



## BRIDGE SQUARE CONCEPT + CONNECTIONS PLAN – Work In Progress Update

Mayor and City Council Meeting – October 12, 2021

# THE 2020 RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN

YEAR ONE

YEAR TWO

## B | ENHANCE + ACTIVATE YOUR RIVERFRONT PARKS

### 1) BRIDGE SQUARE IMPROVEMENTS



Assist the City of Northfield as you begin implementation of the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan.

- 1 – Prepare a Preferred Concept + Connections Plan for Bridge Square;
- 2 – Consider other proposed Riverfront Park improvements and Downtown Riverwalk project opportunities as an integral part of the Bridge Square design approach;
- 3 – Work with City Staff to facilitate next steps toward Bridge Square project implementation.



City of Northfield

## A Future Vision For Bridge Square

Northfield, MN  
May 2014



**DRAFT**

### Key Takeaways from Community Input

1. Close off Water Street;
2. Provide intimate performance space and flexibility for larger gatherings and tents for various markets;
3. Provide permanent restrooms nearby;
4. Make this a “green place”; keep mature trees;
5. Relocate civil war memorial;
6. Improve vistas and create better interaction with the river;
7. Retain interactive water feature; could be the Sheldahl fountain; could be moved;
8. Provide choices: cozy, enclosed spaces and open, flexible spaces; sunny places and shady places; variety of seating options, including picnic areas;
9. Enhance lighting;
10. Keep unique attributes like the popcorn cart;
11. Improve maintenance; keep lawns in good shape!
12. Consider seasonal (year ‘round) attractiveness , e.g. white twinkle lights in the trees in winter.



Alternative A - "Unification"



Alternative C - "Elegant"



Alternative B - "Lively"



Alternative D - "Dynamic"



REVIEW EXISTING BASE MAPS  
and OTHER SITE DRAWINGS

REVIEW PREVIOUSLY GATHERED  
PUBLIC COMMENTS

WORKSHOP MEETING WITH  
CITY STAFF TO DISCUSS AND  
DISTILL IDEAS

RECOMMENDATION:  
BLEND CONCEPTS A and C  
FROM STANTEC STUDY

SITE WALK TO FIELD VERIFY  
EXISTING CONDITIONS AND  
POTENTIAL MODIFICATIONS







**Initial Thoughts + Primary Features**

- 1 – Close Water Street;
- 2 – Relocate fountain; create ‘Fountain Plaza’ entry feature along Division Street;
- 3 – Create central open lawn framed by walkways (flex events space + daily use);
- 4 – Create a ‘right-sized’ performance space with stage + amphitheater seating;
- 5 – Protect existing trees as much as possible; add new trees to strengthen edges, create space, provide shade;
- 6 – Connect walkway network in and around the Square;
- 7 – Keep the Popcorn Cart;
- 8 – Add arbor/pergola or similar architectural element to create distinctive image or artistic expression;
- 9 – Explore options for public rest rooms;
- 10 – Explore potential for projection (movie night, light show) on Post Building;
- 11 – Expand green space + minimize car intrusion along river edge (see next slide).

Note: we recognize that losing even one parking space in the downtown area is controversial; suggestions illustrated on this slide should only be considered as part of a more detailed, comprehensive 'District Parking Feasibility Study'.



**Expanded River-Edge  
Green Space  
+  
Downtown Riverwalk  
Amenities**

**New Curb  
Line**

**One-Way  
Drive Aisle**

**Head-In  
Parking**

**Landscaped Islands to  
Reduce Pavement**





Existing Walkway/Trail  
Proposed Extended Riverwalk

Existing Pedestrian Bridge  
@ Babcock Park

Proposed  
Pedestrian Bridge  
@ St. Olaf Avenue

1 - Downtown Riverwalk  
(enhance + extend + connect)

1 - Downtown Riverwalk  
(enhance + extend + connect)

Riverside Lions Park

Ames Park

Post Dam

Bridge Square

Division Street  
(Main Street)

Carleton College



**City-Owned Riverfront Properties (some with potential new Riverwalk segments) and . . .  
Privately-Owned Riverfront Properties (some with potential development/redevelopment opportunities and also potential to help with future Riverwalk improvements)**





# EMPHASIZING THE WORD "POTENTIAL" – exploring what's possible . . .



## Projects that focus on bridges:

- 1 – Can we get a trail under Highway 3 ?
- 2 – Can we get a trail under Fifth Street ?
- 3 – Can we cantilever a trail [or go under] @ Post / Water Street ?
- 4 – Can we get a new bridge crossing at St. Olaf Ave ?

Also . . . Explore key locations for wayfinding maps + signs

## Projects that focus on trail segments:

- A – connect trail to existing pedestrian bridge
- B – river trail along Fire Station property
- C – Ames Park river edge improvements
- D – Water St to Second St
- E – Second St to St. Olaf Ave [both sides of the River]



## Bridge Square Preferred Concept Design + Preliminary Cost Evaluation + Draft Phasing Strategy

Task 1 – Project kick-off meeting with City Staff

**Milestone – Task 1 Timeline (completed 9/15/2021)**

Task 2 – Prepare Preliminary (rough) Draft Concept + Connections Plan

**Milestone – Task 2 Timeline: (completed 9/24/2021)**

Task 3 – Facilitate Draft Plan review meeting with City Staff

Task 4 – Revise/refine Draft Plan based on City Staff review

**Milestone – Tasks 3 and 4 Timeline: (completed 9/30/2021)**

Task 5 – Facilitate informational meeting with Mayor and City Council **(10/12/2021 Council Meeting suggested date)**

Task 6 – First round Community Outreach + Engagement

Outdoor event(s); electronic poll; posters at major ‘watering holes’; web site (?)

Set-aside 6 one-hour time slots to meet with Commissions, Advocacy Groups, etc.

Task 7 – Progress review meeting with City Staff and City Council; download/discuss community input; refine Draft Concept Plan; refine project direction + next steps **(12/7/21 Council Meeting suggested date)**

Task 8 – Prepare Final Preferred Concept + Connections Plan; Prepare Phasing Strategy; Provide Preliminary Evaluation of Potential Construction Costs

**Milestone – Tasks 5-8 Timeline: Completed by 12/31/2021**

Task 9 – Mayor and City Council Agenda; approve Final Concept + Connections Plan; Phasing Strategy; Preliminary Evaluation of Construction Costs

**Milestone – Specific Request for Final Concept Plan Approval (1/4/2022 Council Meeting suggested date)**

