

Broadway Ridge Renewal Grant

As part of the streetscape project, the City is offering matching grants from \$25,000 to \$50,000 to refurbish the fronts of downtown buildings. The owner will give a facade easement to the City in exchange for the grant. The proposed improvements will need to be reviewed and approved by the Heritage Preservation Commission. Improvements, once completed, will need to continue in their historic context.

For more information, please contact Bob Graham, Director of Community Development, (507) 377-4316 or bgraham@city.albertlea.org

Did You Know?

The sewer and water utilities within the street on Broadway are approximately 90 years old! In addition, there are heat tunnels that run under the sidewalks and the tunnels are over 100 years old and deteriorating. The tunnels provided a conduit for steam pipes that were used to heat downtown buildings. The heat source was the coal fired electric power plant that was located south of the Freeborn County Courthouse.

Scope of Work

Welcome to the first edition of the Broadway Avenue Streetscape Project newsletter.

This is the first issue of a bi-monthly newsletter to keep downtown business and building owners up to date on the Broadway Avenue Streetscape Plan.

Requests for proposals were sent out at the end of November for an Engineering firm to work on the final engineering for the project. A firm will be hired in January.



Architect's rendering of proposed downtown

The first step will be for the firm to review the preliminary streetscape design presented by Pat Waddick, and to make any recommendations for any changes/improvements they feel would be beneficial. The City asked them specifically to take a look at some of the concerns brought about by the public meetings (i.e. the curb

bumpouts, potential bird issues, etc.).

The firm will then begin the design phase, which will include the detailed design of the project from Fountain Street to Main Street including:

- Underground utilities including watermain, sanitary sewer and storm sewer
- Design and layout of the roadway and sidewalks
- Streetscaping elements such as plantings, kiosks, benches, lighting and other elements
- Design of the pedestrian plaza on William Street east of Broadway Avenue
- Design of improvements to Fountain Lake Park
- Evaluate the removal of the traffic lights at the intersections of Broadway Avenue with William Street and Clark Street.
- Locating and coming up with a plan to fill in the underground vaults attached to many of the downtown buildings
- Evaluate and implement any innovative means of stormwater quality management (i.e. having the stormwater water the plantings instead of running straight to the storm sewer and to the lake)

The firm would put together a somewhat less detailed streetscape design for the portion of Broadway Avenue from Main Street to the

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Streetscape Project Timeline

- November 2011 – Send out for Engineering firm proposals
- January 2012 – Selection of Engineering Firm
- February 2012 – Have a firm cost estimate in order to apply for state bonding funds
- May 1, 2012 – Preliminary design complete
- May-June 2012 – Public comment period: the consultant will hold a series of meetings to gain input regarding the streetscape design
- December 1, 2012 – Final design completed
- February 2013 – Award construction contract
- May 2013 – Start construction (Phase 1)

The first phase includes all the work from Main Street to Fountain Street including the William Street plaza and improvements to Fountain Lake Park.

The next phase will be from Main Street to Front Street. The consultant chosen would complete the streetscape design work along with Phase 1, but the work would not be completed until 2015 to coincide with a mill and overlay project of Broadway Avenue by Mn/DOT in 2015.

Broadway Avenue Streetscape Project is a newsletter published by the City of Albert Lea in an effort to keep the community up to date on reconstruction of Broadway Avenue.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to our email list, please contact The City of Albert Lea, 221 E. Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007 • 507-377-4330 or email info@city.albertlea.org

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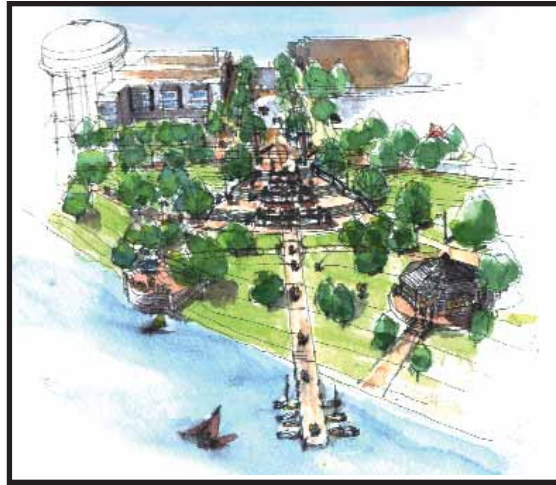
Canadian Pacific Railroad. This section is a 4-lane highway under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Mn/DOT will be completing a resurfacing project on this section in 2015. The City is basically asking the consultant to provide Mn/DOT enough information to be able to incorporate the sidewalk, lighting and other such improvements into their project that will carry the same theme as the initial portion.

The firm will put together a detailed cost estimate to help the City go after additional bonding funds or other sources of funding.

Once the design has been complete, the firm will be responsible for putting the project out for competitive bids, aid the City in selection of the contractor, and be responsible for construction oversight and managing the contract once the project starts.

A reconstruction plan for Broadway Avenue from Fountain Lake to Front Street was prepared for the City by Architectural Consultant, Patrick Waddick.

The streetscape plan takes into consideration all of the "complete street" goals that were approved by the City Council and provides for a very desirable environment for encouraging new



Proposed Gazebo area of Fountain Lake Park

economic development in the downtown. Specifically, the plan calls for a change in angle parking from 50 degree to 45 degree making it safer to back out of stalls with greater visibility. Sidewalks will be increased to 19 feet in width providing for the opportunity to have on sidewalk tables and dining or bench conversation areas. Landscaping will be planted into the sidewalk instead of planters with large grates to catch water. Paving will be designed to reduce runoff and the load on storm sewers. An information kiosk will be provided for each block that will list existing businesses and have space for posting of notices and events. Street lighting will be designed to light the sidewalk and street and will be directed downward reducing the night lighting of the sky and apartments above the buildings.

In addition, the streetscape plan includes a redevelopment concept for Fountain Lake Park. A series of steps are extended into the park from Broadway Avenue. These steps will also serve as seating terraces for watching events in the park.

Plans are available for review in the City Engineer and City Managers' offices. Plans will also be presented to groups on request. A summary can be found on the city's website, www.cityofalbertlea.org under the Development tab. For additional information, please contact Bob Graham, Director of Community Development, at (507) 377-4316 or by email, bgraham@city.albertlea.org.

Sidewalk Snow Removal Regulations

The City of Albert Lea has an ordinance that seeks to ensure that snow and ice are removed from sidewalks in order to reduce the likelihood of injuries to pedestrians.

Since winter brings snow and ice to Albert Lea, an ordinance requires people in charge or control of any building(s) or lot(s) which fronts a paved sidewalk to remove any ice or snow from the sidewalk to form an open path of at least 42 inches in width.

In business districts, the snow and ice must be removed within twelve hours of when the snow or accumulation stops or by the beginning of business hours on the next day, whichever period is shorter.



People who fail to comply with the ordinance will be notified by letter that they are not in compliance with the City's snow removal ordinance. If the snow/ice is not removed within the timeline allotted in the letter, the City may clear the snow/ice and the property owner will be charged for the work performed. The City will not send out letters for subsequent violations.

If your sidewalk is adjacent to a primary snow route, please wait until the snow plows have cleared the streets before shoveling. Plows may need to push snow onto curbs and sidewalks to keep streets clear.

Although the City will be far more aggressive this year in enforcing this ordinance, you may report sidewalk snow removal violations, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 377-4370.