





City of Macomb

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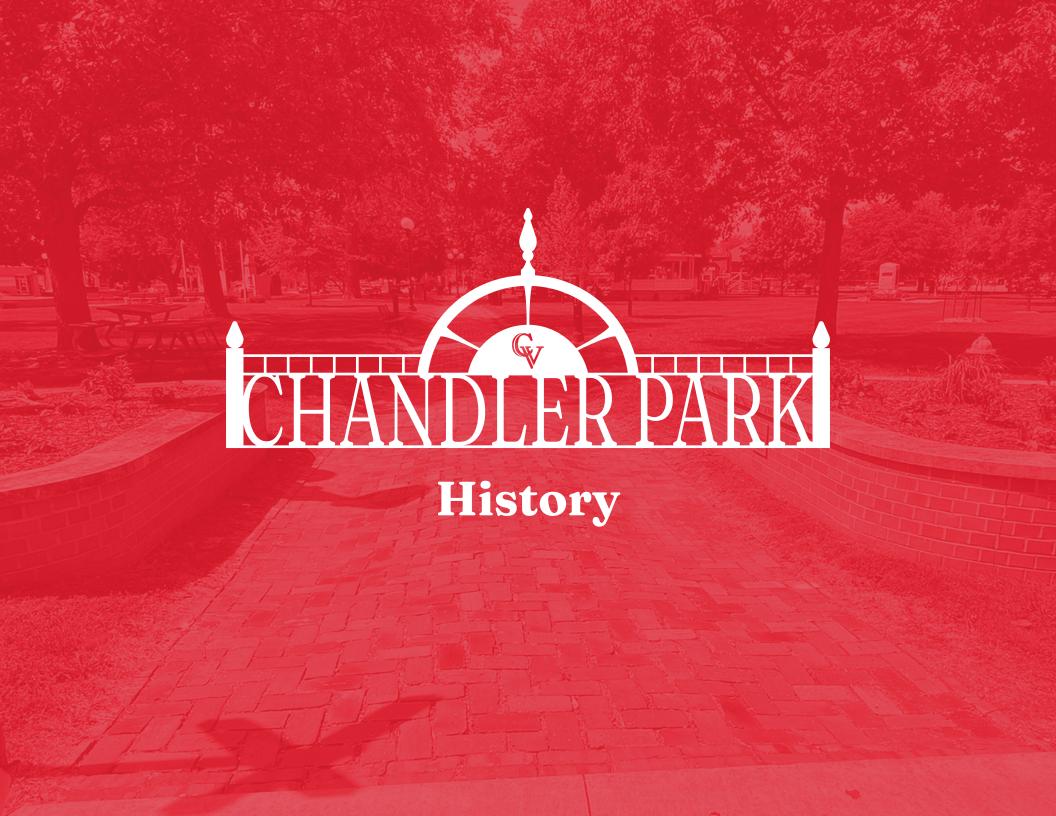
Acknowledgments





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Senator L.Y. Sherman Speaks in Macomb 1914, McDonough unveiling the monument to the right.

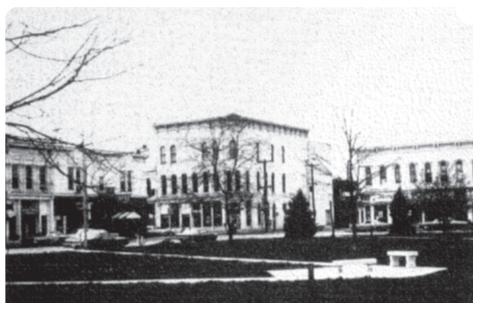
Chandler Park is located in Macomb, Illinois and is one of the city's most recognizable parks. Situated north of the downtown square and just south of the Macomb train station, the park is the size of one city block and is bordered by East Calhoun Street (U.S. 67/136), North Lafayette Street, West Carroll Street, and North Randolph Street.

The land that would soon become Chandler Park was originally purchased by Civil War veteran and local businessman C.V. Chandler in 1878. One of the City's most dedicated citizens, Chandler razed the existing buildings and opened the park the following year in 1879. The park was officially established in 1893 when Chandler donated the land to the City of Macomb. In 1899, C.V. Chandler had the first memorial statue erected at the park, a 20-foot-high monument that portrays a Civil War soldier

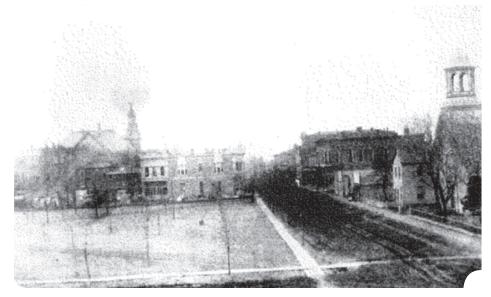
at rest. Today, the monument is one of ten sites on Macomb's Looking for Lincoln Self-Guided Tour. The Civil War monument was the first of several additional memorials added to Chandler Park over the next 220 years: Thomas McDonough Memorial (dedicated 1914), C.V. Chandler Memorial Arch (dedicated 1929), VFW Memorial (dedicated 1957), Ruth Watts Memorial Fountain (dedicated 1990), and Women's Memorial (dedicated 2015). In addition, the park features several other small memorials honoring other individuals and groups. A plaque honors Gus A.A. Shafer, who was active in the beautification of Chandler Park in the early 1900s. The cannon at the center of the park was erected by C.V. Chandler in 1899, honoring the men who lost their lives in battle. Memorials trees have been planted throughout the park.

Chandler Park is home to several events including the Farmers Market, Summer Concert Series, and the heavily-attended Heritage Days. The park acts as a focal point and central gathering place for the citizens of Macomb and McDonough County, with events and festivals attracting thousands of people throughout the year. Event attendees often gather on the lawn of the park and the roads surrounding it and also frequent the downtown Macomb businesses as a result of the gatherings. Performances can be seen at the gazebo, located on the eastern portion of the park. It was erected in 1982 and renovated in 2004. The Flags of Love and Memorial Bricks honor deceased and honorably discharged veterans that resided in McDonough County and can be found on the south side of the park near the water feature that acts as a natural gathering place for relaxation and conversation.

Chandler Park is a green space located in the center of the City of Macomb and adjacent to downtown. In addition to drawing users from across the city and county for events and major gatherings, the park represents a break from the surrounding environment, providing peaceful moments and passive recreation. The proximity to downtown and the population it serves makes Chandler Park one of the most important community amenities in the City of Macomb and McDonough County.



Chandler Park looking southwest toward Lafayette & Carroll Streets, 1970.



 ${\it Chandler Park and Lafayette Street in 1898, courtesy of WIU Digital \ Collection.}$



Existing Park Amenities



Park Callouts Legend

Letter Callout Details

A	Arched Entry
В	CV Chandler Arch
C	Jim Miller-Melberg Concrete
	Play Sculptures
D	Kiwanis Playground
E	McDonough Monument
F	Veterans Memorial & Benches
G	Ruth Watts Memorial Fountain
Н	Women's Monument
I	Civil War Monument
J	Cannon
K	J Gus A.A. Schafer Planters

Existing Tree Plan



Tree Legend

Common Name	DBH	Location	Memorial	Common Name	DBH	Location	Memorial
1. Blue Spruce	12	West	X	28. Dogwood	4	North	
2. Pin Oak	26	West	X	29. Dogwood	4	East	
3. Black Maple	10	West	X	30. Autumn Blaze Maple	15	East	
4. Black Maple	10	West	X	31. London Planetree	8	East	X
5. Chinquaoin Oak	8	West	X	32. Red Maple	7	East	X
6. Sycamore	36	West		33. American Linden	26	East	
7. Dogwood	5	West		34. American Beech	7	East	
8. Sugar Maple	25	West		35. Norway Maple	21	East	
9. Bald Cypress	5	West	Arbor Day	36. American Linden	27	East	
10. Red Oak	10	West		37. Burr Oak	5	East	
11. Crabapple	20	West		38. London Plane	14	East	
12. Sycamore	34	West		39. Celebration Maple	4	East	
13. Hackberry	24	West		40. Celebration Maple	4	East	
14. Sugar Maple	20	West		41. October Glory Maple	2	East	
15. Dogwood	5	North		42. Burr Oak	10	East	X
16. Red Bud	4	North		43. Chinquapin Oak	13	South	
17. Hackberry	52	North		44. River Birch	25	South	
18. Elm	14	North	X	45. Golden Rain Tree	22	South	
19. Chinkapin Oak	10	North	X	46. White Oak	5	South	
20. Sugar Maple	32	North		47. Blackgum	4	South	
21. Elm	12	North	X	48. Sycamore	39	South	
22. Gingko	30	North		49. American Linden	28	South	
23. Tree Lilac	2	North		50. White Oak	5	South	X
24. Tree Lilac	3	North		51. Swamp White Oak	12	South	X
25. October Glory Maple	8	North		52. American Chestnut	4	South	X
26. American Linden	25	North		53. Blue Spruce	12	South	X
27. London Plane	4	North					



Brick walkways, uneven and rutted from vehicular use



Brick walks intersect in center of park, looking northeast



View from center of park looking northeast



View from center of park looking northwest



View from center of park looking southeast



Brick paver walkways, uneven and rutted from vehicular use



View from center of park looking north at closed archway



Masonry wall & columns with ornamental fence border the north edge of park



Planting beds throughout the park are maintained by

Macomb Beautiful



Memorial rock placed in planting bed at northwest entrance



Chandler Park ornamental arch and masonry columns at northwest entrance to park



Kiwanis seating area with drinking fountain in northeast quadrant



Unsightly portable restroom(s) must be placed in proximity to the park for users, blocking accessible sidewalk routes



Concrete play sculpture area aka "swiss cheese" playground



Historical style light fixture at center of park





Electrical cabinet just north of veterans memorial



Side view of electrical cabinet



Manhole in greenspace



Fire hydrant at south side of park



Damaged pedestal at south end of park, looking west



View into park from northeast corner



Traditional playground equipment/area



Brick paver sidewalk along Randolph, looking south



Brick paver sidewalk along Calhoun (67/136) looking west



City center bus station is located northeast of park



Amtrak train station is directly north of park across Calhoun st. (136/67)



Outdated spotlights for monuments throughout the park



Lighted bollard & power receptacles placed throughout the park



Outdated spotlights for monuments throughout park



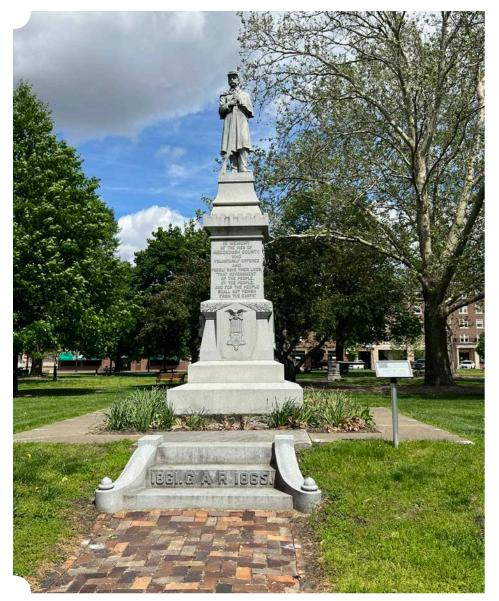
Bike racks at southeast quadrant of the park



Litter receptacles throughout the park



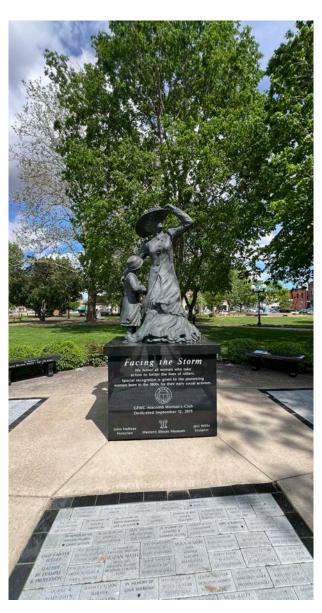
Civil War Monument





Women's Day Monument









McDonough Monument









Gazebo









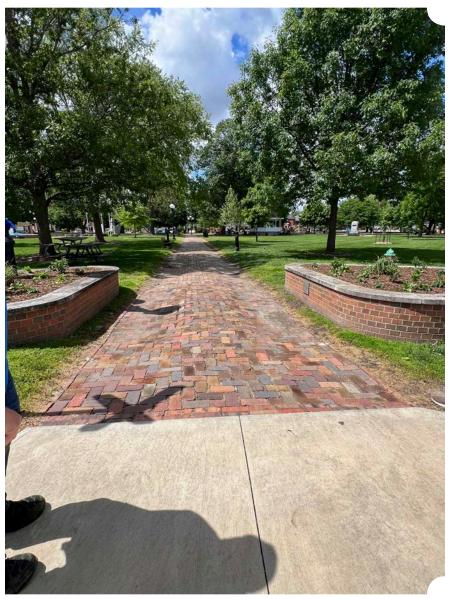




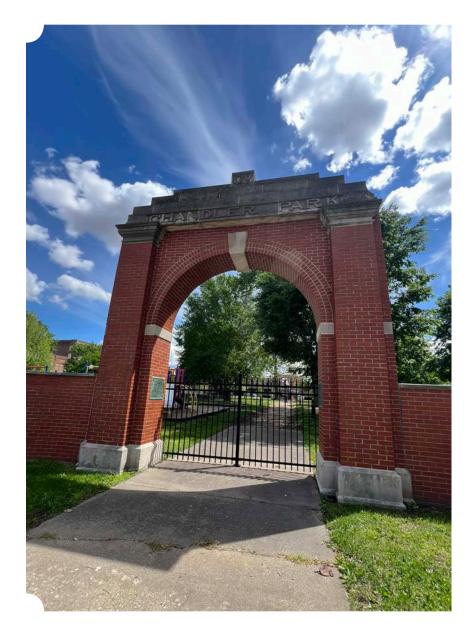
Gus A.A. Schafer Planters

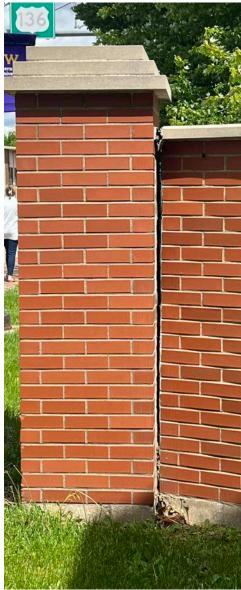






CV Chandler Arch











Veterans Memorial, Pavers and Benches











Ruth Watts Memorial Fountain





Cannon Monument







Flags of Love









Public Design Workshop

Farnsworth Group (FGI) conducted a public design workshop for the Chandler Park Master Plan to gather information and residents' opinions on the park as it exists currently and what they would like to see designed as a part of this project. The Public Design Workshop was attended by 30 individuals and followed the following format:

- Project Overview: Purpose and Process Slide show presentation by FGI
- Existing Conditions Slide show presentation by FGI
- SWOT Analysis Group discussion between attendees, facilitated by FGI
- Design Charrette Breakout sessions between attendees, facilitated by FGI

FGI explained the purpose of the plan, defining a Master Plan as follows:

- Site Design: Identifies the layout and arrangement of park features, amenities, and infrastructure.
- Programmatic Needs: Helps determine the facilities and services required to meet community needs such as farmers markets and other special events.
- Budgeting and Phasing: Assists in setting realistic budgets, determining the order of development phases, and positions the community favorably for grant opportunities to fund construction phases.



The project process was presented as follows:

- Public Engagement (June-July)
 - > Staff input
 - > Stakeholder interviews
 - > Public Design Workshop
 - Online public survey
 - > Public engagement summary
- Design Development (July-August)
 - > Programming
 - > Conceptual Site Plan
- Master Plan (September)
 - > Rendered site plan
 - Vision book
 - > Public engagement summary
 - > Site plan
 - > Phasing
 - > Budget

FGI provided dozens of photos collected of Chandler Park on a slide show. Attendees stated they were familiar with the conditions and provided comments on occasion.

FGI posed four specific questions to the attendees for them to answer in a group setting. The responses were written down for all to observe and are included on this page.

What do you like most about Chandler Park?

- Mature trees
- History/Monuments/Memorials (specifically the Veterans Memorial and bricks)
- Separate nodes of activity (playground, gazebo, memorials, etc.)
- Gazebo
- Location in town/relationship to Downtown/ represents the front door to the city
- Nearby parking
- Unique playground
- Benches and picnic tables
- Floral displays
- The look of the brick sidewalks
- Flags
- Locked front gate/fence
- No easy access from north side/safety

What do you like least about Chandler Park?

- concerns/crosswalk concerns
- Vendor traffic through park

- Traditional playground is non-inclusive
- Doesn't address teenage group
- Curbs in disrepair
- Not attractive to working professionals
- Uneven bricks/sidewalk fixes
- Gathering place
- Additional traditional seating/pods of seating/conversation areas
- Updates to existing picnic tables and add new ones

What are your needs at Chandler Park?

- Special and seasonal events
- Functional presentation/concert venue
- Place to walk dogs
- Monument protection
- Working drinking fountain/pet fountain/ bottle filler
- Electricity upgrades
- Trash receptacles/recycling
- Toilets
- Monetization of events
- Family recreation
- Covered shelter area
- Open space
- Fitness hub
- Plantings/landscaping
- Sidewalk fixes
- Cost
- Maintenance/respect park space/rule enforcement

- Clutter of too many things in a small space
- Loitering/security

What are your concerns with Chandler Park?

- Trash
- Historic preservation
- Tree protection
- Too much signage
- Balance of lighting without being too much
- Traditional Christmas lighting discontinued
- Development limits



Drainiage p

Public Design Workshop

Each attendee was then encouraged to vote on which item from the SWOT analysis they felt was most important – whether it was something they like, dislike, need, or are concerned about, each attendee got one vote. The result is the most important items from the SWOT analysis, in the eyes of the attendees. Results shown to the right.

Sidewalk fixes/brick sidewalks
History/Monuments/
Memorials/Preservation
Need for a functional presentation/concert
venue
Fitness hub needed
Place to walks dog needed
Working drinking fountain/pet fountain/
bottle filler needed
Electricity upgrades needed
Trash recentacles/recycling needed •

Monetization of events needed	•
Need for park to remain a	
gathering space	•
Existing gazebo is a positive	•
Good existing shade trees	•
No easy access from north side/safety	
concerns/crosswalk concerns	•
Traditional playground is	
non-inclusive	•
Pods of seating/conversation needed	•



The final exercise of the public design workshop was for attendees to work in groups to sketch recommendations onto provided 36x48 maps of the existing park. They were encouraged to imagine the park as a blank slate and to provide ideas as to what they would like the park to look like. In addition to the attached files, attendees' recommendations included:

- Playground on the east or west side of the park
- Entertainment on the north side of the park
- Bridge crossing Highway 136 from the train station
- Arch entryway on the northwest corner
- Move General Macomb statue to west side
- Playground in center of park for parents to see kids no matter where they are
- Taller walls on the fountain to prevent people from wading
- Fitness equipment on southwest side of park
- Larger gazebo/band shelter to replace current gazebo in same location. Band shelter to face into the park but have mural on back facing out of the park
- Expanded sidewalk in the middle of the park where they cross to create a plaza
- Need for a bigger and updated gazebo
- New bathrooms on the northeast side of park
- String lights
- Crosswalk on Highway 136 at northeast corner of park
- Add additional electrical conduits through park
- Concrete sidewalks with pavers on outside
- Fitness equipment on north side of park
- State historical sign on northwest side of park
- West side of park is for history with statues currently in the middle

- and east side of the park moved to west; east side of park is for entertainment with new covered stage and elimination of gazebo
- Permanent flag sockets lining the sidewalks
- Pavers or concrete protruding ~30' off Carroll Street into the park to be used for market
- Wider sidewalks all around
- Additional handicap accessible picnic tables
- New restrooms not needed; better locations for part-a-john is more important
- Patio/plaza space in the center of the park, with space for people to bring chairs and watch performances on the gazebo
- Removal of the sidewalk leading to the 'gate to nowhere' on the north side of the park
- Pod seating, conversation areas, and benches scattered throughout the park
- Curbing for planting beds
- Keep the sidewalks that move from the corners of the park into the center
- Move General Macomb and the cannon to the west side of the park;
 this side of the park becomes the historic side of the park with a
 new historic site designation marker
- Add dog stations
- Pedestrian crossing across Highway 136 on northeast corner of the park.

Public Input Survey

To garner additional public feedback outside of the stakeholder interviews and in-person public design workshop, Farnsworth Group created an online survey consisting of 7 total questions:

- 1. Why do you visit Chandler Park?
- 2. How do you travel to Chandler Park when you visit?
- 3. Are you satisfied with the current amenities at Chandler Park?
- 4. What improvements would you like to see at Chandler Park?
- 5. Do you support recreational improvements (playground, gazebo, etc.) to Chandler Park?
- 6. Do you support public infrastructure improvements (parking, sidewalks, drainage, lighting, etc.) at Chandler Park?
- 7. Do you have any additional comments regarding Chandler Park?

Hard copies of the survey were also made available at City Hall for individuals to complete as an alternative to the online format. The survey was open for approximately three weeks. There were over 400 responses online and a dozen paper surveys completed. Survey results are shown on the following pages.



https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChandlerPark

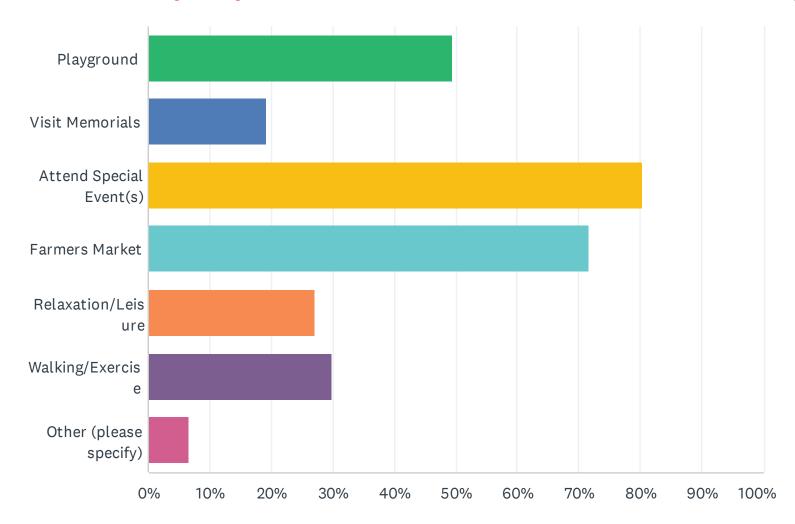




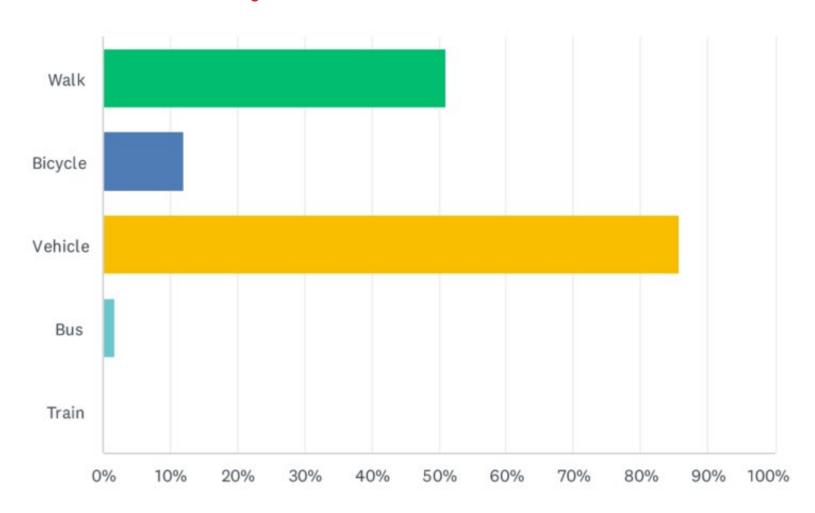


Public Input Survey Results

Question 1: Why do you visit Chandler Park? 402 answers, 1 skip

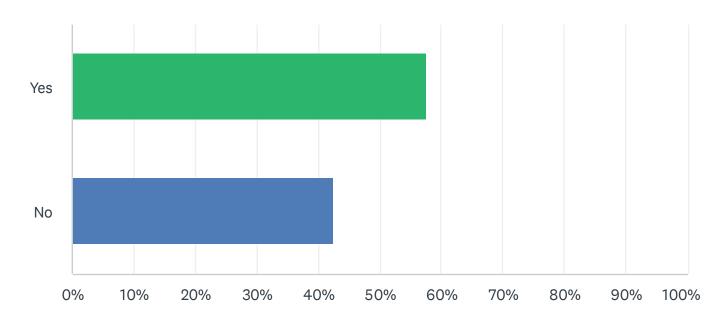


Question 2: How do you travel to Chandler Park? 402 answers, 1 skip





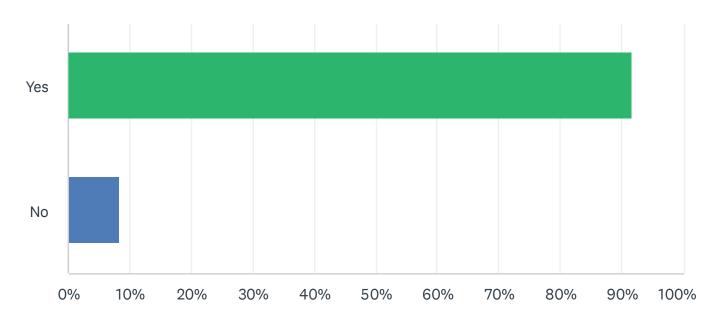
Question 3: Are you satisfied with the current amenities at Chandler Park? 387 answers, 16 skips



Question 4 What improvements would you like to see at Chandler Park?

Question 4 received a large variety of answers that can be found appendix a. There were 289 answers, and 114 individuals skipped this question without providing an answer.

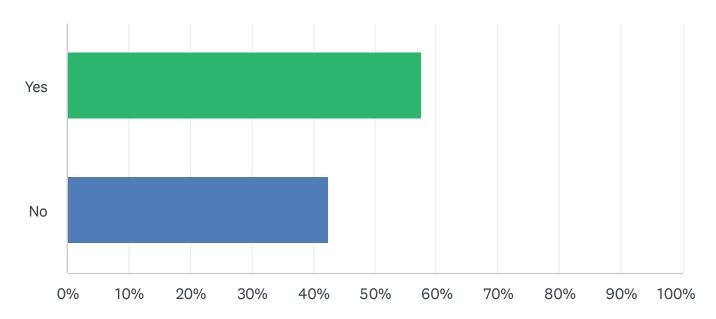
Question 5: Do you support recreational improvements (playground, gazebo, etc.) to Chandler Park? 393 answers, 10 skips





Question 6: Do you support infrastructure improvements (parking, sidewalks, drainage, lighting, etc.) at Chandler Park?

399 answers, 4 skips



Question 7 Do you have any additional comments regarding Chandler Park?

Question 7 received a large variety of answers that can be found appendix B. There were 171 answers, and 232 individuals skipped this question without providing an answer.

Stakeholder Input

Farnsworth Group (FGI) conducted one-on-one virtual, phone or in-person interviews with 17 individuals identified by City staff as key stakeholders within the community. The purpose of these guided interviews was to gather information and opinions on the park as it exists currently and what they would like to see designed as a part of this project.

Bullet points across from each category denote the number of unique individuals who gave that response.

What is your general perception of Chandler Park?

Crowded	•••••
Historic	•••••
Hub for activities	••••
Meant for all ages	••••
No identity	••••

Centrally located	Public Space
Beautiful	Chairs provided by WIU
Active year-round	Electricity/lighting
Brings people to town	Lunch program
Sidewalks need help	Fountain
Unique	What activities have you
Green Space	participated in at Chandler Park?
7	Heritage Days
	Farmers Market
Drainage issues	Special events
Clean	Summer/brown bag concerts
Not well-planned	_
Static, no appeal	Flags of love program
Playground	Car shows
What amenities do you use at	Downtown Block Party
Chandler Park?	20th anniversary party
Gazebo	50th anniversary mural
Social Events	CT Vivian celebrations
Sidewalks	Family Day
Benches	First Responders Activity
Monuments	Lincoln Days
Vendor areas	Veterans Memorial
Picnic Tables	Womens Monument Dedication
Women's Statue	Womens Voting Celebration

What do you like most about **Chandler Park?**

Focal point when driving

Landscaping

Trees/shade	•••••
Location/proximity to downtown_	•••••

Open space/gardens	••••
Displayed history	••••

z o our pormo maon unione	
Gazebo	••••

Danascaping	
Activity hub	•••
Gathering areas	••

0	
Playground	
78	
Small town faal	

Small town feel	••
Brick wall to block traffic	•

Clean		

Fountain	
Monuments	

Water spigots.	
1 8	

What do you like least about Chandler Park?

Brick sidewalks	•••••
Poor drainage	••••

Playground	equipment	needs	update	
00	1 1		1	

loo many statues	••
Lack of planned layout	••
Mississ of park	

Light show doesn't match aesthetic	
Gazebo used as stage/for events	

Loitering	••
Concerns about womens statue	•

No public restroom	S
F	-

Lanuscaping	
Gate closure on	north side
Gate Closure on	north side

Noise	from	train/	traffic	<u> </u>	

Grass dying	•
Overcrowding on Heritage Days	•

Monuments	

Are there any amenities in the park that you feel aren't being utilized by the community?

None, meaning all are used	••••

Monuments	• •
Gazebo being misused	••
0	

Fountain used	for youth play
---------------	----------------

Lack of info on space reservation	•
Lack of info on WIU chairs	•
East side	•

"Swiss cheese"	playground area	•
	1 70	

What additional amenities would you like to see at Chandler Park?

Permanent restroom	••••
Amphitheater	••••
Seating	•••
Place for conversation/reflection	••
Splash pad	••
Music on Wednesdays	••
Alternative playground safety surface_	•
Remove farmers market from grass	•
Perimeter sidewalks	•
More winter activities	•
Dessert/drink shop nearby	•
Drinking fountains	•
Grills	•
Garden area	

What would you like to see improved at Chandler Park?

Vandalism_

Gazebo	Congregating all areas to this park, not using
Reworked electrical	other parks in area
Grass	Trouble drawing attention to park
Fountain	Invasive tree removal
More lighting	Cost to renovate historic pieces
Parking spaces Security	Do you have any additional comments about Chandler Park?
Less monuments	Sidewalks should be concrete
	Spring & Fall cleanup needed
Maintenance and health tests for trees	Loiterers littering
None Curbing	Additional amenities use up space, need to leave room for open space
What challenges do you feel the City faces as they embark on	Tree board foundation in '92
the Master Planning process for Chandler Park?	Hackberry in NW corner saved by use of I-beam under wall vs concrete foundation
Negative comments about change	Crowded on Heritage Days
Clashing opinions	Likes holiday lights
Electrical impacting development	Fountain is used as wading pool
Lack of funding	Water play area for families
Changing width of sidewalks	Stolen plaque on bench
Merchant complaints due to construction	Park should be better respected & return to
blocking business	original use as monument park
Unable to expand due to location	Make half of park protected (see above)

Don't relocate gazebo
Womens group is responsible for both
VFW & American Legion have joint
responsibility for WWII monument
Fountain has to be turned off during large
events due to electricity draw
Town relies on WIU, less students means
smaller census & lack of funding
Put arch/art at SW corner





Programming

- 1. Existing Monuments to remain on-site but relocated within the park all on the west side creating a historical quadrant.
- 2. New water feature in central plaza, dedicated to Ruth Watts. Existing Fountain to be removed.
- Create fenced in play area east of central plaza, relocate existing concrete play sculptures to mulched area under existing tree canopy, and create new accessible play area with Unitary Safety Surface.
- 4. Majority of existing Trees to remain and be protected. 3 trees shall be relocated and 4 trees shall be removed (one of which is on the invasive species list).
- 5. Farmers' Market/Vendor Areas designated with adjacent power receptacles. Vehicular access will be restricted to paved spaces along south and east edges of park.
- 6. Infrastructure updates to include new accessible sidewalks with brick paver edging, perimeter curb and gutter, bike lane, drainage improvements, electrical service, vendor power, LED pedestrian lighting, and technology. Flags of Love pipe sleeves and plugs will be placed throughout the park adjacent to all proposed perimeter and interior sidewalks allowing for additional flags if desired.
- 7. Performance Shelter, existing gazebo to be removed.
- 8. Public Restrooms, part of performance shelter building structure.
- Informational kiosks will be provided at corners of park.
 Shall include educational information regarding park and its monuments/memorials.
- 10. Bicycle trailhead at east entrance to park.

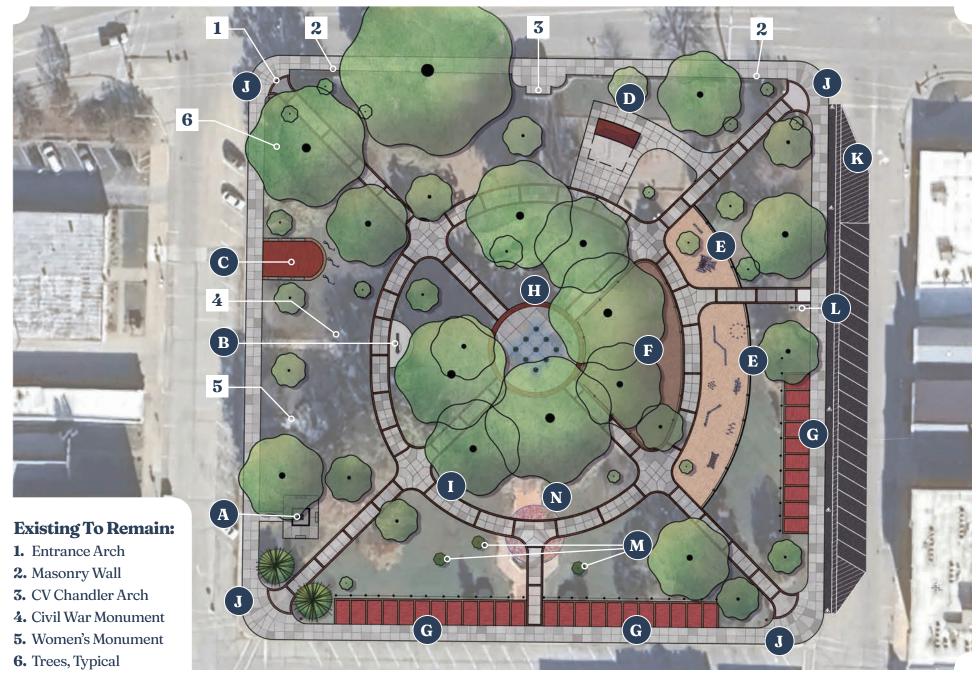
Vision Statement

"Chandler Park serves as a charming and welcoming space in the heart of downtown Macomb where history, community and nature come together. We envision a place where everyone, regardless of age and ability, can connect with our rich heritage, engage in meaningful community gatherings, and create memorable recreational experiences."

By fostering accessibility, preserving our history, and promoting inclusivity, our park will continue to be a cherished sanctuary that enhances the well-being of all who visit.

Master Plan Legend

- A. Relocated McDonough monument
- B. Relocated cannon
- C. Relocated Veterans Memorial, including benches, pavers, and flagpoles
- D. Performance shelter with restrooms and drinking fountain / bottle filler
- E. Play area with unitary surfacing and ornamental fencing
- F. Relocated Jim Miller-Melberg concrete play sculptures
- G. Farmers market / Heritage Days vendor paver stalls, bollards, and chain rope adjacent
- H. Central plaza with fountain jets, Ruth Watts memorial plaque relocated
- I. Concrete sidewalk with brick paver edging
- J. Concrete sidewalk with curb & gutter
- K. Bike lane & new striping for angled parking
- L. Trailhead with bike racks, bike repair station, bottle filler, and kiosk
- M. Trees to be relocated
- N. Gus AA Schafer memorial planters, memorial plaque relocated





Central Plaza



Playground





Playground



Trailhead





Performance Shelter



Performance Shelter Back



Farmers Market East



Farmers Market South





Veterans Memorial



Historic Quadrant





Historic Quadrant





Conceptual Costs

Implementing the vision of this Master Plan will not happen overnight, but over the course of many years. This Master Plan is meant to guide planning and design of Chandler Park over the next 5-10 years. Flexibility, including alterations to this Master Plan and phasing, may be necessary to align with funding and resources as they become available. The following is a summary of conceptual costs for suggested improvements. These conceptual costs are preliminary in nature and subject to change once more detailed plans are developed and finalized.

General Site / Infrastructure Improvements	\$1,160,900.00
Monument Relocation	\$133,000.00
Performance Shelter / Restrooms	\$520,650.00
Play Area	\$392,450.00
Farmers Market / Vendor Area	\$204,300.00
Central Plaza with Water Feature	\$250,900.00
Trailhead	\$11,100.00
Landscape Items	\$60,760.00

Overall Chandler Park Master Plan Budget: \$3,280,872.00*

Funding Alternatives

Funding, possibly from a variety of different sources, will be required to implement the various components of this Master Plan. This funding may come from state and federal grant assistance, City of Macomb general funds, bonding, and corporate / private donations. Listed below are various grant programs which could be utilized to implement various elements of the master plan:

- Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), Illinois Department of Transportation
- Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (OSLAD), Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program (RAISE), U.S. Department of Transportation
- Illinois State Bike Grant Program, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Hometown Grants, T-Mobile

^{*}Total reflects a 20% design & construction contingency

