



**ANKENY HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL  
PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN**

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# High Trestle Trail Experience

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### *Purpose*

The High Trestle Trail Public Arts Master Plan is the first step in identifying public art designed to create experiences along the trail that reveal local culture and supports Ankeny's hometown feel—turning locals toward the trail as a key community artery as well as a destination for regional trail users. This plan presents strategies and projects that shall connect the residents of Ankeny to the natural resources while enhancing expression of the hometown feel they highly value. Most importantly community input identified the unique place-making themes that public art can amplify. This authentically expresses Ankeny's most-loved characteristics. Focused along a key four-mile trail corridor that runs diagonally through the city, this plan is the next step in a series of recent activities aimed at increasing art and cultural amenities in Ankeny while growing Ankeny's attractive powers for residents and visitors.

### *Method*

A proven process was executed to develop this public art master plan—including site-specific concepts for art integration—along the High Trestle Trail. Neither artists nor concepts were predetermined. Information gathered included site considerations, existing plans, demographics of users including visitors and residents along the trail as well as input from those users. Critically, community input identified the unique place-making themes Ankeny's public art should amplify. Adding cultural and convenience amenities that follow these themes can leverage existing investments in the trail and peripheral neighborhoods into an exceptional community feature: one where everyone enjoys the trail in their backyard. Artists were solicited for site-specific concepts. The 33 concepts received were reviewed for their fit in a trail system by landscape architects, engineers, and the steering committee. Additional community surveys on the concepts shaped the final selections.

### *Community Input*

Art must be context specific to achieve significant impact. We researched existing plans and conducted additional research to ensure the community is the center of the research process. A steering committee was established and surveys completed by over 900 trail users and citizens. With advisement of City staff, targeted outreach was conducted to key stakeholders including

- Ankeny's Cultural Art Board
- Ankeny's Park and Recreation Board
- Uptown Association
- Ankeny Art Center
- Trail users & Bicycle clubs
- City Council members
- Art for Ankeny



*Recommended projects are listed, by location, beginning on page 18 of the Plan.*

## Recommendations

What follows are a series of recommendations for integrating unique experiences along the four mile corridor of the High Trestle Trail. Although distinct sites are identified in this plan it is the High Trestle Trail that establishes a connected corridor suffused with opportunities. Through permanent and temporary installations, citizens and visitors will be welcomed onto new porch steps, go round and around with strangers and play hide and seek with prairie animals. What is included here are all of the concepts that rose to the top based on public feedback; it does not necessarily mean all will be implemented.

# Key Placemaking Themes

Ankeny's authentic community qualities were discovered through interviews, focus group discussions, surveys and previous plans.

## Natural

Connection to natural recreation featured as the strongest results in fact finding. Restored and new prairie plantings as well as groves of urban trees can offer surprising moments of natural respite and action, places to gather, and places to play.

## History

Ankeny is a fast-growing community known for its "newness." Its handful of historic features remain largely unknown. Ankeny's Uptown area is a key focus of activation to leverage existing revitalization efforts.

## Trail Amenities

The community is loud and clear that priorities include safety, lighting, seating, shade, drinking water, gathering places, and wayfinding. When possible, public art should address these core needs.

## Hometown Feel

"Hometown feel" is what locals say they love most when describing Ankeny. There is a desire for art to weave a sense of safe neighborly connections that draw people out of their home for social connections and offer families places to make memories.

## High Trestle Trail

The most popular segment of the Central Iowa Trail Network is the High Trestle Trail (HTT) and High Trestle Bridge—over 250,000 annual visitors travel along the HTT. Despite HTT popularity and the local trail network, Ankeny wants to grow its pride for the HTT. The four mile section of trail that runs through and diagonally across the community has the potential to be its crown jewel: the artery of community, discovery and activity.

## Visual, Iconic Locales

There is a strong need for the photo-worthy, iconic spot that expresses residents' enthusiasm, binds their loyalty and promotes Ankeny's most attractive features to visitors and new residents through contemporary communication channels.





Head Over Heels  
PATRICK DOUGHERTY

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# High Trestle Trail Experience

## PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The City of Ankeny High Trestle Trail Public Arts master plan presents strategies and projects that connect the residents of Ankeny to natural resources while enhancing their expression Ankeny's highly valued hometown feel. Focused along a key trail corridor that runs diagonally through the city, this plan is the next step in a series of recent activities aimed at increasing art and cultural amenities in Ankeny while growing Ankeny's powers to attract residents and visitors.

The City of Ankeny is the fastest growing community in the Des Moines, IA metropolitan region. The approximately 67,000 Ankeny residents are preparing to invest in a popular recreational trail and incorporation of arts and culture experiences will leverage that investment towards support for their neighborhoods, quality of life improvements for citizens

and visitors, and a demonstration that *Ankeny understands that a community's connections to neighbors and to surrounding environments play vital roles in building thriving and resilient communities.*

In 2014 city ordinance established the Ankeny Cultural Arts Board. This Board was instrumental in creating a Community Cultural Arts Survey which identified strong resident support for more art and cultural amenities in Ankeny.

The City hosts an impressive network of nearly 80 miles of local and regional trails. The network will further expand as city projects already in the planning pipeline are completed. Beyond city limits, Ankeny is also a partner in developing regional connections through the Central Iowa Trails Network



Tysen's Tiles  
JULIA VOGL



(CITN). The High Trestle Trail (HTT) and High Trestle Bridge is CITN's most popular segment. It attracts over 250,000 annual visitors. Uptown Ankeny is home to HTT's southern terminus.

Ankeny has yet to capitalize on its potential to capture trail tourists even though recent developments suggest that outdoor recreation may be a key feature in attracting visitors and sustaining hometown enthusiasm for citizens.

In 2018 Ankeny's Economic Development Department planned Bicycle Tourism and Economic Development Strategies. Now completed, those strategies recommend

adding unique amenities to Ankeny's trail network, outlining steps Ankeny can take over the next eight years to place Ankeny on every bicycle tourist's list of places to visit.

This master plan identifies public art designed specifically for Ankeny to create experiences along the trail that reveal local culture and supports Ankeny's hometown feel:

*turn locals toward the trail as a key community artery and make a destination for regional trail users.*



# Methodology

## HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL EXPERIENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Bryan Gruhlke—Art for Ankeny Board President

Kim Hanken—Cultural Arts Board Member

Barb Vaske—Art Center Director

Nora Shea—Orbis Student Representative

Dominique Keeling—Pingora

Outdoors/Uptown Association

Amber Smith—Ankeny Parks Board

Member/Catch Des Moines

Kyle Robinson—Kyle's Bikes

Dave & Margaret Bond—Ankeny Residents

Deena Klesel—Ankeny Resident

Aaron Thacker—Ankeny Resident

Elected Officials & City Manager

## CITY STAFF

Derek Lord & Lindsay Fox—Economic Development

Ruth Hulstrom—Planning Department

Nick Lennox—Parks & Recreation

## GROUP CREATIVE SERVICES CONSULTING TEAM



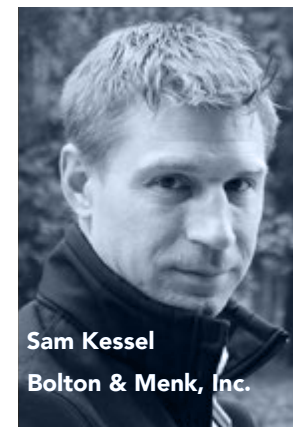
Teva Dawson  
Group Creative Services



Ryan Hanser  
Hanser & Associates



Mat Greiner  
Group Creative Services



Sam Kessel  
Bolton & Menk, Inc.



# Methodology

Group Creatives executed a proven process to develop this public art master plan, including site-specific concepts for art integration, along the High Trestle Trail. Neither artists nor concepts are predetermined. Information gathered included site considerations, existing data, demographics of users including visitors and residents along the trail as well as input from those users. Most importantly community input identified the unique place-making themes that public art can amplify. This authentically expresses Ankeny's most-loved characteristics. Artists were solicited for site-specific concepts. Those concepts were reviewed for their fit in a trail system. Community feedback on the concepts shaped the final selections which were reviewed for their fit in a trail system by landscape architects, engineers and key stakeholders. Community feedback on the concepts shaped the final selections.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF A STEERING COMMITTEE

In collaboration with city staff, a steering committee was selected.

## DATA GATHERING

Art must be context-specific to achieve significant impact. Review of existing plans and additional research ensured the community formed the center of the research process. Across all research methods, a central question was refined: what is a unique position for Ankeny's trail experience that people would support with frequent use, if not tax dollars?

Reviewed existing plans, data and budgets including

- City of Ankeny Bicycle Tourism Plan
- 2019 Ankeny Parks and Facilities Comprehensive Plan
- Culture Arts Survey
- Ankeny's Strategic Plan
- Ankeny's Comprehensive 2040 Plan
- Construction documents and projected plans for the spaces along trail route
- Related CIP budgets
- Current arts and culture assets

Additionally, the following were closely studied.

- Four recommended locations and trail extent
- Inventory of site/trail assets, constraints, amenity needs
- High Trestle Trail's current and future assets, site constraints and gaps in activation for both local residents as well as bike tourists

## STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

With advisement of City staff, targeted outreach was conducted to key stakeholders including

- Ankeny's Cultural Art Board
- Ankeny's Park and Recreation Board
- Uptown Association
- Ankeny Art Center
- Trail users & Bike clubs
- City Council members
- Art for Ankeny

## CITIZEN AND VISITOR OUTREACH

Because this project occurred outside of peak trail season, during year-end holidays, a caucus cycle, and—later—the spring 2020 COVID pandemic, online channels were used to reach trail stakeholders. This also encouraged broader participation in the process. The online survey was distributed through City channels and was completed by 901 respondents. Citizens were first solicited for input regarding the tone, themes and type of activation most desired for arts installations at recommended sites.

# Methodology

## SOLICIT PROPOSALS

Artists were selected for concept development using a national call mechanism to guarantee fairness and transparency. Artists whose experience suggests a good fit for this work were solicited to participate in the competitive call. An artist brief was developed to summarize project vision based on wider city goals for this initiative, placemaking themes, site constraints, proposed budget range, project timeline and user data. The Steering Committee and city staff offered feedback on the artist brief before it was released. The design team reviewed resultant artist proposals for quality and feasibility. The design team began conversation with over 30 artists and collaborative design teams or firms and received 33 concepts from 12 artists for consideration.

The Steering Committee, along with staff, provided feedback on the concepts and narrowed the list of projects under consideration. The planned community open house for project evaluation had to be canceled due to spring 2020 social distancing protocols. As substitute, evaluation was conducted via an on-line survey distributed to various stakeholders and those that completed the initial on-line survey. The survey was completed by 267 citizens both in Ankeny and beyond.

## DRAFT PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN REVIEW

The design team drafted the public art master plan for the High Trestle Trail corridor based on relevant data, placemaking themes, feedback gathered and refined art concepts. The Steering Committee, the Cultural Arts Board and other key stakeholders reviewed the draft plan.

## FINALIZED PLACE-BASED PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

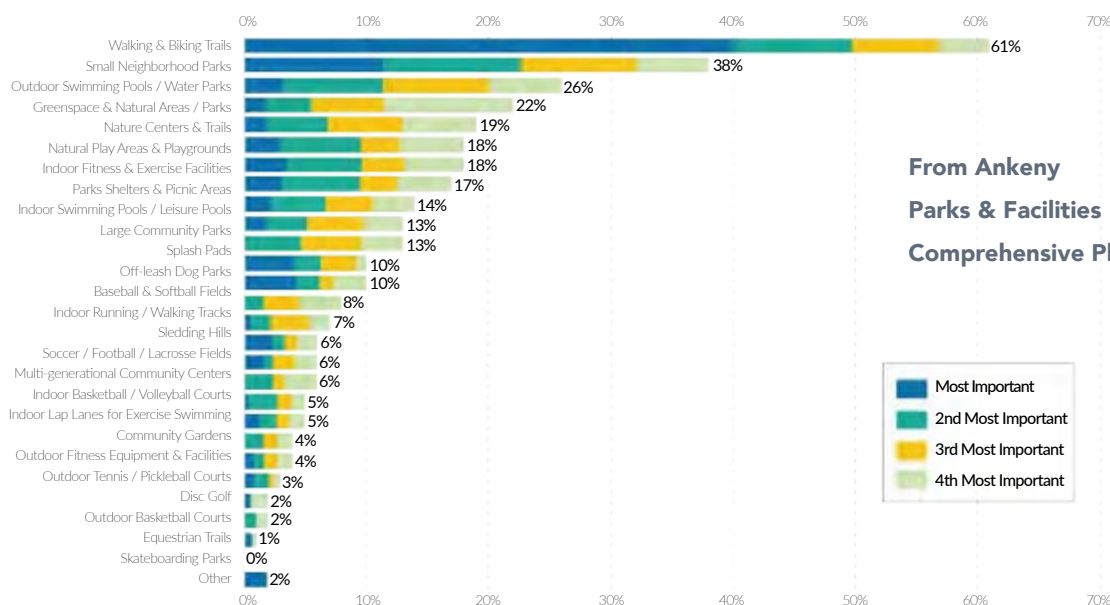
Based on feedback gathered, the design team updated the draft plan and finalized the recommendations for the public art master plan.

Initial discovery and research included on-line and in-person survey instruments along with review and analysis of applicable plans, summarized here. In addition to painting a portrait of Ankeny, findings led to key placemaking themes that illuminate the roles public art and cultural interventions can play to best support the strengths and resources of the City of Ankeny towards meeting the desires of its residents and trail users while making it attractive to visitors.



**From Group Creative  
Service's initial survey  
of 906 Ankeny residents  
and regional trail users.**

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top four choices



# From Ankeny Parks & Facilities Comprehensive Plan



# Discovery

## WHO IS ANKENY?

Several residents say Ankeny is growing “too fast”, but they still love it—not for its history or any distinctive feature but rather its low cost of living, quality schools and, notably, its physical separation from other cities in Des Moines’ metro area.

Indeed, initial discovery [survey](#) found Ankeny is described as a safe, clean, active place for young, affluent families. People mostly feel safe and secure, though an undercurrent of aggravation is noted, especially frustration with the consequences of growth.

Non-residents are more likely to express negative sentiment, calling Ankeny insular, plain, cookie-cutter and so on. But, they still visit for the [High Trestle Trail](#).

Nearly everyone surveyed uses and enjoys the trail system, though not all associate the High Trestle Trail with Ankeny.

In the absence of a strong identity and with a growing, enthusiastic citizenry, there is opportunity to embrace Ankeny’s safe, clean family-friendly traits and create trail experiences that help the community build an intentional and welcoming future as it continues to grow.

As the plan neared completion, further instruments discussed later were used to evaluate appetite for proposed projects and recommendations.

## AMPLIFICATION OF EXISTING PLANS AND VISION

Aligning a public art master plan with other city plans leverages current investments to advance multiple city goals and maximize efforts.

### The Ankeny Plan 2040

Adding to and expanding the existing trail system and facilities is among the action items, goals, and policies of the City of Ankeny’s Comprehensive Plan:

**“With 70 miles of trails, the City of Ankeny also maintains a significant connection to the Greater Des Moines Metro Area trail system, with three regional trails connecting recreational enthusiasts to a network of more than 500 miles of trails. The**

**most unique of these trails is the High Trestle Trail, a 26-mile trail between the communities of Ankeny and Woodward. This trail features an iconic half-mile long bridge that spans the Des Moines River Valley. The Ankeny Market and Pavilion is the primary trail head of the High Trestle Trail, with future links planned to the Gay Lea Wilson and Neal Smith Trail systems. It remains a priority of the City of Ankeny to identify improvements to the existing system of sidewalks and trails to increase opportunities for short commuter and retail trips by walking or bicycling.”**

Additionally, regarding the Trail head at Ankeny Market Pavilion, a central strategy is described: “Capitalize on Uptown’s significance as a major trail head site by seeking trail-centric retailers and services and continuing to invest in bike facilities and furnishings as well as trail way finding signage.”

### Ankeny Parks & Facilities Comprehensive Plan

The trail system in and around Ankeny is top notch—a key takeaway from the planning process included continuing to make connections within the community and capitalize on them more. Walking and biking trails were ranked most important (61%) followed by small neighborhood parks, outdoor swimming pools and natural areas. Walking and biking trails were also listed as the top investment priority.

# Discovery

## Bicycle Tourism Plan

Ankeny's Bicycle Tourism Plan further informs the public art opportunity. A primary finding is to encourage day-trippers to visit Ankeny at the beginning, middle, or end of their trail excursion. The focus on day-trippers comes from the understanding that, while the High Trestle Trail sees more than 250,000 annual visitors, almost half of the trail traffic comes from the Des Moines metro. The lower section of trail in the southeast lacks trail-oriented destinations so users need encouragement to explore and share.

Specifically, the plan calls for branded trail elements—trail heads, 'gateway' features and way finding to create a distinct sense of place. The Market Pavilion area suggests a corridor feel through its storm water facilities, performance space and seasonal ice skating rink area.

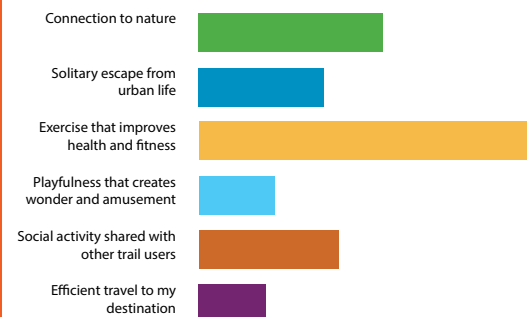
The plan recommends a High Trestle Trail anchor feature—an experience at 'mile zero' in Ankeny—and a chain of features that can be enjoyed by all ages.

The Bicycle Tourism Plan findings include:

- **Short additions of trail throughout the corridor offering increased access and a greater variety of loops and routes that will draw riders into Ankeny's heart from the CITN**
- **Addition of cultural features and an iconic 'anchor' amenity to inspire loyalty and express Ankeny as a unique and special community**
- **Implementation of way finding**
- **Statewide, High Trestle Trail users and recreational riders drove millions of dollars in economic impact**
- **Economic impact from Iowa trails grew with trail investment. In 2007—pre HTT completion—impact was \$5.3M. By 2012 it was \$22.1M**

**THE TAKEAWAY FROM THE BICYCLE TOURISM PLAN IS THAT ANKENY NEEDS TO CONNECT ITS TOWN TO THE TRAIL, STRENGTHENING THE EXPERIENCE AND BINDING ANKENY'S TRAIL USERS TO ADJACENT LOCAL BUSINESSES.**

What do you want most from your Ankeny trail experience? (pick one)  
Answered: 901 Skipped: 5



**Connection to nature was a primary finding of outreach**

# Discovery

## *Ankeny's Cultural Arts Survey*

A survey completed by the City of Ankeny's Cultural Arts Board (n=292) in 2015 included these pertinent needs and interests of citizens:

- **Increase livability and attractiveness of Ankeny**  
\*75% of Ankeny Cultural Arts Survey
- **Increase public involvement in the arts**  
\*60% of Ankeny Cultural Arts Survey
- **Celebrate and educate cultural diversity and creative ways of thinking** \*54%  
of Ankeny Cultural Arts Survey
- **Increase visitors, shoppers and vendors**  
\*42% of Ankeny Cultural Arts Survey
- **Where people want to see more art:**  
Uptown 60%, along bike trails 55%  
of Ankeny Cultural Arts Survey
- **78% of respondents of Ankeny Cultural Arts Survey desire frequent opportunities to enjoy live music.**

## *Bravo Greater Des Moines*

### *Regional Cultural Assessment*

Bravo Greater Des Moines is a regional cultural and arts leader and also a significant source of funding for many of the activities recommended in this plan. Therefore it is essential that familiarity with Bravo's cultural understanding and priorities be reflected in this plan. Bravo developed a regional cultural assessment in 2016 and identified four cultural priorities that inform the unique way Ankeny might articulate its character as distinct within central Iowa while maintaining the benefits of approaching regional goals in a collaborative manner.

- **Every Day Everywhere Art creates active and vibrant neighborhoods with new opportunities for artists and organizations to participate in community priorities**
- **A strong creative economy supports flourishing creative businesses and entrepreneurs while nationally promoting the region as an attractive business environment**
- **Creating a cultural tapestry that builds from the strength of arts, culture and heritage to drive engagement and empowerment for diverse communities so that all may find common benefits**
- **Youth connections locally capitalize on the nationally recognized long-term positive impacts of arts experiences for young people**



# Ankeny Key Placemaking Themes

*Based on interviews, focus group discussions, surveys and previous plans, themes for authentic qualities for Ankeny were developed. Artists were asked to respond to these themes while developing site specific concepts.*

## NATURAL

Desire for connection to nature and outdoor recreation featured as the strongest results in fact finding. This plan is being written during the social distancing efforts of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic during which citizens are deepening their connections to being outdoors and strongly associating outdoor activities with their pursuits of physical and mental health. Prairie Trail, one of Ankeny's newest housing and commercial developments, is designed around a connection to Iowa's indigenous landscape. Prairie potholes, small depressions created by glaciers moving across the Midwest over 10,000 years ago, are slowly being restored. In town the trail can offer surprising moments of natural respite and action, places to gather, and places to play. Along the trail, people seek more of the serene—an intimate connection to nature that is both restorative to the soul and the land.

## TRAIL AMENITIES

The community is loud and clear that priorities include safety, lighting, seating, shade, drinking water, gathering places, and way finding.

## HOMETOWN FEEL

"Hometown feel" is what locals say they love most when describing Ankeny. Many who move to Ankeny feel it preserves the most important characteristics of their earlier homes and upbringing. There is a desire for art to weave a sense of safe neighborly connections that draw people out of their home for social connections and offer families places to make memories.

## HISTORY

Ankeny is a fast growing community known for its "newness." Its handful of historic features remain largely unknown. Ankeny was founded as an agrarian community in 1875. A narrow gauge rail was added in the 1870s and coal mining became an important part of the economy in the early 1900s. For a short time during World War II, the federal government established an ordnance plant for the manufacture of ammunition on the site now occupied by John Deere Des Moines Works. Notable historic remnants contributing to the city's texture include HTT trail converted from the rail, "Ordnance" road, and the "Uptown" main street area. Public art has the opportunity to not only reveal Ankeny's historic roots but also to present them in a perspective of growth and continuing relevance.

## HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL

The most popular segment of the Central Iowa Trail Network is the High Trestle Trail (HTT) and High Trestle Bridge—over 250,000 annual visitors travel along the HTT. Despite HTT popularity and the local trail network, Ankeny wants to grow its pride for the HTT. The section of trail that runs through and diagonally across the community has the potential to be its crown jewel: the artery of community, discovery and activity.

## VISUAL, ICONIC LOCALES

Ankeny's water tower served as a key visual feature for many years. Today there are few locations used to denote "this is Ankeny" and, like the water tower, they are indistinct. There is a strong need for the photo-worthy, iconic spot that expresses residents' enthusiasm, binds their loyalty and promotes Ankeny's most attractive features to visitors and new residents through contemporary communication channels.



# Discovery

Musical Swings  
DAILY TOUS LES JOURS

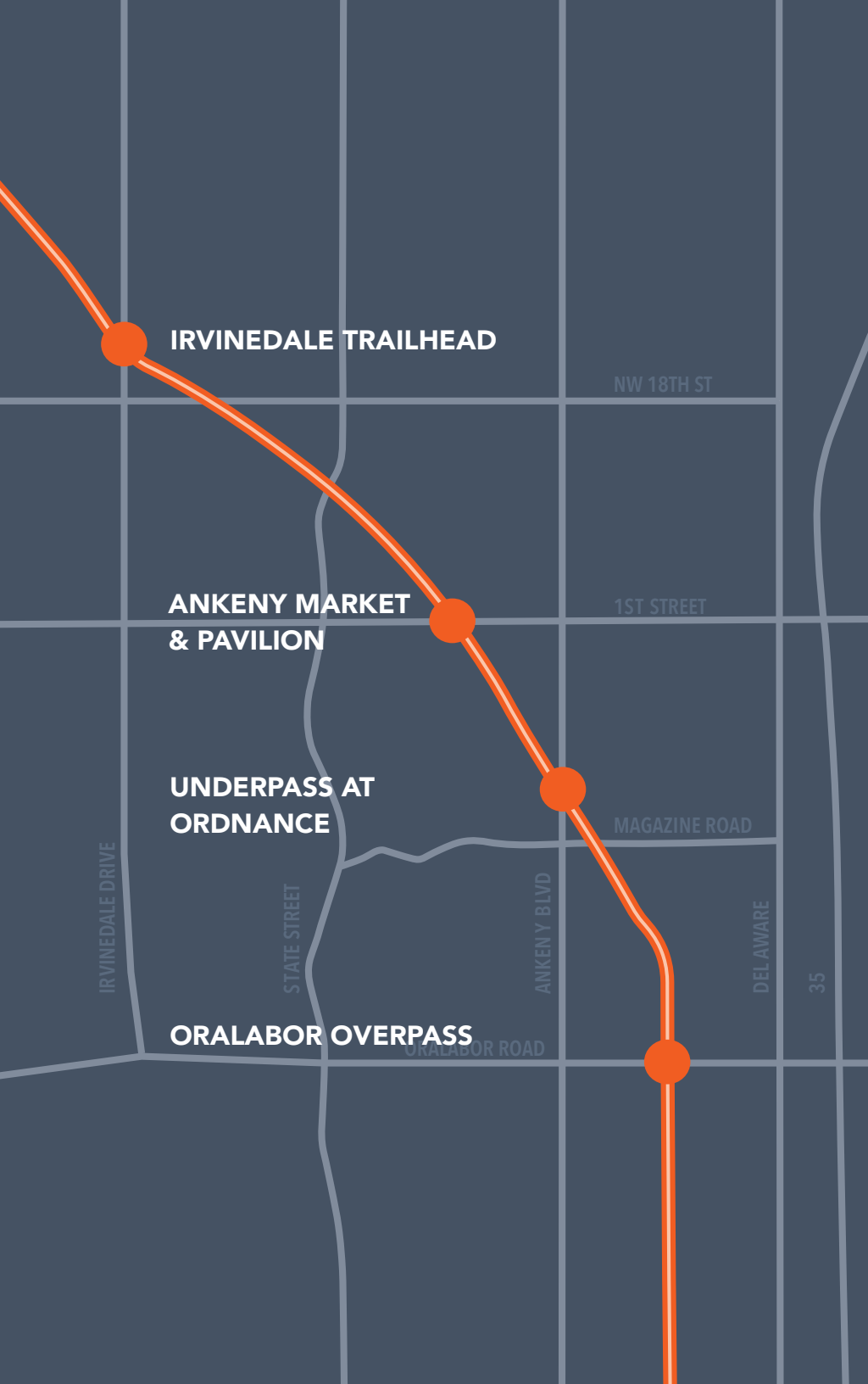
## ART ACTIVATION LOCATIONS

Although four distinct sites are identified in this plan, the full 4.1 mile stretch of the High Trestle Trail in Ankeny establishes a connected corridor. From the Oralabor Road Overpass through the heart of Uptown and ending at the Irvinedale trail head, the corridor is suffused with opportunities. Locations along the trail are adjacent to myriad characteristics of newness and history, residences and commerce.

Art will be in new and unique locations, giving artists opportunities to express Ankeny's distinctive features while serving everyone from the family and resident trail users to the visitors who grow Ankeny's economy. Demographics are unique by location although Ankeny maintains a multi-generational orientation towards family. There are opportunities for gateways that announce an arrival, places to gather, places to play, intimate areas for reflection, and convenient nodes for departure. *These assessments are ready to activate each of Bravo of Greater Des Moines' four cultural priorities identified in their regional assessment and are therefore prime candidates for a primary source of funding.*

Installations along the corridor should feel connected, telling a story that continues as new sites come on-line. Connecting the dots might encourage more locals to take short jaunts along the trail. Creating a destination and community hub delivers on the promise made by new, large scale welcome monuments along the interstate.

Offering connection to Ankeny's community north to south also describes the gaps in existing amenities that public art can easily address including places to play and a need for multivalent way finding.



## DESCRIPTION OF TRAIL CORRIDOR

The High Trestle Trail system is a re-purposed railroad corridor that redeveloped as a regional trail. Keeping the characteristics of a railroad corridor, the trail remains flat and accessible through town with multiple at-grade road crossings. It should be noted that the development of Ankeny occurred before the value of the trail was realized, thus establishing many single family neighborhoods with their back turned towards the trail. When riding the corridor, many stretches do not have access to the adjacent community or accommodations for users to patronize adjacent businesses in the area.

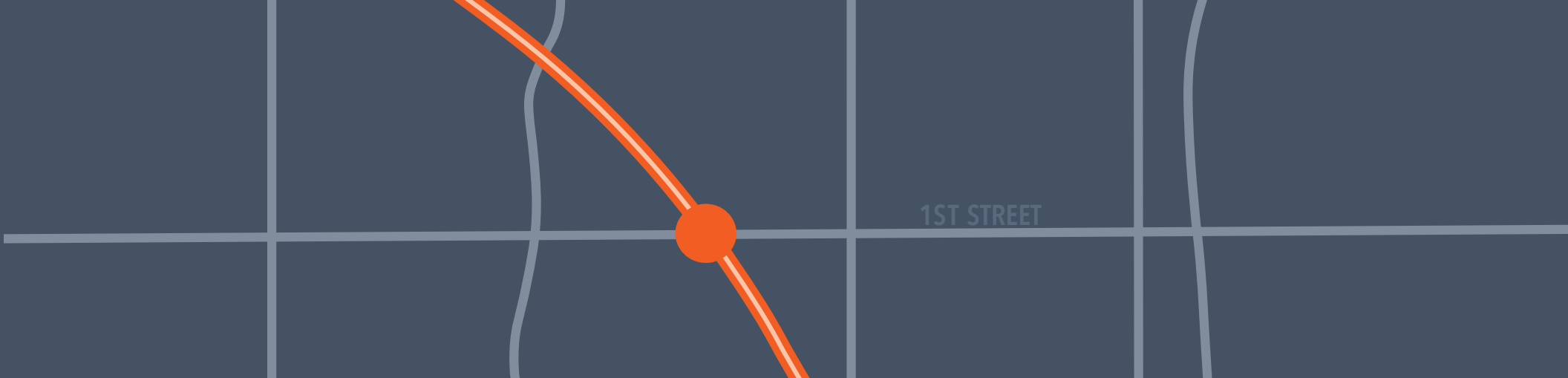
The High Trestle Trail Corridor offers a total of 4.1 miles of trail. The majority of the space within the corridor is green space with opportunities for native restorations. Moving south to north along the trail corridor reveals different characters of Ankeny's communities although access to the trail is limited throughout. The south portion tends towards industrial use with portions of mobile home parks backing up against the corridor. The north half of the leg is composed of single family homes.

## IRVINEDALE TRAIL HEAD

Currently the northwest extent of Ankeny, this location rests on an old farmstead and barn that provides depth to the site even though, unfortunately, they could not be salvaged and were removed. The Irvinedale trail head works both as the first area with amenities for trail users arriving from Slater, or the last stop before venturing outside of Ankeny's developed area. Either approach signifies the importance of this location as a first and last impression of the Ankeny trail system. Opportunities include incorporation of informational and way finding elements compelling enough for users to stop and discover more about Ankeny through a front porch welcome and expresses its hometown feel.

The Irvinedale trail head will not always represent the northwest corner of Ankeny as it does now, however. Plans are already in motion for additional development continuing west along the High Trestle Trail. Additional parks and trails will be developed and a future trail head denoting the west edge of Ankeny will need incorporation in the next 5–10 years.

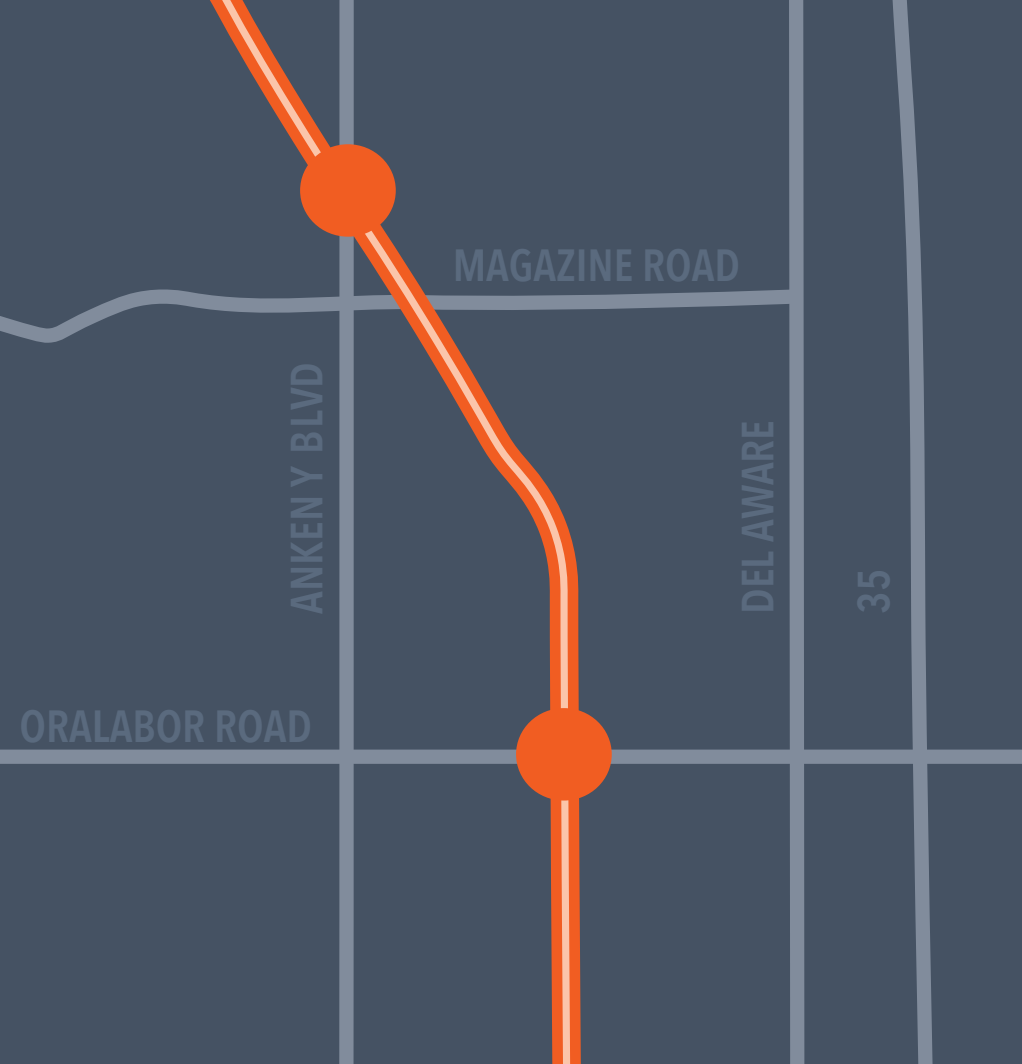




## ANKENY MARKET & PAVILION

The Ankeny Market & Pavilion (AMP), a 3.1 acre public park includes restrooms, ample parking, and a bicycle trail head for the High Trestle Trail. It is realizing its intent to activate the heart of Uptown Ankeny and turn residents towards the High Trestle Trail. It provides a home for the Uptown Farmers' Market as well as a variety of unique and exciting community activities. It is synergistic with growing businesses in the Uptown area, contributing welcome personality. Adjacent businesses offer services and amenities desired by families, and trail users. These define a communal feel and are driving loyalty among user groups such as cyclists.

The Ankeny Market & Pavilion and its adjacent spaces are key locations along the Ankeny portion of the High Trestle Trail ready to capitalize on the communities investments by supporting not only amenities and civic programming, but also to project a new and distinctive identity to residents and the larger world. It is tempting to see existing programming in this site as sufficient, yet it does not instill the desire for discovery in the user. People visiting the Farmers' Market or the Park and Ride visit the pavilions, but do not experience or explore Uptown Ankeny that is just south of the pavilions or the multitude of park amenities just north of the pavilions. Public art opportunities should incorporate both prosaic and creative way finding. Further, locating new amenities along a visible horizon—such as across First Street—creates a compelling draw to explore along the trail and into Uptown's businesses.



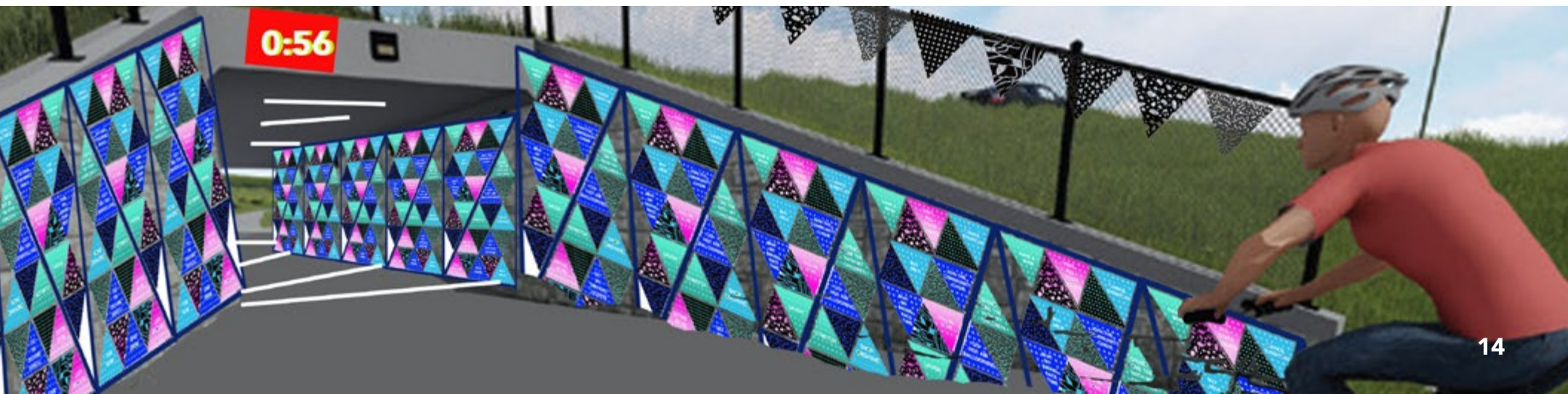
## UNDERPASS AT ORDNANCE

The underpass construction at Ordinance signifies the City's commitment to trail safety and respecting family values as they strive to improve their extensive trail system. In constructing the underpass, large volumes of earth will have to be manipulated creating opportunities for interpretations that both motorists and trail users will be able to experience and draw their curiosity as they pass by.

The Underpass area also comes with great potential for the incorporation of historical interpretation. In 1942, the federal government established an ordinance plant for the manufacture of ammunition on the land around Ordinance Road and some buildings still stand within the John Deere Plant.

## OVERPASS AT ORALABOR

As the City of Ankeny extends its current trail system there are still gaps that need to be connected. Today trail users are required to trail hop between multiple short segments in order to get from the south side of Ankeny to the Ordinance underpass area just 1.3 miles away. The city is scheduled to construct the missing link within the High Trestle Trail by installing an overpass at Oralabor Road. The overpass provides a highly visual experience for motorists that are either coming into town, or leaving town. Both scenarios are important to consider as this feature has the potential to be the iconic element within Ankeny establishing an identity such as "Trails are so important, we build bridges for them."



# RECOMMENDATIONS

*Recommendations are organized by locations, north to south.*

*The density of activity and potential surrounding the Ankeny Market & Pavilion site led to a recognition that it benefits from a footprint expanded to capture pedestrian opportunities in Uptown and to offer multiple attractions in a central greenspace along the trail. This corridor approach suggests siting several experiences throughout.*

## CORE NEEDS ALONG THE TRAIL

Basic trail user expectations require immediate and sustained investment. Artful activations will have little impact if these needs are not addressed. The surveys, interviews and the Bicycle Tourism Plan all stressed the critical need for simple amenities including:

- Spurs from the HTT to neighborhood nodes to increase accessibility and orienting citizen life towards the trail
- Play areas for kids
- Routes and loops as recommended in Bike Tourism Plan
- Increased numbers of safer crossings for trail users
- Way finding signage and a marketing strategy
- Water fountains
- Places to sit and rest with shade
- Bike repair stations
- Restrooms
- Water feature at Hawkeye park needs access from park to the trail
- Good lighting for early and late users and off-season trail users
- Implementation & Funding



# Recommendations

LOW INVESTMENT HIGH IMPACT



## TEMPORARY WAYFINDING

**\$6,000**

People need to know where the next restroom is located or how far until the next playground, and they also want to know where to find a good slice of pizza. *While Ankeny works on a long-term strategy for way finding signage, it should engage in a temporary way finding program that engages citizens to tell each other and visitors where the fun is.*

## SIDEWALK GAMES

**NICOLE JAMES**

**\$2,700**

Des Moines artist and arts educator Nicole James can paint a game mural on sidewalk or trail areas. Examples would be a playable version of Candyland, with 15 game tiles painted on the ground.

The corridor will feel more activated and support additional cultural enthusiasm as it begins to feel full of life. *Small and inexpensive touches contribute in big ways to overall vibrancy.*



## ARTFUL FOOD OPTIONS

Simple support to the trail's vibrancy should include attention to the core needs expressed by users. Snacks and food are critical amenities for all trail users, from cyclists traveling long distances to parents needing a snack option during a play date.

Ankeny can support this by adding small infrastructure, such as a pad for a food truck to park on, or with programming, such as making sure a food option is available at predictable times. Variety is a benefit. We heard trail users reflect that they looked forward to a smoothie stand at a northern trail location while their riding friends preferred beer across the street. *Pop-up food options should be encouraged or even incentivized, as they offer novelty while emphasizing the personality and home town feel of Ankeny.*

Larger support might include establishment of an incubator program, a shared commercial kitchen or a food truck park.

# Recommendations

## FINDINGS DESERVING ATTENTION

THESE TOP-LEVEL FINDINGS  
ARE NOT PROJECT-BASED BUT  
STRONGLY SUPPORT CULTURAL  
ACTIVATION AND SENSE OF PLACE

### TURN TOWARDS THE TRAIL

Future developments will benefit from a trail-centric approach. This includes not only trail access, but design features that embrace connection to the trail and the natural and cultural amenities it offers. *Ankeny has an opportunity to develop its personality and brand around residents' strong desire to connect with nature and each other through comfortable and fun shared public spaces. The High Trestle Trail Corridor is a unique chance to provide a backbone of activity connecting across neighborhoods.*

The Cultural Arts Board and Art for Ankeny can sponsor and support programs to encourage property owners on the trail facing side of properties to engage with the trail experience. Homeowners could come up with their own clever installations and business owners could support murals, attractive fencing, and so on.

### ALWAYS MORE TREES

Shade and places to sit are persistent requests along with a need to connect with nature. Trees removed for development should be replaced and increased. Green areas along the trail corridor, particularly between *north of 1st Avenue and between Uptown and the Underpass. can be significantly planted with trees* and with Prairie Restoration projects.

Combining Mary Mattingly's trail re-wilding project with Vickerd's Animals of Iowa covers a half acre of central green space, and this leads the way to the whole trail corridor offering a better sense of Ankeny's natural and historic lands continuing to nurture current citizens.

### AMPLIFY EXISTING CHARACTER

The City of Ankeny is recommended to creatively redevelop the Quonset huts in the Uptown area. These unique structures have built-in personality and offer novelty and interest for Pop-up experiences and short-term development. Arts markets, artist studios, a mini-arts district, local festival, and more are all possible.

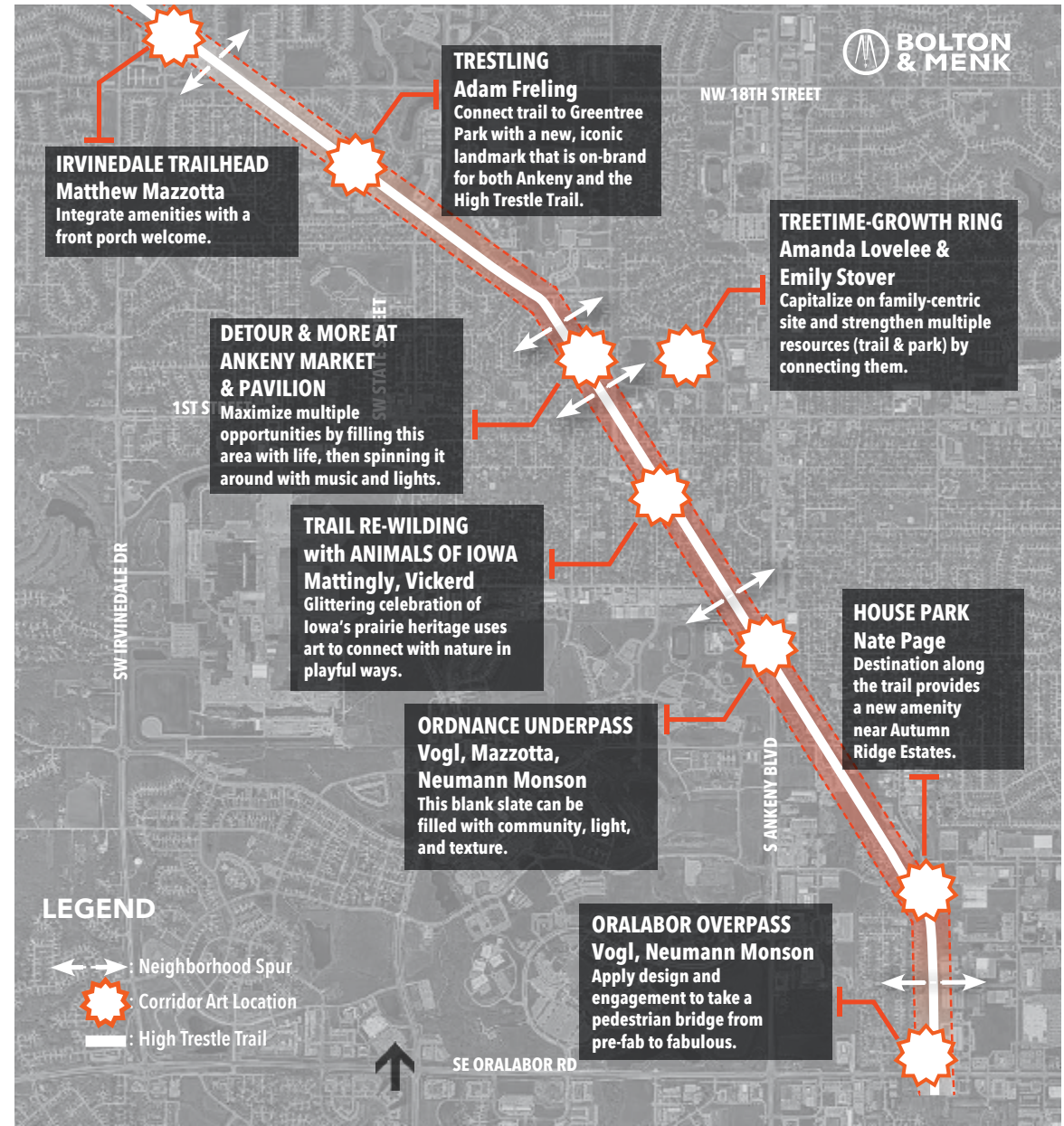
Additionally, the Chamber and local businesses should coordinate with the City to *recognize when gaps make opportunities for realization of core needs. Blank spaces can be filled in—even temporarily—with seating, shade, wayfinding or games.*



# Recommendations

## ALONG THE TRAIL CORRIDOR

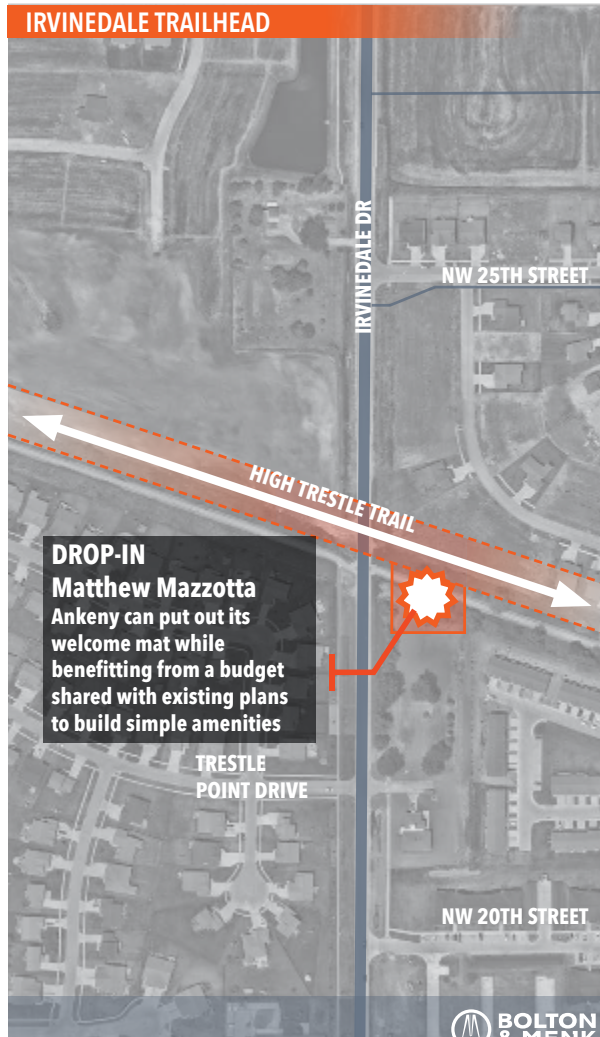
STRENGTHEN ASSETS THROUGH CONNECTION TO LEVERAGE THE POWER OF AN AREA WITH NATURALLY OCCURRING DENSE ACTIVATION AND HIGH IMPACT POTENTIAL





# Recommendations

## IRVINEDALE TRAILHEAD



*This location offers cost savings opportunities if public art is achieved through integration with construction of forthcoming trail head amenities.*

The Irvinedale trail head is currently under engineering design. Although the trail head is recognized as an important entrance feature, the trail head itself is intended to be non-intrusive with a small parking lot, shelter, and three seasons restroom with drinking fountain. With this simplicity of design as well as urgency of implementation, the Irvinedale Trail head has the greatest opportunity for work integration between the public artist and engineering team as they work to design the trail head and, in fact, an effective solution for this was found and is strongly recommended.

### *Key elements to consider at the Irvinedale trail head*

- Currently Ankeny's apparent arrival and departure gateway for trail users, but this will change in 5-10 years
- Area around Irvinedale trail head is all single-family or multi-family development.
- Trail users are apt to drive to this location before mounting their bikes and heading west out of town.
- Irvinedale trail head to High Trestle Trail Bridge is 19.75 Miles
- Irvinedale trail head to Ankeny Market & Pavilion is 2.0 Miles

### *Traffic Considerations*

- At-grade crossing with no signal at Irvinedale
- Additional signs and painted crossing were added for vehicular awareness of trail crossing
- Low traffic counts with 3,380 average per day.
- Irvinedale is an easy to cross two-lane county road with higher traffic speeds than one typically encounters within Ankeny

# Recommendations

## IRVINEDALE TRAILHEAD



### MATTHEW MAZZOTTA

#### DROP-IN—IRVINEDALE INTEGRATION

**\$115,000**

Matthew Mazzotta, a Guggenheim fellow, activates communities by recreating buildings or public infrastructure as sculptural pieces that transform into public gathering spaces. Storefronts fold out like Pullman beds into Main street movie theaters and single-family houses unfold into community stages.

Mazzotta proposes to integrate with existing plans to build a restroom amenity at the Irvinedale trailhead, creating a front porch that expresses Ankeny's welcoming nature and home-town feel. Most of the cost of this work can be absorbed through the existing construction plans, though it should be built under the artist's direction to ensure that it feels like something special and 'more-than' a simple façade. The front porch will have an ADA ramp and contain a unisex restroom along with other planned trail amenities.

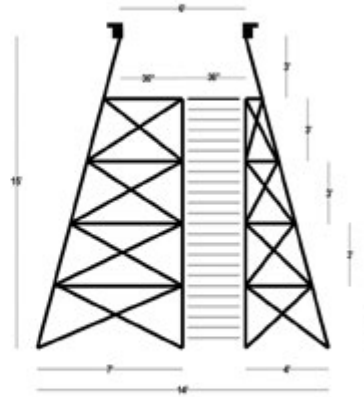
### ANKENY TRAIL HEAD AT IRVINEDALE

- Residential areas should work to turn towards the trail, future development should be trail-centric
- Trail head is a landmark, entrance feature
- Budget finds great savings by integrating with amenities already planned. \$115,000 is inclusive of the front porch veneer, but not of the full amenity project.



# Recommendations

ALONG THE HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL CORRIDOR



**ADAM FRELIN**

**TRESTLING**

**\$292,000**

Sculptor Adam Frelin won the prestigious Bloomberg Public Art Challenge and realized Breathing Lights, an ArtPlace America project that garnered international attention for its ability to reinvigorate empty buildings simultaneously across three cities in New York state. Here, the historic design of the bridge trestle from the Boone, IA river valley is used to create an unmistakable and irresistible structure that would not only define Ankeny as a visionary and fun place to be, but also promote it across contemporary media platforms as cyclists and residents alike send their photos of Ankeny's new trestle bridge. It connects to the name and iconic nature of the trail while also providing a sculpture, a passage, a destination and a vantage point.

At fifteen feet high, it is safe and entertaining without being intrusive. Made from Cor-ten steel, it has extremely high durability and low maintenance.

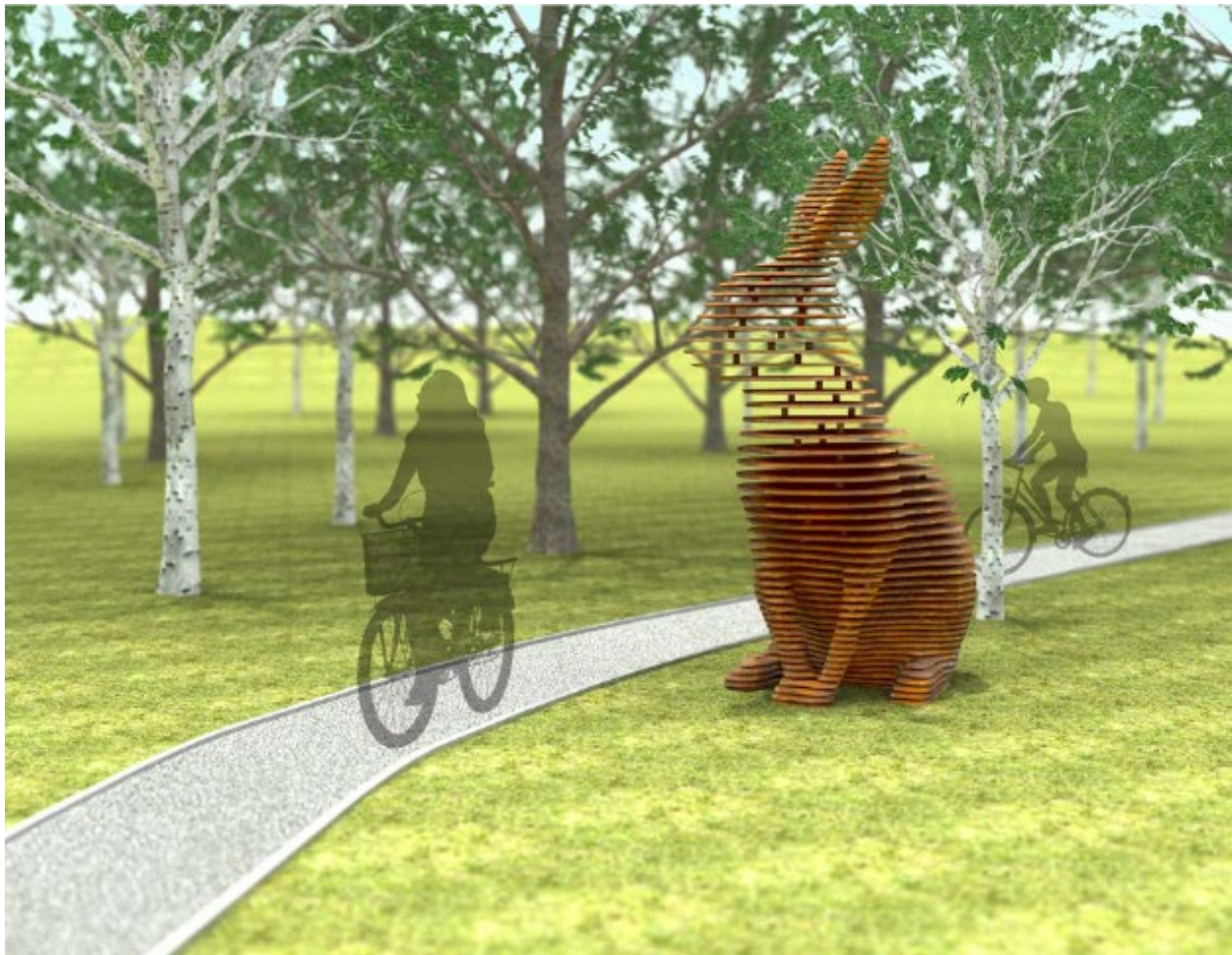


MODELED ON NEARBY BASS POINT CREEK TRESTLE BRIDGE FROM BOONE, IOWA



# Recommendations

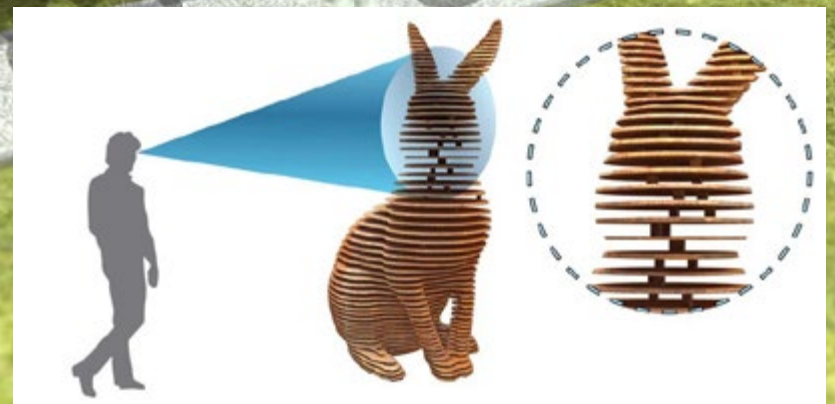
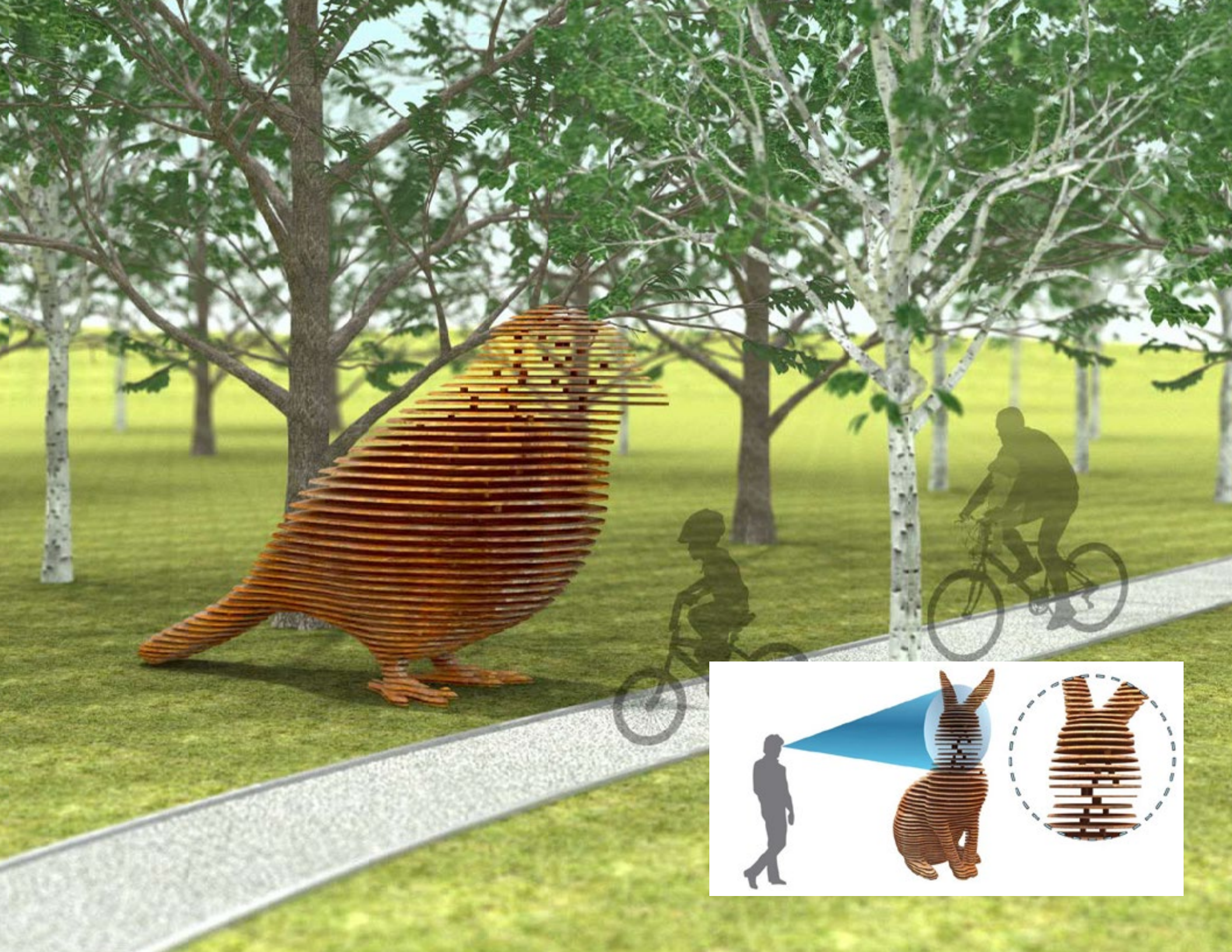
ALONG THE HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL CORRIDOR



**BRANDON VICKERD**  
**ANIMALS OF IOWA**  
**\$55,000 PER ANIMAL**

Internationally acclaimed sculptor Brandon Vickerd proposes a series of six to eight feet tall animals crafted from stacked sheets of Cor-ten steel. The spacing of the stacked layers creates an optical illusion such that the friendly-looking animals shimmer and disappear as viewers approach or move away, creating an interactive experience that requires no power or maintenance. Animals will be native Iowa prairie species. Vickerd will survey Ankeny residents to determine which animals they would like to include.

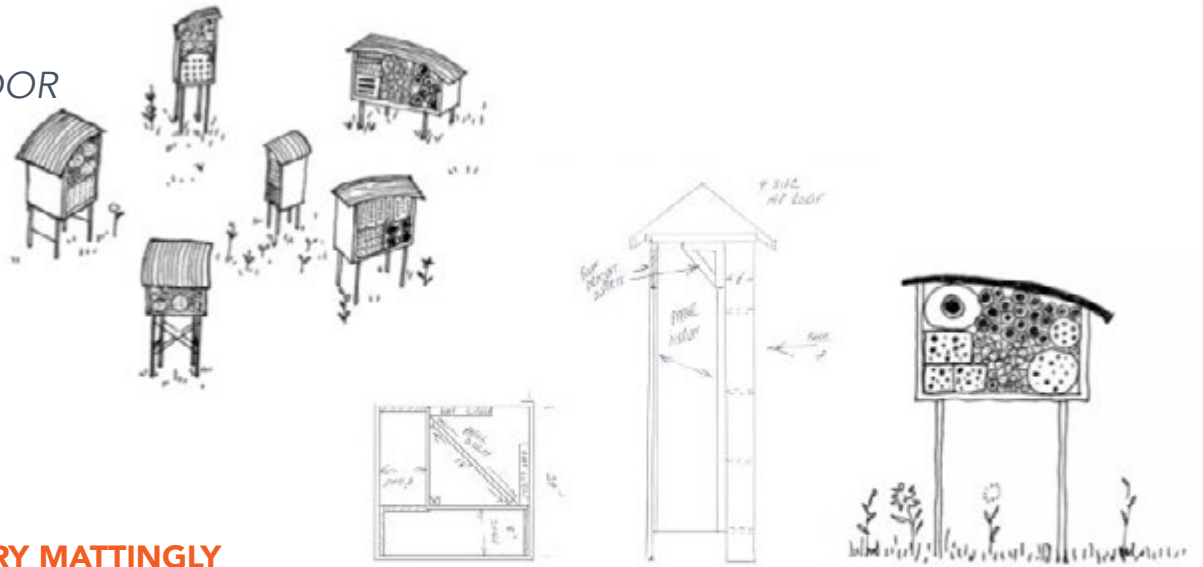






# Recommendations

## ALONG THE HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL CORRIDOR



### MARY MATTINGLY

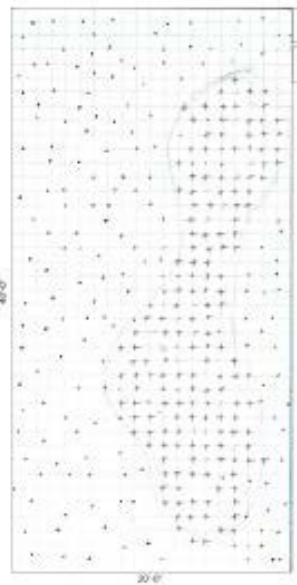
#### TRAIL RE-WILDING WITH COLOR FIELD POLLINATOR MEADOWS AND SCULPTURAL HABITATS

**\$33,500**

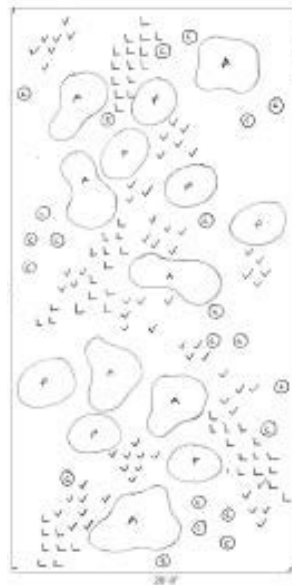
Connecting the citizens of Ankeny to natural locations of respite feels all the more important now that the pandemic illustrated exactly how critical access to safe outdoor spaces is to daily mental health and pleasure. Mattingly is an internationally known artist exhibited widely in museums, and is known for creating real-world solutions to ecological situations. One of her most notable projects, *Swale*, is a floating food forest built on a barge. It has been adopted by the City of New York as a community garden, located in one of Brooklyn's most popular greenspaces near DUMBO. It has been covered by the New York Times at least three times. Her work was also featured at the Storm King Art Center's "outdoor museum" *Indicators* exhibit in the Hudson Valley, NY.

The Color Field meadows include two years of artist-led maintenance over 0.5 acre to ensure establishment of plantings and would be a lovely environment in which to embed Brandon Vickerd's *Animals of Iowa*.

MEADOW: MATRIX



MEADOW: FLOWERING PERENNIALS





# Recommendations

## UPTOWN + ANKENY MARKET & PAVILION



*The footprint for activation and experiences needs to extend beyond the Ankeny Market & Pavilion to include Uptown south of the pavilions and continue across 1st street connecting to the campus of civic activities and future senior center/community center north of the AMP site.*

This extension can provide greater opportunity for activation of user curiosity as well as connecting patrons between Uptown and the High Trestle Trail.

### Key elements to consider at the Ankeny Market & Pavilion

- Uptown is an old main street and historical commercial corridor. Currently it is working hard on revitalization. Uptown should be the hub of art and culture activities.
- Footprint for activation can stretch further south and include the green space corridor south connecting to site #3 at Ordance just 0.8 miles away
- Firetrucker and Pig 'n Pedal are examples of successful family friendly businesses in Uptown that will be good assets for trail activation
- Future construction in this area will require the removal of many existing trees changing the intimacy of the trail corridor, while also providing opportunity for change.
- Improvements scheduled on north side of 1st - Community Center / Senior Center with Ground breaking Fall 2020

### Traffic Considerations

- Trail crossing at 1st street includes a trail user activated crossing light (HAWK signal) to provide a safe trail crossing on a busy road
- Traffic counts on 1st street average 14,000 per day
- Road type is a busy 4-lane road in one direction
- Crossing for pedestrians from parking and area amenities and residences is not safe without some type of traffic control device
- Traffic counts on 3rd in Uptown are much lower at 1,580 average per day. This is typical of a two-lane road with on-street parking

***The Uptown corridor including the Ankeny Market & Pavilion is prime location for activation. A landmark art investment will leverage the pavilion and Uptown revitalization efforts. AMP continues to need passive activation and the Uptown district is begging to turn the corner.***

#### **UPTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION & PARKS AND RECREATION**

Over and over it was mentioned that Ankeny lacks a community gathering place. Ankeny Market & Pavilion and its proximity to the revitalizing Uptown has the opportunity to be the spontaneous place for citizens to go after they grab a slice of pizza or an ice cream cone to sit and hang out with other citizens. A signature experience is recommend not only here, but also in the green spaces along the trail heading north. This connects Uptown to planned residential developments and attracts through a variety and density of offerings. The heart of Ankeny can become an artful meadow offering activities and respite through coordinated yet varied experiences for all generations of citizens and visitors.

- **Addition of affordable, movable seating in pavilions. Examples include [Loll Designs](https://lolldesigns.com/) Adirondack-style seating. <https://lolldesigns.com/>**
- **Passive programming for kids during peak use times**
- **Mobile food trucks and mobile ice cream carts during peak use times**
- **Additional plantings to soften the space and encourage a more cozy feel**
- **Extend the farmer's market and other such activities from the pavilion down through Uptown**



# Recommendations

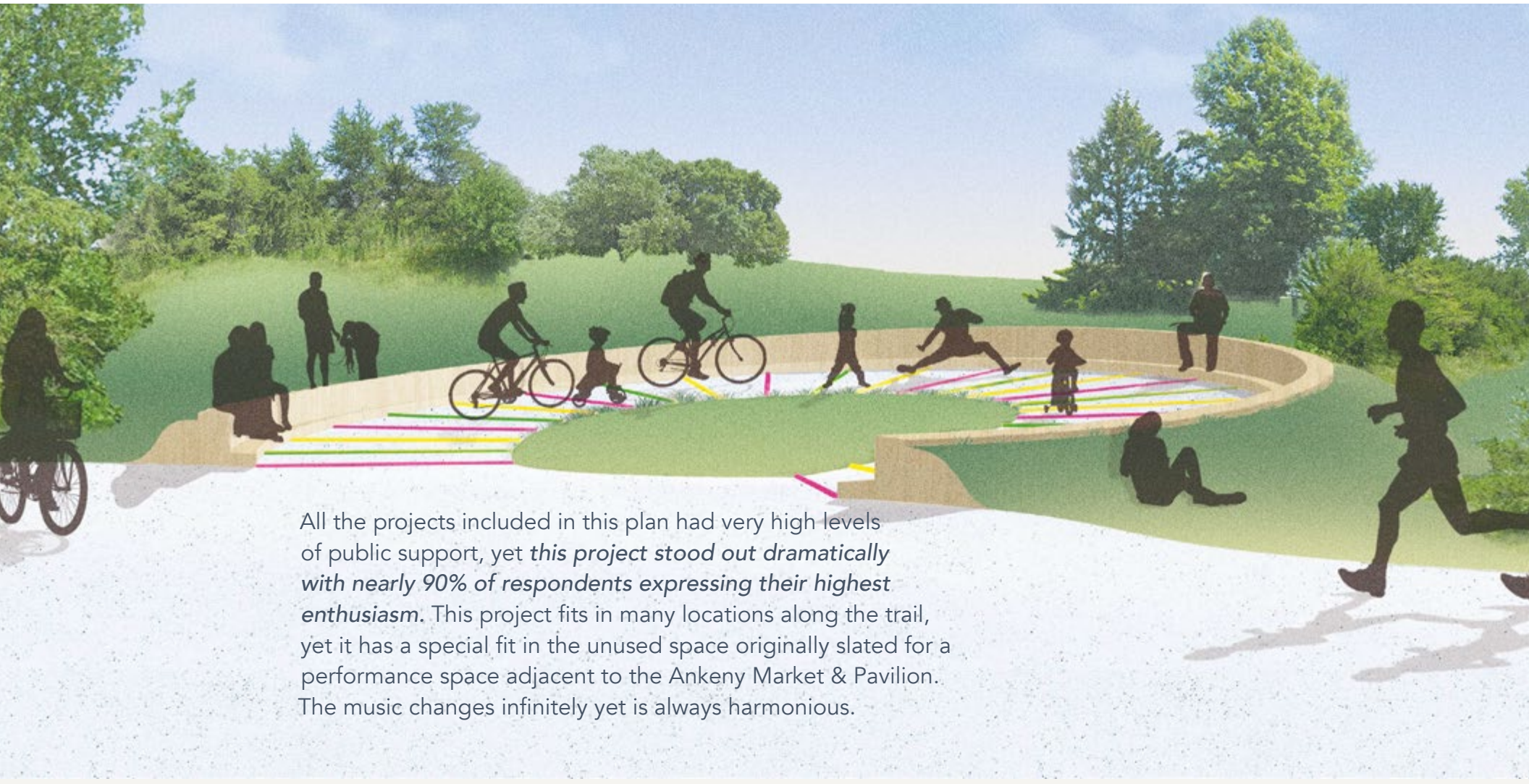
UPTOWN + ANKENY MARKET & PAVILION

## DAILY TOUS LES JOURS

### DETOUR

**\$360,000–470,000 (SOUND ONLY OR SOUND + LIGHT)**

Primarily creating interactive public infrastructure, and especially interested in works that relate to civic transportation, the Daily Tous les Jours studio created Detour, a 40' diameter banked wheel of fun-tune. As cyclists take a spin or pedestrians circle this detour from a straight path, a melody is played for everyone to enjoy. Additional lights create extra pleasure and fantastic visual spectacle.

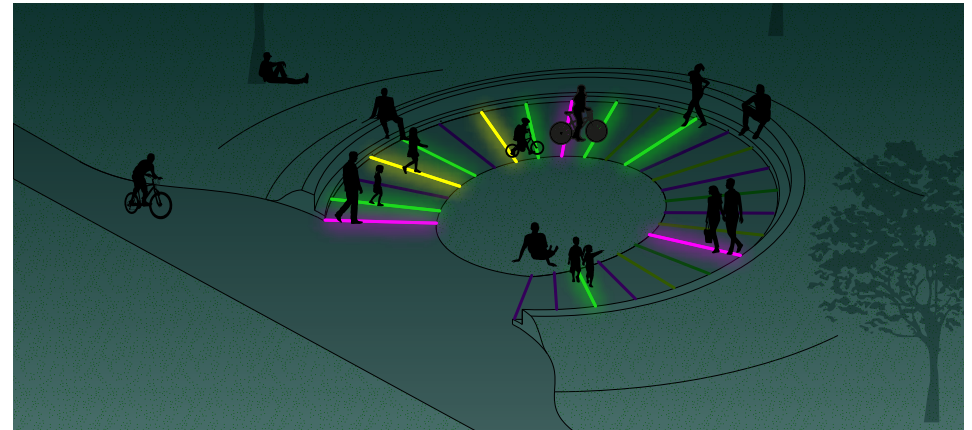


All the projects included in this plan had very high levels of public support, yet *this project stood out dramatically with nearly 90% of respondents expressing their highest enthusiasm*. This project fits in many locations along the trail, yet it has a special fit in the unused space originally slated for a performance space adjacent to the Ankeny Market & Pavilion. The music changes infinitely yet is always harmonious.



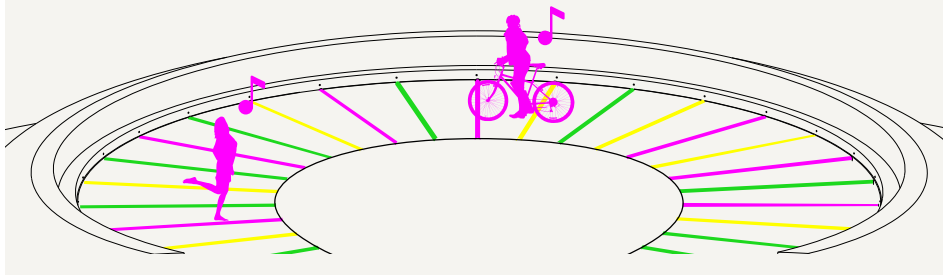
# Recommendations

UPTOWN + ANKENY MARKET & PAVILION



Biking or walking along a series of lines triggers a melody. Different colors create different sounds and atmospheres.

Move slowly or race around the track. Coordinate your actions and explore with others.



1 COLORFUL LINES

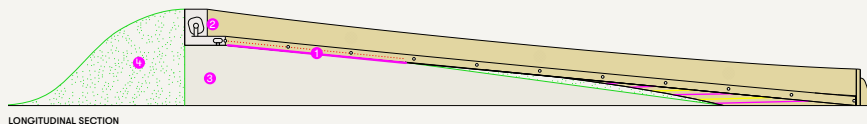
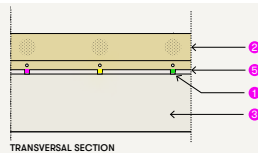
2 SEATING AREA USED TO HOUSE TECHNICAL COMPONENTS

- Speakers (TIC Corp GS5 - 5" Compact Outdoor Speakers)
- Motion Sensors (Benewake TFinini Plus Micro LIDAR Module)

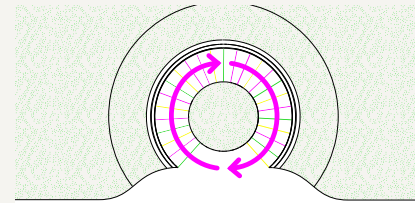
3 EARTH FOUNDATION

4 GRASS HILL

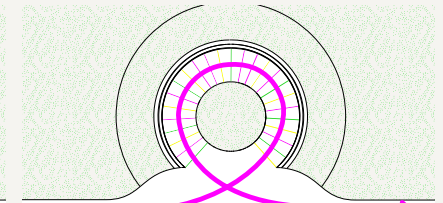
5 DETOUR SURFACE



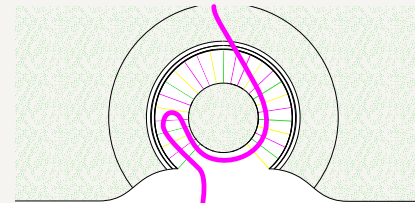
## A New Ritual



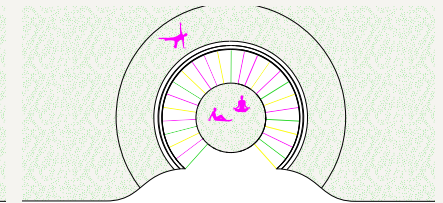
Bike in a circle and create infinite music.



Take the detour and continue to your destination.



Walk along the detour.



Hang out and watch the musical spectacle.

# Recommendations

TRAIL SIDE OR PARK LOCATION



growth ring  
+ / & 2020

## **+ / & (AMANDA LOVELEE AND EMILY STOVER)**

### **TREETIME–GROWTH RING**

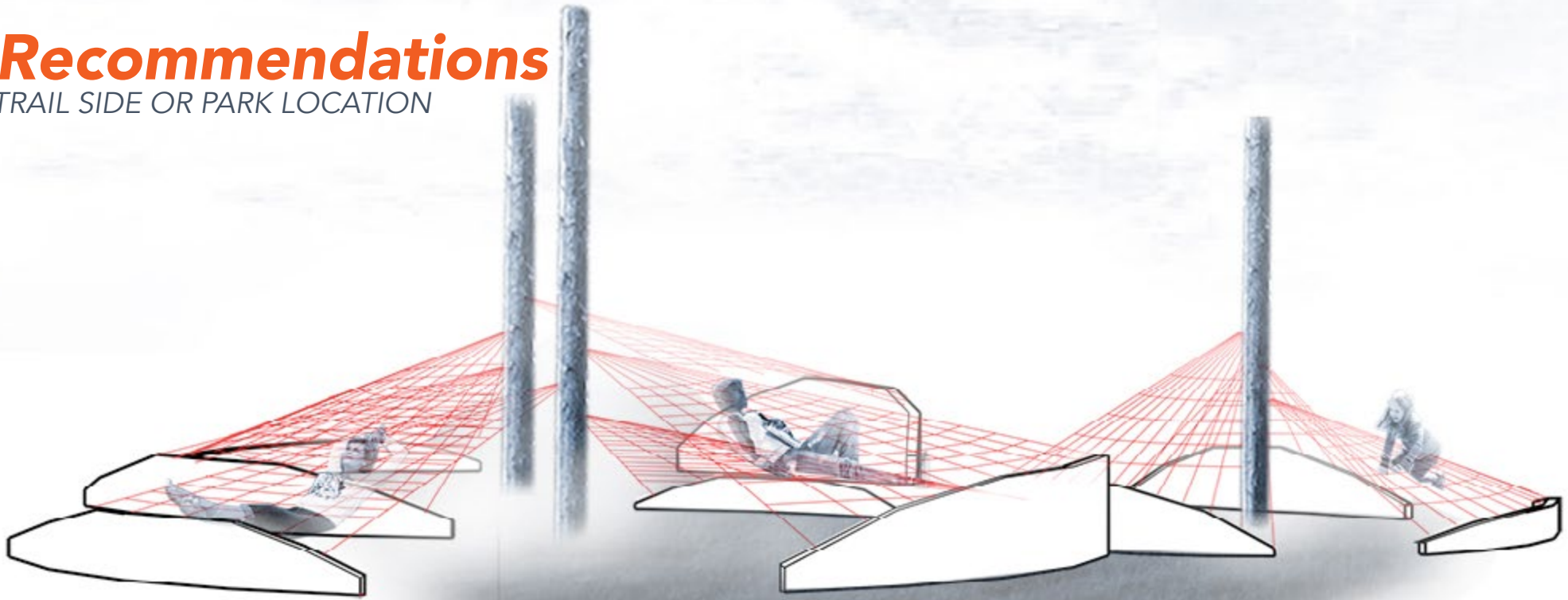
**\$70,000**

Celebrating affection for nature and its family-centric characteristic, TreeTime–Growth Ring introduces a tree as Ankeny’s newest resident and neighbor. A parade to introduce the tree to the city’s residents can feature hometown activities like the High School marching band and a community grill-out. A sculptural and colorful seating area is constructed to house the tree. *Natural respite and peaceful reflection are available as people relax on the shaded seating—a main need expressed over and over in outreach findings.* The back side of these bleachers allow visitors and families to photograph themselves as they grow with each visit, leveraging the power of social media to project the homey comfort of notches on a door frame as a main feature of Ankeny’s city-wide personality. We believe this has a natural affinity for location near the Miracle League Park, boosting the larger potential of the Market Pavilion’s footprint on the corridor.



# Recommendations

TRAIL SIDE OR PARK LOCATION

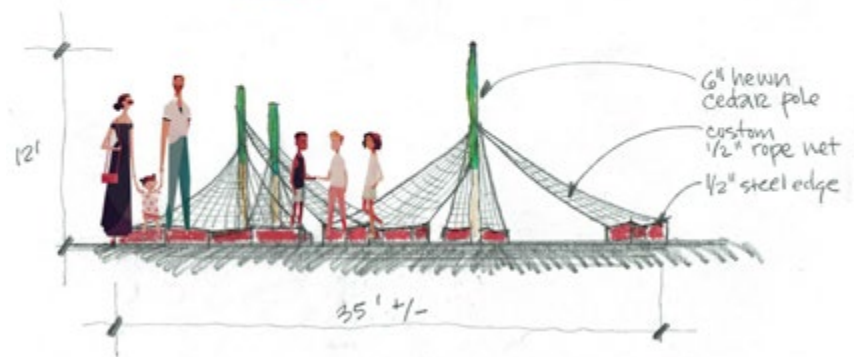
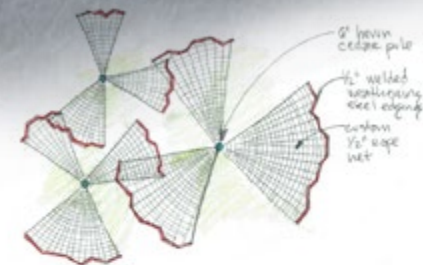


**+/& (AMANDA LOVELEE AND EMILY STOVER)**

## TREETIME-SKY GROUND

**\$42,000**

Sky-Ground uses six-foot cedar poles to attach custom-woven hammock/climb-rope structures that resemble tree growth rings. Unlike the many sculptures in parks that look like play structures but prohibit touching, this welcome trail-side surprise offers play similar to experiences in parks everywhere, and locally found at Urbandale's Walker-Johnston Park's immensely popular climbing rope. Its gentle and low slope is safe for small explorers and offers an easy place to slow down and watch the sky.

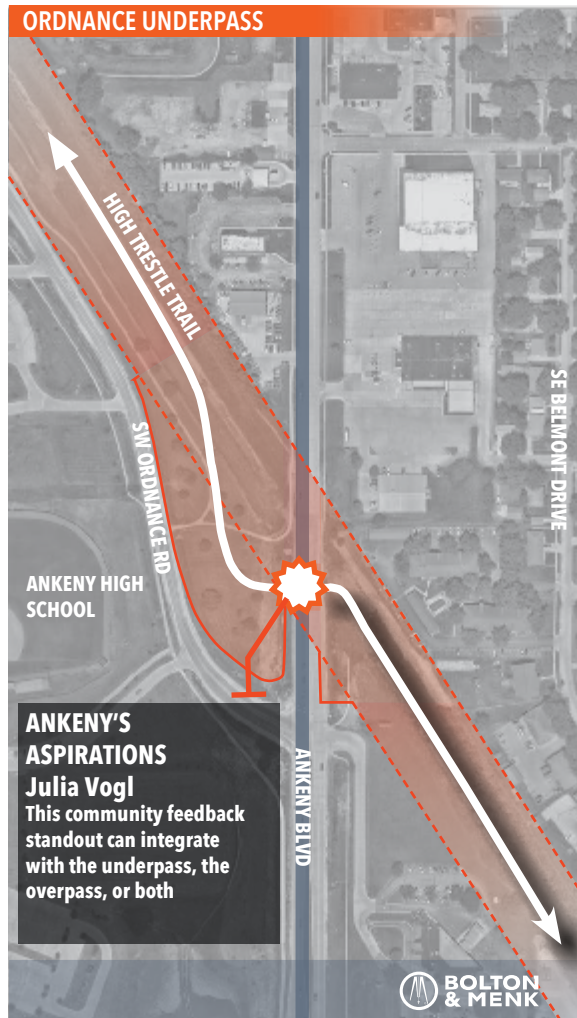


sky Ground-elevation  
1/2 2020



# Recommendations

## UNDERPASS AT ORDNANCE



The Underpass is currently under construction with a projected completion in Fall 2020. Construction and design were kept to simple materials and forms in order not to detract from any type of future public art of storytelling elements. The wing walls are to be cast-in-place concrete with black vinyl chain link safety fence on top. The underpass itself is designed as a pre-cast box culvert with LED interior lighting for safety.

*Ankeny's Aspirations and Neumann Monson's design overlay for the Oralabor overpass are survey standouts and they naturally fit together. Using Julia's engagement process to create artful cladding in Neumann Monson's designs allows the community to see themselves in something sophisticated yet familiar.*

In these collaborative efforts some savings can be found between budget figures. Julia will be paid for engagement strategies and design, Neumann Monson is paid primarily for architectural design, and materials and fabrication costs are absorbed as part of the infrastructure project.

**THE UNDERPASS AND OVERPASS SITES BECAME EXPRESSED DIFFERENTLY DUE TO THEIR INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING, SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION ALREADY IN DEVELOPMENT AT TWO STAGES.**

In each case, these locations appear to benefit from collaborative approaches.

### *Traffic Considerations*

- Traffic counts on Ankeny Blvd: 17,300 north & 20,000 south of the underpass
- Ankeny Blvd is also known as HWY 69 with 4 lanes of traffic
- Traffic counts on Ordnance are much lower at 5,000 average per day
- Ordnance Road is a two lane road that provides secondary access to the Ankeny High School and Southview Middle school

# Recommendations

## UNDERPASS AT ORDNANCE



### STUDIO OF MATTHEW MAZZOTTA

#### SILVER LINING

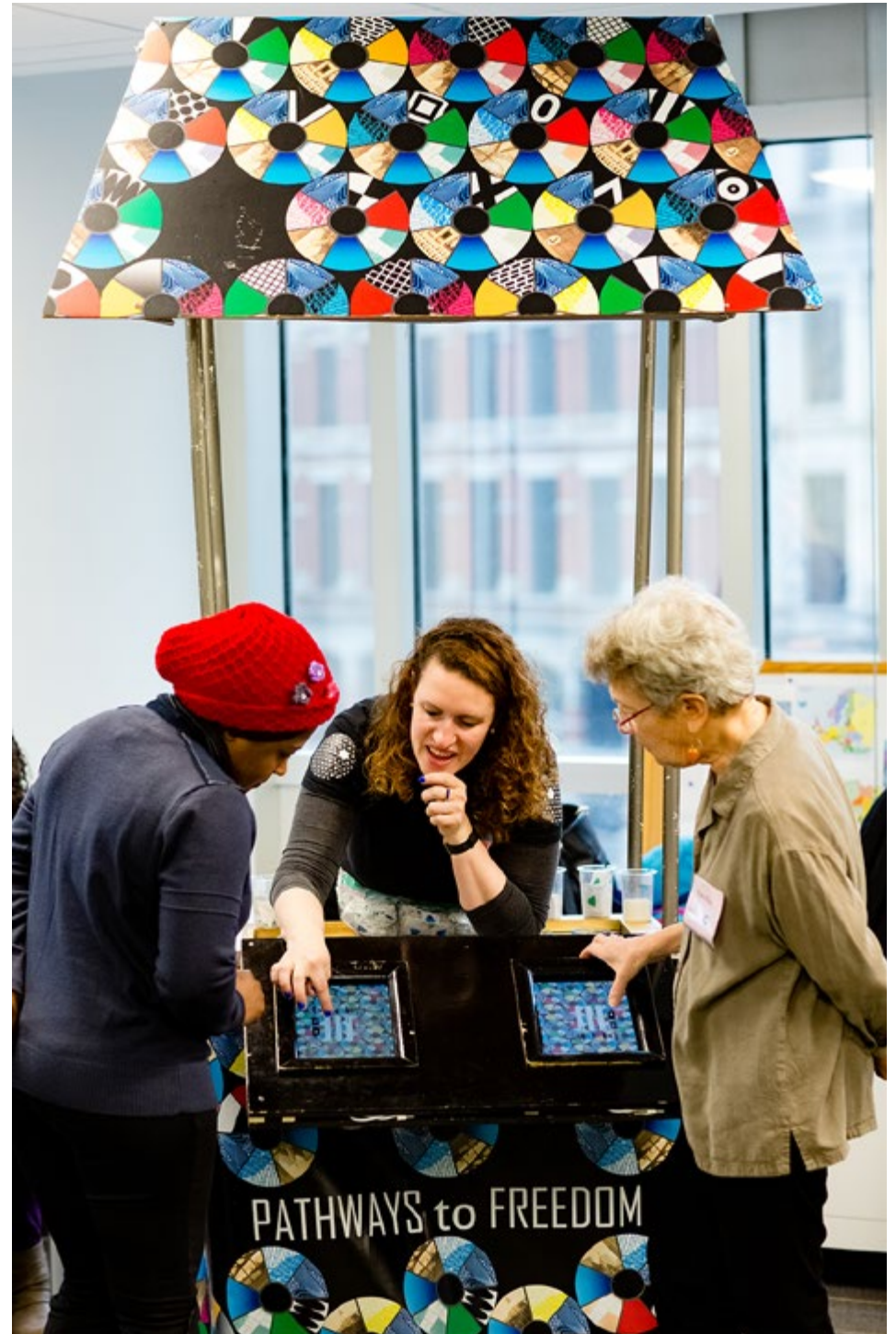
**\$130,000**

This glowing head-in-the-clouds metal sculpture beckons all to visit the trail. Internally lit and visible from the road or from the trail, it invites drivers to imagine themselves heading towards the outdoor recreation they're missing. Its fun and familiar shape is easy to love, and could become an iconic feature for Ankeny similar to the umbrellas of Des Moines. *Silver Lining* is easy to imagine on T-shirts, refrigerator magnets, or even as stress toys. Let Ankeny's trail become a place where worries drift up into the sky.



# Recommendations

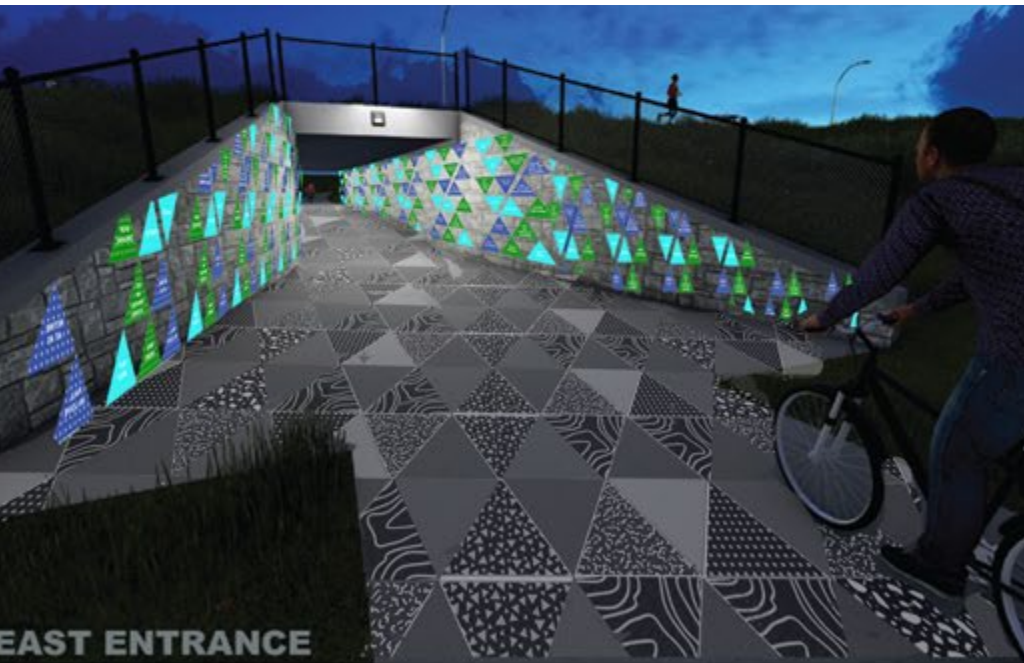
UNDERPASS AT ORDNANCE AND/  
OR ORALABOR OVERPASS





# Recommendations

UNDERPASS AT ORDNANCE AND/  
OR ORALABOR OVERPASS



## JULIA VOGL

### ANKENY'S ASPIRATIONS

**\$80,000\***

Ankeny's Aspirations is the second most popular project in the whole plan. It has forms that work for the underpass as well as the overpass. Vogl is an accomplished international artist whose community-engaged work has been commissioned by major museums, London and other cities in the UK, and international companies. Her Pathways to Freedom Project—similar in process to Ankeny's Aspirations — was installed in the Boston Commons to great media coverage and success.

In Ankeny's Aspirations, Vogl begins with a participatory process surveying the citizens of Ankeny about their hopes and dreams, codifying everything from lifelong ambitions to daily chores into colors and patterns. Participants receive a high-quality pin showing their responses, and their responses are also recreated as tiles set into Ankeny's public infrastructure. Motion- and speed-sensitive lights are triggered to spotlight trail users as they travel through either the underpass or overpass.

**\*Fee includes the artist's fees, travel, and materials for lengthy engagement process and design. Independent fabrication and installation of work as planned is an additional \$250,000.**

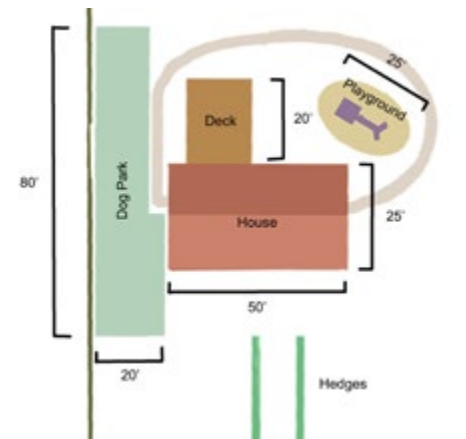
# Recommendations

TRAIL SIDE OR PARK LOCATION



## **NATE PAGE** **HOUSE PARK** **\$400,000**

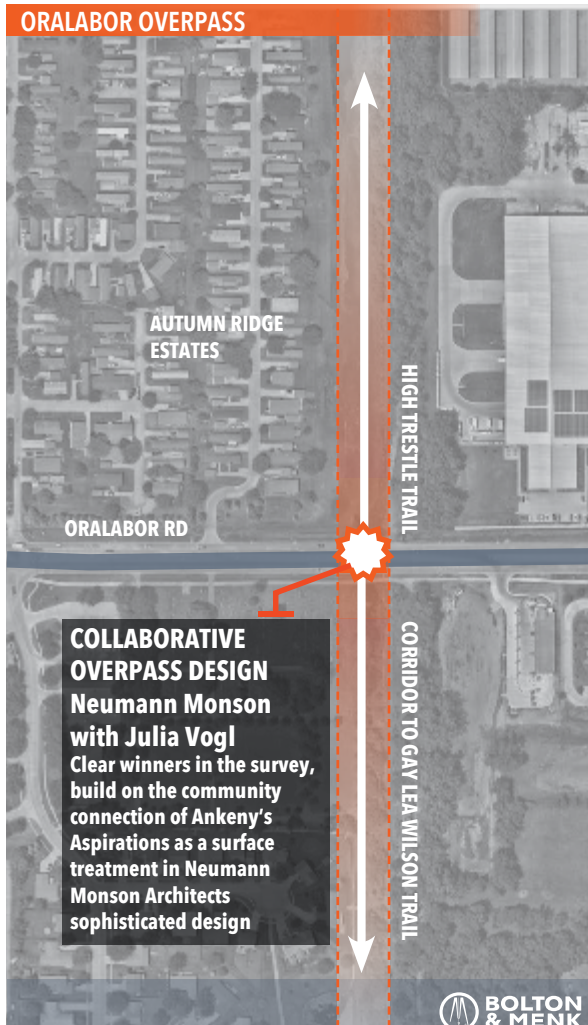
The welcoming nature of Ankeny's hospitality becomes a literal facility with LA-based artist Nate Page's proposed park shaped like a house. Residents can invite each other over for coffee without worrying about picking up the living room first, and everyone knows the kids want to ride their bikes through the kitchen. Complete with all the features shared by homes and parks, this is a playful and extraordinary expression of Ankeny's hometown feel.





# Recommendations

## ORALABOR OVERPASS



The current concept of the overpass is to take advantage of the simple nature of a pre-manufactured trail bridge installed on cast-in-place abutments. The trail approaches will be earth-formed berms raising the trail elevation up over Oralabor road providing a large blank canvas on each side of the road for interpretation.

*The key opportunity here is to apply sophisticated design to build an attractive and distinctive application to a general-use pre-fabricated bridge structure.*

### *Key elements to consider:*

- The overpass at Oralabor should be designed for Motorists to enjoy as well as trail users
- Project is not designed and has opportunity for direct coordination between artist and engineer designer
- Current project timing for overpass improvements: Scheduled for 2021

### *Traffic considerations*

- Traffic counts: 22,200 average per day on Oralabor
- Improvements cannot distract motorists creating a hazard, but instead provide visual interest and placemaking for Ankeny.



# Recommendations

## ORALABOR OVERPASS



**JULIA VOGL**

### ANKENY'S ASPIRATIONS

**\$80,000\***

Ankeny's Aspirations is the second most popular project in the whole plan. It has forms that work for the underpass as well as the overpass.

We envision using Vogl's participatory process to develop designs in which Ankeny residents find their daily lives in Ankeny reflected as points of beauty and pride. This can then be developed by Vogl into installations for the underpass or overpass, or be used by Neumann Monson in their design enhancements for either feature.

**. \*Fee includes the artist's fees, travel, and materials for lengthy engagement process and design. Independent fabrication and installation of work according to Vogl's plans is an additional \$250,000.**

# Recommendations

## ORALABOR OVERPASS



### NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS

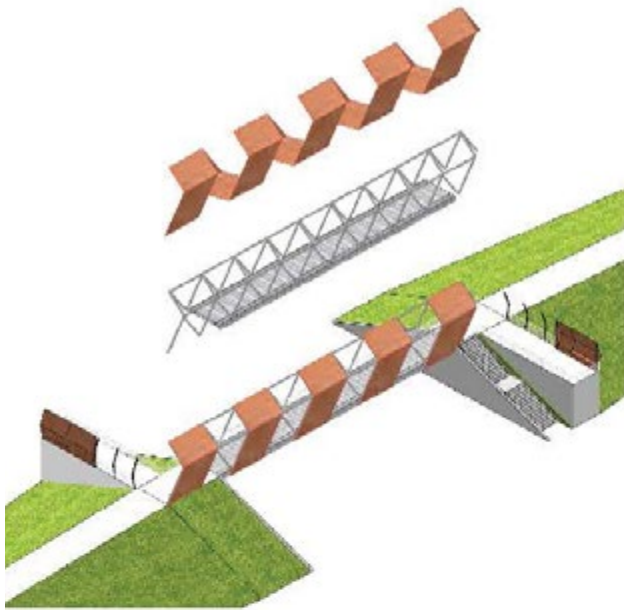
#### OVERPASS DESIGNS

**\$90,000\***

These elegant and sophisticated overpass and underpass design solutions are perfect fits for Ankeny. That proved out as these are in the top three most highly ranked designs in the plan. The fees are a percentage of the total project budget, and they assume material interventions to make a prefabricated and generic piece of infrastructure into a beautiful and innovative statement that will be seen by almost every motorist entering or leaving the city.

Opportunities abound for collaborative design efforts, for coordinating design between the overpass and underpass, and for integrating community-sourced material in an artist-led participatory process.







# Recommendations

## **FUTURE POINTS ALONG THE TRAIL**

As Ankeny continues to develop, elements of history should be preserved and re-purposed. This will continue to offer amenities that are unique to Ankeny and its cultural landscape. West expansion trail connections can build on these themes. Environmental features within the community are to be protected, preserved, and enhanced. The study areas include nationally recognized watersheds. The best park systems are those that are connected through pedestrian-friendly green corridors which can define community character.

## **TEMPORARY**

One of the benefits of investment in culture-oriented infrastructure is its ability to attract and grow greater cultural activity. This is especially effective and vital when lighter-touch elements are distributed to add interactive experiences in various locations and over time. Addition of temporary efforts are highly encouraged and several are recommended here both as ready-to implement solutions and as examples of what might be possible. Multiple price points and durations are offered.

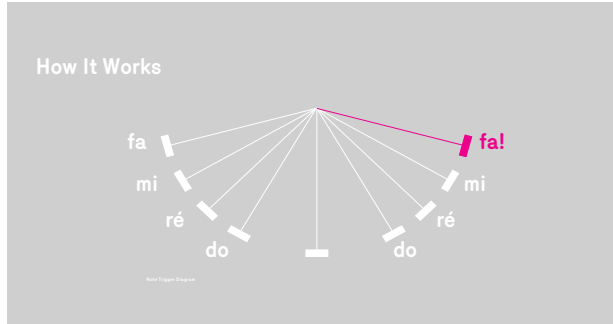
*Group Creative Services can assist in developing temporary activations as a means of creating opportunities for local artists.*



### **PATRICK DOUGHERTY**

**\$60,000**

Larger-scale greenspace installation wows visitors and becomes a feature beloved by locals. Official duration is less than three years, but previous projects indicate that regular maintenance prolongs the project's lifespan.



### **DAILY TOUS LES JOURS**

**MUSICAL SWINGS**

**\$95,000**

Gathering national attention wherever they are installed, the musical swings are always a hit. Price shown is inclusive for four weeks' rental. \$5,000 per week for additional time.



### **KITE CHOIR**

**\$1,800–3,800**

Solo, or as an ensemble, Firat Erdim performs his kite choirs, using multiple kites attached to improvised instruments. [Included in the DNR's 20 artists in 20 parks.](#)





## HISTORY VENDORS

**CHRIS DAHLQUIST**

**\$12,000 RENTAL**

Features of Ankeny History presented as collectible cards. Use as a regular feature at events such as farmer's market and allow stories of Ankeny's history to come alive in the places where it happened.

## POINT OF INTEREST

**CHRIS DAHLQUIST**

**\$48,000**

Permanently installed tourist binoculars show scenes from Ankeny's history or focus on contemporary points of interest. Four viewers with internal photographs mounted.

## MOBILE SIGN SHOP

**\$6,000**

Inspired by the home made signs on rural roads in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin, the Mobile sign shop is a community-led method to create wayfinding. Many variations are possible.





### **READY-GO ART** **SPRINGBOARD, MN** **\$4,000–15,000**

Artist 'tools' for community connection [are available for rent from this Twin Cities-based resource](#). Most are less than a few hundred per day and will require travel. New tools can also be commissioned for \$5,000–20,000 each through local resources.



Polk County Justice Center mosaic



Mural at Cheesebar

### **SIDEWALK GAMES** **NICOLE JAMES** **\$2,700**

Des Moines artist and arts educator Nicole James can paint a game mural on sidewalk or trail areas. Examples would be a playable version of Candyland, with 15 game tiles painted on the ground. A permanent version could be done with mosaic tiles for fees plus \$1,200 per tile.



Mosaic at Drake

### **EMBOSSSED MOSAICS/STORY PIECES** **\$1,350/ 4 X 4' TILE**

On her own or in a community-engaged process Nicole can develop mosaic tiles that can be displayed on interior or exterior walls or be embossed into concrete. She is keen, especially, to try this in service of something like a library's story walk.



### CUSTOM CALLS

**\$5,000–50,000**

Group Creative Services can facilitate calls for programmatic goals. Unique experiences at events, development of Ankeny-specific infrastructure, or a seasonal installation event. For example, Ankeny could host a competitive call for artists to install a summertime-only project in the basin near the Ankeny Market & Pavilion that is reserved for winter time ice skating, or a one-time transformation of a Quonset hut into a unique weekend experience. Performing a calls is an inexpensive, commitment-free way to explore ideas. Plan \$3,500 to \$9,000 for a call and resulting proposals. The cost increases with the ambition of the final project's budget.



# Implementation and Funding Strategies

Like a lot of plans, it will take years to fully implement the recommendations found here. Securing adequate funding as well as aligning construction timelines will be key for swiftness of implementation. There are multiple approaches through which to garner financial support for art.

## **PUBLIC/PRIVATE ENDEAVORS**

Several temporary and permanent pieces in this plan are well suited for donations from private individuals or corporations. Art for Ankeny and the Ankeny Art Center may be a key organizations to support this sort of partnership with the City. Additionally, some of the *recommendations in this plan call for tree and prairie plantings. Local, non-arts organizations like Trees Forever and the Great Outdoors Foundation are key funders and supporters of such endeavors.*

## **PERCENT FOR ART**

Many cities—including some in the Greater Des Moines area—allot a percentage for the city's CIP budget to invest in their community's quality of life and powers of attraction by commissioning distinctive public artworks. Often these projects are sited in or adjacent to the building or project being constructed yet those *funds could be pooled with hybrid sources to support city-wide efforts like the implementation of recommendations in this plan. This policy approach guarantees that public art projects are planned and funded*, as long as CIPs are underway and municipal construction continues, and that funding is obtained from a broad range of city departments. Likewise, a percent of certain funds like hotel/motel tax monies could also be reserved.

## **SOLICIT SUPPORT FROM DEVELOPERS**

Many developers understand that employee attraction and retention is served when they can offer a unique place to live and work. Artwork along the High Trestle Trail would *provide a unique cultural amenity in the region. It would behoove developers to support these efforts to create a more competitive marketplace for their investments* as well as demonstrate a commitment to civic spaces. Support for public art could be included in a developer incentive package or as part of fees paid when addressing mitigation issues.



# Implementation and Funding Strategies

## GRANTS AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

There are a few grants to seek and more when one looks beyond those focused on public art. The Iowa Arts Council offers several yearly grants to support public art and community development projects as does Bravo Greater Des Moines. Beyond arts-related grant funders, those organizations and foundations that support improved civic spaces, public health, cultural amenities and trail developments would be a good fit.

When funding becomes more regular, a system to manage the distribution of funds will need to be developed. While budgeting for funds, some should be set aside for maintenance of public art as any improvements made in civic spaces require some level of up-keep.

## A CHANGING LANDSCAPE IN LIGHT OF THE COVID PANDEMIC

The developing impact of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic on the region and the broader economy suggests implementation of any projects resulting from this work will likely see delays. Funding partners who provide grants for projects such as these have also been impacted and project reduced capacity for 2021.

*However, the experience of social distancing proved the vital necessity of neighborly connection and access to natural resources. This plan supports resilient, healthy communities through flexible access to recreation, commerce, and respite.*

# ***APPENDICES***

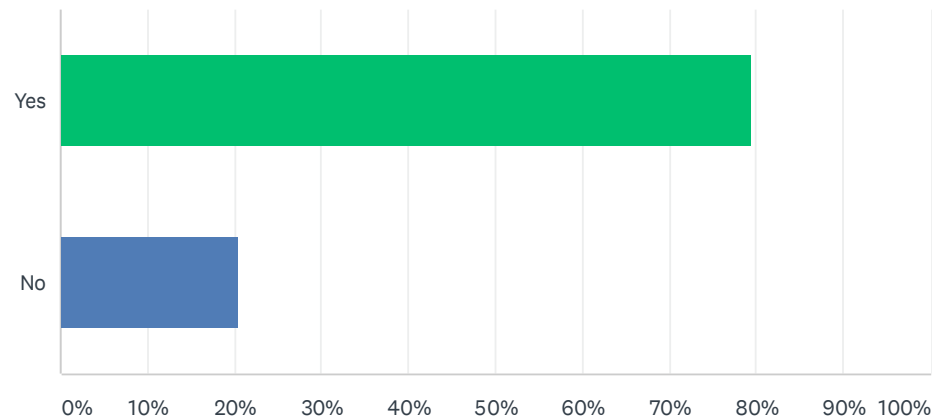
# ***INITIAL RESIDENT AND TRAIL USERS SURVEY***



# Ankeny's trail experience

## Q1 Are you a frequent trail user?

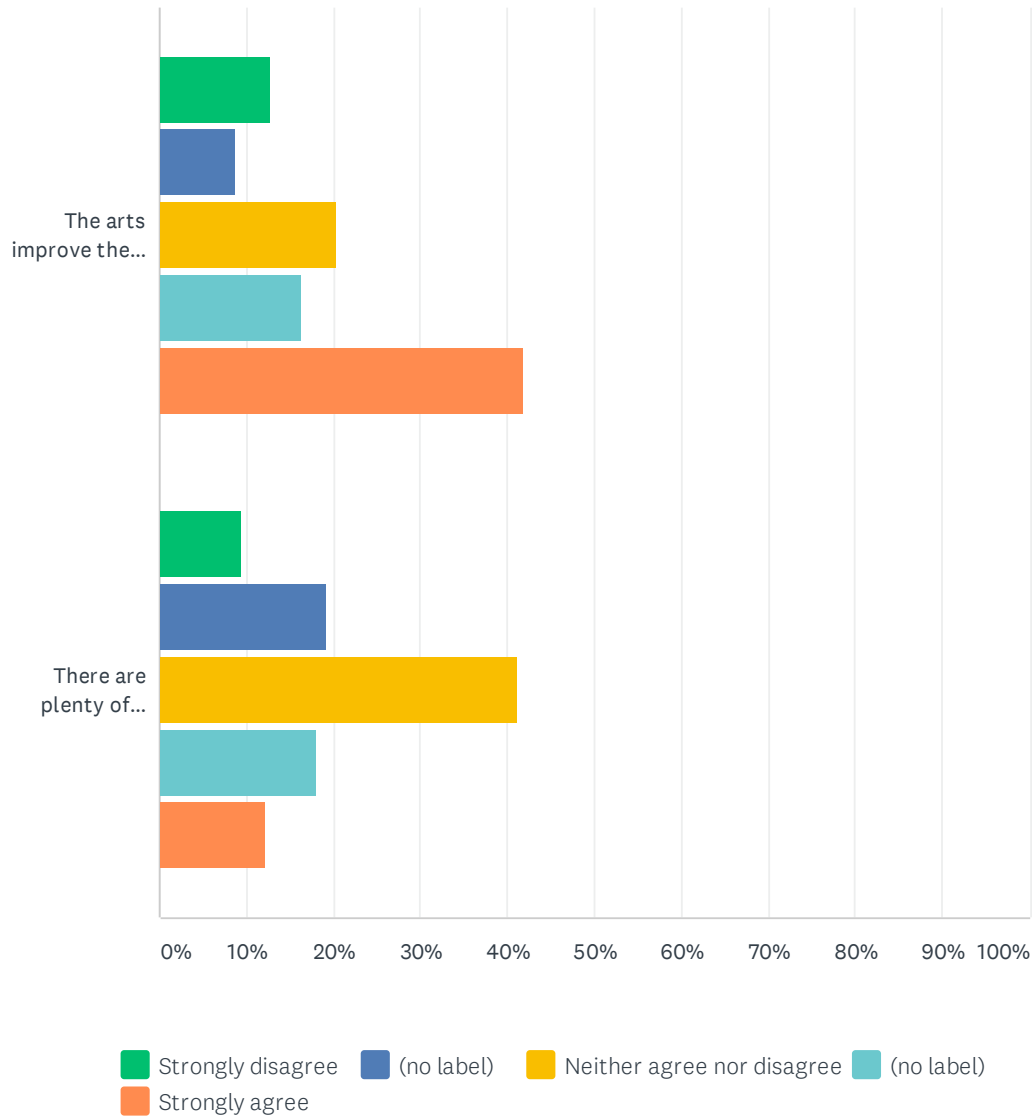
Answered: 900    Skipped: 2



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Yes            | 79.44%    | 715 |
| No             | 20.56%    | 185 |
| TOTAL          |           | 900 |

## Q2 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Answered: 901 Skipped: 1



|                                                                                                                       | STRONGLY DISAGREE | (NO LABEL)    | NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE | (NO LABEL)    | STRONGLY AGREE | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------|
| The arts improve the image and identity of my community                                                               | 12.74%<br>114     | 8.72%<br>78   | 20.34%<br>182              | 16.31%<br>146 | 41.90%<br>375  | 895   | 3.66             |
| There are plenty of opportunities for me to take part in arts and cultural activities in my neighborhood or community | 9.41%<br>84       | 19.26%<br>172 | 41.21%<br>368              | 18.03%<br>161 | 12.09%<br>108  | 893   | 3.04             |

### Q3 How would you describe Ankeny to a friend?

Answered: 804 Skipped: 98

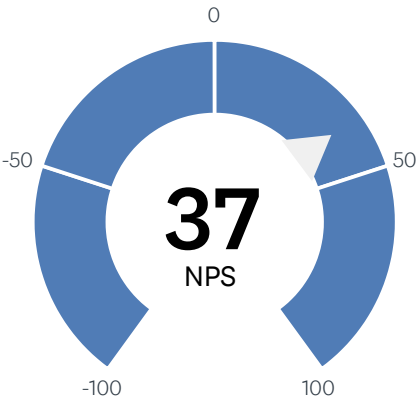






Q5 How likely is it that you would recommend Ankeny's trails to a friend or colleague?

Answered: 883    Skipped: 19



| DETRACTORS (0-6) | PASSIVES (7-8) | PROMOTERS (9-10) | NET PROMOTER® SCORE |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 16%<br>144       | 30%<br>265     | 54%<br>474       | 37                  |

## Q6 What do you like best about Ankeny's trails?

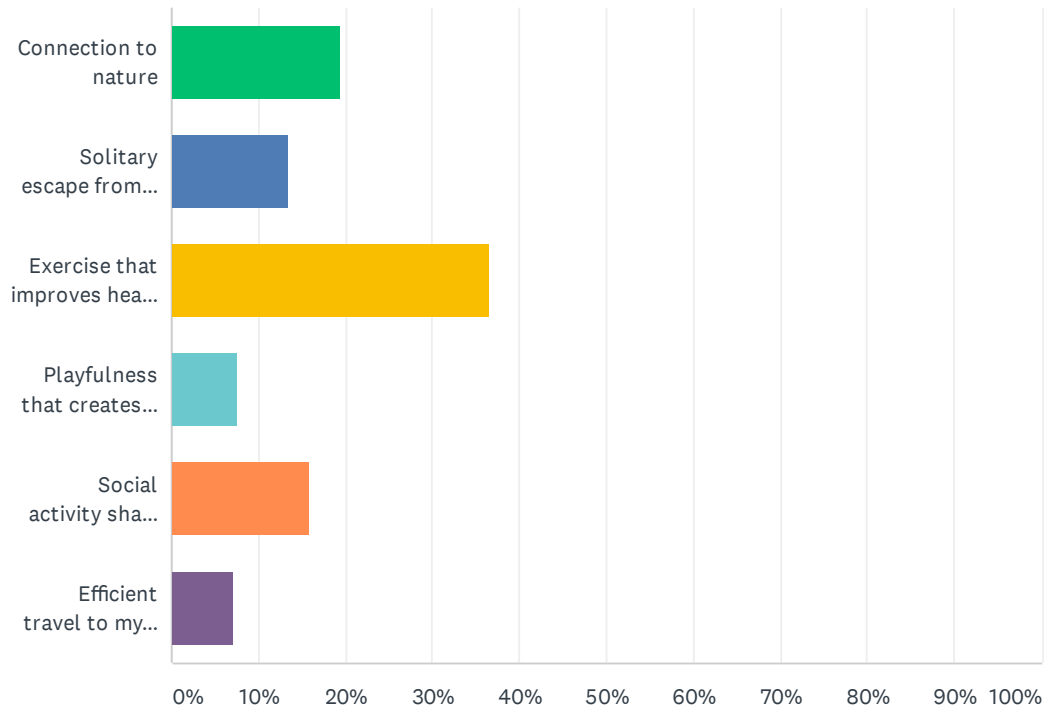
Answered: 811 Skipped: 91





## Q7 What do you want most from your Ankeny trail experience? (pick one)

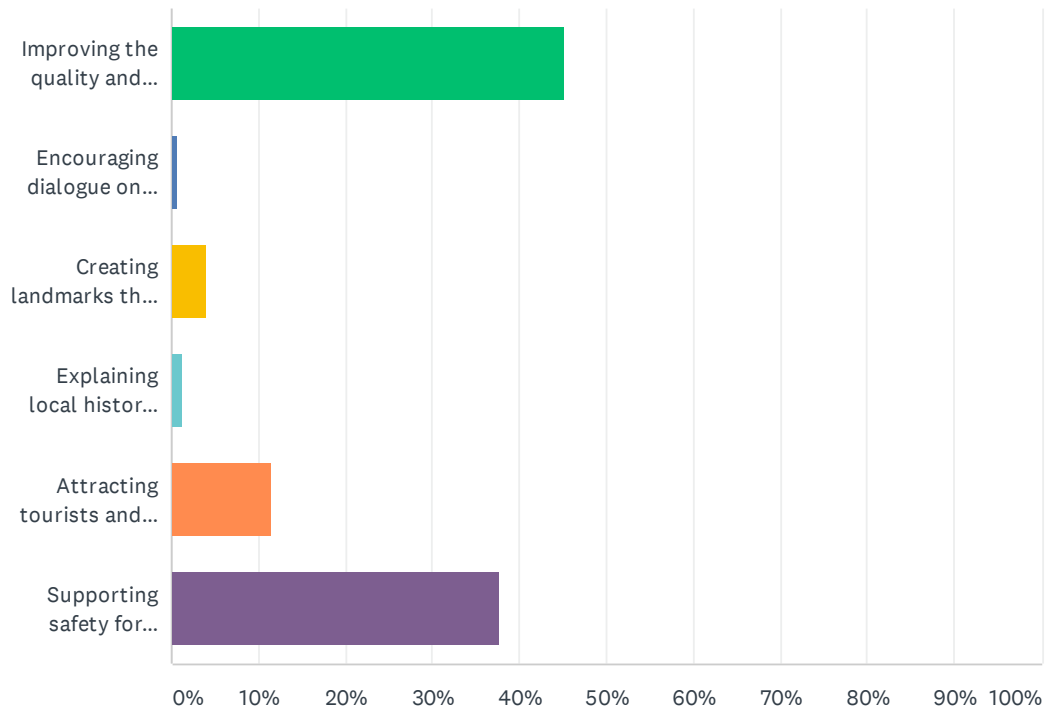
Answered: 897   Skipped: 5



| ANSWER CHOICES                                | RESPONSES |     |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Connection to nature                          | 19.51%    | 175 |
| Solitary escape from urban life               | 13.49%    | 121 |
| Exercise that improves health and fitness     | 36.57%    | 328 |
| Playfulness that creates wonder and amusement | 7.58%     | 68  |
| Social activity shared with other trail users | 15.83%    | 142 |
| Efficient travel to my destination            | 7.02%     | 63  |
| TOTAL                                         |           | 897 |

## Q8 What's the most important purpose of Ankeny's trail experience? (pick one)

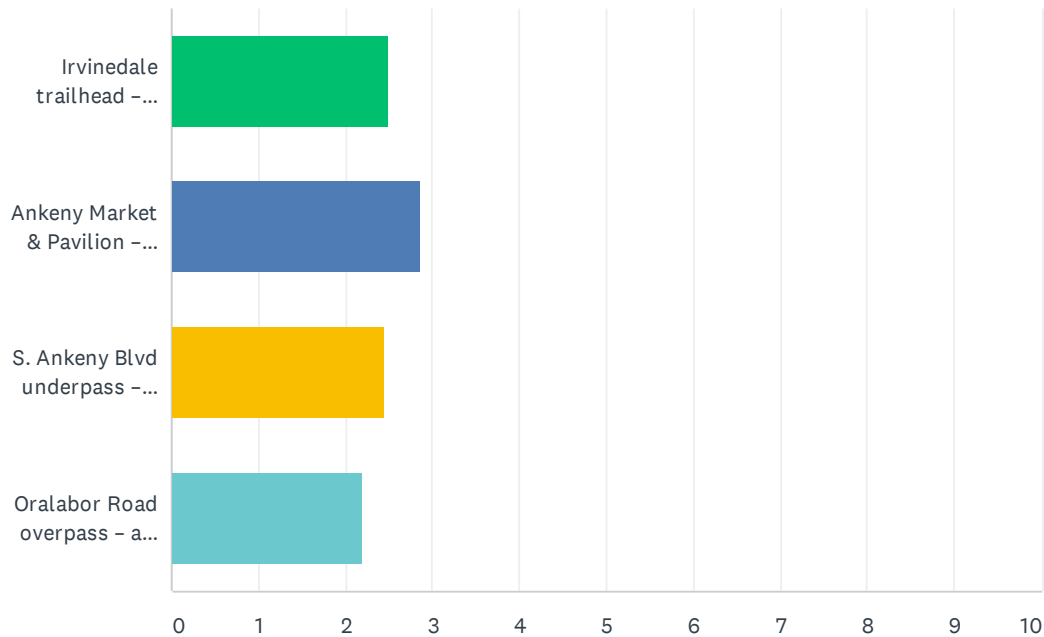
Answered: 895 Skipped: 7



| ANSWER CHOICES                                                   | RESPONSES |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Improving the quality and livability of the community            | 45.14%    | 404 |
| Encouraging dialogue on important issues facing the community    | 0.56%     | 5   |
| Creating landmarks that express community identity               | 3.91%     | 35  |
| Explaining local history and culture                             | 1.23%     | 11  |
| Attracting tourists and other economic benefits to the community | 11.51%    | 103 |
| Supporting safety for bicycle and pedestrian traffic             | 37.65%    | 337 |
| TOTAL                                                            |           | 895 |

## Q9 After reviewing the map above, please rank the importance of the following High Trestle Trail locations to you:

Answered: 890 Skipped: 12

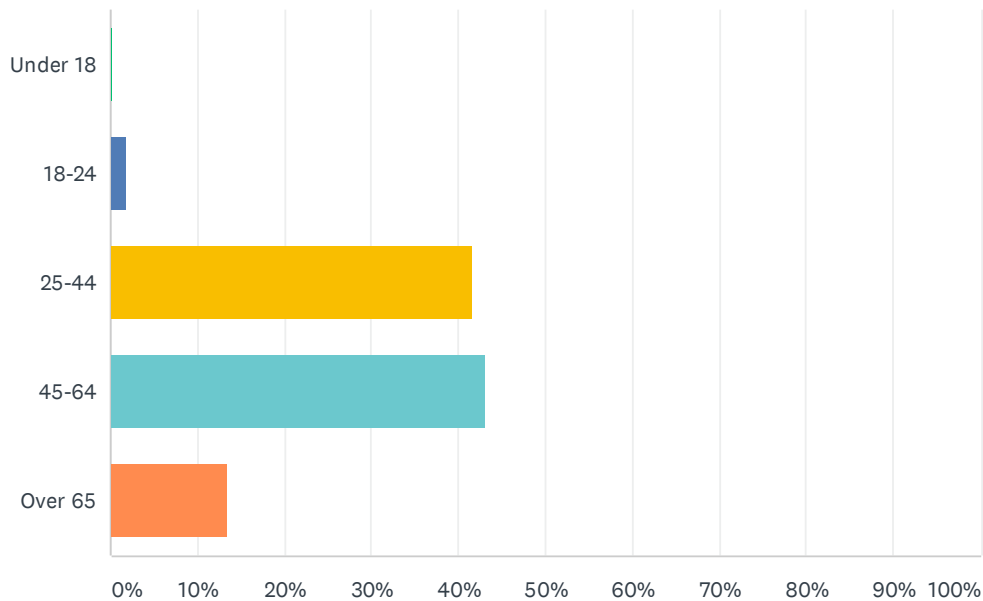


|                                                                                                 | 1             | 2             | 3             | 4             | TOTAL | SCORE |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------|-------|
| Irvinedale trailhead – trailhead to be built north of NW 18th Street                            | 29.75%<br>260 | 20.82%<br>182 | 18.54%<br>162 | 30.89%<br>270 | 874   | 2.49  |
| Ankeny Market & Pavilion – shelters, restrooms, parking and trail crossing at West 1st Street   | 36.51%<br>318 | 30.08%<br>262 | 16.65%<br>145 | 16.76%<br>146 | 871   | 2.86  |
| S. Ankeny Blvd underpass – under construction at Ordinance intersection near Ankeny High School | 14.98%<br>129 | 29.04%<br>250 | 41.81%<br>360 | 14.17%<br>122 | 861   | 2.45  |
| Oralabor Road overpass – a new pedestrian bridge scheduled for construction in 2021             | 18.95%<br>166 | 19.75%<br>173 | 22.95%<br>201 | 38.36%<br>336 | 876   | 2.19  |



## Q11 Age

Answered: 898 Skipped: 4



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Under 18       | 0.11%     | 1   |
| 18-24          | 1.89%     | 17  |
| 25-44          | 41.54%    | 373 |
| 45-64          | 43.10%    | 387 |
| Over 65        | 13.36%    | 120 |
| TOTAL          |           | 898 |

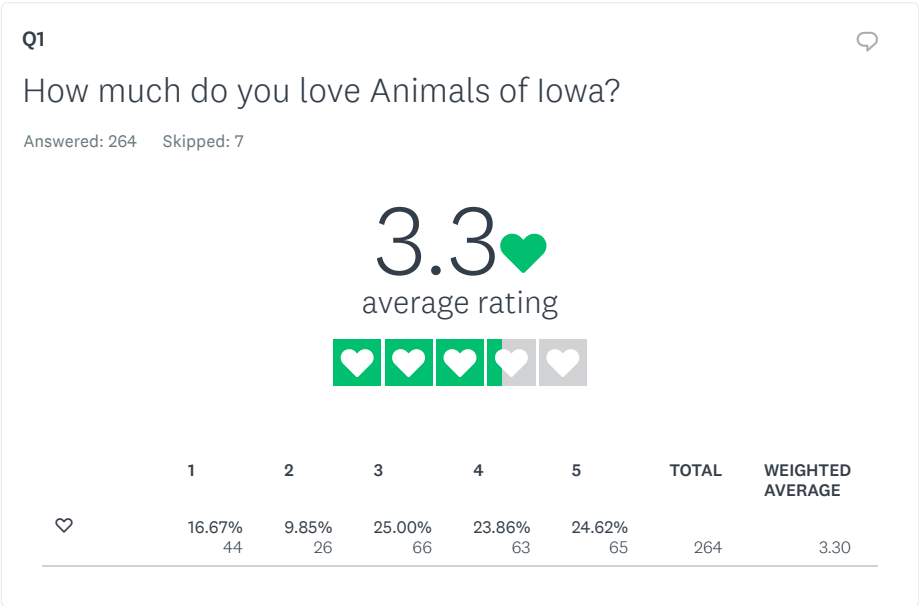
# ***PROJECT EVALUATION SURVEY***



# High Trestle Trail Experience

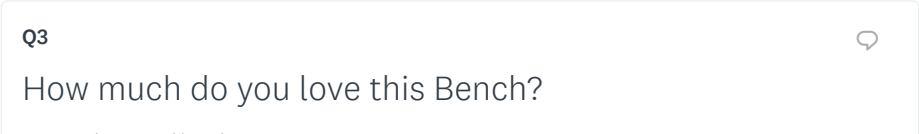
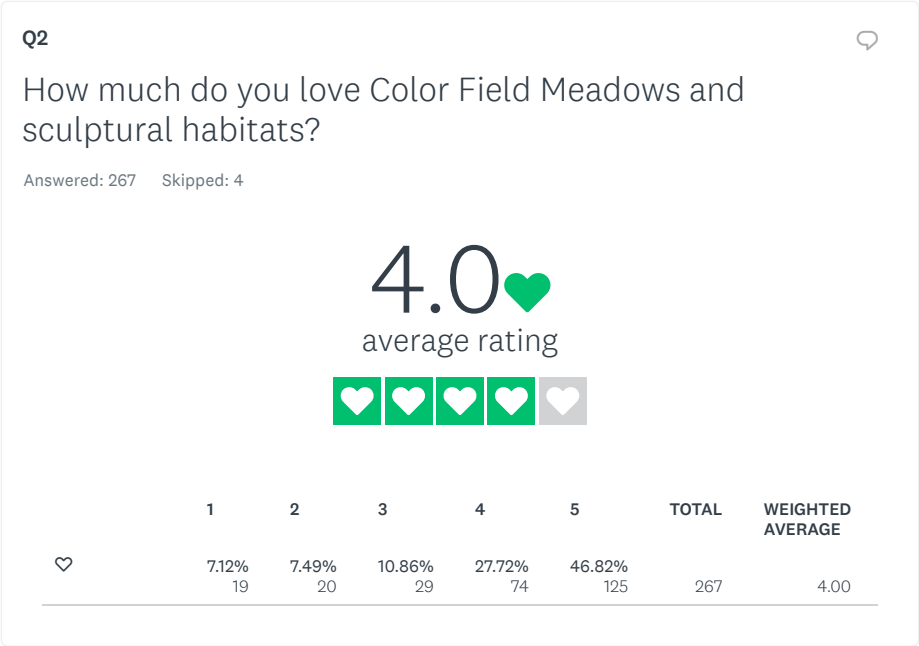
Full sample of public input survey

All Pages ▾

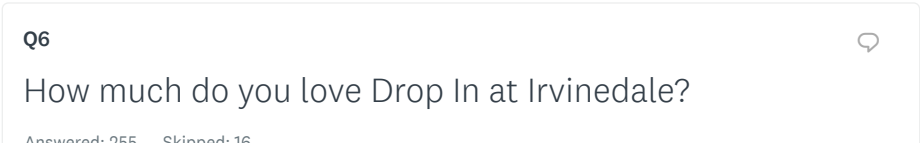
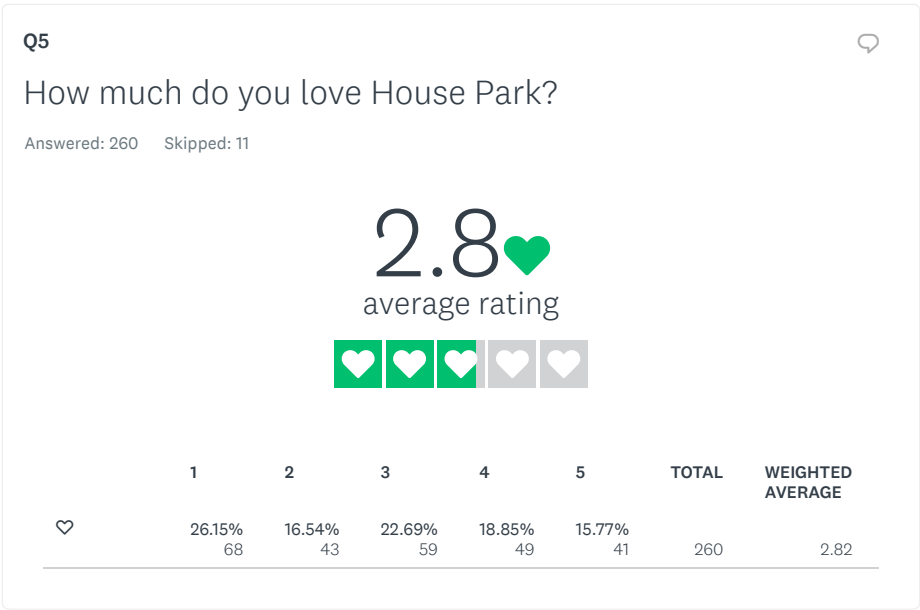
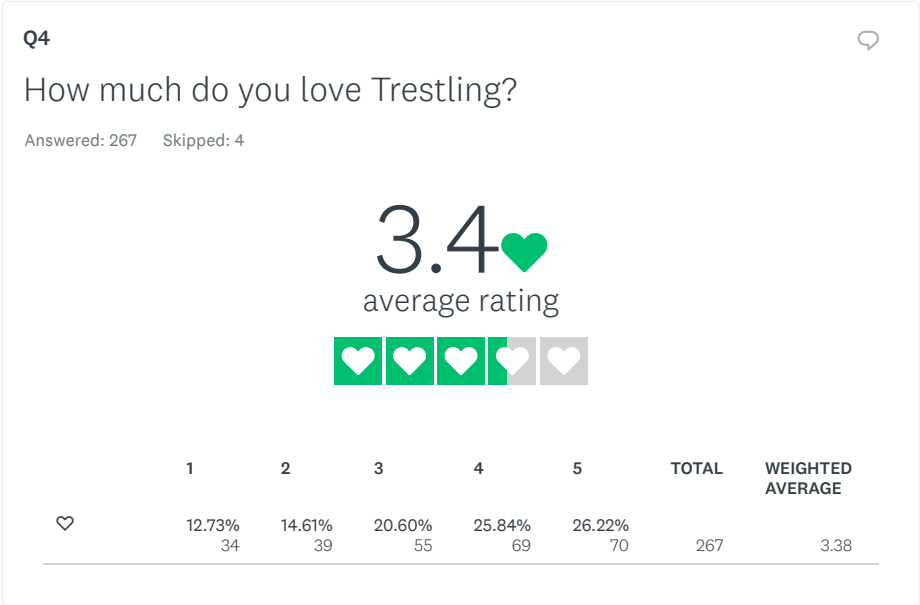
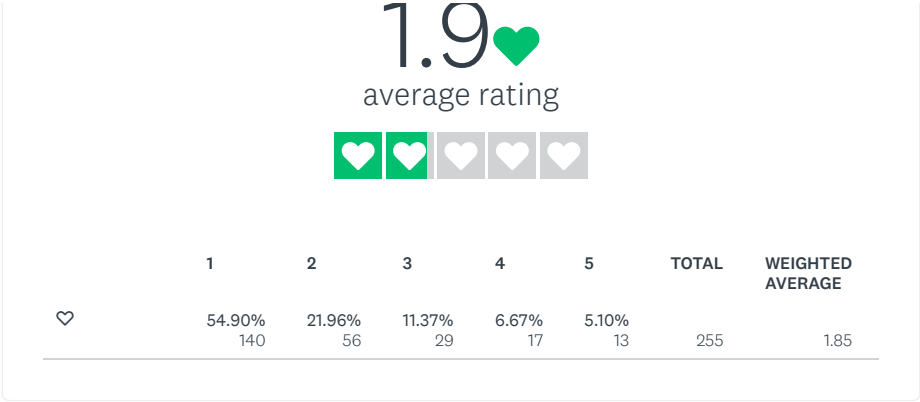


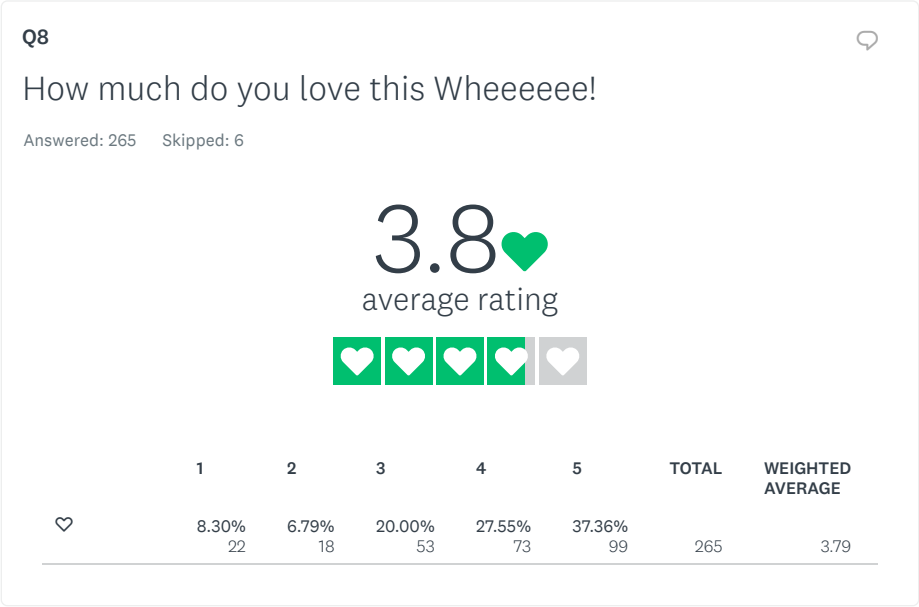
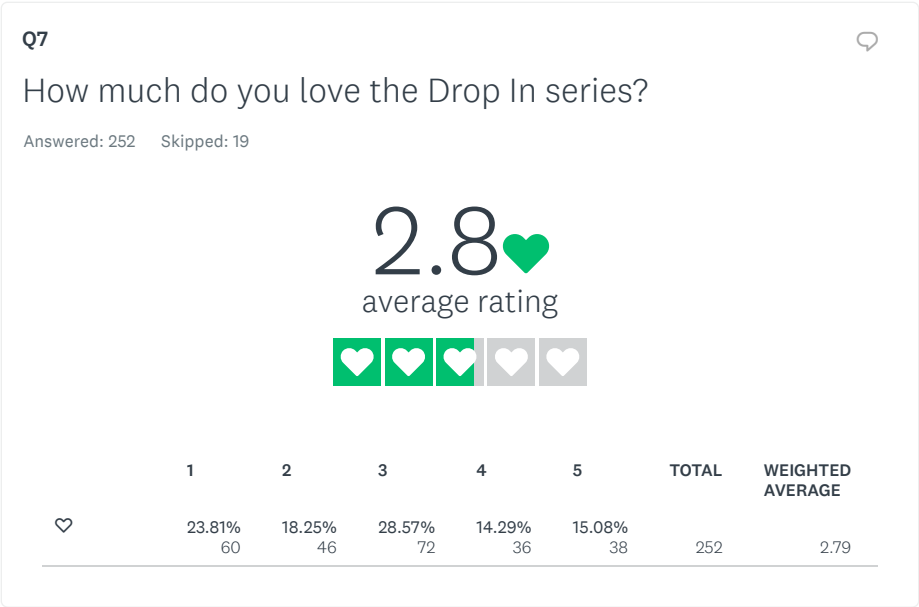
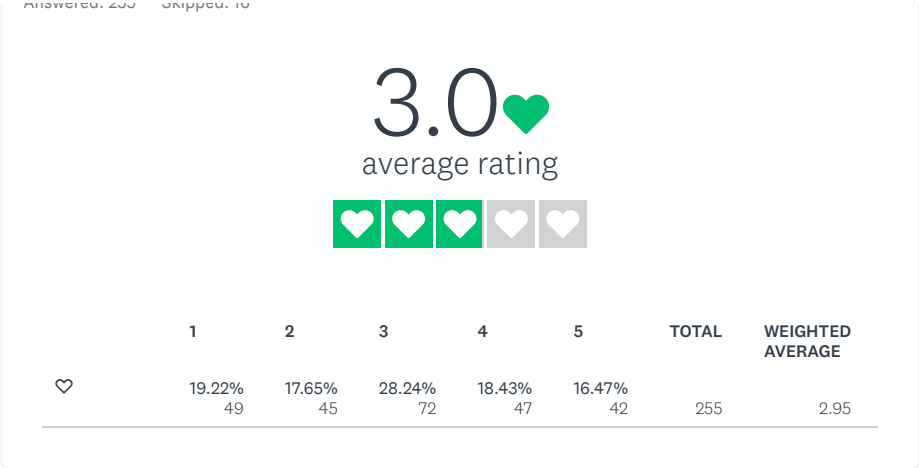
▲

Add a comment



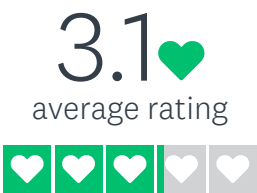







How much do you love Tree Time - Growth Ring?

Answered: 256 Skipped: 15



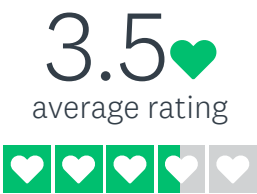
|                                                                                   | 1            | 2            | 3            | 4            | 5            | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------------------|
|  | 14.06%<br>36 | 19.53%<br>50 | 23.44%<br>60 | 25.78%<br>66 | 17.19%<br>44 | 256   | 3.13             |

Q10



How much do you love Tree Time - Sky Ground?

Answered: 265 Skipped: 6



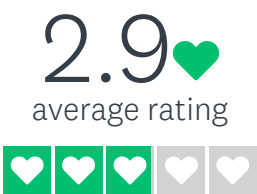
|                                                                                     | 1           | 2            | 3            | 4            | 5            | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------------------|
|  | 7.92%<br>21 | 14.34%<br>38 | 27.17%<br>72 | 24.91%<br>66 | 25.66%<br>68 | 265   | 3.46             |


Q11



How much do you love Silver Lining?

Answered: 260 Skipped: 11



|                                                                                     | 1            | 2            | 3            | 4            | 5            | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------------------|
|  | 22.31%<br>58 | 16.15%<br>42 | 23.85%<br>62 | 21.15%<br>55 | 16.54%<br>43 | 260   | 2.93             |



Q12

OPTIONALLY add comments on any of the projects listed on this page.

Answered: 30   Skipped: 241

It would be very important that Color Field Meadows would use all native plants of Iowa and not mix in non-natives.

5/25/2020 11:11 AM

Concerned about the drop in series and the potential for vandalism and continuing costs to keep structures in good condition.

5/24/2020 11:13 AM

Less money on art and more on trails and trees that live.

5/23/2020 9:11 AM

Keep it nature real, some of these are just not right for nature loving bikers and joggers

5/22/2020 1:01 PM

Q13

How much do you love Ankeny's Aspirations?

Answered: 258   Skipped: 13

3.7

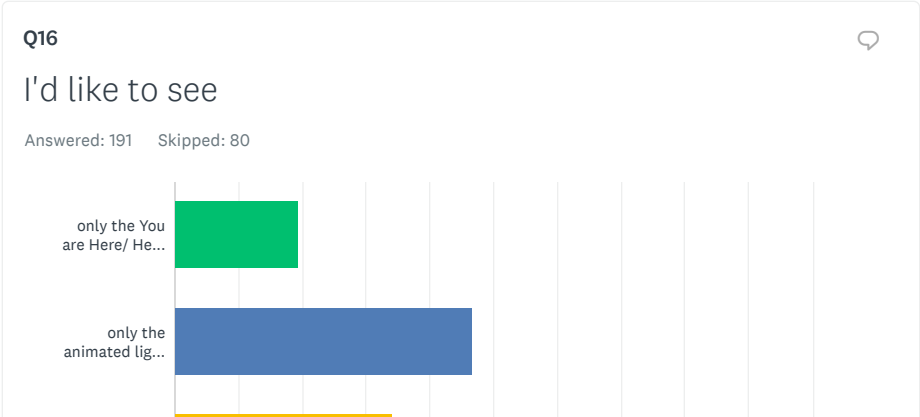
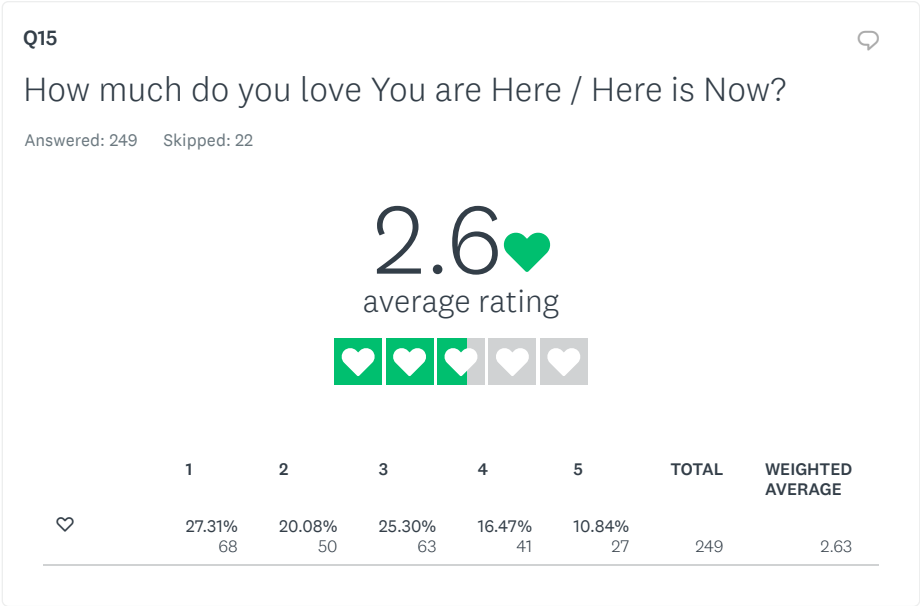
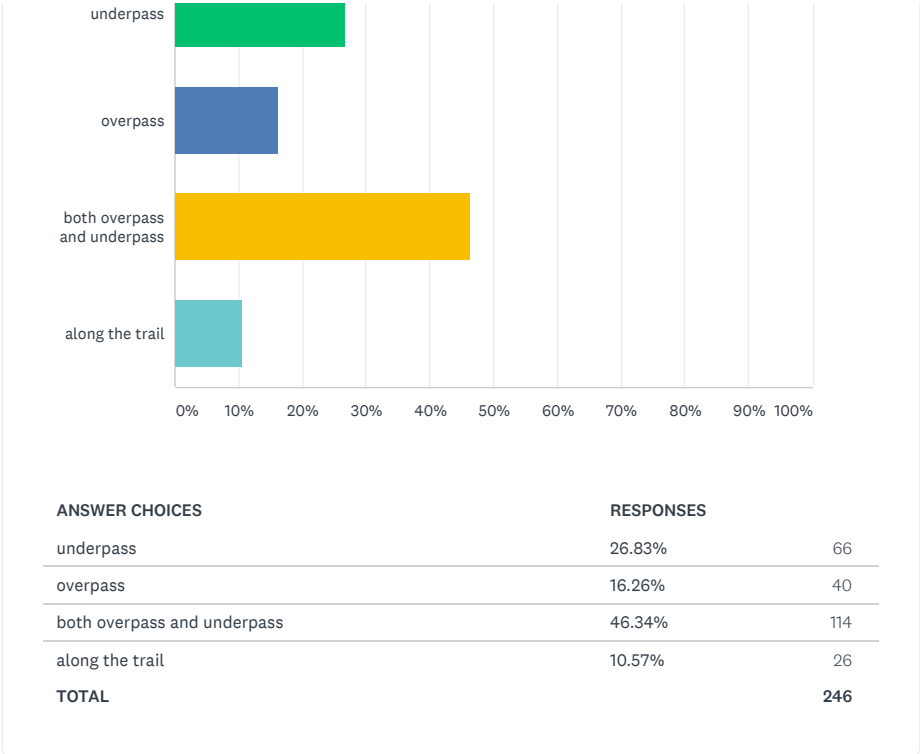
average rating

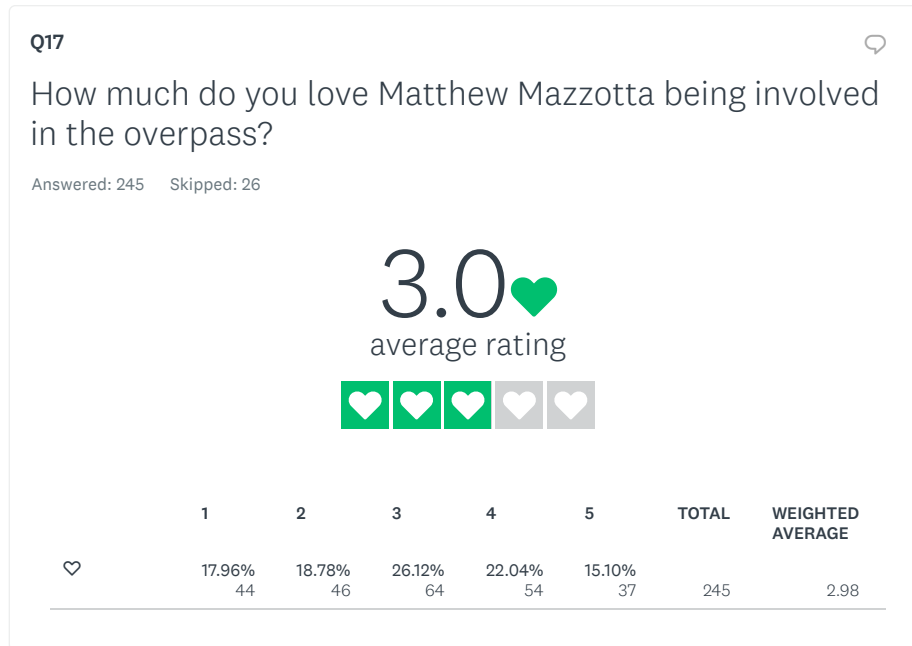
|   | 1           | 2            | 3            | 4            | 5            | TOTAL | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------------------|
| ♡ | 8.14%<br>21 | 13.18%<br>34 | 13.95%<br>36 | 27.13%<br>70 | 37.60%<br>97 | 258   | 3.73             |

Q14

Ankeny's Aspirations should be seen at the

Answered: 246   Skipped: 25







## Overpass Comments OPTIONALLY add comments about overpass design here.

Answered: 31   Skipped: 240

the above Monson design brings a pairing with the high trestle bridge design that brings some unity to the trail.

5/25/2020 11:23 AM

How long will art look fresh before it needs to be replaced?

5/23/2020 9:20 AM

Not sure I really liked any of them

5/22/2020 1:04 PM

my main concern is can I get over or under the street safely.

5/21/2020 2:09 PM

### Q20

## OVERALL COMMENTS Feel free to leave any final thoughts or words of encouragement here.

Answered: 33   Skipped: 238

We need to be careful not to invite graffiti and places of isolation to the trail.

5/25/2020 11:23 AM

My survey shows people want to be on trails to get away from busyness. Keep it simple as it is much more about nature and exercise.

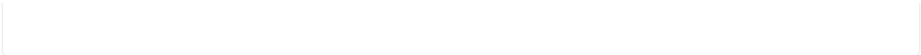
5/23/2020 9:20 AM

Love that you are asking us, lots of creativity here --

5/22/2020 1:04 PM

There are some seriously cool things in here! I was most excited about the musical/light "detour." I didn't see as much of the "story of Ankeny" in it as I remember hearing at the Uptown meeting presentation. Still, I'm very excited to see what the final choices are!

5/21/2020 9:00 AM



# ***REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS***





**ANKENY HIGH TRESTLE  
TRAIL MULTI-SITE ARTISTS'  
CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

*Teva Dawson \ 515 244-8590*

*\ teva@groupcreatives.com*

*Mat Greiner \ 515 782-0507*

*\ mat@groupcreatives.com*

# High Trestle Trail Experience

## PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC

### ART ALONG THE TRAIL

Create experiences along the trail that reveal local culture and support Ankeny's hometown feel. Turn locals towards the trail as a key artery of community and connection while generating a destination for regional trail users.

All projects should have an eye towards accessibility, inclusion and diversity.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Opportunities at four sites may be addressed singularly, in groups or comprehensively
- Budget appropriate for large municipal project
- Proposals due 3/6/2020
- Completion staged through 2022 according to construction schedules for each site
- Proposals address three tiers of option to offer vibrance in the public art experience. Large scale, medium scale, and temporary or programmatic projects are sought.

## INTRODUCTION

The City of Ankeny is the fastest growing and independent suburb in the Des Moines, IA metropolitan region. The 67,000 Ankeny residents are preparing to invest in a popular recreational trail and seek to support their neighborhoods by incorporating art and culture experiences with this programming. Temporary or performative activations, earth works, interactive sculptures, artful community engagement strategies, and artwork designed to integrate with public infrastructure are all desired.

The City of Ankeny hosts an impressive network of nearly 80 miles of local and regional trails. The network will expand as the city completes projects in the planning pipeline. Besides trail investment within the city limits, Ankeny is a partner in developing regional connections through the Central Iowa Trails Network (CITN). The most popular segment of the CITN is the High Trestle Trail (HTT) and High Trestle Bridge—over 250,000 annual visitors travel along the HTT. Uptown Ankeny is home to the HTT's southern terminus. Ankeny has yet to capitalize on its potential

to capture trail tourists. The City of Ankeny's Economic Development Department started the Bicycle Tourism and Economic Development Strategies planning effort in spring 2018. The overall goal of the effort is to identify implementable strategies that will bolster local economic activity through bicycle tourism. Ankeny's Bicycle Tourism Plan outlines the strategies Ankeny can carry out over the next eight years to place Ankeny on the map of every bicycle tourist's list of places to visit.

Group Creative Services is a public art consultancy leading the public art master plan for the High Trestle Trail Experience. Group Creative Services, local artists, and Hanser & Associates PR are conducting thorough survey and outreach efforts. Bolton & Menk Engineering, Planning, and Consulting is providing engineering and landscape architectural oversight.

## **ASSIGNMENT**

We are seeking expressions of interest and examples of your work at this time. Several artists/teams will be selected to develop project proposals including detailed timeline and budget based on desired site(s) selected by each artist. Proposals will include CV, statement of concept, anticipated budget including artist fee, three to five design mock ups of proposed work, link to on-line portfolio and two references related to past public art experience.

Proposals will portray a work at a single site, at a series of sites, at all four sites, or along the length of the Ankeny trail segment. Both the City of Ankeny and Group Creative Services prioritize diverse perspectives and

equity. Exceptional proposals will promote the distinct characters and strengths of Ankeny's population in a manner that promotes equity and attracts the diverse perspectives that build a thriving city.

### *Type of artwork desired*

All media and forms of work are desired. Work that transcends expectations of public art will be more successful. Community engagement, performance, earth works, water, natural features and interactive sculptures are likely to be successful candidates.

### *Tiered Proposal Options*

As a means of providing growth opportunities for artists developing their public art careers, we are seeking proposals at three funding levels. Group Creative Services will discuss proposal opportunities with prospective artists when requesting paid proposals.

#### **Tier One**

**Artist is designing for one or more sites or for a comprehensive corridor plan. Artists are selected through an invitational model. Budget will be clarified at development of proposal but will reflect the scale of the capital projects this artwork is supporting. We expect these projects to be funded at a range of \$250–350,000. Proposals are paid at \$1,000 each.**

#### **Tier Two**

**Artists working on these proposals will be working on a specific site. Project budgets for single sites will range from \$25,000 to 75,000. Proposals are paid at \$750 each.**

#### **Tier Three**

**Artist is designing a smaller project or experience. Several programmatic proposals are sought: projects such as a regular summer installations in the ice skating rink or artist-led community-made trail wayfinding. Budgets will not exceed \$15,000 and should seek to work for \$5,000 or less. Proposals are paid at \$500 each.**

### *Selecting sites*

Artists selected to develop proposals will determine whether they are designing for one site, two or more sites, all four sites, or the span of the trail along all four sites. The artists and Group Creative Services will develop this understanding through conversation following artist selection.

### *Community Feedback*

Early results from outreach indicates that Ankeny citizens most want the trail to contribute to exercise, health and social opportunities. Nearly a quarter of respondents primarily see it as a connection to nature.

### **ABOUT ANKENY**

Several residents say Ankeny is growing “too fast”, but they still love it—not for its history or any distinctive feature but rather its low cost of living, quality schools and, notably, its physical separation from other cities in Des Moines’ metro area.

Indeed, our survey found Ankeny is described as a safe, clean, active place for young, affluent families. People mostly feel safe and secure, though an undercurrent of aggravation is noted, especially frustration with the consequences of growth.

Non-residents are more likely to express negative sentiment, calling Ankeny insular, plain, cookie-cutter and so on. But, they still visit for the High Trestle Trail.

Nearly everyone surveyed uses and enjoys the trail system, though not all associate the High Trestle Trail with Ankeny.

So, in the absence of a strong identity and with a growing, enthusiastic citizenry, the

opportunity is to embrace Ankeny’s safe, clean family traits and create trail experiences that help the community build an intentional and welcoming future as it continues to grow.

Ankeny’s Bicycle Tourism Plan further informs our opportunity. The plan focuses, in large part, on encouraging day-trippers to visit Ankeny at the beginning, middle, or end of their trail excursion. The focus on day-trippers comes from the understanding that, while the High Trestle Trail sees more than 250,000 annual visitors, almost half of the trail traffic comes from the Des Moines metro.

The takeaway is that Ankeny needs to connect its town to the trail, strengthening the experience and binding Ankeny’s trail users to the adjacent local businesses. Trail users need encouragement to explore and share, especially for the lower section of trail that lacks trail-oriented destinations in southeast Ankeny.

Specifically, the Plan calls for branded trail elements—trail heads, ‘gateway’ features and way finding that create a distinct sense of place. The plan recommends a High Trestle Trail anchor feature—an experience at ‘mile zero’ in Ankeny—and a chain of features that can be enjoyed by all ages.

Space along the trail in this area creates a corridor feel with storm water facilities, performance space, and a seasonal ice skating rink area. This site is established.



## KEY PLACEMAKING THEMES

### *Hometown Feel*

It is quite common to hear a local say “hometown feel” in describing what is loved about Ankeny. Many people move from their small towns to Ankeny to preserve what it is they loved about what they used to do at home. There is a desire for art to continue to weave a sense of connectedness, draw people out of their home for social connections.

### *High Trestle Trail*

The most popular segment of the Central Iowa Trail Network is the High Trestle Trail (HTT) and High Trestle Bridge—over 250,000 annual visitors travel along the HTT. Despite HTT popularity and the local trail network, Ankeny wants to grow its pride for the HTT. The section of trail that runs through and diagonally across the community has the potential to be its crown jewel: *the artery of community, discovery and activity.*

### *Visual, iconic locales*

For many years the key visual used to depict Ankeny was the water tower. Today there are few locations used to denote “this is Ankeny.” There is a strong need for the photo-worthy spot that is iconic for Ankeny.

### *Natural*

One of Ankeny’s newest housing and commercial developments is called Prairie Trail. Prairie potholes, small depressions created by glaciers moving across the Midwest over 10,000 years ago, are slowly being restored. Along the trail, people seek more of the serene—an intimate connection to nature that is both restorative to the soul and the land. There is also a desire for a place to play with water.

### *History*

As a fast growing community and known for its “newness,” public art has the opportunity to reveal Ankeny’s historic roots. Ankeny was founded as an agrarian community in 1875, a narrow gauge rail was added in the late 1870s and coal mining became an important part of the economy in the early 1900s. For a short time during World War II, the federal government had established an ordnance plant for the manufacture of ammunition on the site now occupied by the John Deere Des Moines Works. The trail as a converted rail, “Ordnance” road, “Uptown” mainstreet are notable historic remnants.

## SUMMARY OF HTT SITES

Installations along the corridor should feel connected, telling a story that continues as new sites come on-line. Connecting the dots might encourage more locals to take short jaunts along the trail. Creating a destination and community hub delivers on the promise made by new, large scale welcome monuments along the interstate. Approaching this as a corridor with connected dots will help tie the community north to south. Connecting these sites could make it more inviting for short jaunts.

### *Description of trail overall:*

The overall High Trestle Trail system is a re-purposed railroad corridor that has been developed as a regional trail. Keeping the characteristics of a railroad corridor, the trail remains flat and accessible through town with multiple at grade road crossings. It should be noted that the development of Ankeny occurred before the value of the trail was realized, thus establishing many single family neighborhoods with their back turned towards the trail. When riding the corridor,

many stretches do not have access to the adjacent community or accommodations for users to patronize adjacent businesses in the area. As we consider the High Trestle Trail Experience, we will be considering the trail and user experience as a whole and not only individualized at key locations.

The High Trestle Trail reaches from our starting site at the Oralabor Road Overpass through the heart of Uptown and ends up stopping at the Irvinedale trail head. Total distance of trail High Trestle Trail Corridor from site one to site four is 4.1 miles. The majority of the space within the corridor is green space with opportunities for native restorations. The corridor takes on two different types of character as you move from south to north. The south portion between site 1 and 2 is more industrial with portions of trailer parks backing up against the corridor. The North half of the leg is all single family homes, but similar to the south half provide limited neighborhood access to the trail.

## **SITE 4—IRVINEDALE TRAIL HEAD**

The Irvinedale Trail head stretches to the current northwest extent of Ankeny's development. The current trail head location rests on an old farmstead and barn that were removed and not able to be salvaged, but can provide depth to the site. This location can either be viewed as the first area with amenities for trail users coming from Slater, or the last stop before venturing outside of Ankeny's developed area. Either approach signifies the importance of this location as either a first or last impression of the Ankeny Trail System. Opportunities to incorporate informational and way finding elements compelling enough for users to stop and discover more about Ankeny.

The Irvinedale trail head is currently under engineering design with a projected installation date in summer of 2020.

Although the trail head is recognized as an important entrance feature, the trail head itself is intended to be non intrusive with a small parking lot, shelter, and three seasons restroom with drinking fountain. With this simplicity of design as well as urgency of implementation, we believe that the Irvinedale Trail head has the greatest opportunity for work integration between the public artist and engineering team as they work to design the trail head.

Irvinedale Trail head will not always represent the northwest corner of Ankeny. Plans are already in motion for additional development continuing west along the High Trestle Trail. Additional parks and trails will be developed and a future trail head denoting the west edge of Ankeny will be incorporated in the next 5–10 years.

### ***Key elements to consider at Site #4—Irvinedale Trail head***

Currently the entrance/exit for trail users to Ankeny, but this will change in 5-10 years. Area around Irvinedale Trail head is all single family or Multi-family development. Trail users are apt to drive to this location before mounting their bikes

and heading west out of town.

### *Traffic Considerations*

- **Irvinedale Trail head to High Trestle Trail Bridge is 19.75 Miles**
- **Irvinedale Trail head to Ankeny Market & Pavilion is 2.0 Miles**
- **At grade crossing with no signal at Irvinedale**
- **Additional signs and painted crossing were added for vehicular awareness of trail crossing**
- **Low traffic counts with only 3,380 average per day.**
- **Irvinedale is a two lane road, easy to cross, but higher traffic speeds than one would encounter within Ankeny**

## **SITE 3—ANKENY MARKET & PAVILION**

The Ankeny Market & Pavilion located just off 1st street started construction in 2014 as a way to activate the heart of Uptown Ankeny and connect to the High Trestle Trail. Through donations and fundraising efforts the third and final phase was completed in 2018 with the erection of the south pavilion. Now the Ankeny Market & Pavilion provides a home for the Uptown Farmers' Market as well as a variety of unique and exciting community activities. The area identified as the Ankeny Market & Pavilion is a 3.1 acre park that includes two large open air pavilions, a three-seasons restroom facility, parking lot that holds 108 cars, and a bicycle trail head for the High Trestle Trail. The space is designed as a public park with the availability for community members to reserve the pavilions for private events.

The Ankeny Market & Pavilion could be viewed as one of the key locations along the Ankeny portion of the High Trestle Trail that should capitalize on the investments already made by the community. The challenge of this site is that it is already a very successfully programmed public space that can stand

by itself, but does not instill the desire for discovery in the user. People visiting the Farmers' Market or the Park and Ride visit the pavilions, but do not experience or explore Uptown Ankeny that is just south of the pavilions or the multitude of park amenities just north of the pavilions.

When looking at the pavilion area #3, the footprint for consideration of experience activation needs to extend beyond just the AMP to include Uptown south of the pavilions and continue across 1st street connecting to the campus of civic activities and future senior center/community center north of the AMP site. This extension can provide greater opportunity for activation of user curiosity as well as connecting patrons of Uptown to the High Trestle Trail.

### ***Key elements to consider at Site #3—Ankeny Market & Pavilion***

Uptown is an old mainstreet that is a historic commercial corridor. Current area is working hard on revitalization. Uptown should be the hub of art and culture activities. Footprint for activation can stretch further south and include the green space corridor south connecting to site #2 at Ordance just 0.8 miles away. Firetrucker and Pig 'n Pedal are two examples of successful family friendly businesses in Uptown that will be good assets to trail activation. Future construction project in this area will require the removal of many existing trees changing the intimacy of the trail corridor, but will also provide opportunity for change. Improvements scheduled on north side of 1st St—Community Center / Senior Center with Ground breaking Fall 2020. Many activities including the Uptown Farmer's Market happen at the pavilion.

### *Traffic Considerations*

- **Trail crossing at 1st Street includes a trail user activated crossing light (HAWK signal) to provide a safe trail crossing on a busy road**
- **Traffic counts on 1st Street are 14,000 on average per day.**
- **Road type is a busy 4-lane road expanding to 5-lanes on 2021.**
- **Pedestrian crossing is not safe without some type of traffic control device.**
- **Traffic Counts on 3rd Street in Uptown are much lower at 1,580 average per day. This is an example of a typical two lane road with on-street parking**

## **SITE 2—UNDERPASS AT ORDNANCE**

The underpass construction at Ordinance signifies the City's commitment to trail safety and respecting family values as they strive to improve their extensive trail system. In constructing the underpass, large volumes of earth will have to be manipulated creating opportunities for interpretations that both motorists and trail users will be able to experience and draw their curiosity as they pass by.

The Underpass area also comes with great potential for the incorporation of historical interpretation. In 1942, the federal government established an ordinance plant for the manufacture of ammunition on the land around Ordinance Road and some buildings still stand within the John Deere Plant.

The Underpass is currently under construction with a projected completion in Fall 2020. Construction and design were kept to simple materials and forms in order not to detract from any type of future public art of storytelling elements. The wing walls are to be cast-in-place concrete with black vinyl chain link safely fence on top. The underpass itself

is designed as a precast box culvert with LED interior lighting for safety. Accommodations are incorporated in the design for future electricity needs of public art within the underpass. Additional conduit is to be installed and made available for specialty use with the intention of public art incorporation.

### *Traffic Considerations*

- **Traffic counts on Ankeny Blvd: 17,300 north & 20,000 south of the underpass**
- **Ankeny Blvd is also known as HWY 69 with 4 lanes of traffic**
- **Traffic counts on Ordinance are much lower at 5,000 average per day**
- **Ordinance Road is a two lane road that provides secondary access to the Ankeny High School and Southview Middle school**

## **SITE 1—OVERPASS AT ORALABOR**

As the City of Ankeny extends its current trail system there are still gaps that need to be connected. Today trail users are required to trail hop between multiple short segments in order to get from the south side of Ankeny to the Ordinance underpass area just 1.3 miles away. The city is constructing the missing link within the High Trestle Trail by installing an overpass at Oralabor Road. The overpass provides a highly visual experience for motorists that are either coming into town, or leaving town. Both scenarios are important to consider as this feature has the potential to be the iconic element within Ankeny establishing an identity such as "Trails are so important, we build bridges for them."

The current concept of the overpass is to take advantage of the simple nature of a pre-manufactured trail bridge installed on cast-in-place abutments. The trail approaches will be earth formed berms raising the trail elevation up over Oralabor



road providing a large blank canvas on each side of the road for interpretation.

### *Key elements at Site 1—Oralabor Overpass*

The overpass at Oralabor should be designed for Motorists to enjoy as well as trail users. Project is not designed and has opportunity for direct coordination between artist and engineer designer. Current project timing for overpass improvements: Scheduled for 2021 could be pushed to 2022

### *Traffic considerations*

- **Traffic counts: 22,200 average per day on Oralabor**
- **Improvements cannot distract motorists creating a hazard, but instead provide visual interest and placemaking for Ankeny.**

## **BUDGET**

The city of Ankeny is committed to substantial infrastructural improvements along this trail including the construction of an underpass tunnel (under construction now) and an overpass bridge. The strength of art proposals will drive increased funding. We anticipate a total budget for the artworks described in these proposals to range from \$200,000 to \$450,000 or higher.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

The artist(s) selection will be based on:

- Demonstrated experience on projects of similar size and prominence
- Success translating/expressing the concept/goals through their work
- Quality of sample work
- The durability of previous artwork relative to environment, including theft and vandalism
- Ability of the artist to meet deadlines
- Expression of vision, as expressed in the

artist statement and project description

## **TIMELINE**

3/30 Proposals presented to community

## **PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FEE**

Several proposals from selected artists will be funded at three different tiers, paid as two installments. Reference the Tier descriptions above for payment schedules. All proposals may be retained for consideration in future, similar projects in the region. Artists are encouraged to attend and present their completed proposal to the selection committee.

*The art selection committee*, facilitated by Group Creatives, will include a small panel of volunteer citizens and city staff. They will select and vet the winning proposal, and reserve the right not to select any proposal. The winning proposal(s) will also require approval from Ankeny City Council.

## **IF SELECTED FOR A FUNDED**

**PROPOSAL**, the artist will develop a proposal including at least one fully developed concept communicated with appropriate visualization, an estimated budget, timeline, and plan for execution.

Complete budget, timeline, and plans are expected as part of a revised proposal

and implementation plan after selection.

### ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Artists selected for proposal development can expect to receive additional materials to inform and inspire their work. These materials will include

- Current findings and analysis of this plan's outreach\_ Visit current survey raw data here.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-J9QRT589/>
- City and regional plans and strategic initiatives
- Detailed site and engineering information
- Historical information regarding Ankeny and these sites
- Updated schedules of construction and budget



### CONTACT INFORMATION

The artist(s)' primary contact will be through representatives of Group Creative Services.

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Mat Greiner

[mat@groupcreatives.com](mailto:mat@groupcreatives.com)

515 782-0507

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Teva Dawson

[teva@groupcreatives.com](mailto:teva@groupcreatives.com)

515 244-8590

## To Submit

Send the following to **[submissions@groupcreatives.com](mailto:submissions@groupcreatives.com)**

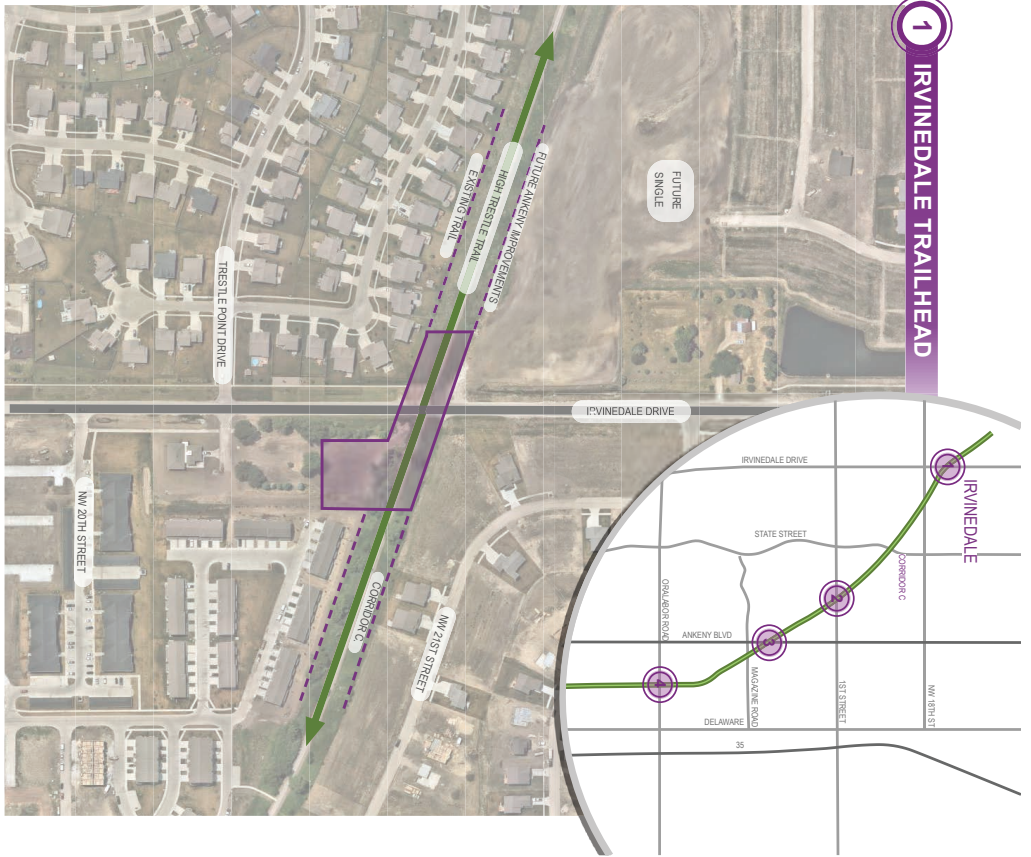
Use Subject: Ankeny HTT Experience

- Statement of interest
- CV or Resume
- 3-5 samples of recent, relevant projects
- Website

We are also seeking qualified artists experienced with temporary, pop-up, or small scale engagements with \$5,000-12,000 budgets. Please send statement of interests, a few images, and your website to [submissions@groupcreatives.com](mailto:submissions@groupcreatives.com) and use the subject: Small is Big

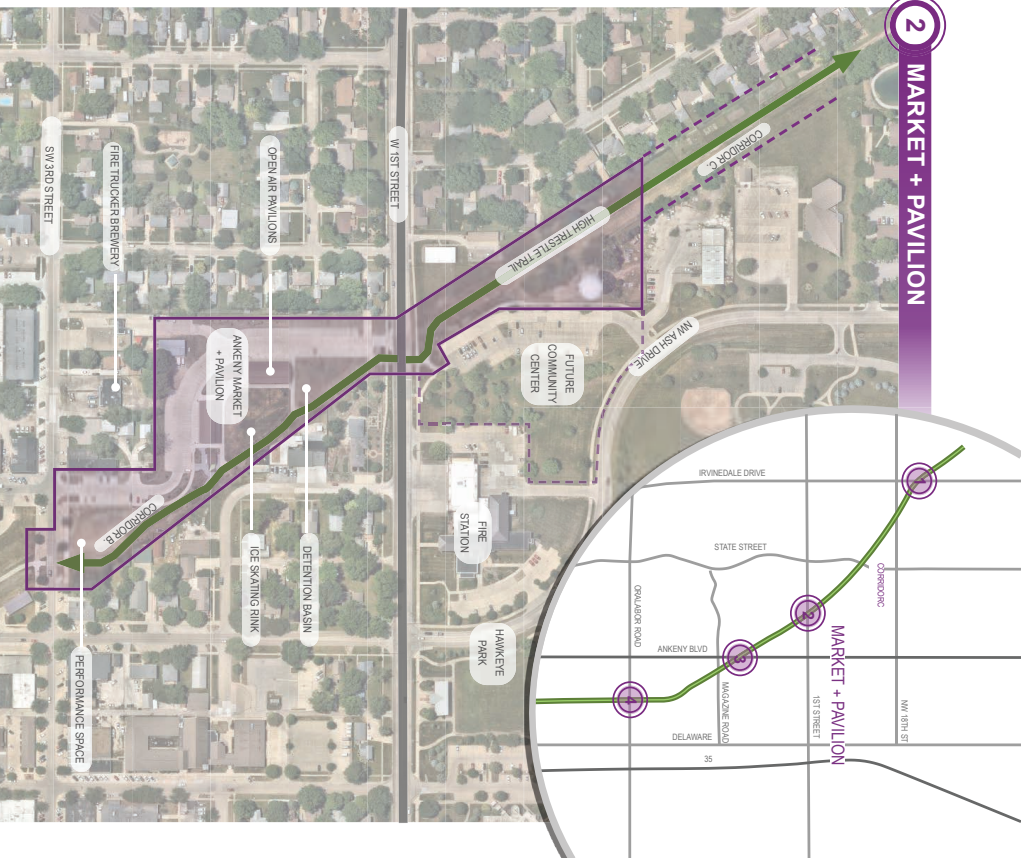
# SITE MAPS

HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES | ANKENY, IA



## 1 IRVINEDALE TRAILHEAD

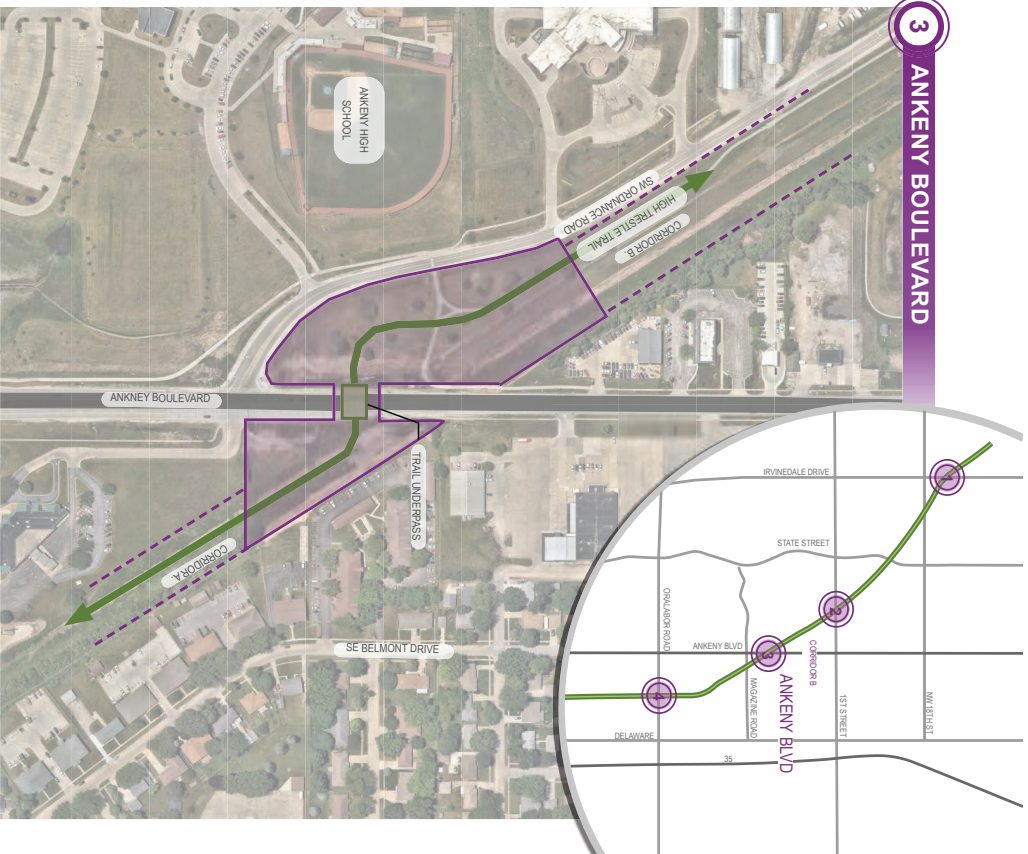
HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES | ANKENY, IA



## 2 MARKET + PAVILION



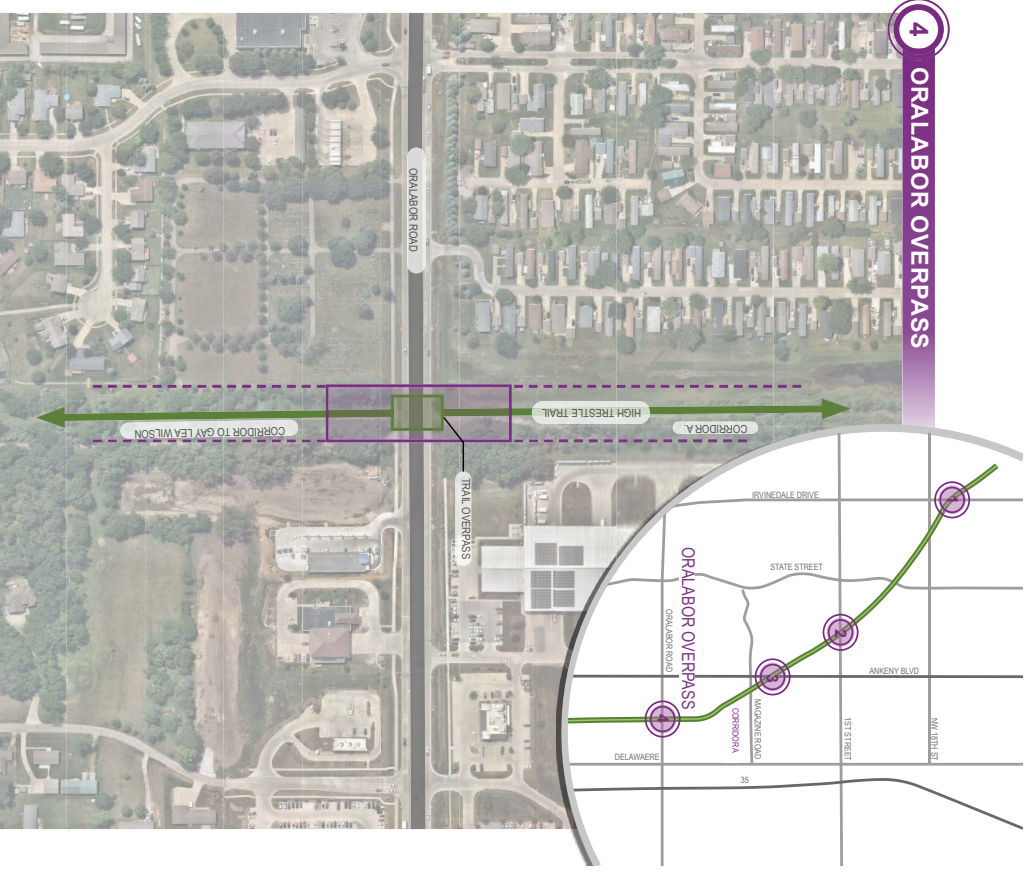
### 3 ANKENY BOULEVARD



HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES | ANKENY, IA



### 4 ORALABOR OVERPASS

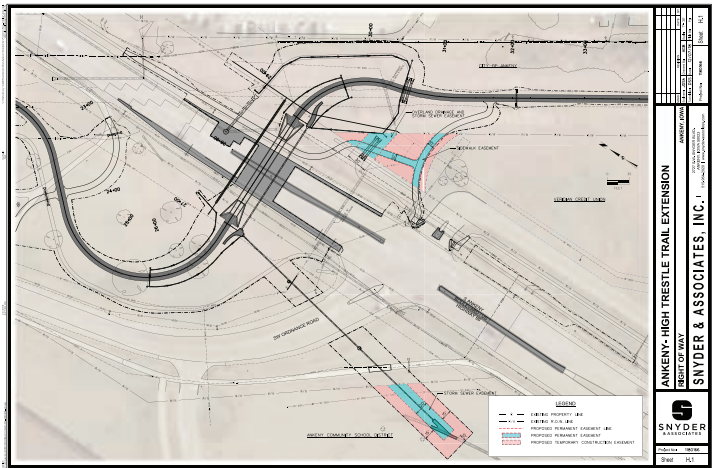


HIGH TRESTLE TRAIL PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES | ANKENY, IA





SITE DETAILS



UNDERPASS



OVERPASS



ANKENY  
MARKET  
PAVILION



