



Library Activity Trail

The Avoca Public Library is located at the north end of the town's heavily used business district, which is very active during the bi-weekly farmer's market. The space in front of the library could be used to engage children during the periods of heavy usage along Elm Street and throughout the year via educational and engaging activities. This proposed design offers both active and passive spaces to fully utilize the multi-use area. A seating area north of the existing path allows for outdoor learning opportunities and small gatherings. The west façade of the library can be used as a backdrop for a projector, which can encourage more utilization of this area as an entertainment space that showcases movies and other events. A flagstone path that weaves throughout the library's lawn connects the northern half to the southern, which is focused around natural play. The pathway not only serves as physical connection and play element, but is also a visual representation of the Nishnabotna River that plays a large role in shaping the geography of Avoca. The river path connects into a natural play area that uses tree stumps, steps, and sensory material to encourage children to interact with the environment.

continued on Board 13b



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RDG Planning & Design

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Intern: Dani Hodgson

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The existing masonry sign in front of the library can be integrated into the design and become an interactive element. Plantings along the west side of the seating wall can create a beautiful backdrop for photos taken by parents as they following the winding flagstone path through the sign. A shade structure can be implemented into the seating area to promote its usage during hot, sunny periods of the day. Creating an active and engaging space for children can encourage more traffic during the farmers market and other town-wide events, in addition to supporting education and greater utilization of the library.



Existing view of the north lawn of the library



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