



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT • 1140 Terex Road • Hudson, Ohio 44236 • (330) 342-1790

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council Members and Mayor Anzevino
From: Jena Stasik, Community Relations Manager
CC: Thom Sheridan, City Manager, Brian Griffith, Assistant City Manager, Greg Hannan, Director of Community Development, Katie Behnke, Economic Development Manager
Date: December 30, 2025
Subject: America250 Legacy Project: Hudson Gazebo Enhancement

In 2026, the City of Hudson will honor 250 years of our nation's history through special events and a legacy project as America 250 is celebrated in our community. By completing a legacy project, it will showcase a meaningful way to honor our past and invest in our future.

The Gazebo Bandstand has served as the heart of the community since the late 19th century and featured three successive bandstand structures. The first, an octagonal gazebo-style bandstand located on the clocktower green, was built around 1880. It was later replaced by a roofless platform bandstand structure on the clocktower green that stood until the mid-20th century. The current gazebo, constructed in 1976, was intentionally designed to echo the original form and built to commemorate the United States Bicentennial.



Today, the gazebo and surrounding green continue their historic role as a central gathering place, hosting concerts, markets, art shows, and seasonal celebrations that contribute to Hudson's enduring historic character. The enhancements provided in the KGK renderings included in Attachment A provide a functional design while incorporating elements of the three unique structures from 1880 to today into one.



America250 Project Proposal: Hudson Gazebo Enhancement

Project Overview

The America250 Legacy Project: Hudson Gazebo Enhancement aims to preserve and enhance the historic gazebo and surrounding green, which has served as a central gathering place for the community for decades. As the home of the Hudson Bandstand concerts and a focal point of community life, the gazebo is both a cultural landmark and a functional public space. This project will modernize and improve the area while respecting its historic significance.

Project Purpose and Need

After nearly five decades of use, the current gazebo and its immediate surroundings require updates to better serve the community's needs. The current stairway limits functionality during performances, the concrete walkways are in need of repair and detract from the historic character of the space, and landscaping improvements are needed to enhance accessibility and visual appeal. Refreshing this space will ensure it remains safe, inviting, and functional for future generations.

Scope and Key Improvements

The City of Hudson engaged KGK to develop preliminary renderings (Attachment A) to accompany this project and include:

1. Widened Stairway and Stage Enhancement
 - Expand the existing stairway to function as a small performance stage and improve use for group photography or weddings.
 - Improve accessibility for performers and speakers.
 - Enhance the experience for community events, concerts, and public gatherings.
2. Landscaping Enhancements
 - Introduce new plantings and greenery to compliment the gazebo's historic design.
 - Improve the aesthetic appeal of the green while maintaining open community space.
 - Use low-maintenance, locally appropriate landscaping where possible.
 - Remove existing landscaping, as needed.
3. Update Concrete Landing
 - Replace sections of existing concrete that are broken.
 - Enhance durability and pedestrian experience.
4. Electrical
 - Add electrical outlets to floor of gazebo and/or additional pedestal to the southeast side of the gazebo for performer access.

Community Impact and Engagement

The Hudson Gazebo Enhancement Project will strengthen the role of the greens as a vibrant community hub. By improving functionality and appearance, the space will better support concerts, ceremonies, and informal gatherings. These upgrades will encourage greater community use, foster local pride, and preserve an important piece of shared history.

To ensure the project is aligned with community organization needs, the following non-profits have been engaged to provide input on the project:

- Hudson Bandstand Concerts
- Hudson Community Chorus
- Hudson Farmer's Market

Collectively, these organizations host approximately 35 events and performances on Gazebo Green. The Community Relations Manager briefly engaged with these organizations and the below preliminary comments were provided to consider in the design process:

- There are current issues with standing water on both the Gazebo Green and inside of the gazebo, limiting the use. *Note: Public Works to mitigate the standing water on the Gazebo Green in early spring.*
- There is a need to remove and relocate electric pedestal (#33) on the north side of the gazebo in front of concrete pad. It is in the direct sight line of performances.
- Methods to improve acoustics in the ceiling and along the walls may need investigated to project sound outward to an audience.
- A raised platform in lieu of the current grade level concrete pad would be an excellent enhancement.
- Hudson Bandstand would prefer additional sidewalk access to the performance area from E. Main St. as there is no direct path to load and unload equipment.

Sound equipment was briefly discussed as a possible enhancement and not indicated as a priority item. The bands participating in the Hudson Bandstand Concerts have their own sound equipment. The Hudson Community Chorus recently purchased sound equipment.

An email was sent requesting feedback from the Western Reserve Community Band.

Next steps include introducing special-interest parties to the project the week of January 26, 2026.

Historical Preservation

Special care will be taken to ensure that all updates respect the gazebo's historic character. The project focuses on enhancement rather than replacement, preserving the structure's legacy while adapting it for modern use.

Budget

\$65,000 is budgeted from the General Fund (Public Properties). The project was included on the "All Inclusive" list to bid for 2026.

Timeline

January – Receive renderings from KGK.

February – Attend Architectural Review Board Meeting

March – Bid out Project
April – Award Bid
May – Begin Project
June – Complete Project
July – Hold Dedication for Gazebo

Recommendation

Staff recommends pursuing the gazebo enhancement as the legacy project for America250 Celebration and seeks City Council input and support.