

Bondurant Parks, Trails, & Greenways

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 Bondurant Life Greenway

In collaboration with the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC), five graduate students from the University of Iowa's School of Planning and Public Affairs crafted an updated Parks, Trails, & Greenways (PTG) Master Plan for the City of Bondurant during the 2023-2024 academic year. This partnership aimed to devise innovative strategies to enhance and plan for the future of Bondurant's PTG system, responding to the city's rapid population growth of 90.8% between 2010 and 2020. The plan builds upon previous PTG initiatives and individual park plans, leveraging feedback from community members and stakeholders. By mapping existing and proposed amenities for each park and proposing the expansion of local and regional trail networks, the plan focuses on ensuring practical, accessible, and sustainable resource allocation over the next 10-15 years. Additionally, it highlights opportunities for greenway construction, storytelling features, and sustainable development initiatives like community gardens and habitat restoration to enhance residents' connection to the environment and foster biodiversity.

Goals

Goal 1: Implement practical strategies to promote Bondurant's status as a regional leader in parks, trails, and greenways development.

Goal 2: Develop a comprehensive network of interconnected parks, trails, and greenways that meets the needs of all residents.

Goal 3: Preserve Bondurant's "hometown feel" through proactive planning for smart growth.

Goal 4: Enhance Bondurant's natural landscape to provide an enjoyable aesthetic experience for all residents and preserve environmental sustainability.

Analysis

The map shows walkability to Bondurant's paved trails, with quarter-mile to one-mile buffer zones. It highlights strong east-west connections but weak north-south links. Future plans aim to extend trails southward. Currently, Meadow Brook Park is the only greenway, with potential expansion for better connectivity. Greenways will focus on safe transportation and may also manage stormwater. The plan also made analysis on park walkability in Bondurant, with 0.25, 0.5, and 1-mile buffer zones around each park. Downtown parks are highly accessible, but as the city grows, new parks should be accessible to all. Future analyses will assess park accessibility to schools, churches, amenities, and businesses.

Public Engagement

Online Survey: October 21st-January 31st
 Community Engagement: Farmer's Market
 Community Engagement: Bondu Spooktacular
 Open House - Mar 24

Implementation plan

- Short-Term (0-3 years)**
 1. Revise the existing subdivision ordinance.
 2. Develop currently undeveloped parks within the city.
 3. Implement storytelling signage at each park.
 4. Create a PTG group that meets bi-annually to ensure goals are being met within the proposed timeline.
- Medium-Term (3-5 years)**
 1. Begin roadside vegetation and native prairie planting efforts.
 2. Ensure adequate trail amenities are provided.
 3. Revamp each neighborhood with ADA accessible features such as curb cuts and amenities.
 4. Create an amenity inventory which highlights types and quantities of amenities located at each park/trail.
- Long-Term (5-7 years)**
 1. Create trail connections along greenway system to the north.
 2. Create a regional attraction that generates circulating revenue for the PTG system.
 3. Work with neighboring cities to create trail connections to bridge gaps in connectivity.
 4. Create community garden groups to provide fresh produce to Bondurant residents.

Parks

Concept park maps were made to reflect community preferences and help implement the design. Maps were generated based on survey results and community interaction to show residents' preferred amenities across the city. Each park contains an element targeted for different age groups. These proposed ideas are not only feasible, but also serve as inspiration for future park concepts.

Trails

The updated Bondurant Trails and Sidewalk Maps improve coverage of the city's Trail's network, addressing previous shortcomings. Coinciding with the updated Trails and Sidewalk Map, the Trails and Sidewalk Priority Map identifies which trails the city should focus development on first. Because of the immediate need for north to south trail connectivity, these trail extensions are high priority while trails along greenways are the lowest priority. With the development of new major roadways, the city should create trail extensions as part of the new roads.

Greenways

Greenways are connective natural areas that bridge existing greenspace through converted alleyways, empty parcels, parks, and trails.

Greenways:

- Improved connectivity for humans and wildlife
- Improved soil health, water quality, and biodiversity
- Prairie restoration, natural tree planting, and rain gardens
- Educational opportunities for all ages
- Mental and physical health benefits

Concept Design Map for Sankey Summit Park A colorful fairytale-themed park

Sankey Summit Park is a 4.3-acre park in the Sankey Summit neighborhood. This design concept incorporates a fairytale theme with amenities designed for all ages, including a yellow brick road, miniature garden, portable hammocks, and a pink castle playground. The design features two entrances (north and south) with a special art symbol in the entrance corridor to help visitors recognize the park.

Estimated cost: \$315,000

Trail Connection
The meeting spaces have a unique shape that supports the park's chosen concept.

Community gathering space
The meeting spaces have a unique shape that supports the park's chosen concept.

Fairytale Play Ground

Hammocks
The activity allows teenagers and adults to relax and hang out near a children's playground.

Concept Design Map for District Corridor Park "A North/South Trail Corridor"

District Corridor is separated into two parts, with a total area spanning 3.1-acres. In the future, this park will be connected to the regional trail from south to west. It also coincides with the Grain District Redevelopment project. This concept proposes a painted crosswalk to attract attention and encourage safety for pedestrians as they traverse the otherwise disconnected park sections. The southern portion includes a curved trail with greenery, while the north portion features a community gathering area with a shelter and exercise equipment.

Estimated cost: \$325,000

Painted Crosswalks
Support the strong arts and culture community

Community Gathering Space

Park Shelter
Varied in form and linked to the nature

Cover Walkways
Bringing diverse experiences through the trail

"We're very much a driveway community. If you drive through the neighborhoods, you'll always see groups of people out in their driveway, whether it's a fire pit, or just people hanging out. And I think the trails and park systems have helped bring that together a little bit, because you'll see people gathering at the parks as well."

Concept Design Map for Harvest Meadows Park A Park with Pirate Theme

Harvest Meadows is a 6.94-acre park in the Harvest Meadows neighborhood. The proposed pirate theme includes a winding trail with pirate-themed wayfinding, a playground with a pyramid net tower, and corn hole. Seating is also incorporated throughout the park, and additional proposed amenities include parking lots, a restroom, and a community garden.

Estimated cost: \$415,000

Trail
Winding Path looks like a treasure map

Pyramid Net Tower

Corn Hole, Adult Spot
Playing and seating area

Pirate Theme Children Play Ground

"When my kids were little, they would request different parks depending on what they wanted to do. They didn't know the names of the playgrounds, so they just said, "the one with this slide!" or, "the one with this swing!"