



Corridor Improvements

The map to the left illustrates the proposed locations for a series of improvements along the Highway 117 corridor. The existing Colfax entrance sign informs people they have entered Colfax, but seems to be disconnected from what really feels like Colfax: the Downtown District. The design team proposes making this connection by installing light poles to illuminate the roadway and increase safety while creating banners to hang on the light poles, continually reminding visitors that they have entered Colfax. The design of the banners is heavily influenced by Colfax's historical mineral springs as well as its adjacency to the South Skunk River, but could be updated as often as desired to promote different types of events.

With future growth, Quarry Springs Park has the potential to attract many people to the northern edge of Colfax. These banners will draw people into the downtown district and help them truly experience all that Colfax has to offer.

Tree Planting/Screening

Trees should be strategically planted along this corridor to provide a level of beautification and a vegetative screen of any unsightly properties that may exist, and shade to provide comfortable space

for passersby. With this corridor being a visitor's first impression of Colfax, ensuring a beautiful experience is key. All tree planting does need to be outside of the Highway 117 right-of-way, according to Iowa DOT regulations.

Trail Extension

To better connect downtown Colfax with Quarry Springs Park, and potentially further north in the future, a series of improvements and expansions to the trail system are proposed along this corridor. An extension to the pedestrian trail and a connecting sidewalk is proposed on the South Skunk River bridge. This will provide pedestrians as well as cyclists much better access across the river to the park and other amenities on the north edge of town. After crossing this bridge, pedestrians would be able to use a new trail separated from the roadway to access Quarry Springs Park. The potential for a connection north of town to the Chichaqua Valley Trail should be studied as that trail continues to develop as well.

Colfax

Highway 117 Corridor Improvements (2/2)

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Iowa Department of Transportation Trees Forever ISU Landscape Architecture Extension ISU Extension Community and Economic Development

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