

Park to connect The Dalles' downtown to riverfront

by Angela Webber

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When Interstate 84 was built, the road cut off The Dalles' downtown from its riverfront. The city for several years has had a high priority to reconnect its parts, and one of the projects is to create a three-acre park on a vacant lot. The Lewis and Clark Park and Festival Grounds will connect to a highway undercrossing.

"It really is one of the key elements in this strong desire to connect with the waterfront that the city has," said project manager and KPFF principal **Curt Vanderzanden**. [KPFF's civil engineers](#) are managing the project.

The park includes paths and landscaping that will suit festivals and vendors, Vanderzanden said. A large lawn will add to the event space.



Rendering by Craig Holmes

The one structure on the site is a combination building that will serve as a band shell, and provide restrooms, a picnic shelter and space for concessions. The building is designed by [Nathan Good Architects](#).

"It's pretty much the portal for the park," Good said. He added that the team decided to combine its building needs into one structure so that more green space would be left and materials would be used more efficiently.

Good said the building is "iconic." He created a unique, foil design to route wind up and over the building.

"Winds are constantly blowing from west to east," Good said. "It creates a nice wind shadow where the band shell and picnic shelters are."

He hopes that the shape of the building also will help to shield the park from freeway noise nearby. He said the attractiveness of the park area and building may catch the eyes of drivers passing by.

"Hopefully they'll be drawn to go downtown and explore The Dalles," Good said. "The city's architecture is rich; it's an overlooked community."

The park will include landscape elements to shield it both from the freeway and an adjacent railway; fast-growing elm trees and native plants will provide shade, a noise buffer and water management. Landscape architect and Greenworks principal Mike Faha contributed to this landscape design.

Other design team members include: Shannon & Wilson, geotechnical engineering; Reyes Engineering Inc., electrical design; Kittelson & Associates, lighting design; White Shield Inc., surveying; and Biella Lighting Design, lighting consultation.

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