



Mez Buttermilk Flat Park

The City of Avoca has had several plans and studies for Mez Buttermilk Flat Park developed in the past, and amenities such as a playground, community garden, and park shelter are desired in addition to the existing basketball court and trail. This park has flooded several times, so any further development will need to take stormwater management into consideration. The existing trail has two identified areas where stormwater overtops the trail before entering the drainage ditch that runs north-south through the park. A bioretention rain garden in combination with a culvert underneath the trail would prevent runoff from flooding the path. Rain gardens and culverts placed strategically in areas where water currently overtops the trail will reduce trail flooding and allow for greater and safer usage of the park. In addition to absorbing and filtering stormwater, the rain garden will provide habitat for pollinators that benefit the local ecosystem and support the health of the community garden. Survey respondents and the visioning committee also noted that this trail would be better utilized if it had lighting. Solar pathway lights would be a low impact, cost-effective way to increase the comfort of visitors to the park, and the additions of shade, seating, and play opportunities would encourage more community members to visit this park and take advantage of what it has to offer.

continued on Board 9b



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RDG Planning & Design

LAs: Anne Machian, PLA, ASLA; Bruce Niedermyer, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP
Intern: Dani Hodgson

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation





The addition of shade trees and solar lighting along the length of Mez Buttermilk Flat Park's trail will make the park more hospitable, increasing shade during sunny days and extending the use of the trail into the twilight and evening hours. These improvements could spur more use of the park and encourage active lifestyles in the surrounding neighborhood and throughout the community of Avoca.



Existing view looking south from trail at stormwater swale



Trail pathway lights example



Key Map



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