



Central Park

RED WING'S COMMUNITY LIVING ROOM

Where is Central Park located?

Central Park is located in the heart of Red Wing. Located conveniently downtown, the park sits between East and West Avenues and spans from Fourth to Fifth Streets.

What is the history of Central Park?

This site was the original location of Hamline University which stood at the southern end of the present Central Park. Hamline opened in 1856 and relocated to St. Paul in 1869. The City of Red Wing purchased the Hamline block in 1871 to establish a park there. In the early years the park was heavily wooded and a small wooden bandstand was located in the center of the park. The two existing structures located in the park were built from local limestone. The south balustrade wall was constructed some time prior to 1890 and the north bandstand was built in 1932. The balustrade wall was partially restored in 1988.

What renovations are being done at Central Park?

The goal of the project is to transform this underutilized park into an area filled with vitality and activity...for Central Park to become Red Wing's "Community Living Room." With the renovations, a new band shell capable of supporting today's entertainment needs will be built. These improvements will broaden the range of events that can be held at the park and provide entertainers protection from the elements while performing.

The renovations will enhance accessibility to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. The design of the park promotes a higher level of activity in the area by breathing new life into a park that is no longer being used the way it once was. The Central Park Renovations Committee has thoughtfully chosen design elements to maintain the same welcoming atmosphere as the original park had and to make it more user-friendly.

Who is involved in redeveloping Central Park?

City staff and the Red Wing Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) have worked with the Jones Family Foundation to evaluate the existing facilities at the park and options for the renovation since October 2006. The Central Park Renovations Committee consists of HPC members, city staff and the mayor who represent the best interests of the community in the development of the new park plan. The renovations are being planned and funded by the Jones Family Foundation as their gift to the community.

When will the renovations begin and when will the project be completed?

It is anticipated that the park renovations will begin in late September, 2008 and will be completed in time for a July 4th celebration in 2009. The Jones Family Foundation and the City of Red Wing is planning a grand opening event for all of Red Wing to celebrate the new amenities the renovations will provide.

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