



Concept Overview

Many of the transportation-related issues within Forest City are common among rural Iowa communities. A lack of sidewalks results in pedestrian-related issues, busy highways and streets bisect popular destinations within the community, and lack of way-finding signs makes it difficult for visitors to navigate the community.

"I was shocked there were no sidewalks here. What are we supposed to do?" stated a visioning committee member (Re: What People Said, 3b). An emerging theme on all of the analysis boards was a lack of pedestrian connections within the community. The visioning committee prioritized popular destinations and neighborhoods where pedestrian connections would be most important. The design team created a connectivity plan with several phases that would benefit the entire community, including pedestrian traffic from Waldorf University.

US Highway 69 is a major thoroughfare that runs perpendicular to J Street, a major corridor in Forest City. The visioning committee wanted to transform J Street, the entrance into the business district, Winnebago County Courthouse, and Waldorf University into a "cultural corridor," showcasing the uniqueness that Forest City possesses. The corridor would feature a 10' trail on the south side that would link with the Boman Fine Arts Center to the west and Pammel Park to the east. Art, sculpture, pavement murals, improved lighting, banners, way-finding signage, and tree plantings would enhance J Street and set it apart from other areas of Forest City.

"[G Street], there's no stop sign or street light, yet that's the entrance for the ball fields for the kids, so that's pretty scary," commented one parent regarding Pammel Park (Re: What People Said, 3b). Safety is a concern in Pammel Park due to the draw of the baseball fields for youth coupled with no safe crossing on US Highway 69. The visioning committee wanted to explore alternatives if the baseball fields were removed from Pammel Park and put elsewhere. This removal resulted in a baseball field complex located near the Forest City Family Aquatic Center. Residents expressed interest in adding a dog park, fruit trees, an expanded disc golf course, and an improved camping experience during the workshop. The design team was then able to propose a new design for Pammel Park to improve its function and safety.



J Street Cultural Corridor (See Cultural Corridor, 8)



Baseball Field Complex (See Baseball Field Complex, 10)



Way-finding and Signage (See Way-finding and Signage, 7)



Pammel Park Enhancements (See Pammel Park Enhancements, 9)