

Parnell Area FTTH Project Update 2022.12.19

WCTA hopes you are all doing well and are enjoying the Holiday Season.

We would like to thank you all for the support you have shown us during this period. Due to a change in the contractors schedule we needed to complete the drop sign-up process quickly. With your help, this process went very smooth considering the quick turnaround time needed. We have installed drops to 234 out of 251 locations (93%) in the project area and we are thankful for that. Now that we are slowing down a bit after a busy fall, we wanted to provide some updates on our FTTH project we are working on in your area.

What's Complete?

The contractor that was installing the main line fiber completed their work on November 4th and moved out of the area. The drop crews working on our project were also able to complete all 234 drops that were signed up for by December 5th. If you or anyone that you know didn't sign-up or signed up but feel we didn't get a drop installed, please call our office so we are aware of this and can look at completing this in the spring.

The fiber splicers working on this project have left the area for the winter. They informed us they secured the fiber in the enclosures at all locations. They were also able to complete most of the main line fiber splicing but have a few spots they will be back to finish in the spring.

We have set a hut in Parnell where we will install the electronics needed to provide you service. Power to this hut was connected on December 6th.

What's Next?

The hut is set and ready, but we are still waiting on the material and equipment needed to install inside the hut. Like many other industries we are up against supply chain shortages and delays. Even though we ordered much of this equipment back in July, some of this equipment is still not scheduled to get here until the beginning of February 2023. To allow time to install, test and turn-up this equipment we are currently not expecting to be able to start serving our customers until late spring/early summer of 2023. This is still subject to change one-way or another depending if our material arrives on-time.

FAQ's

- When will we be able to have your fiber Internet services?
 - To allow time to install, test and turn-up this equipment we are currently not expecting to be able to start serving our customers until late spring/early summer of 2023. This is still subject to change one-way or another depending on if our material arrives on-time.
- If I signed up for a drop, am I signed up to get service with WCTA?
 - The process of signing up for a drop that was completed this past fall was only to get a drop installed. It was not a commitment to get service from WCTA. Once we have all the equipment installed and tested out, we will be opening another sign-up process to sign you up for services and schedule an install date and time. When this time comes, we will provide a new letter with the details on how to sign-up for services and how the process will work.
- What to do if you are not satisfied with the clean-up work on or around your property?
 - Central Cable and WCTA want to make sure you are happy with the clean-up work done to the ground that was disturbed on your property. As we all know when you do any digging there will most likely be some settling that occurs, if there is some minor clean-up that you can help take care of for us, we would appreciate it. However, if there are major issues with the clean-up and backfill, please let us know in early spring by contacting our office. Central Cable will have a crew back in the area this spring when things dry out to do a final round of clean-up work.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to give our office a call at 319-646-6075 and we can address them. We look forward to providing you faster and more reliable Internet in 2023!

Happy Holidays,

WCTA Staff

Parnell Area FTTH Project Update 2022.08.29

Sign up NOW! Fiber Construction Starting in your area!

BIG NEWS! Our contractor Central Cable has reached out to us regarding a major change to their schedule and they would like to start installing mainline fiber, drops, and complete splicing to homes and business starting in mid-September!

Because of this short notice, we need your help! You will be receiving a flier in the mail the week of August 29th asking for you to sign-up for a drop. If you are receiving this flier, then you are in our build out area. Whether you plan to take services with us right away or think you may want services from us in the future, now is the only time you will be able to sign up to have us to bring a fiber drop to your home or business at no cost to you.

Important details about the fiber drop sign-up:

- While we are in the construction phase of our project NOW is the only time you will be able to sign up to have us to bring a fiber drop to your home or business at no cost to you.
- If you do not sign up now while our contractors are working in the area and request a drop in the future, there will be a charge for us to bring a fiber drop to your home at a later date.
- Signing up to install a drop does not lock you into any commitment to take our service but it will make it cheaper for you and easier for us to quickly provide services to your home in the future.

Take advantage of this opportunity now and go to www.wellmantelephone.com/parnell to sign up to have a fiber drop installed to your home or business today. If you have questions, please contact us at 319.646.6075.

Beginning September 6th, WCTA will have consultants from Vantage Point coming around door to door to have you sign a permission slip and to discuss where you would like the drop to be placed on the side of your house or business. At the same time, they will also discuss any obstructions you may have in your yard like septic systems, private power lines, private gas lines, underground dog fences, drainage tiles, etc to ensure nothing gets damaged while installing your drop.

We encourage and ask that when you receive communications from our consultants or staff to meet with you that you, please help us by responding back in a timely matter. We are extremely happy to have our contractors coming in ahead of schedule, but we need everyone's cooperation to get through this sign-up process quickly to keep the project moving along efficiently.

This change to the fiber construction schedule will help us to be able to provide you services sooner, however we are also working to get a new building set in Parnell and will be waiting for all the materials to come in that are needed to go inside of this building. We are still projecting it will be springtime of 2023 before we will be able to start installing services in your area. Hang in there, we are working to be able to provide you the service you deserve as soon as we can!

Please visit this link wellmantelephone.com/parnell/, like and follow us on [Facebook](#), or call [319.646.6075](tel:319.646.6075) for additional and future updates about this project.

Looking forward to serving you soon,

WCTA Staff

WCTA is proud to be partnering with:



Parnell Area FTTH Project Update 2022.06.22

WCTA hopes your summer is off to a great start. We are a little late in providing an update as we have been working on several things, but the details on many items are just not firm enough to share quite yet.

We have been working hard on the sign-up process and was planning to start on this in July or August, in preparation for possible drop installs yet this fall. We got word from our contractor last week, that due to the cold and wet spring they are running behind were they hoped to be by this point in the year. They have not said they wouldn't get any cable in but did indicate it was becoming unlikely they would begin putting any service drops in from the road up to your homes yet this year. For this reason, we are putting a hold on the sign-up process for now, we've been told that if this is completed to far in advance the information changes too much and will create efficiency issues when crews come to complete the work. We're also trying to limit the number of times we are reaching out to get information from our customers.

Things are still moving forward as planned as far as acquiring a small piece of ground from the City of Parnell. We are hoping to have this transaction completed around the first of August. We are planning to install a small hut on the property to put our electronic equipment in and would like to get cement poured and hut set this fall so we can install equipment over the winter months.

We have also received approval for the loan needed to fund the portion of the project not included in the grant we received for portions of this project.

I know in our first update we committed to providing an update each month, but we are finding out a lot of new details will not be available until the contractor can give us a firm date on when they will be able to start on our project. For this reason, future updates may be a little more spread out until we have some confirmed information that we can share.

The WCTA staff hopes you are having a great summer and have a safe 4th of July!

Please visit this link <https://wellmantelephone.com/parnell/>, like and follow us on **Facebook**, or call **319.646.6075** for additional and future updates about this project.

Parnell Area FTTH Project Update 2022.05.02

Since our last update we have been working to secure financing for this project. This seems to be going as expected and we are hopeful to have this in place in the next week or two. Once we have this established, we will begin ordering as many of the supplies as possible. As we mentioned in our first update, we are seeing supply chain issues in our industry also, for this reason we will be ordering as much as possible, as soon as possible to ensure we have what we need when we get to that part of the project.

We have received a verbal commitment from the contractor that we have been working with that they are committed to completing our project. We were informed that "If we are unable to get the fiber installed for this project this year that we would be first on the list in 2023". This contractor also confirmed they have the material needed for this project on hand. Which from our standpoint is a good thing as we would have a difficult time getting this material as quickly as it may be needed.

Our goal for the month of May is to put together details about the sign-up process and to get this process going for the month of June and July in preparation for a contractor to possibly be in the area by late summer.

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Parnell Area FTTH Project Update 2022.03.22

GREAT NEWS!!! Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association (WCTA) is excited to announce we are expanding our Fiber to the Home (FTTH) network to approximately 233 homes in the City of Parnell and surrounding area. In 2021, WCTA sent out surveys to potential customers in Parnell and the surrounding area and received strong interest to bring fiber-optic broadband services to your area.

Since then, WCTA has been working hard with engineers and consultants to get cost estimates and to find ways to help fund this project. The overall cost of our entire project is estimated to be 1.9 million dollars of this amount, approximately 1.2 million will be spent building out areas that qualified for a recent grant opportunity. WCTA is excited to announce we have recently been awarded a grant for \$726,870.00. This will cover 60% of the approximately 1.2 million dollars we will be spending to build out 62 locations that are in grant eligible service areas. The grant WCTA was awarded was supported by federal funds made available through the American Rescue Plan Act and the State of Iowa, acting by and through the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). Points of

view expressed herein are those of the author or speaker and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the United States Government or State of Iowa or endorsement of the project.

To make this project possible WCTA needs to have a place to set a new cabinet for our electronic equipment and a fiber distribution cabinet. We have been working with the City of Parnell and have a verbal agreement to purchase a small piece of property from the city on the east side of Parnell where we plan to place our equipment.

In mid-January we had a meeting with our plant engineers to discuss the products we want to use for this project, and how we want to design this area. After this meeting the engineers stayed in the area for a week or so to complete on-site staking. They have been working on staking out our project and hope to have this complete by the end of April. Once the staking is completed and a final review of the project has been completed and approved, our project will be sent out to contractors for bid.

When WCTA first talked with potential customers in the Parnell area, we mentioned we hoped we would see some fiber getting install before the end of 2022. We still have that same hope, but unfortunately there is no way for us to guarantee this will happen. WCTA has been in contact with a few contractors working on other projects in our area, to make sure they are aware of our project and to see if any would be able to work our project in, along with some others they are doing in 2022. One of those contractors has reached back out to us and is looking hard at this but we will not get a firm answer until we are able to get bids back from contractors.

Like many other industries, ours is no different. With all the broadband funding currently available along with material shortages, it's making contractors and the supplies we need to complete this project hard to come by. Many things we need to complete this project have a 6-to-12-month lead-time to get. We are already working through getting the cabinets and electronics ordered for this project as we have been informed it would be at least 32 weeks before we would receive them. With this being said, I will ensure you WCTA and our consultants will be doing everything we can to bring fiber-optic broadband service to the Parnell Area as soon as possible.

We are working to put together details on the sign-up process and hope to be able to provide detailed information about this soon.

Please visit this link <https://wellmantelephone.com/parnell/>, like and follow us on **Facebook**, or call **319.646.6075** for additional and future updates about this project. We will provide information as it becomes available and will post updates at the beginning of each month starting in May, so please check back with us again soon!!!

We look forward to serving and providing you fast and reliable internet service soon.