

Downtown Street Beautification - Project Area City of Springfield



INTRODUCTION

DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD BEAUTIFICATION

This document, Downtown Springfield Beautification, presents concepts for This report is divided into sections representing specific downtown areas improving the public areas of Downtown Springfield. The recommended improvements range from repairing sidewalks and replacing street trees, to creating vibrant commercial districts and providing dynamic wayfinding solutions for pedestrians and motorists.

Beautification plans were developed following a deliberate process of evaluating the current conditions within the downtown area and devising practical solutions to identified needs. Springfield City staff was both a sounding board for the feasibility of potential improvements and a problem-solving team when impediments seemed to belie solutions. Downtown property and business owners came together to discuss their needs and vision for the downtown. Working with DSI (Downtown Springfield Inc.) and project-specific committees, new ideas surfaced. On the subjects of parklets to provide expanded outdoor commercial areas and decorative lighting, DSI committees were particularly involved. The general public as well had an opportunity to review and comment on plans at a public meeting held on February 20, 2020.

This document is the compilation of the projects undertaken over a twoyear time span from October 2019 to October 2021. Although the Covid-19 pandemic interrupted the anticipated progression of planning, the hiatus allowed more time to contemplate opportunities and develop ideas.

or improvements. Sections are comprised of the design report submittals provided for each subject. Although the types of submittals vary, we believe it is best to provide the complete submittal for each subject area. The chapters cover the following topics.

Right-of-way Elements in Downtown Springfield, bounded by Jefferson St. variety of ways in which businesses can develop outdoor areas. on the north, 9th St. on the east, Jackson St. on the south, and 2nd St. on the west. This plan shows existing elements and their locations including street Decorative Lighting. This is another subject of particular interest to DSI. and pedestrian lights, trees, planting beds, planters, and other outdoor furnishings. Bicycle routes, traffic signs and signals, power poles, and other utility equipment are also shown.

Downtown Enhancement. This plan provides detailed recommendations for improvement in the public rights-of-way. The plans integrate the downtown with surrounding areas; the State of Illinois Campus grounds to the west, Enos Park Neighborhood to the north, the Near Eastside Neighborhood to the east, and Old Aristocracy Hill to the south.

The Downtown Core Area, bounded by Jefferson on the north, 6th St. on the east, Capitol Ave. on the south, and 5th St. on the west. This is a close look at the core of the downtown commercial area. Existing conditions are analyzed and recommendations for improvement, replacement, and new initiatives are outlined.

Parklets. Some restaurants have long used sidewalks or other outdoor venues for outside dining. Interest in adding useable outdoor space grew considerably during 2020 and 2021 as Covid-19 restrictions effected businesses. The DSI Parklet Committee explored ways to provide useable outdoor areas by using on-street parking spaces, and the City determined what was needed for health and safety. The resulting Parklet Plans show a

The DSI Lighting Committee explored ways to use outdoor lighting to heighten the ambiance and attract people to the area for evening activities. This chapter discusses how special lighting can be used to create a more exciting and vital downtown.

Wayfinding. Springfield has a plethora of sites visited regularly by both local residents and out-of-town visitors. Those sites include government buildings (state, county, and city), historic sites (federal, state, and local), and hospitals and other medical facilities. Tourists and local visitors, both driving and on-foot, often have difficulty finding these places. A unified system of wayfinding signs is shown on these plans.

Tree Replacement and Planters. For several years street trees in the downtown area have been removed due to disease and damage. Additionally, many planters throughout the area are damaged or deteriorated. This chapter is essentially the Construction Plans for the replacement of nearly 160 street trees and for providing both new planters and repositioning intact existing planters to new locations.

Enhancement Concepts







Replace damaged bollards/light poles



Replace trash/recycling receptacles



Wrap utility cabinets





View looking south from 5th and Jefferson streets



Banner example



Banner example



Wayfinding example - Decatur, IL



Install Permanent Banners on Light Poles — and Add Wayfinding Signs * at Select Locations

• Colorful, simple, and easy to read

• Install permanent banners at street intersections - Install wayfinding signs at select locations

• Temporary banners for special events to be located on mid-block poles





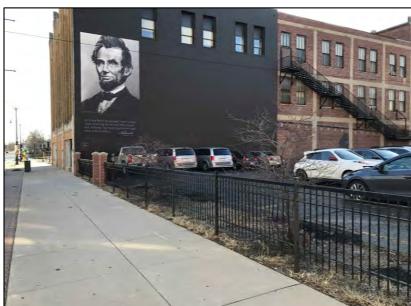


Example image - Decatur, IL



Replace and Reposition Planters • =

- \bullet Cluster planters and install colorful plants for a bold visual impact
- Group planters for easier maintenance



Existing downtown parking lot and fence



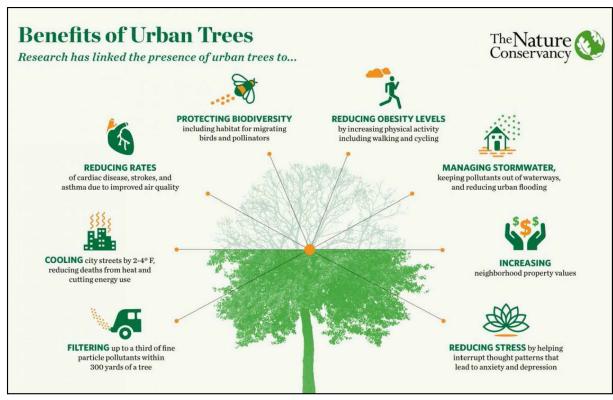
Example image of parking lot, fence, and plant material - Decatur, IL







Enhancement Concepts





Missing tree and existing grate



Previous tree location with concrete patch



- Replace street trees at select locations
- Plant trees at a few new critical locations where possible



View looking north at 6th and Adams Street Intersection



Example image at 4th and Jackson streets

Continue Plant Bed Development at Street Intersections 🛭

- Fill-in existing plant beds with additional plants
- Create new plant beds where possible



Capitol Avenue Example



Plant Bed with Perimeter Curb to Protect Plants and Provide Adequate Soil Depth

Photocell Replacement Device Utilizing Smart Controls

Create Raised Plant Beds or Install Trough Planters at Mid-Blocks —

- Provide separation between pedestrians and vehicles for improved safety
- Provide adequate soil cover above existing underground utilities
- Blend with curb-like elements along Capitol Avenue





Advanced light controller compatible with 360M+ streetlights worldwide, with tilt and vibration sensing.



Dynamic dirmming, programmable schedules, and ANSI 12:20 utility metering delivered at 99.9% accuracy.

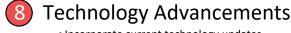


Connection to 3rd party smart city sensors, WiFi & Bluetooth connectivity and beacons. Optional integrated public WiFi module.









- Incorporate current technology updates
- Consider future opportunities

Product Information



REPLACE TRASH RECEPTACLES

- 36-gallon side door opening receptacle
- Model SD-42 Match existing receptacles in Union Square Park
- Manufactured by Victor Stanley



COLORS



REPLACE/REPAIR DAMAGE BOLLARDS

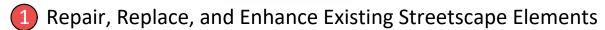
- 40" x 18½" Base diameter Model SCI-B-BOL-OB-BK
- Match existing bollards in downtown
- Manufactured by Sentry Electric



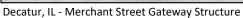
Electrical cabinet wrap - Decatur, IL

WRAP EXISTING ELECTRICAL CABINETS

- Vinyl applied wrap Fabricated by Ace Sign Company









Jacksonville, IL Replica Archway







***** Wayfinding Examples

Install Gateway Features or Permanent Banners on Light Poles and Add Wayfinding Signs

- Colorful, simple, and easy to read
- Install permanent banners at street intersections Install wayfinding signs at select locations
- Temporary banners for special events to be located on mid-block poles



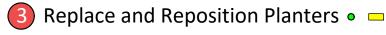
ROUND PLANTERS

- 48" dia. x 24" high precast conc.
- Smooth, acid wash finish, Night color
- Water reservoir system Style selected to highlight plants and
- for cost effective solution Manufactured by Wausau Tile, Model TF 4308



TROUGH STYLE PLANTERS

- 72"x30"x30" precast conc.
- Smooth, acid wash finish, Night color
- Water reservoir system Style selected to blend with parklet
- Manufactured by Wausau Tile, Model TF4175







RECOMMENDED PLANTS FOR SCREENING

Ornamental Grass

- Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster' Karl Foerster Feather Reed Grass
- Sorghastrum nutans 'Indian Steel' Indian Steel Indian Grass Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah' Shenandoah Switch Grass

- Taxus x median 'Hicksii' Hicks Hybrid Yew
- Buxus 'Green Mountain' Green Mountain Boxwood







RECOMMENDED TREES FOR DOWNTOWN

Medium to Large Trees

- Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold' Autumn Gold Maidenhair Tree
- Gleditsia triacanthos f. inermis Thornless Honey-locust
- Juniperus virginiana Eastern Red Cedar Nyssa sylvatica - Black Tupelo
- Taxodium distichum Bald Cypress
- Tilia cordata Little-leaf Linden
- Ulmus 'Accolade' Accolade Elm Ulmus parvifolia 'Allee' Allee Elm

Small to Medium Trees

- Cercis canadensis Eastern Redbud
- Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk" Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac









RECOMMENDED SPECIES FOR IN-GROUND PLANT BEDS

- Juniperus sabina 'Buffalo Buffalo Juniper
- Spiraea japonica (low growing cultivars) Japanese Spirea

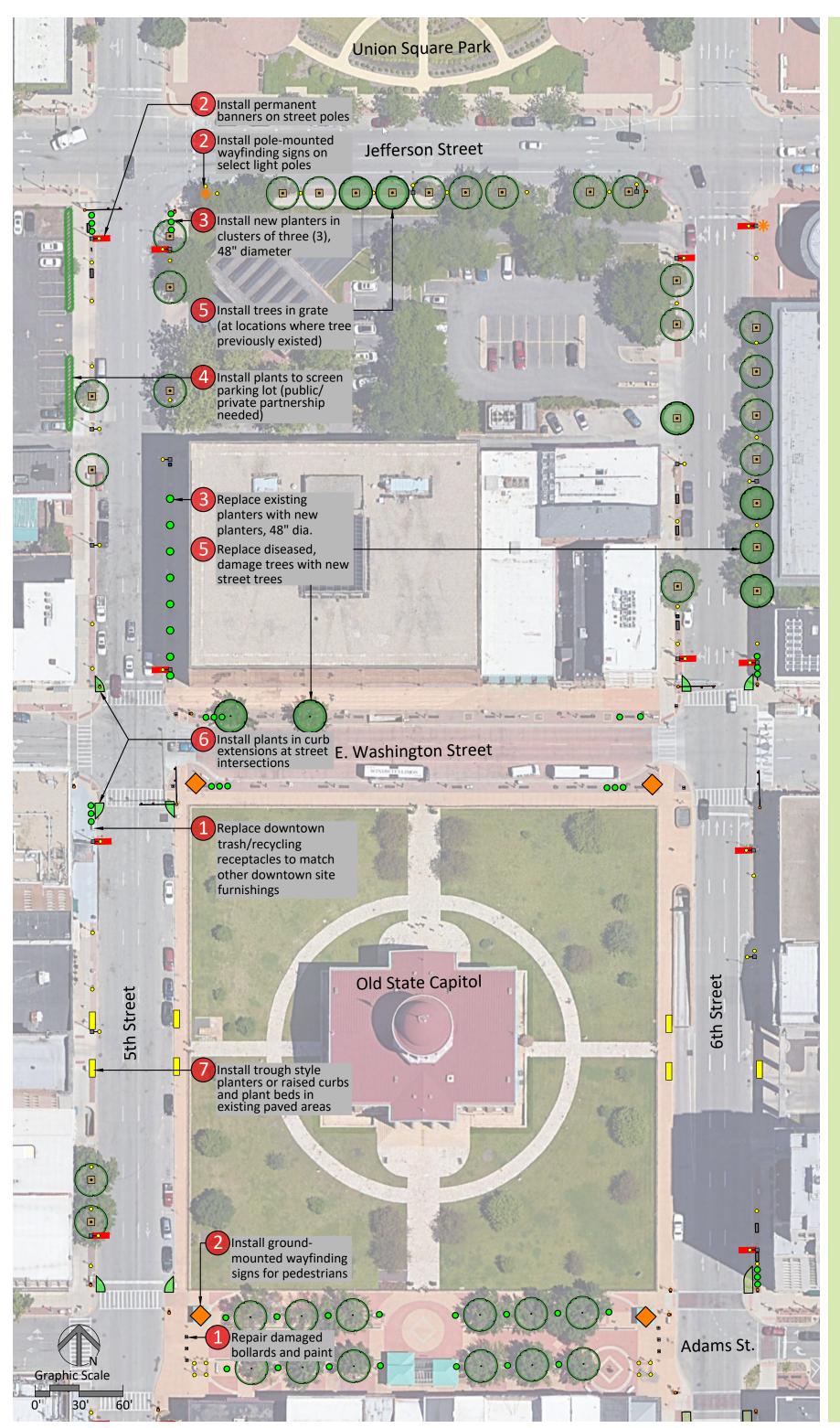
Ornamental Grass

- Carex pensylvanica Pennsylvania Sedge Schizachyrium scoparium 'The Blues' The Blues' Little Bluestem
- Liatris spicata 'Kobold' Kobold Spike Gayfeather Nepeta x faassenii 'Walker's Low' Walker's Low Catmint

- Plant Beds at Street Intersections △ and Mid-blocks —









TREES AND PLANTERS

REPLACE MISSING AND DAMAGED STREET TREES REPLACEMENT AND ADDITIONAL PLANTERS

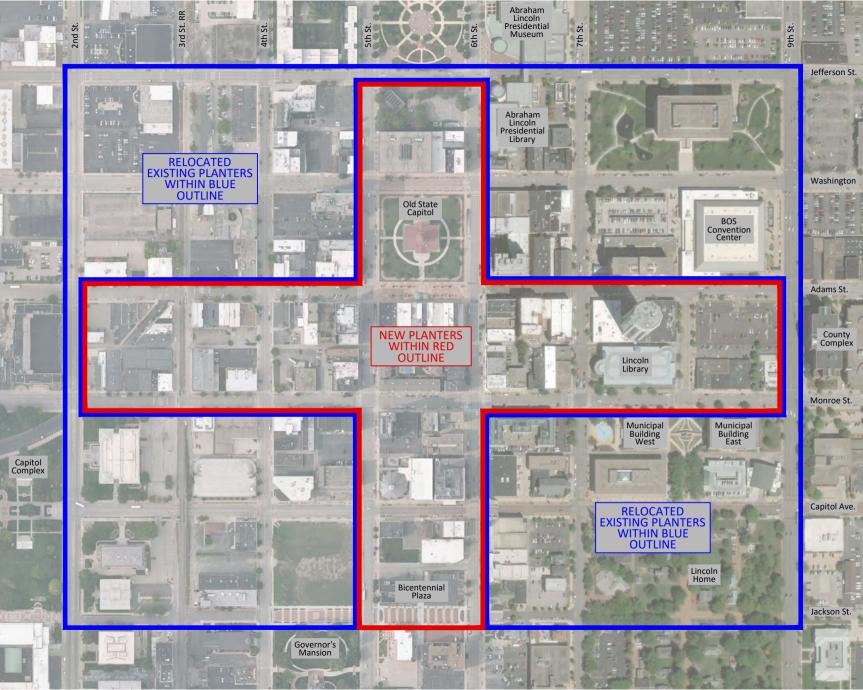
This section is the result of analyzing two of the primary streetscape elements in the downtown - street trees and planters. These elements provide a level of nature and beauty within the urban framework. Trees provide shade and buffering of winds, they absorb carbon dioxide and exude oxygen, and they mitigate urban pollution. Planters too offer environmental stability and aesthetic value.

A thorough inventory of existing trees found that 84 trees were missing, 58 trees were dead or severely damaged requiring removal, and other trees needed pruning. Over several years, many street trees were removed due to lethal infestations of Emerald Ash Borers. These insects are eradicating ash trees throughout the Mid-west as other insects and disease have done to species (e.g. American Elm and American Chestnut) in the past.

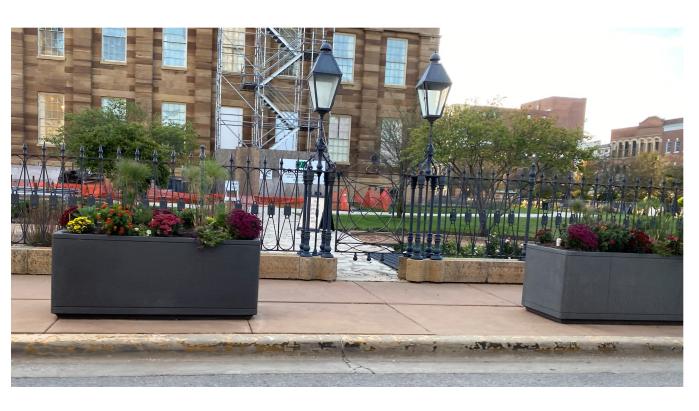
Plans for replacement of downtown trees, therefor, call for planting a variety of select species which will help to keep pests from quickly migrating from tree to tree and, should lethal infestations occur, will affect a small percentage of the trees. Thirty-two species have been selected as possible replacements. Many of them are native species and all are tolerant of urban environments and recommended as street trees.

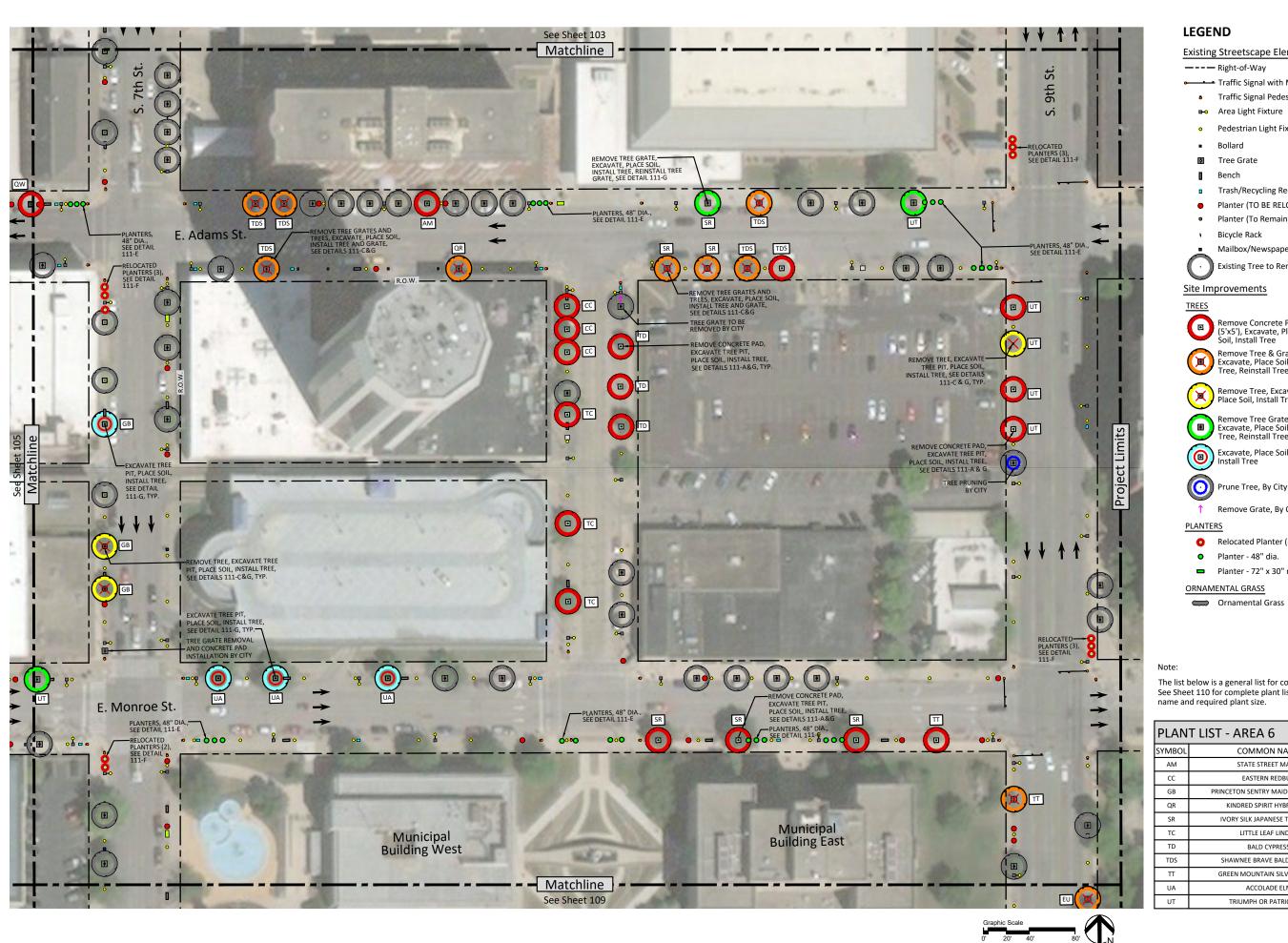
Planters of various styles are currently located throughout the downtown. Of the approximate 190 planters, some are badly damaged and should not be reused. Many of the concrete planters are cracked, likely due to freezing and thawing of soil within the planters. The plan is to reuse the existing planters to the extent possible and to add new planters. It is hoped that about 90 of the existing planters can be relocated to areas shown in the plans.

The plan calls for planters to be clustered in 2s or 3s near street corners. This will provide a substantial display of flowering plants. Clustering will also make watering faster and more convenient. Trough-style planters will be located in congested mid-block locations, providing additional visual interest and separation between sidewalks and streets for pedestrian safety. (Trough-style planters are also used as parklet "book-ends" furthering continuity within the downtown.)









LEGEND

Existing Streetscape Elements

——— Right-of-Way

- Traffic Signal with Mast Arm
- Traffic Signal Pedestal
 - Area Light Fixture
 - Pedestrian Light Fixture
- Tree Grate
- Trash/Recycling Receptacle
- Planter (TO BE RELOCATED)
- Planter (To Remain)
- Bicycle Rack
- Mailbox/Newspaper Stand

Existing Tree to Remain

Site Improvements

TREES	QTY.
Remove Concrete Patch (5'x5'), Excavate, Place Soil, Install Tree	18
Remove Tree & Grate, Excavate, Place Soil, Install Tree, Reinstall Tree Grate	9









Remove Grate, By City PLANTERS

PLANTE	PLANTERS	
0	Relocated Planter (existing)	11
•	Planter - 48" dia.	25
_	Planter - 72" v 20" rect	Ω

DALAN AFRITAL CRASS	
RNAMENTAL GRASS	QTY

The list below is a general list for convenience. See Sheet 110 for complete plant list including scientific name and required plant size.

SYMBOL	COMMON NAME	QTY.
AM	STATE STREET MAPLE	1
cc	EASTERN REDBUD	3
GB	PRINCETON SENTRY MAIDENHAIR TREE	3
QR	KINDRED SPIRIT HYBRID OAK	1
SR	IVORY SILK JAPANESE TREE LILAC	6
TC	LITTLE LEAF LINDEN	3
TD	BALD CYPRESS	3
TDS	SHAWNEE BRAVE BALD CYPRESS	6
TT	GREEN MOUNTAIN SILVER LINDEN	2
UA	ACCOLADE ELM	3
UT	TRIUMPH OR PATRIOT ELM	6

106

DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD STREET TREES AND PLANTERS

Site Improvement Plan - Area

ISSUED FOR BID

Massie Massie + Associates to sout springfield, IL (2703 (27) \$44-3210

MMA

f Springfield
of Public Wo
al Center West
th 7th Street

7 of 16 sheets

PARKLETS

ADAPTING PARKING SPACES FOR COMMERCIAL USE A DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD INC. INITIATIVE

Many downtown food and beverage businesses were interested in developing outdoor areas for customer service. Some had set tables on sidewalks outside their stores; however, the relatively narrow sidewalks allowed for only limited seating. Clearly the ongoing Covid-19 considerations had increased businesses' interest in providing outdoor dining and, interestingly, it seems that the necessity of outdoor dining is becoming a preference of many customers. That preference, at least during good weather, is expected to continue.

With their members' interest in mind, DSI formed a committee to explore the of possibility of parklets, the idea of creating useable outdoor areas from on-street parking space. Businesses were interested in having a safe and attractive areas for their customers, and they wanted to be able to individualize their parklets. A good deal of input from the City was needed to develop guidelines to allow for parklets. The City was concerned with the on-street safety of motorists and pedestrians, and with the integrity of the parklet structures. Another concern was the need to have some uniformity among the parklets that would complement the downtown's historic character.

The resulting Parklet Guidelines illustrate design options available to business owners. Parklets can be constructed with decking and side barriers of various types, or they can be modified shipping containers. Locations and dimensions of the parklets are set relative to distances from intersections and lengths of parking spaces. To unify parklets and blend with the downtown , concrete trough-style planters are used as safety buffers at the parklet ends.

The Parklet Guidelines were adopted by the City. Business owners now can apply for a permit to construct parklets. When construction is complete, owners are eligible for a grant to defray costs.



Central Business District Parklet Guidelines

LOCATION

- Shall be placed a minimum of one parking space in advance or prior to an intersection (22').
- If a bump out for parking is present then the parklet may be considered in the first parking space located adjacent to the bump out.
- Shall not located with 15' of a fire hydrant.
- Cannot replace an accessible parking space.
- Shall not be located in a loading zone unless businesses on the block agree.
- Shall not be located in a fire lane.
- Shall not be allowed in front of a fire hydrant, or over a manhole, public utility valve or cover or MUNI guy wires.
- Shall not be allowed on state maintained highways.
- Shall not be placed on roadways with a posted speed greater than 30 mph.
- Sidewalk defects or empty tree wells at the parklet location will need to be repaired with a permit to ensure safe ingress and egress to the parklet.
- Sidewalk shall be clear of any obstructions with a minimum of 60" in width adjacent to any parklet. If this width cannot be maintained the parklet shall not be approved at this location.

MATERIALS

- Parklet shall be made of all-weather material; preferred material shall be wood decking or composite decking.
- It shall be at the same height of the top of curb or provide an accessible ramp to access the parklet.
- There shall no more than a 1/2" gap between the parklet surface and the face of curb.
- The flow line of the curb shall not be obstructed with supports of the parklet structure.
- Must maintain curb line drainage.
- Decking shall be able to handle a live load of 150 lbs/sf.
- Railing shall be impact resistant.

DIMENSIONS

- Parklet dimensions 7'x 36' unless approval is provided by the City.
- Planters will be placed 3' from parking T on either side of the parklet.
- Parklet shall be a minimum of 12" from the live lane of traffic. Flexible delineators meeting IDOT Standard Detail 701901-03 shall be placed at 12" offsets from the parklet along the edge of traveled way.
- Parklet shall have a safety barrier at edge of the platform to protect people for walking out into live traffic. This barrier shall be a minimum of 42" from the top of the finished surface of the parklet and the spindles shall be a maximum of 4" on center.
- A minimum of 108" in height must remain clear of any obstructions along parklet's path of travel, entry and accessibility areas on the parklet. Obstructions may include but are not limited to tree branches and foliage, overhanging sign panels on posts, and/or applicant's addition of architectural elements to the parklet.
- All cross slopes of parklet shall be all ADA codes for Illinois.

COSTS

- 2 parking meters will be taken out of service. \$4.50 per day
- Permit Fee will depend on the amount of time the parklet is out on the street.
- Obstruction permit for the parklet shall be granted to the permittee when parklet is approved.

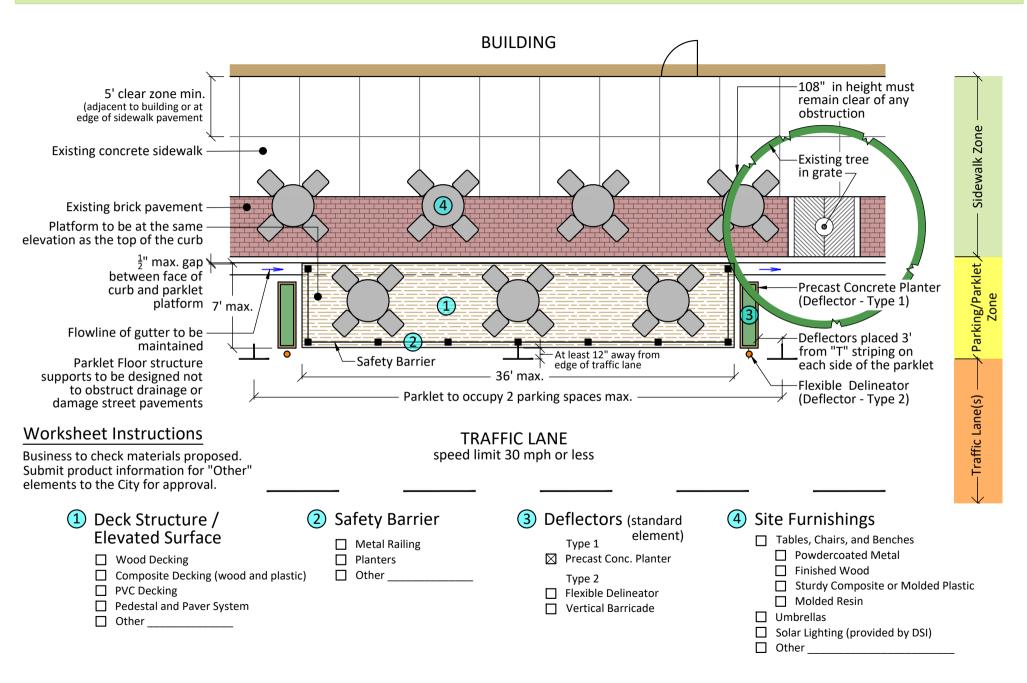
TIME OF YEAR

• Permitting shall be allowed all year.

NEIGHBORHOOD/PUBLIC SUPPORT

- The applicant shall submit a letter of support from the adjacent property owners.
- The applicant shall understand that the parklet is on public space and as such cannot be reserved for private use. Parklets shall be open to use by all.

Parklet Layout - Deck Structure



1

Parklet Structure Recommendations



Composite Decking



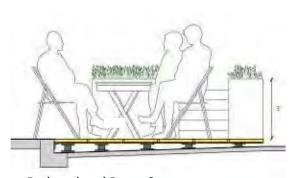
Wood Decking



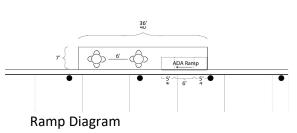
Outdoor Pavement Covering



Modified Shipping Container and Ramp



Pedestal and Paver System



Requirements

- 1. Structure shall be made of all-weather material.
- 2. Decking shall be able to handle a live load of 150 pounds per square foot.
- 3. All cross slopes of structure shall meet all Illinois Accessibility Codes. Cross slope of surfaces must not exceed 2% (less than $\frac{1}{4}$ " vertical change for every 12" horizontal length)
- 4. Maximum parklet dimensions to be 7'x36' unless approval is provided by the City. In all cases there must be a 3' offset from the parking space "T" pavement striping to the required deflectors.
- 5. Shipping Containers must:
 - a. Comply with International Building Code, Section 3115: Intermodal Shipping Containers
 - b. Side walls to be 48" high or less. Any structure above this height to receive approval from the Department of Public Works to ensure sight visibility is not blocked.
 - c. Be painted. No exposed rust or discoloration of the metal surface is allowed. Metric weights and other container information should not be visible.
 - d. Have smooth and finished edges. Modifications to the container must be framed to eliminate raw or sharp edges.

Note: Requirement listed are based on the City of Springfield Office of Public Works Central Business District Parklet Guidelines. See Guidelines for additional information.

Prohibited Materials

- 1. Wood pallets
- 2. Paint on any street or sidewalk surface
- Carpet



Safety Barrier Recommendations



Metal Railing



Narrow Planters



Shipping Container Side Wall/Bench

Requirements

- 1. Safety Barrier shall be impact resistant
- 2. Barrier shall be a minimum of 42" high from the top of the finished surface of the parklet.
- 3. Openings in railings and/or other barrier materials shall be no greater than 4" wide
- 4. Barriers to be secured in place or heavy enough so they cannot blow into the traffic lane(s).

Examples:

- a. Planters to be a minimum of 100 lbs. when filled
- Railing sections to be secured to each other and anchored to a stationary object(s).
 Barriers cannot be secured directly to the street pavement.

Note: Requirement listed are based on the City of Springfield Office of Public Works Central Business District Parklet Guidelines. See Guidelines for additional information.

Prohibited Materials

- 1. Snow fence
- 2. Traffic cones
- 3. Folding traffic barricades
- 4. Chain link fence
- 5. Chain rails
- 6. Unfinished wood

DECORATIVE LIGHTING

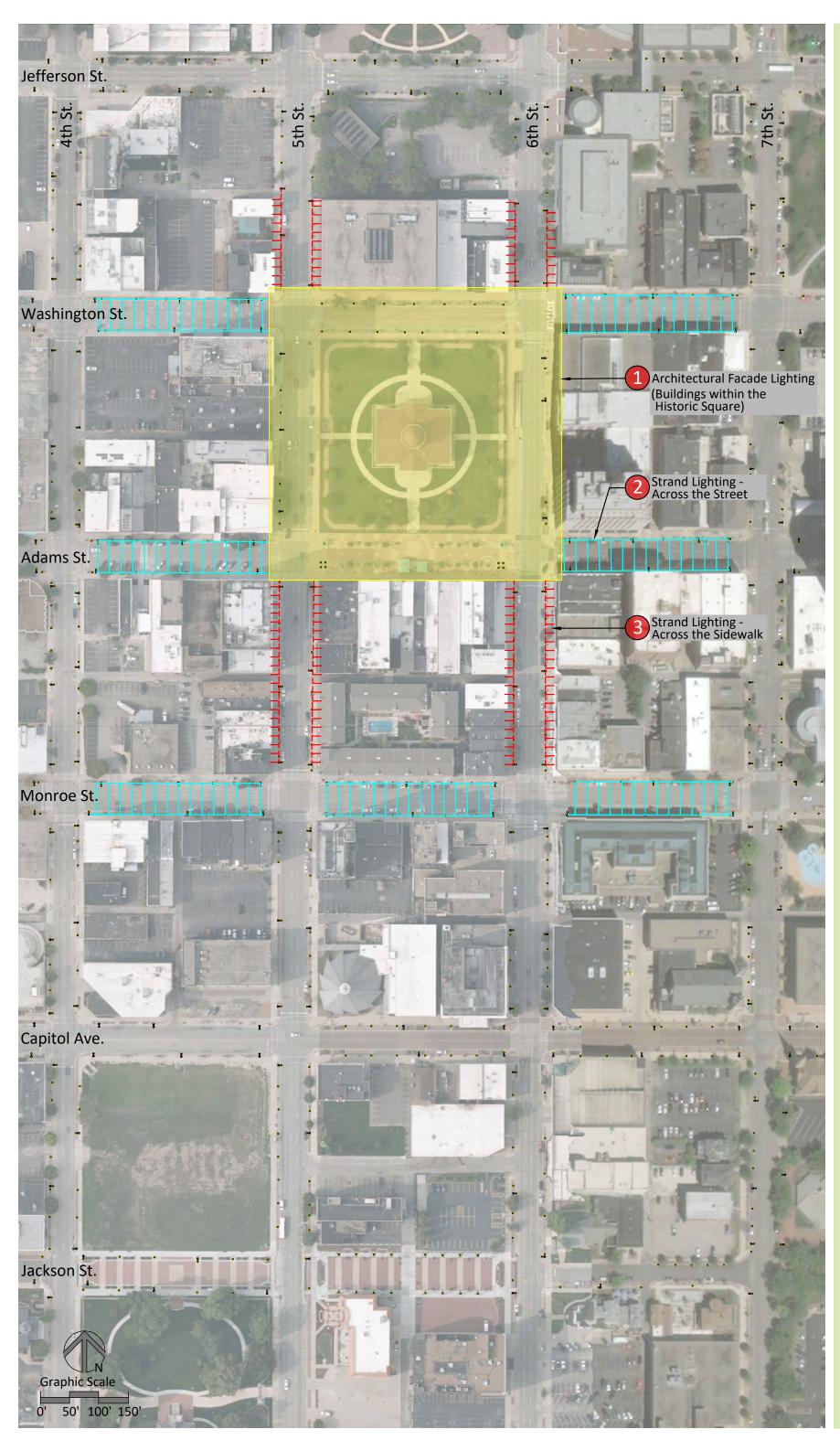
SPECIAL LIGHTING TO HIGHLIGHT THE DOWNTOWN AND ENCOURGE EVENING USE

Another subject of interest to businesses is decorative lighting within the downtown. Many techniques are available to highlight urban areas. Building facades can be up-lighted, down-lighted, flooded, or outlined. Lighting can form static images or be moving. Street trees can be permanently highlighted or lighted for seasonal effects. Sidewalks can have overhead strings of festoon or string lights, in simple or complex patterns. Similarly, streets can have overhead strings of lights. Most all lights now have a range of colors and, with the necessary electronics, can be programed for various effects. Although a great variety of outdoor fixtures are available, their size, cost, and installation requirements vary considerably.

Lighting plans can be thought of with an objective to provide unique character to particular areas, or districts, or with an objective of providing a unifying effect within the downtown.

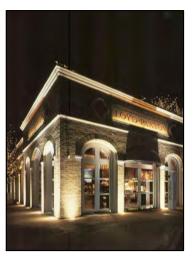
The unifying approach shown in these plans combines three types of decorative lighting.

- Architectural Fascade Lighting of buildings around the Old State Capitol square
- Strand Lighting across particular streets, and
 - Strand lighting across sidewalks.

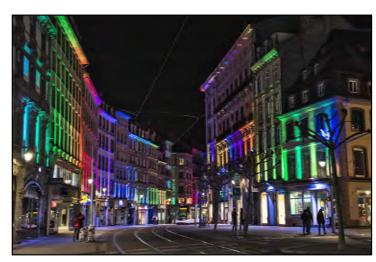




Architectural Lighting Examples







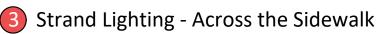
- Architectural Facade Lighting
 - Highlight facades from the ground or nearby light poles
 - Mount fixtures to building facades or roofs to highlight architectural features with building owner permission
 - Incorporate color changing or color temperature adjustments



- 2 Strand Lighting Across the Street
 - Use existing and new poles for structural stability
 - \bullet Span strand lights perpendicular across the street







- Use existing and new poles for structural stability
- Span strand lights perpendicular across the sidewalk and attach to building facades with building owner permission

WAYFINDING

SIGNAGE FOR MOTORISTS AND PEDESTRAINS UNIFYING ELEMENTS WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN

A system of distinctive signs in the downtown will help motorists and pedestrians find important sites in the downtown and beyond. Visitors to Springfield and even some residents sometimes have difficulty finding public buildings, museums, medical facilities, and other locations. Reasons motorists can see over other vehicles along the way. cited are the many one-way only downtown streets and street names that change as they extend through town. Another reason for difficulty in finding sites is that most sites are not within sight of one another. Visitors to the Lincoln Presidential Museum, for instance, have trouble finding the Old State Capitol although it is only around the corner. Going beyond that, and directional arrow for each designated site are attached to the finding the Lincoln Home National Historic Site blocks away is a frustration framework. Plaques can be added or deleted in the future. to many.

One objective, therefore, in developing a wayfinding system for pedestrians is to position signs within sight of one another. Pedestrians can "spot" signs ahead, keeping them on track to their destination. To aid in recognizing these signs and markers, a distinct style was developed that is recognizable and stands out from surrounding elements.

Wayfinding elements for pedestrians are located in a variety of locations, at street corners, mid-blocks, and within public plazas and parks. These signs must also stand out from surrounding elements in the rights-of-way. The sign plaques must be at heights where they can be read by young and old pedestrians both standing and in wheelchairs.

Along streets, wayfinding elements for motorists need to be readily distinguished from streetlights, traffic signals, regulatory signs, and nearby business signs. The directional signs need to be mounted high enough so

The signs are fabricated with a simple steel framework, making them easy to discern and economical to produce. The City seal is prominent, and rather like a jewel near the top of each sign. Sign plaques with the name

Wayfinding signs for motorists are strategically located to direct motorists to public facilities. The primary east-west entrances to the city (Jefferson Street westbound and Madison Street eastbound) will direct motorists to Springfield sites both to the north and the south. As motorists navigate their way, additional signs provide directions to specific sites. Similarly for pedestrians (often tourists walking between downtown sites), smaller scale signs provide directions throughout the area.

-Sign Panels, 60" wide 5" uppercase text Route 66 $3\frac{1}{2}$ " lowercase text St. John's Hospital 28" State Fairgrounds BOS Convention Center Transit Center 21'-6" County Complex -City Seal, 24" dia. -Linear LED light in solid extrusion Pedestrian Light - for reference City Complex & Library -Sign Panel 32"x20" Lincoln Home 2½" uppercase text Bicentennial Plaza $1\frac{2}{3}$ " lowercase text BOS Convention Center Transit Center County Complex Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum -Sign Panel 32"x14" 2½" uppercase text $1\frac{2}{3}$ " lowercase text Wayfinding Sign - Motorist Wayfinding Sign - Pedestrian (Sign C) (Sign 10)

Wayfinding Sign Elevations

Downtown
Springfield
Street
Beautification

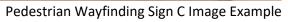






Motorist Wayfinding Sign 10 Image Example





Wayfinding Sign Image Examples

Downtown Springfield Street Beautification





