



Railroad Park FAQ

What happened to the idea of constructing a pavilion at this location?

Several months ago, the DDD formed a Pavilion Committee, dedicated solely to this idea. After careful consideration and discussion, the committee and newly elected board have decided to go in a different direction with this location. Many legal obstacles presented themselves, and the board felt it was best to go back to the drawing board and reevaluate all possibilities for this downtown area.

Will the DDD still build a pavilion?

It's a possibility. With our recent acquiring of the Feed & Seed property, we anticipate this property could do for Downtown what a pavilion would do plus more. While the idea of building a pavilion is not completely off our agenda, it is tabled for now and the Urban Park and Feed & Seed our primary focus. Learn more about the Feed & Seed project [here](#).

Who decided on this project?

Updating this area has been part of all the DDD recent Master Plans, including the first edition in 1990 and the latest edition in 2019. Our board and committee members have discussed this project for quite some time. The board appointed a "Pavilion Location Committee" to scout out the best options for a new community space in our district. After a few meetings, the committee voted and recommended to the Board of Directors that, first and foremost, the bond-issued money should be spent renovating this location. This was also recommended by our Design Committee.

Who is paying for this?

In 2018, the DDD took out a bond for \$300,000 to renovate this location. It's first goal was to spend the money on a community space upgrade (at the time, hopefully a pavilion.) After much research and discussion, it's been decided that a pavilion is not the best use of this particular property. However - the DDD and its constituents believe that this space should be renovated, preserved, and used by our whole community; as it is the true center of Downtown Hammond. As for the rest of the cost, it is being paid for by the DDD, some sidewalk and parking improvements by the City of Hammond. Details are still in the works and all funding still must be approved by the DDD Board of Directors and the City of Hammond.

Why now?

75% of the bond funding must be spent by October 2021. Time to get to work!

How will it affect parking?

The only parking being altered is the diagonal parking on SW Railroad. Through the survey, we know that our community feels those spots are not safe. The parking along that block will turn to parallel parking which will eliminate about 5 parking spaces. We will also be adding new sidewalks, street trees, bollards and traffic calming measures, ultimately making this area safer for those parking and walking.



What about the live oak trees and the monument on this property?

There are NO plans to remove or alter our beloved live oaks. In fact, the DDD has hired Bayou Tree Service to oversee the plans and construction to ensure the safety of the trees. The monument will receive an upgraded foundation and be moved approximately 10 feet in order to better preserve it for years to come.

How can I get involved?

Come to the public meetings and give your input or take the online survey. All new information, minutes, sketches, ideas, and more will be added to the website.

