

Community Open House
July 20, 2023

JOLIET CITY
SQUARE



Welcome

Thank you for attending the second Community Open House for the City Square Design. The City of Joliet recently began the detailed design of City Square and is excited to share initial concepts with the community and receive your feedback.

At this open house, we welcome you to:

- View project boards presenting a project overview, preferred concept design, and key landscape and design elements.
- Discuss the project, ask questions, and provide your input to project team members stationed at the boards and throughout the room
- Provide your input through:
 - Discussions with the project team
 - Filling out a comment form
 - Placing red / green dots on features you do or do not like on the boards
 - Placing post-it notes on boards
 - Marking up a handout with the two initial design concepts
 - Emailing any comments to the project team at (email)

All open house materials are now posted on the project website. The public comment period for comments related to this open house will be open through August 11, 2023.

Project Website: Joliet.gov/CitySquare



Design Concepts

City Square will bring a vibrant gathering place to Downtown Joliet. The Square will provide a “green oasis” in the city center, serve as an urban quad for students from nearby institutions and a place of respite for local employees and residents. It will also transform into an entertainment venue for local and regional events.

The final design will include:

- **Open lawn:** Open lawn space provides a “village green” feeling and invites users to linger and spend more time in the space. Open lawn spaces are attractive for families – allowing informal space for play.
- **Planters with water features:** Water features provide a sense of cooling, movement and white noise that makes urban spaces feel more inviting and attractive.
- **Trees in planters:** Trees provide environmental benefits and can help address urban stormwater and flooding issues while providing shade and comfort to users. Building raised seatwalls and planter curbs around trees will help protect them from damage, while providing seating opportunities under their canopies.
- **Small, permanent stage:** A permanent stage serves as a focal point for the plaza, and can become an iconic feature that provides a sense of identity. It be used for smaller day-to-day performances.
- **Space for larger, temporary stage:** A larger temporary stage is useful for special events that require heavier sound equipment, temporary lighting, more stage space and higher platform heights that would be more difficult to accommodate in a permanent design.
- **Custom seating:** Comfortable seating can help activate urban plazas and encourage people to spend more time in the space. Students and professionals can use seating areas to work or study, and families can use seating while socializing.
- **Shade structures with bench seating below:** Shade structures provide an opportunity to frame the plaza and create a unique sense of place through custom architectural components that provide community identity.
- **Art components:** Art enhances a community’s identity and diversifies its cultural attractions. The inclusion of art can be a powerful way to connect the community to a space, and create a focal point for the plaza that will draw people in.
- **Space for temporary ice skating rink, holiday markets and a Christmas tree:** Seasonal activities activate the plaza and extend the usability of the space into the winter months.
- **Community identifiers:** The architectural style of an urban plaza can relate to the overall character of a community. Architectural elements that identify the space and convey a unique sense of place can help define the overall community character.
- **Paver flex streets:** A flexible street is a curbless design that can accommodate many different uses, including special events and expanding business needs. Using pavers as a basis of the design creates a street that feels like an extension of the plaza, where pedestrian use is prioritized and vehicle speeds are reduced.
- **Flexible space for year-round activities, such as street festivals, food trucks, etc.:** Paver plaza and lawn space can be utilized for programmed events, which help to activate the space and make the downtown community a destination.

Design Concept: Looking Northeast



Design concept maximizes the space for events through additional open lawn and pavement, while providing shade and seating for everyday use. This concept provides greater flexibility for markets, small events, and daily open lawn play and seating.

Architectural Elements

The architectural elements combine traditional Joliet materials such as limestone and steel with a classic design. **The small, permanent stage** features a durable metal roof with wood accents. **The shade structure** provides shade from wooden beams. **The community identifier** utilizes metal in an art deco pattern to celebrate Joliet's past.

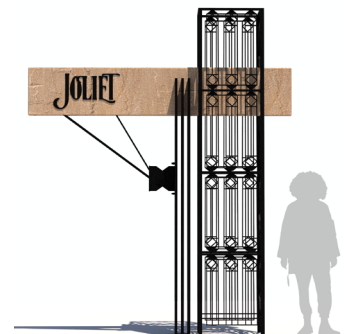
Small, Permanent Stage



Shade Structure



Community Identifier



Project Goals

- “Activate” this public space in the heart of Joliet
- Establish City Square as a hub for year-round events and a safe gathering space during all other times for local residents, employees, and students
- Support and promote downtown businesses and institutions
- Recognize and incorporate the historic significance of Downtown Joliet and make City Square a “must stop” for Route 66 travelers
- Showcase innovative design in landscaping, lighting, pavements, crosswalks, street furniture, public art, and signage
- Coordinate with and build upon the Chicago Street Reconstruction Project for a consistent design and safe place for all types of transportation
- Refine and advance the high level conceptual designs from the Chicago Street Corridor Plan (2018)

Design Timeline



We Want to Hear From You!

Provide any comments after the open house to the project team at (email)

View all open house materials and sign up for project updates on the **project website: Joliet.gov/CitySquare**

