



## **RDA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, PC**

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# **CELEBRATE PARK**

## **DESIGN NARRATIVE**

Welcome to Celebrate Park - designed to provide a flexible inviting public space that is defined by classical elements that reflect the rich history of buildings and places in our Historic St. James Cultural and Arts District, and a centerpiece for our revitalization.

The Lake Ave. entrance into the park is through an arched ceremonial gateway flanked by informational brick piers. The name of the park, which is “Celebrate Park”, will be scrolled along the archway and a clock will be centered on top of the arch. In addition, a decorative medallion is set into the center of the entrance walkway.

The park space is arranged around a classical ellipse walkway with the outer edge of the ellipse bordered by brick seat walls, which provide plenty of open seating for park users. Engraved bricks will be placed within the walkways and the seat walls to commemorate families and residents.

The center of the ellipse will be “realistic-looking” synthetic turf that requires little maintenance and no irrigation. Two raised planters are located at either end of the ellipse – the western one with a flagpole and the eastern one a small flowering tree and plantings. The lawn can be used for sitting, eating lunch or as an assembly area for presentations and concerts in the park.

The north-south axis through the ellipse begins with access from the new public parking lot and terminates to the south at a garden Wall of Hometown Heroes beneath overhead shade pergola. The pergola area can be used for formal or impromptu gatherings and everyday seating for lunch-time and evening park users.

Festival string lighting will crisscross overhead to provide evening lighting. The light strings will be attached to Victorian style lampposts that match those on Lake Ave. and will include hanging flower baskets and decorative banners.

The west-east axis through the park terminates at an open Victorian-style pavilion structure. This structure will provide cover for presentations, shows, concerts and seasonal concessions.

The east side of the park will connect to the new public parking lot with ADA parking and access provided.

Finally, the park will be lushly planted with shrubs, perennials, and flowers (and irrigated) within the garden spaces defined by the walkways. A bike rack, water fountain and charging stations will also be included.