

# GIN CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**Assistant City Manager Micah Grau**

If you have driven by the Co-op lately on Hwy 79, you might be wondering, “what is happening with the Gin structure?” Here’s a little update for you. Construction on the Gin continues to move forward and is expected to be substantially complete by the end of July. One of the challenges facing the project is the structural steel. With all of the growth occurring throughout the region, steel is tougher to come by. As a result, steel needed for the project was not available until mid-June even though the order was placed several months prior. Once the steel is delivered, construction will progress rapidly.

Here are some other common comments and questions we get regularly related to the Gin:

**I heard the Gin won’t have bathrooms, is that true?** Our plan all along has been to refurbish this structure much like an open-air pavilion. The only difference is that it will be securable as doors can be closed to increase its security. No bathrooms were ever planned as part of this project scope. However, bathrooms will be available as temporary restrooms will be brought in for events and rentals. As the Co-op site is developed in the future, we plan to include permanent restroom facilities that will serve the Gin as well as the planned green space. That way public restrooms will be available for our downtown events.

**I heard the Gin won’t be air conditioned, is that true?** This is true. The structure has never had air conditioning or heat and it will not be conditioned as part of the rehab project. Conditioning and weatherizing the space would have doubled or tripled the cost for the project. We envision this space as an open-air pavilion where the public can move freely from the planned green space and into the structure. It was never envisioned to be a conditioned auditorium space. In the future, we do plan to add large fans. The south wall of the Gin will be constructed of a perforated material that will allow air flow into the structure.

We are eagerly awaiting the completion of the project. We believe it will pay homage to Hutto’s agriculturally rich history and provide a covered public gathering space for some of our outdoor events like Co-op Market Nights. We will also be launching new programs like the Sunset Music Series this fall that will take place at the Co-op. We look forward to seeing you at the Gin!

