

Sycamore Gateway

Sycamore Street is one of the most used Highway 141 exits to Granger, due to its central location within the city and access to the Casey's General Store gas station. For many regional commuters, stopping here for gas is their primary Granger experience. Currently there is no community welcome sign or gateway features except for a memorial boulder and flag pole set back from the road. The Sycamore Gateway is proposed to improve aesthetics and bolster community identity at this location. This gateway includes native prairie with mowed paths, ornamental plantings and trees, a new Granger welcome sign, Trail Hub Plaza rest area, and a multipurpose trail along the Highway 14 1 right-of-way. Pavement markings are proposed where this trail crosses Sycamore Street and the Ford dealership entrance, along with 14'-tall bike / pedestrian crossing sign posts with push button-activated RRFB lights at both sides of the street crossing. A trail spur extends to an existing dead-end sidewalk on the west side of Sycamore Street, and a multidirectional wayfinding sign is included at that intersection, comprised of sign pole set within a circular watering trough planted with annuals to add some seasonal color at the gateway. Perennial shrub plantings and street trees dress up the east edge of Sycamore Street and help to screen the adjacent parking lot.

Granger Sycamore Gateway + Trail Hub



Sycamore Gateway Perspective



Trail Hub Plaza Perspective

Trail Hub Plaza

Located adjacent to the popular Casey's General Store, a concrete trail node dubbed the "Hub Plaza" is proposed at the center of Sycamore Gateway as a rest stop along the trail. This will be a jumping-off point to direct trail users to Casey's and further into town. This also provides access to park amenities such as mowed prairie trails, seating, and signage for highway travelers needing to stretch their legs, let the dog out, and learn about Granger. Traditional park sign panels could be included to mark destinations or provide interpretation on site-specific cultural resources and history. Wayfinding text could also be superimposed onto the paving to inform trail users of destinations near and far, such as "Downtown 1.0 mi", or "Jester Park 4 mi". This plaza can be replicated throughout the community as the trail system grows, and the wheel/gear form of the paving allows for flexibility in the direction of connections to trails, sidewalks, or other park amenities.

Genus Landscape Architects

LA's: Eric Holt, ASLA, PLA | Jordan Garvey, Associate ASLA Intern: Fan-Kai Lin

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation







