

Landscape beds in the streetscape.

As a part of the Design South Dakota meetings with community stakeholders, it was made clear that the designs needed to include natural beauty using flowers, trees, and perennial plants. The landscape efforts are important because the space is a walkable and social gathering area for the community. Narrowing the Walnut Street roadway allowed for wider sidewalks and also allowed for the addition of larger landscape beds. An important element of the beds was to increase the soil volume not covered by concrete which allows the trees in the beds to stay healthy while growing to a mature size. The corten steel borders of the beds allowed for rain water inlets so the building and sidewalk drainage can enter the planters and provide more water to the plantings. Not only were larger landscape beds a part of the Walnut Street corridor, but the landscape beds on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street along the public parking lots were also enhanced. Landscape beds were also created on the SE corner of Douglas and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and on the SW corner of Capital and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The larger landscape beds allowed the plan to include numerous types of plantings. The perennials and shrubs found in the beds provide a variety of textures, movements, and colors based on the season of the year. Along Walnut and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street there were 254 shrubs, 279 perennial flowers, and 481 ornamental grass plantings. The Welcome to Walnut celebration commemorates the important community investment in a public space aimed at making the downtown a really great experience for citizens and visitors.