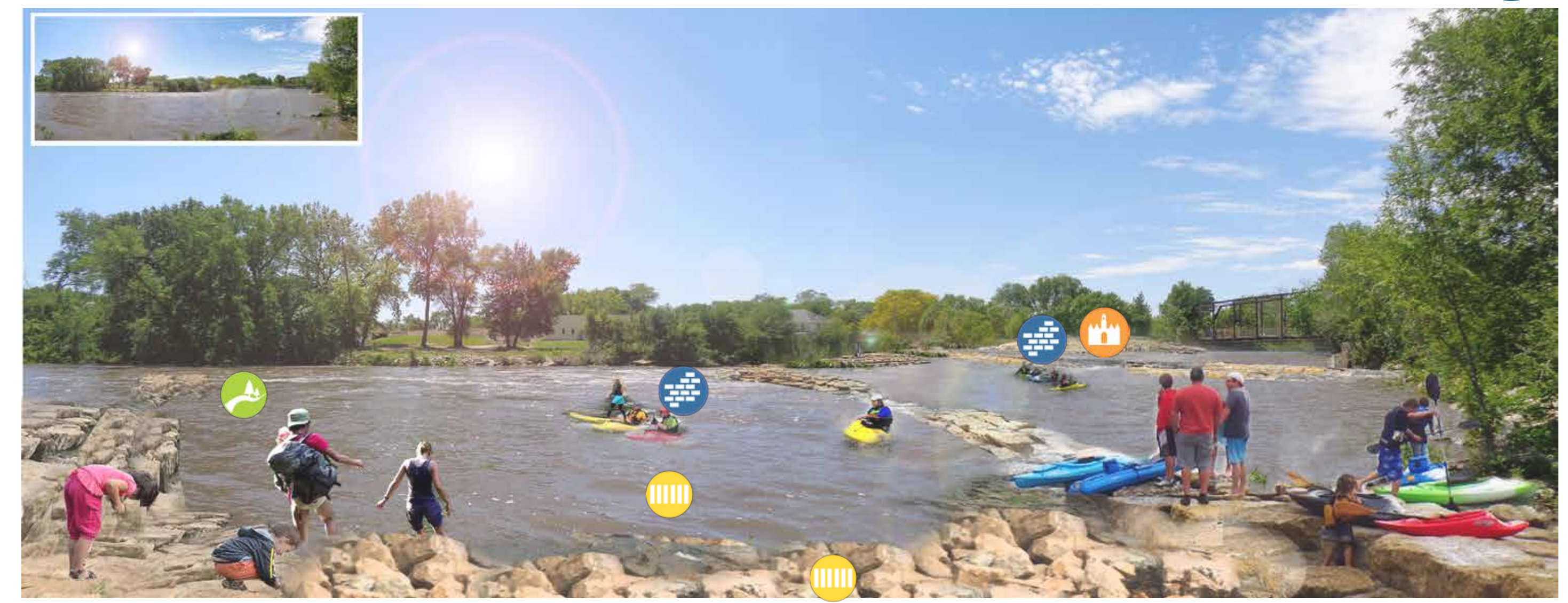


Whitewater Park Diagrammatic Plan



Whitewater Park Perspective

Whitewater Park

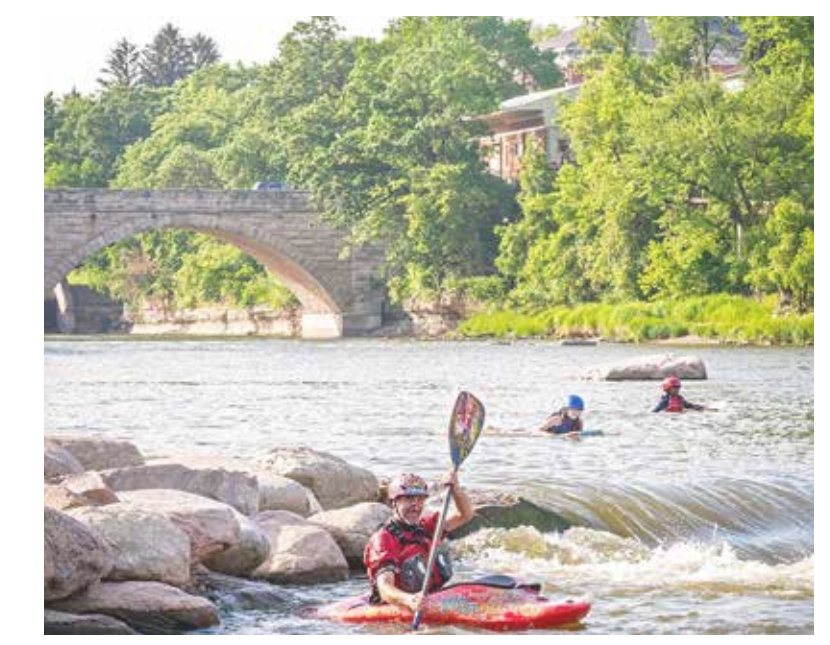
Island Park is a popular local and regional recreation destination located in the Raccoon River floodplain in Adel. This city park includes a large soccer complex, picnic areas, a full campground, and water access for fishing, paddling, and tubing in the river. A steel box truss bridge (Wiscotta Bridge) has been relocated to a position above an existing (and dangerous) low-head dam to provide pedestrian access to city parks and neighborhoods on the west side of the river. However, the earthen ramp and stone stairs leading to the bridge have fallen into disrepair and are not accessible for most users and are not connected to the public sidewalk system.

The creation of a whitewater park is proposed at this location to address safety and connectivity concerns, and create a new recreational opportunity in Adel. The 12'+ tall low-head hydroelectric dam is no longer needed, and is a significant drowning hazard and barrier to fish and other wildlife moving upstream. By removing this dam and adding rock riffles that lower the water level over a series of incremental 2-3' steps, the river can continue to function hydrologically, while safety concerns are mitigated, river passage is improved for wildlife and human navigation, and entry-level recreational whitewater is created. Many similar projects have been implemented throughout Iowa and the upper Midwest in recent years, but further engineering feasibility studies are needed to determine the viability of the dam removal at this location.

The whitewater park would also strengthen road, trail, and pedestrian connectivity to the west and south with new parking lot entrance on N 5th Street, leading to new stairs and accessible ramp to the Wiscotta Bridge. This location is several blocks due north of the proposed RRVT improvements and River Trailhead, and would strengthen the surface and water trail network in and around the city of Adel.



Whitewater, Charles City, IA



Whitewater Park, Elkader, IA



Whitewater Park, Manchester, IA

Adel Dam Removal / Whitewater Park

Genus Landscape Architects

LA's: Eric Holt, PLA, ASLA & Paige Hubbard, Associate ASLA
Intern: Fan-Kai Lin

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

