

# Innovation District Park Pavilion

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** *What is the Innovation District Park Pavilion project?*

**Answer:** The pavilion will be an approximately 3,500 SF building offering year-round food and beverage service, public bathrooms, and park support space. The project also includes enhanced park-wide wifi service and utility improvements.

**Question:** *When will the project begin?*

**Answer:** Design will continue through this fall. It is anticipated that an operator will be selected later this year through an open RFP process, and groundbreaking will occur in Summer of 2023, for a 2024 opening.

**Question:** *Who is designing the pavilion?*

**Answer:** Architect Research Office (ARO) was selected through a competitive RFP process to design the pavilion. ARO is an award-winning firm with significant experience designing buildings within parks.

**Question:** *How is the pavilion being funded?*

**Answer:** Funds for the Pavilion were provided by the “Beach, Clean Water, and Green bond” approved by the voters in a special election held in March of 2021.

**Question:** *What is the process for selecting a food/beverage operator?*

**Answer:** An operator has not been selected for the Pavilion. A request for proposals (RFP) for an operator(s) will be issued later this year. The facility may include sit down and/or take out options and could include more than one food concept or operators within the space. The District is working with consultant Agora Partners on outreach and drafting the RFP.

**Question:** *How was the site for the pavilion chosen?*

**Answer:** Although Innovation District Park is a beautiful site, there are some important factors which prevented the siting of the pavilion in many parts of the park. Advantages of the site chosen include:

- Is highly visible from key pedestrian routes
- Maintains key view corridors to the river and into the park
- Creates an appropriately-scaled visual terminus and architectural complement to the Michael S. Van Leesten Memorial Bridge
- Partially screens the transformer yard from the north
- Maintains the northern/eastern lawn for events and riverside passive recreation
- Occupies the most under-utilized grassy area of the park and helps create a sense of place near Dyer Street.
- Is at the highest point in the park, mostly outside of the projected tidal and riverine flooring from moderate sea level rise
- Does not require being elevated above grade.
- Avoids shadows from future Parcel 42 development
- Avoids the constraints in figure 2 (page 2)

Learn more at [www.195district.com/pavilion](http://www.195district.com/pavilion)

Contact us at [questions@195district.com](mailto:questions@195district.com)

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Figure 1: Essential urban design characteristics: Preferred views into and out of the park (purple), key views from the proposed site (yellow), and pedestrian routes (blue)



Figure 2: Map of proposed site and key constraints