paving tiles were replaced, delaying its informal debut.

"Robinson Construction felt that the pavers needed to be tighter, they didn't like the spacing," Benoit said. "And some were cracked because the base wasn't compacted enough."

He estimates 50 to 60 pavers were replaced by a subcontractor working with Robinson Construction on the tiling project.

"Robinson Construction held the paving contractor to a higher standard," he said. "But it's pretty much done."

The Garden of Surging Waves, on the corner of 10th and Duane streets across from City Hall, is the Bicentennial Legacy Project that began in 2010.

Designed by Suenn Ho, formerly of Mulvanney G2 architecture, the garden serves as a memorial for the Chinese Astorians and their contributions to the community, including their work in the canneries, the railroad and on the jetties.

The garden was initially planned for the Ninth and Astor Street location but was moved after the 2010 collapse of the former Safeway store in the Duane Street block.

Since then, the concept has grown to become Heritage Square, which includes the garden and an amphitheater as well as a space for the Astoria Sunday Market. It has been planned around the existing American Legion building. The garden's completion marks the end of Phase 1.

The Garden of Surging Waves broke ground in a celebration in April 2012. It saw several setbacks, including financially, that spurred a discussion of implementing three steps to bring the garden to completion.

Supporters held a fundraiser to raise the remaining \$400,000 of the garden's \$1.39 million total price tag.

The garden will likely host a grand opening in the spring.