



2. Campus Martius Park

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Landscape Architect: Rundell Ernstberger Associates, Muncie, Indiana

The two-acre (0.8-ha) Campus Martius Park opened in November 2004, transforming what had been a little-used concrete plaza into a venue hosting outdoor movies, live concerts, and a winter-time ice rink. The performance stage platforms can recess into the ground, leaving clear sight lines and opening up space for other uses. Movable park furniture allows for flexibility, and seat walls surround the large central fountain and planting beds. The project even involved rerouting a number of downtown streets to make the area more pedestrian friendly—quite a feat in the heart of Motor City. The municipality worked with the nonprofit Detroit 300 Conservancy to build the project; funding came from corporate, foundation, and individual donors. According to the New York-based nonprofit Project for Public Spaces, which worked with the city and community on the project, since plans for Campus Martius Park were announced in 1999, \$500 million of new investment has come into the immediate area, including new restaurants, the Compuware headquarters, and a Borders bookstore.