

EAGLE  PLAZA



Royal Oak

Life Now Playing

In the summer of 2014, the [Royal Oak Commission for the Arts](#) entertained crowds on Center Street with its [weekly concert series](#). By closing the street and bringing in green carpeting, flowers, lawn chairs and picnic tables, Center Street was reshaped into an exciting pop-up park.



For six weeks, the picnic tables used for the pop-up park were locked together in chains and staged in the pedestrian plaza adjacent to the Center Street parking deck. Despite the inconvenience of having to climb over chains, people used the picnic tables throughout the week to meet friends for lunch, check cellphone messages, enjoy nice weather and merely relax.



The simple act of adding a few picnic tables had a dramatic effect on the plaza. When the concert series ended, local retailers approached city officials and asked that the tables remain in place.



When the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) rolled out its creative funding mechanism for its [Public Spaces, Community Places](#) program, an opportunity arose to offer something more than picnic tables on Center Street.

Collaborating with local businesses, technology gurus and landscape architects and planners from [livingLAB Detroit](#), the city put together a plan for a green connected space that incorporates technology, sustainable landscaping and materials that have the lowest impact on the environment. The project was quickly coined the 'smart park.'



Before

The city unveiled the concept and embarked on a community engagement campaign to raise funds for the transformative project.



After

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Tapping into the talents of local elementary students, the city held a contest to name the new downtown park.

A group of fifth graders came up with the idea of honoring the memory of Glenn Fry (an alumni of the Royal Oak School District). They decided on Eagle Park, later refined into Eagle Plaza.

The new park was named!



Using Patronicity, the city raised over \$100,000 online, with a \$60,000 matching grant from MEDC, and a \$50,000 grant from the Erb Foundation.

This funding helped take the idea from a concept to reality.

Eagle Plaza officially opened July 13, 2017.



Eagle Plaza's has a collection of bistro tables for outdoor meetings and picnics in the city's downtown.





Before

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