

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Is there a need for another park and a public gathering space?**

The 2015 Downtown Master Plan conducted by hired consultants through the vision and guidance of public input has indicated that there is a need for a large central public gathering space that would include outdoor dining areas, provide space for local events, entertainment, and the local arts.

## **What impact will this plan have on parking in the area?**

Recent surveys conducted of the area found that there are a total of 172 existing parking stalls in the vicinity. At most there were 102 vehicles parked in the study area. The proposed plan would reduce the number of stalls to 160. The proposed number of stalls is still larger than the highest observed parking counts. It is our hope that parking demands in the area will increase primarily in the evenings and on weekends when business parking is reduced.

## **What will happen to the drop-off mailboxes?**

The mailboxes will still be accessible and will be relocated within the area. The current plan shows the mailboxes located with direct access off the alley behind the Blodgett Haus. This location is subject to change based upon comments and feedback.

## **Who will maintain and manage the community square (schedule activities)?**

These details are still to be determined. Some possible considerations include the Department of Parks and Recreation, Main Street Marshfield, and Marshfield Convention and Visitor Bureau.

## **What is a splash pad and would there be a charge to play in the splash pad?**

A splash pad is a recreational area that typically will spray water upward from the ground, similar to a large fountain, with no standing water. This feature is aesthetically pleasing and as seen used in other communities will allow children to cool off in the hot summer days. We do not anticipate that there would be a fee to play in the splash pad.

## **Can I rent the entire community square for an event and would parking be included?**

The board currently anticipates the park would be available to rent for special events. A policy and cost will need to be developed prior to accepting any rentals. It has not yet been determined if parking will also be included with the rental of the park.

## **Will restrooms be available?**

Yes. At this time restrooms are proposed to be on either side of the pavilion.

## **What will happen to the band shell at Columbia Park?**

The band shell at the Columbia Park will remain. The City Parks and Recreation Department will continue to operate and maintain Columbia Park as it has.

## **Why not spend the money on enhancing Columbia Park?**

As identified in the 2015 Downtown Master Plan, the Columbia Park does not have the location or connectivity to the Downtown core. The proposed 200 Block site is located in the center of the core retail and dining areas in the downtown and is located directly across the street from the Post Office and the Chestnut Center for the Arts. This park location is also part of a long-term City vision of making our downtown a strong gathering (retail, dining, events, etc.) location and ultimately the redevelopment of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.