

CITY OF FARMINGTON DOWNTOWN STREETScape PROJECT

FARMINGTON, MINNESOTA

BONESTROO, ROSENE, ANDERLIK AND ASSOCIATES



Project Scope

The project scope included four city blocks in an area known as "Main Street." The city wanted a streetscape design for Main Street that would clearly reflect community characteristics and unify the surrounding elements.

Role of the Landscape Architects

The landscape architect's responsibilities were public facilitation, design development, final design and cost estimating. Public facilitation began with a workshop held to educate the City Council about various streetscape options, materials and preliminary costs. After the City of Farmington's engineering department prepared a feasibility report, we met with downtown merchants to discuss their concerns and ideas. The last step was to hold an open house for the public to display concepts, receive comments and answer questions.

Once the basic concepts were approved, the landscape architect developed sketches to illustrate the character and type of proposed improvements. The final design synthesized the input gained in the public facilitation phase into an overall streetscape plan that indicated the desired treatment level throughout the project area. A preliminary cost estimate was prepared identifying construction costs for the proposed improvements illustrated on the final streetscape plan. The city prepared the contract documents.

The landscape architect chose to use design strategies and elements to unify the residential and other land use districts with the new Main Street. The design solution was both simple and elegant. The old cracked and heaved sidewalks were removed and replaced with broomed concrete and unit pavers, patterning the new walks and reflecting the refurbished brick buildings common in the downtown area. Street trees were replaced with new, slower growing trees in tree grates to provide lasting beauty to the area.

The existing road did not allow for the walks to be widened, except at the main intersection of Third and Oak, where we constructed neck-outs to create more space for pedestrians and improve safety. A unique



focal point revolves around the City's old fire bell and a time capsule. The fire bell was mounted on a sculptural steel support and placed in a new planting bed, where the time capsule was reburied. A seating node area focuses on the historic bell.

Project Significance

This project is worthy of consideration because it has helped reflect and strengthen historic values, which form a critical building block in rapidly growing cities like Farmington. This streetscape project was designed to represent the heart, the core and the gathering place of a bustling community.

