



Vision IOLA

Community Identity - Downtown Enhancement - Parks & Trails



Item	Description	Location	Notes
1
2
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22
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31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
Action Items	5
ABOUT VISION IOLA.....	7
VISION IOLA – COMMUNITY IDENTITY	9
Background	9
Definition –Community Identity	10
Group Activities – Community Identity	10
Conclusions – Community Identity.....	12
Signage Concepts	13
Selected Sign Package	17
Monument Signs	19
Primary Wayfinding.....	19
Secondary Wayfinding	20
Identity Monuments.....	20
Banners	20
Signage Location Map	21
Cost Estimates.....	21
VISION IOLA - DOWNTOWN ENHANCEMENT	23
Background	23
Healthy Downtowns	24
Walking Tour.....	25
Downtown SWOT	26
Conceptual Design Presentation.....	27
Design Development Presentation	30
Final Design Presentation	33
Cost Estimates.....	35

VISION IOLA - PARKS AND TRAILS37

- Background37
- Benefits of a Park and Trail System..... 38
- Existing Parks - Classifications & Inventory..... 38
 - Neighborhood Parks 38
 - Community Parks 39
 - Regional Parks 40
 - Linear Parks/Linkage..... 41
 - Special Purpose Parks 42
- Existing Parks - Summary 42
- Level of Service Summary43
- Existing Parks – Recommended Improvements..... 44
 - Riverside Park..... 44
 - Meadowbrook Park 44
 - Walnut Park 45
 - Cofachique Park 45
 - East Iola Park..... 45
- New Park Spaces46
- New Trails Plan.....47
- Cost Estimates.....48

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES51

APPENDIX.....55

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vision Iola is a planning process developed and implemented by the City of Iola, Thrive Allen County and Landworks Studio to build upon the City's Comprehensive Plan. This initiative involved processes to educate the public on the necessity of good urban design principles and gain public input to establish needs and priorities.

The goals for Vision Iola include a focus on the importance of a healthy community with respect to three specific areas: community identity, downtown enhancement and parks and trails. Throughout each of these components, technology and traditional public forums were utilized to reach the largest audience possible with a goal of gaining input from all residents.

Community Identity Summary

Community Identity was presented as an important first step to generating community support and creating a design direction for the Vision Iola process. The result of the public input exercises was the creation of a community identity that is all-inclusive and is a genuine reflection of Iola. The concept of COMMUNITY was selected as the basis for which Iola would develop its identity. This illustrates Iola's diverse set of unique assets, its strong connection to history, the friendliness of its people, the extensive cultural offerings and citizens who care, have a passion for change and a commitment to the Vision Iola process.

The tangible result of the community identity component is the signage package. Options for new entry monument signage, wayfinding signage and banners were presented, refined and voted on for a final design. The signage package also includes a graphic that represents the COMMUNITY concept. This graphic utilizes the City's streetscape as seen on the existing City logo, however, the colors have been updated and the image was modified to show active residents and sustainable practices.

Downtown Enhancement Summary

As Iola's downtown square was highlighted as one of the city's best attributes, it was important to study the downtown, evaluate its assets and provide design and planning principles to improve healthy living initiatives. Iola's downtown has many of the signs of a healthy downtown; however, it was determined through a walkability assessment that accessibility is a serious concern.

In order to create a safe and walkable downtown, the plan illustrates reducing the amount of time pedestrian and vehicular traffic share the same space. To facilitate this, landscaped bulb-outs near the intersections are planned, along with mid-block crossings to eliminate the existing diagonal crosswalks. The landscaped bulb-outs and safety zones not only create a safer environment for pedestrians, but these planters also add more visual interest and the plant material offers a cooler ambient temperature during the hot summer months. It is anticipated more user-friendly crosswalks will make it easier for patrons to park on the courthouse side of the downtown blocks, if parking on the retail side of the streets are full.

The surveys and public input indicated a more user-friendly sidewalk environment would encourage more pedestrian traffic downtown. Pavers, planters, benches and trees were planned to create a "sense of place" and to enhance the unique architecture of the building facades.

Parks & Trails Summary

For any city to be considered a healthy community, parks and a trail system must be a top priority. Iola has already set a great precedent with the implementation and utilization of the Prairie Spirit Trail. In addition, the purchase of flooded property with FEMA has provided the opportunity to expand the city's park system.

From the surveys, many of the existing neighborhood parks are under-utilized. Because the playground equipment, in most cases, is outdated and may not meet safety standards, the perception is this property holds

very little value to the residents. In addition, if safety standards are not met, the city is exposed to additional liability.

By utilizing and adapting the standards created by the National Recreation and park Association, the park inventory concludes Iola has a shortage of neighborhood parks, especially in the area north of Highway 54 between Kentucky Street and Highway 169. However, it is also observed that the existing parks are well-maintained. With the addition of some newer amenities, the city's existing parks could fill the needs of the community in the short-term.

Riverside Park is the gem of the park system. This park is used not only by Iola residents, but is a destination park for surrounding communities. The new pool and community building are excellent assets.

It is not desirable to create the same amenities in every park property. Duplication of park attractions is not only expensive, but requires considerably more maintenance than is necessary. To that end, the Vision Iola team considered demographics of the neighborhoods where the parks are located, existing natural amenities on the property and assigned uses for these properties. For example, East Iola Park was selected as an appropriate location for an exploratory play park because of the mature tree canopy and the small children seen in the neighborhood.

In addition, park and recreational activities not currently provided by the city were considered and FEMA property was evaluated to find potential matches to fill the needs. A dog park, disc golf and fishing and camping activities found potential locations in Iola.

*TURN THE PAGE FOR ACTION ITEMS
OUTLINED IN THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.*

Action Items

Community Identity Action Items:

- Immediate:
 - Place 4 entry monuments at city limit lines.P
 - Place 8 primary wayfinding signs throughout town.
- Longer term:
 - Purchase banners for downtown light poles and Prairie Spirit Trail light poles.
 - Provide any remaining needed signage, based on this document.

Downtown Enhancement Action Items:

- Immediate:
 - Prepare grant applications, as they become available, to receive funding for downtown enhancements.
 - Evaluate the possibility of building a restroom facility on the north side of the square.
 - Research methods of improvement for broken windows on second story of buildings
- Longer Term:
 - Complete enhancements for the downtown square.

Parks & Trails Action Items:

Parks

- Immediate:
 - Evaluate existing playgrounds for potential safety hazards and mitigate as necessary.
 - Construct a dog park in south Iola.
 - Secure/acquire property on south Washington Avenue for camping and fishing opportunities.
 - Add amenities in Cottonwood Park for tennis/pickle ball courts.
- Longer Term:
 - Redevelop East Iola Park.
 - Redevelop Walnut Park.
 - Add a spray park to Cottonwood Park.
 - Add an internal loop trail in Riverside Park.

Trails

- Immediate:
 - Continue development of the Prairie Spirit Trail utilizing Transportation Enhancement funding, as it becomes available, and evaluate a downtown connection.
 - Consider painting on-road bike lanes to connect people to places.
 - Consider a Complete Streets policy so any new road or bridge improvement project can accommodate multiple modes of transportation.
- Longer Term:
 - Develop a network of bike paths and lanes throughout Iola to connect parks, activity centers, business centers and neighborhoods.
 - Utilize the utility corridor and drainage easements through the heart of the residential neighborhoods to complete bike path

*END OF EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
TURN THE PAGE FOR THE BEGINNING OF
ABOUT VISION IOLA*

ABOUT VISION IOLA

Thrive Allen County and the City of Iola joined forces to develop a planning process to help shape the future of their community. The Vision Iola Initiative was created to build upon the City's Comprehensive Plan and develop actionable items that could realistically be implemented within a relatively short time frame.



The Vision Iola planning process involves the citizens of Iola and emphasizes the application of good urban design principles in an effort to improve public health.

The planning process has resulted in a planning document that will be utilized by the City of Iola to specifically guide the City's physical improvements in three specific areas:

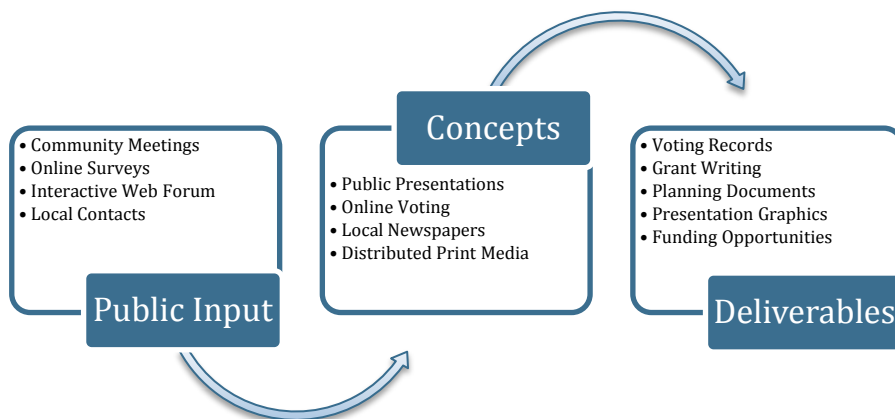
- A comprehensive signage package with a community identity component
- A downtown streetscape enhancement plan
- Park facilities evaluation and park and trails development plans

Vision Iola is a six-month process that will ultimately be a pilot program for other communities of Allen County to help shape their future with the same emphasis on urban design and public health. The Vision Iola team consists of Thrive Allen County, City of Iola, Landworks Studio, a landscape architecture firm, and involved citizens.

Vision Iola is divided into 3 components.



Vision Iola Meetings and Presentations began in early 2010 and ended in late summer of 2010. Each component followed a streamlined process of public input opportunities, concept development, and deliverables. WWW.VISIONIOLA.COM was created to distribute information and provide interactive feedback.



Vision Iola Rack Card

The Vision Iola team created and distributed an introductory rack card throughout the city of Iola to help promote the beginning of the Vision Iola project. Local printers were used in the production.



VISION IOLA – COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Background

The community identity component of Vision Iola began January 29, 2010 with a signage survey sent to all registered Vision Iola participants. The survey allowed the Vision Iola team to better understand how the residents feel about existing signage and what the preferences are for any future monuments or wayfinding signage. A brief summary is as follows:

- Signage is appropriately located.
- Both more and better signage is needed.
- Iola's best attributes are not identified well.
- Visibility is an issue.
- Signage should include more color.
- Historical/Downtown Square is top priority.
- Shopping and dining should be identified.

"IOLA SIGNAGE SURVEY RESULTS" ARE LOCATED IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT A.

A Community Identity Public Input Meeting was held February 4, 2010 at the North Community Building. The meeting was attended by nearly 40 people. The topic included the importance of community identity, how community identity can be determined and how community signage plays a role in community identity.

The meeting was held in a workshop format to allow participants the most opportunity to discuss topics related to community identity, past and present, and brainstorm about the future identity of Iola.

A second public meeting was held on February 25 to approximately 25 attendees. This meeting presented the information gathered both through the website and the first public input meeting. The Vision Iola team offered three sign package concepts for discussion and voting. Concept 1 received the highest number of votes with 11, Concept 2 was second with 7 votes and Concept 3 came in third with 3 votes.

SIGNAGE CONCEPTS ARE LOCATED IN THE SIGNAGE PORTION OF COMMUNITY IDENTITY.

Lastly, variations of each of the three sign packages, based on feedback received at the public meeting, were offered through the website. Online participants were asked to vote for their favorite concept and were also offered the opportunity of provide suggestions.

COLLECTED "COMMUNITY IDENTITY SIGN IN SHEETS" ARE INCLUDED IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT B.



Definition –Community Identity

The definition of community identity used for this purpose of discussion is

“Residents taking pride in their community, past and present, through appreciation of parks, recreation and cultural resources.”

Community Identity is the culmination of a community’s culture and physical environment. As we discuss making improvements to Iola’s infrastructure, it is important to first understand Iola’s culture. The community identity component is critical throughout the entire process because every improvement recommended from this point forward must value and work to reinforce the identity.

Throughout the Community Identity process, it was presided that the City’s identity must be a genuine reflection of the community and its residents. In addition, a community identity involves a variety of contributing factors.

Contributing factors outlined for Iola include:

- Architectural Style and Developments
- Specific and consistent design palettes
- Unified streetscape design and cultural centers
- Integration of the built and the natural environment

It is important to note that any necessary infrastructure improvements required within the City of Iola may also have the ability to reinforce the community identity. By considering aesthetic in addition to function, any capital improvement projects can add value to Iola’s quality of life in intangible ways.

Group Activities – Community Identity

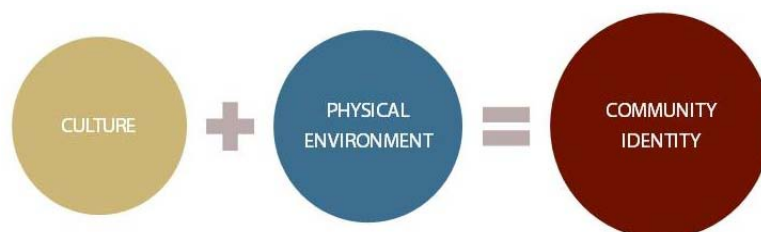
The first group activity during the Public Input Meeting, was for citizens to identify the contributing factors to Iola’s past and current identity. These factors were then placed into one of five categories that generalize the identities of communities across Kansas. The five categories were labeled as follows:

- Historical
- Cultural
- Industrial
- Natural
- Associative

By identifying and organizing all of the factors that have contributed to Iola’s identity in the past and present, we can better evaluate if these factors should contribute to Iola’s identity in the future.

Many contributing factors that were identified were placed into multiple categories. These factors play an important role in Iola’s identity because they are the factors that have the greatest reach throughout the community.

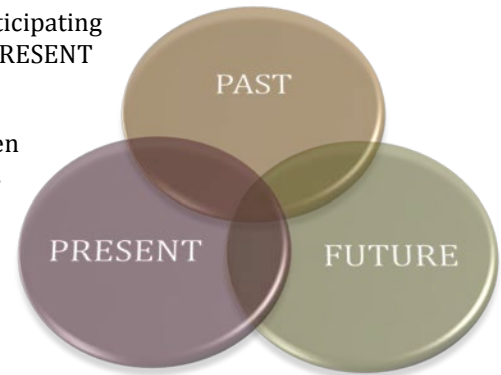
For instance, the Bowlus Fine Arts Center can be placed in three categories; Historical, Cultural, and Associative, while the Iola Electric Park can only be placed in Historical.



The next activity was used to establish individual responses from participating citizens. Each individual was given three cards labeled either PAST, PRESENT or FUTURE.

Each participant wrote what their perception of Iola's identity has been in the past, present, and what they would like for it to be in the future. After each card had been filled out we asked that contributing factors be identified for each identity.

The PAST and PRESENT information was used to compare to the information we had received in the previous activity. The FUTURE card contained contributing factors that citizens felt should be contributing factors. This information was used in the group activity that followed.



In the last activity individuals were divided into four groups and asked to use their FUTURE card notes to develop a single group concept for Iola's future identity. Each table was required to develop only one future identity and present the supporting contributing factors. It is important to note this exercise focused on what the future identity could be and may not be based on current conditions. It is where the past, the present and the future overlap that the Vision Iola team looks for the common denominators and explores ideas for new concepts.

The results of this exercise were reasonably consistent with some slight variables.

Group 1: Progressive Community

Factors: Vision Iola, Hospital, Housing, Thrive, Chamber of Commerce and Medical/Dental Clinics

Group 2: Crossroads to the Future

Factors: Great place to raise a family, give visitors/travelers a reason to stop in Iola, tornado structure, turn town square to a Monopoly Board game, community that reversed the population trend

Group 3: Active Community

Factors: Downtown, Prairie Spirit Trail, get people out of their houses for all types of activities, break the generational mindset of waiting for others to get things done, outward focus instead of inward focus, create/encourage community connections

Group 4: Hub of Southeast Kansas

Factors: Forward thinking citizens, county seat, recycling programs, tree plantings

Additional Ideas:

"Iola – A Sweet Destination"

"I Was Blown Away by Iola!"

Conclusions – Community Identity

The Vision Iola team familiarized themselves with Iola’s Comprehensive Plan for the Vision Iola process and any and all recommendations or conclusions respect this approved plan, including the Iola Vision Statement. It was noted the Vision Statement is general enough, that any ideas presented will not conflict with what has already been approved.

It is important to note that several individuals mentioned Iola is at a critical transition point currently and that now is the time to determine the City’s identity and the goals for the future of Iola. In addition, many would like to see Iola reverse the declining population trend and be known as the town successful to do so.

The downtown square was repeatedly mentioned as a community asset and justly deserves consideration for a concept for community identity.

From all the input received, the Vision Iola team determined Iola has:

- Diverse set of unique assets
- Strong connection to history
- Friendliness
- Extensive cultural offerings
- Residents who care
- A passion for change
- Commitment to Vision Iola

The conclusions drawn from the graph that were used in developing new concepts for community identity include the recognition of the city square as a place where residents and visitors gather and socialize.

The specific conclusions and the recommendations made for the community identity for Iola revolve around the real and genuine sense of COMMUNITY. The concept of community may seem rather general, but can be focused around all of Iola’s assets. The emphasis on community is versatile and can be used for signage, for the Chamber of Commerce efforts, by each and every business owner or entity in Iola wanting to “sell” Iola to others. It is also important to note that COMMUNITY is non-exclusive. Iola has historical facts and stories to share, rich cultural opportunities through a variety of organizations, thriving business and industry and an improving school system and hospital. Emphasizing community can strengthen each of these without exclusion.

Another important observation is recognizing Iola as an evolving community. Iola is just beginning to make progress in strengthening relationships and improving aesthetic infrastructure. As Iola moves forward and experiences positive changes, so can the identity of COMMUNITY.

Iola Vision Statement
(as stated in the City of Iola Comprehensive Plan)

“Iola is a safe community that has pride, opportunity, friendliness and a high quality of life for all generations. This is evident by our cultural activities, quality schools and health care, recreation, jobs and people who have respect for each other and the community.”



Signage Concepts

Important to illustrating the community’s identity, is a unified community signage package. Signage was selected as a component of Vision Iola not only because it clearly illustrates community identity but also because it is an extension of the groundwork completed in the City of Iola’s Comprehensive Plan. In addition, signage is a relatively cost effective and immediate infrastructure improvement very visible to the residents and visitors of Iola.

The **importance of signage** to a community is illustrated in the following points:

- Visible sign of a healthy and vibrant community
- Attractive for residents, visitors, businesses
- Creates a connection to the community and enhances quality of life
- Demonstrates community stability and growth
- Renews focus and energy of active citizens
- Generates momentum for future projects

The benefits of community signage include:

- Signage offers a health and safety component to the City of Iola by identifying facilities that need to be found in emergency instances or have activities that travelers need to be readily aware of. For example, the hospital and/or the police and fire stations need to be identified on a community’s signage.
- By identifying parks and trail heads, residents are reminded of the outdoor recreational opportunities within their community, and visitors see these locations as a priority to the residents.
- Signage illustrates Iola’s identity in a key architectural component.
- Signage generates community pride.
- Signage acts as the community’s “host” by sending the message “we’re glad you’re here!”

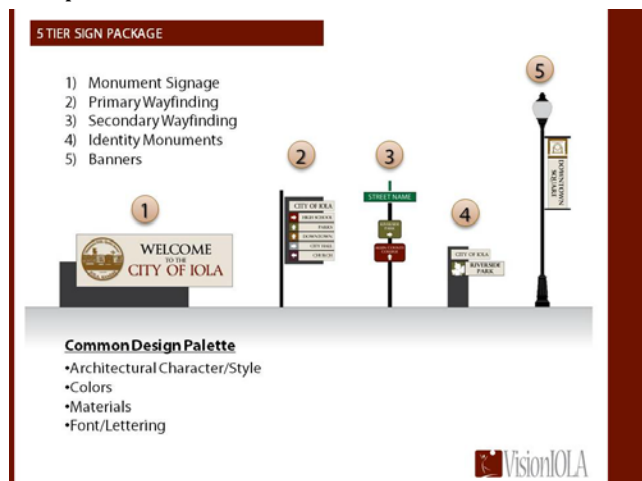
An emphasis was made on the creation of a common and integrated design palette. This consistency is important in the architectural style, character, colors, materials and font/lettering.

The Vision Iola team developed (3) three initial signage concepts.

- Signage Concept 1a
- Signage Concept 2a
- Signage Concept 3a

These three concepts were further developed into (6) six signage concepts for final selection.

- Signage Concept 1a
- Signage Concept 2a
- Signage Concept 3a
- Signage Concept 1b
- Signage Concept 2b
- Signage Concept 3b

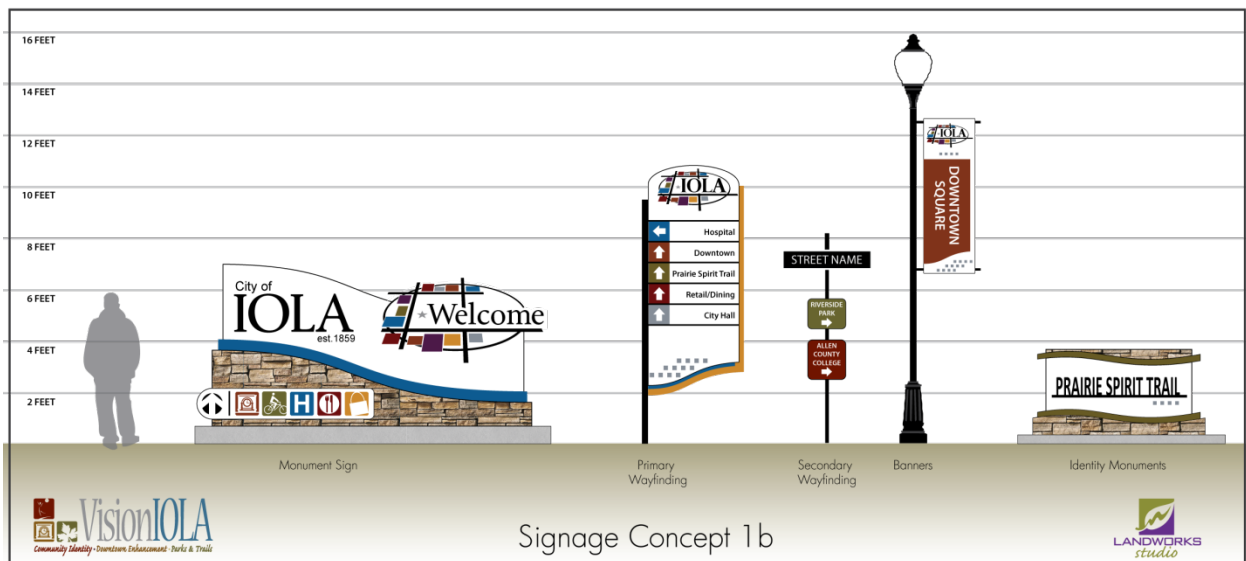
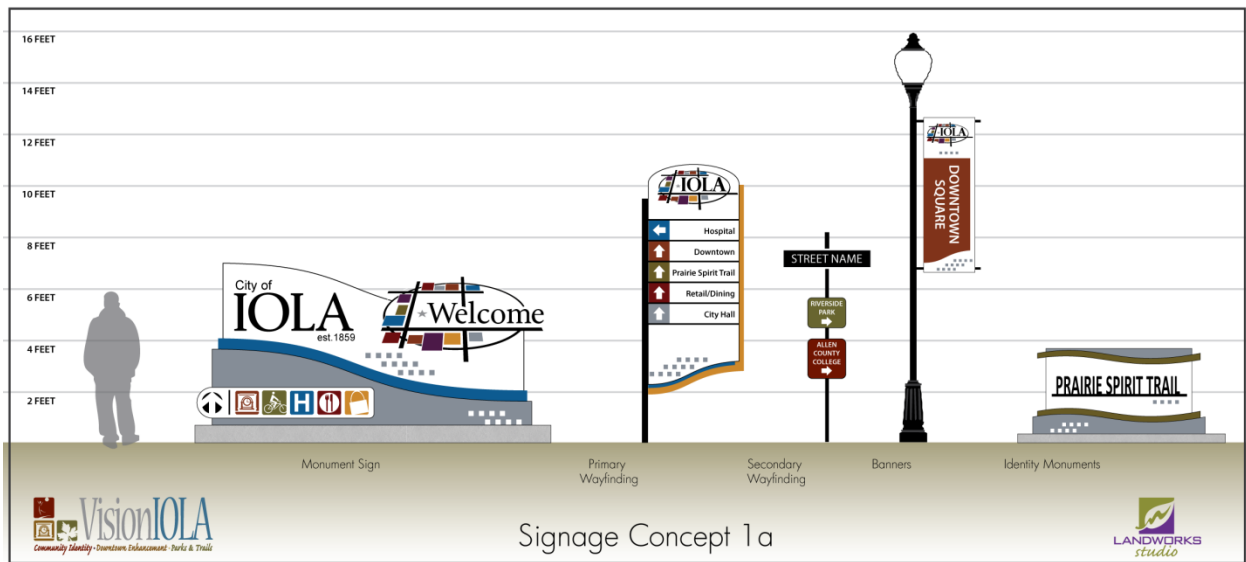


Each signage concept contained a five (5) tier sign package. Each concept was presented at the meeting and the following text was used for the online viewers.

Signage Concept 1

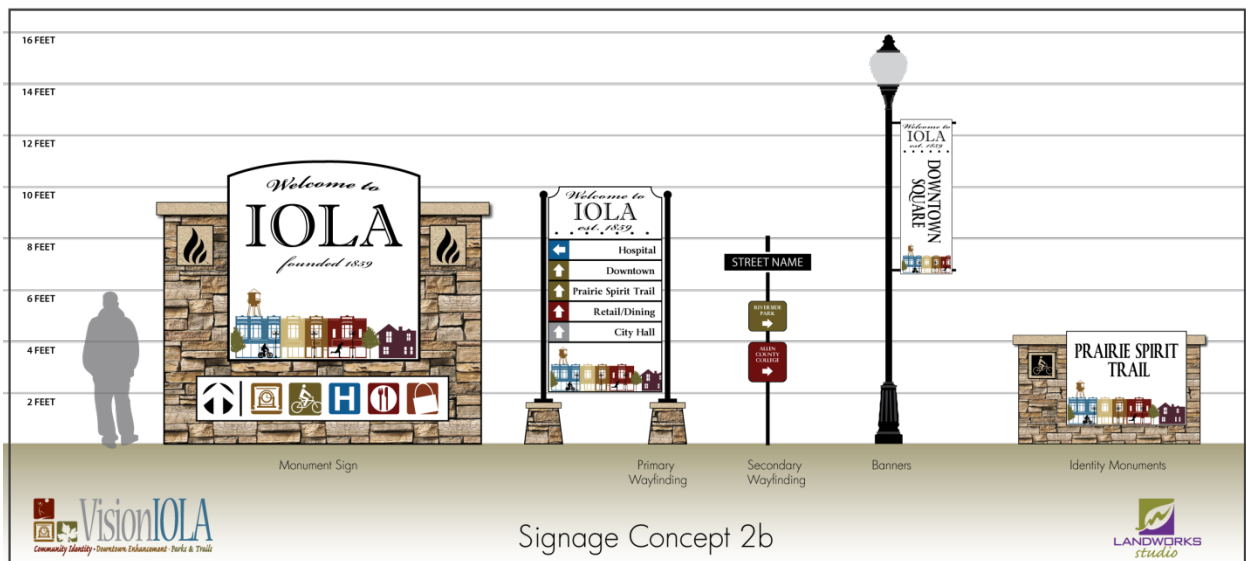
The community identity for Concept 1 is a contemporary symbol for Iola's large downtown square and the key role this historic district plays in Iola's past, present and future. The star represents Iola's county seat and the prominence this plays in Iola. The identity colors are fresh and vibrant to illustrate renewal. The blue and blue on yellow/gold are inspired by Iola High School's team colors.

The signage design has clean, crisp colors and lines. The slight curve to the sign shows the community's commitment to an optimistic and progressive approach to the future. The smaller squares in a design pattern emphasize the focus on the downtown square and the line of squares symbolizes a community moving forward.



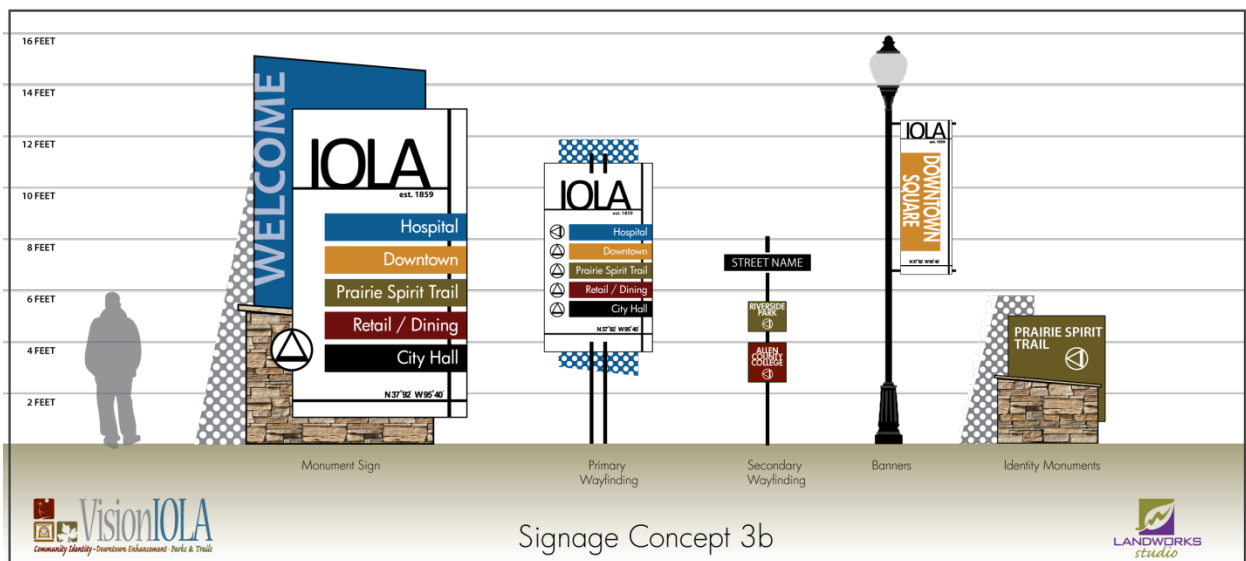
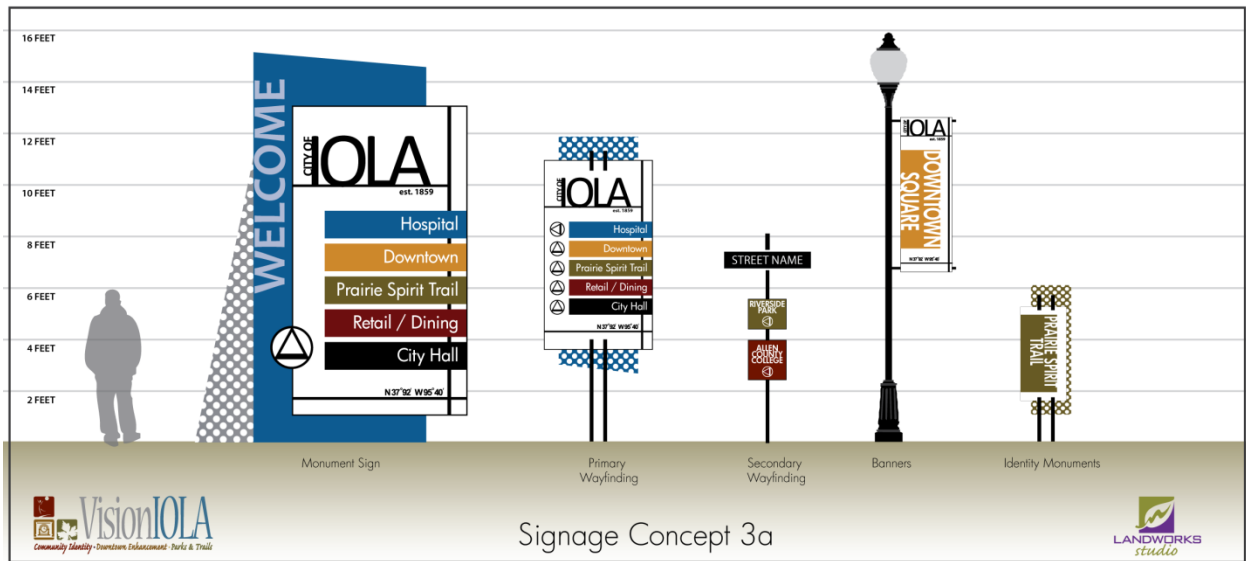
Signage Concept 2

The community identity for Concept 2 is respectful of Iola's past and rich architectural character. From the lettering on the sign to the stone craftsmanship, this sign pays homage to Iola's history. The streetscape scene illustrates the downtown storefronts, but also indicates healthy living. The trees show a commitment to sustainability issues and the pedestrians are active and going places. The colors are saturated earth tones and indicate colors found in nature.



Signage Concept 3

The community identity for Concept 3 is progressive and modern. The font is modern and easily legible without ornamentation. The colors are identical to Concept 1 but are presented in a more practical fashion. The sign illustrates Iola as the crossroads and the longitude and latitude are shown on lines representing Highways 54 & 169. The use of modern materials, including stainless steel, indicates a community looking to the future. Tall and predominate, this sign would be very visible and draw attention throughout town.



Selected Sign Package

After the presentation meeting, the Vision Iola team considered all the comments and developed a variation on each concept presented. These variations were, in general, based on the overall comment that Iola is a community with respect for its past but needs to look forward and determine what will best attract new residents and businesses to Iola. In addition to the new signage design, specific sign placement, landscape and lighting were also presented as critical elements to the success of Iola’s community identity. The new locations need to consider existing utility lines and poles, existing vegetation and other business signage. Elimination of as much visual clutter as possible to emphasize the community signage is an important consideration. Many communities have welcome signs; however, very few communities have them well landscaped. To complete the positive impact the new signage will have, it is important to offer lighting for accent and nighttime interest, and also place the signage in the environment with landscaping. The plant material selections should consider scale, color and texture with year round interest. Native plant materials and ornamental grasses would emphasize Iola as a community involved in current trends and environmental issues

Voting for one of the three original concepts or one of the variations took place from February 26 – March 2.

“FINAL VOTING FOR SIGNAGE CONCEPTS” IS LOCATED IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT C

The sign package selected during the Vision Iola project was package 2b as shown below.



2b is a variation on Concept 2. Concept 2 was the most traditional package, however, the variation altered the sign insert from a beige color to white, and the most traditional option appears more clean, fresh and contemporary. This package uses natural stone materials, black steel and an earth tone color palette to provide warm and welcoming wayfinding signage for the Iola community.

The chosen sign package consists of a five (5) tier sign package including Monument Signs, Primary & Secondary Wayfinding Signs, Identity Monuments, as well as banners. Each sign tier ties into the community identity component that consists of a colorful downtown scene of Iola that contains active citizens and tree lined streets.

Color Palette

The color palette selected consists of eight colors and the use of white and black. Colors used on wayfinding signage should be used consistently in all locations and carry through to all tiers. Pantone colors have been identified and should be used whenever possible to provide an accurate representation of each color when produced by various methods or materials.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pantone 1817C	Pantone 491C	Pantone 463C	Pantone 450C	Pantone 5158C	Pantone 5405C	Pantone 4515C	Pantone COOL GRAY 9C
CMYK 0,90,100,66	CMYK 0,79,100,52	CMYK 30,56,100,37	CMYK 60,50,100,22	CMYK 80,100,85,25	CMYK 58,17,0,46	CMYK 0,90,50,24	CMYK 0,1,0,51
RGB 111,18,0	RGB 137,49,1	RGB 126,86,27	RGB 103,101,47	RGB 76,36,50	RGB 59,110,143	RGB 203,182,119	RGB 145,145,145

Colors 1-8 are to represent various locations and amenities around town. Landworks Studio has begun to categorize locations with colors. Below is a list of these recommendations.

This list is for recommendation only and does not reflect every situation or location. Additional locations should be identified, and placed into the appropriate category. To maintain consistent and unified signage throughout the community, Landworks Studio does not recommend any additional colors be added to this color palette.

Color Palette List

Color 1 •Schools •Colleges	Color 2 •Retail •Dining	Color 3 •Downtown Square •Historical Locations	Color 4 •Parks •Trails •Outdoor Spaces
Color 5 •Cultural •Religious	Color 6 •Hospitals •Clinics	Color 7 •Limited Use	Color 8 •Municipal

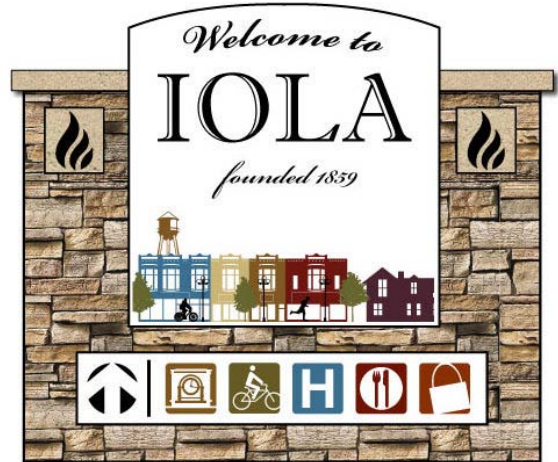
Monument Signs

Monument Signs have been designed to provide a large and dominant “Welcome Sign” for the arterial streets leading into Iola.

The desired materials used to achieve the design intent include; stacked limestone veneer, limestone caps, limestone insets, and raised lettering. The monument signs also include a backlit or internally lit set of icons to represent the amenities ahead. These icons should be an integrated feature of the monument sign.

Overall lighting should illuminate the entire monument sign. Landscaping as well as decorative lighting should be added to each monument sign located.

Overall sign dimensions should remain proportional to the design selected, though specific site considerations and construction documents will be needed for final construction.



Primary Wayfinding

Primary Wayfinding signs are designed to use arrows, colors and font to direct traffic to desired locations around town. Colors used to represent each location should correspond to colors used on monument signs and secondary wayfinding.

The desired materials used to achieve the design intent include; stacked limestone veneer, limestone caps, and black powder coated mounting posts.

Landworks Studio recommends primary wayfinding signs to be located at main intersections and locations identified on the “Proposed Sign Location Map”.

During the Vision Iola project a list of amenities has been compiled from various public meetings as well as recommendations from Landworks Studio and the City of Iola.

The list includes but is not limited to:

- Downtown Square
- Retail Centers
- Bowlus Center
- Hospital
- Schools – High School & Middle School
- Allen Community College
- Post Office
- Prairie Spirit Trail
- Parks
- Industrial Park
- Chamber of Commerce
- Courthouse
- Museums
- Library



Secondary Wayfinding

Secondary wayfinding signs are intended to aid primary wayfinding signs when additional directions are needed. (I.e. Secondary wayfinding is needed when more than one turn is needed to locate a specified amenity.) Secondary wayfinding signs may also be needed when amenities are not identified on primary wayfinding signs, but still require additional wayfinding signs.



Existing secondary signage can be found around Iola and shall be used until new or additional signage is identified as needed. When secondary signage is needed, it is recommended that all locations of that signage be updated or added.

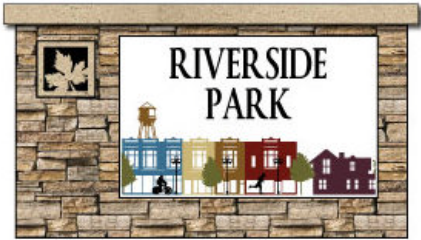
Secondary signage should be located on existing poles where available and color should correspond to the color used to identify each specific amenity or location on primary wayfinding.

Landworks Studio suggests contacting Rice Signs to manufacture and aide in the design of each secondary sign. If Rice Signs is not used, a company that utilizes reflective materials and complies with MUTCD regulations should be selected. Contact information for Rice Signs is as follows:

Rice Signs
1-888-728-7665
www.ricesigns.com

Identity Monuments

Identity monuments have been designed to indicate the entrance or location of amenities identified in primary and secondary signage. Not all locations will need or want an identity monument, or some entities may choose to provide their own signage.



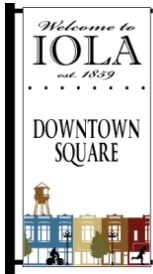
Encouraging the use of identity monuments for parks, trails, and municipal buildings will help create a unified look for the Iola community as well as provide an established design option for new development.

The identity monuments should be visible from multiple directions and should be built with an identical front and back. Each identity monument incorporates a unique limestone inset selected to represent each location. Insets are unique and should be designed to be viewed as an identifiable icon with little or no explanation. Landworks Studio recommends that each inset be square in proportion and the negative space be painted black to enhance the appearance.

Landscaping and lighting should be placed around each identity monument.

Banners

Banners have been designed to be displayed at various locations around town. The 30"x60" banner has already been designed by the Chamber of Commerce in a sponsorship program. Therefore these dimensions have been applied to the banner concepts developed through Vision Iola. Banner opportunities exist along main streets, the downtown square, along the Prairie Spirit Trail Extension, as well as the entrance and drive to Riverside Park.



Signage Location Map

The final meeting also included discussions about potential locations for new signage. It will be the City's responsibility to locate monument signage, and primary and secondary wayfinding signage. Individual businesses will have the choice whether or not to follow the design guidelines for the identity monuments and the Chamber of Commerce may choose to facilitate the purchase of any new banners. The public presentation meeting included discussions about the potential locations for new signage. It was determined as the community grows both north and south there may be more opportunities for welcome signage north of town on Cottonwood and additional exits off Highway 169.

Landworks Studio along with the Vision Iola team have compiled recommendations and suggestions for the location of signage throughout Iola

COMMENTS AND LOCATIONS ARE SHOWN ON THE "SIGNAGE LOCATION MAP" FOUND IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT D.

New signage is recommended to assist travelers heading west from Highway 169 on Highway 54 to the downtown. The area near the hospital where Highway 54 curves south can be unsettling for new visitors. Signage located in the landscape beds would help alleviate confusion and offer an iconic element as an introduction to downtown. Also discussed was better signage for Allen Community College and the possibility of Iola monument signs for visitors entering the City from the north, either northeast or northwest.

Cost Estimates

Cost estimates were prepared for signage for planning purposes only and reflect current construction prices. If the signage were to be issued through a formal bid process, construction documents and specifications should be completed to ensure fair bidding. The graphic panels are recommended to be produced separately from the base and installed by a local or regional contractor. The prices listed below consider the use of cast stone, not quarried stone. The overall look will match the design intent and have the durability of a concrete product. Landworks Studio's estimates for construction of the signage are as follows:

Community Signage Cost Estimates	
	ESTIMATED COST PER SIGN
Monument Signage w/ Lighting	\$ 22,000 - \$ 24,000
Primary Wayfinding Sign	\$ 2,400 - \$ 3,000
Identity Monuments	\$ 7,000 - \$ 8,000
Banners w/ mounting hardware	\$ 200 - \$325

* All costs are proposed cost developed for planning purposes only and should not be used for actual construction purposes. Cost do not include design fees or construction documents.

*END OF COMMUNITY IDENTITY
TURN THE PAGE FOR THE BEGINNING OF
DOWNTOWN ENHANCEMENT*

VISION IOLA - DOWNTOWN ENHANCEMENT

Background

The downtown enhancement component of Vision Iola began with an assessment survey. This survey was available online and was also distributed around the downtown area beginning the middle of March, 2010. The assessment survey requested residents to walk around the downtown square and observe what the experience is like, what infrastructure is sufficient and how walkable and safe Iola's downtown is currently for all citizens. The assessment targeted the condition of the sidewalks, crosswalks and ADA ramps. Safety and comfort were also addressed. The surveys culminated in a "Walkability" score. The average score from over 20 respondents was a score of "26". This score indicates "Downtown is doing pretty well. Keep walking and seek improvements."

THE "WALKABILITY ASSESSMENT" CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT F.

A public information meeting was held on March 18, 2010. This meeting offered a guiding walking tour of the downtown and outlined the signs of a healthy downtown. Images of possibilities for the City of Iola, illustrating decorated crosswalks, landscaping, planters, seating and art were included in the presentation. As a group activity, we prepared a SWOT chart. This includes Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats for Iola's downtown. This meeting was attended by approximately 18 residents.



"DOWNTOWN ENHANCEMENT SIGN IN SHEETS" ARE INCLUDED IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT G.

The next engagement involved online voting. The team received 43 responses to a survey that closed on April 5, 2010. This survey focused on how residents use Iola's downtown, how often and modes of transportation. Residents were also asked what could be done to enhance Iola's downtown square, feelings about enhanced crosswalks, lighting and landscaping. In addition, information was gathered about the county's courthouse property and improvements that could be considered to increase the use of this key downtown park.

Vision Iola's public presentation meeting was held on April 8, 2010. The meeting was attended by approximately 20 residents. This meeting utilized an interactive component to illustrate the recommended improvements to Iola's downtown. By using computer software, the downtown was modeled as it exists today. Then images were overlaid to show participants what the downtown could look like with a variety of enhancements, including a variety of paver patterns and landscaping options. Also presented was a concept for the County's Courthouse property. The concept was based on public feedback and a desire to add amenities to this property for downtown visitors.

Final voting options were posted on April 13, 2010. The Vision Iola team received 54 responses to four questions with associated graphics. The questions asked specific preferences for paver patterns and colors based on designs provided. The designs were generated based on input gathered at the public presentation meeting and the first online voting opportunity.

A final presentation was given by the Vision Iola team on April 22, 2010. A smaller group of approximately 11 participants came out to see the final product. The final presentation included the preferences shared from the final voting options. The final design was illustrated on a sketch-up model to show participants the new vision for downtown Iola, and was posted online and printed in the Iola Register.

Healthy Downtowns

In order to evaluate Iola's downtown for the opportunities to enhance the residents' quality of life, it is important to understand what the signs of a healthy downtown include. A healthy, walkable downtown has:

- A variety of mixed uses including retail, office, services, entertainment, dining and living
- Adequate accessibility for pedestrians, bicycles, vehicles, wheelchairs and strollers
- Strong identity and sense of unity
- Rich cultural opportunities
- Gathering places for social and active interaction
- Good maintenance program/cleanliness
- Pedestrian-friendly



Example photo of a Healthy Downtown

Many of these items currently exist in Iola's downtown. Iola is fortunate to have a variety of mixed uses and rich cultural opportunities. The County Courthouse grounds, along with the two other pocket parks, allow opportunities for social and active interaction, as does a current business along the south side of downtown. Tables for sitting and enjoying lunch or a cup of coffee, benches for resting and people-watching and trees for shade and protection from the elements all contribute to a pedestrian-friendly, active downtown.

In addition, Iola's downtown is currently kept clean and the properties along the square, for the most part, have been renovated or are in the process of being renovated. Cleanliness and buildings in good condition show a sense of pride that is attractive to residents and visitors alike.

Areas for improvement identified by the Vision Iola team focused mainly on infrastructure and improving the pedestrian-friendly atmosphere in downtown Iola. In order to improve the overall health in a community, getting and staying active is a key element. The goal in our downtown enhancements is to create an environment where residents want to walk and spend time.

Items evaluated to ensure or create a pedestrian-friendly, walkable downtown included:

- ADA accessible ramps at all crosswalks
- Elimination of trip hazards
- Minimized conflicts with pedestrians/bicycle and vehicles
- Protection from adverse weather
- Adequate lighting
- Appropriate scale for site amenities
- Vegetation or introduction of softscape elements
- Adequate site amenities including trash receptacles, bike racks and benches

Walking Tour

Our walking tour of downtown illustrated the need for safer crossings and accessible ADA ramps at the intersections. The existing ADA ramps do not meet the current standards and leave the City liable, if contested.

The existing handicapped stalls currently do not meet ADA standards. Handicapped stalls need to be located with safe access to ADA ramps and within close proximity of services like the pharmacy, chiropractic/therapy and other businesses that might draw residents with special needs. Conceptually, it is anticipated approximately three ADA parking places per block are needed to meet ADA standards.

The streets in Iola are very wide, and the distance for pedestrians to cross is so large it is seen as unsafe. In addition, the mid-block crossings, currently striped at a diagonal, increase this distance and cause greater concern. The current conditions put pedestrians in possible conflict with vehicles for too long. In addition, there are no pedestrian activated crosswalk signals. Currently, pedestrians wait on the light to change before crossing.

Comments heard as the Vision Iola group walked the sidewalks around the square included the desire to remove the boards currently covering some of the windows on the second story of some of the buildings. It was thought it was a requirement by code to cover broken windows with boards, however, that rumor was dispelled and some options for window replacement should be evaluated. In addition, the wide sidewalk was mentioned as a very uncomfortable place to be in the summer months. A majority of the group in attendance felt like shade and plant materials should be included in any enhancement plans.

Benches were discussed as a desired amenity. Currently, the Courthouse property has a few benches, but the retail side of the square only has benches in the pocket parks. The trash cans were identified as relatively new items and additional cans could be added to match the existing ones.



Photo taken on Walking Tour

Connectivity of the downtown square to the Bowlus Center was another point of discussion. Even though the Center is not located on the square, as improvements are being planned and phased, events at the Bowlus Center need to be considered. When larger events are scheduled and overflow parking is necessary, safe access for pedestrians to and from the events needs consideration. Also, it is safe to assume visitors may be attending the event. Attracting these visitors and residents to downtown before and after the events with the use of enhanced crosswalks and site amenities should be a priority.



Photo taken on Walking Tour

Downtown SWOT

The Vision Iola participants compiled a list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) for Iola's downtown. Listed below are the findings:

Strengths

- Width of sidewalk
- Parking
- Quality of concrete
- Clean
- Adequate and good lighting fixtures
- Pocket Parks
- Courthouse Square
- Greenhouse
- Variety of uses/activities
- Historic character
- Diverse retail/shopping
- Highway 54

Weaknesses

- Harsh environment
- ADA issues
- Bike issues
- Width of street
- Sidewalk can create too immense of a space
- Soil quality
- Lack of gathering spaces in sidewalk
- Busy highway traffic
- No pedestrian signal button
- Signal timing

Opportunities

- Signage to additional parking
- Mid Block Crossing
- Create ramps where people are used to crossing
- Enhance green space in front of Courthouse
- Complete Street for bikes and pedestrians
- Art
- Landscape around clock
- Eternal Flame
- 2 hours drive time from various cities

Threats

- Unifying property owners
- County ownership of Downtown Square
- Highway Codes
- Decline/decay of buildings
- Age of shop owners
- Few financial incentives from the City for property improvements.
- Apathy

Many of these are insightful and involve more than infrastructure improvements can solve. It proves that the combination of City leadership, a strong Chamber of Commerce, cooperation with the County and well constructed policies are all instrumental in ensuring a vibrant and healthy downtown.

Conceptual Design Presentation

The survey following the walkability assessment and the public input meeting involved a series of questions to determine how frequently residents visit downtown and what the reasons are for being downtown.

In addition, the survey asked the most often used mode of transportation when traveling downtown. It was not a surprise to learn a majority of people drive to the downtown area, but nearly half of all respondents have walked downtown in the past. A majority of the respondents are downtown during working hours on the weekdays.

The survey also asked a series of questions about the variety of businesses and services downtown. A majority of respondents, nearly 80 percent, would like to see more dining, entertainment and retail options.

Lastly, the survey covered the pedestrian-friendliness of Iola's downtown. More benches topped the list of desired amenities. A majority of respondents would like to see pavers and more decorative crosswalks and would like to see seasonal color or more vegetation, either in pots or planters.

Although, Vision Iola is targeting infrastructure improvements, the Vision Iola team recognizes it is not helpful to have a beautiful and functional downtown if the services offered do not meet the needs of the residents. Transversely, if the businesses and services are viable, but the environment is not a pleasant place to spend time, the downtown cannot be considered a success. Therefore, our survey and recommendations touch on a variety of issues influencing downtown viability.

Some specific recommendations the Vision Iola team received from the survey, therefore, include both non-infrastructure and infrastructure related items.

Non-Infrastructure Related feedback:

- More services after hours
- More shopping and dining opportunities
- A market
- Clean up north and east sides of the square
- Use consistent color scheme for building facades

Infrastructure Related feedback:

- Bike lanes
- More benches, trees and flowers
- Setting inviting for small events
- Play area for children
- Move bandstand to south side of courthouse

County Courthouse Property

Although the County Courthouse square was not a part of the Vision Iola process and is owned by the County, the value of this property to the downtown experience and the overall park assets is critical. As such, some discussion and effort was spent discussing conceptually the opportunities available with this property.

The stage is a well-used asset in the community and is a nice architectural element for the property and the downtown. It is, however, currently located near the back service entrance of the courthouse, is not visible from Madison Avenue and is sited in a sunny location with little shade. One recommendation was to locate a stage or bandshell near the corner of Madison Avenue and Jefferson Avenue. This location offers high visibility and shade. The architectural style could compliment the information kiosk currently being planned.

Another idea presented was the possibility of a spray park near the band stage's current location. This area sees plenty of sun and a spray park is not only functional for the intended use, but is a visually appealing element in the downtown area. Spray parks attract children of all ages to both play and observe.

In addition, it was noted there used to be a playground on the courthouse property. This was identified as an asset to offer an outlet for children during community events and also to provide a gathering place in the downtown area.

Lastly, the plant materials in the park are showing some signs of age. Some removal of the older junipers and damaged trees would allow for some new, fresher plantings on the property. Additional ornamental or spring flowering trees would be an asset for this property. Additional plant material around the Downtown Clock would provide a visually appealing setting for this historic architectural piece.

FOR A CONCEPTUAL PLAN OF THE “COURTHOUSE RECOMMENDATIONS” REFER TO EXHIBIT H IN THE APPENDIX.

Mid-Block Crossings

In evaluating the diagonal crosswalks at the mid-block of all streets around the downtown square, it was evident a better solution for pedestrians needed planned. The Vision Iola team believes these unappealing crosswalks prevent vehicles from wanting to park on the courthouse side of the street to access the businesses. By creating a safe and attractive island on the courthouse side and shortening the distances to the businesses, we believe the public will be more inclined to utilize the parking stalls on the opposite side of the street when the stalls in front of the businesses are full.



Example of Mid-Block Crossing

Adding mid-block crossings achieves several goals:

- Slows traffic/traffic calming
- Allows for more green area
- Creates a safer pedestrian environment
- Develops the downtown’s “sense of place”

Bulb-Outs at Intersection Corners

Similarly, the landscape/paver planters at the intersections provide a safe zone for pedestrians to wait to cross the street. The bulb-outs extend toward the street the distance of a parking stall, so pedestrians can safely see beyond the parked cars. In a majority of cases, this bulb-out utilizes paved area not available for any other use. This space, too close to the intersection to be utilized as parking, takes advantage of the extra width available in Iola’s downtown streets.



Streetscape

As the sidewalks in front of the businesses around the square are wide, the Vision Iola team was able to recommend a variety of options to create a “sense of place”. By adding a paving pattern to the sidewalk, the design visually divides the wide expanse of concrete and adds a level of detail appreciated by pedestrians. The space between the pavers and the curb can then be used for amenities such as light poles, trash cans, planters, trees and benches. Additionally, necessary utilities can run under the sidewalk in this corridor and the pavers provide a cover for cuts in the concrete that might have to be made for repairs.



Example of Streetscape

Lighting



Existing Lighting

The Vision Iola team understands the downtown lighting is relatively new and its appearance is very well liked. Initially, it was the desire of the team to utilize the existing lighting, so the selection of new poles was not part of any meeting discussions or surveys. Later, it was discovered the existing lighting has become extremely hard to find replacement parts for and that it would be in the City’s best interest to replace the lighting when the new streetscape project is designed. Because the existing lighting is decorative in nature, the Vision Iola team would like to encourage the use of lighting similar in height and style as the existing lighting. It will be important to select a pole of good quality, perhaps decorative concrete and also use globes that will not yellow or be negatively impacted by UV light. The streetscape concepts also illustrate the use of banners designed in the Community Identity component of Vision Iola. It will be imperative the light poles can accommodate these banners and other banners provided by the Chamber of Commerce.

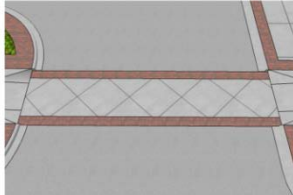
Design Development Presentation

After the conceptual presentation, an online voting opportunity was offered to Vision Iola registrants. The purpose of the voting was to receive feedback for specific design elements including sidewalk and crosswalk designs and the site amenities package. A various number of options were offered for each item.

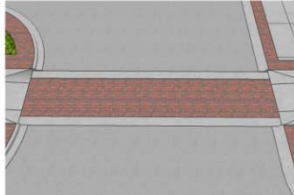
Crosswalks & Sidewalks



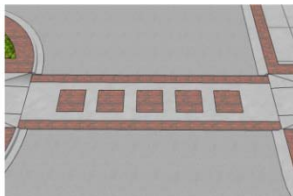
Concept 1



Concept 2



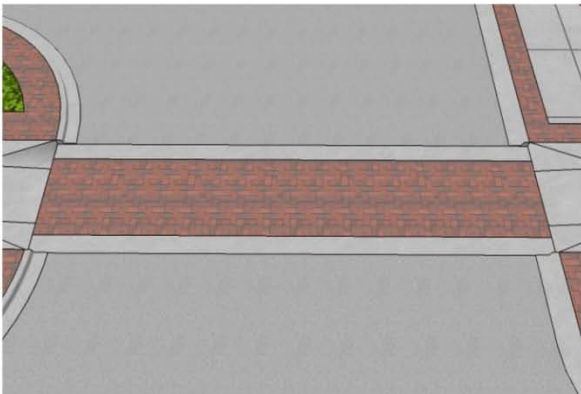
Concept 3



Selected Crosswalks & Sidewalks



Selected Concept (Concept 2)



There were 54 respondents and 26 of the participants selected Concept 2. The reason for this is based on the desire to clearly delineate the crosswalk area. There was a concern the concrete would get too discolored from the asphalt pavement making it difficult to discern the crossing area. The concrete edging, however, will eliminate the need to paint or stripe the crosswalks, thus reducing some maintenance and upkeep. From the comments received, Concept 2 offered a good balance of concrete and pavers to beautify Iola’s downtown.

Pavers

Pavers are a unifying element in the design selected for Downtown Improvements, and must provide durability as well as aesthetic appeal. Concrete pavers were selected for their ability to accommodate light foot traffic to heavy use streets, while still maintaining consistent color. Two paver options were available for online voting; Heritage Brown received 28 votes while Autumn Red received 25 votes.



Tree Grates

When planting trees in a streetscape environment, it is critical to provide as much oxygen and water to the roots as possible. The Vision Iola team presented the rectangle tree grate versus the square tree grate for this purpose only. Although there are fewer options for the design of rectangular tree grates, the benefit of healthy trees outweigh the limited design options.

Tree Grates typically are made of steel and are put in place and allowed to rust over time. The survey asked participants if it would be worth the extra money to have the tree grates powder-coated to remain black. Overwhelming support for the powder-coating was evident with 47 votes indicating “yes”.



Shown Above
Example of ADA Tree grates with black powder coated finish.

Site Amenities

The trash receptacles located in the downtown area are relatively new and recommended to remain. In addition, the site amenities options were selected to match the style and character of the existing trash cans.

The site amenities package included two collections.

Collection #2 received the most votes with 33 favorable responses. Collection #1 received the remaining 21 votes. The respondents preferred the cleaner lines, especially underneath the benches, so as not to collect debris. Another comment referred to Collection #2 as more “architecturally interesting”. Also important to note is the importance of both benches with backs and backless benches in the streetscape concept. Benches with backs are important for a diverse number of users. The backless benches are shown near the back of the curb for pedestrians to use either facing the street or facing the building facades and sidewalk. Collection #2 is manufactured by Victor Stanley, Inc.

Collection #1 – DuMor, Inc



Collection #2 – Victor Stanley, Inc



Selected Amenities Collection #2 – Victor Stanley

Final Design Presentation

The final design concept, after voting, was presented utilizing modeling from photographs of Iola's downtown to show the dramatic "before and after" images.

Before & After Renderings

Back of Curb



Before



After

Sidewalk Environment



Before



After

Mid Block Crossing



Before



After

Intersections



Before



After

Composite Photo

This composite photo was created using an existing photo looking east along Madison Ave. between Washington and Jefferson Avenues. Selected streetscape amenities, paver patterns, paver colors, selected banner designs, and landscaping were applied to produce a conceptual visualization of the improvements selected for downtown Iola.



Additional graphics from the Downtown Enhancement Component can be found in the Appendix.

EXHIBIT I "DOWNTOWN ENHANCEMENT DESIGN BOARD"

EXHIBIT J "MEETING HANDOUT"

Cost Estimates

Cost estimates and phasing were prepared along Madison Ave. between Washington Ave. and Jefferson Ave. Listed below, the estimates separate the south side of the Downtown Square by blocks and also by North & South sides of the street. For planning purposes, the total cost estimate for both the North & South side of Madison Ave. can be multiplied by the total number of blocks planned for improvements.

Phase 1: Block 1 – Madison Ave.- South side Between Washington Ave. and South St.	
	ESTIMATED COST
Site Work	\$ 28,000 - \$ 33,600
Utilities	\$ 9,000 - \$ 11,000
Sidewalk, ADA Ramps & Curb & Gutter	\$ 56,000 - \$ 68,000
Amenities	\$ 5,000 - \$ 6,000
Landscaping	\$ 12,000 - \$ 15,000
Parking Stripping	\$ 1,500 - \$ 2,000
Estimated Total Construction Cost	\$ 111,500 - \$135,600

* All costs are proposed construction estimates and should not be used for actual construction purposes. The Estimated Total Construction Cost doesn't include design or construction engineering fees.

Phase 2: Block 2 – Madison Ave.- South side Between South Ave. & Jefferson Ave.	
	ESTIMATED COST
Site Work	\$ 30,000 - \$ 36,000
Utilities	\$ 9,000 - \$ 11,000
Sidewalk, ADA Ramps & Curb & Gutter	\$ 54,000 - \$ 64,800
Amenities	\$ 5,000 - \$ 6,000
Landscaping	\$ 12,000 - \$ 15,000
Parking Stripping	\$ 1,500 - \$ 2,000
Estimated Total Construction Cost	\$ 111,500 - \$134,800

* All costs are proposed construction estimates and should not be used for actual construction purposes. The Estimated Total Construction Cost doesn't include design or construction engineering fees.

Phase 3: Block 1 & 2 – Madison Ave.- North side Between Washington Ave. & Jefferson Ave.	
	ESTIMATED COST
Site Work	\$ 30,000 - \$ 36,000
Utilities	\$ 9,000 - \$ 11,000
Sidewalk, ADA Ramps & Curb & Gutter	\$ 57,000 - \$ 68,400
Parking Stripping	\$ 1,500 - \$ 2,000
Estimated Total Construction Cost	\$ 97,500 - \$117,400

* All costs are proposed construction estimates and should not be used for actual construction purposes. The Estimated Total Construction Cost doesn't include design or construction engineering fees

Total for Madison Ave.- Both North & South Sides Between Washington Ave. & Jefferson Ave.		
		ESTIMATED COST
Phase 1	Block 1 - Madison Ave.- South side Between Washington Ave. and South St.	\$ 111,500 - \$135,600
Phase 2	Block 2 - Madison Ave.- South side Between South Ave. & Jefferson Ave.	\$ 111,500 - \$134,800
Phase 3	Block 1 & 2 - Madison Ave.- North side Between Washington Ave. & Jefferson Ave	\$ 97,500 - \$117,400
Estimated Total Construction Cost		\$ 320,500 - \$387,800

* All costs are proposed construction estimates and should not be used for actual construction purposes. The Estimated Total Construction Cost doesn't include design or construction engineering fees

VISION IOLA - PARKS AND TRAILS

Background

The Parks and Trails component of Vision Iola began with an assessment survey and was available online at VisionIola.com at the end of April 2010. The Parks and Trails assessment survey evaluated the existing recreational opportunities in Iola, provided an understanding of how the parks were currently being used and identified missing components of the existing parks and trails system. The survey targeted the current usages and satisfaction of the existing parks and trails system in Iola. Overall, over 50% of the survey participants indicated they were satisfied with the quality of parks and felt that the parks had improved over the last 3 years. Riverside Park was identified as the park used the most by residents and it was recommended future improvements include more trails and walking/running activities.

THE “PARKS AND TRAILS ASSESSMENT SURVEY” CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT K.

The first public meeting was held in the shelter at Riverside Park on May 6th, 2010 with nearly a dozen citizens in attendance. The following topics were addressed at this public meeting:

The process for the Parks and Trails component of the Vision Iola plan included public input in the form of surveys, public meetings and online voting. Concepts of the park and trail improvements were presented through a park tour and online voting. The last step was to present the community with final deliverables through a final presentation of concepts for Iola’s Parks and Trails System at a public meeting, post final concepts on the website at VisionIola.com for comments and present a final Parks and Trails document.

A second survey was conducted through online voting that targeted what specific components needed improvements throughout the existing parks in Iola and what additional park spaces were requested by the citizens. There was an overwhelming response by the citizens for the need of a dog park and access to more recreational fishing areas.

THE “PARKS AND TRAILS SURVEY” CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT L.

The second public meeting was held on May 27, 2010 with more than a dozen citizens in attendance. The goal of this meeting was to evaluate the current park properties and brainstorm ideas for new improvements and to look at possible locations within the city for new park space. Paying particular attention to the recently acquired FEMA property a visual map of each park area was provided to all of the meeting participants and then the group toured each location by the City’s trolley. This exercise helped everyone become aware of what amenities were currently at each park and their state of condition. Printed graphics of existing parks were provided to help illustrate possible improvements. After all of the existing park properties were viewed, the trolley ride continued to tour city-owned properties to evaluate their use for new parks.

The third public meeting was held on June 17, 2010 and was just short of 20 citizens in attendance. At this final meeting for the Parks and Trails component, attendees were presented with visual plans that showed the recommended improvements for each park in Iola. The improvements were based upon survey results, public input at the previous meetings and comments recorded from the citizens of Iola. Playground equipment catalogs were made available so citizens could see current equipment being manufactured and select their favorite products. A master park map was presented that showed the locations for new parks and the addition of more trails throughout Iola.

Benefits of a Park and Trail System

In order to evaluate Iola's parks and recreation facilities for the opportunities to enhance the residents' quality of life, it is important to understand what the benefits of a parks and trail system include. A healthy, parks and trail system provides opportunities for all citizens of the community to:

- Increase physical activity
- Engage socially with other citizens
- Rest, relax and revitalize
- Interact and be involved in the community
- Reduce fuel and vehicular emissions

Existing Parks - Classifications & Inventory

Landworks Studios used park classification and level of service standards created by the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) to guide the determination of park requirements for the City of Iola. These standards were modified in some cases to reflect the specific needs and assets of the City of Iola.

The City of Iola provides various park, recreational facilities and open space opportunities, which are categorized into the following park classifications:

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Regional Park
- Linear Parks/Linkages
- Special Purpose Park

ALL EXISTING PARKS AND THEIR CLASSIFICATIONS CAN BE LOCATED ON THE "PARKS & TRAILS EXISTING PARKS MAP" FOUND IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT M.

Neighborhood Parks

Description

A neighborhood park should provide the foundation for recreation by serving one large or several smaller neighborhoods. Ideally, neighborhood parks provide facilities and recreation space for the entire family and are within easy walking or bicycling distance of the people they serve. Parking is not necessarily provided for neighborhood parks due to their close proximity to residential properties.

The recommended level of service for neighborhood parks in Iola is 1.6 acres per every 1,000 residents.

East Iola Park Inventory



East Iola Park Sign

East Iola Park is approximately 0.34 acres and is located at 4th and Vine. This park features two small picnic shelters with outdated play equipment. The park has a number of large trees that provide nice shade to the area in the summer months but consists of natural growth and very little organized landscaping. The neighborhood demographics served by this park include younger families with children therefore this park is in need of being redeveloped into a neighborhood park.

Cedarbrook Subdivision Park Inventory

Cedarbrook Subdivision Park is approximately 0.24 acres and is located north of Miller Rd in the Cedarbrook Subdivision. This park was recently built and features new park equipment and recently planted trees. The neighborhood demographics served by this park include young families and children.



Walnut Park

Walnut Park Inventory

Walnut Park is another small neighborhood park in Iola. It is approximately 0.52 acres and is located on the east side of Walnut Rd adjacent to Highland Cemetery. This park consists of a swing set and two spring-riders. The park has nice green space but is undeveloped and in need of improvements to become a usable neighborhood park. Currently Walnut Park is located in an older and established neighborhood where the demographics illustrate a larger number of mature adults and a smaller number of children.

Neighborhood Park Summary

- Recommended Level of Service: 1.6 acres per every 1,000 residents.
- Current Neighborhood Park Acreage: 1.1 acres
- Current Level of Service: 0.18 acres per 1,000 residents.
- % of Recommended Level of Service provided by current neighborhood parks: 11.8%

After reviewing the current level of service it is evident that Iola is in need of more neighborhood parks. To meet the recommended level of service the City of Iola needs approximately 9.3 acres of neighborhood park land for their current population of 5,843 residents.

Iola currently has 1.1 acres of Neighborhood Parks, therefore leaving a deficit of 8.2 acres.

Community Parks

Description

Community parks are larger parks that serve a group of neighborhoods or a portion of a city. Community parks are usually reached by automobiles, although residents adjacent to the park, and trail users, may access the park by walking or riding a bicycle. A variety of recreational facilities are provided, including but not limited to: lighted playing fields for organized sports, hiking trails, bike trails (both paved and unpaved), and sufficient parking to accommodate participants, spectators, and other parks users.

The recommended level of service for community parks in Iola is 6.0 acres per every 1,000 residents.

Meadowbrook Park Inventory

Meadowbrook Park is approximately 6.77 acres and is located along N. Cottonwood Street between E. Garfield Street and E. Carpenter Street. The park is located west of housing developments and features two fenced tennis courts, a picnic shelter, play equipment that consists of swings, a slide and a merry-go round, a fenced back-stop for baseball, and two half-size basketball courts. There is no formal entrance road or parking lot for the park. New sidewalks have been constructed on the west side of the park along the street that leads visitors from the surrounding neighborhoods into the park area. This park provides an adequate amount of open green space that can be used for future park development.



Meadowbrook Park

Community Park Summary

- Recommended Level of Service: 6.0 acres per every 1,000 residents.
- Current Neighborhood Park Acreage: 6.77 acres
- Current Level of Service: 1.16 acres per 1,000 residents.
- % of Recommended Level of Service provided by current neighborhood parks: 19.3%

After reviewing the current level of service it is evident that Iola is in need of more community parks. To meet the recommended level of service Iola needs approximately 35 acres of community park space for their current population of 5,843 residents.

Iola currently has 6.77 acres of Community Parks, therefore leaving a deficit of 28.2 acres.

Regional Parks

Description

Regional parks are large scale parks that serve an entire region and cater to people beyond the city limits. Regional parks are reached by automobiles, although residents adjacent to the park, and trail users, may access the park by walking or riding a bicycle. Regional parks tend to include amenities not found in every community as to draw residents from surrounding cities.

The recommended level of service for community parks in Iola is 15.0 acres per every 1,000 residents.

Riverside Park Inventory

Riverside Park is approximately 76.98 acres and is located in the southwest corner of the city along State Street. The park is a large regional park that features many recreational facilities and encourages physical activity. The Neosho River borders the west side of the park allowing access to the river at various locations for fishing. As indicated in the Parks and Trails Assessment Survey, Riverside Park is the most frequently used park by the residents and will continue to be a valuable asset to the City of Iola.



Riverside Park

The following are the existing recreational facilities in Riverside Park

- Football Stadium
- Track Field
- Baseball/Softball Fields
- T-ball Fields
- Skateboard Park
- Sand Volleyball Courts (2)
- Horseshoe Pits
- Aquatic Center
- Community Buildings (2)
- County Fair Buildings
- Play Equipment
- Picnic Shelters
- Restrooms
- Picnic Tables
- Grills
- Drinking Fountains

Regional Park Summary

- Recommended Level of Service: 15.0 acres per every 1,000 residents.
- Current Neighborhood Park Acreage: 76.98 acres
- Current Level of Service: 13.17 acres per 1,000 residents.
- % of Recommended Level of Service provided by current neighborhood parks: 87.9%

After reviewing the current level of service, it is evident that Iola is providing an acceptable amount of regional park space. To meet the recommended level of service Iola needs approximately 87.6 acres of regional park space for a current population of 5,843 residents.

Iola currently has 6.77 acres of Regional Parks, therefore leaving a deficit of 28.2 acres.

Linear Parks/Linkage

Description

Linear parks are open areas that generally follow natural or man-made features that are linear in nature, such as creeks, abandoned railroad rights-of-way, power line corridors, or utility corridor easements. Linear Parks are also appropriate to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel. These parks can serve to link or connect other parks in the local system, as well as schools, neighborhood shopping, libraries, and other major destinations. In addition linear parks provide buffers along waterways to control erosion and pollution while providing corridors for wildlife to travel safely through developed areas.

No specific standards apply to linear/linkage parks, however the park should be large enough to adequately accommodate the resources they contain and help preserve open space.

Cofachique Park Inventory

This linear park serves as a trailhead for the Prairie Spirit Trail and is approximately 2.7 acres and is located along N. State Street on the west side between W. Garfield Street and W. Buchanan Street. Cofachique Park features a Veteran’s Memorial, as well as a trail head with an informational kiosk for the Prairie Spirit Trail.

The park has parking stalls and ADA parking stalls to accommodate trail and park users. The existing playground equipment is a mixture of old and new components and are scattered throughout the park resulting in the absence of designated play area for children. Four picnic shelters, (two medium and two small) are located in the park and are available to users throughout the year. Additional park amenities include pedestrian benches, a bike rack and a drinking fountain.



Cofachique Park

Linear/Linkage Park Summary

- Recommended Level of Service: 5.0 acres per every 1,000 residents.
- Current Neighborhood Park Acreage: 2.7 acres
- Current Level of Service: 0.46 acres per 1,000 residents.
- % of Recommended Level of Service provided by current neighborhood parks: 9.2%

After reviewing the current level of service it is evident that Iola is in need of more linear parks. To meet the recommended level of service Iola needs approximately 29.2 acres of linear park space for their current population of 5,843 residents.

Iola currently has 2.7 acres, therefore leaving a deficit of 26.5 acres.

Special Purpose Parks

Description

Special purpose parks are designed to accommodate specialized recreational activities. Because the facility needs for each activity type are different, each special purpose park typically provides service for a limited number of activities.

Jackson Street Pocket Park Inventory

This small pocket park is located on Jackson Street between two historic downtown buildings. This unique park provides green space along the downtown square and contains a pedestrian bench, lighting and landscaping.

Jefferson Street Pocket Park Inventory

This small pocket park was dedicated to the City as a memorial to a citizen. The park serves as a rest area that includes two benches, pedestrian lighting and landscaping. The park is maintained by the Iola Pride Committee.



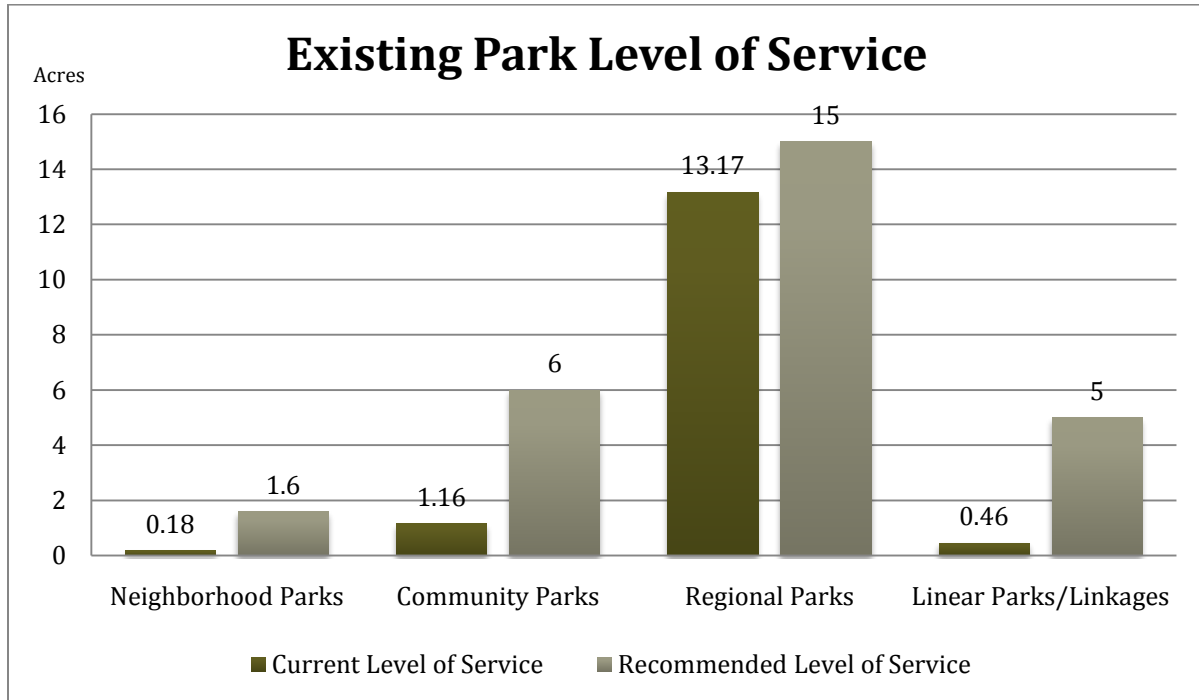
Jefferson Street Pocket Park

Existing Parks - Summary

The City of Iola as a whole provides a variety of park spaces for the residents. The smaller parks are underused due to outdated play equipment and facilities, but Riverside Park is used frequently by a majority of the residents for passive and active activities. During the trolley tour we evaluated the condition of the existing parks. Overall the parks are well maintained, being mowed regularly and kept free of trash and other litter. Safety standards should be reviewed to ensure the playgrounds meet these standards by providing adequate fall zones and safety surfacing to prevent injuries and reduce the City's liability.

Level of Service Summary

The City of Iola has available open space for the creation of new parks and recreation areas. However, the chart below indicates the need for more neighborhood and community parks. It is recommended to use some of the vacant space within the city limits for expansion of some neighborhood and community parks. With the future addition of a sports complex to the north of Riverside Park the existing level of service for regional parks will exceed the recommended level of service and put this type of park in a surplus.



Equity Mapping

As we evaluated existing park properties and their location and relationship to the City of Iola, it became evident that the existing neighborhood parks adequately provide a majority of residents the ability to have recreational opportunities and/or open space within walking distance of their homes. However, if there is an area of Iola that is underserved, it is the area North of 54 Hwy between Kentucky Street and Hwy 169. This area is addressed in “New Park Spaces & Trails” in the Final Recommendations portion of this document.

EXISTING PARKS AND AREAS IN NEED OF PARKS ARE IDENTIFIED ON THE “PARKS & TRAILS EXISTING PARKS MAP” FOUND IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT M.

Existing Parks – Recommended Improvements

Riverside Park

Riverside Park is the most used park in Iola. It provides the community with a variety of recreational activities and facilities that can be used year round. However there are some improvements that can be made to the park to encourage more physical activity and community events.

The following are proposed improvements for Riverside Park:

- Improve the entrance drive and circulation patterns by adding a median and reducing additional drives to eliminate cross traffic through parking areas.
- Incorporating a simple round-a-bout would improve and simplify multiple intersections created at the west end of the entry drive
- Add a walking trail along the levy that will encompass the entire park and connect to the proposed Prairie Spirit Trail Extension
- Add an open sided structure over the horseshoe pits and add outdoor lighting
- Consolidate existing play equipment.
- Add additional exercise equipment and additional play equipment for ages 2-12
- Stripe and pave angled parking along the park loop road to accommodate large crowds using the facilities.
- Create ADA access points to the trail running along the levy
- Create a walking trail within the park; providing exercise opportunities while allowing adults to supervise children using the play equipment
- Rebuild and display historic signage monument located in proposed round-a-bout.
- Landscape around existing building foundations to add color, and reduce maintenance while mowing.

THE “RIVERSIDE PARK IMPROVEMENTS BOARD” CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT N.

Meadowbrook Park

Meadowbrook Park is a generously sized community park that has ample amount of undeveloped open space for additional recreation facilities. The proposed improvements take advantage of the open space by adding more sports fields and play areas to accommodate a variety of activities.

The following are proposed improvements for Meadowbrook Park:

- Widen and pave an entry drive providing in and out access.
- Add parking stalls near the parks newly added amenities
- Enclose and improve existing play equipment
- Add Spray Park with bench seating, in-ground & above ground spray features, and adjacent picnic lawn
- Add a walking trail within the park, crossing Buchanan Street and accessing the southern half of the park
- Add T-ball / Wiffleball Field
- Construction full size basketball court
- Provide improvements to existing tennis/pickle ball courts by adding storage and wind screens.

THE “MEADOWBROOK PARK IMPROVEMENTS BOARD” CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT O.

Walnut Park

Walnut Park is a small park in a developed subdivision that lends itself more toward leisure activities. The small size of the park doesn't allow for recreational facilities but can be used as a focal point of relaxation and rest for the neighborhood.

The following are proposed improvements for Walnut Park:

- Create a walking entrance into Walnut Park by using an unpaved surface that connects to a meandering foot path for relaxing walks.
- Add covered bench seating throughout the park and along walkways to encourage visitors to sit and enjoy the park.
- Create a small intimate plant garden filled with aromatic and colorful plants to attract butterflies & hummingbirds.
- Create a foot bridge across the existing drainage swale on the east side of park connecting it to the adjacent cemetery.
- Plant a grove of flowering and ornamental trees to provide soft shade and a colorful atmosphere.
- Plant the existing swale to a public raingarden used to slow and absorb rainfall from the adjoining areas. The use of colorful and mass plantings will ensure low maintenance and a pleasing visual addition.

THE "WALNUT PARK IMPROVEMENTS BOARD" CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT P.

Cofachique Park

The following are proposed improvements for Cofachique Park:

- Add public restrooms near trail access.
- Update existing park signage with newly designed park monument signs.
- Create and add historical information and signage throughout the park.
- Install additional landscaping throughout the park property to add visual appeal along State Street.
- Replace or remove existing play structures.

THE "COFACHIQUE PARK IMPROVEMENTS BOARD" CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT Q.

East Iola Park

East Iola Park is a small neighborhood park that has some great natural features such as large shade trees and natural vegetation. These elements can be enhanced to create a natural play park that will inspire and encourage a child's imagination.

The following are proposed improvements for East Iola Park:

- Create a natural play environment featuring climbing boulders, berms and vegetation.
- Add additional shelter to link newly defined natural play environments.
- Remove outdated play equipment and update park signage to the newly designed identity signage created during Vision Iola.

THE "EAST IOLA PARK IMPROVEMENTS BOARD" CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT R.

New Park Spaces

The “Parks and Trails Improvements Map” illustrates existing park property, existing trails, proposed park locations, and proposed trails. New park properties include a Dog Park, a new Neighborhood Park, and a Camping/Fishing Park

SEE EXHIBIT S IN THE APPENDIX FOR THE “PARKS & TRAILS IMPROVEMENTS MAP”.

In 2007, the Great Flood left many unbuildable acres in Iola. Much of the land was purchased with FEMA money and is now the responsibility of the City to develop and/or maintain within the criteria of FEMA Guidelines. Parks are about the only allowable use for these properties and the maintenance has become a burden. Through the Vision Iola process, the team evaluated this property for its potential as valuable park land for the citizens of Iola and also offers recommendations for reduced maintenance on property that does not serve a park purpose in the near future.

From the citizens’ surveys, several recreational opportunities not currently provided by the City were ranked high. These activities include: a dog park, disc golf, camping, fishing, and recreational areas for youth groups and scouting troops.

Dog Park

After evaluating the available property, several locations were studied for the dog park. It was important this use not be located too close to residential homes but that natural features are available for dog activities and interest. Shade was something that was also a benefit when looking for property. Lastly, the access to the extension of the Prairie Spirit Trail was also taken into consideration. Fencing will be required for the property and the planting of vegetative buffers to screen private property will also need completed.

A DOG PARK DESIGN WAS SUBMITTED TO THE VISION IOLA TEAM BY A CITIZEN OF IOLA AND CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX AS EXHIBIT T.

Fishing/Camping/Disc Golf

A large amount of land available at the south end of Washington Avenue on both sides of Elm Creek, this was the ideal property for park programming. The Vision Iola team developed a plan for small campsites, by permit only, and various camping activities to include fishing and archery. The plan also calls for a pedestrian bridge crossing Elm Creek to offer the potential to develop the south side of the creek. This crossing would allow the potential for a disc golf course to be developed on the larger tract of land.

FEMA Maintenance

For the remainder of the FEMA properties, it is recommended low maintenance options be implemented to reduce mowing. Allowing residents and community groups to plant vegetable gardens is an excellent way to reduce City mowing. Other options for reducing the number of scheduled mowing include:

- Maintenance Agreements with adjacent property owners and civic groups including; Eagle Scouts, Daylily Society, and the Rose Society.
- Utilize Kansas State Extension or Forestry Dept to help establish fruit trees, nursery stock, test plots, or tree groves.
- Plant native grasses, (buffalo and fescue) allowed to grow on annual maintenance plans

For more naturalized landscaping, where native grasses are planted or where fescue or buffalo grass is allowed to grow to an ornamental length, it is recommended the perimeter of the property be mowed one or two mower widths to maintain a manicured and clean appearance.

New Trails Plan

Benefits of Trails

There are many benefits of having a network of trails throughout the community. It is the goal of Vision Iola to decrease the dependence on motor vehicles and encourage more walking and bicycling. Trails, therefore, should provide an alternative means of getting from neighborhoods to parks, retail/service centers, employment centers, schools and public services.

The personal benefits of a trail system include, but are not limited to:

- Improved public health and fitness
- Increased community cohesion through positive interactions among neighbors
- Reduced traffic congestion
- Air and noise pollution reductions
- Higher rankings among best places to live in America
- Education through informative signage and historical markers

The economic benefits of a trail system include, but are not limited to:

- Reduced parking and maintenance
- Possible increased tourism for use of the trail system
- Increased property values
- Economic development benefits

Types of Trails

There are a variety of trail types possible throughout the community. The most preferred by users are **off-road bike paths**. These types of trails provide the safest and often the most scenic transportation route. These types of trails are typically utilized by the more recreational user, however, if the trail is wide enough, a minimum of 10', both transportation users and recreational users can share the path. These types of trails are often found on utility or abandoned railroad corridors.

Bike lanes refer to designated lanes painted on the roadway. These are most often utilized by those bicyclists travelling from a specific point with a clear destination in mind. The minimum width of this type of facility is 5'-6'. The users of this type of facility must understand and follow the rules of the road to be safe. This type of bike lane is best reserved for the experienced rider. These facilities are typically marked with pavement marking and signed along the roadway, as well.

Bike paths are facilities located within road rights-of-way but are not on the vehicular paving surface. This type of facility is more typically viewed as a wide sidewalk and can accommodate all types of users. The width for this type of bike path is typically 8' – 10' for multi-modes of transportation. These are some of the easier facilities to construct, where space is available. In many cases, existing sidewalk only needs widened to accommodate this type of facility.

Parks & Trails Improvements Map

The Vision Iola team has identified and marked streets and corridors that provide Iola with a complete trails system. Streets that have been identified as having potential for bike lanes have been labeled, and all other trails are to use bike paths or off-road bike paths. Phasing for trails in Iola are divided into (2) phases, Near Term 1-5 years, and Mid Term 5-10 years. Future construction and improvements along these streets and corridors should include the design and construction of these trails.

THE "PARKS & TRAILS IMPROVEMENTS MAP" CAN BE FOUND IN THE APPENDIX LABELED AS EXHIBIT S.

Cost Estimates

Riverside Park	
	ESTIMATED COST
Site Work	\$ 75,000 - \$ 100,000
Utilities	\$ 50,000 - \$ 75,000
Trail, Concrete (10' wide)	\$ 85,000 - \$ 100,000
Amenities	\$ 75,000 - \$ 100,000
Landscaping	\$ 20,000 - \$ 30,000
Parking Stripping	\$ 8,000 - \$ 10,000
Estimated Total Cost	\$ 313,000 - \$415,000

Levy Trail, Concrete (10' wide)	\$ 450,000 - \$600,000
Estimated Total Cost	\$ 450,000 - \$600,000

* All costs are proposed estimates that do not include design fees and should not be used for construction purposes.

Meadowbrook Park	
	ESTIMATED COST
Site Work	\$ 15,000 - \$ 25,000
Utilities	\$ 50,000 - \$ 75,000
Trail, Concrete (10' wide)	\$ 150,000 - \$ 200,000
Amenities	\$ 10,000 - \$ 15,000
Play Equipment	\$ 75,000 - \$ 125,000
Spray Park	\$ 200,000 - \$ 300,000
Landscaping	\$ 10,000 - \$ 15,000
Parking Lot, Asphalt	\$ 90,000 - \$ 150,000
Sports Fields/Courts	\$ 38,000 - \$ 50,000
Estimated Total Cost	\$ 638,000 - \$ 955,000

* All costs are proposed estimates that do not include design fees and should not be used for construction purposes.

Walnut Park	
	ESTIMATED COST
Site Work	\$ 15,000 - \$ 25,000
Utilities	\$ 5,000 - \$ 10,000
Trail, Concrete (10' wide)	\$ 15,000 - \$ 25,000
Amenities	\$ 10,000 - \$ 15,000
Landscaping	\$ 20,000 - \$ 30,000
Bridge	\$ 15,000 - \$ 30,000
Estimated Total Cost	\$ 80,000 - \$ 135,000

* All costs are proposed estimates that do not include design fees and should not be used for construction purposes.

Cofachique Park	
	ESTIMATED COST
Site Work	\$ 5,000 - \$ 10,000
Utilities	\$ 25,000 - \$ 30,000
Amenities	\$ 10,000 - \$ 15,000
Landscaping	\$ 20,000 - \$ 30,000
Restroom	\$ 100,000 - \$ 150,000
Estimated Total Cost	\$ 160,000 - \$ 235,000

* All costs are proposed estimates that do not include design fees and should not be used for construction purposes.

East Iola Park	
	ESTIMATED COST
Site Work	\$ 5,000 - \$ 10,000
Utilities	\$ 2,000 - \$ 5,000
Amenities	\$ 10,000 - \$ 15,000
Landscaping	\$ 15,000 - \$ 20,000
Natural Play Structures	\$ 30,000 - \$ 50,000
Estimated Total Cost	\$ 62,000 - \$ 100,000

* All costs are proposed estimates that do not include design fees and should not be used for construction purposes.

*END OF PARKS & TRAILS
TURN THE PAGE FOR THE BEGINNING OF
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES*

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

This section lists very specific actions that can be taken to achieve the goals set out in this plan. Funding and maintenance are key to implementing any improvements and meeting public expectations. Often times it is recommended, if funding is not available to meet all goals, to purchase future needed park land ahead of development before spending available funds to develop existing park property. Often times, land is less expensive if development has not yet reached the desired park property. Proper planning can save future dollars; however, community input on this issue may be necessary to negate public criticism.

Tax

Traditional funding methods include an increased mill levy, a park sales tax, and an increased property tax. Maybe a bit more unconventional is a vehicle tax for park improvements. In all cases, if the public is asked to pay more, a positive publicity campaign must precede any vote that is required.

User Fees

Other opportunities for increased park revenue include user fees. In cases where users or citizens are charged a fee, the fee may be raised, or if services are currently offered for free, perhaps consideration of a small fee would be acceptable. In addition, if services are offered to registrants who are not citizens, the fee could be higher for those individuals.

Rental fees and concessions are other revenue sources. If a park shelter is an appropriate location for a wedding reception or family reunions, fees for using a clean and maintained facility is reasonable. Sale of concession items at public events is another way to increase available park funds.

Grant Programs

As with all funding that requires governmental action, not all programs are funded by lawmakers every year. Checking with each agency prior to the completion of an application is essential.

A common element in many of these programs is the desire to assist smaller communities in accomplishing projects that otherwise would not be funded. These organizations do support larger communities with projects, but focus on spreading the available funding statewide.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund* is a program administered through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The program encourages communities to improve outdoor recreational opportunities and amenities. The KDW&P, through this program, supports activities that bring people outside and also appreciates projects that educate the public on Kansas' natural resources.

*This program is currently suspended due to limited funding but is in anticipation of being funded in the future.

The Recreational Trails Program is also a program granted through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. As the name implies, this program partially funds trail and support facilities for trail projects, including signage, land purchase, paving for ADA accessible trails, restrooms and parking. This program is different from the Kansas Department of Transportation's programs as connectivity to other facilities is not a requirement. This grant supports recreational trails for leisure enjoyment, not necessarily to get from one place to another.

The Safe Routes to School Program is a national program administered by each state's Transportation Department. This program is relatively new to Kansas and is providing funding for school districts and communities to increase the number of students who walk or bike to work. The goal of this program is to reduce the number of cars around schools for cleaner air, more alert and active, healthier students and to reduce fuel consumption. A successful applicant receives 100% funding for the completion of a Phase I Plan. After planning the appropriate improvements, a second application is required for Phase II. Phase II provides funding for

implementation of the plans, including the 5 E's; Engineering, Encouragement, Education, Enforcement and Evaluation.

Transportation Enhancement Grants through the Kansas Department of Transportation “enhances the scenic beauty, environmental protection, walk-ability, and bike-ability, or historic preservation of an area affected by a surface transportation facility. The project MUST relate to surface transportation which can include bike, pedestrian, rail, automotive or enhancement and preservation of historic transportation modes and facilities. Establishment of transportation museums is also a valid project. Design services are not an expense covered in reimbursable funding.

Community Development Block Grants are administered through the Kansas Department of Commerce. This is a program that is funded through an annual appropriation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. There are many options through this program depending on a community’s particular need. Water and sewer projects, housing rehabilitation or neighborhood development and the most applicable, community facility applications are considered. The CDB Grants may require a consultant or paid city staff person to oversee the application and improvement process. Applications for community facilities are accepted the first part of November each year.

The Sunflower Foundation Grant is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all Kansans through improved access to affordable and quality health care, promotion of healthy lifestyles and prevention efforts. We envision our roles as a catalyst and, therefore, look to support programs that are innovative and have the potential to affect change at a systems level. But our interest is in more than just funding projects; we want the programs of our grantees to succeed and to have a positive impact on the health of Kansans. The Sunflower Foundation provides opportunities for funding through multiple strategies, including requests for proposals, foundation initiatives and special projects.

Development Standards / Land Planning

It is possible to develop strategies for purchase or donation of appropriate park property. Development standards in zoning and subdivision regulations may require a certain percentage of land be donated for park purposes, or cash in lieu of land, may be accepted. Proper planning can require easements for recreational trails and/or property that should remain open for public use.

Developers often times have property that is not able to be used for housing or development. In such a case, the City may offer incentives and allow a donation of property for park purposes. This may occur in flood prone areas, areas with overhead or underground utilities or heavily wooded land where clearing would be cost prohibitive. A caution when establishing these relationships includes ensuring the property meets the goals and standards set forth in this plan. If land is not well-suited for park development, it is only additional land to maintain and will decrease funding available for more appropriate projects.

Impact Fees

New residential and commercial developments require not only park and open space, but also roads, water and sewer infrastructure and schools. Traditionally, these costs are financed by property taxes, however, property taxes can prove inadequate to fund all the necessary infrastructure. Although impact fees are not universally accepted, they can be a reasonable and fair way to fund needed projects. Impact fees are paid by the new development or users requiring the needed infrastructure, not the existing population.

According to a study by Arthur C. Nelson and Mitch Moody titled “Paying for Prosperity: Impact Fees and Job Growth”, impact fees will continue to cause discussion, however, research shows that impact fees are a practical and valuable tool for financing local infrastructure needs. Growing communities may not be able to sustain growth without them. Nelson and Moody state, “Impact fees can directly fund vital infrastructure improvements, while increasing the supply of buildable land, improving predictability in the development process, and indirectly promoting local employment at the same time. Faced with the growing demand for investment and the public

resistance to tax increases, localities in growing regions that institute impact fees may become more prosperous in the long run than communities in such regions that do not have them.”

Impact fees can be assessed in a variety of ways. The three broad categories for impact fees include: (1) planning fees, covering the administrative costs associated with reviewing required planning documents; (2) building permit, plan check, and inspection fees, covering the costs of reviewing building permits and other site specific permit applications; and, (3) development impact fees, covering the up-front costs of providing capital infrastructure.

If these fees are currently assessed, perhaps the City can evaluate the possibility of increasing the amount collected or redistribute the incoming revenue differently.

Partnerships

Relationships with private organizations may provide opportunities not available to the City alone. Allen County Community College is one such existing partner, but churches, rotaries, legions, private trust funds or corporations might be other partners sharing some of the same goals as the City.

*END OF POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
TURN THE PAGE FOR THE BEGINNING OF
APPENDIX*

APPENDIX

Below is a compiled list of the exhibits located in within the appendix.

Exhibit A Iola Signage Survey Results

Exhibit B Community Identity Sign in Sheets

Exhibit C Final Voting for Signage Concepts

Exhibit D Signage Location Map

Exhibit E Community Identity Design Board

Exhibit F Walkability Assessment

Exhibit G Downtown Enhancement Sign in Sheets

Exhibit H Courthouse Recommendations

Exhibit I Downtown Enhancement Design Board

Exhibit J Meeting Handout

Exhibit K Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

Exhibit L Parks & Trails Survey

Exhibit M Parks & Trails Existing Parks Map

Exhibit N Riverside Park Improvements Board

Exhibit O Meadowbrook Park Improvements Board

Exhibit P Walnut Park Improvements Board

Exhibit Q Cofachique Park Improvements Board

Exhibit R East Iola Park Improvements Board

Exhibit S Parks & Trails Improvements Map

Exhibit T Submitted Dog Park Design

Exhibit A

Iola Signage Survey Results



Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Iola signage survey

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

Aug 03, 2010 1:22:26 PM




Please provide us with your first name & email address. This information will help reduce duplicate applications, as well as distribute further information or surveys pertaining to Vision Iola

Answers	Number of Response(s)
First Name	70
Email Address	70

Do you feel Iola's current signage adequately reflects the character of Iola?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			11	14.6 %
No			57	76.0 %
No Response(s)			7	9.3 %
Totals			75	100%


Is the current Iola signage located appropriately?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			33	44.0 %
No			30	40.0 %
No Response(s)			12	16.0 %
Totals			75	100%




If you selected "No" on the previous question, please indicate any specific examples if possible.

30 Response(s)

Do you feel MORE or BETTER directional signage would be beneficial for wayfinding and safety?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
More			0	0.0 %
Better			15	20.0 %
Both More & Better			42	56.0 %
No Response(s)			18	24.0 %
Totals			75	100%

Do you feel Iola's best attributes are identified through existing signage?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			5	6.6 %
No			53	70.6 %
No Response(s)			17	22.6 %
Totals			75	100%

If you feel signage improvements are necessary how would you prioritize the following.
1 = Top Priority

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Number of Response(s)	Ranking Score*
Schools/College									53	3.2
Historical/Downtown Square									53	2.8
Parks & Trails									53	4.0
Religious									53	6.6
Hospital/Clinics									53	3.7
Cultural									53	4.1
Municipal									53	5.4
Industrial									53	6.2

*The Ranking Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted rankings by the number of total responses.

Is there a particular community or style of signage that you feel could influence any new Iola signage?

33 Response(s)

How long have you been a resident of Iola?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
0-10 years			9	12.0 %
10-30 years			21	28.0 %
30+ years			26	34.6 %
No Response(s)			19	25.3 %
Totals			75	100%

Exhibit A Iola Signage Survey Results

4. If you selected "No" on the previous question, please indicate any specific examples if possible. - Responses

Answer

I believe it needs to be larger print... more visible to the "driving eye" and catch attention. There is too much on the sign that shows what Iola has to offer. Drive by it going 65 and try to look good at it.

Just one sign west of Yates Center on US54, its a nice sign, but need more. The signage on 169 is too small

The signage for the most part is actually in the right places, but is almost always too small. Signage should be from all 4 directions into town as well as from north and south on the old highway on the west side of town. The billboards on the new highway are too hard to read and not catchy enough when you come in from those directions.

The sigage is very generic. It is usually informational, but as far as reflecting character, I don't feel that it does. However, at least there are signs, which is an improvement over a few years back.
For example, we could play up the historic character of the town square, the bandstand etc.

The information signs blend in with the other surrounding signs, specially as you come in from the east. I don't come in from the west much but I don't event remember information signs. What I mean by information signs is where to locate schools, industrial park, Riverside Park, Bowlus.
Also, the billboard has pleasant pictures but it doesn't have that grab you element.
I'd like to see billboards down the road a ways to folks are beginning to think about stopping in Iola.
Like all well marketed products we need a brand. Important yet hard to determine.

Billboards on the outskirts of town are not visible enough or colorful enough to catch the eye, and they have too much information to take in while driving past on HWY 169.
There may also be others that could be located better or stand out more in the landscape, but this is the one that really stands out in my mind.

More signage on US 169 would be helpful. It's too easy to buzz right by.

I can't recall a sign on the south end of town on the new highway 169. I do like the picture of downtown that is on the north end of Iola as you approach on 169.
I guess I'd better go out and drive in from all directions to see what I think.

I think the current locations are fine, but additional location could be added.

Most signs are small and hard to see if you are looking for something specific. All though some are easier.(ie.College)

I think that it would be better to have signs that direct visitors our downtown, to State street for other shopping and eating options. Signs pointing out the Bowlus, museum and riverside park also would be appropriate. Signage for the Santa Fe Rail Trail head also.

The signs that are present are in the proper locations. The problem is that there aren't enough of them, and the current signage is bland and hard to read from any distance/at any speed.

Coming from the North on 169, there should be signs to designate a turn off to college, businesses on State St. ect.

No way to find Russel Stovers
Nothing to direct individuals to downtown from 169/54 intersection

Would like to see more signage for more "things" to do here.

Need a sign between Garnett and Iola that Iola is even on the map. Street signs in Iola are difficult to see, esp. at night.

Coming into Iola from the east, it's not clear where downtown is; where the community college is, where the swimming pool is, etc. Actually, that's true of every entrance to town.

I don't recall one on new 169 coming from the south. The one on the north is small and not lighted. There isn't one coming from the east on 54. Gas just blends into Iola and on the west you are almost in town before you see the sign.

they are to busy need to be simple so U can read at 65 mph

Signs need to be at least a block before an attraction, then again at the attraction. A good example is the Bowlus sign on the east side of town. There are very few street name signs about, and this causes confusion, especially for visitors, but also for long-time residents, many of whom do not know where streets are other than those they use regularly ask (ask for directions and see what I mean!).
Block numbers on street signs would be helpful as well. In addition, traffic flow needs to be addressed. Why do some streets have one block one way, disrupting otherwise two-way traffic? Instead, make islands for pedestrians (or post boxes) on these blocks, and increase mobility for all.

There is no signage for Riverside park from highway 54.
The hospital needs better signage.

Our entrances to Iola really need work, including signage.

need signs on highway 169 and 54 further out and more representative of Iola ie what symbolizes the new Iola look.
need more information about where things are as you enter town and even down town

There isn't much that reflects the personality of the community from the north, south (HWY 169) other than the one billboard. It is a nice improvement but not adequate. From the east on 54 I can't think of anything there. It seems like there needs to be more signage to draw people off the highway and into the community. 54 runs right through town and yet still there doesn't seem to be anything to introduce the town.

The photos are faded and hard to see as you drive by and I don't think they show what Iola is all about

If anybody was staying at any of Iola's motels and, for example, wanted to go the high school, or the college, or the Bowlus, there are few signs indicating how to get there.
Any signage around the square would be a vast improvement as well.

Many signs are in good locations within the city, however HWY 169 on the east side of Iola is the major thoroughfare and lacks any signage north or south of Iola encouraging travelers to stop. Exit signs indicate a couple of restaurants, but not all gas station and restaurant opportunities in Iola.

Should be at each entrance to Iola, N, S, E & W & should be not only only US 169 & 54, but on State Street, Oregon Road & Kentucky if you want people to notice.

I drive into Iola every week and I am not quite sure I see but one or two signs, but don't see any image reflected in signage.

West of town has good location. East of town is lost in the clutter of signs, buildings, and traffic. Can't recall any signs, other than highway signage, on the north and south entries to town.

Exhibit A
 Iola Signage Survey Results

5. Do you feel MORE or BETTER directional signage would be beneficial for wayfinding and safety? - Comments
Answer
<p>The bicycle signs are a good thought but it still is NOT safe.I think it makes the person feel safer but as I drive a large suburban and have lived here almost all my life I tend to over look them by accident.I am concerned for people who use that route.Stop lights that make cars stop that the person could push a button to utilize it would be much safer and not a waste of money.Off the ramp from 169 needs to be signs of what is available larger to get visitors in town,not just to buy gas.</p>
<p>I need to pay more attention.....I will look the signage over better next time I'm out.</p>
<p>There are still areas that need signage. Right now the only decent sign is the stone lola sign when you enter from the east on 54.</p>
<p>Accentuate the positives. When we had our Gospel Jubilee in August, I heard several comments from people that were confused about the location of the old jail museum vs.the historical society. Also in an aging society, make them big enough to read! One suggestion, a plaque or sign near the Band Stand detailing the history and longevity of the City Band</p>
<p>The print on the signage as you come in north of town is too small to read while driving by and the standard DOT issued signs are okay but can't we do better. Again, determine a brand, a color, a style - a consistant message.</p>
<p>More (uniform) signage would help contribute to the identification of the community, and better would improve the service to visitors trying to find their way around the community.</p>
<p>Usually there is only one or two signs denoting any feature and it might be better to have three as you come through town so if people miss the first they can see the second or third. Most signs are only words, pictures or symbols have been proven to catch the eye better than words.</p>
<p>Not a problem as I see it.</p>
<p>More signs to direct highway 54 traffic to points of interest. Signs on 169 highway to draw travelers off the highway.</p>
<p>The little green signs identifying schools are difficult to see. There should be a unifying style of sign for all directional signage.</p>
<p>You don't want a cluttered look. But if it were appealing, more signage would be better.</p>
<p>Just lola how far & logos of food beds fuel</p>
<p>see previous comments (i suggest letting people know at the outset of your survey there will be space for comments, and there should be on ALL questions. do i think iola's signs reflect its character? yes. is that good? no. we need character improvement.)</p>
<p>We need to identify a theme and work that through all of our signage. Something people can think of and identify w/ lola.</p>
<p>more color - not just words but design flavor</p>
<p>Size is an issue. Seems like you can't read the signs until you are right on them.</p>
<p>A couple of the billboards are good, but need to be replaced.</p>
<p>Signage within city limits is good, but I already have knowledge of area. Someone from out of area might benefit from more noticeable signage similar to signs directing to motel and additional restaurants in front of McDonald's.</p>

Exhibit A
Iola Signage Survey Results

7. If you feel signage improvements are necessary how would you prioritize the following. - Comments
Answer
They are all important.
Most often signage is for people who don't live here. The exception would be signage on location of historical sites, any rules/requirements etc for parks and trails. At this point we are not, unfortunately, a mecca for medical care or religious activities. Therefore it seems most logical to use signage to direct people to the events people do come here for.
The signage should project our community culture, what we value, what makes us us. Our history, square, special attractions set us apart. Many folks come to our community for school events so you want folks to be able to find them. Having higher education makes a statement about us, where we place our value as does the medical community. Parks & trails shows us in a different light. Although important the city & industry are usually looked for by specific folks.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hospitals first because of safety & emergency needs. 2. Depends on why you are coming to Iola in the first place. People who live in Iola know where most of our "attributes" are located. It is the folks who are not familiar with our town that need the signs the most. What is the #1 reason tourists come to Iola and then we should ask what do tourist or new community folks need to find? Then create signs to help them. 3. After these are addressed all the other in order can be dealt with.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical/downtown square 2. Cultural (Bowlus) 3. Parks & Trails
We also have State Street with lots of shopping and eating opportunities. This area should not be neglected either and I would prioritize that as a 2 with the downtown square.
Need to include Elm Creek Community Garden
none of the above.get them in town and to the chamber office for info.
<p>I'm not thrilled with the choices. Why no retail or dining? It's odd, sometimes quirky things people react to when I tell 'em I'm from Iola. Like how our Sonic has the best onion rings. I have a friend who's a pilot who always refuels in Iola and wants me to take him to lunch at El Charo. Relatives were in town last Christmas season and went berserk over the selection at the Classy Attic.</p>
It depends on the goal of the signage. Is it to promote Iola as a tourist destination or as a place to live? Very important in determining a plan for the community identity and signage.
this was hard - i would give them all at least 4 in priority. i don't want to say that industrial is the last priority. they all are a "1".
Signage is simply a representation of the community overview, to draw commerce to the area. We are not going to convince the common motorist to "move" or relocate to Iola, from a sign. If that were the case, then we should reverse the priority ratings to just the opposite. What can be visited or participated in should be reflected on signage. Then when the community is experienced by the common passing motorist, then we can hope to draw new members to the community to give new life to Iola.
<p>Hospitals might be a selling point, but ours is in such bad shape it's a liability. I'm not sure what you would advertise for religious. Don't know that the square is such a big deal, but it's a nice square. Schools are undoubtedly your best asset.</p>

Exhibit A Iola Signage Survey Results

8. Is there a particular community or style of signage that you feel could influence any new Iola signage? - Responses
Answer
Osawatomie has an Awesome eye catching sign. (John Brown) It makes me want to go check it out. Humboldt has a good one in town. (Walter Johnson) Large and to the point. Not too much that it ends up losing the "driving eye" to smaller subjects. Chanutes are pretty good also.
no
A larger upbeat font style with coordinated looks in a similar style for a few broad areas like attractions, education and businesses rather than a mishmash of styles would be nice.
I don't have a strong preference as long as it is readable and tasteful. Colorful is nice!
Clean & simple, meaning easy to read, yet has a recognition as to where they would stand out as our community signage. That could be shape or color, a simple graphic and I mean simple.
I don't have a particular community that comes to mind, however I do believe that attractive, uniform signage can both improve community identity and make visitors feel welcome. It says, "let us show you around". We can't personally greet and welcome every visitor who enters the city limits, but if we make it easy (and attractive) for them to find their way around it is a welcome sign of hospitality.
There are several communities in Colorado that have attractive, artistic signage that suits the community they are a part of. Signage is another representation of who we are and should match what we want our identity to be to the traveler that passes through as well as our own citizens.
Hutchinson Ks has great signage
no
A style of sign that is different from your typical road sign so it stands out better. (doesn't blend in with the others)
I think larger lettering to some of the main points of interest - such as locating schools for out of town attendees. I think unique signage would improve interest for such things as the Bowlus Fine Arts Center, Historical Museum, etc.
Topeka signage is nice; Lawrence; Fort Scott has a nice brand/feel to it.
Use Natural materials like stones and rough wood.
Brookings, SD
Something that would reflect our community as being more focused on kids/family. Schools, sports, parks, programs, annual events such as parades, etc...
I would think signs with an historical or Victorian style would be appropriate to coordinate with the downtown architectural style.
Eye catching and simple.
No, I wish I did. I would prefer Iola to adopt a more youthful feel. One of energy. One that captures our optimism for our future.
The ones now are nice, but I like the simple updated logo that has been chosen for Vision Iola. They have a clear concise presence that is contemporary yet colorful. Also gives an appearance of traditions as well as forward thinking. I like them!
the sign west of Yates Center is great.
Something bright and easy to read would both enliven Iola and appeal to its elderly population. Most tourists also seem to be over 50, so visibility is key.
Iola has a history but Iola needs to "believe" in the future.....we need to relay that to visitors. i.e. A town with an interesting past that is looking forward to a bright and progressive future.
modern, clean, a logo or branding that is easily recognized, something future oriented not historical we need to create a new image for Iola,
More than just billboards which tend to get lost by the side of the road. Once a theme is identified, I think the signage should support the theme.
Would like signs written, perhaps, with a Victorian font, with either brown or deep blue background. I would suggest using an Iola landmark, but I'm afraid none of the items are iconic enough to readily identify with the community.
I shared with the Chamber my belief the octagonal sign with the word "IOLA" instead of "STOP" was a strong graphic. Check my comments out with them.
Again, I say it depends on your goal. Who are you trying to reach?
something that would go with the downtown look of the old storefronts.
I think Fort Scott & Chanute have some of the best in this area. Independence, KS has a lot of cross-promotion, if you go to the historical museum - they mention other museums & things to do in the community.
Downtown Wichita by the new arena and WaterWalk projects has a great signage design.
We need to eliminate "old town" style. This may work with the nostalgic individual, but not the 20-30 year old patrons. Those are who should be the focal point of commerce in our community. The more mature patrons already know of Buster Keaton, and the such, because they are of a time where history was their lives. If we want to attract the younger adults, the name "Buster Keaton" will not mean anything to them, whereas a movie reel would cause inquiry. Such as, "was there a movie produced there or a movie about Iola, what association does Iola or Allen Co. have with movies?" The new aquatic facility is appealing to a family passing through with young children. As for the square and shopping, we have a few shops offering fresh merchandising, but we have also been over taken with "second hand shops", (not necessarily a proud shopping attraction). I will give accolades to the fact that through this struggling economy our shopping district has not suffered multiple empty buildings.
Bright eye-catching colors, large print, simple words and few pictures.
Would like to see entries into town have large sign engraved in stone, placed in well landscaped and maintained area, similar to sign on south entry to Lawrence. Directional signage could remain simple but have a modern update of color and symbols similar to tourist areas in Colorado.

Exhibit A
 Iola Signage Survey Results

9. How long have you been a resident of Iola? - Comments	
Answer	
I live in Gas. Was raised in Iola.	
Have been a resident 45 years moving here from Wichita to buy the Davis Paint Store on the south side of the square, owned and operated the store for 32 years before retiring, the brochure we got from the city when we were looking to relocate helped us make the decision to come here instead of McPherson. We were looking for a town with good schools, college, hospital, parks, hospital, medical/dental, good retail establishments.	
Like lots of long time residents, I think I know it all and don't pay much attention. Sorry, I will look better so I can try to contribute.	
Born here and lived all but about 10 years of my life here. I'm 54 so that is a long time.	
11 years.	
i was born here	
State Street is a mess. It usually looks dirty because people do not keep up the grassy? areas, there are very few trees, and there needs to be a sidewalk to our only grocery store - wonderful Wal Mart. Maybe they would like to pay to put it in!	
I live outside the city limits. I lived away from Iola for four years and returned.	
I grew up here. Left after high school and returned 26 years later. Have been here as an adult for 10 years now. Hopefully, it's where I'll always want to live.	
1982	
I have just moved back to the area, but spent my growing up years here.	
Lived in Allen County nearly all my life, and in Iola for about 5.	
Grew up here. Came back recently.	
A job brought me here. Nothing else.	
moved here in 1981.	

Exhibit B
Community Identity Sign in Sheets



Community Identity-Public Input Meeting
Sign-In Sheet
February 4th, 2010

Please Print
Name: Vern Kurth
Steve Douglas
MARY KAY HEARD
Becky Nilges
Larry Macha
Sen/Bu
Bill Shub
Roberta Shub
Blonda Croason
Ku Man
Jenawayton
J W LEATHERWOOD
Terri Piazza
Glenn Singer
John Ay
Fred Heismeyer
Soyce Heismeyer
Quane McPrans
Bill Mandy



Community Identity-Public Presentation

Sign-In Sheet

February 25th, 2010

Please Print
Name:
Dale Stafford
DON BURNS
Jim Smith
Pecky Nilges
David Shelby
Stephen Douglas
Jana Taylor
John M...
Kay BOLT
Jan Debra
Phil Debra
Robert Shirley
Bill Shirley
John Debra
John Debra
Gleve Anderson
BRIAN WOLFE
SUSAN LYNN
Susan Raines
Shellie Beahr
Mauro M. ...
JOE MYERS

Exhibit C
Final Voting for Signage Concepts

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Final Voting for signage concepts

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

Apr 28, 2010 5:19:45 PM

1. Youth participation is an essential element of Vision Iola. To help us track the preferences of Iola's youth please answer the following question:

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Under 18	6	7.2%
18 or older	77	92.7%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	83	100%

2. PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU VOTE. On February 20 the Vision Iola team released three (3) signage concepts to the public through the visioniola.com website. We invited comments on these concepts through the website and through a public meeting held on February 25. More than 100 people have commented on the concepts in less than 1 week. We have worked hard to incorporate as much public input as possible in the options presented here. You will see below a total of 6 voting options: the 3 original concepts, plus 1 set of modifications to each of these original concepts (1a and 1b, 2a and 2b, etc). You may vote for only one (1) signage concept. Based on public feedback we may make certain modifications to the top vote-getter. The final concept that received the most votes will be announced publicly in mid-March. If you have questions please email davidctoland@gmail.com, jbauer@iolaks.com, or dale@landworksstudio.com. Happy voting!

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Concept 1a - original concept	7	8.4%
Concept 1b - incorporated stone into the design, removed "city of"	18	21.6%
Concept 2a - original concept	6	7.2%
Concept 2b - increased overall size of monument, & utilized a white background	35	42.1%
Concept 3a - original concept	2	2.4%
Concept 3b - incorporated stone & modified the identity monument	8	9.6%
No Responses	7	8.4%
Total	83	100%

16 Comment(s)

3. Concepts 1 & 2 (both a & b) incorporate icons to represent the amenities that are present ahead. Discussions have indicated that some feel this information is essential to attracting business to the city, while others expressed that the icons were a distraction and clutter. Do you feel these icons should remain a part of the monument signs, or be removed?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Keep the icons to indicated what is offered ahead.	54	65.0%
Remove the icons, they are clutter.	15	18.0%
Other	1	1.2%
No Responses	13	15.6%
Total	83	100%

17 Comment(s)

4. We need your help identifying what destinations to include on wayfinding signs. The current list we have comprised contains the following: Downtown/Shopping Bowl, US Center Hospital, Schools, Allen Community College, Prairie Spirit Trail, Parks, Industrial Park, Chamber of Commerce, Courthouse, Museums. If you feel there are additional destinations that need to be displayed please indicate them below.

24 Response(s)

5. Where should wayfinding signs be located? Please describe these locations below and why you feel signage is needed.

35 Response(s)

Signage Concept Choices

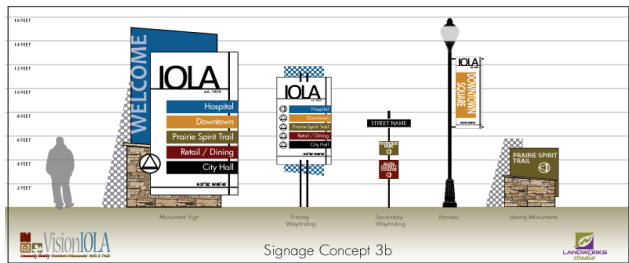
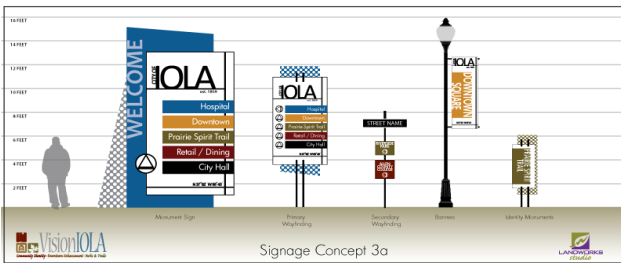
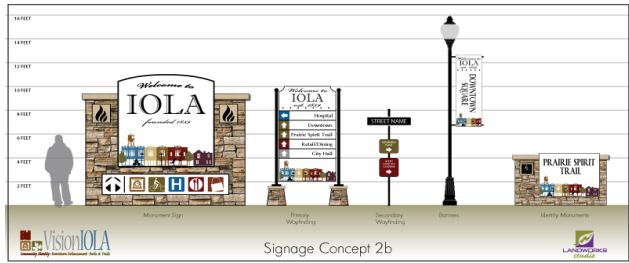
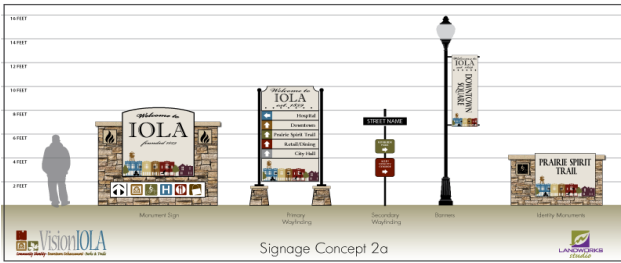
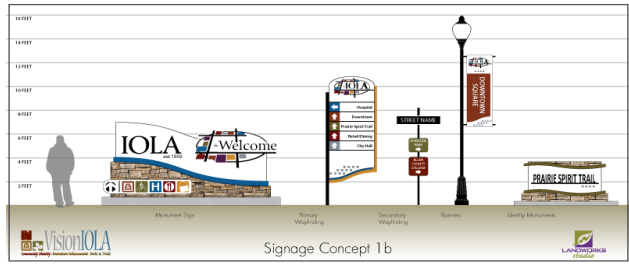
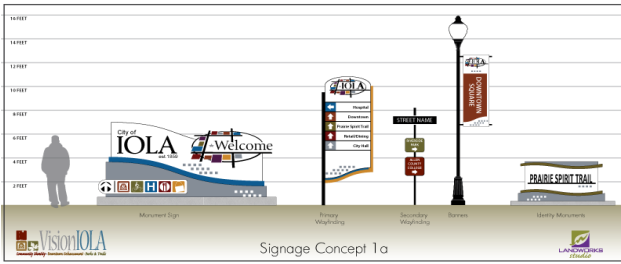


Exhibit C
Final Voting for Signage Concepts

2. PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU VOTE. On February 20 the Vision Iola team released three (3) signage concepts to the public through the visioniola.com website. We invited comments on these concepts through the website and through a public meeting held on February 25. More than 100 people have commented on the concepts in less than 1 week. We have worked hard to incorporate as much public input as possible in the options presented here. You will see below a total of 6 voting options: the 3 original concepts, plus 1 set of modifications to each of these original concepts (1a and 1b, 2a and 2b, etc). You may vote for only one (1) signage concept. Based on public feedback we may make certain modifications to the top vote-getter. The final concept that received the most votes will be announced publicly in mid-March. If you have questions please email davidctoland@gmail.com, jbauer@iolaks.com, or dale@landworksstudio.com. Happy voting! - Comments

Answer

I think it is all terrific!! Will make our town really stand out. I like it!

Closer to what I was thinking, maybe make changes in the way that the stainless is used as well as the shape of the rock (base0. Overall concept showing old to new.

Clean, sophisticated, and MODERN without the stone.

I am still impressed with #1a & 3a. Both of these signs are so unique and different from others all over the U.S. I'm not against the stone, but it's so common and has been around for years.

Still like 2b, but the found is really hard to read.

My favorite is 2b, but I don't think it has to have a white background. This option fits Iola best as a quaint, inviting town. Concept 3 is my next pick as it has the stone which keeps it inviting and the signage is the easiest to read. Concept 1 to me is all wrong for Iola. It is too contemporary

The icons do look like clutter to me. Is there any way to add our new pool/park and the middle school and high schools for game purposes? Just a thought. I don't know that the sign needs to be that tall - I chose that one because I liked the white background.

I think that the first concept is a little too modern for a small humble town and the third concept looks a little like signs found in a mall. The second concept seems to utilize what Iola represents and that is a town that you would like to come home to. It is more inviting and seems a bit more comforting and I think that the tan background makes it more authentic. It would entice me to visit such a town if I were driving by.

The swoop (even if it's downhill) it totally incompatible with the limestone imagery.
Truly a horse designed by a committee.

I still did not like that the arrows on this one are barely visible as to which direction the arrows are pointing. The bricks look nicer with this. I would have voted for this one if the arrows were changed.

We like 1B and 2B

we would have a lot more to advertise about if we would stop destroying landmarks....such as
depot
old library
memorial hall
old courthouse
etc.

2b i like the design but the identity monument should have something on the other side too, so it looks more centered.

They all look good, but the first concept seems both forward-looking while retaining some of the historical connections. The second concept looks too old-fashioned and the third too modern.

I prefer the clean look of 1a and do not like the stone in any of the concepts. In my opinion, stone is an over used material. Everyone wants to use stone it seems. We will stand out as much more original and unique without the stone.

On concept 2b I'm not sure what you mean by utilized a white background. Looks the same color to me except the stone might be lighter. Either way, the bigger sign is better!

3. Concepts 1 & 2 (both a & b) incorporate icons to represent the amenities that are present ahead. Discussions have indicated that some feel this information is essential to attracting business to the city, while others expressed that the icons were a distraction and clutter. Do you feel these icons should remain a part of the monument signs, or be removed? - Comments

Answer

These are a sign of the times to come, our town needs to be with it!!

If the vote is for 1 or 2, I think the icons need to stay, otherwise you would have to put a primary sign close by (added cost)

The icons should be backlit so they can be seen at night.

As a person in a new town, this is something we look for and decided, yes, we'll stay here because they have what we want.

When traveling in an unfamiliar area it is most helpful to have icons plainly explain what amenities are offered in a town. Even though we want the signs to look nice, they also serve a purpose.

Remove the icons and then re-center the "lola" part of the sign.

i still feel 1 and 3 are too modern for our town, in no way are we a modern up to date town. we need to focus on the history of the town. i think the stone work with the gas flames shows that best. the stones tie in more with the old buildings we have on the square and i feel it with tie in better with what thrive has planned for the new trail park.

I think that they should be kept in order to entice people to come into the town to see what we have to offer, otherwise they may keep driving.

Move the icons to the side of the sign so they are easier for the driver to read so they will not be at the bottom. Do not plant anything in front or it will not be as visible.

Lettering needs to be strong and clear enough to be read by those traveling 30+ MPH in a short period of time. Amenities signs may be useful, but probably not on major signs welcoming visitors into the community.

I think these belong on major highway signs, not the ones that welcome you to town. Out on the highway, I think they are helpful.

If you remove the icons you would need to have another sign with that info near the welcome sign. I thought one of the things we hoped to eliminate was clutter and too much signage.

For the city sign, the symbols are clutter. However, we do quickly need to show this information. Possibly this needs to be a separate sign before the city sign.

The icons are needed unless the text of concept 3 can be incorporated into 1&2.

It is my preference to not only keep the icons but have them be internally lit at night. One of the purposes of signage is to attract attention and then to advertise. Backlit icons will attract attention at night and will help to get people off the highway.

I like number 1 as it is. It is different than what other cities are doing. I believe it will make us stand out to traffic zooming by at 70 miles an hour. Sure, it may take seven or eight trips by for it to really sink in to a passer-by, but that is marketing 101. Every commercial I see on tv or on the radio mentions the product name and phone number at least 7 times.

The people of lola are not known to be willing to take chances. We are a town of "good enough" instead of "excellence"

I think it's good for strangers to know what is available in the town. Especially the hospital - for help, if needed.

4. We need your help identifying what destinations to include on wayfinding signs. The current list we have comprised contains the following: Downtown/Shopping Bowl, US Center Hospital, Schools, Allen Community College, Prairie Spirit Trail, Parks, Industrial Park, Chamber of Commerce, Courthouse, Museums. If you feel there are additional destinations that need to be displayed please indicate them below. - Responses

Answer

Nope this is really good, you have been very thorough!! Thanks

City Hall

Elm Creek Community Garden

Churches...people look for them to go to for help or service.

Restaurants - Russell Stover (I can not tell you how many times I get stopped, while walking my dog, & asked where it is by out of town drivers.)

restaurants, pharmacy

library

Iola Plaza Shopping Center, 700 North State Street

The library needs to be included. Many people who travel, look for public libraries for access to computers, wi-fi, public restrooms and directions for local points of interest. Libraries are usually open when other businesses, government or retail might not be, enabling visitors to get information about a community and maybe linger longer.

Library Churches

Russell Stovers/dollar store/walmart shopping area

motels

eating locations

city hall

Law enforcement

Shopping (general)

Food

Gifts

Allen County Country Club

Cedarbrook

airport

city hall

Will downtown and shopping always be together? Or will the term shopping be used twice? The shopping on the north side of town should be identified.

Community Buildings

High School and Junior High

Churches?

places to eat (subway, sonic, A&W, ect...), recreation center(specific directions)

Churches

Shopping away from the square. Restaurants as some are not as well seen.

None that I can think of

Restaurants and Hotels

Public library

5. Where should wayfinding signs be located? Please describe these locations below and why you feel signage is needed. - Responses

Answer

As you come into town, at main intersections where a visitor might be trying to follow directions and need a little help.

At the intersection (exits) of 169 and 54 as well as 169 and Austin Rd.. A lot of traffic on 169 and try to entice them into lola

on 169 at Oregon Rd.

on 169 at 54

on 169 at Minnesota Rd.

on 54 at West side of town

on S. State at south side of town

on N. State at north side of town

Within a block of the monument sign if it doesn't include the icons. If the monument sign includes the icons, it could be several blocks closer into town. On the east side of town, it should be east of the curve at the hospital to help visitors navigate the curve into downtown.

All routes into lola. Intersection State Street, & Madison Ave for sure.

Corner of Madison and Cottonwood (to direct people to schools and downtown);

Oregon Road at Kentucky (for those entering lola from the first exit from the north);

Oregon Road at State Street (to direct people to the Industrial Park and State Street shopping and Prairie Spirit Trail);

Kentucky and Miller Roads (to direct people to Allen Community College);

East and West entrances to lola on US 54;

Intersection of Madison (US 54) and Washington (to orient people around downtown);

Intersection of Madison/US 54 at 1st Street (to direct people to Elm Creek Community Garden and ER and general areas of the hospital)

From highway 54, down State and coming into lola on old, and new highway 169.

Each entrance to lola, especially east, west, north & south, should have some coming into lola from the east or west, then additional as you get into town.

I think each entrance into our town and then maybe one on the square, since it is a central location.

Signs should be placed at the entrances to town. They should also be placed at the major intersections like Hwy 54 and State St.

bring in out of town patrons

Welcome Signs should be located at all major highways leading into town at the least. The Oregon Road turn off US 169 would be another possibility because of the proximity to the the North Industrial Park and the Community College. I also feel that we should highlight and work to revitalize the the downtown square including the shopping, restaurants, museums, and the Bowlus Center. These are the things that bring people into town. Signage would be a great addition

Signage should also highlight the entrances to the Prairie Spirit Trail to encourage participation.

Thanks

at all major intersections that connect with the places people are trying to find.

Signs that ferry people across town to State Street en route to the football game, fair, Walmart, Russell Stover.

Madison and Cottonwood, to guide people to the high school and college.

169 highway both north and south

54 highway both east and west

At all entrances of town and main intersections.

Oregon Rd and 169, Oregon Rd and State Street

State Street and 54

Along Madison

Near lucky stop by the highway. Madison ave. steaks and chops. near the square. near wal-mart. near the park and coming in town near the park area. near Haldex as you are coming in town as well.

Specific placements? Haven't scouted any - simply suggestions.

Kentucky & East westbound.

State & Madison eastbound & north & southbound

Cottonwood & Miller

Cottonwood & Madison

Park exits

Near the intersections of Hwys 169 & 54 and West on 54. Also, South 169 and East on 54. To attract travelers and also to assist people making this their destination.

Primary street intersections

Signs need to be placed at intervals along main highways into town. When approaching turn off intersection, locate directional marker similar to current placement.

Exhibit C Final Voting for Signage Concepts

Starting with the main roads and then 1 mile prior to then closer, but before they need to make a turn (if this is the case) onto another road, and then with a block of the destination.

At major highway intersections and major in-town intersections.

Corner of State and Madison - this is a major intersection for Iola. Corner of Kentucky and East - this is a corner that may confuse newcomers to the area. Corner of Madison & Cottonwood - to indicate the schools. Triangle area by the hospital (going from East to Madison). Corner of Miller & Cottonwood - ACC. Corner of Oregon and State. By the trailhead on State Street. Corner of Lincoln and State and maybe Kentucky and Lincoln.

Entrances to town and major intersections.

Out by gas city when you enter Iola.

Where the most traffic goes by.

By the main highways when you enter Iola.

Entrance into town on 54 on both sides of town. Entrance into town on both ends of State Street.

Specific signs should be located throughout town from these two main roads to other places such as the community college. For ACC signs should be located at Garfield on State and at Cottonwood on State. For the public schools and parks, the same should be done. Give people direction once they come into town. In addition to being helpful it also makes us realize and outsiders see how much we have to offer as a community.

Primary wayfinding signs should be located on State at Madison and perhaps one at the hospital curve on East and on Madison facing west at State.

Secondary signs as required any time a change of direction is needed to reach a destination.

Definitely on main street, ie: Hwy 54 (Madison). Also on State St and at every entrance to the town. This includes Hwy 169 north and south, Hwy 54 east and west, and Old Hwy 169 (State St.) north and south. Put the signs at major intersections leading to the destination: for example, a sign pointing to the college on State St. at Miller and also at Garfield or Lincoln so people coming from either north or south know where to turn to get there.

Primary wayfinding signs located very near monument signs. Also located at Oregon Rd. and 169. Wayfinding sign at south entrance to Iola on S. State. Other wayfinding signage at intersection of Madison and State, Madison and Cottonwood, intersections of other arterials.

I believe there needs to be a large Iola sign on the north side of town on the north side of Oregon Rd. There needs to be one on the west side of town between Iola and the river. I'm torn on where to put one on the south and east side of town - maybe near the intersection of 54 and 169.

Way finding needs to be at the main entrances into town, as well as at key points within town. Signage needs to be placed in such a way as to provide a visitor ample time and space to alter their path. I am sure these locations are subjective to every individual.

Signage is important - it needs to be informative yet aesthetic. Informative in directing people where they want to go, but also in advertising other points of interest. The signs need to be pleasing to the eye as well, but not to the detriment of being informative. Less is more when it comes to design.

Entrances into town--all highway points including Oregon Road off of Highway 169

Hospital curve to continue on towards square

Signs pointing traffic back towards downtown from Wal-Mart

Again, at intersection of Madison & State

All 4 entrances to town (N,S,E,W) and signage off the rail train.

There should also be wayfinding signs downtown and out at the College. This will provide information to new people that have made into town and have a chance to walk up to them and take a closer look.

At all four entrances to Iola. When one arrives in a community, it is important that one be greeted by the necessary informational signs. That takes away the otherwise uncertainty of finding an unknown location.

Exhibit D
Signage Location Map

Signage
Location Map

CITY OF
IOLA
ALLEN COUNTY KANSAS

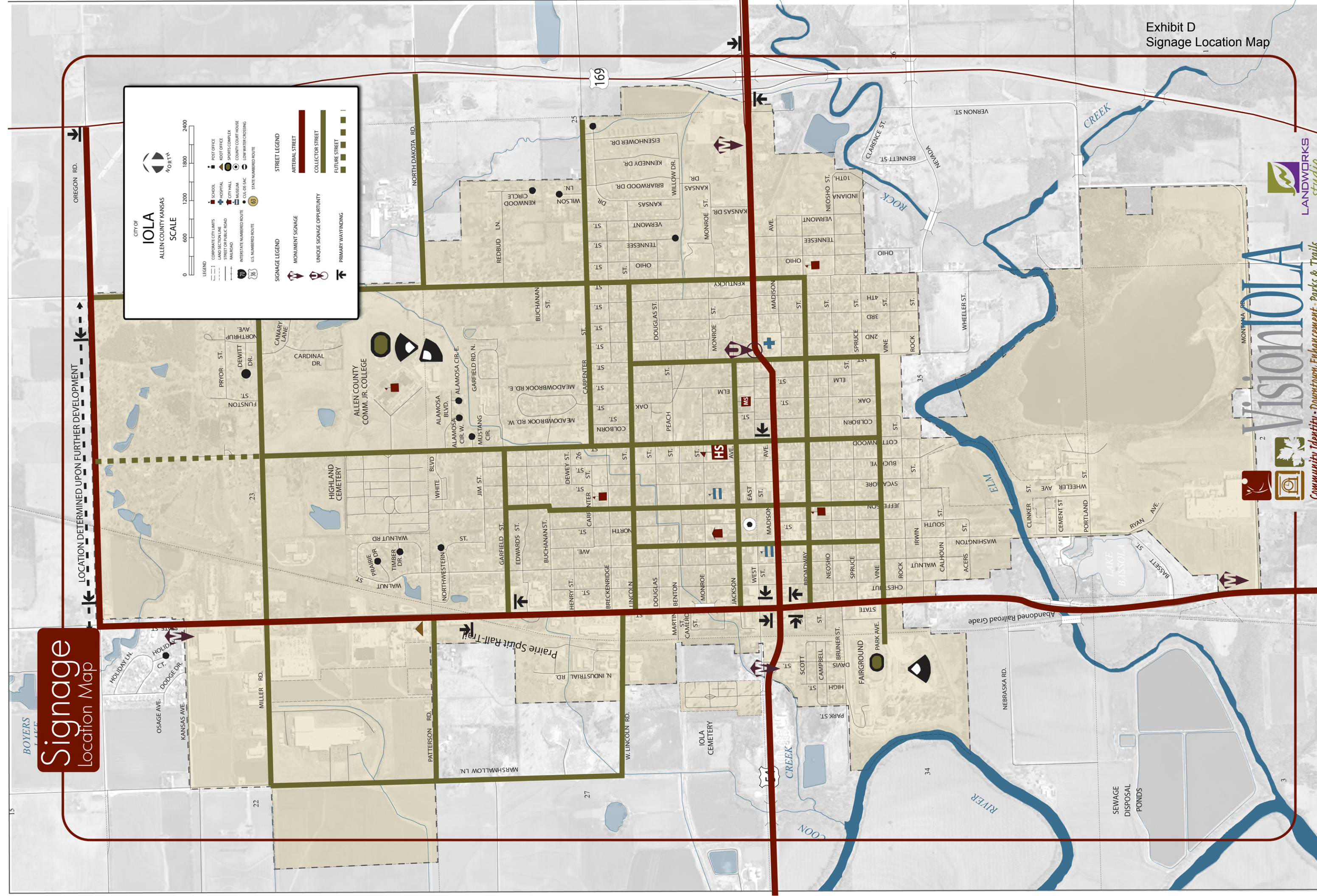
SCALE
0 600 1200 1800 2400

LEGEND

- CORPORATE CITY LIMITS
- LAND SECTION LINE
- STREET OR PUBLIC ROAD
- RAILROAD
- INTERSTATE NUMBERED ROUTE
- U.S. NUMBERED ROUTE
- STATE NUMBERED ROUTE
- POST OFFICE
- SCHOOL
- HOSPITAL
- SPORTS COMPLEX
- CITY HALL
- COUNTY COURT HOUSE
- MUSEUM
- COLLEGE
- LOW WATER CROSSING

STREET LEGEND

- ARTERIAL STREET
- COLLECTOR STREET
- FUTURE STREET
- MONUMENT SIGNAGE
- UNIQUE SIGNAGE OPPORTUNITY
- PRIMARY WAYFINDING



LOCATION DETERMINED UPON FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Exhibit E
Community Identity Design Board

20 FEET

18 FEET

16 FEET

14 FEET

12 FEET

10 FEET

8 FEET

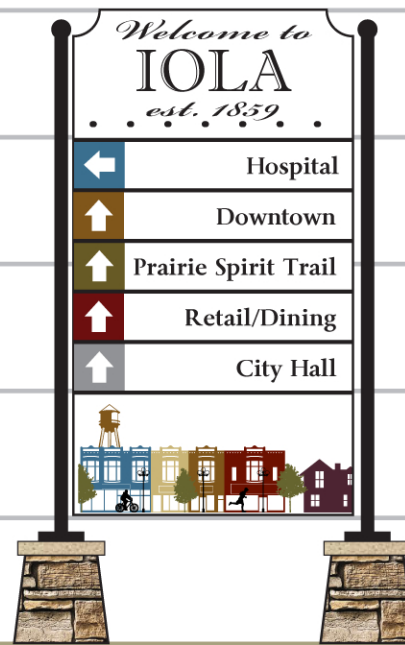
6 FEET

4 FEET

2 FEET



Monument Sign



Primary
Wayfinding



Secondary
Wayfinding



Banners



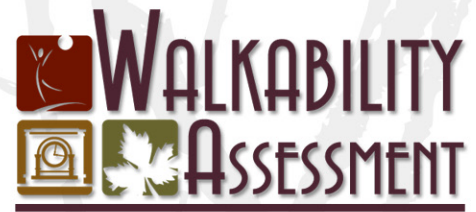
Identity Monuments

Community Identity Signage

Exhibit F
Walkability Assessment

INSTRUCTIONS

Review the walkability survey to familiarize yourself with the questions. • Put on your walking shoes and invite a family member or neighbor to join you. • Take a walk around downtown and complete the survey, noting any assets and barriers to walking. • Tally your scores and bring your survey to the meeting on March 18th or submit it to Thrive. Enjoy walking!



A) THINK ABOUT THE SIDEWALKS DOWNTOWN

Question?	Always or Usually	About half the time	Seldom or never	Does not apply
1 Are the sidewalks in good repair, without areas of uneven or broken pavement?				
2 Are the sidewalks wide enough for at least two adults to walk side by side?				
3 Are the curbs around the square in good condition?				
4 Could someone use the sidewalk using a mobility aide without difficulty? (ie. wheelchair, stroller)				
5 Are the sidewalks free of items that might block walking? (ie. fire hydrants, light poles, signs)				
6 Are the sidewalks and the areas next to them clear of weeds and trash?				
Totals:				
Multiply by points per item:				
	x2	x1	x0	x0
Sidewalk Walkability Pts:				
	A	B	C	D

B) THINK ABOUT THE SITE AMENITIES (IE. LANDSCAPING, LIGHTS, BENCHES, ETC)

Question?	Always or Usually	About half the time	Seldom or never	Does not apply
1 Is there landscaping to make the walk pleasant?				
2 Are there any benches or other places to rest along your sidewalks?				
3 Are there enough trash receptacles?				
4 Are there planters or pots for seasonal color/texture?				
5 Does the lighting appear to be in good condition?				
Totals:				
Multiply by points per item:				
	x2	x1	x0	x0
Amenities Walkability Pts:				
	A	B	C	D



C) THINK ABOUT THE INTERSECTIONS DOWNTOWN

Exhibit F

Question?

YES

NO

1	Are there functional crossing signals at major intersections in your downtown?		
2	Are there ADA ramps at all intersections?		
3	Is it easy to cross the street?		
If NO, please explain:			

Totals:			
Multiplied by points per item:		x2	x0
Intersection	Walkability Pts:		
		A	B

D) THINK ABOUT YOUR SAFETY WHEN WALKING DOWNTOWN

Question?

YES

NO

1	Do you feel safe to walk alone downtown during the day?		
2	Do you feel safe to walk alone downtown at night?		
3	Did drivers behave well?		
4	Is the lighting adequate?		

Totals:			
Multiplied by points per item:		x2	x0
Safety Walkability Pts:			
		A	B

E) CALCULATE YOUR FINAL WALKABILITY SCORE

	A	+	B	+	C	+	D	=	Total
Sidewalk Walkability Points									
Amenities Walkability Points									
Intersection Walkability Points									
Safety Walkability Points									
OVERALL WALKABILITY SCORE									

Scoring:

- We have a great downtown that is very walkable, so go out and take a walk!** 36 to 27
- Downtown is doing pretty well. Keep walking and seek improvements.** 26 to 18
- Downtown needs a lot of work. Lets work together to identify improvements.** 17 to 9
- Sorry, but your downtown is terrible for walking. Improvements are a must!** 8 to 0



Exhibit G

Downtown Enhancement Sign in Sheets



Downtown Enhancement – Public Input Meeting 1
Sign-In Sheet
March 18, 2010

Name: (Please Print)	I Walked the Downtown
Dale Stafford	YES
David Toland	NO
Jeff Bauer	NO
Steve For...	NO
Blair ...	YES
Dan ...	NO
Becky Nilges	Yes
Jim ...	NO
Bill Shirley	No
TOM PIAZZA	NO
Ruth St Clair	No
Zach St Clair	No
Richard ...	yes
Jim & Karen Gilpin	Yes
Susan Lynn	
Brian Wolfe	
Fred's Joyce Heismeyer	

Exhibit H
Courthouse Recommendations



Exhibit I
Downtown Enhancement Design Board



Chosen Amenities

- A- Victor Stanley Bench
Backless CR14
- B- Victor Stanley Bench
Back Model CR18
- C- Victor Stanley Planter
18 Gallon TP36
- D- Unilock Pavers
Holland Premier- Heritage Brown



Exhibit J
Meeting Handout





Extents of Improvements
Downtown Enhancements

Exhibit K
Parks & Trails Assessment Survey



Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Parks and Trails Assessment Survey

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

Aug 03, 2010 5:34:57 PM

TextBlock:

The primary goal of Vision Iola is improving public health. We believe that by evaluating Iola's existing parks and trail connections, we can ensure the City provides Iola residents with opportunities to improve their physical and emotional health in a variety of ways. In addition, a desire for quality parks and trails continues to rank at the top of city surveys across the country. Please assist us in planning for future improvements to Iola's park system and trails by answering the following 12 questions:

How long have you lived in the City of Iola?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Less than 2 Years			13	10.0 %
3-5 Years			7	5.4 %
6-10 Years			11	8.5 %
Over 10 Years			55	42.6 %
Lifelong Resident			41	31.7 %
No Response(s)			2	1.5 %
Totals			129	100%

Exhibit K
Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

To best ensure recreational opportunities for all ages, please share information about your household.
Please select the age of anyone living in your home.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
0-6 Years			31	24.0 %
7-12 Years			53	41.0 %
13-18 Years			39	30.2 %
19-30 Years			19	14.7 %
31-45 Years			62	48.0 %
46-64 Years			56	43.4 %
Over 65 Years			11	8.5 %
Totals			129	100%

How satisfied are you with the quality of parks and recreation in lola?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Very Satisfied			13	10.0 %
Satisfied			68	52.7 %
Dissatisfied			37	28.6 %
Very Dissatisfied			2	1.5 %
Other			8	6.2 %
No Response(s)			1	<1 %
Totals			129	100%

In the past 3 years, do you feel the quality of parks and recreation in the City of lola has:

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Improved			72	57.1 %
Same			41	32.5 %
Declined			10	7.9 %
Other			4	3.1 %
Totals			126	100%

Exhibit K
Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

In general, please tell us how satisfied you are with the recreational facilities provided by the City of Iola for residents in the following age groups:

1 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Satisfied, 3 = Dissatisfied, 4 = Very Dissatisfied, 5 = No Opinion

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
0-6 Years						108	2.7
7-12 Years						112	2.3
13-18 Years						107	2.6
19-30 Years						97	2.8
31-45 Years						109	2.8
46-64 Years						103	2.9
Over 65 Years						93	3.0

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Which of the City's park facilities do you frequently use? Check all that apply.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Riverside Park			122	96.8 %
Meadowbrook Park			25	19.8 %
Cofachique Park			16	12.6 %
Walnut Park			2	1.5 %
East Iola Park			1	<1 %
North Community Building			44	34.9 %
Prairie Spirit Trail			45	35.7 %
Other			12	9.5 %
Totals			126	100%

Do you frequently use other community facilities for park purposes? (ie. school playgrounds, courthouse grounds, homeowners' association playground, etc.)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			46	35.6 %
No			82	63.5 %
No Response(s)			1	<1 %
Totals			129	100%

If you replied "yes" to question 7, please describe the other community facilities you use. An example may be the playground at an elementary school.

44 Response(s)

How often do you use a City park facility?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Daily			8	6.2 %
Weekly			42	32.5 %
2-3 times/month			45	34.8 %
Once or twice/year			25	19.3 %
Less than once of twice/year			2	1.5 %
Never			3	2.3 %
No Response(s)			4	3.1 %
Totals			129	100%

Do you live within walking/biking distance of a City park?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			78	60.4 %
No			51	39.5 %
No Response(s)			0	0.0 %
Totals			129	100%

If you have children in the household, do they walk or bike to school?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			13	10.0 %
No (Please state the reason in the comment box)			83	64.3 %
No Response(s)			33	25.5 %
Totals			129	100%

The FEMA properties the City acquired after the 2007 flood are currently undeveloped and are being maintained similar to other park properties. The resources required to keep these areas mowed and maintained is substantial. Would you support a more natural approach to this property, if it is determined it won't be developed into a City park? A natural approach might include native grasses,perennials, shrubs and/or tree plantings to reduce the need for mowing.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			102	79.0 %
No			25	19.3 %
No Response(s)			2	1.5 %
Totals			129	100%

What activities do you normally participate in when you visit a city park in lola? Check all that apply.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Playground			71	55.4 %
Walking/Running			88	68.7 %
Bicycling			34	26.5 %
Swimming			72	56.2 %
Enjoy nature/bird watching			28	21.8 %
Sporting Activities (please list sport below in comment box)			71	55.4 %
Picnicking			68	53.1 %
Tennis			20	15.6 %
City sponsored events			74	57.8 %
Skateboarding			4	3.1 %
Meet with Friends			49	38.2 %
Golf			13	10.1 %
Totals			128	100%

Exhibit K
Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

What activities or park elements would you most like to see added to the City's park system? Choose all that apply.


















Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Pavilion/Shelter			36	29.2 %
Basketball Court			49	39.8 %
Tennis Court			14	11.3 %
Sand Volleyball Court			18	14.6 %
Baseball/Softball			16	13.0 %
Trails			68	55.2 %
Lighting			49	39.8 %
Play Structures			53	43.0 %
Skateboard Park			3	2.4 %
Spray/Water Park			52	42.2 %
Shade			27	21.9 %
Picnic Tables/Benches			43	34.9 %
Landscape and Trees			42	34.1 %
Exercise Stations			47	38.2 %
Parking			15	12.1 %
Golfing			19	15.4 %
Other			24	19.5 %
Totals			123	100%

Exhibit K

Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

3. How satisfied are you with the quality of parks and recreation in lola? - Other responses

Answer

Good & Bad - need an indoor pool
somewhat satisfied but could use improvement
Would like to see more parks throughout the community
It is okay, but there could be more choices
Neutral
They are good, but could be better.
This is our first year participating so far so good - As a business sponsor VERY
Between Satisfied and Dissatisfied

4. In the past 3 years, do you feel the quality of parks and recreation in the City of lola has: - Other responses

Answer

Have only lived here since September
we have a few newer things due to flood damage
love the new swimming pool and trail
Haven't paid much attention

4. In the past 3 years, do you feel the quality of parks and recreation in the City of lola has: - Comments

Answer

Made strides by separating Parks dept. from Rec. dept. Hired a Rec coordinator and a Rec. programmer. Dissatisfied that they didn't hire a Rec. director with a degree and/or experience. But Director doing a good job.

I know there have been improvements in the bigger parks but some of the smaller parks have been overlooked. For example I live near the Walnut Park and twice last summer I shared my concern to the City Admin. Office that the grass was growing in the sand under the swings and had overtaken the sand under the bouncer equipment to the point where the surface is hard yet nothing was nor has been done. They do a great job of keeping the grass mowed but that it. Nothing else.

Due to the flood of 2007, many improvements were made to Riverside Park amenities, however, parks throughout the City need to be addressed.

the rail trail has helped lots! We are short on play equipment at the parks. Everyone seems to want a dog park. We have lots of empty space because of the flooded area that is now available.

The new pool was a definite improvement. It offers more activities than the old pool offered.

Thinking of new swimming pool. I would like to see more sidewalks all over town. Just seeing them makes one think that walking is expected. No sidewalks indicates that one is to drive.

The soccer fields are terrible, and the City missed a golden opportunity to use FEMA funding to build year-round recreation facilities--instead, we have an expensive pool which is used 3 months a year. Also, when compared with other communities, our baseball diamonds are ugly, lack shade, and are poorly kept--the grass is overgrown, they are uninviting, and an embarrassment. I'm so impressed with the diamonds in Garnett, Nevada, Ottawa, Girard--those communities WANT you to play ball there.

I grew up in lola and returned in September 2010. I am impressed with the Parks and Rec offerings for my children. The offerings for adults, although limited, appear to be improving. I am disappointed in the changes the pool but I understand that is something out of control of the city.

The City missed an opportunity to provide a year round recreation facility when it rebuilt the swimming pool rather than explore an indoor/outdoor pool facility. With the exception of the baseball fields, the other youth rec fields are horrible. The current soccer fields are uneven, too small to allow meaningful play, slope severely to one end, and become a mud pit when wet. Why can't the football field grow grass? Riverside park, while having great potential, is often unmowed, looks unkept.

Luke Bycroft has made many improvements in the number and quality of programs offered.

lola needs a dog park. We have not been able to get the city commission to approve such a park.

I'd like more & better sidewalks all over town. Also a dog park.

Decline mostly due to flood

Most of the improvements in the last 3 years have been because of the flood damage in 07. We have replaced some things but have not expanded.

pool is better but should have been somewhere other than flood prone park, rail trail is a big addition, baseball is kept up well, replacement of skateboard park is great after flood, old bldg in park is better with new floor

I have always enjoyed how well the parks are maintained. They are always mowed and clean. There are a few older playground items being used, but those are well maintained too. After moving back to lola about 9 months ago, I have appreciated the repairs to the swimming pool and the railtrail. Many of the old staples are still here, and it nice to see some new additions. I am excited to see more improvements.

more equipment at Riverside park has been installed.

Ballfields are not well taken care of. Homebase has been buried in a pit for years. Grass isn't mowed many times when there is a game. Need more trees around fields (know they have tried to plant more). Dugouts keep fans from seeing games and are full of water when there has been a rain.

Addition of partial rail trail, renovation of swimming pool and recreation building, addition of sidewalks on Miller Rd., year-round activity offerings are improvements.

I appreciate the walking trail.

With the organization of the current director of P&R, I feel things have been alot better.

Have not lived here three years

Some improvements are noticed... new pool, one new playground item at Riverside and the trail are appreciated, but aside from that -- things are declining.

rates for children just continue to increase

I do like the rec building. I wish it was open more to kids in the summer time, or spring break.

The reorganization of the Recreation Department several years ago has greatly improved the quality and scope of recreation activities in the city.

there is nothing to do in this town for kids they just get into trouble

The flood caused a lot of damage and it has taken some time to get the park back to where it was. I would like to see restrooms at Meadowbrook.

The variety and number of Recreation Department Activities has increased to attract a broader section of participants within the community.

Exhibit K Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

Would love to see more variety & locations of good playground equipment. Thankfully there are decent school playgrounds for our children to play on. Would love to see a trail link from Best Western parking lot to the actual trail. Don't want to take our kids on State Street. Otherwise, we have to ride through 30' of grass, which is difficult for our small elementary age children. (East side of State Street - should be any easy fix to pave that area, I would think) :-)

I feel the flood had much to do with the improvements of Iola's Riverside Park. Don't know how much would have actually been improved if not for that reason.

more \$\$\$ for yuppie stuff and skateboarders does not a community park system make

the new soccer addition will be a fantastic addition, I hope it will be completed so we can use it while my grandson still plays soccer.

The department is doing a lot to get the WHOLE community involved

Would like to see more playground equipment at Riverside.

It only improved because of the flood!!! Want to see some real neat soccer and ball diamonds, go to Winfield, Kansas.

New pool and playground equipment helped. Work on baseball fields helped. Still need more activities at parks throughout town, not just Riverside. New soccer field progress is not good. Using soccer fields North of middle school is a challenge.

The flood destroyed alot of fun things in the Riverside park which need to be replaced asap. The meadowbrook park is lovely with lots of shade and the tennis courts are great there especially since their isn't any other tennis courts open to the public. The IHS has some tennis courts but they are not always available to the community.

We usually only use the City parks during ball season. I am happy with the amount of activities the rec dept offers to the kids.

I realize that we have a new pool, but it is smaller and not as good as the old one. The new rail/trail is great, but is not complete unless it connects to Riverside Park and the east side of town via the old rail bed. The signage that can direct the public to the park needs to be improved. Possibly the park could develop an area for tent camping and RVs so that the rail/trail could be better utilized. The camping area would also keep people in Iola so that they can spend their money.

5. In general, please tell us how satisfied you are with the recreational facilities provided by the City of Iola for residents in the following age groups: - Comments

Answer

Iola needs a gym/community rec center that is open to the public. Some group fitness classes would also be really helpful. The sidewalks as they are aren't great for running/walking.

Need a comprehensive plan to try to achieve that would include all ages

I'm not sure what there is for my age group. I guess the trail and I can sit in the park. But I also wouldn't know what to suggest.

Not much geared for adults.

Need indoor pool with opportunities for physical therapy area for elderly

There is very little geared towards the little kids, and it seems that the toys to play on at the park dwindle every year. The rails for trails is a nice walking area, however security is poor and I have personally had issues with that and quite using the trail to jog on for that reason.

I think there are some children and younger family features that would be appealing and attractive for them. □
We love the walking trail.

there is a huge need for an indoor all year round health facility- walking track, pool, workout center. I know there a couple available but the machines are old, don't work, no walking & no swimming, no racquetball etc. parks, walks etc are fine....but that would solve the problem year round...

See #4 above.

We need a dog park

needed are indoor recreation center with pool and walking/running track, elders need place, rehab needed for obesity in the pool, we need to complete the soccer fields and create the facility there for both rail trail and soccer complex

I think there's lots to do. I love the new pool, and the cleanliness of the park. The trail is beautiful, too.

There are many places for children to play and run, and I am sure there is always room for more. However, the opportunities for young adults - seniors is limited.

Would like indoor pool for exercising in the wintertime.

other than the bike trail, what is there to do for adults? We are not the horseshoe set and that is all that riverside park offers. What other parks are there in town? Have been here 4 years and no knowledge of any other outlet.

The improvements to the pool are outstanding. The new track is also great. Grass on football field is poor. Soccer fields in the flood area sounds good. Yellow protection on fences is right in the fans sight, if they are sitting to view a game. Trees in park area are a big asset. Well marked parking looks good.

Believe the city does a good job providing recreational facilities for young children. The city does not provide any recreational activities on the weekends for college students who can't go home. Tranquil, safe outdoor facilities as well as indoor facilities are needed to encourage year-round exercise for stressed and overworked adults.

It seems to be that most activities for adults assume that no one works. More activities should be available other than the middle of the day. (For instance walking in the recreation building)

The Riverside Park facilities are pretty nice for a community of this size. However, they are of course on the far edge of town making them semi-inaccessible for young teens. Small parks with basketball courts, tennis courts, Frisbee golf, playground equipment (or some combination of activities), more evenly distributed would be of benefit. The various park spaces already provided are ok by location, but need updated.

NO PLACE TO FISH EXCEPT THE RIVER.

Riverside park is nice, but ALL the smaller parks need great improvements and it would be nice to have the trail expanded and easier access to the trail from east of State St.

The current soccer fields are barely adequate, however I've heard that a new soccer field complex is being planned.

It is okay, but more choices would be good.

Baseball diamonds, tennis courts, community buildings are good. City should have explored indoor pool before rebuilding pool in park. Only used 2 months/yr. Riverside park is all dandelions and often looks unmowed and messy. Youth rec league soccer fields are not good. Mud pits and slope in one direction.

There are so much more for the kids to do now as compared to when I was a child growing up in Iola.

Would love to see a gym that had good equipment & ellipticals. (like Humbolt's Field house) We have tumblenastics, but would be nice to have more equipment like Chanute's Launching Pad.

Exhibit K Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

Could have more seating closer to the little kids play area. There are a few but not right close to some of the play equipment. Would be nice to set closer to the little ones while they play. The older generation needs a pleasant place to set or walk and just relax. A pond for duck watching or a flower park for them to enjoy.

we need a swimming pool available in the winter and improvement in the playground equipment in Riverside Park

Unless you are a senior citizen, and i understand those are the people that vote and tend to be the squeaky wheels, the rec facilities don't offer much.

I think Riverside Park needs more and nicer play equipment for little kids.

Will be better when the new soccer fields north of the football stadium are finished!

Although I marked "satisfied", I think I need a category between satisfied and dissatisfied. Recreation is a big part of attracting families and businesses to a town. Towns that figure this out and act upon it reap really good benefits. lola needs to really step up and provide whatever support and capital needed to make big improvements. It will pay off. I think the rec. department does well with what they are given, but they need a lot more support in many areas.

Not many facilities geared to adults.

climbing wall? indoor pool? dog park? we need these so families can congregate and recreate together and also mingle with their fellow citizens. not everyone is into organized sports.

I think that if we can't get enough girls to play softball then we will have to do as other towns do and travel!

outside Basketball courts should be at every major park. alot of people could utilize them in the evening for exercise. With a least one light available to use them at night. Lights at meadowbrook tennis courts need fixed to utilize them more in the summer for night use. Older people need an indoor pool. That could be used for laps. Space is now smaller there. I do not feel the walk area that crosses state street is adequate.

At times I wish the City had a "YMCA like" club. However, I honestly don't know how often I'd use it. We have a local fitness club but they do not keep their equipment nice and the building is not maintained well so I quit using it.

6. Which of the City's park facilities do you frequently use? Check all that apply. - Other responses

Answer

new community building at the park

rec fields at middle school practice field

School

Recreation Building

soccer feilds are terrible

we do not frequent the parks in town due poor condition

Jefferson School, East of High School, Rivertree

ball fields

Would use the Prairie Spirit Trail if it came further south into lola.

How do you use some of these parks, when there is nothing of interest available

Colborn Park (near lola High School) (almost daily)

new community building at the park

8. If you replied "yes" to question 7, please describe the other community facilities you use.

An example may be the playground at an elementary school. - Responses

Answer

Playgrounds and gyms at schools for practices

Courthouse lawn

We picnic on the courthouse grounds fairly regular. I care for my nephew during the day and for lunch we met his mom there, she works close to the square. She can eat with him and then has time to play also during her lunch break. We usually bring equipment with us or books to read.

Playground at the elementary schools

My children will play at the playground over at Jefferson, and I like that it's fenced in creating a barrier to the road and potential threatening entities outside the fence.

we do use the play ground at Jefferson elementary

Lincoln Elementary playground

Gas playground

Red barn at ACCC, Golf Courses, and school fields for youth rec.

School playgrounds for my grandchildren. I use the courthouse grounds for walking.

Jefferson and McKinley Schools

jefferson school

Courthouse grounds, because there is no other green public outdoor space downtown.

we use the elementary school for our park because we have small children that we have not sole custody, but visitation of and it is safe for them to be there.

school playgrounds

We are lifelong users of Riverside park; as kids and now with grandkids. Also use Lincoln school playground. We are walkers and would like to see sidewalks along Carpenter; for school kids as well as walkers. To save money, we don't need sidewalks on both sides of the street. There is a real need in this area.

shagging golf balls in area parks

Use high school tennis courts, as community courts are in pretty poor condition. Would like to have access to the track as the sidewalks around town are quite awful.

High school tennis courts, and elementary school play ground.

Exhibit K Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

Jefferson Elementary
Gas Park

playground at Elementary school.

Playground at the elementary school.

play ground at jefferson school

Youth rec league fields at middle school. College red barn.

playground at elementary school.

tennis courts

Walk/bike around the square. Take the kids to Jefferson playground. New subdivision playground in the new housing division north (just off the Prairie Spirit Trail) Bike up to the old Family Physicians parking lot/West St. & Walnut to let the kids bike in a safe place.

schools

school playgrounds

Jefferson School playground

We go to the schools playgrounds because they are better than Riverside.

Lincoln Elementary school playground.

Homeowner Play ground

soccer is the only sport using school playgrounds

have used playgrounds at Jefferson Elementary

Church grounds and elementary schools

School playgrounds.

Playground at Jefferson Elementary. We're also getting some walking in by the lots the city claimed in south lola from the flood - it's peaceful, no traffic, and nice scenery.

playground at the crest elementary school.

Jefferson playground and area north of middle school (currently soccer fields).

Also River Tree Church.

daughter uses school playground

School grounds for dog walking, open space. Alleys for frisbee. De facto trails for dog walking.

We will sometimes go to the various schools in town\

Jefferson elementary has great play ground equipment. McKinley school has a great space for soccer. And basketball courts at both.

Cottonwood Gardens

11. If you have children in the household, do they walk or bike to school? - Comments

Answer

Distance & age

Distance to the school. Rides with me.

Too far of a distance to walk

does not apply

I work, and my children go to school in lola, however we live in the country.

We live by the China Palace and my daughter has to cross Madison over to Jefferson to go to school and I am not comfortable with the way some people choose to speed thru that area of our square.

no children

Live outside of town

No Children

no children

Distance, over 3 miles from school.

convenience, inadequate sidewalks in some areas

They did when I had children. I have heard people say it isn't safe. They see things on TV and think they are happening everywhere. To my knowledge, no child has been kidnapped walking to or from school in lola.

we live in Gas City

we live too far away for them to walk to school

They walk home from school intermittently. Primarily at this point because there are not sidewalks the entire distance of the route and I am not comfortable having them walk on the street.

too far

No children at home.

no children

The school is too far away, and I would not feel comfortable with my child not having a safe way to get there.

no school age children, but we are too far from school building to bike or walk

personal security

children only here every other weekend

Safety and distance. No sidewalks.

Rural

no children at home :-)

Children are grown and not living at home

No kids

ride the bus

Exhibit K Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

Too young right now.

don't live by the elementary that my daughter goes to.

Too young, too far

We live north of Miller Road and our youngest child attends Jefferson which is too far for them to walk or bike. Our oldest child attends the Middle School so we drop her off on the way to Jefferson.

We live across town from where we are sent to school! Would love to go to a school closer! We live on Funston & they have to go to jefferson school district.

live on the outskirts of town.

Because she doesn't like some of the neighborhoods that she would pass through.

Just a little over protective and she is only seven. :)

no children

Live outside of town

Not to school since I am going to work at that time anyway, but home from school

We live too far away-on the highway.

they ride the bus

We did when they were in elementary school, but we had a scare with a stranger and since then we no longer do.

We are 8 blocks from school, so sometimes if the weather is good, they bike or walk to Jefferson. I am not comfortable to let them go unattended (K-3rd grades)

Live outside the city limits

bus

The younger ones ride the bus the older ones drive themselves.

they ride the bus

we live in carlyle

We live 5 miles outside lola.

Too young and distance.

Live out of city limits.

Live in the country north of lola now. They ride the school bus. When we lived in town they walked to elementary school and sometimes to middle school, sometimes biked to Christian School when still in city limits

One walks, rides bike, and gets rides on occasion. The other goes to school out of town and gets a ride daily.

Too far from the school.

Mother's parania!

I take my kids to a private (catholic) school in Garnett -- best of my knowledge no Catholic school here & that is VERY important to me.

ride the bus

Even if they were old enough, it just isn't safe.

They ride the bus.

bus

We live on Dodge Drive. It's a long walk or ride to Jefferson Elementary. They sometimes use the bike/walking trail, but usually we don't have that kind of time and we worry about traffic.

outside of town

One yes, one no.

On no: School too far and across busy streets.

They have a ride and I think Carpenter street is dangerous. It needs a sidewalk! So does north Kentucky all the way to Miller road!!!!

No because my children go to Jefferson and they would have to cross Madison st. which is hwy 54 and alot of vehicles go fast thru there and I am not confident that my children would pay that much attention.

bus

We live in the country.

bus

No children in our household.

12. The FEMA properties the City acquired after the 2007 flood are currently undeveloped and are being maintained similar to other park properties. The resources required to keep these areas mowed and maintained is substantial. Would you support a more natural approach to this property, if it is determined it won't be developed into a City park? A natural approach might include native grasses,perennials, shrubs and/or tree plantings to reduce the need for mowing. - Comments

Answer

I need more info abotu where these properties are.

Maybe, depends on design. Need more information

Dog park!

Would the natural grasses & growth be used for educational purposes and labeled. Could a more natural picnic area be included meaning not a shelter house but a mowed/maintained area.

But I would love to see it developed into something!

What a terrific idea, and what about a camping area? There are tons of possibilities to go with there.

I prefer a more manicured landscape.

Exhibit K Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

They need to be developed into usable spaces. A dog park would be a wonderful asset, as well as walking trails and nice paths to fishing areas at Elm Creek.

Why would you not allow city residents to do this but you would allow the city to do this.

Also recreational walking/bicycling trails where it can be done with connections to sidewalks and rail trail.

A dog park is a great idea. They naysayers don't know what a dog park is.

The money for maintenance needs to be invested in actual recreational facilities--not green space in the south part of town. What happened to the soccer field development by Riverside Park?? What's taking so long?

But like any project, it will need to be done in a manner that insures success. Planting the south lola FEMA properties to brome or native grass would not only cut the cost of mowing but could also make this area attractive, but only if the weeds and other predator grasses are eliminated first to let the brome or natural grasses flourish. There should also be some trimming around the lot edges to make it look clean and attractive. Otherwise, the area will just look like an unmowed weed patch.

It should be stripped of the streets and utilities and returned to a farm land field. It should also be sold if the residents their do not want to make it into a park for walking and other such activities.

lola needs a dog park.

Depends how close to other residential areas. High grass could be bad close to homes, with the chance of varmints becoming a problem in these areas.

what a show case that could be, there could be some great walking or running trails in that area, dog parks, frisbee golf areas other uses

I am in favor of having a controlled growth area there. It would also be nice to have the trail extended to wind through that area with benches and small meadow-like areas for picnics and such like. It would save the city the expense of mowing, and it would also help to provide a use that will beautify and draw people to that part of town

I think that is a wonderful idea. There is no reason to maintain it if it is not used.

arboretum, nut trees

I might under some circumstance. However, I think it is important to think about rodents, etc. that might move into the area.

Anything is better than the empty lots. Seems like a logical place for a dog park or some other very basic park space. (Basic = space that can be flooded with little capital loss).

It is nice to walk around down there since there isn't much traffic, so any improvement (even if it's a natural approach) would be fine with us. We would rather have money spent improving Walnut and Cofachique park and trail access points.

we need new soccer feilds and feilds where youth football can practice

Only if they are not going to be developed.

Natural would be okay if it isn't developed into something useable, but something useful is preferable.

I would like to see at least one of these areas turned into a dog park. If we can build a skate park for the skateboarders, then we should be able to build a park for our pets.

A tall native grass area would look nice if kept up.

I hope the soccer fields will be completed though.

This would be more natural and would be great for wildlife and would cut down on the environmental impact of mowing (i.e. oil, fumes).

We live just opposite such a property (322 N. Walnut) & would love for it to become a city park, as we have 3 girls ages: 5,7, &9.

I think a flower garden park would be wonderful for the elders of our town. Signs with the names of all the diffent plants would be cool.

We have plenty of unmaintained lots in the town. The city shouldn't add to it.

what is the difference between native grasses and weeds?

Some should be used to create soccer fields and parking.

I feel as much area the city has now they need to benefit that space in a way of having things to do for the kids. Yes in one section they are doing soccer fields. I think they need to come up with other ideas. Im sure alot of ppl have them too.

A dog park would be really good. My husband and I thought of buying some of the property and making a RV park with utilities and sewer. We have plenty of campers that want more than just a slab to camp on. These sites would be full during fair week as well as other times. We go to Garnett North Lake and have so much to do there including the fishing. We can't afford the price that lola puts on property. Look at the price tag for the land to continue the Prairie Spirit Trail.

I would not mind the natural approach, but would prefer a larger area for Riverside Park. The kids need more places to go, and more things to do, along with the parents and families accompanying them.

I could go either way on this one, but to say that these properties are being "maintained" is quite the overstatement. I've seen the recent condition of a lot of these properties. and I am not impressed.

the maintenance would be substantial either way

Would love to see waterwise or native prairie plantings/demo gardens with gravel trails, community flower gardens. DOG PARK.

Being on the western edge of the eastern woodlands, an arboretum would be cool. A semi-wooded area with benches and natural (Not paved) trail would be a great addition to hang out in in summer, to read, mingle with neighbors, just relax. perimeter fence would reduce worry about traffic so kids and dogs could run free. pond or running water would be nice.

If this space is planted in natural grasses, maybe sheep or goats could be added. Possibly a large pond or several smaller ponds could be created. The dirt from the ponds could be used to raise the land area surrounding them. These higher areas could have trails on them. The ponds could be stocked with fish. This would create a magnet for fisherman from surrounding areas. Maybe this area could be open to ORVs. Dirt could be piled high for lots of play. Enthusiasts would come from miles around t

13. What activities do you normally participate in when you visit a city park in lola? Check all that apply. - Comments

Answer

Softball, volleyball, basketball, etc.

Exhibit K

Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

I couldn't find where to make this comment but wanted to make sure a discussion took place on the accessibility of the trail. The trail is my backdoor neighbor and have no problem with it. It is used probably more then folks know. But it's difficult to get there to use it. People have to cut through yards mainly especially those with children. Crossing State Street to start from Cof Park is scary and north there's really no place to park and start.

baseball

Ultimate Frisbee, Basketball

football, baseball

Softball

Soccer

baseball games

watch high school football at the park

football, softball

Pickleball

baseball/softball

A great place to take grandkids.

baseball, track, soccer, youth football

football, soccer

Youth Rec programs and red barn.

Horseshoes, Pickleball

use running track 3 or 4 times a week, cycle twice a week on rail trail, swim during summer times

Football and basketball

football, soccer, ultimate frisbee, frisbee golf, baseball, etc.

softball

football,baseball ,track,fair,ACC Drama in the Park

Husband has played slowpitch softball for years at Riverside park. Grandkids play ball, swim and play at the park. Sometimes I walk at the park or take kids to play.

Attend track meets, football games at stadium; swim meets at pool; softball games at diamonds all in Riverside Park.

High School football and softball.

IOLA DOES NOT HAVE A PARK WITH A GOLF COURSE.

baseball/softball/soccer/football/basketball/frisbee

soccer, baseball, basketball, football, dodgeball

baseball, SOCCER, frisbie, basketball

baseball

Baseball/softball, soccer and futsal, basketball, and football.

softball

football,baseball

Walking was hard during the winter as city snow removal piled snow from the streets up on the corner sidewalks making it impossible to cross streeets at corners.

baseball, soccer, flag football,and basketball.

Youth rec league sports

soccer, baseball, softball, flag football, football, women's volleyball,

softball, baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball

Our children participate in softball in the summer and volleyball in the fall league. I participate in women's volleyball.

soccer/softball

Baseball,Softball

Youth-Flag Football, Baseball

baseball, softball.

skateboard park waste of \$\$\$

Softball, baseball, basketball, football, pickleball, volleyball.

baseball, softball, football, rodeo, fair

Softball/baseball

soccer asnd baseball 7yr old,slow pitch softball adult

baseball, football

Football, track meets

I, myself, perform the ones checked. Our kids however perform nearly ever one of these activities at a city park.

Softball fields

soccer, baseball, football, track, flying kites

Softball, baseball, football, volleyball

baseball, softball, basketball, football, frisbee

softball, soccer

Whatever excuse we can find to be outside when it is nice.

softball, soccer

DOG WALKING! I see many of my neighbors, daily, at the same event, btw. We'd love a place to legally play with our pooches off leash.

Also, nature exploration: chasing frogs, spying on bunnies, identifying insects and native plants.

Prefer natural to lawn-like areas.

soccer, volleyball

baseball, soccer

Softball/Baseball

Family Reunions

Exhibit K Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

anything with a ball

14. What activities or park elements would you most like to see added to the City's park system? Choose all that apply. - Other responses

Answer

Indoor Swimming Pool/Activity Center
Better bathrooms/ water fountains that are well maintained
Dog Park
Dog Park
frisbee golf
mentioned previously..indoor facility
year-round indoor recreation facilities/pool
racquetball court
Dog park
Disc Golf
fishing
arts and crafts center,
frisbee golf course
Water feature
Cofachique Park-restrooms
FISHING
bathrooms
Raquetball, dog park, fishing
restrooms at Meadowbrook
other
Rv Sites with utilities and sewer.
see below
large, fenced in, shady dog park; benches; year-round restrooms; water fountains
indoor swim

14. What activities or park elements would you most like to see added to the City's park system? Choose all that apply. - Comments

Answer

A frisbee golf course might be good for the high-school aged kids who don't have a lot to do in lola.

Anything that would/could spark an interest to exercise or be active

I checked picnic tables/benches but I would have checked just benches. All the seating in most of the parks are attached to a table, except where they put the new equipment last summer at Riverside. Just a place to sit and read and enjoy the surroundings would be nice.

More signage would be a benefit. Native landscape, but minimal in areas of use to prevent a security issue.

*Fishing *Shelter houses with electricity *Racketball

Makes no difference to me but I think whatever the younger people would use would be worthwhile.

Ultimate frisbee is cheap, social, gender free, and vigorous. I would like to see it encouraged for all ages.

Maybe put a walking trail through the south lola FEMA area after it is planted to brome or native grasses.

I would like to see some kind of bridge or something built in riverside park, like they built recently in the park of gas city

Question #1. I don't live in the City of lola. That was not an option. I have lived in the area for 11 years.
Question #9. It's a big drop from 2-3 times/month to 1/2 per year. I'm in the 6-8 times/year category.

Pickleball

The 300'x300' area on the southwest corner of South Washington and Akers was proposed as a dog park to the city commission. Over 150 people signed a petition to use this area. It is ideal. The city commission gave us no consideration and we were told they were not interested in our petition.

Disc golf is a sport enjoyed by all ages for very little investment in equipment. The course is easily built as it includes only concrete pads and chain link baskets. It is one of the fastest growing recreational activities and supported by a number of national organizations.

walking/running trail, indoor pool, indoor walking/running track, workout center (treadmill, ellipticals, spinning center (cycling)), indoor pickleball, racketball courts

I don't know. There seems to be ample things for me to do in lola, but at 72, my needs aren't as great as others.

Some areas already have some of these things, but it would be nice to have it available at other parks as well. Having all the parks and schools connected to trails would be great as well.

putt-putt golf

we also liked the dog park idea.
hiking or mountain biking trails
nature trail with stations to talk about foliage, wildlife or other interesting items.

Would like to see lola take advantage of Neosho River to enhance and encourage walking activities. In my experiences in other communitites, people are naturally drawn to water. Another option would be fountains.

upgraded bathroom facilities in riverside park

Would like to see the Praire Spirit Trail extended to Riverside Park.

A trail to Elm Creek would be great, plus areas cleared of brush/weeds/poison ivy, etc. to make fishing desirable.

Exhibit K Parks & Trails Assessment Survey

At this time with the economy i don't believe it is a good idea to spend more tax payers money on any of the things stated above.

More playstructures at Meadowbrook.

putt putt golf would be nice.

Anything would help

Another thought - I have noticed that cities are trying to collaborate their city-wide garage sale in one location so there are not crazy drivers running around during sale day. I usaully participate in that day. I would be willing to either take items I have for sale to the park and set them up there or I would be very willing to shop. Another opportunity to allow out-of-towner's to see our park area. Keep up all of your good works!

maybe some basketball courts

Landscape work would be nice but expensive to maintain and prone to destruction if placed near play areas or fields. Nice lanscaping around park entrances might be a good idea, though.

Not all activities have to cost a fortune, and we can better utilize space and current equipment. New outdoor basketball courts are very expensive, but a small frisbee golf course is not at all expensive.

We could use the sand volleyball courts to host tournaments.

More play equipment would also be good.

wetlands identification/natural area with info graphic signs so children could learn about their environment, frogs, turtles, birds, riparian plants and how that ecosystem is vital to flood protection, evolution of farmland soils, etc.

and oh, yes, obviously it would be a hands-on, catch the frogs kind of place.

More trash can and benches

Exhibit L
Parks & Trails Survey



Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Parks and Trails Survey
Response Status: Partial & Completed
Filter: None
 Aug 04, 2010 9:54:09 AM

TextBlock:

We received great feedback from the Parks and Trails Assessment! Thank you for your participation. From the Assessment and the first public input meeting, the Vision Iola team has a better understanding of how the parks are currently being used. Now the Vision Iola team would like to know what priorities rank at the top of your list for the specific parks. Please assist us by answering the following few questions.

Riverside Park is classified as a regional park, as it brings residents from all over southeast Kansas. This park has recently received many upgrades and the ball fields are in good condition. However, in an effort to meet the recreational needs for all residents, which of the following improvements would you like to see in Riverside Park? Please list the following in order of priority with 1 being the most important.

1 = Most Important

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Ranking Score*
Add a racquetball court	[Bar chart showing 4 votes for rank 1]					47	4.0
Add a new centralized play area with 2 play zones, one for ages 2-5 and one for ages 5-12	[Bar chart showing 3 votes for rank 1]					47	2.9
Trail system within the park	[Bar chart showing 2 votes for rank 1]					47	2.4
Play area for tots near the ballfields	[Bar chart showing 3 votes for rank 2]					47	3.0
Indoor Pool	[Bar chart showing 2 votes for rank 2]					47	2.6

*The Ranking Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted rankings by the number of total responses.

Meadowbrook Park is Lola's only park that would be classified as a community park. This means the park draws from more than just the surrounding neighborhood due to its size and the amenities offered within the park. Which of the following improvements would you like to see in Meadowbrook Park? Please rank the following in order of priority with 1 being most important.

1 = Most Important

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Ranking Score*
Upgrade tennis courts by adding new lighting, wind screens, benches, storage, etc.							46	3.2
Add a full size basketball court							46	3.3
Add a wiffleball/tee ball field							46	4.0
Add a play area with play events targeting older kids (5-12 years of age)							46	3.4
Add a small parking lot							46	3.4
Add a walking path							46	3.7

*The Ranking Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted rankings by the number of total responses.

In the last year have you or your children used the play equipment in Cofachique Park?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			13	27.0 %
No			30	62.5 %
Other			4	8.3 %
No Response(s)			1	2.0 %
Totals			48	100%

There are now recreational pieces of equipment geared for adults. The equipment is similar to workout equipment you would find at a gym (i.e. step machine, rowing machine, leg press machine). Would you use a piece of equipment like this in a park setting?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			27	56.2 %
No			20	41.6 %
No Response(s)			1	2.0 %
Totals			48	100%

Do you see a need for a restroom located in one of the pocket parks on the downtown square?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			37	77.0 %
No			11	22.9 %
No Response(s)			0	0.0 %
Totals			48	100%

Some of the FEMA flood property may be well suited for park use. Please rank your interest for developing the following new park areas in order of priority with 1 being most important.

1 = Most Important

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Ranking Score*
Dog Park						47	2.7
Spray Park						47	3.2
Campsite Park (fire rings and camping)						47	3.1
Frisbee Golf Park						47	3.1
Fishing Pond						47	2.9

*The Ranking Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted rankings by the number of total responses.





Our equity map shows a deficiency of park acres north of US 54 and east of Kentucky Street. Would you support the development of a neighborhood park in this area?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			31	64.5 %
No			16	33.3 %
No Response(s)			1	2.0 %
Totals			48	100%




TextBlock:

Many comments and feedback have been received for the county's property on the downtown square. Although this property is NOT part of Vision Iola, in order to plan for City facilities, please answer the following questions.




Would you support plans for a Spray Park (zero depth water feature) on the county property on the downtown square?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			28	58.3 %
No			15	31.2 %
Other			3	6.2 %
No Response(s)			2	4.1 %
Totals			48	100%




Would you like to see a small playground on the county property on the downtown square?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			37	77.0 %
No			10	20.8 %
No Response(s)			1	2.0 %
Totals			48	100%




Would you be in favor of moving the existing gazebo on the northwest corner of the Courthouse property to a shadier and more visible location on the southeast corner?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			24	50.0 %
No			22	45.8 %
No Response(s)			2	4.1 %
Totals			48	100%




In the previous survey, a majority of respondents do not allow their children to walk to school for safety reasons. If a safe walking environment and proper crosswalks and sidewalks were available, would you allow your child to walk or from school?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			31	64.5 %
No			8	16.6 %
No Response(s)			9	18.7 %
Totals			48	100%



Natural Play/Imaginative Playgrounds are a way to offer kids an opportunity to interact with more natural elements in a safe environment. Have you experienced one of these types of play areas? If so, please tell us where.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			6	12.5 %
No			40	83.3 %
No Response(s)			2	4.1 %
Totals			48	100%



From our assessment and public input meeting, there is a need for a dog park in lola. Many communities across the country are finding dog parks have many social and recreational benefits and are used by all generations of residents. In addition, a dog park is an ideal use for the FEMA flood property recently acquired by the City and is low maintenance. Would you support the concept of a dog park in lola?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			43	89.5 %
No			4	8.3 %
No Response(s)			1	2.0 %
Totals			48	100%

The need for more fishing areas was identified in the recent assessement and public input meeting. Would you support having fishing access to Elm Creek at the south end of Washington Avenue?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			46	95.8 %
No			0	0.0 %
No Response(s)			2	4.1 %
Totals			48	100%

If access was available on Elm Creek on south Washington for fishing, would you use it?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			24	50.0 %
No			24	50.0 %
No Response(s)			0	0.0 %
Totals			48	100%

Would you support developing the pond in Cedarbrook Subdivision for recreational fishing?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			38	79.1 %
No			9	18.7 %
No Response(s)			1	2.0 %
Totals			48	100%

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Parks and Trails Survey

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

Aug 03, 2010 5:41:24 PM

1. Riverside Park is classified as a regional park, as it brings residents from all over southeast Kansas. This park has recently received many upgrades and the ball fields are in good condition. However, in an effort to meet the recreational needs for all residents, which of the following improvements would you like to see in Riverside Park? Please list the following in order of priority with 1 being the most important. - Comments

Answer

Although all of these things sound nice, I doubt the costs are likely worthwhile, instead maintaining and caring for the existing park seems most pressing. The addition of soccer fields is something I feel strongly that lola needs, as we have been making do with ACCJC long after soccer has established itself as a primary sport here in Kansas.

A bigger or more water attractions in and around the pool would be a benefit.

Families with children of multiple ages would have a difficult time watching children in 2 different play areas.

When families visit the park with children of different age groups separate play zones don't work well. Swings, merry-go-rounds work for all ages, they are just used differently.

Don't build new facilities (indoor pool) in a flood zone.

Add good fishing access areas along the river.

I would list an indoor pool number one but not down in the flood prone park area, play area build on the idea of natural creative play areas not just equipment, trails could be in other green areas in south lola, the top of the dike could be an extension of the rail trail

Would like to see a trail system that incorporated the Neosho River nearby.

3. In the last year have you or your children used the play equipment in Cofachique Park? - Other responses

Answer

used the picnic table

Not sure

no children

In previous years when children were younger

3. In the last year have you or your children used the play equipment in Cofachique Park? - Comments

Answer

Was not aware of a park with that name

It is so spread out and I worry about the traffic, my child is under 3...but this is the closest park to my house.

I see lots of people using the park, particularly at lunch time.

When my grandchildren were a little younger they loved that park and my grandson particularly enjoyed climbing on the tank.

I live close to there, and people stopped there constantly to eat, to play or just to sit. It's a wonderful area, and is used a lot.

Our kids are adults.

my children are older. we frequently stop and eat a quick meal at park when the weather is nice. recently was reminded that even several days after rain much of the play equipment are in large puddles of water.

Daughter briefly climbed aboard the howitzer one day while we were stopped there

4. There are now recreational pieces of equipment geared for adults. The equipment is similar to workout equipment you would find at a gym (i.e. step machine, rowing machine, leg press machine). Would you use a piece of equipment like this in a park setting? - Comments

Answer

I would use it if it were close to where I was..but wouldn't make it as a planned destination

It would be wonderful to have additional workout equipment along a walking trail. The college used to have something like this many years ago which was used regularly.

I have mixed feelings about this. How would you have enough to service many people, and how would it be kept outside without being damaged?

I could use it after running at the track in the park

provided nobody was around to watch

5. Do you see a need for a restroom located in one of the pocket parks on the downtown square? - Comments

Answer

There are no public restroom facilities in the downtown area. In the past we have been at the mercy of the County Commission to have restroom facilities for even community events. Even on the nights of band concerts there are no restrooms available

A clean public restroom available round the clock seems like a good addition to our community on the central town square. This also would mean that the public would not need to use the restrooms in the courthouse or businesses as much.

We can always use more for downtown areas. Anytime there is a 2 hour or so event - where do you go if it's the night or weekend?

It would probably have it's problems but there are numerous functions downtown when a public restroom is needed.

With reservations. It would need daily maintenance. It would be very helpful during Farm City Days. Perhaps we should just have port a pottys at times like these.

Many of the local businesses do not offer public access to their bathrooms at all or unless they are a customer. I think this is definitely needed.

Would be nice, but I know may be difficult to keep clean & if it wasn't able to be maintained it would become a distraction/eye-sore.

Visitors that stop at our downtown square need restroom facilities. The courthouse is locked on Saturday and Sunday's when they might be stopping. It is important for us to consider the needs of our visitors and it will give us additional restrooms at city wide events like Farm City Days.

Absolutely

the court house has open restrooms to the public it is in the center of the square.

I do, but keeping them from being vandalized or clean may be a major problem. I can see one on the square so that people can not use the mechants who aren't even buying things. WE have people stop in all the time, and pretend that they're going to look at ACHM, but do directly to the bathroom.

Would be handy, but cleaning and maintaining might be expensive.

An official rest area would be nice. Both travelers and lola citizens could use them. Maybe travelers would stay longer or at least return later for a longer stay.

a must, too many events rely on porta potties or court house, If we can revitalize the square area this will become even more important

I don't know how to answer this because I don't know what a pocket park is. But, if it is one the square, I think as long as the court house has a public bathroom, that should be sufficient.

If you want to draw people downtown, provide public restrooms.

6. Some of the FEMA flood property may be well suited for park use. Please rank your interest for developing the following new park areas in order of priority with 1 being most important. - Comments

Answer

A public fishing area has been a long time want for our community.

Don't understand why there needs to be a special park for dogs. Can't they enjoy the "human" parks we already have?

I think a spray park is really not a good use of money. Other than a very few parents & kinds I know of no one who has an interest in this.

I'm not sure what a Frisbee Golf Park is, but the city does not need to support a golf course. There are plenty of places to play frisbee.

I don't currently own a dog, but I have been to the dog park in Topeka and one in Durham, NC. I think they are great! With the proper rules they can work.

If lola is going to build a spray park, it should be in a downtown location, to attract people driving along 54, and not on FEMA property.

Picnic tables, benches and shelter would be nice.

I really only care about the first two, but the survey forced me to rank all 5.

arboretum would be strong first choice

how about a spray park closer to the population not in the south area of town, I do not fish but others could benefit from access to Elm creek from the FEMA area,

If spray park is a water park that is for the children that isn't a swimming pool area, I believe it is VERY important to have this park. We have been blessed to live in a community with one of these and this is a wonderful family gathering place. And it is used a lot with the younger children that can't swim. Picnic tables should surround this too. This would be so much fun.

None of these are of interest to me personally, however I know many people would like to see a dog park created on that land and I would support that.

7. Our equity map shows a deficiency of park acres north of US 54 and east of Kentucky Street. Would you support the development of a neighborhood park in this area? - Comments

Answer

This would be a wonderful place for a walking trail.

Since that is where I live, I'm all in favor.

if the costs are reasonable

I see play equipment in the low income housing area that I assume any children can use since it was bought with tax money.

Not anything large, but a few playground items and maybe walking area.

I would think there's enough people out in that area to warrant something.

I think that the old rail bed could be a hiking/biking trail though. It should be linked to the SUPER 8 and B & B theaters.

good idea because this area has kids that have less resources to get to a park somewhere else in town

The park in Gas is great

None of the neighborhood parks are in use now as it is.

8. Would you support plans for a Spray Park (zero depth water feature) on the county property on the downtown square? - Comments

Answer

A discussion at an early Vision Meeting focused on moving the bandstand to the southwest corner of the square and placing a spray park in its place. First of all, the bandstand is concrete and relocation would be difficult. There's also historic value in the bandstand. If they had a spray park on the square I'd rather see it on the south side somewhere. Remember however we do have festivals on the square.

I think this would be a great addition to the downtown square in the summer.

Absolutely not

- 1) not historical or meaningful like the veteran wall
- 2) I've heard "move the bandstand" NO - it's been there a long time & is a landmark
- 3) Very specific users - not multigenerational!
- 4) I really don't think there's much interest - especially compared to a dog park or racketball facility
- 5) We can find a better use of our money

IT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONTAINED AND MONITORED

It would be nice but not a big priority

The downtown square is already crowded since the new law enforcement center. Any more would ruin the openness of the area.

This would be a great attraction to draw people to the downtown area with their families.

I do not feel a spray park is needed. I would like to see the money spent in other ways to enhance the draw to our downtown area. A spray park is expensive and hard to maintain. We could use fountains, sculpture and other picnic or seating type areas for folks to use when they gather there.

A couple of Picnic tables near the war memorial would be nice. Concrete ones.

A spray park just does not seem appropriate for the downtown square. Because of the swimming pool I question the need for one, but if people think they would use it maybe put one near the swimming pool/ball parks or in the FEMA area.

I'm going to leave that to the county. It's their property and I'm not sure how much litter they'd get later at night.

great place to draw people back to the square, might create the need for a few new businesses' there to support these activities

I don't necessarily think this is a square feature, but strongly support this as an added feature for the town. Unless, there are future plans to make the town square a place for community to congregate.

9. Would you like to see a small playground on the county property on the downtown square? - Comments

Answer

Yes, very small - maybe swingset & slide would be a nice use of space (on the southeast corner).

Only if it were very small.

Only if the equipment was more in keeping with nature. Not the metal and steel brightly painted colors that detract from the nature beauty of the square. I said yes to this, but only if this criteria can be met!

Only something small or better would be in one of the pocket parks.

Same comment as earlier.

This could be part of the rest area that I mentioned above.

there used to be equipment there in a limited fashion,

10. Would you be in favor of moving the existing gazebo on the northwest corner of the Courthouse property to a shadier and more visible location on the southeast corner? - Comments

Answer

The south side of the square has a lot of traffic noise--trucks, etc.--and would not be conducive to the concerts played at the bandstand.

I say no because it has always been there since i was a boy and would seem out of place to have the city band concerts any other place. However, after pondering it, the shady grassy area on the opposite side of the square does seem a better match for concerts and it does allow those passing through on 54 a chance to get a look at our better side. Put me down for a "maybe"

NO, absolutely not. The location is great for parking and walking to. It's very historic right where it is, especially if you want to move it for a "spray park" - completely not useful to multigenerations, very specific users.

I could go either way on this

current location is good, with parking and traffic. moving it would only increase the cost and not the usability

I know we need visibility for programs, but for musical things the greater sound of the traffic on 54 would be a distraction not only for the players, but also for the listeners (we get a lot of big trucks, cattle cars, etc going on 54)

I like the location of the gazebo, but do understand that some feel the other side of the square might be more visible.

Trees are planted and will grow. Parking would be less as it interfered with hwy 54, restaurants and stores on Madison.

Absolutely not.

It's historic, and the people go there, and it's out of the way of the problems in the later hours of the people who are ganged up on the square.

more visibility and the existing part of the square could be used for a water park, people could still park in their car's and listen to the band concerts.

Yes and no. Form = yes. It is charming and appealing for passersby on the highway. Function = no. The traffic noise from the highway might interfere with the occasional performance there.

11. In the previous survey, a majority of respondents do not allow their children to walk to school for safety reasons. If a safe walking environment and proper crosswalks and sidewalks were available, would you allow your child to walk or from school? - Comments

Answer

have no children

I see no reason why children should not be able to learn to safely walk and/or ride bicycles to and from school. When I was in gradeschool, we had a yearly assembly and had to pass a safety test before we could get a license for our bikes.

On one occasion, this license allowed the police to identify and return my bicycle - after being stolen.

Not sure why we no longer do this.

I have no school age children

distance from my house to school is to great

I no longer have children at home. They did walk to school as long as they were walking in a group.

I don't have kids, but I would like to see better sidewalks, both for child safety and to make the neighborhoods more appealing.

no kids, but I support a walking environment

We need a sidewalk down Carpenter street and a walking path from Carpenter thru the right-away over to Lincoln. The statistics on children being kidnapped or hit by cars on the way to and from school would show that children are very safe in lola.

don't have younger kids. I think kids should walk, but I don't think it's safe at this time. Example, any kid living around Garfield Street, people fly up and down Garfield.

My children are adults.

My kids always walked to school. Those parents who do not are paranoid and likely will not allow their kids to walk no matter how secure and safe it is.

12. Natural Play/Imaginative Playgrounds are a way to offer kids an opportunity to interact with more natural elements in a safe environment. Have you experienced one of these types of play areas? If so, please tell us where. - Comments

Answer

no idea what you are referring to

Sounds interesting

I have a young child and this interests me

On our farm

Is this one w/braille & learning things? We went to a park in Wisconsin that had all sorts of fun imaginative/learning things & musical hands-on things. The park in Toronto lake area is really nice w/music things & a nice rubber(recycled tires) ground cushion -that is a really nice facility.

This is the type I would like to see - if any - on the town square.

No, but I think it's important to get kids away from video, tvs, etc, and help them get slimmer.

our kids used to always use dirt piles or trees or culverts to play in and use their imagination

13. From our assessment and public input meeting, there is a need for a dog park in lola. Many communities across the country are finding dog parks have many social and recreational benefits and are used by all generations of residents. In addition, a dog park is an ideal use for the FEMA flood property recently acquired by the City and is low maintenance. Would you support the concept of a dog park in lola? - Comments

Answer

Absolutely not. As I said earlier in this survey - it seems horribly irresponsible to spend tax dollars on a dog park, when dog owners are now free to use existing parks.

I don't hate dogs or dog owners, it just seems silly to me.

Absolutely, I have supported since day 1 & will continue. I think this would be a HUGE draw for lola & I know I would take my dogs.

YES. HOPEFULLY WITH THE NEW ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER THE NEED WILL BE EVEN GREATER AS NEW AWARENESS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CARE ARE TAUGHT TO YOUNG PEOPLE THE PARK WILL BECOME NECESSARY FOR THE HEALTH OF AN ANIMAL.

If it is not a big expense.

Having a dog park would be a great opportunity to allow dogs to run and get out of pens and off of leashes. Also, a walking track around the dog park would allow dog owners to get their walk in while the dogs play.

My only concern with a dog park is the sanitary issues if irresponsible pet owners fail to clean up after their dogs.

As long as it is maintained and there is a cleanup rule for the users. MORE DOGGIE DOO IS NOT ACCEPTABLE on our streets and sidewalks. We need a pickup law.

It is a great way for dogs to play with peers and for people to meet.

Absolutely. That is something that would be used by all ages.

a must!!!

talking to dog owners in other towns with these parks they are very popular and well used, this group is a very responsible part of the community as well after all they are friends with man's best friend

14. The need for more fishing areas was identified in the recent assessment and public input meeting. Would you support having fishing access to Elm Creek at the south end of Washington Avenue? - Comments

Answer

Good idea to legitimize it, instead of demonizing the few who may be involved with less than savory activities here. Let the light of day shine on it, and maybe a light for night fishing too.

If it were cleaned up and made safe. In the past there were 'druggie' people in that area. ...may be that would encourage them to get out if more of the population were in that area.

Absolutely.

not a fisherman but thinks great idea to develop this area

Exhibit M

Parks & Trails Existing Parks Map

Parks & Trails
Existing Parks Map

CITY OF
IOLA
ALLEN COUNTY KANSAS

SCALE
0 600 1200 1800 2400

LEGEND

- CORPORATE CITY LIMITS
- LAND SECTION LINE
- STREET OR PUBLIC ROAD
- RAILROAD
- INTERSTATE NUMBERED ROUTE
- U.S. NUMBERED ROUTE
- STATE NUMBERED ROUTE
- SCHOOL
- HOSPITAL
- SPORTS COMPLEX
- CITY HALL
- COUNTY COURT HOUSE
- MUSEUM
- COLLEGE
- LOW WATER CROSSING
- POST OFFICE
- KNOT OFFICE

PARK CLASSIFICATION

- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- LINEAR PARKS / LINKAGE
- COMMUNITY PARKS
- REGIONAL PARKS
- AREA IN NEED OF PARK SPACE

PARK LOCATION

- 1/4 mile radius
- 1/2 mile radius
- 1 mile radius
- 2.5 mile radius

SERVICE AREA

OREGON RD.

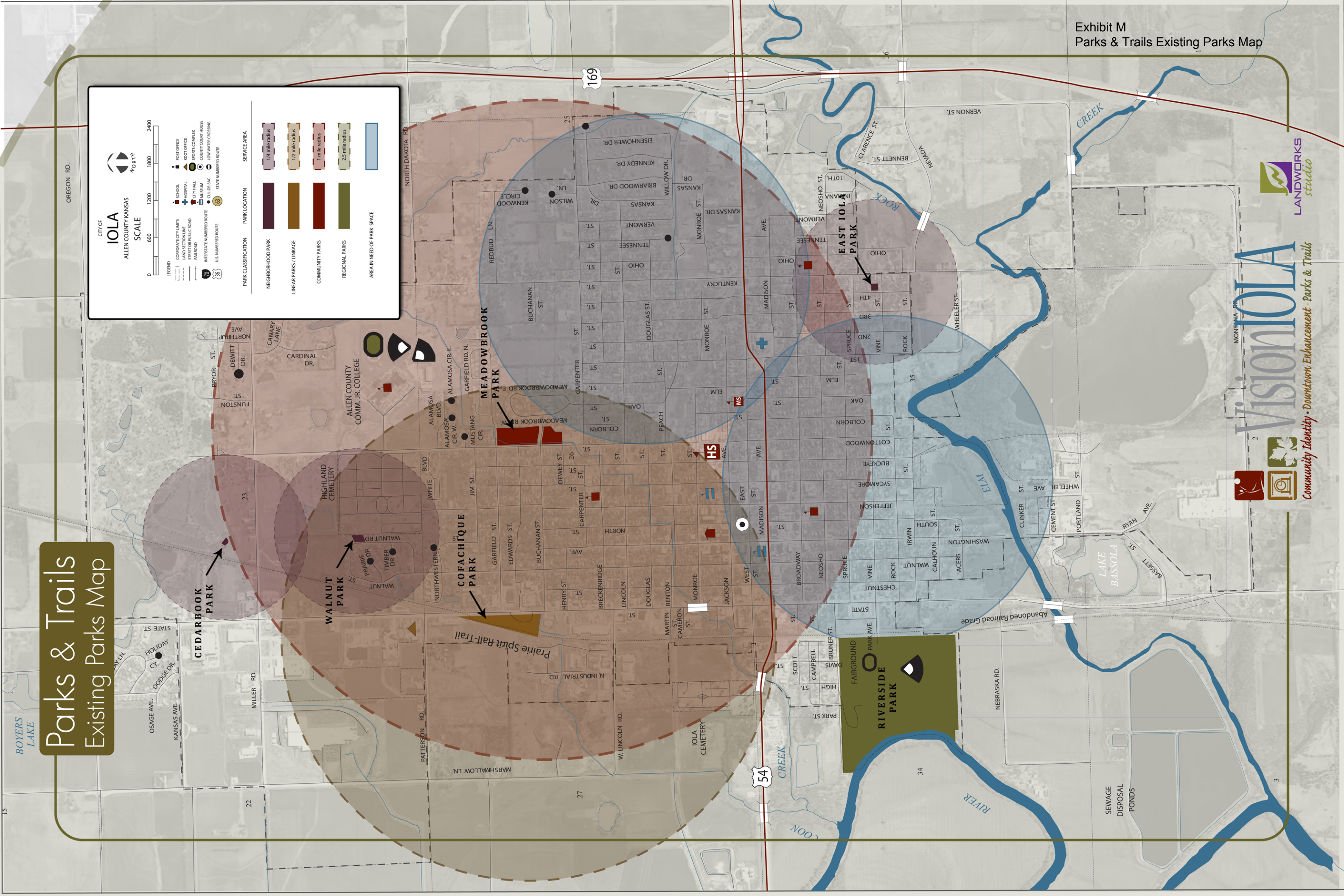


Exhibit N
Riverside Park Improvements Board

Exhibit N
Not to Scale

Proposed Improvements

- A Improve entrance and circulation by adding a median and reducing additional drives to eliminate cross traffic through parking areas. Incorporating a simple Round-a-bout would improve and simplify multiple intersections created at the west end of the entry drive.
- B Add a walking trail along the levy that will encompass the entire park and connect to the Prairie Spirit Trail Extension.
- C Add an open sided structure over the horseshoe pits and add outdoor lighting.
- D Consolidate existing play equipment and add additional exercise equipment and play equipment designed for ages 2-12.
- E Stripe and pave angled parking along the park loop road to accommodate large crowds using the facilities.
- F Create ADA access points to the trail running along the levy.
- G Create a walking trail within the park that will provide an exercise opportunity while allowing adults to supervise children using the play equipment.
- H Rebuild and display historic signage monument. To be located within roundabout created by entry improvements.

Additional Recommendations:

Landscaping around building foundations would provide additional color while reducing maintenance during mowing.



Riverside Park

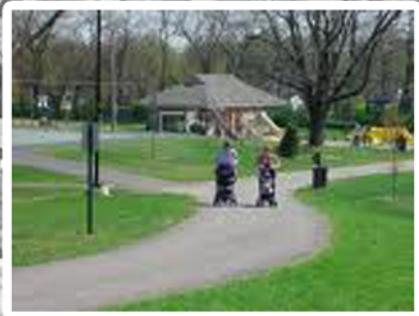
Scale 1:200

Exhibit 0

Meadowbrook Park Improvements Board

Proposed Improvements

- A Widen and pave an entry drive providing in & out access and parking stalls near the parks newly added amenities.
- B Enclose and improve existing play equipment.
- C Add Spray Park with bench seating, in ground spray features, above ground features, and adjacent picnic lawn.
- D Create a walking trail within the park that crosses Buchanan Street and access the southern have of the park.
- E Create t-ball / waffle ball field
- F Construct full size basketball court.
- G Provide improvement to Tennis/Pickle Ball courts by adding storage and wind screens.



Meadowbrook Park

Scale 1:100

N. COTTON STREET

MEADOWBROOK ROAD

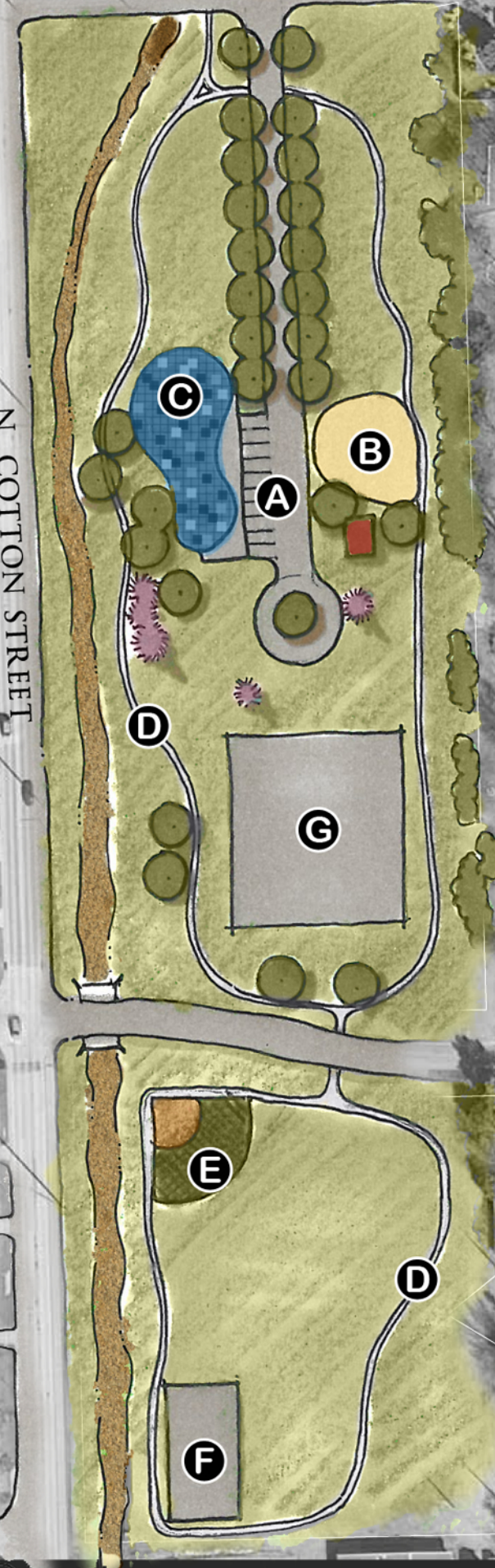
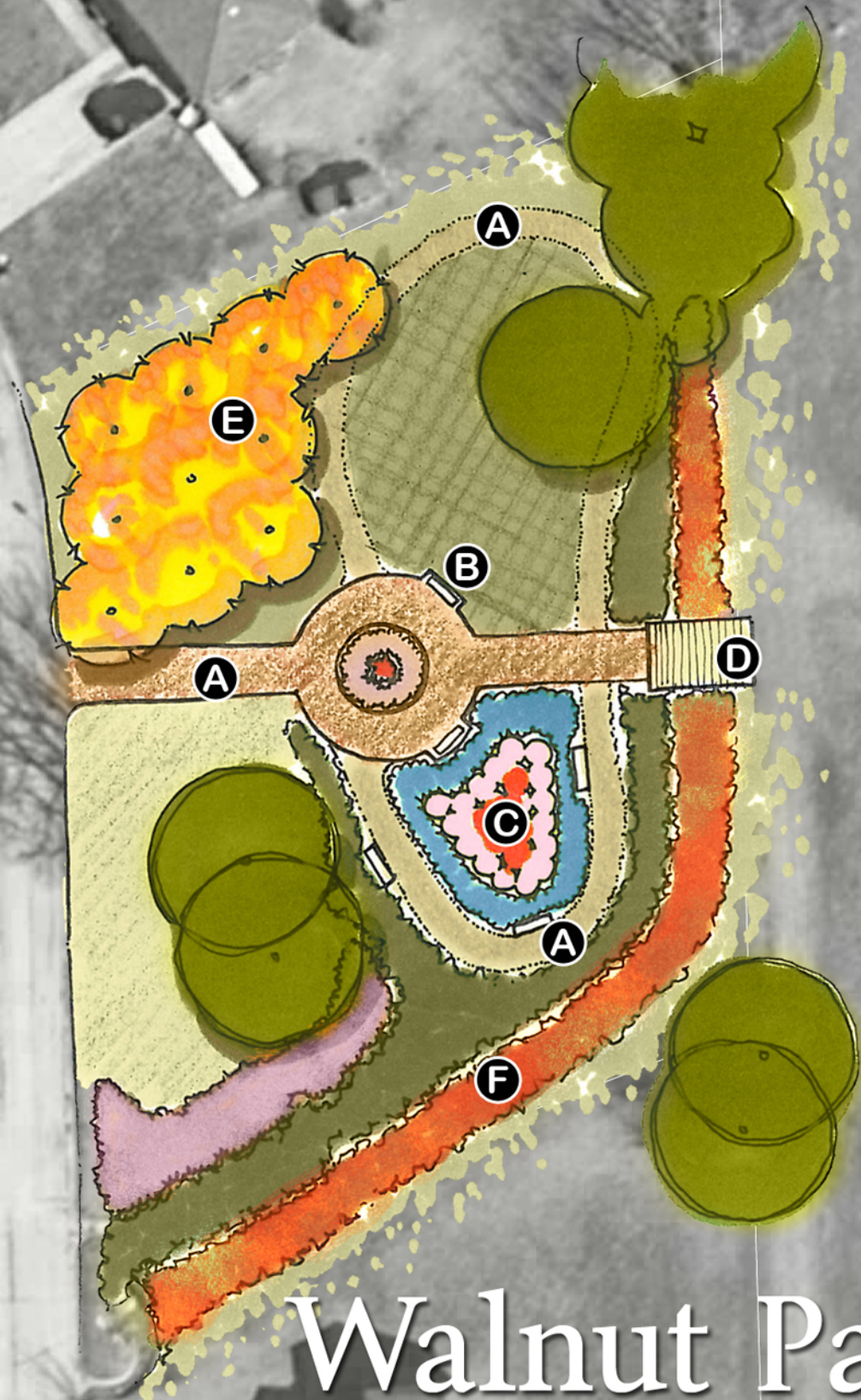
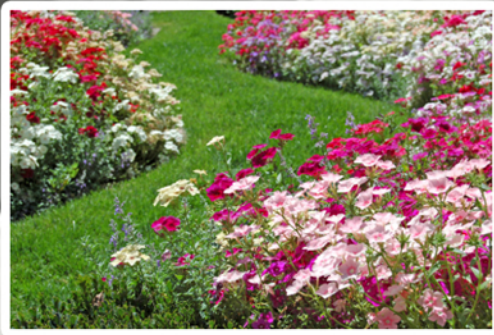


Exhibit P

Walnut Park Improvements Board

Proposed Improvements

- A Create walking entrance into Walnut Park using an unpaved surface connecting to a meandering foot path used for relaxing walks.
- B Add covered bench seating throughout the park and along walkways to encourage visitors to sit and enjoy the park.
- C Create a small intimate plant garden filled with aromatic and colorful plants to attract butterflies & hummingbirds.
- D Create a foot bridge across the drainage swell on the east side of the park, connecting Walnut Park to the adjacent cemetery.
- E Plant a grove of flowering and ornamental trees to provide soft shade and a colorful atmosphere.
- F Plant the existing swale to a public raingarden used to slow and absorb rainfall from the adjoining areas. The use of colorful and mass plantings will ensure low maintenance and a pleasing visual addition.



Walnut Park

Scale 1:30

Exhibit Q
Cofachique Park Improvements Board

Proposed Improvements

- A Add public restrooms near trail access.
- B Update existing park signage with newly designed park monument sign.
- C Create and add historical information and signage.

Additional Recommendations:

Additional landscaping throughout the park property would add visual appeal along State Street.

Replace or remove existing park play structures.



Exhibit Q
Not to Scale

STATE STREET



Cofachique Park

Scale 1:30

Exhibit R

East Iola Park Improvements Board

Proposed Improvements

A Add natural play environment featuring climbing boulders, berms and vegetation.

B Add additional shelter to link newly defined natural play environments.

Additional Recommendations:

Remove outdated play equipment and update park signage to the newly designed identity signage created during Vision Iola.



S. 4TH STREET



E. VINE STREET

East Iola Park

Scale 1:20

Exhibit S
Parks & Trails Improvements Map



VISION IOLA

Community Identity - Downtown Enhancement - Parks & Trails

Parks & Trails Improvements Map

CITY OF IOLA
ALLEN COUNTY KANSAS

SCALE
0 600 1200 1800 2400

LEGEND

- CORPORATE CITY LIMITS
- LAND SECTION LINE
- STREET OR PUBLIC ROAD
- RAILROAD
- INTERSTATE NUMBERED ROUTE
- U.S. NUMBERED ROUTE
- STATE NUMBERED ROUTE
- POST OFFICE
- KNOT OFFICE
- SCHOOL
- HOSPITAL
- CITY HALL
- COUNTY COURT HOUSE
- MUSEUM
- COLLEGE
- LOW WATER CROSSING

NEAR TERM TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS 1-5 YEARS

MID TERM TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS 5-10 YEARS

EXISTING TRAILS TO BE CATEGORIZED

EXISTING PARK PROPERTY

FEMA PROPERTY

FEMA PROPERTY TO BE USED FOR PARKS

CITY OWNED PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIAL PARK PROPERTY

EXISTING CITY PROPERTY

LAND TO ACQUIRE (APPROXIMATE PROPERTY LINES)

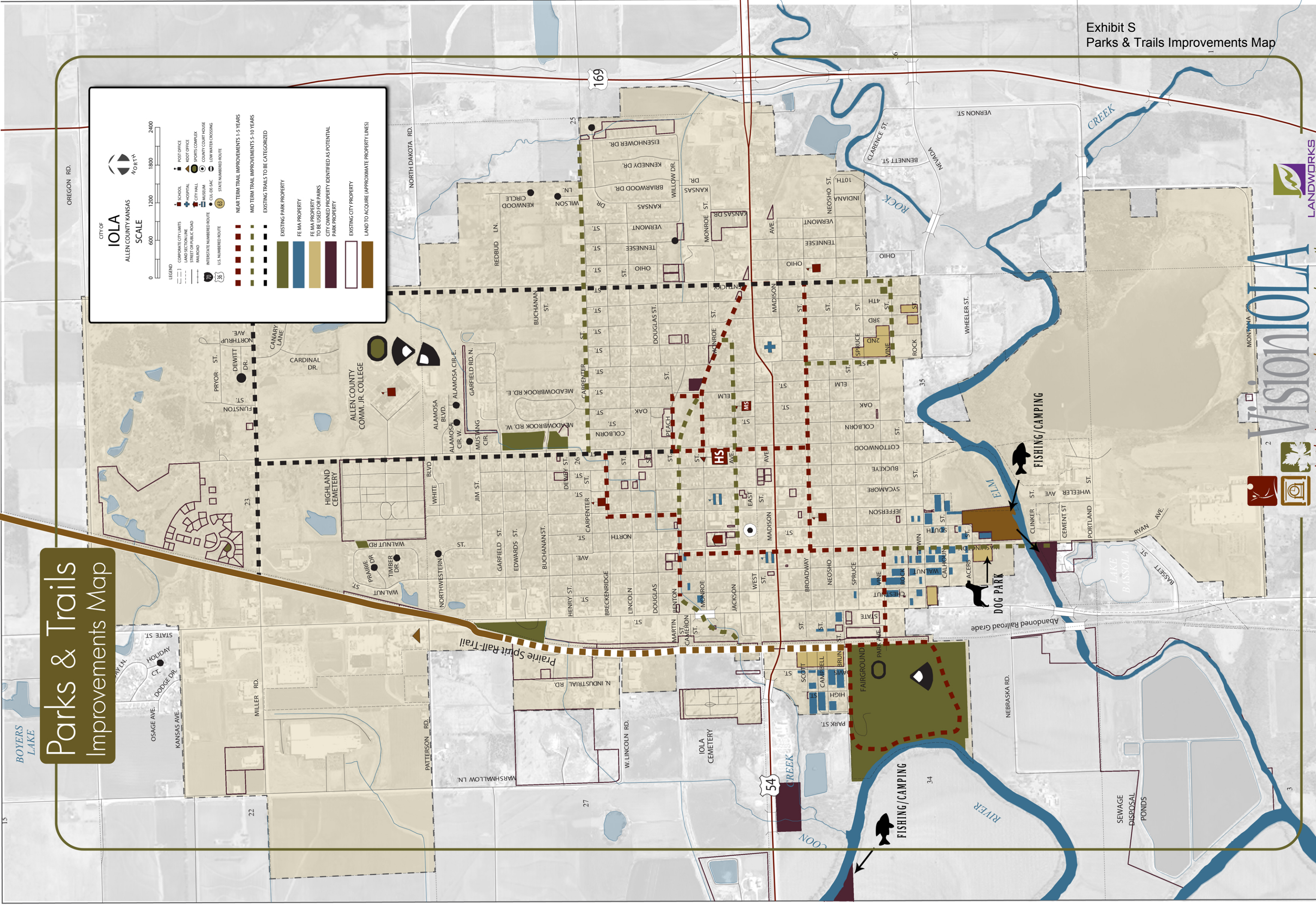
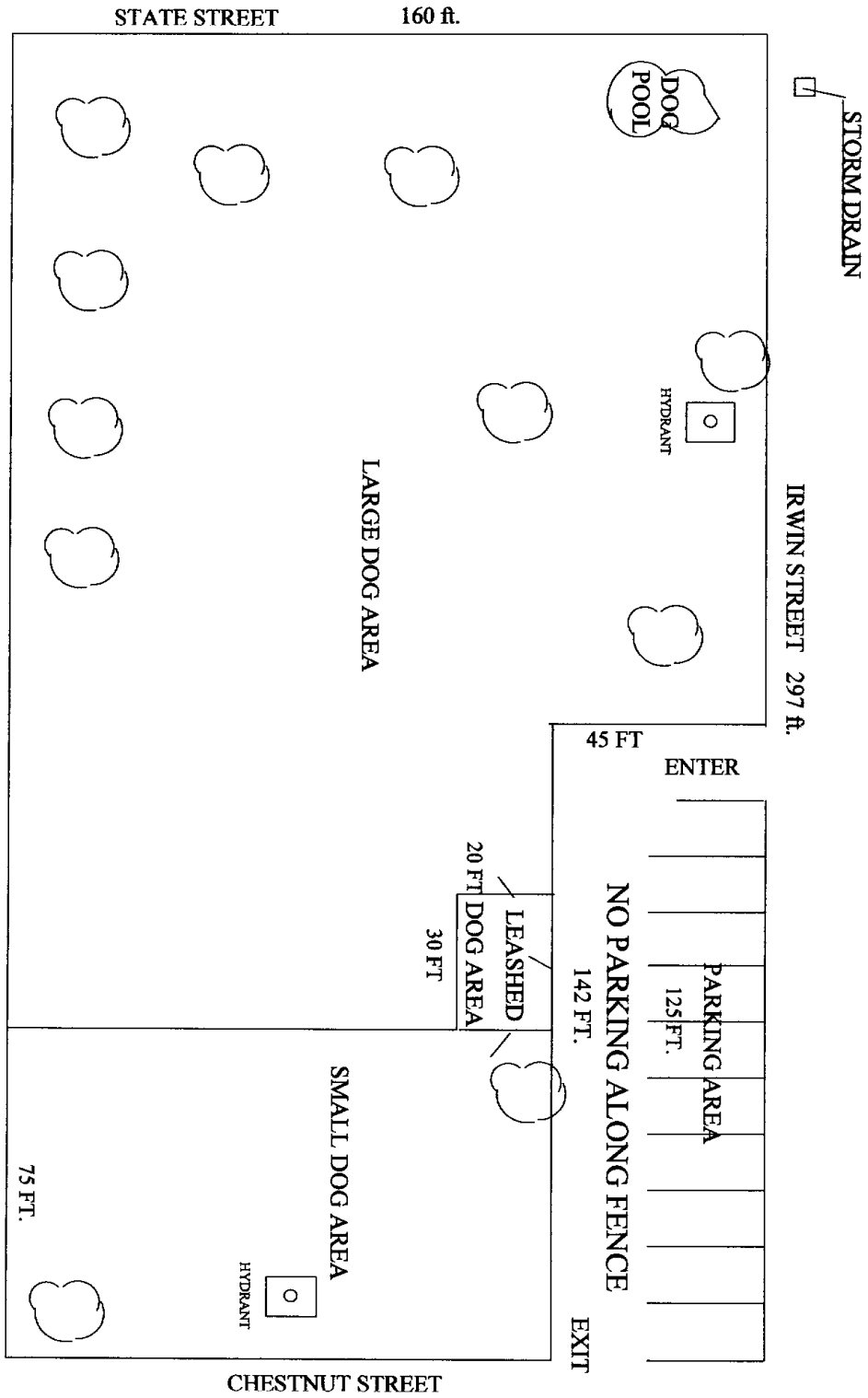


Exhibit T

Submitted Dog Park Design



SUGGESTIONS FOR DOG PARK TO BE LOCATED AT SOUTH STATE AND IRWIN STREET

- Attached drawing is based on the actual lot sizes, easements are outside the drawing lines.
- Upper left hand area is a drainage area that runs to a city storm drain. It might be possible to design a splash pool for dogs that like playing in water with overrun going to the city storm drain.
- Frost free hydrants centered in concrete pads are more practical than manufactured dog water stations and are much lower in cost. The manufactured stations look good but people don't use them. The owner has to go to the station to hold the pedal down while the dog drinks. Owners opt to use the hydrants that come with the stations to fill buckets for water. Suggested locations will have to be modified if a water line is not available at this location.
- It is advisable to use a heavy mulch material under each shade tree, covering the drip area of the tree. These areas are used by owners to sit while watching their dogs. PVC deck chairs are very practical for these areas. Tables are not used often but there could be a few PVC deck tables available.
- Rain protected plastic bag dispensers should be placed around the off leash areas, mounted to the fence posts.
- The parking area is designed with no vehicle parked toward the fence to prevent damage to the fence. The parking shown in the drawing is within the property line of the lot but if gravel parking is used then the blocks could be placed a few feet to the north. This would allow more backing and turning space. If the gravel parking is pushed far enough to the north then it would be possible to have some parallel handicapped-parking next to the fence. That section might be asphalt.
- Trash receptacles are not shown but could be placed in the parking area for easy access by the city trucks.
- A storage building is not shown but is advisable for winter storage of chairs and tables.



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