

No other trees on the inner square are scheduled to be removed. On the outer square, one tree is scheduled for removal due to its condition and one will be removed with the Bank of America building rehabilitation. The removal of the sidewalk around the other trees should not damage them as there will be little to no excavation below the sidewalk grade. There may be some root pruning as necessary to remove the sidewalk heave issues.



There have been some comments that there are areas in the city with no sidewalks, so why is the square a priority. The Historic Downtown Square defines Fayetteville. The

sidewalks around the square serve hundreds of people daily and during special events, like the Farmer's Market, will serve thousands during a single Saturday morning. To leave the Square sidewalks as they were would seem to leave the City in a precarious situation of inviting guests to our home and then making it unsafe for them to walk. Everyone wants a clean, well-kept home. The Square is Fayetteville's home; the improvements we make today will last for generations.



As for the streets leading to the Square, the plan is to renew them to the alley or 150 feet down each side street. However, this improvement is dependent upon property owners participating in the improvement. The normal sidewalk replacement program will allow those properties that participate financially (50% of the total cost) to be given priority for new or replacement sidewalks. That program is being used for the side streets entering the square. To date those participating are: the University of Arkansas for the Continuing Education Building, Arvest Bank, the former Bank of America building, and the Advertising and Promotion Commission for the building at Mountain and Block.



Historic Downtown Square



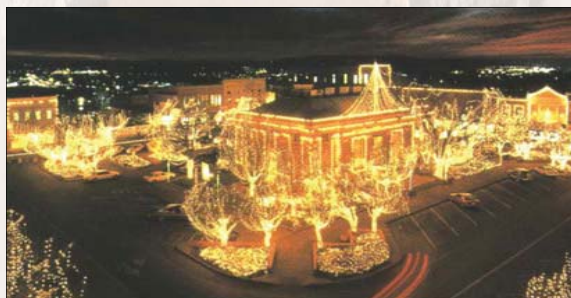
Renewal & Renovation

Historic Downtown Square • Renewal & Renovation

The City has started the renewal and renovation of the Historic Downtown Square.



The Square is the iconic center of Fayetteville. It is Fayetteville's front door and living room. The Square is where we as a community meet on Saturday morning during Farmer's Market, it is where we celebrate Home Coming Parades, the arrival of the Christmas Season, and the Lights of the Ozarks. Hundreds of visitors and residents are on the Square each day, and during the Farmer's Market and Lights of the Ozarks that number swells to the thousands.



A casual visual review quickly reveals that the condition of the Square has become worn and even dangerous in places. These conditions have existed for sometime, evidenced by the various uneven and deteriorating sidewalks. The City has undertaken many efforts during the last several years to mill and grind down the numerous trip and fall hazards created by that unevenness.



Additionally, many of the brick planter walls have become cracked; their concrete seat walls loose and dangerous.

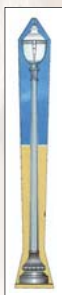


and asked that Susan Regan, the longtime Square Gardner, be intimately involved with the project.

The project began late in the winter of 2007, just prior to the Farmer's Market opening, with the rebuilding and improvement of the fountain on the northwest corner of the inner Square. Subsequently, in January of 2008 the major work of the inner Square began, and is scheduled to be complete by April 5, the first Saturday of the 2008 Farmer's Market.



The outer Square renewal will begin at that time and will be completed in the next two to three months. The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$920,000. Property owners abutting the sidewalks on the Square may be asked to participate in helping to fund the actual sidewalk rehabilitation project. The other work being undertaken and funded by the City or with A & P funds will help improve lighting, drainage, and the general aesthetics of all properties. This will help to improve long-term property values for everyone and keep the Square as the iconic symbol of Fayetteville.



The project will include: new sidewalks, new curb and gutter, new street lights, and new path and feature lighting for the gardens. The demolition of the old sidewalks and the provision of new lighting has allowed the entire Square electrical system to be upgraded to safely and

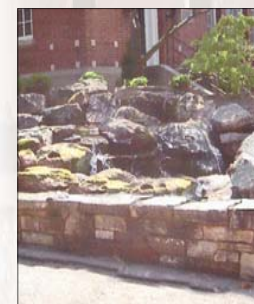


adequately accommodate the demands of Lights of the Ozarks and other special events on the Square.

As most will remember, there are constant issues in keeping all of the lighted areas functioning properly due to the antiquated and cobbled together electrical system that has been pieced together over time in order to sustain a Lights of the Ozarks.

During the demolition process there was much discussion concerning the corner planters which contained the Cherry trees. Susan Regan nursed these trees over the years and had to remove several of them as they became unhealthy or damaged. She felt that the older existing Cherry trees had reached a point where they should be replaced with new healthy trees. The older Cherry trees have been removed and will be replaced with the same variety Cherry trees.

When complete the renewed Square will appear the same as before. There will however be a few subtle differences: the sidewalks will be slightly wider, the travel lane between the parked cars will be 24 feet wide, the throat at the intersections will be narrowed to 18 feet and the alignment through the intersections will be improved as much as possible.



The traffic around the Square will continue to function as it does currently. Delivery vehicles will still be required to double park and all delivery vehicles or buses will still be able to navigate the Square. It may be a little constrained for some larger buses, but all vehicles will be able to maneuver around the Square, while still creating a very welcoming pedestrian friendly environment. The corner by the Continuing Education building was constructed too tight and will be corrected at the end of the project.