

# City Hall Square Intersection



Illustrative rendering



**The Goal:**  
*To create an appropriate civic statement for the entrance to City Hall*

**Objective:**

- Complete the definition of the square so that City Hall becomes a prominent civic monument.
- Improve the quality of the pedestrian realm with textured pavement befitting its civic stature.
- Enhance the definition of visual termination on City Hall through landscaping strengthening the symbolic role.

**Benefits**

- Enhances the historic character of the buildings.
- Promote greater pride in the City.
- Enhances the value of surrounding buildings.

**Responsible Parties**

- City of Milwaukee
  - Department of Public Works
  - Department of City Development
- Abutting Property Owners

**Rationale**

City Hall is the geographic and symbolic center of Downtown. The space which surrounds the building must proclaim its importance. Enhancements to the City Hall public realm will demonstrate the importance of the quality of civic life. This will inspire other property owners to provide dignified public spaces befitting an important City.

**Recommendations**

The significance of the internal civic functions



must be proclaimed outside the building through special materials and design. The Plan recommends that the entire street intersection receive special treatment, from Market to Wells, to create an appropriate civic forecourt. Street trees should align with the eastern edge of Market Street so that City Hall is emphatically the visual termination of the bend in Water Street. The Water Street median should be planted with low plants and colorful flowers that will not obstruct this important view.

Surrounding facades of infill and rehabilitated buildings should reflect the importance of neighboring government activities. Infill of the vacant lot on the south west corner of the Wells and Water Street intersection will help to frame this forecourt. The Plan also recommends that the parcel on the corner of northeast corner of Wells and Market be infilled with an office building to further strengthen the symbolic appearance of the forecourt.

