

Fairfax Trail Enhancements

RDG Planning & Design

LAs: Nate Byro, PLA, ASLA; Bruce Niedermyer, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP Intern: Dani Hodgson

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation



Trail Enhancements

The trail system leading to the City Sports and Park Complex begins at the southern end of Vanderbilt Street. This design accompanies the downtown proposal as sidewalks continuing along the east and west sides of Vanderbilt Street and connecting to the existing trail, which becomes accented by plantings and lighting. The design supports the potential development of additional park elements to the south of the trail by placing trees between the trail and Linn Street instead of placing them south of the trail. Tree placement also avoids the sanitary sewer and water lines that currently exist just south of the trail and will lessen the heat island effect felt along Linn Street. Perennials can be planted around the perimeter of the existing seating elements to make them more inviting and add aesthetic value to the trail.

continued on Board 8b





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Providing additional amenities along the trail will help it become more usable and inviting throughout the year. The shade provided by the trees will be a great addition that cools down the trail and adds some verticality to the vastly open area. Lighting was highlighted as a desired feature by residents during the survey portion of the visioning process, so the design team has proposed lighting along the length of the trail leading to the City Sports and Park Complex. The lighting will make the trail accessible during more hours of the day and promote safety by increasing visibility. By strategically placing plantings around the existing seating areas, a greater impact can be made with a limited investment.



Existing view of trail seating from Linn Street looking southeast

