

## Concrete slab in downtown Madison set to become urban micro-park

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On a little wedge of land between John Nolen Drive and Wilson Street sits a cement platform, surrounded by a white fence.

“Right now, it’s a concrete slab,” said Susan Schmitz, who retired from Downtown Madison Inc.

She’s not really retired, though. She’s involved in all kinds of community projects, including this one. Schmitz has had her eye on the spot for almost 25 years.

The space is owned by the Madison Water Utility. It is above a city water well, where you can often hear the hum of flowing water.

Soon, this concrete space will become Madison’s newest park, called [Lakefront Porch](#).

“People are longing to be by the lakes. This location is so perfect,” Schmitz said.

It overlooks Law Park and Lake Monona.

The idea is to turn the unused concrete platform into an urban oasis. Instead of a typical, private lakefront porch belonging to a homeowner, this one will belong to the whole community.

“We’re going to have other planting beds, there are going to be plenty of flowers,” Schmitz said. “There are going to be tables with umbrellas, shades and moveable furniture so that people can create their own spaces.”

There’s currently a small community garden in the space, which will remain.

The project will cost \$525,000 in donations. The Madison Parks Foundation is about \$60,000 away from that goal. Construction is set to start later this year.

*Correction: At the time of publication, the Lakefront Porch project had raised \$390,000, and \$60,000 was needed to reach the project’s updated goal of \$450,000.*