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I Executive Summary**Park History****RAPID CITY COMMUNITY PLANNING
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As noted on the City of Rapid City Website: "Memorial Park is located north of Omaha Street near the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. The park is bounded on the west by Mt. Rushmore Road, on the south of Omaha Street and on the east by Fifth Street. Memorial Park is 27.5 acres in size and includes the following amenities: Tennis courts, Memorial Lake, Flood Memorial Fountain, Picnic areas, Formal Rose Garden, Legacy Statue, Leonard "Swanny" Swanson Memorial Pathway, Restroom, Berlin Wall Memorial, Veterans Memorial, and, Band Shell.

This property was acquired after the 1972 Flood and subsequently developed as a "memorial" to the 238 people who lost their lives during that event. The park serves as an urban link to the downtown area, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City Central High School and The Journey Museum."

Memorial Park West (West Boulevard to Mt. Rushmore Rd.) primarily includes the active recreation facilities. Memorial Park East (Mt. Rushmore Rd. to Haines Ave. / Fifth Street) includes the various memorials, statuary and bandshell.

Project Team and Stakeholders

In January 2012 Destination Rapid City's Board of Directors formed a committee to explore and implement an improved pedestrian connection between Rapid City's City Center and the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. The committee members include Paul Bradsky, (Chair), Ray Hillenbrand, Charity Doyle, Dr. Carolyn Fassi-Wharton, Dan Senftner and Jerry Cole. Subsequently, Destination Rapid City retained Wyss Associates, Inc. to design the proposed connection. Stakeholders in this project include the citizens of Rapid City, Downtown Rapid City businesses, residents and visitors, Civic Center activity attendees, RC Parks and Recreation Board, and many others.

Memorial Park Promenade Goals

- Provide an appealing and attractive walking experience interconnecting Sixth Street in Rapid City's City Center with the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center.
- Provide a walking experience that is attractive in both the daytime and nighttime hours.
- Provide places for spontaneous social gatherings, vendors, small street scale performances, and other urban activities.
- The connection is primarily for pedestrian use, although some permitted uses could accommodate the use of golf carts, bike carts and bicycles.
- Address a convenient Omaha Street pedestrian crossing.
- Provide a clear view north across the park to the Civic Center.
- Provide an arrival/departure point at the Civic Center that is visible from the park, especially from the pedestrian connection.
- Provide a design that is unique to the park system, emphasizing the special need to interconnect these two popular destinations: the City Center and the Civic Center.
- Provide for future links west to Founders Park and east to the Journey Museum and the Indoor Recreation Complex.

- Provide areas along the Promenade where Vendors Permits may be established.
- Provide a dramatic archway feature along Omaha Street that encourages people to cross Omaha Street and to walk south from the Civic center.

Design Overview

The project name "Memorial Park Promenade" denotes this as more than a sidewalk or pathway. The Promenade is a fun place, a destination in and of itself, all with the purpose of creating a convenient and identifiable connection between the City Center and the Civic Center. The tree lined boulevard walk is open, gracious in scale, landscaped with seasonal changing features, all with attractive nighttime lighting. Gathering areas include the Plaza at Omaha Street, the Art Plaza, the Sixth Street Bridge, the Memorial Park Lake Overlooks and the new Civic Center Entry Canopy/Plaza. All told, the Memorial Park Promenade helps bring the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center into the fold of a dynamic and growing City Center.

The Memorial Park Promenade Plan

The accompanying plans illustrate the proposed Promenade as described in the Executive Summary. The following narrative describes the Promenade as one would walk from Main Street Square to the Civic Center. The experiences along the Promenade will change with the seasons with varying displays and seasonal color changes to the vegetation. Extensive lighting provides first and foremost a feeling of safety while the indirect lighting is picturesque in and of itself.

Standing at the Omaha Street crosswalk one sees a safe pedestrian crossing with an island for safety and a welcoming plaza across the street. The intersection has been expanded for user convenience. Now you can cross from either the east or west side of Sixth Street. Upon crossing one enters the Omaha Street Promenade Welcome Plaza.

Walking north one will pass "Legacy" a Dale Lamphere sculpture commissioned by the City of Rapid City to memorialize the City's Centennial celebration in 1989. After the Legacy one arrives at the Art Plaza.

Continuing north and walking over Sixth Street Bridge one can stop to read a display that describes the blue ribbon fishing in Rapid Creek, right in the center of town. Two 1972 Flood Plaques will be located on the bridge providing information about the park and the 1972 event. The bridge will be equipped with new site furnishings (Planting Urns, Table and Chairs, and Bike Racks). The bridge will also hold a wi-fi cabinet that will provide a public wi-fi connection to users of the promenade.

Continuing north along the promenade one will come to the Civic Center Plaza. The Plaza will include seating walls, and new canopy the wraps around the civic center, and bike racks.

In summary, The Memorial Park Promenade includes:

- Expanded Omaha Street Pedestrian Crossing

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- Welcome Plaza
- Promenade Walkway, 12 ft. aisles each side
- Landscaped Center Boulevard, 16 ft. wide
- Shade Trees lining the Promenade
- Art Plaza
- Sixth Street Bridge Furnishings
- Civic Center Canopy Connection to East Entry
- Furnishings
- Security Lighting
- Character Lighting

Planning and Programming

Opportunities for planning and programming the Promenade include:

- Promenade Walkway
 - Parades
 - Food Vendors
 - Craft Vendors
 - Start/Finish for Run/Walk/Bike Events
 - Urban Pedestrian Corridor
 - Edged with Boulevard Trees for pathway orientation
 - Spontaneous Social Interaction
 - Interpretive Signage
- Art Plaza:
 - Sculpture Displays
 - Art Classes
 - Food Vendors
 - Craft Vendors
 - Weddings
 - Photo Opportunity
 - Interpretive Signage
- Sixth Street Bridge
 - Seats and Tables
 - Street Entertainers
 - Photo Opportunity
 - Interpretive Signage
- Civic Center Entry Canopy
 - Seating with Weather Canopy Overhead
 - Covered Walking Path to Civic Center Entrance

Conclusion:

We have been working closely with the Rapid City Parks Department since the conception of the Memorial Park Promenade. The Parks Department has been involved with nearly every aspect of the design process. They have reviewed the items that will be cleared from the park to make room for the Promenade. Working with Destination Rapid City and the Parks Department we will be removing several large evergreen trees that are currently directly in the flood way area. One of these trees will be secured and used for the Main Street Square Christmas Tree. All site amenities located within the park will become property of the City of Rapid City, per a Memorandum of Agreement between the City and Destination Rapid City. Work that will be completed within SDDOT ROW has been closely coordinated with the SDDOT. The DOT is in the process of drafting a Memorandum of Agreement between the City and SDDOT.

All in all the Memorial Park Promenade will be an amazing project for the City of Rapid City. Mayor Sam Kooiker "We are on the front end of a renaissance in Rapid City. What's happening Downtown is the cornerstone, with Main Street Square, President's Plaza, and the **Memorial Park Promenade**. It's extremely exciting."

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