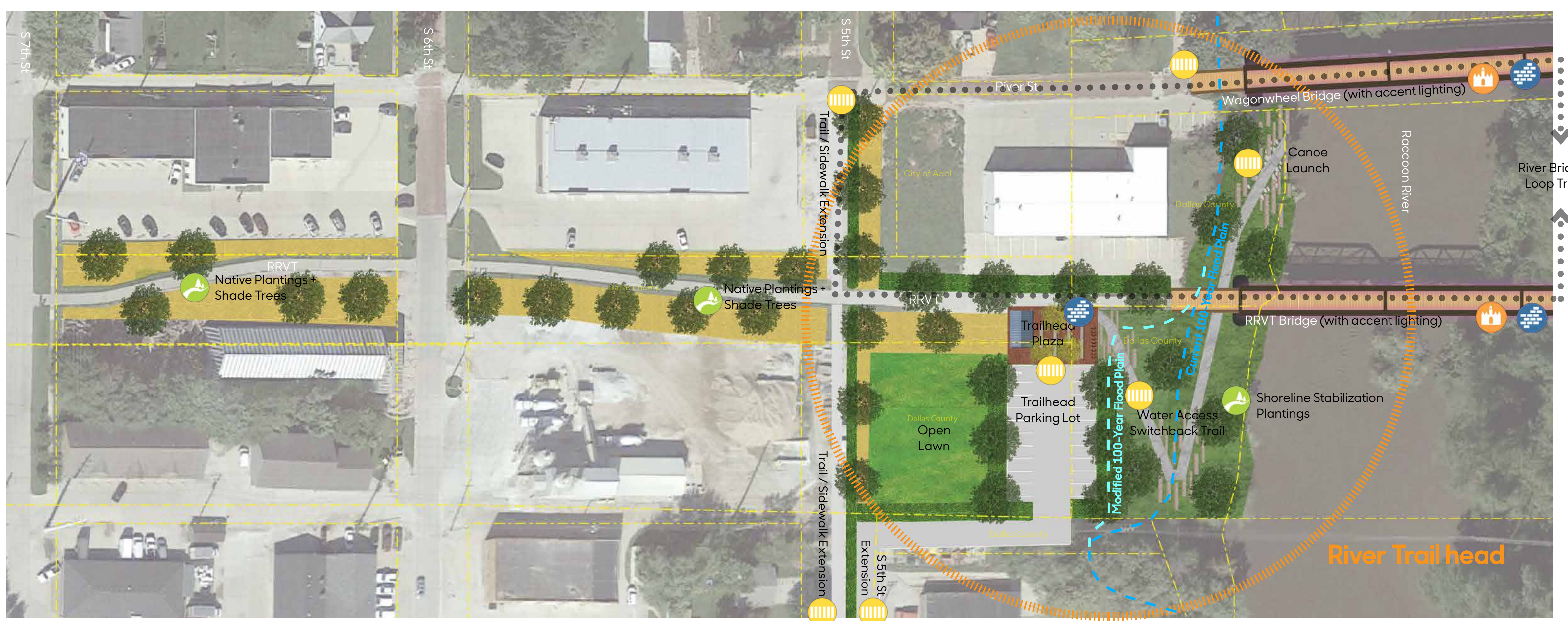


Corridor Improvements

These projects serve to improve the Raccoon River Valley Trail corridor near downtown, strengthening connections and adding facilities that can increase Adel's standing as a destination and trailhead for regional cyclists. New trail / sidewalk extensions combined with way finding and safety signage connect the RRVT to 5th Street north and south, expanding access for adjacent neighborhoods and providing a direct link to Island Park several blocks to the north. A signature park/trailhead at the Raccoon River bridge creates a hub for local and regional recreation access.

The two historic steel box truss bridges could be lit with LED accent lighting to add drama and improve safety at night, and draw the attention of drivers on the parallel Highway 6 bridge to the south. A small trail extension is also proposed on the east side of the river, to connect the RRVT north to River Street and the Wagonwheel Bridge, to create a River Bridge Loop Trail near the trailhead.

New tree plantings screen adjacent industrial facilities, and provide shade for trail users, while turf areas can be converted to low-maintenance prairie and shrub plantings that reduce mowing needs, create habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, and give this portion of trail corridor a distinct character.



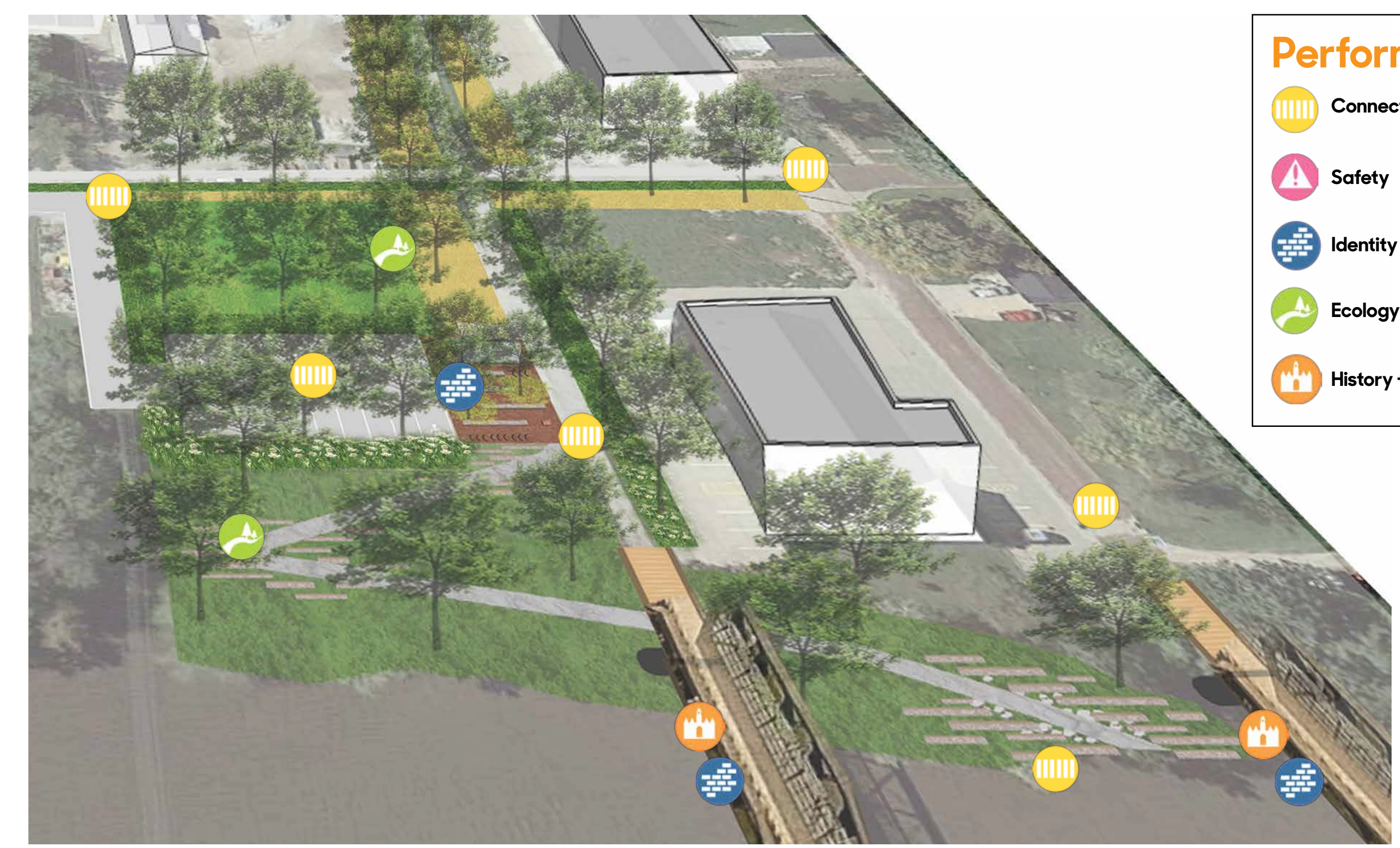
River Trail head Plan

River Trailhead

Building on a concept proposed in the recently completed Adel Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan, this project aims to convert an underutilized Dallas County gravel parking lot into a signature downtown park and trailhead for the RRVT. East 5th Street can be extended north of Highway 6 to easily bring local and out-of-town visitors to the trailhead parking lot from the south. Between the parking lot and the trail, a brick paver plaza with public restrooms, limestone seat walls, bike racks, and a brick way finding pillar is proposed. Leading down the river bank from the plaza, a switchback gravel path and canoe launch give paddlers access to the Raccoon River and potential future Adel water trail. These improvements could be developed in phases as Dallas County relocates their facilities and land becomes available, with the parking lot and plaza located on readily available land for early implementation.



River Trail head Plaza Perspective View



River Trail head 'Bird's Eye' View

Performance Icons

- Connectivity + Access
- Safety
- Identity + Aesthetics
- Ecology
- History + Culture



RRVT Improvements (7th St. - River)

Genus Landscape Architects

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Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

