ISOLATED URBAN PLACES & SPACES: FARGO IN TRAIL

How can a pedestrian trail along an active railway corridor unite several isolated areas of a city?

Project emphasis:

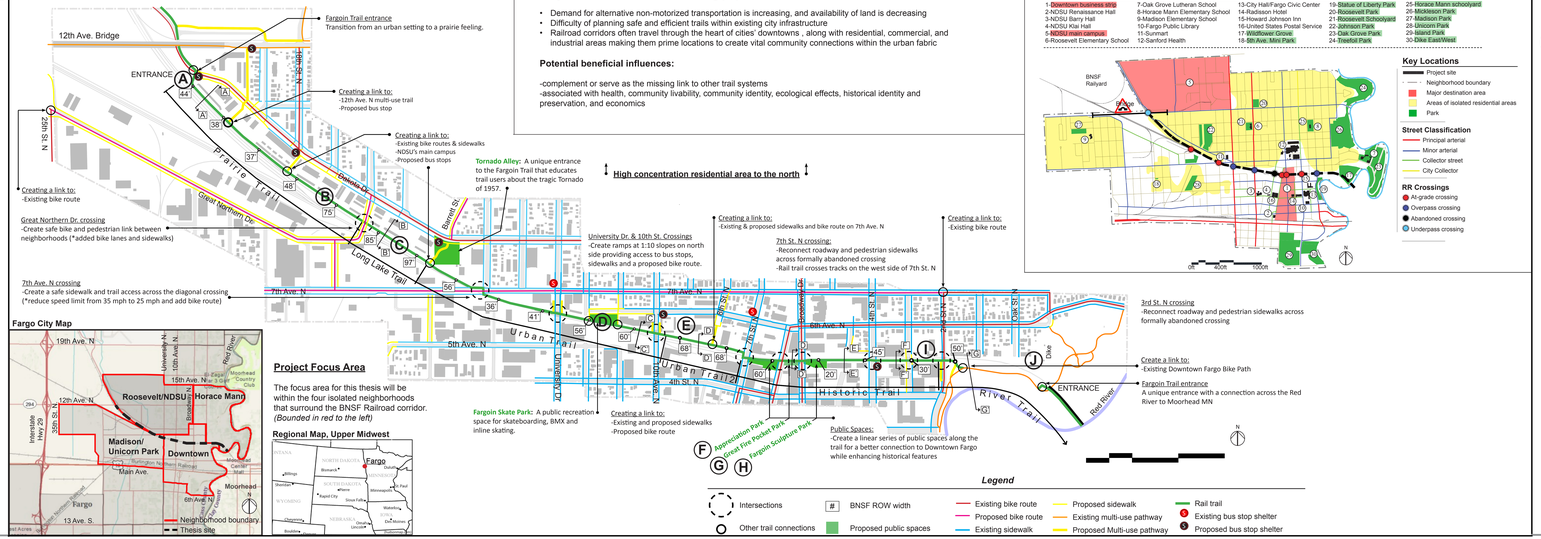
1 - To establish a rails-with-trails corridor to make connections within an isolated portion of Fargo, to enhance non-motorized transportation, and become an environmental, economic, and recreational resource.

2 - To enhance the rich history that has taken place at or near the railway corridor site of this project.

A PRAIRIE TRAIL ENTRANCE: Transitioning from an urban setting to a prairie feeling.

Bird's-eye view of the Fargoin Trail looking south entering into the Prairie Trail.

FRAMEWORK PLAN



Project Focus Area

The focus area for this thesis will be within the four isolated neighborhoods that surround the BNSF Railroad corridor. *(Bounded in red to the left)*

Why are rails-with-trails becoming popular?

- Demand for alternative non-motorized transportation is increasing, and availability of land is decreasing
- Difficulty of planning safe and efficient trails within existing city infrastructure
- Railroad corridors often travel through the heart of cities' downtowns , along with residential, commercial, and industrial areas making them prime locations to create vital community connections within the urban fabric

Potential beneficial influences:

-complement or serve as the missing link to other trail systems
-associated with health, community livability, community identity, ecological effects, historical identity and preservation, and economics

Isolation: Rails-with-Trails as a shortcut

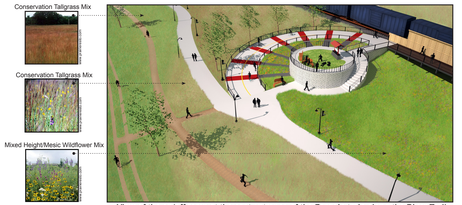
1-Downtown business strip
2-NDSU Renaissance Hall
3-NDSU Barry Hall
4-NDSU Klai Hall
5-NDSU main campus
6-Roosevelt Elementary School
7-Oak Grove Lutheran School
8-Horace Mann Elementary School
9-Madison Elementary School
10-Fargo Public Library
11-Sunmart
12-Sanford Health
13-City Hall/Fargo Civic Center
14-Radisson Hotel
15-Howard Johnson Inn
16-United States Postal Service
17-Wildflower Grove
18-9th Ave. Mini Park
19-Statue of Liberty Park
20-Roosevelt Park
21-Roosevelt Schoolyard
22-Johnson Park
23-Oak Grove Park
24-Treefoil Park
25-Horace Mann schoolyard
26-Mickelson Park
27-Madison Park
28-Unicorn Park
29-Island Park
30-Dike East/West

Key Locations
- Project site
- Neighborhood boundary
- Major destination area
- Areas of isolated residential areas
- Park

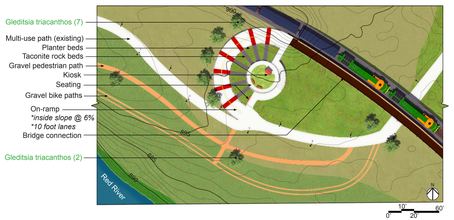
Street Classification
- Principal arterial
- Minor arterial
- Collector street
- City Collector

RR Crossings
- At-grade crossing
- Overpass crossing
- Abandoned crossing
- Underpass crossing

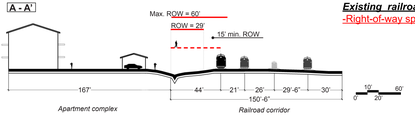
J RIVER TRAIL/ENTRANCE: A natural setting with hints of history and an urban setting.



View of the on/off ramp at the east entrance of the Fargoin train along the River Trail.

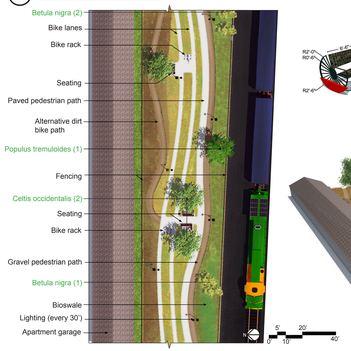


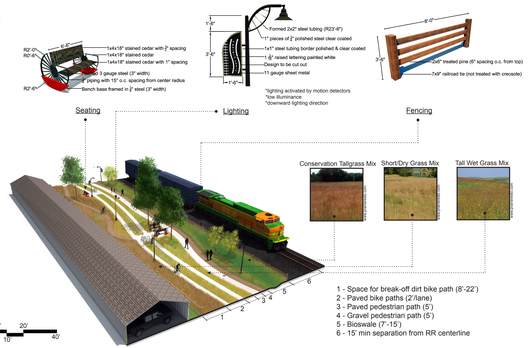
A - A'



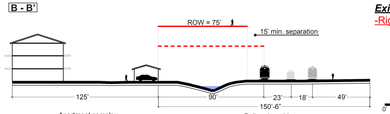
Existing railroad corridor:
-Right-of-way space available

B PRAIRIE TRAIL: Stretching the prairie in from the west and adding historic character.



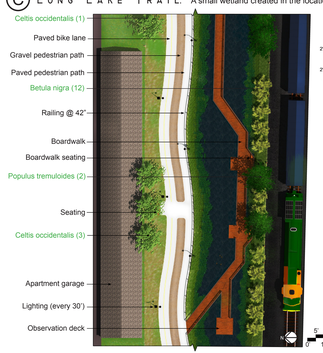


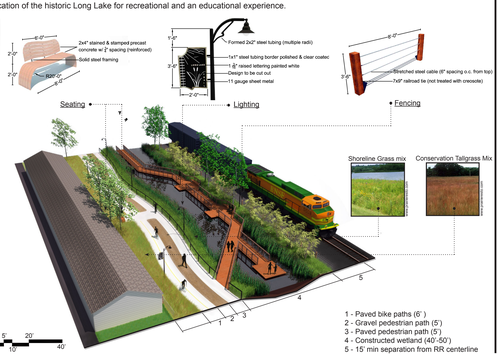
B - B'



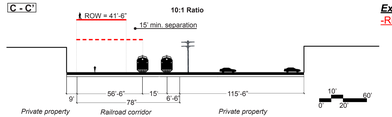
Existing railroad corridor:
-Right-of-way space available

C LONG LAKE TRAIL: A small wetland created in the location of the historic Long Lake for recreational and an educational experience.



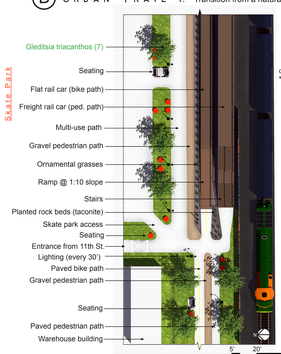


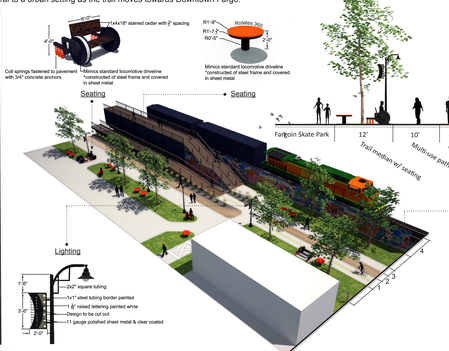
C - C'



Existing railroad corridor:
-Right-of-way space available

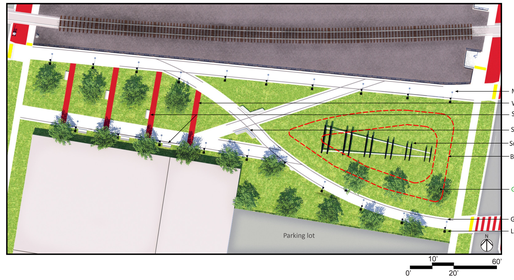
D URBAN TRAIL I: Transition from a natural to a urban setting as the trail moves towards Downtown Fargo.



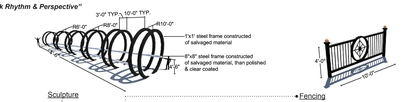


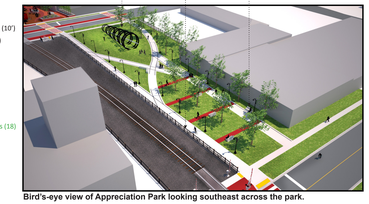
Historic Trail Downtown Connections

(F) Appreciation Park: A transition into Historic Downtown Fargo with historic views and perspectives.



"Click-Clack Rhythm & Perspective"





Bird's-eye view of Appreciation Park looking southeast across the park.

View looking east across the main multi-purpose trail through Appreciation Park. *(Notice the fire sculpture in the direct line of sight down the trail.)*

Fargo Food Products Company (Now KRJ Building)

John Morrell and Company Building

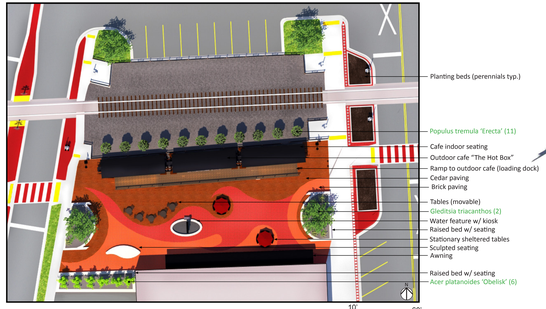
Ford Assembly Plant

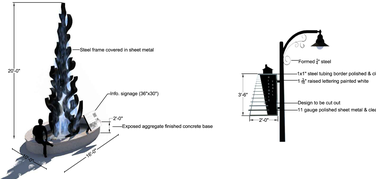
Great Northern Depot

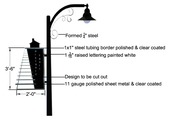
Saint Mary's Cathedral

View looking northeast across Appreciation Park towards historic Fargo buildings. *(View from the bench in the middle of the image to the left.)*

(G) Great Fire Pocket Park: A small public space for the recognition and remembrance of the Great Fire of 1897.





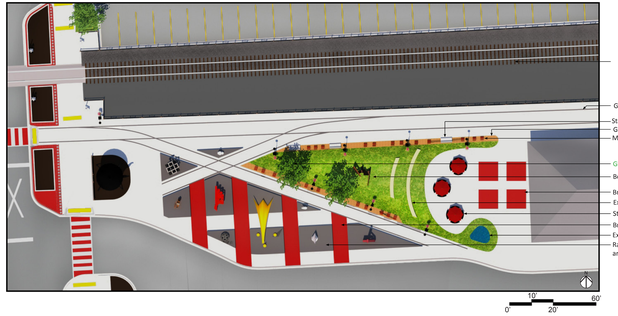


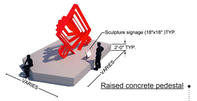
Bird's-eye view of Great Fire Pocket Park looking north east across the park.

Pedestrian view looking northwest across the pocket park at the south entrance along Broadway Drive.

Pedestrian view looking northeast across the pocket park from the south entrance along Roberts Street.

(H) Fargin Sculpture Park: A space open to visitors to celebrate and explore art pieces, as well as to interact w/ Fargo's most historic building, the Great Northern Depot.





Moveable chairs

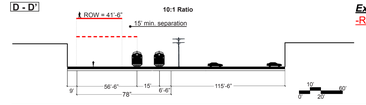
Bird's-eye view of the Fargoin Sculpture Park looking north east across the park.

Pedestrian view looking west across the sculpture park at the north entrance from Broadway Drive.

Pedestrian view looking east across the sculpture park near the Great Northern Depot.

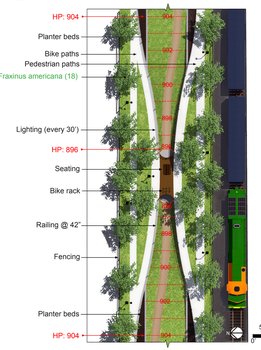
LA 572 Design Thesis
Alex Bossert
Advisor: Jason Kost
Software used: AutoCAD 2012, Google Sketchup 8, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign and Maxwell Render

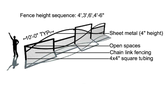
D - D'

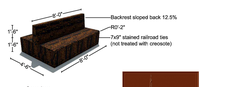


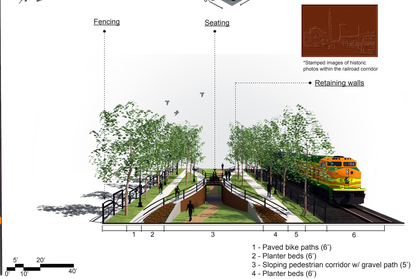
Existing railroad corridor:
-Right-of-way space available

(E) Urban Trail II: The trail takes on its most urban forms and character.



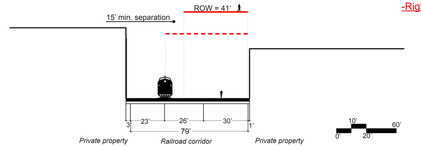






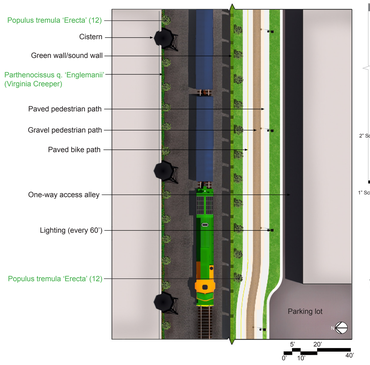
1 - Paved bike paths (6')
2 - Planter beds (6')
3 - Sloping pedestrian corridor w/ gravel path (5')
4 - Planter beds (6')
5 - 15' min separation from RR centerline

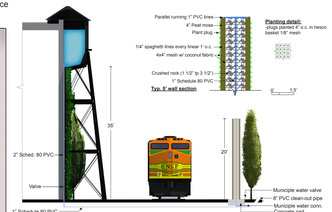
(F - F')

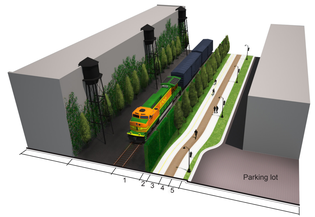


Existing railroad corridor:
-Right-of-way space available

(I) Historic Trail: Providing a comfortable trail user experience



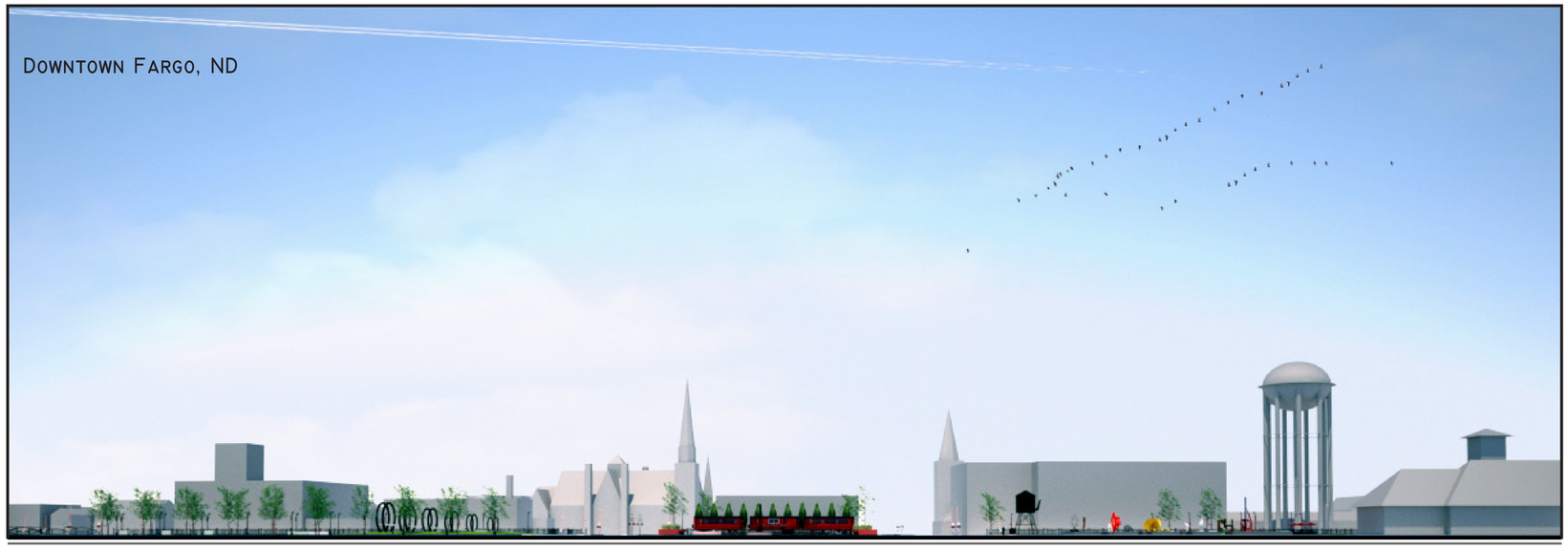




1 - 15' min separation from RR centerline
2 - Green wall & Populus tremula 'Erecta' planting area (8')
3 - Paved bike path (6')
4 - Gravel pedestrian path (5')
5 - Paved pedestrian path (5')

Isolated Urban Places & Spaces:

Fargoin Trail



Appreciation Park

Great Fire Pocket Park

Fargoin Sculpture Park

Plan objectives:

1 - Provide a variety pathways to accommodate possible circulation pedestrian circulation routes.

2 - Highlight historic elements and buildings.

3 - Provide public spaces to accommodate all types of users.

4 - Do not forget the wanderer and the curious.

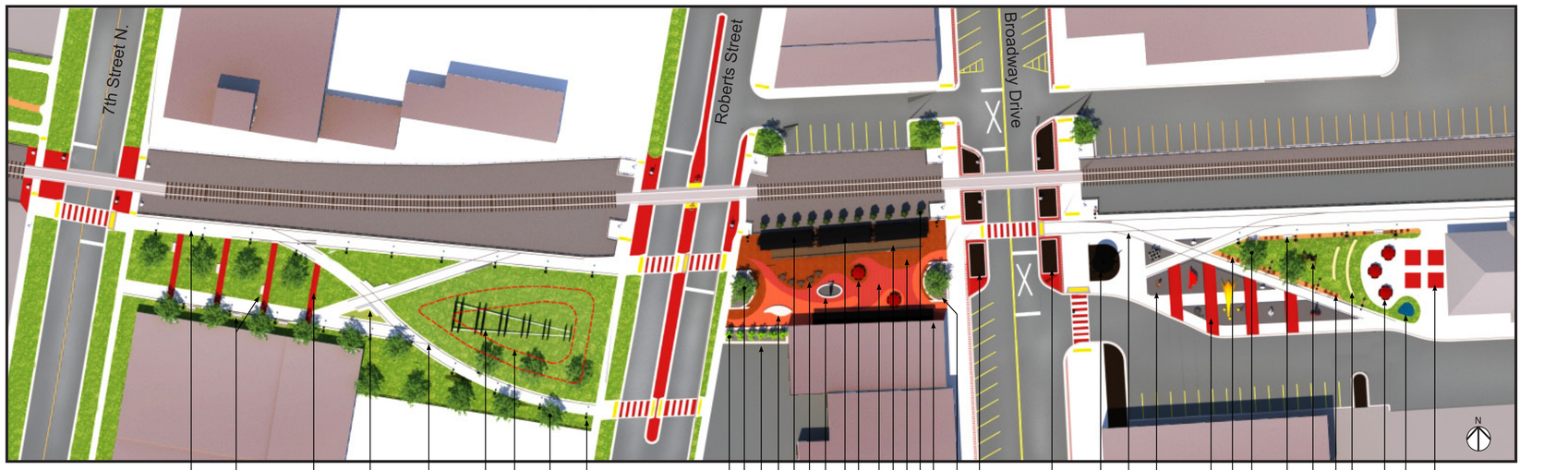
5 - Provide a sense of entrance and arrival into Downtown Fargo and into each small park space.

6 - Create a sense of place with uniquely designed staged views and park elements such as seating, sculptures and paving.

7 - Provide a small indoor/outdoor cafe to attract people and promote socializing.

8 - Provide many types of seating.

*seating in the sun, shade, a large group, small groups, back, side, front, grass, movable seating, isolated seating, indoor seating for poor weather days, outdoor seating for fair weather days



Bird's-eye view from above the Great Northern Depot looking west over the three parks.