

Comments provided by Citizens regarding the Downtown Plaza Concept.

- A community garden, or fruit trees available for all to use
- A lot of people seem to be very concerned with parking. I hope they can be accommodated without holding this project up too much.
- An outdoor space that is flexible for event use (and would allow other downtown streets not to be blocked off, as is now done - dog dock jumping for July 4th, beer festivals, 5k etc) would be ideal. Public restrooms would be essential so as to not overwhelm downtown businesses.
- Any of the ideas would be a nice feature to the downtown area.
- Coming from a student's perspective studying LA, i think this would be extremely beneficial for our community and will help ames grow.
- Do this!! SUCH a great idea, and this will bring a nice update and new energy to the already charming Main Street district. My wife and I love this idea, and our 9 month old would love to grow up spending time in this awesome space. We love the concept so much!
- Don't need it. Parking is important. City should worry about the budget as it is without adding more. I can see this as a hangout, not a good addition to downtown. Too small an area for all that's planned. Stop spending money on wants not needs
- Don't do this at the expense of providing COVID relief to small businesses. This can wait
- Excited for this!
- Father of Young Children here. Look at the Fox Creek Splash Pad in Waukee. We need one like that in Ames.
- Food truck area needs space for seating. Wood building doesn't make sense in context to brutalist bank and surrounding brick buildings. Let's make this civic and dignified, like Union Sq. Nyc. Also could use a dog corral unless I missed it.
- Food trucks on a regular basis solves current parking issues for food trucks.
- Great design. I noticed that there is a planted buffer zone along Clark Ave, but not 5th street, and I wasn't sure why. That's the only thing I noticed that I think could maybe be improved, since right now it's just a strip of turfgrass. I'm excited for the project and think it will create a nice destination for the community to enjoy that will ideally be good for downtown businesses.
- Great idea to have a plaza in this area. Looking forward to future concepts/renderings. I'm in favor of having a dedicated food truck space to help draw people in and flexible space for festivals or 5k runs. Nice area to swing by while attending farmers market. Splash pad/water feature and trees to help make it feel like a park.

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- Great idea! City of Ames also needs an indoor swimming pool!!
- Great idea--I live in Old Town and would come often
- Great improvement over parking lot!
- Great work! I think this is exactly the type of project that downtown and Ames needs! I am in full support of this project.
- Haverhill
- How about creating a survey that lets us offer real input instead of simply assuming this colossal waste of money is a foregone conclusion?
- How much \$\$ will it cost each year for maintenance?
- I am strongly in support of this plan!
- I am very happy to see that the city is moving forward with plans for a plaza across from City Hall. I think it will be an essential component of the urban landscape. Ames has always lacked an appropriately scaled and well-located pedestrian space, something akin to the town squares in Iowa towns that are county seats. Bandshell Park is a great resource, but can never serve as the pedestrian "heart" of the town because it is across Duff Ave. from the Main Street district, and because it is abutted by a residential neighborhood. I have had a look at the proposed plan and I have some concerns. In the first place, it seems to have no relationship to anything around it. It is very curvy/fluid/gardenesque, ignoring all elements of its context (the town grid, and the very powerful axuality of the City Hall building). Even the lone building is canted at a seemingly random angle. If the intent is to create a sort of separated "place apart" or independent oasis that feels disconnected from the rest of the downtown, this works great. I think a far better approach is to acknowledge its context, making it feel like it's an integral part of its surroundings. I think it may be a case of trying to cram too much into the half-block. There are several "zones"—the gardenesque bench zone, the way-too-tiny ice skating loop (I suppose its diminished scale derives from trying to make it a summertime water feature as well as a winter skating facility), the food truck edge. Too many "pieces"—this kind of scheme is great for an urban sculpture park such as Citygarden in St. Louis, but not a good idea for a multi-use/flexible-use all-seasons plaza. I think a better approach is a plaza with more flexible use of space, with some sense of hierarchy. A larger centralized space, for example, could have some visual and geometrical connection to City Hall, and be large enough for special events that might attract large numbers of people.
- I don't think that it will get as much use as to outweigh the cost.
- I have visited other cities with these types of spaces and I'm looking forward to having something similar in Ames.

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- I like the idea of ice rink but don't think this is the correct location. Also think a rink path will be dangerous for adults/children learning to skate due to reduced visibility around corners.
- I love the concept! I think small concerts are interesting, but with Bandshell not too far away I think things like a Ice Skating loop or a splash pad could be more beneficial.
- I love this idea
- I love this idea it will be perfect for Ames
- i love this idea:)
- I really don't think that's adequate parking and I hope the entire parking survey wasn't during Covid.
- I really love the concept ideas! I would much rather have standard angle parking than back-in parking through.
- I recommend checking out Rapid City, SD's 'Main Street Square'. There are similarities and that plaza has been a catalyst for their downtown.
- I think it's a great idea
- I think it's a great idea, and I love the concept.
- I think this is a waste of tax dollars and needed parking
- I think this is a wonderful idea
- I think this is great. I commute past that Parking lot everyday and it's usually mostly empty. This would make for a great upgrade to downtown Ames, especially for ice skating in the winter, of which Ames doesn't have many options that aren't also used for winter sports.
- I would only support this if there's a plan to make up for the lost parking spaces in the immediate vicinity. Parking in that area can already be challenging so this wouldn't be worth it if the trade off is an even worse parking situation.
- I would still opt to keep the parking lot. Parking downtown is hard to come by, especially on Farmers Market days. I prefer to park there whenever I come downtown because it's difficult to see when backing out in the street. I park either at this parking lot, around Bandshell Park, or at the depot and walk the rest of the way. Having a walkable downtown is important, but we also need parking outside to make it walkable.

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- Ice skating idea for this area is simply dumb. It's an activity that, at best, can be done outdoors here three months of the year, and probably less with climate change. Ames can't be all things to all people. Existing skating facilities will have to suffice. They are most adequate, if not ideal. I can't do survey, haven't thought enough.
- I'm so excited for this! Thank you!
- Interactive art, and other structures for kids AND ADULTS to play on.
- It does not appear that there is any off street parking available. Where will off street parking be located? Or do you expect people to park in grocery store and bank parking lots?
- It is vital that we have a kid feature!!
- Kid and family friendly space would be great
- Like the synthetic turf concept for green space and/or soft space.
- Looking forward to this.
- Love the idea of this. Makes me think of a small scale sculpture garden like in downtown Des Moines. We would LOVE to bring our son here to play!
- Love the plaza planning! Add permanent chess/checkers/game tables with benches, well planned lighting for evening/night safety (not glaring), decorative stretching stops for walkers and runners at the perimeter, elevated flower poles, book exchange box= things to get all ages together for all sorts of activities!
- Lovely concept, but converting Main Street to a plaza similar to Pearl Street in Boulder CO would be a better way to start.
- Many people are worried about parking. Do not listen to them. We don't want to turn downtown into another Duff! Coming from other cities with vibrant downtowns, parking is not as much of an issue that people make it out to be, and the rewards are worth the "sacrifice" of convenient parking.
- My least favorite thing about the East Village in Des Moines is the back-in angle parking. Is it possible to have some other form of parking for this space?
- No way to say you do NOT think it's needed. Our city needs to focus in parks we have and other issues like affordable housing, roads, new or revitalizing mall
- One of the biggest complaints I've heard so far is about people mad about losing parking, but I live on 5th St right above that parking lot and I see it lay empty for 99% of the time - a park there would be MUCH appreciated and help with the value of homes and properties near by

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- One of the more baffling absences in Ames is the lack of a central downtown park. With the library, a grocery, and restaurants nearby this will be a popular place. I'd like to see the entire block utilized but even without the east half this park may encourage redevelopment of nearby underutilized blocks. Removal of superfluous car parking and replacement with needed green space is a major plus. While it's disappointing that the long-vacant lots north of city hall will be paved instead of redeveloped at least it's still a net reduction and may be the sop to satisfy those that view having to park their car and then walk a block or two as a major ordeal.
- Open mic nights during the summer when no performances at bandshell. HS class reunion gathering place. Alcohol sales for events.
- Parking garage needs to be added to downtown to address parking problem
- Please do not install the light pillars, they don't really add anything.
- Please ensure there is parking options close to the area that are easily accessible for families with small children or elderly. Maybe consider marking them as reserved for those groups. A free or low cost lot nearby would be nice for events.
- Please make sure it is well lit at night and line of sight is open so loitering is materially kept to a minimum. This would be an amazing asset to our downtown area!
- Please prioritize trees and green space! I also would love different types of seating for people who want private conversations/introverts versus more public-facing seating that invites connection .
- Remember the needs of families with young children.
- Save available parking. Let the space as it is.
- Sounds wonderful! Ensuring safe community spaces and green space is good for public wellbeing.
- splash pool and skating rink plus benches and trees/flowers are the most important features to me. And maybe one or two of those French toilets (self-cleaning and a you find in San Francisco and Brooklyn? Aesthetically pleasing
- The green space include a sensory garden with edible plants and fruits.
- The light pillars provide no service to downtown patrons and should not be added. There are many other options that add value to our downtown.
- The plaza concept is great but my question is what other space will make up for the loss of those parking spaces?

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- The space would be best used if it provided a space for small business/ start-ups to gain more business. Other than the farmers market, Ames have very little affordable, rental space for small/ new business. The city of Jewel does something similar to this in a vacant lot on their main street and it so much fun.
- The stage should face south, due to houses being so close on the north side.
- There are better ways to spend tax payer money. How about beefing up the city's electric infrastructure? I spent a week without power this summer but have yet to hear how that will be avoided in the future.
- There should be features and/or flexible options that provide for multi season activities geared towards a wide variety of ages. For example kids activities during daytime hours and more adult activities at night. Would also be great if there were spaces for people to sit and work outdoors if needed.
- This is a great plan, An ice skating Ribbon or loop would be incredible to have downtown. Overall, I think it is a much better use of the space than a parking lot.
- This is a wonderful idea! Just another bonus to downtown Ames and our community...thank you for considering.
- This is great!
- This is SO exciting! Ames needs an interactive water feature for kids without parents having to drive to Ankeny and Des Moines for such entertainment.
- This looks amazing! I would be excited about almost any combination of options!
- This project is behind the times. In the era of Covid-19 who is going to play in a water park let alone eat from a food truck. Why are we not utilizing other parks and making them better, instead of taking out needed parking downtown?
- Waste of money
- Water features cost a lot of money to maintain and this town already has several, man-made and natural.
- WE DO NOT NEED THIS AT THIS LOCATION!
- We don't need this, a total waste of money. This isn't a big city, very few people will use this compared to the number of people that park in this area..
- We would love to have a great plaza, especially with features geared towards kids.
- What a great addition this would be to Ames!!

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- While I like the idea of skating space, I'm not sure the scale is conducive. I like the idea of more green space, connections to Main St. and other attractions.
- Would love to see more free activities for young families in Ames!!
- Would need to know this is a safe space for children to play. We used to live on 7th Street within sight of Fareway and it wasn't the best environment for small kids. I went to school at the University of Iowa and the pedestrian mall could have a rough crowd too.
- You could add a section of hammocks. There is a hammock park in Philadelphia that resembles everything here.