

## How I would improve downtown Highland

By Maisy Malecki A fifth grader

First of all I want to say that downtown highland is a beautiful place and doesn't need anything added to it but if I could I would like to add some stuff to make it an even better place. What I think downtown Highland would be good with is a new park. I just feel like the one that main square park has. I don't hate the park, it's just that I think we need a new one. Second of all I feel like we need a community garden and that people could donate seeds. We could put it by the concession stand I'm not sure but I think that would be a great place and a good idea. Just to make downtown Highland an area where people could come together and make a beautiful garden, I love butterflies and I feel like there was a community garden that would attract the butterflies. So the idea might also be good for the environment.

Idea three if downtown Highland had more restaurants so people could go there more and eat outside or inside and there would be more people coming to downtown Highland . Idea four I want to add more plays and concerts. I love the plays that are shown on the stage. I especially liked "The Little Mermaid". It was a couple years ago but it is still my favorite. I also sometimes like to listen to any of the bands that play there. They play beautiful music. Idea five I would like to add more stores and shops. I think it would make downtown highland like more stores with more merchandise to buy. Just imagine if you are riding your bike with your friends and you go to sip and you get it to go then you go to the park to eat muffins and smoothies it's a nice day and you don't know what to do after you finish eating, so you ride your bike around downtown Highland and you see a store since you have time. You go inside it is a beautiful store where there is everything: toys, clothes, and everything you could dream of. So you and your friends do some shopping together and you find a beautiful bag and then you see that the bag is on sale, so you decide to buy it as you're walking to the front counter. You see a hat you want but you decide to come back another day for it.

My point is that I want a store that has everything you could ever want and stuff you're tempted to buy and that you want to go back. I just want to say that all the stores that are in Downtown Highland are not really in our generation. Idea six i would really recommend more carnivals (if you don't want to do it I understand) it's just that you only do it once a year on the Fourth of July which honestly is only a little bit of time and I think there should be at least two a year one in the fall and one still on the Fourth of July. In the fall you can have a lot of fall themed things like a wagon ride. Or a boo blast on the stage also the concession stand could have apple cider. Or a different season. I think it would be a fun idea. I would also like to add more community events to downtown Highland I think it would be a good idea because the area doesn't really have any(that I know of) but the main idea is that downtown Highland needs more events like for example for Easter there could be a egg hunt but that's already done at Wicker Park.

Idea seven I would like to add more bike trails. I ride my bike at the bike trail in downtown Highland which is really neat but I have done it so many times that it is honestly getting boring. I also ride my bike on the other trail and then I go to Dairy Queen and get ice cream. It's really fun but I think there needs to be more trails that go really far. I also think there should be more murals on the wall. I love all the ones that are painted on the walls. They are beautiful. They are so good they look like someone took five hours on the murals. It's also exciting to see the different murals because sometimes I feel like someone worked on them overnight and they all just appeared in thin air. Idea eight I would like to add more open areas where people could just

sit and relax. Also something I want to bring up is that there used to be an ice skating rink in the Main Square Park. I would like to request that it returns to Main Square Park. I love ice skating. I've done it since I was five years old. I would really appreciate it if the ice skating rink is brought back in the winter. Or I'm not sure if Highland still does it but the "ice skating rink" in Meadows park. When in the winter the water freezes and then people can ice skate on it. I personally haven't done it but Ice skating is really fun so that has to be very fun. I'm trying to say that

Downtown Highland should have an ice skating rink again.

I really hope that I can help make Downtown Highland a better place.