



## **Survey Results Summary**

### **Stakeholder Input: The Future of the Buxton Park Gazebo**

**Contact:**

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**Disclaimer: This anonymous survey does not take the place of individual input.**

If you wish to provide stakeholder input to official channels, you will need to provide your own unique, direct, and personal input about the impending request for approval to remove the Buxton Memorial Gazebo and build a new stone pavilion in Buxton Park.

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**To make your input OFFICIAL:**

**#1) Contact the Indianola Parks and Recreation Director and Commissioners**

>> Send your email or public comment to this central email address >>

[parkrec@cityofindianola.com](mailto:parkrec@cityofindianola.com)

>> Call and leave a message >>

515-961-9420

>> Find out who the commissioners are >>

<http://www.indianolaiowa.gov/180/Parks-Recreation-Commission>

**#2) Contact Indianola City Council member(s)**

>> Send your email to City Council members you know >>

<https://www.indianolaiowa.gov/160/City-Council>

**#3) Contact the Mayor Pro Tem, Greta Southall**

>> Send your email or public comment to this central email address >>

<https://www.indianolaiowa.gov/160/City-Council>

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*For more information, please contact:*

**Indianola Park Friends Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/Indianolaparkfriends/>

**Informational meetings planned for October! Wednesday, October 7 @5-6:30pm** in Buxton Park (rain out location: Indianola Activity Center); **Monday, October 26 @5:45pm** at the Indianola Activity Center with **virtual connection available!**

**Stakeholder Input: Future of the Buxton Park Gazebo.** Contact: Jessica Halgren

Stakeholder Input Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/357283525433656/>

Email: [jessica@halgrencoaching.com](mailto:jessica@halgrencoaching.com), phone: (917) 510-6562 (text only please)

# Buxton Park Arboretum (1906)

Both stunning and serene, Buxton Park is a city park nestled in the center of Indianola, Iowa, and adjacent to Simpson College. This small but mighty 5-acre oasis of sculpted nature has always been a wellspring for a special and important form of recreation: rest and reflection.

The park was donated to the community of Indianola by William Buxton Senior. The City of Indianola acts as its custodian and caretaker.

The Robert Buxton Memorial Gazebo is its centerpiece and gathering space.



# Change in the Buxton Park Arboretum (1906) Indianola, Iowa

A gathering place and a fountain have always been key fixtures in Buxton Park, offering visitors a destination, place for connection, conversation and perspective on the beauty and life in and around them.



Original Gazebo (1909)  
known as the "Band Stand"



Fieldstone Benches  
(late 1950s)



Buxton Memorial Gazebo  
(1994 – current)



Proposed Stone Pavilion  
(2023 -?)



# Introduction

**A proposal to remove the Robert Buxton Memorial Gazebo (1994) from Buxton Park and replace it with a stone pavilion is progressing to Indianola City Council for review.** Originally planned for the September 21, 2020 agenda, a new date will be sought after additional community presentations planned for October are held.

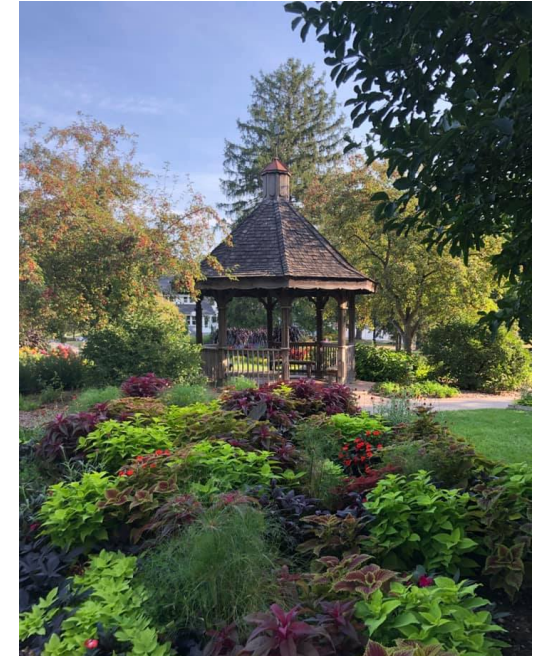
**The stone pavilion initiative is led by a sub-committee of Indianola Park Friends (IPF),** an all-volunteer, citizen-led community support group that exists to enhance city parks, and support Indianola Parks and Recreation and the city horticulturalist. The City of Indianola budget will not be used for this project. Grants and private fundraising will be sought by Indianola Park Friends to pay for the project.

At this time, the Buxton Memorial Gazebo has no known structural or maintenance issues. When and if the Buxton Memorial Gazebo, might need to be repaired or replaced is not known and has not been assessed.

A community stakeholder presentation was given by Indianola Park Friends on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. by private citizen and IPF stone pavilion committee member Elodie Opstad, as well as architect Steve Gray.

To provide an additional resource for stakeholders, a central space for dialogue, information, and perspective-sharing was developed. A Facebook page **“Stakeholder Input: The Future of the Buxton Park Gazebo”** was created on September 1, 2020 for that purpose. To aid this process, a survey, a “straw poll”, was designed. **The objective of the survey** was to provide stakeholders with a place to share their voice, and create a collective snapshot of preferences and priorities as input to the ongoing conversation with the stone pavilion committee, Indianola Park Friends, the Indianola Parks and Recreation Commission and the Indianola City Council.

**This report reflects the results of the survey** conducted between September 12-20, 2020, **in which a total of 465 community members and visitors of the Indianola** shared their voice and input about the Future of Buxton Park and the Robert Buxton Memorial Gazebo.



- Download the full report on survey results
- Visit the “Stakeholder Input: Future of the Buxton Park Gazebo” page

# Summary of Survey Results (1/4)

**The data were collected from a total of 465 respondents:** 86% of the respondents are Indianola residents (with 19% living in and around the Buxton Park neighborhood) and 14% are visitors to Indianola. **In summary, the results showed the following:**

**A. Buxton Park as a landmark:** 99% consider Buxton Park to be a landmark in Indianola (see page 19)

**B. Buxton Park Gazebo as the icon of Buxton Park:** 81% consider Buxton Park Gazebo as the icon of Buxton Park (see page 19)

**C. Awareness of the initiative:** the majority of the respondents (74%) first heard of the initiative to remove the Buxton Memorial Gazebo and replace it with the proposed stone pavilion through *non-City, private online initiatives* such as as Facebook posts, pages; and “word of mouth” (see page 20)

1. Facebook post by Jessica Halgren (25.22%)
2. Word of mouth (e.g., from a friend, neighbour, family member ...) (20.09%)
3. Facebook Page: “Indianola History” (12.05%)
4. Facebook Page: “Stakeholder Input: The Future of the Gazebo” (10.49%)
5. Article in the (online) newspaper - The Indianola Independent Advocate (5.80%)
6. Facebook Page: "Indy Info Share" (4.46%)
7. Indianola Park Friends (4.02%)
8. City of Indianola (2.68%)
9. Facebook Page: "Indianola Parks and Recreation" (2.68%)

**D. Importance of providing feedback:** on average, respondents found it very important to be able to provide input/feedback on the proposal to remove the gazebo and replace it with a proposed stone pavilion, rating that importance with an average score of 7.43 out of 10 (see page 21)

**E. Opportunity to provide feedback:** respondents satisfaction with the opportunity to provide input/feedback on the proposal to remove the Gazebo and replace it with the proposed stone pavilion was scored much lower (with an average satisfaction score of 5.35 out of 10 (see page 21)

## Summary of Survey Results (2/4)

**F. Feelings on various options:** in describing how they feel about the current Buxton Park Gazebo and the proposed stone pavilion, the respondents used the following words **most frequently**:

1. **Feelings about the current Buxton Park Gazebo:** beautiful, historical, history, memories, nostalgic, peaceful, quaint, old, love (see page 22)
2. **Feelings about the proposed stone pavilion if built in Buxton Park:** cold, modern, unnecessary, sad, disappointed, ugly, large (see page 23)
3. **Feelings about the proposed stone pavilion if built in different park in Indianola:** fine, indifferent, unnecessary, better, happy, great, useful (see page 24)

**G. Meaningful and important aspects of Buxton Park:** the respondents rated the following aspects of Buxton Park as the most meaningful and important: (see page 25)

1. enjoying the flower gardens (88%)
2. taking photographs of and in Buxton Park (71%)
3. feeling hometown pride (67%)
4. being in the place that holds memory for me and my family (66%)

*For respondents' personal comments submitted to state their views on additional, important, and meaningful aspects of Buxton Park, see Appendix A (pages 45-46).*

**H. Size of Buxton Park Gazebo:** a majority of respondents (72%) reported experiencing the size of Buxton Park Gazebo as “just right”; 27% experiences it as “too small”, and 1% as “too big” (see page 26)

# Summary of Survey Results (3/4)

- I. Aspects to become available in Buxton Park:** rating the importance of different aspect to become available in the future in Buxton Park, the respondents rated the following as **most important**: (see page 27)
1. That (the successor to) the Buxton Park Gazebo blends in seamlessly with nature and the surround (does not stand out)
  2. Continuing the historic tradition of having a fountain/water source in Buxton Park
  3. Ensuring ADA compliance (wheelchair accessible)
  4. Adding new memorial benches to provide for more natural outdoor seating in Buxton Park

- J. And the following aspects to become available in Buxton Park seen as **least important**:**
1. Availability of public toilets
  2. Providing space for weddings, concerts, theater, or other civic events
  3. Designing any potential successor of the current Buxton Park Gazebo to be big enough to allow for multiple small group conversations or one larger group to gather in it comfortably
  4. Bringing back the Original Buxton Park Gazebo (1909), the "Band Stand", as an additional facility/shelter in Buxton Park

*For respondents' personal comments submitted to state their views on additional aspects to become available for the Future of Buxton Park, see Appendix B (pages 47-51).*

- K. Options for the future of Buxton Park:** when rating their degree of preference for different options for the future of Buxton Park, the respondents rated the following two options as **the most preferred** ones (see page 28):
1. Maintaining the current Buxton Park Gazebo as long as it is safe and cost-effective (rated with an average score of 8.07 out of 10)
  2. When it becomes necessary, replace the current Buxton Park Gazebo with a different structure and using a similar look and feel (rated with an average score of 7.21 out of 10)

- L. The two **least preferred options** were: ....** (see page 28)
1. Remove the Buxton Park Gazebo and relocate it to another park in Indianola (rated with an average score of 1.86 out of 10)
  2. Build the proposed stone pavilion (rated with an average score of 2.77 out of 10)

*For respondents' personal comments submitted to state their views on other options for the Future of Buxton Park, see Appendix C (pages 52-58).*



## Summary of Survey Results (4/4)

**M. Information needed to get clarity:** in sharing their perspective on the kind of information that would help them get clarity and needed in order to give better input in this process, more than half of the respondents found all of these sources of information helpful: (see page 29)

1. Having an understanding of the opportunities to maintain the current Buxton Park Gazebo (e.g., costs, risks, benefits)
2. Having a greater understanding of the case for the proposed stone pavilion (e.g., reasoning, change, risks, costs, benefits)
3. Having a greater understanding of the case for any successor to the Buxton Park Gazebo (e.g., reasoning, change, risks, costs, benefits)
4. Knowing more about what the Indianola Parks & Recreation department needs from the community to support its work in Buxton Park
5. Having clarity around the mandate, mission, and vision of Buxton Park as it relates to style, use, and maintenance in the future

*For respondents' personal comments submitted to state their views on information needed for more clarity, see Appendix D (page 59).*

**N. Respondent's statements on "What matters most to you in this process?":** in the final comment section, 236 respondents submitted personal statements around what mattered most to them in this process of stakeholder input on the proposal to remove the Buxton Memorial Gazebo and replace it with a proposed stone pavilion. See comments on pages 30 to 43.