



Plan for Arboretum Park with additional connectivity, parking, and amenities.

Arboretum Park

The Arboretum Park trailhead is an underutilized space that needs additional amenities and pedestrian connections to support residents and trail users. Arboretum plantings need refreshing to be more attractive and resilient, remove invasive plant species, and minimize maintenance. Restrooms and water, bike racks, and paved, expanded parking improves the trailhead function and supports school activities. New sidewalks and an inner-city trail connects the arboretum to Main Street and the school. New crosswalks across Linn Street encourage walking. New zones are created in the arboretum and shared space with the Ballard West Elementary: paved parking, a sensory garden and woods path, and an Iowa heritage plantings zone consisting of orchard loop, outdoor prairie classroom, and nature play zone. Parking supports 33 vehicles and six trailers and is surrounded with bioswales for storm-water management. No mow-turf and Iowa native prairie plants reduce management to annual mulch mowing and limits chemical inputs.



Northwest facing view of restrooms, gazebo, sensory garden area and the Heart of Iowa trail connection.



The outdoor classroom with logs, stumps, and an all-season cupboard is separated from other activities with a low berm and prairie plantings. Close proximity to the restrooms and water and crushed limestone paths accommodates all ages and abilities.



The nature play zone is designed for young children and features an assortment of logs, stumps and rocks for climbing and moving. A variety of Iowa native trees and shrubs surrounding the zone provide materials for nature art and a mud kitchen.



Additional parking is shared with the elementary school. A trail extension connects pedestrians from Arboretum Park to downtown, and connects with the Slater city trail loop along Linn Street.



Arboretum rose garden is updated to become a low-maintenance, sensory walk surrounded by forest bathing trail through existing and new shade trees. The garden is easier to access with a trail connection to other parts of town.



Arboretum Park Trailhead

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