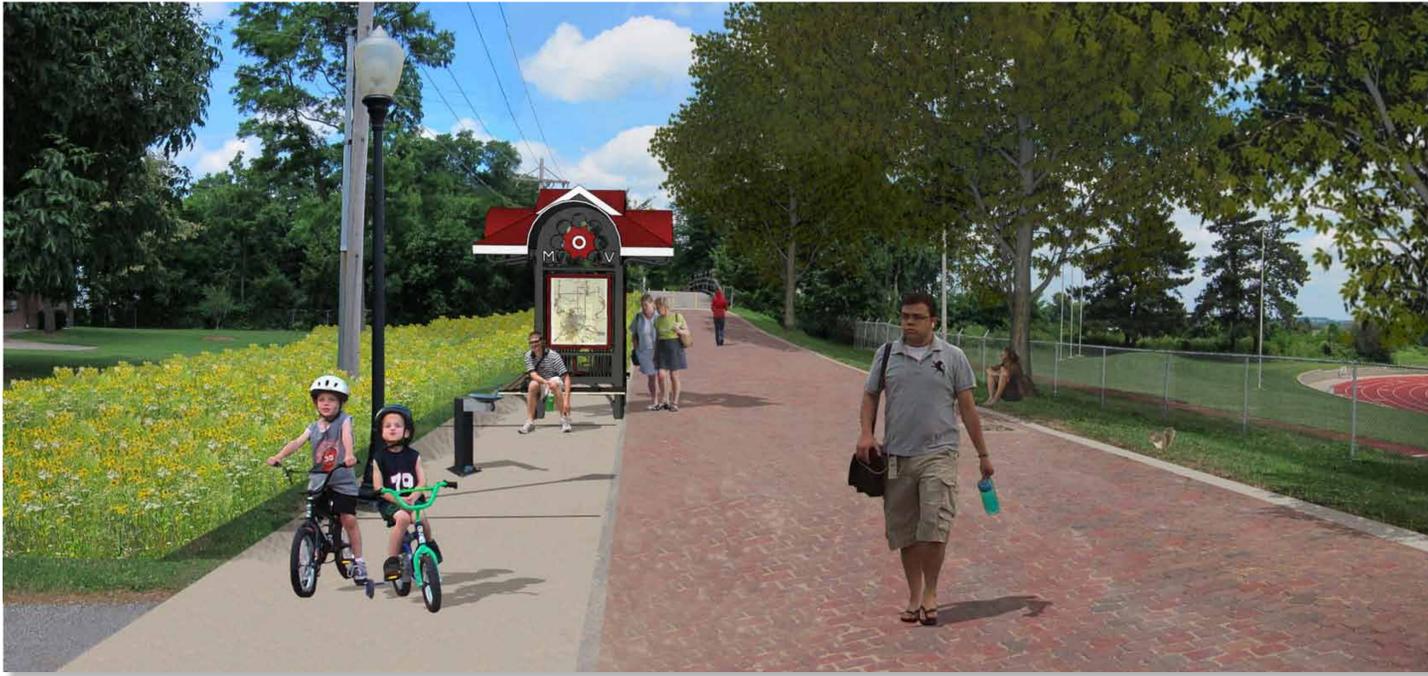




Existing conditions in Prairie Park along the Old Lincoln Highway.



Proposed trailhead improvements in Prairie Park along the Old Lincoln Highway.

Prairie Park Trailhead Concept

Prairie Park is a 1 acre remnant that is bounded by a railroad line to the north, 1st Street West along the south and west and Old Lincoln Highway along the east. This park currently contains a City structure that houses utility appurtenances, a small parking lot and an informational board. The informational board details the history of the Old Lincoln Highway. The size and layout of the park limits the types of uses it can provide.

The proposed plan will include a large massing of native plantings to highlight an area adjacent to the old brick road. The native plantings will make the name 'Prairie' Park take on a special meaning. The native plantings will be a nice fit in this passive recreation area. With the nearby historic Lincoln Highway Bridge, this area sees a lot of pedestrian traffic along the brick roadway. This factored into the trail planning that took place with this visioning process. This corridor is along a significant trail route around the north side of town. A trailhead seems more appropriate for this park setting versus the nearby Bryant Park which is an active recreational area.

The plan suggests the incorporation of an informational kiosk which contains architectural character to blend with proposed site amenities slated for the downtown area. The kiosk would contain a small roof structure and small seating area where bikers can rest a bit and view over the prairie planting. There would also be an opportunity to incorporate a rain garden near the kiosk. Currently storm water is contained by the curb in the street and flows to the bottom of the slope where it exits through the driveway leading to the parking lot. A curb cut could be incorporated just upstream of the kiosk to intercept runoff running along the curb. A small rain garden could be incorporated in the greenspace behind the curb. This would be a great location and opportunity to include an educational component regarding storm water management and the benefits of using native plantings.



Looking north from the Old Lincoln Highway Bridge.



Informational trailhead kiosk.

Mount Vernon

Prairie Park Trailhead Concept

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