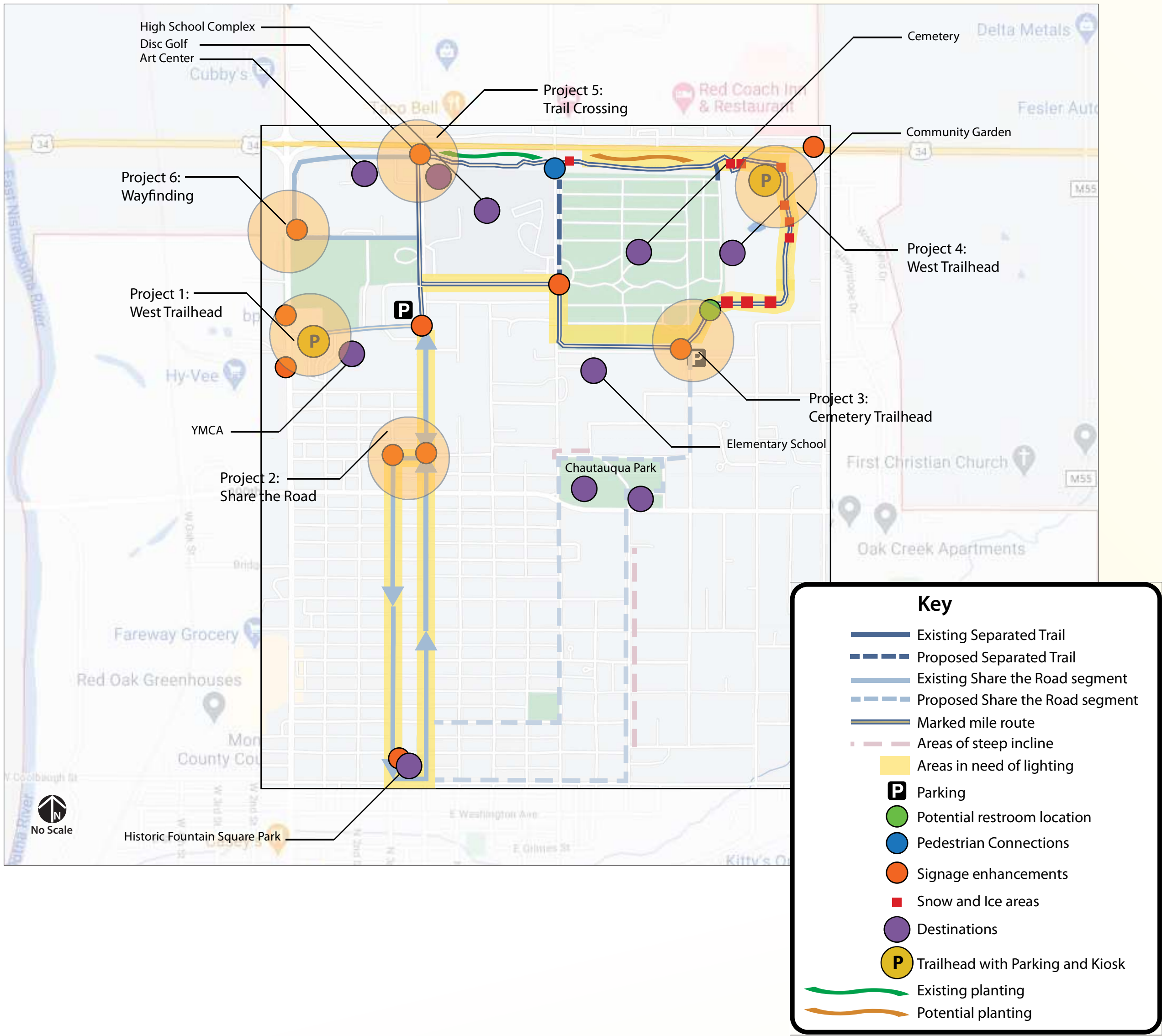
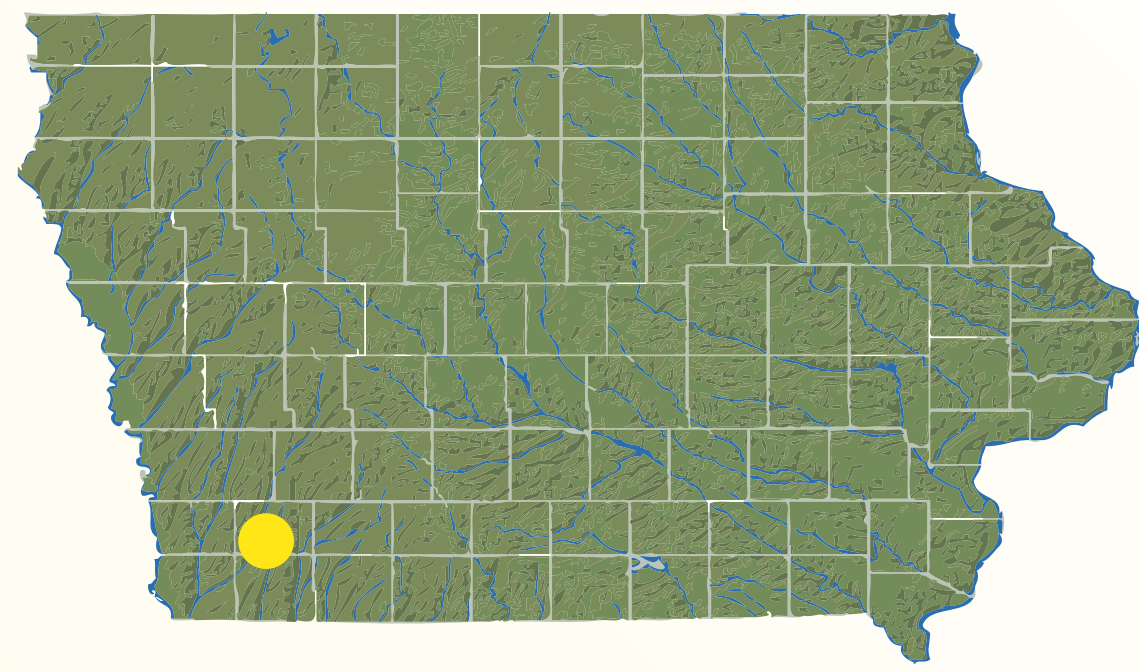


Red Oak Community Trail Trails Visioning



Red Oak Community Trail



Red Oak Community Trail Process Goals:

- 1. Trail Signage
- 2. Trailheads
- 3. Amenities: seating, bike racks, restrooms, lighting
- 4. Landscaping

Participants:

Larry Branstetter
Jamie Werges
Beau Boeye
Mark Benda
Brian Bills
Bev Randall

Partner:

Friends of the Red Oak Trail



Red Oak Community Trail parallel to 4th Street looking north.



Red Oak Community Trail parallel to Highway 34 looking west from cemetery.

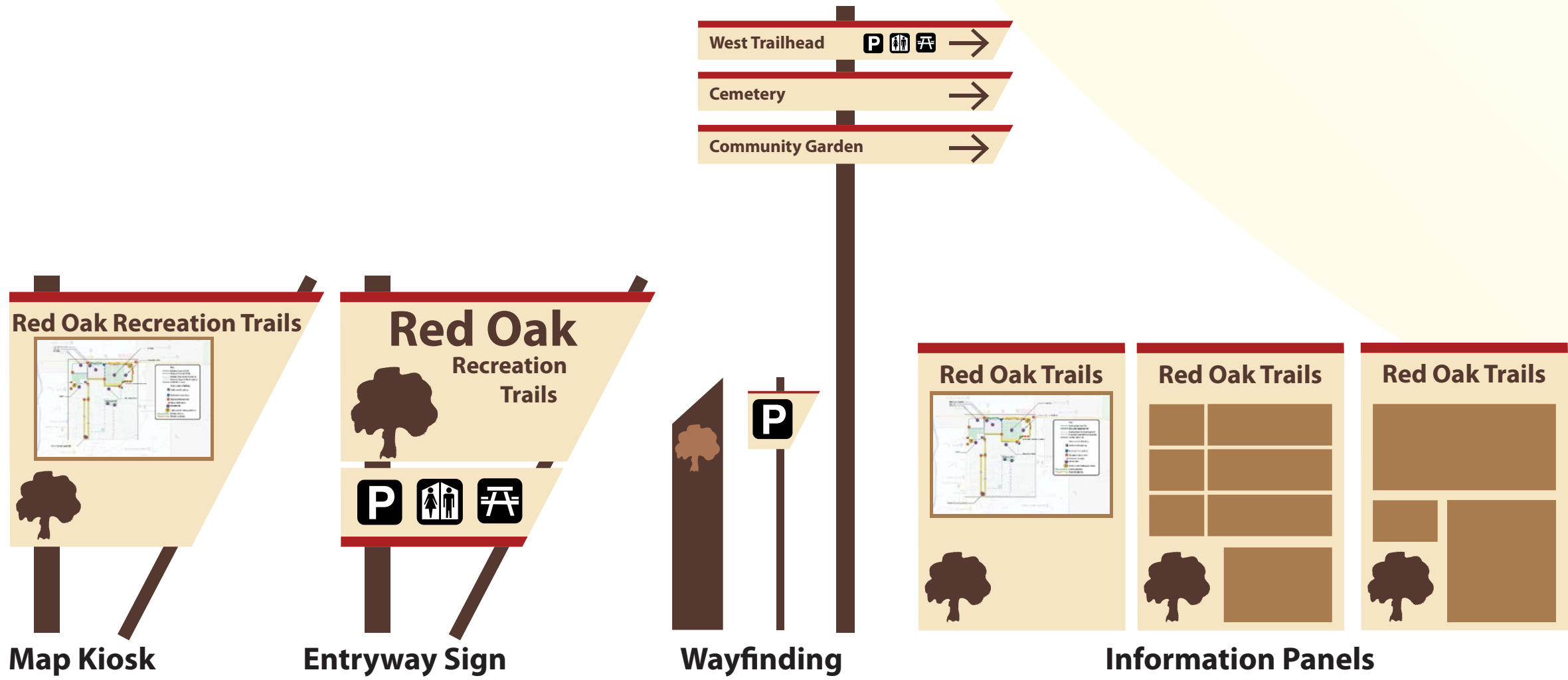
Trails Visioning Process



Trail Signage Concepts

Signage

Three signage family concepts have been presented through this project. These are meant to provide the trail committee with options so that once a system is determined, it incorporates elements that are exactly what the community wants and needs. These concepts were all inspired by existing pieces of the community and are designed to coordinate with the community signage system, creating a cohesive community aesthetic while maintaining a distinct trail signage system. The committee is free to take pieces of each of these concepts and incorporate them into a design that is most desirable for them and the trail community.

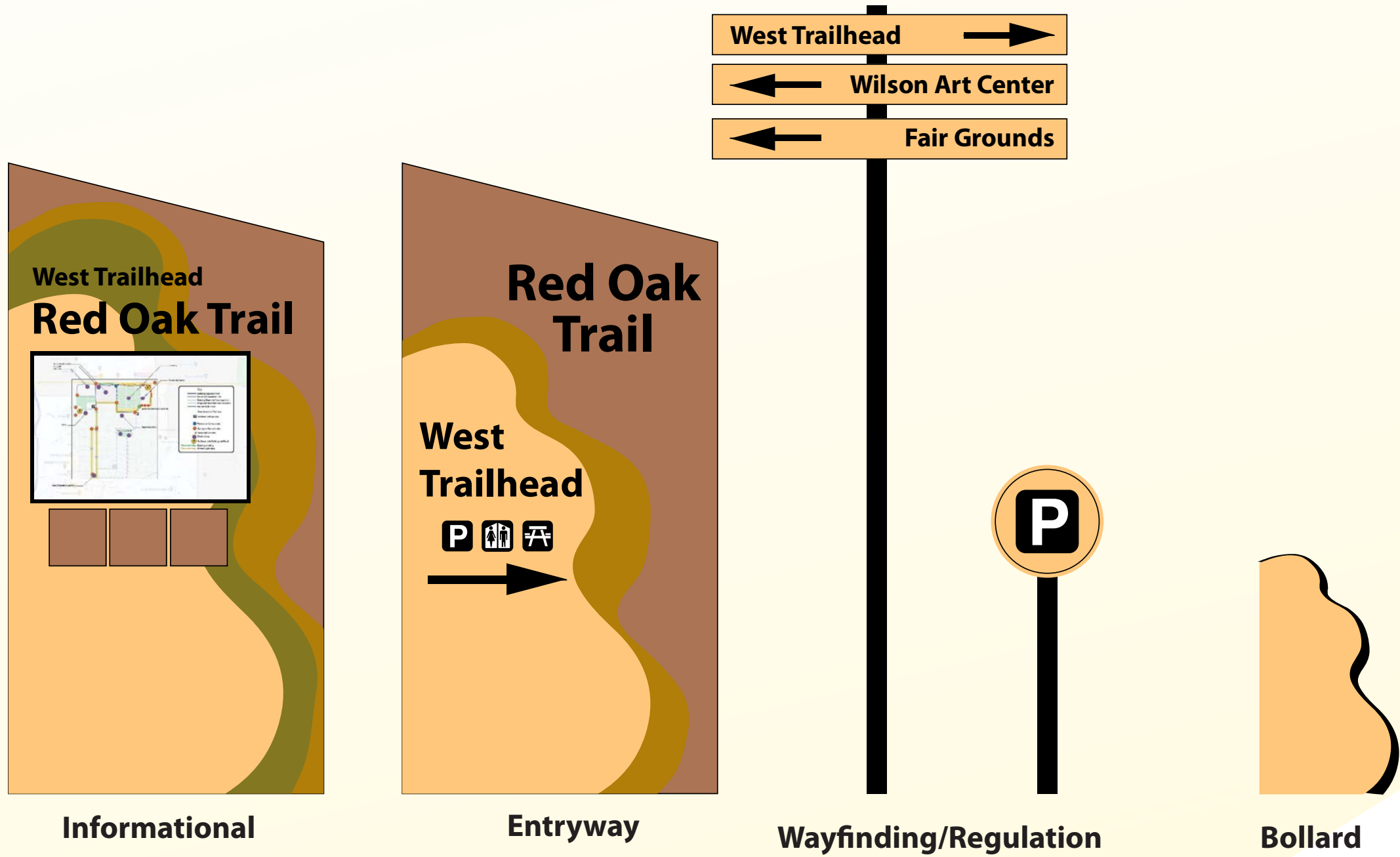
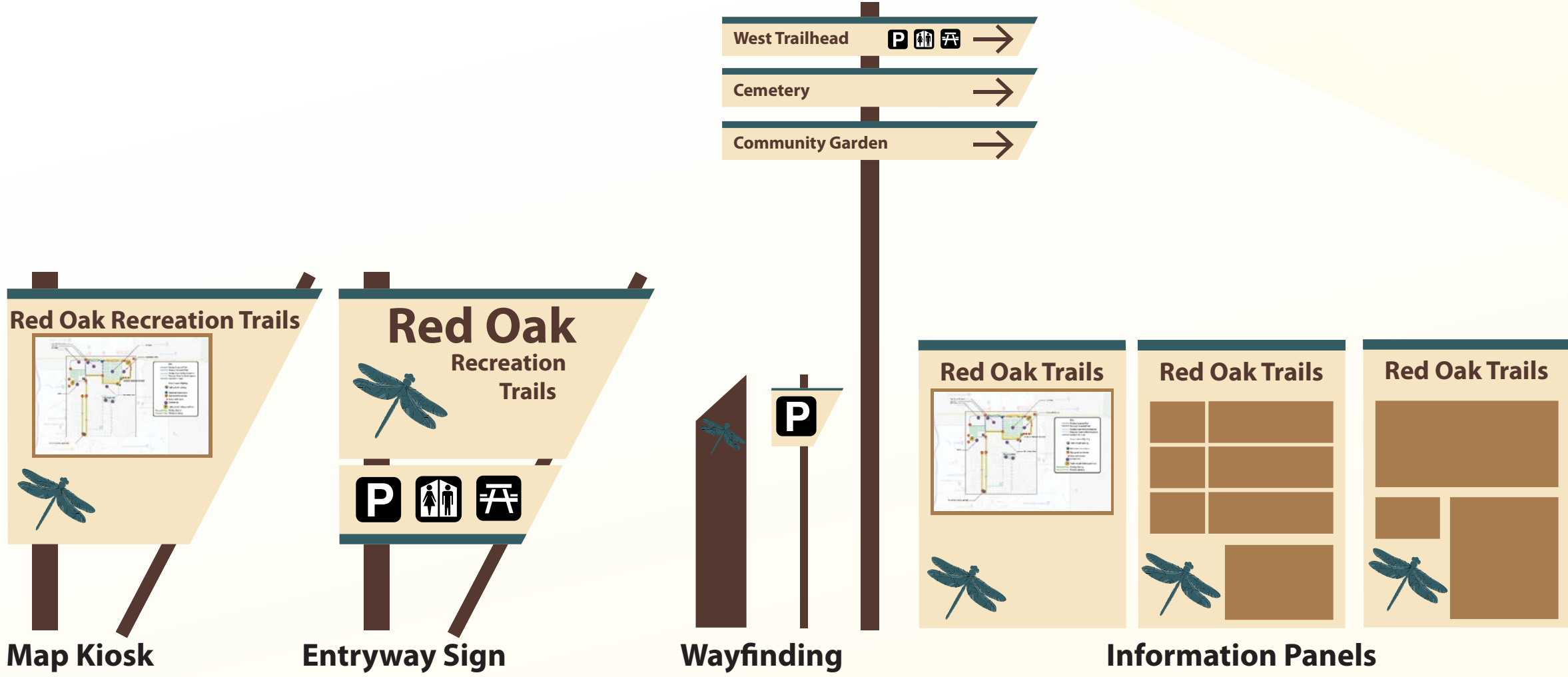


Community Entryway Sign



Concept One

Inspired by the angular base form of the community entryway sign, the first concept expands the quadrelateral shape. To denote the various sections of trail, two color and symbol concepts are offered here for use along the trail in Red Oak and as the system expands west toward the Nishnabotna River.



Concept Two

Inspired by the angular base form of the community entryway sign, the second concept also incorporates the quadrelateral shape as the frame. Design of the sign surface involves more organic shapes inspired by the Nishnabotna River and topography of the community. The color scheme was kept neutral but could be developed similar to concept one with a variety of colors per segment of the trail.

Concept Three

Signage concept three is a literal interpretation of the community name. A red oak leaf emblem, wood grain materials and rich brown hues celebrate the tree the community is named for.



Trailheads

Trailhead Design

The overall designs of trailheads for the Red Oak Community Trail include a paved surface area that defines the pedestrian areas, enhanced parking areas, and stronger wayfinding signage to and from the spaces. These types of enhancements improve a trail users experience as they prepare to access the trail or are completing their trail experience.



West Trailhead

Proposed enhancements will help elevate the visibility and accessibility of the trail within the park. Better defined parking, paved access to the kiosk and prominent trailhead signage promote use and safety and set the standard for the trail brand.

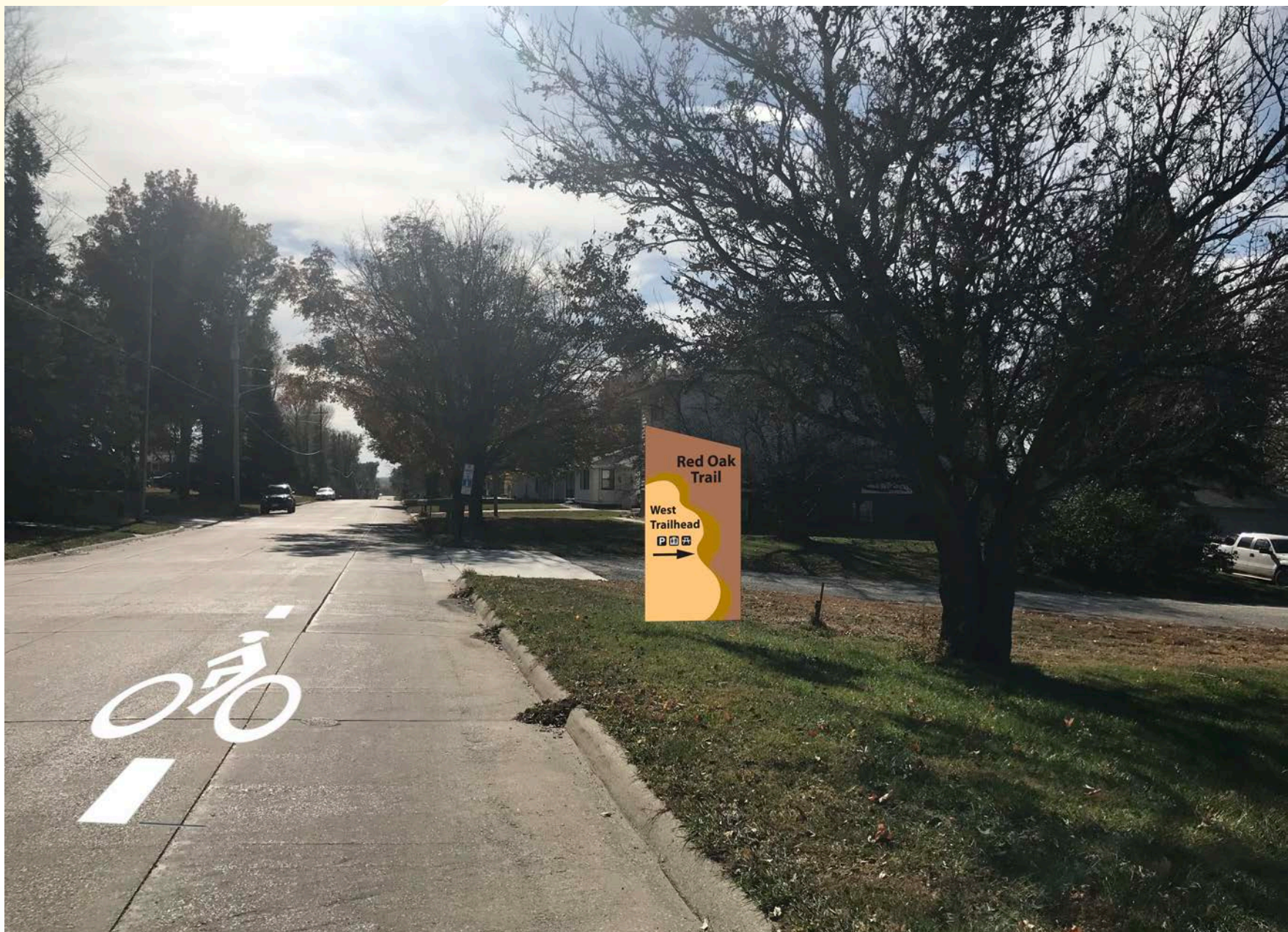


Cemetery Trailhead

Located south of the cemetery, this trailhead would provide access and amenities in the middle of the trail system. This location offers an opportunity to access the adjacent school grounds. Parking is limited but offering trail amenities at this location supports use.

East Trailhead

Located on the east side of the community, this is the newest trailhead. There is adequate parking and trail amenities provided at the trailhead. The proposed enhancements include entryway signage and Share-the-Road pavement markings. Entryway signage help trail users locate the trailhead. Pavement markings expand the system and promote safety.



Safety Enhancements

The Red Oak Community Trail system offers users a variety of riding experiences which requires riders to navigate a variety of landscapes and potential obstacles. A well-designed and implemented system of proper signage and well-maintained pavement markings promote safe trail use for all. The concepts illustrated here offer examples of how safety can be enhanced. Strategically incorporating lighting can also promote trail safety.



Signs and surface treatments help trail users navigate the Share-the-Road sections along 3rd and 4th Streets as they transport trail users downtown. The example below demonstrates enhancements on Commerce Drive looking toward Alix Street.



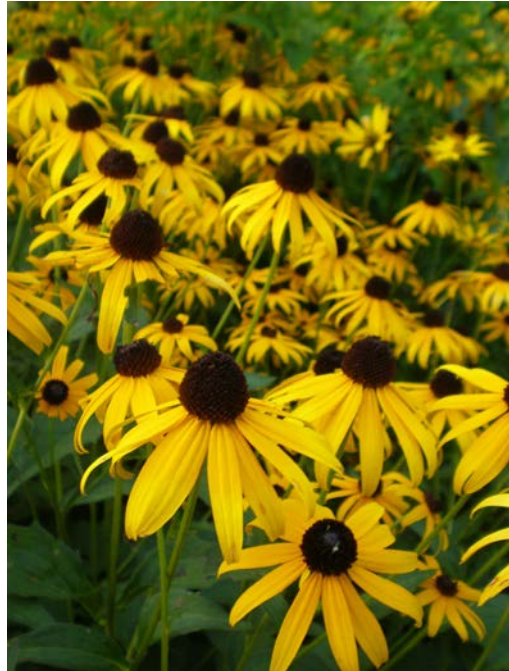
Areas where the trail system intersect the road system create opportunities for conflict. Enhanced surface markings and visible trail indications promote awareness and caution among vehicular drivers. A combination of crosswalk markings, standard traffic control devices and recently standardized Green Bike Lanes.



Trail Enhancements

Trail enhancements go beyond the installation of hardscape features; the use of plant material throughout the trail system provides trail users, the community and the environment a variety of benefits. Throughout the Red Oak Community Trail System, plants can help improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat, provide shade relief and break up winter winds. Native plant materials are recommended for their diversity, adaptability and ability to survive climate extremes. Some of the plants recommended for use throughout the trail system are shown here, but there are additional options available.

Trail Planting Enhancements Plant Examples



Black eyed susan
Rudbeckia hirta



Butterfly milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa



Wild bergamont
Monarda fistulosa



Pale purple coneflower
Echinacea pallida



Purple coneflower
Echinacea purpurea



Stiff goldenrod
Solidago rigida



Rattlesnake master
Eryngium yuccifolium



Partridge Pea
Chamaecrista fasciculata



Purple prairie clover
Dalea purpurea



Culver's root
Veronicastrum virginicum



Cream gentian
Gentiana alba



Asters
Aster spp.



Golden alexander
Zizia aurea



Foxglove beardtongue
Penstemon digitalis



Indian grass
Sorghastrum nutans



Big bluestem
Andropogon gerardii



Little bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium



June grass
Koeleria macrantha



Canada rye
Elymus canadensis



Prairie dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis



Sedges
Carex spp.



Kentucky coffee tree
Gymnocladus dioica



Sycamore
Platanus occidentalis



Hackberry
Celtis occidentalis



Tulip Tree
Liriodendron tulipifera



Catalpa
Catalpa speciosa



White Pine
Pinus strobus



White Oak
Quercus alba