



Street Type Classification

Hydraulic Street (Existing)

Unique Industrial Character

Hydraulic Street includes complex conditions, such as utility poles landing in the street; a tapering right-of-way that narrows from west to east; and an active freight rail line that runs parallel to the street surface within the right-of-way. Because it runs parallel to the Fox River, there are multiple access and view corridors that connect pedestrians on Hydraulic Street to one of Yorkville's most important assets.

The freight rail line tracks are immediately adjacent to the southern edge of the street. This proximity could be a safety issue; however, during the citizen engagement events, residents did not voice much concern over the rail, except the noise complaints and potential for trains to back up traffic along Bridge Street. Though only one rail company utilizes the line, it is important to the natural gas industry because it accesses select sand used for the fracking process. Any expectations of the rail line closure are unrealistic, at least in the near-term. The active rail line will remain something that any redesign plans, current or future, must address.

Hydraulic Street features a unique industrial character as a result of the rail and adjacent buildings and uses. The short, utilitarian buildings, as well as agricultural relics, such as the grain elevator, create an eclectic mix of land uses and character. Multiple popular businesses and parks exist along Hydraulic Street, and the existing character seems to support these types of businesses. As improvements occur to make Hydraulic Street a more attractive, safe, and usable street, a respect for its industrial past and present should be retained.



Figure 16 - Hydraulic Street (Farr Associates)



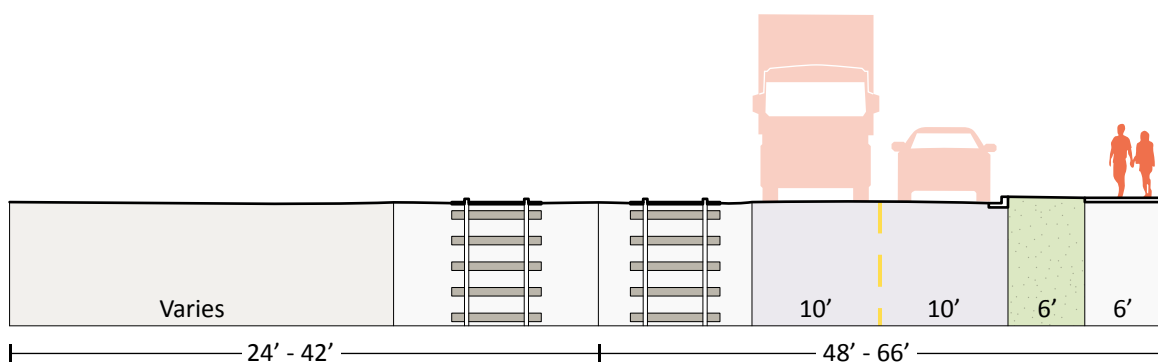
Figure 17 - Hydraulic Street (Farr Associates)



Figure 18 - Inactive Grain Elevator (Farr Associates)



Hydraulic Street (Existing)



Hydraulic Street (Near-Term)

Tactical Interventions

Hydraulic Street character will remain unique and interesting with or without planning interventions. The low traffic counts and limited number of businesses that currently front onto Hydraulic Street suggest that a lower level of resources should be placed in its near-term improvements.

However, a few key improvements that help support the current businesses should be prioritized. This could include allowing outdoor seating areas either in the parking lots or at the edge of the street and sidewalks; painting the existing light poles with unique artwork; adding seasonal banners to the existing light poles; and improving the rear facade of Bridge Street, as this has effectively become the primary entry to many of those businesses. The rear facade of the Bridge Street buildings is highly visible since no structures currently exist to obscure mid-block views.

Additionally, moveable planters with trees and other vegetation could bring life, shade, and color to an otherwise utilitarian Hydraulic Street.

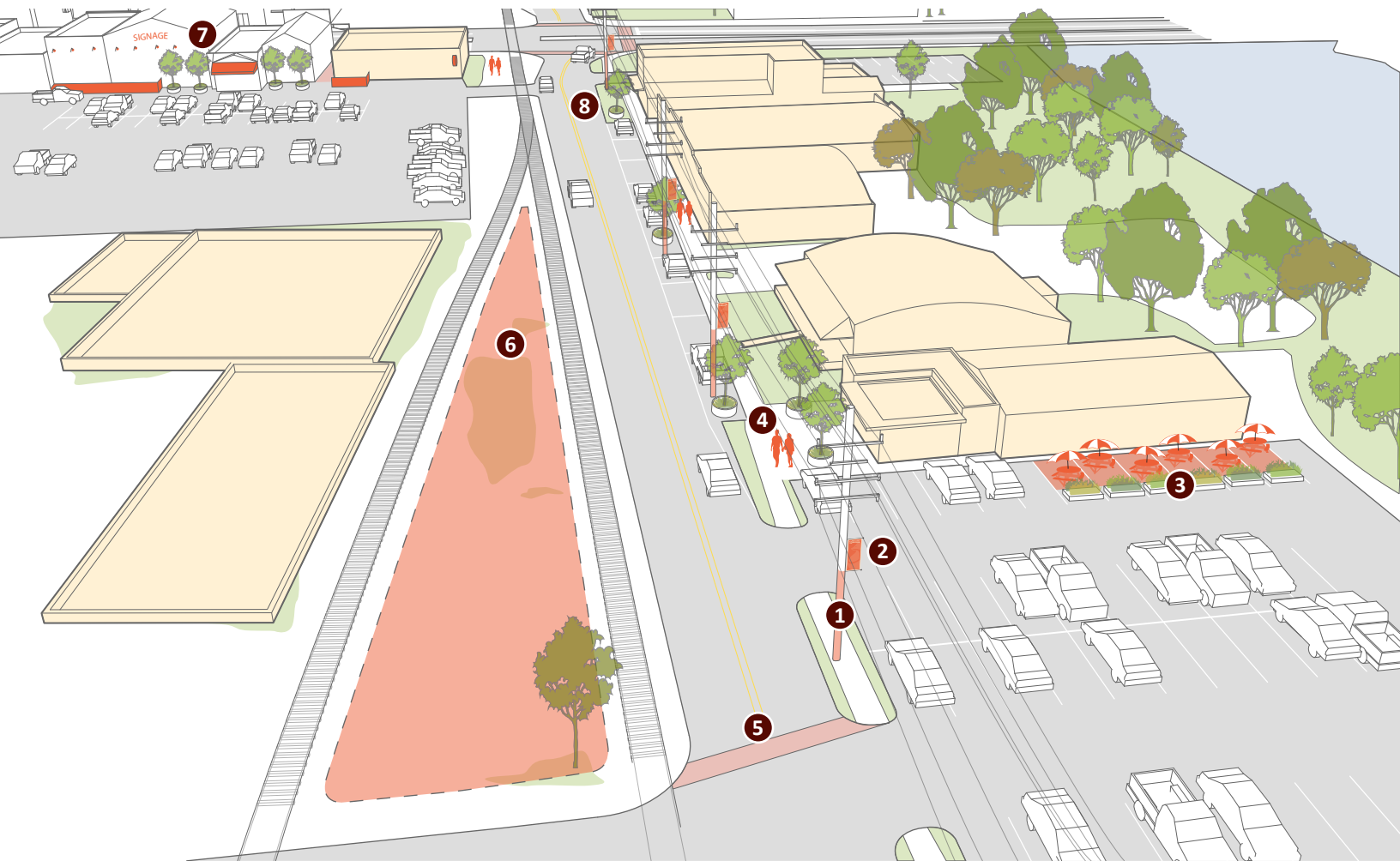
- ① Painted Light Poles
- ② Seasonal Banners
- ③ Outdoor Restaurant Seating
- ④ Temporary Tree Planters
- ⑤ Painted Crosswalks
- ⑥ Maintain Gravel Between Tracks
- ⑦ Bridge Street Rear Facade Improvements
- ⑧ Street Surface Lane Striping



Figure 19 - Painted Light Pole (Tops Images)



Figure 20 - Well Maintained Gravel Surface (Dare Inc.)



Hydraulic Street (Near-Term)



Figure21 - Rear Facade Lighting and Signage (House St. Clair)



Figure22 - Outdoor Restaurant Seating (South Milwaukee)

Hydraulic Street (Long-Term)

Conversion to a Shared Street

The unique qualities of Hydraulic Street with its irregular street section, limited traffic count, paralleling of the Fox River, and already funky, casual character lends itself well to becoming a woonerf, or “shared street”. This long-term vision would allow Hydraulic Street to be closed down for festivals or events between the current driveway aligning with the rear entrances of the Bridge Street buildings and Heustis or Mill Street. Circulation around the block would still be possible through the use of a “slip lane” or access lane that would run along the south edge of the railroad tracks in order to access future redevelopment on those parcels.

Hydraulic Street could take on a unique design such as permeable pavers to add character and stormwater management benefits. Being adjacent to the Fox River, an effort to minimize stormwater runoff and encourage percolation would be an environmentally conscious solution. Continuous pavers spanning between vehicular travel areas and traditional pedestrian areas would effectively blur the line between pedestrian and car right-of-way. This would encourage slow moving traffic on non-event days when Hydraulic Street is open, and add an attractive frontage for the businesses along Hydraulic Street.

A shared street deserves a custom design. When City budget is allocated towards Hydraulic Street capital improvements, an emphasis should be placed on hiring highly-qualified landscape architects experienced in right-of-way redesign.



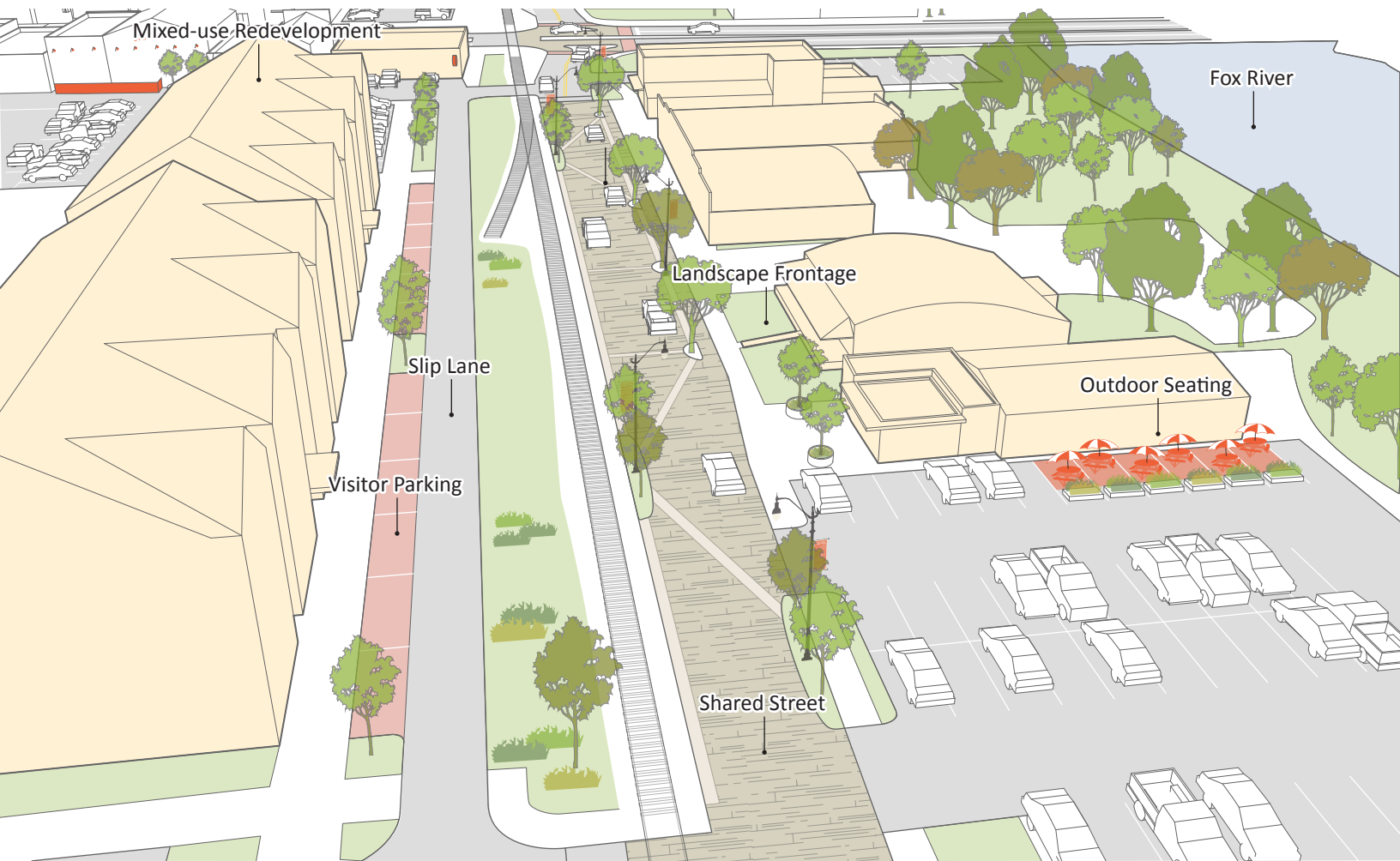
Figure 23 - Chicane Plantings (NACTO)



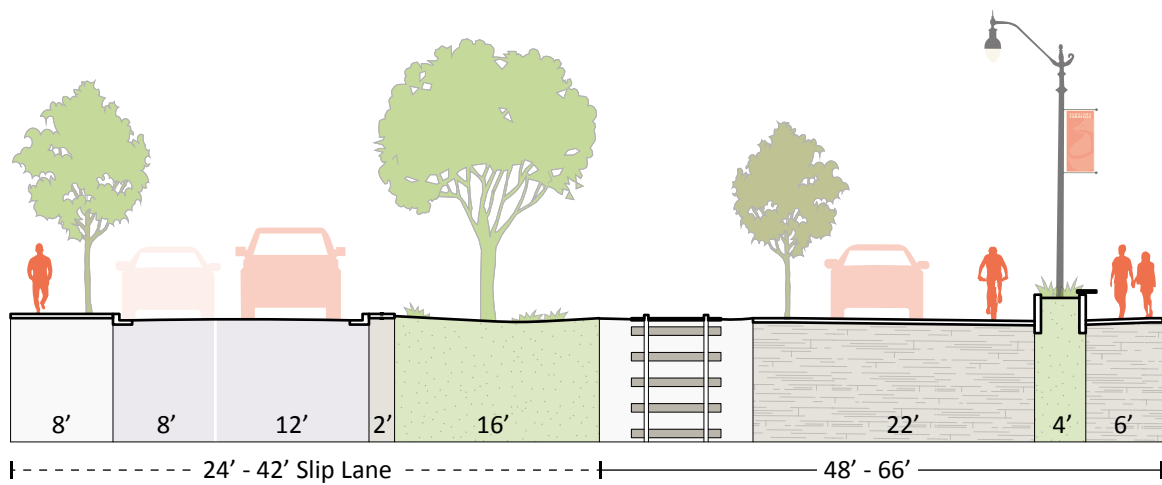
Figure 24 - Funky Outdoor Seating (Asik Site)



Figure 25 - Shared Street (Ithaca College)



Hydraulic Street (Long-Term)



Hydraulic Street Shared Street

As previously mentioned, a shared street should blur the lines between vehicle and pedestrian zones. Subtle changes to paving materials and the use of planters, street furnishings, and markings can define where cars should or should not drive. Since Hydraulic Street runs parallel with the Fox River, a street section that sheet flows stormwater into a continuous drainage channel within paving change is an example of integrated street design. These site design details are important, as this will become a major downtown event location.

- ❶ Paving Texture or Material Change
- ❷ Chicane Planting Beds
- ❸ Maintain Existing Distance from Tracks
- ❹ Raised Planting Beds
- ❺ Planter Seating Ledge
- ❻ Continuous Drainage Channel on One Side

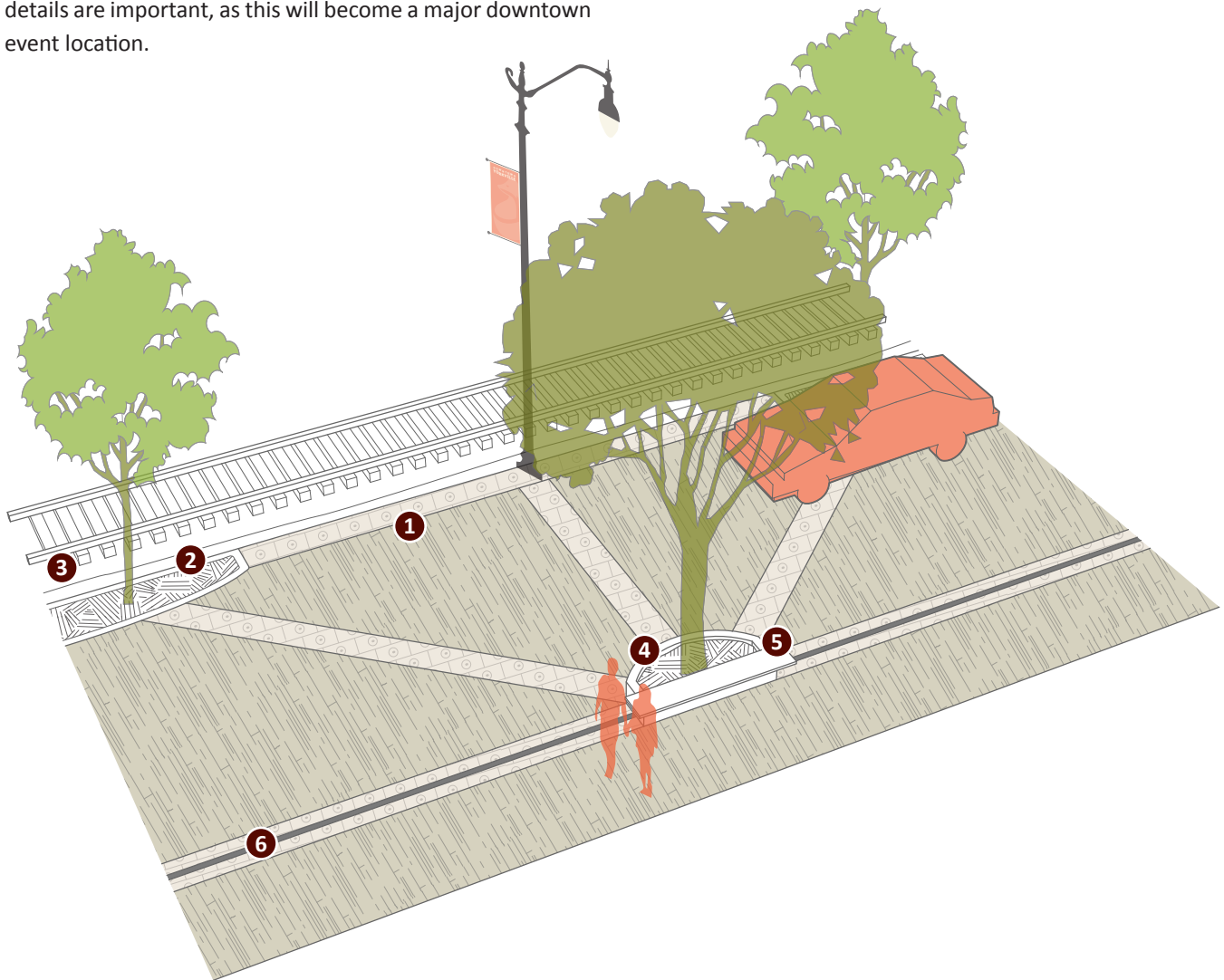


Figure 26 - Hydraulic Street Diagram (Farr Associates)

Material Contrast

Subtle paving details, such as a change in material, texture, or orientation, contribute interest to the pedestrian environment. Minor variations can help make a design unique to a specific location and help brand the place. Paving details may be used to delineate where vehicles are allowed to drive or park. These variations may help inform the location of custom street furniture, emphasize locations for tree plantings and signage locations, or simply add aesthetic appeal.

Street to Woonerf Transition

Shared streets typically have vehicular travel routes and parking at the same elevation as a sidewalk. This means that the street section will not have its typical curb and gutter condition and will also need to reconcile where a regular street meets the woonerf. Raised intersections and crosswalks commonly feature short ramp transition zones to raise travel lanes to the desired shared height. The transition zones can also help alert drivers that they are entering a special area and a heightened awareness for pedestrians is necessary.

Planter Seating Ledge

A custom street design can include custom street planters and seating. In the instance of a shared street, raised planters made of a durable material could house low plantings and street trees; accommodate one or multiple built in seating ledges; and play a role in vehicular circulation by delineating the travel lanes, narrowing travel lanes to encourage slower travel speeds, or creating chicanes that slow-traffic to a greater degree.



Figure 27 - Paving Texture Change (Site Design Group)



Figure 28 - Raised Intersection (NACTO)



Figure 29 - Planter Seating Ledge (Transform KC)