

PRECEDENTS

DES MOINES, IOWA
& CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Opportunities to reduce the broad expanse of paving by adding planted medians should be explored. The addition of green space helps to reduce the visual impact of the road, enhances the aesthetic quality of the driving experience and define Sherwood Park as a distinctive place.

In Des Moines, Iowa, a street of similar character was transformed when turning lanes were consolidated and the center lane was replaced with planted medians. A decorative planter wall and splash strip were added in order to reduce the negative impact of snow clearing and salt spray on plants. In addition to supporting plant growth, these features also add character and distinctiveness to the street. Plants were chosen for their ability to provide a substantial visual impact in all seasons of the year. As the main arterial between the airport and downtown, this enhancement project has had a tremendous impact on people's first impressions of Des Moines as well as the civic pride that residents share.

A similar reduction in paving was created when planted medians were added to the turning lane on Michigan Avenue in Chicago. As a premier shopping street, the sheer number of people that experience this streetscape has had an enormous impact on the way people perceive the City. Seasonal flower displays are now as much of a draw to the area as the stores that flank both sides of the street. In addition, these displays make the street unique in Chicago and a model for other cities.

As a major arterial, Wye Road supports a substantial amount of vehicular traffic. For many drivers and passengers, the scenery will be a familiar experience. For other people, the only impression they have of Sherwood Park may be drawn from what they experience looking from a vehicle window. Given these facts, it is essential that streetscape improvements consider the aesthetic experience of those passing in vehicles at moderately high speeds.



PRECEDENTS

JASPER, ALBERTA

Connaught Drive in Jasper, Alberta is a great example of a successfully themed streetscape. Connaught Drive is the main through-way in this resort town that has been themed with a northern cabin appeal. The area has bylaws associated with it encouraging all commercial developments to follow architectural guidelines to have cabin-like forms and detailings. All signs and awnings also have a raw timber-form aesthetic and rustic quality. Lights also blend well with the northern themed design and are provided at varying heights; which transition from sidewalk poles to dual-lit median poles. Hardscape transitions range from stone paved sidewalks, to brick themed crosswalks and asphalt paving. Pedestrian oriented areas are clearly defined from vehicular areas making the streetscape feel safe to walk across. Street trees are used where possible and provide shade and additional texture to the streetscape. Key views and access to pathways and plazas remain open and easy to migrate to from the streetscape. These spaces are also themed in their materials and detailing which adds to the overall sense of place. Artwork such as murals or sculpture pieces can be found throughout the area which depicts the overall community character of Jasper. Finally, an adequate amount of streetscape furnishings such as benches, receptacles, and planters has been provided to ensure visitors find it easy to linger within the streetscape and enjoy the surrounding area.

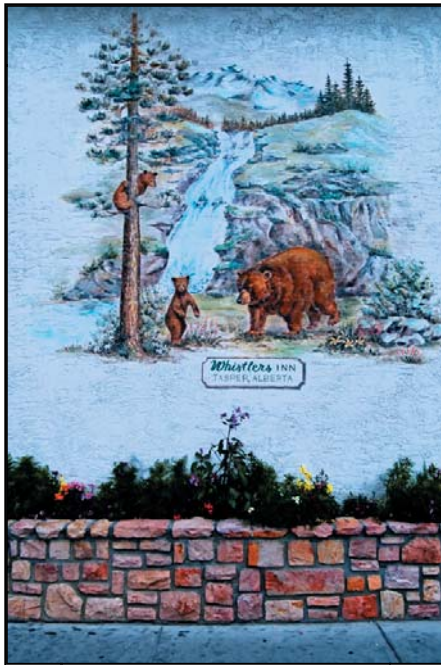
Images provided by webshots.com



PRECEDENTS

JASPER, ALBERTA

Below is a street mural found in Jasper, Alberta, which is associated with the areas Northern theme and contributes greatly to its surrounding streetscape aesthetic.



- 1 Street lights are provided at varying levels depending on use. Here they are approximately 14' high; a comfortable height for a large volume of pedestrian use
- 2 A material (Duratherm by Integrated Paving Concepts) is used along crosswalks to identify areas of pedestrian traffic to drivers
- 3 Various materials are used along the sidewalk to identify areas of walking vs. areas of relaxation or transition
- 4 Signage is adequately provided and theme oriented
- 5 Site furnishing are theme oriented and placed wherever possible
- 6 Architectural details are theme oriented, contributing to streetscape character

