AURORA GATEWAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

LAKE STREET
The quality and appearance of the built environment leading into our community and neighborhoods can either enhance or diminish the way we feel about ourselves and about our neighborhoods, and about our connections to one another. Additionally, these corridors greatly affect the way in which we are perceived by our visitors. Our gateways must reflect the best of our community. The attention paid to them, and the beauty that results from that attention, will convey a powerful message about the strength of our pride in, and commitment to, Aurora (from the Aurora Gateway Committee).

The program begins with Lake Street, a commercial corridor parallel to the Fox River. It is designated a gateway because it is a main entrypoint for visitors coming off I-88 and other river city residents.

Lake Street suffers problems that are common among many auto-centric corridors. It lacks pedestrian appeal and safety, has a large percentage of cement covering, and supports land uses that cater to auto users. However, Lake Street is unique in that it offers the wonderful amenity of the Fox River and a large historic residential neighborhood.

Street enhancements will improve the sidewalk network, landscaping in the median and street landscaping, and at intersections and auto accessways. Since Lake Street is not a homogeneous street and contains various types of atmospheres as one travels north to south, the different “enhancements” will apply landscaping, sidewalk networks, and other improvement unique to that section of the street.