

General Project Information

Three students from the University of Iowa were tasked with redesigning the downtown area of West Burlington, focusing on improving functionality, visual appeal, facilitating public events, and attracting visitors. The project's scope spans Broadway Street and extends into the vacant lot behind City Hall, providing an excellent opportunity for creative and impactful development in the downtown area. Key improvements include a 4-foot median along Broadway Street, a reconfiguration of parking, a redesign of the Broadway and Wheeler intersection, and the creation of a Farmers Market on the east side of City Hall. These enhancements will improve walkability, foster a better environment for community events such as the 4th of July celebration, and create new spaces for the community to enjoy and utilize.



Figures 1 and 2 – SketchUp Renderings of the Intersection of Broadway Street with Wheeler Street and Broadway Street north of Wheeler Street

Road Redesign Improvements

The roads to be redesigned include Broadway Street and Wheeler Street. The planned improvements will feature a median, a reconfigured parking layout featuring back-in parking, enhanced lighting, and increased visual appeal. The most significant change will be the addition of the median, which is designed to seamlessly integrate with the downtown area. This modification will maintain functional lane widths while also enabling better lighting and the introduction of greenery, such as trees and plants, to enhance the downtown environment.



Figure 3 - SketchUp Rendering of the Road Design South of Wheeler Street

City Hall Lot Development

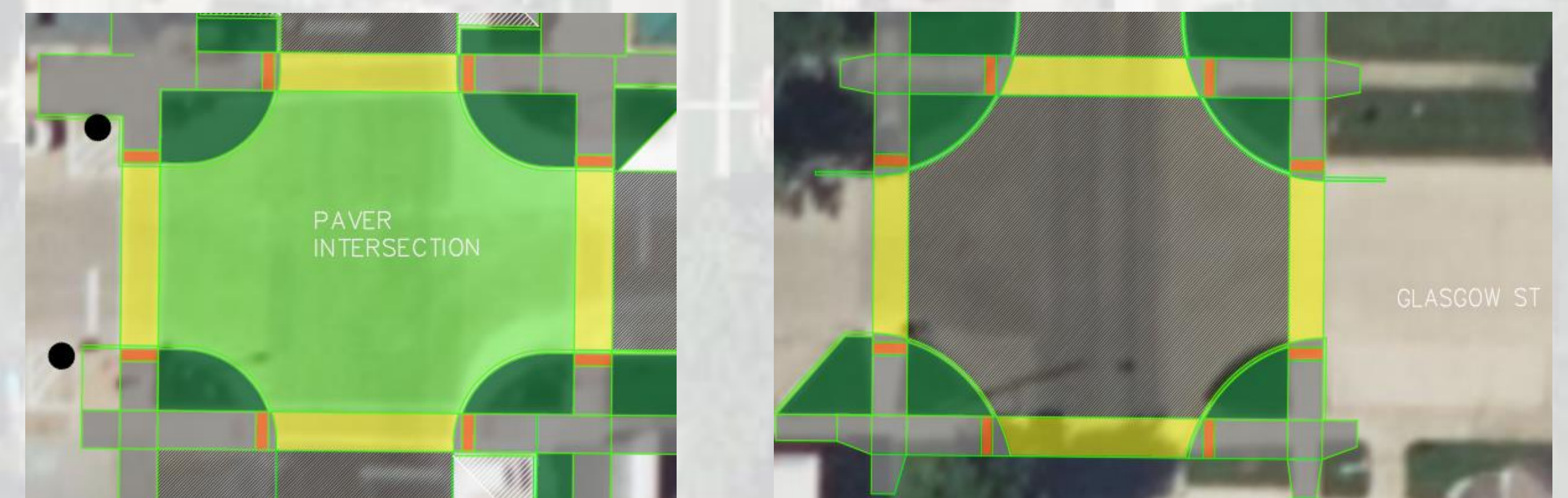
The vacant lot east of city hall will be developed with new parking, a parking overhang equipped with solar panels, and an adjacent structure providing a community event space. This area will allow room for events like Farmer's Markets and the 4th of July Festival. A small building is proposed on the north side of the community space giving the City room for mixed-uses and public bathrooms.



Figures 4 and 5 - Civil3D Layout of the Lot Development and SketchUp Rendering of the Lot

Intersection Improvements

The intersections of Broadway & Wheeler, and Broadway & Glasgow, will undergo similar improvements. The intersection of Broadway with Wheeler will feature the addition of permeable pavers, which will not only facilitate natural drainage but also enhance the visual appeal of downtown with their colored and patterned design.



Figures 6 and 7 – Civil 3D Layouts of the intersections of Broadway Street with Wheeler Street and Broadway Street with Glasgow Street, respectively

References

Iowa Statewide Urban Design and specifications. Iowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications. (2023, November 18). <https://iowasudas.org/>