

# Downtown Round

## December 2018 Update



### Join us for the next Downtown Round!

Thursday, January 17  
7:30 a.m.

Rustech Brewing  
105 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Monticello, MN



For more information  
about recent or upcoming  
downtown projects,  
please contact  
Community Development  
Department staff at:

**763-295-2711**



Thank you to everyone who attended the Downtown Round events last August and September! The events began as a way to connect businesses, property owners, and other downtown stakeholders. They are a chance to share ideas, ask questions, and get to know each other.

We know calendars fill up quickly during the holiday season, so the next Downtown Round will occur in early 2019.

In the meantime, we're excited to provide an update on some of the projects that have been initiated or completed since the Downtown Small Area Plan was adopted.

- The Monticello Community Center launched **Music on the Mississippi**, a summer concert series in West Bridge Park. With support from the Central MN Arts Board and local sponsors, local bands drew crowds into the downtown on select summer Thursdays. The MCC hopes to increase the number of Music on the Mississippi events next summer.
- The Monticello Arts Initiative, led by City Arts Consultant Sue Seeger, successfully secured a grant from the Central MN Arts Board for a "**Shimmer Wall**" at the southeast corner of TH25 and Broadway. The wall features a photo taken by photographer Chris Lommel made out of small tiles that shimmer in the breeze.
- The City debuted a new **Summer Happiness Guide** to highlight downtown activities and events. Many of the featured events occurred along Walnut Street and Broadway, including Music on the Mississippi, Brewfest, Taste of the Towns, and more!
- The **streetscape downtown** got an updated look! The streetlights and decorative bridge rail along the corridor have a fresh coat of paint in the Monticello signature Mississippi Bronze color. In addition, the streetlight fixtures were updated to match the lantern style along Walnut Street. This holiday season, check out the light-wrapped light posts on Walnut too!
- The City Council approved the **Monticello Arts Initiative's** use of the vacant property at 349 West Broadway. This provides a dedicated space for people to participate in creating art for the downtown as well as add activity to a previously underutilized space in the downtown area.

- City staff worked with the Monticello Arts Initiative to hold a **streetlight banner design contest**. The public was invited to submit designs for new street banners that replaced existing banners along Pine, Broadway, and Walnut Streets. The community voted for their favorite finalists at the first-ever Creative City Celebration hosted by the Arts Initiative in the green space on Walnut Street. Public Works staff installed the new banners in the downtown in December!



- The City accepted the **Walnut Corridor Concept Plan**. The plan focuses on Walnut Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Street (at the Monticello Community Center) to River Street. The plan provides recommendations for art space, pathway and sidewalk improvements, street improvements, and event space intended to attract more people and activity into the Downtown. The plan can be implemented in phases as vehicle and pedestrian/bicycle traffic increase downtown, as reinvestment and redevelopment occur, and as funding is available.
- The 2019 budget approved by the City Council includes **downtown improvements** outlined in the Walnut Corridor Plan and the Small Area Plan. Proposed improvements include curb extensions at Walnut & Broadway, the realignment of the curb at the southeast corner of the Walnut & Broadway

intersection (to provide additional plaza space near the Cornerstone Café property), and completion of a pedestrian ramp from the Walnut Street parking lot to River Street with a new crosswalk and sidewalk into West Bridge Park. City staff talked with members of the public attending the Music on the Mississippi events over the summer and heard great suggestions for the improvements. City staff will continue to communicate with affected property owners as the project moves forward in the spring.

- In August the City of Monticello Economic Development Authority authorized a pilot **Downtown Façade Improvement Grant Program** focused on properties located on southern part of Block 34. The program was established to encourage reinvestment in downtown buildings, spur new economic growth, and keep existing business properties look their best.



Many of these projects support the 4 main goals of the **Downtown Small Area Plan**:

1. Shift the center of downtown to Walnut & Broadway.
2. Improve the Pine Street experience for everyone.
3. Make small and medium-sized improvements.
4. Become a river town again.

As we move forward, this plan will continue to guide our efforts. We hope to see you at the next Downtown Round in January!