



1st Street W Corridor






1st Street W is a major thoroughfare for Independence, carrying between 5,000 to 8,400 vehicles per day (Iowa Department of Transportation 2021 Daily Traffic County). As you enter Independence from the west, there is no welcome signage. You are greeted with vacant buildings, very little green space or trees and a lot of concrete. The Independence Elementary and Middle Schools are located along 1st Street W and create traffic issues throughout the day, especially during drop off and dismissal times.

During the What, Where, Why meeting, the steering committee prioritized improving the aesthetics and addressing safety and traffic issues along this important corridor. The intersection of Iowa Avenue and 1st Street W is a prime location for a single-lane roundabout that would improve traffic flow and safety. The center of the roundabout would include entrance signage, decorative brick paving and low-growing plant materials, creating

an inviting entrance feature as you enter Independence from the west and south. Independence lacks uniform streetscape furniture. The steering committee suggested a palette of furniture that fits the historical nature of the community. The proposed streetlight was chosen by the committee because it is a cross between two of their existing streetlights and continues the historical/period theme. This palette could be used throughout Independence and begin to unify the improvements to the community.

The north side of 1st Street W has major electrical lines in the right-of-way; the design team is suggesting ornamental trees to soften the appearance of these lines and aid in the overall aesthetics. The south side of the road would accommodate overstory tree plantings. The design team suggested locations for tree plantings that would not impact existing business signage or building facades along this corridor.

Legend

-  Overstory Tree
-  Understory Tree
-  Proposed Entrance Signs
-  Proposed Roundabout
-  Proposed Parking Lot Realignment
-  Proposed Sidewalk



The proposed roundabout would improve traffic flow and create an inviting entrance into Independence from the south and west.

Streetscape Furniture Palette



The steering committee suggested a light fixture they had photographed in a different community. This fixture combines the acorn style fixture and modern fixture present in downtown Independence.



Bench: Victor Stanley CS-10



Backless Bench: Victor Stanley CS-296



Litter Receptacle: Victor Stanley SD-42

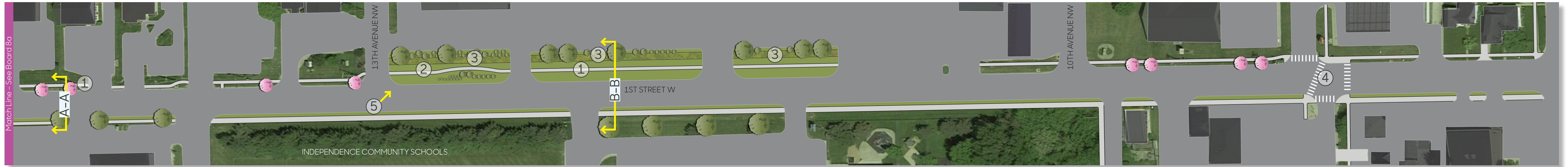
Independence

1st Street W Corridor








RITLAND+KUIPER Landscape Architects

Landscape Architect: Samantha Price, ASLA
 Intern: Andrea Fager, Iowa State University
 Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation





Legend

-  Overstory Tree
-  Understory Tree
-  Proposed Sidewalk
-  Proposed Green Space
-  Proposed Bioretention Cells
-  Existing Highly-visible Crosswalk
-  Direction of view for existing conditions and proposed improvements eduts shown on the right

1st Street W Corridor

A portion of the parking lot between 13th Avenue NW and 10th Avenue NW, could be converted to green space with bioretention cells, plantings, sidewalk, and benches. The steering committee is working with Buchanan County and private landowners to break up the "sea of concrete," as one steering committee member described it.

The bioretention cells could help alleviate some of the flooding issues along 1st Street W caused by the large amount of paved surfacing. In addition, the proximity to the schools creates a great opportunity for learning about bioretention areas. The design team recommends installing signage explaining the value of this best management practice for handling stormwater.

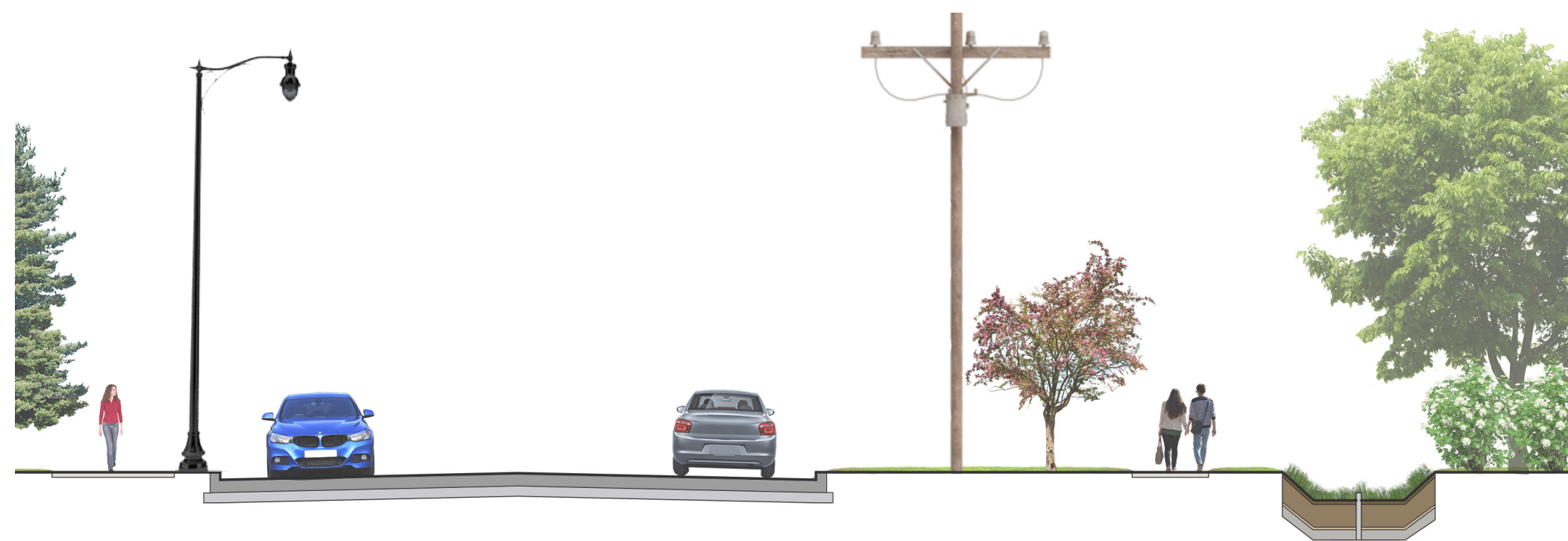
Substantial electrical lines run along the north side of 1st Street W. The design team is recommending ornamental trees along most of the north side of 1st Street W and overstory trees set back from the electrical lines in the proposed green space section.

10th Avenue NW to 2nd Ave NW will be reconstructed in 2024 and will include an 8-foot trail along the south side of 1st Street W.



*South side of 1st Street W:
Updated street lights
Proposed overstory trees
Proposed sidewalk*

Section A-A



*South side of 1st Street W:
Updated street lights*

Section B-B

*North side of 1st Street W:
Proposed understory trees
Proposed sidewalk*

*North side of 1st Street W:
Proposed understory trees
Proposed sidewalk
Proposed bioretention cell
Proposed overstory tree and shrub plantings*

Existing Conditions at 1st Street W & 13th Ave NW



Proposed Improvements



The proposed 30 feet of additional green space allows for both overstory and ornamental tree plantings, bioretention cells, sidewalk, benches, and lawn.

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