

# CITY HALL PARK IMPROVEMENTS

CONSTRUCTION START DATE - SPRING 2019. ANTICIPATED RE-OPEN DATE - DECEMBER 21, 2019.

Lawns will be closed off until the grass is reestablished.



## BACKGROUND

In 2012, the City began a multi-year process to solicit public input and come up with a plan to make transformative improvements to the park. Following this public process and permit review, the City is now beginning construction in spring 2019 and plans to re-open the park in December 2019.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW PARK DESIGN

**TREES:** The plan for City Hall Park includes 48 trees, only a slight reduction from the current 51. In the new park, the trees will be healthier: The plan will repair the park's soil so that it can support new and existing trees, give the trees the space they need to grow, and install two new raingardens to mitigate stormwater runoff and soil erosion. In contrast, right now, many of the trees in the park are in declining health. The plan will remove dying trees, rejuvenate declining trees, maintain the trees in the best health, and plant new trees.

**LANDSCAPE AND HARDSCAPE:** In the grassy areas of the park, the plan will aerate and amend soils so that they can better absorb rainwater and support trees. In other areas of the park, the plan will slightly expand hardscape, including through the use of pervious pavers, in order to increase accessibility and focus foot traffic. All together, the new park plan will *reduce* the amount of impervious surface in the park from 43% currently – a combination of 25% hardscape and 18% compacted soils – to 32.5%.

**PATHS:** The plan will widen the pathways to make them more accessible, while also maintaining the historic connectivity across the park. At the same time, the plan will realign the park paths so that they are less steep, support better tree health, and allow for better maintenance.

**PROCESS:** Through the Imagine City Hall Park Process and the Great Streets Initiative, thousands of community members offered their visions for the future of this park and their reactions to different iterations of the plans for its reconstruction. A summary of this input is available at [www.greatstreetsbtv.com](http://www.greatstreetsbtv.com). Following the Development Review Board permitting process, a special Ad Hoc Committee, and a decisive City Council resolution, the City is now ready to implement this transformative vision for City Hall Park!

**FARMERS MARKET:** In the new plan, the park continues to serve as the home for the Burlington Farmers Market. The design allows for the central lawn to remain open for seating and other uses on market days.

**SPACES:** The plan creates new flexible spaces to accommodate a variety of activities in the park, from an interactive fountain to small performances. By widening paths and slightly expanding hardscape in the park, including through the use of permeable pavers, the park plan will create the infrastructure to focus foot traffic away from grassy space and planting beds, allowing for robust and healthy open space.

**FOUNTAIN:** The new park plan calls for a multi-functional fountain that's part of the central gathering space of the park. This new "splash pad" fountain will create an active space for play, and also add visual impact with lighting and design.

**STORMWATER:** A new seat wall at the southern edge of the park will frame the park while also helping to manage the complex stormwater challenges along Main Street. The plan also installs more than 1,500 new perennials and grasses, many of which will be part of rain gardens that will filter runoff while also adding texture and color to the park.

**SEATING:** The new park plan nearly doubles the seating within the park boundaries, and features a wide range of seating types, from seat walls to longer benches made from sustainably-sourced wood. The new benches alone will accommodate 92 people, increasing it up from the 30 spaces that exist today.

For more information go to: [enjoyburlington.com/city-hall-park-improvements](http://enjoyburlington.com/city-hall-park-improvements)

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