

During the summer months, the construction team at YouthBuild of Greater Lowell (YBL), led by Christina Shanahan and Alexander Perry, took on the challenge of rehabilitating three deteriorating gazebos in South Lowell's community parks. Muldoon Park, Sweeney Park, and Ducharme Park, all heavily used spaces in need of attention.

In the spring, the City Manager's Office approached YBL about taking on the work, inspired by past successful collaborations such as the softball field dugouts and the City of Lights wooden decorations. The YBL Construction team agreed, but first, students had to complete their training. By June, 21 students had worked their way through the course curriculum and were ready to bring their skills to the field.



Ducharme Park: YouthBuild Construction Trainer Alex Perry, with YouthBuild Students, Vladimir, Tianalee, Anthony, and Dennis on the final Build Day

Throughout the summer, the students poured their energy into transforming the gazebos into structures the city can once again be proud of. Students even surpassed their own perceived limits by lifting the entire gazebo off the foundation at Ducharme Park to replace the rotting floor beneath. Along the way, they received encouragement from local community members—one neighbor bought lunch for the crew, while another treated them to ice cream on a particularly hot day. For the students, the project was more than just hands-on experience; it was an opportunity to showcase their skills, give back to the community, and take pride in creating lasting improvements for the city of Lowell.

YBL is proud of the impact this project had on both students and the community, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the City of Lowell on future projects that build skills, strengthen neighborhoods, and create spaces the whole community can enjoy.

September 9, 2025



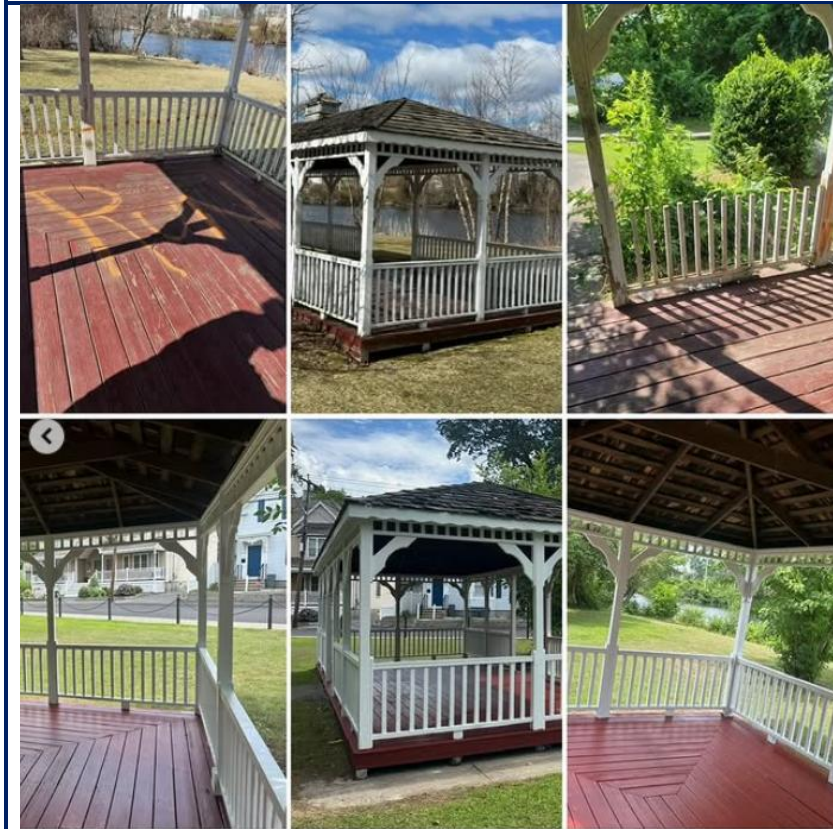
Before and After-
Ducharme Park



Before and After-
Sweeny Park



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Before and After-
Muldoon Park



Students Deyvi,
Tianalee, and
Anthony on the Final
Build Day, Muldoon
Park

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Construction Trainer Alex Perry, with Students Malachi, David, Vladimir, Josiah, Anthony, and Angel, on the Final Build Day Sweeny Park



YouthBuild Students- (lower) Arthur, Jahbdiel, Anthony, Tawany, Kayla, Ariana, Noel, (roof) Construction Trainer Alex, Tianalee, Dennis, and Vladimir

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Construction
Student David-
installing new floor
boards at Ducharme
Park



Construction
Student Tianalee-
Cutting Shingles at
Ducharme Park