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Oval renovation to be finished soon

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OVAL RENOVATION
TO BE FINISHED SOON

MISSOULA---

Elevated walks crisscrossing the Oval at the University of Montana will be completed Nov. 15 as part of UM's plan to overhaul the green ellipse, according to George L. Mitchell, administrative vice-president at UM.

Mitchell said the renovation is one phase of a series of projects which will lead to the replacement of the deteriorating sidewalk encircling the Oval with a new sidewalk.

The current phase, Mitchell said, entails the construction of raised walkways which will form a huge cross on the Oval. The walks will replace the asphalt laid last year, running north-south and east-west.

Mitchell said he and J.A. Parker, director of the UM physical plant, had "hoped the project would be finished before fall quarter began to avoid upsetting the traffic patterns of faculty, staff and students."

"We experienced certain delays in the processing of the project," Mitchell noted, "during the bid phase as well as in the awarding of contractors by the board of examiners."

Parker said they regret any inconvenience the students may experience during construction.

The project is being finished in stages as funds become available, Mitchell said. Three-quarters of the cost, he said, will probably come from building fees. The construction of the walk is one of the limited uses to which these fees can be put, he explained.

Parker said some sod was razed beside the walks to allow the contractors to park their trucks without disturbing the turf. The sod is being stored and will be replaced at an elevated level to coincide with the raised walkways.

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