



RODNEY SQUARE WORKS PROJECT

Rodney Square Works is a phased, public-private project led by the Rodney Square Conservancy (RSC) that involves a \$6 to \$8 million renovation of Wilmington's iconic public space in the heart of the city. Originally constructed in 1921, the Square has suffered from deferred maintenance in recent years and needs a major aesthetic and infrastructure overhaul. Phase one will cost an estimated \$4 million and is expected to be completed in early 2020.

Major features of the project include new masonry and paving, improved irrigation systems, upgraded lights and electrical system, new lighted fountains, planters, benches and tables, trash and recycling collection bins, as well as new trees, shrubs and green areas. Improved accessibility throughout the square is a primary goal of the renovation project. As such, the new square will accommodate a wider range of smaller community-based activities in addition to the more traditional larger events already staged there.

RSC retained the services of two landscape architectural firms – Robinson, Anderson, Summers, Inc and OLIN –to conduct feasibility studies and develop design options and construction cost estimates. In the Fall of 2017 RSC developed a public process to set the goals, vision and path forward for Rodney Square. The group had two public workshops at the Wilmington Library that were led by the design team. The first workshop started with a visioning session where information was gathered, and images were shared. The second workshop showed concept plan options that incorporated the information gathered at the first workshop. The attendees gave feedback on the concept options which led to the design that is being documented for construction.

Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki recently stated his support for Rodney Square Works: "It's time to restore this grand public square to not only its original glory, but to go beyond that vision to one that will improve the square and allow its upkeep to be more manageable while making the square itself more beautiful, attractive and useful." Delaware Governor John Carney has called the project "an investment in the center of Wilmington to revitalize Rodney Square, attract new jobs and business to our city, and give all Wilmington families more options





to get outside and enjoy everything our city has to offer.”

Public funding for Rodney Square Works comes from the City of Wilmington and the State of Delaware. Major area companies, organizations and individuals have also committed financial support.

