

WEST PARK BANDSHELL STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT

WEST PARK LOCATION



WEST PARK MAP



WHAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE ASSESSMENT?

- Visual inspection of the foundation, floor, and structure by a structural engineer.
- Excavation of 3 test pits for inspection of the below-ground foundation.
- Two soil borings and soil structural analysis.
- Development of two alternatives for preservation of the bandshell and estimated construction costs.
- Documentation of the historical events related to the structure and foundations of the bandshell.

WHAT WERE THE FINDINGS FROM THE ASSESSMENT?

The foundations are structurally unsound due to significant cracking, including large cracks that extend the full depth of the foundation, and deterioration of the concrete blocks.

Groundwater and general decay associated with age (structure is 80 years old) are the causes of the deterioration of the foundations.

The bandshell is in the floodway and, at the time the test pits were dug, most of the foundation was below groundwater level.

The groundwater level was above the frost depth line, which subjects the foundations to significant expansion forces during freeze/thaw cycles.

Soils are of poor structural quality and susceptible to building movement and settlement.

Repairing the foundations was estimated to cost \$2.5 million dollars.

WEST PARK BANDSHELL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

1

Informational
webinar

1

Resident
focus group

1

Stakeholder
focus group

8

Pop-up
sessions

1

Online
survey

1

Steering
Committee

over
1,350
people
participated

Community members feel strongly that **activation** is an **essential** part of the vibrancy at West Park.

Community members value increasing **accessibility, improving stormwater / flood management, addressing safety, and fiscal prudence.**

People enjoyed attending a performance in a **natural setting and the connections** that were built in the **community.**

Opinions were mixed regarding the importance of historic preservation of the bandshell.

A venue that is **multi-purpose** and **flexible** for various types of events to support increasing the frequency of events was identified as a high priority.

Past and potential future users of the bandshell as well as the public, indicated that **improvements are required** to restart hosting events at West Park. Necessary improvements include bathrooms, a larger stage and backstage, increased accessibility, improved acoustics, and removing the barrier between the audience and the stage.



WEST PARK BANDSHELL BENCHMARKING

After reviewing and analyzing the feedback from the first round of engagement, the project team began a benchmarking exercise to gain insights from bandshell projects in other communities. Projects in the benchmarking study included New Builds, Renovations, and Multi-Purpose projects.

- Criteria studied included:
- Stage Size
 - Backstage Size
 - Audience Size
 - Project Cost
 - Improvements Made
 - Opening Dates, and
 - Venue Programming and Management.

For the full Benchmarking Study, please scan the QR code below or visit <https://url.a2gov.org/WPbandshell>.



BENCHMARKING EXAMPLES

NEW BUILD



The Volunteer Park Amphitheater in Seattle, Washington provides a flexible space that can be used for amplified performances, plays, community movie nights, and socials. Its design pays homage to the original bandshell from 1915.

Adttl. examples of New Build include:

- Green Bay Botanical Garden Grand Garden; Green Bay, WI

RENOVATION



The State Fairground Bandshell was relocated to Palmer Park in Detroit, Michigan. Anticipated to open this year, the project also included the addition of parking and restrooms.

Adttl. examples of Renovation include:

- La Crosse Bandshell, La Crosse, WI
- Wenonah Park Bandshell Renovation; Bay City, MI
- William's Park Bandshell; St. Petersburg, FL
- Fleetwood Park Bandshell; Fleetwood, PA

MULTI-PURPOSE



The Excelsior Commons Pavilion in Excelsior, MN is an example of a pavilion that is multi-purpose. The Pavilion can host larger outdoor concerts and plays with the use of amplification, yet can also become a more intimate space for family gatherings, or a quiet lunch spot.

Adttl. examples of Multi-Purpose include:

- Future Broadway Park West Pavilion; Ann Arbor, MI

KEY FINDINGS

Improvements were paired with a plan to actively program events. Some venues are programmed by a community partner and others were by the city, including one that hired an event coordinator.

Most venues host an annual concert series with 12+ events run by the city or a community partner, plus additional rentals by other organizations, artists, and community members.

Most venues host a variety of types of events, including non-performance uses such as weddings and social gatherings.

All projects involved improvements to infrastructure and surrounding area.

Nearly all venues included bathrooms or were proximate to existing bathrooms.

Projects studied ranged in cost from \$670,000 to \$8.6 million. Lower cost projects (<\$3M) installed a simple, open-air structure, built no or a small amount (600 sf) of backstage area, and had minimal audience improvements.

WEST PARK BANDSHELL PROJECT PROCESS



PRE-ENGAGEMENT
STRUCTURAL EVALUATION

STEP 1
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT R1

Summer 2023-
Spring 2024

STEP 2
**BENCHMARKING + ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT PLANS
+ EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Spring 2024-
Fall 2024

STEP 3
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT R2

Fall 2024-
Winter 2024

STEP 4
**PREFERRED DIRECTION +
PROJECT COMPLETION**

Spring 2025-
Summer 2025

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Scan the QR code below for West Park Bandshell project details and updates:



Or, visit:
<https://url.a2gov.org/WPbandshell>

