

LEEPER PARK

The Leeper Park framework draws heavily from the historic George Kessler plan of 1915, and the Leeper Park Rehabilitation Plan of 1998 to align with the historic qualities and preservation goals of the original park design and the Historic Preservation Commission of South Bend and St. Joseph County. Compared to the other parks within South Bend, Leeper Park has more formal elements, including a radial rose garden, promenades, and several historic structures. Leeper Park also hosts many fixtures and remnants from the Works Progress Administration during the New Deal era, including several water pump stations and a reservoir. The framework accommodates the recently installed lavender labyrinth.



Leeper Park Existing Conditions

The Leeper Park Framework proposes:

- An integrated path system throughout the park to improve accessibility between spaces. The path system strives to connect the spaces and across the dividing roads to promote better cohesion between Leeper Park's distinctive areas.
- The maintenance of the tennis courts, but the conversion of the underused ballfields into a multi-purpose field with a relocated play area.
- The Studebaker Fountain on axis with the lavender labyrinth. Several WPA pump houses remain in place as respites and historic markers.
- The radial rose garden, amphitheater, and sensory garden remain in place, but expands and renovates the play area and the historic buildings north of Bartlett Street to accommodate new play structures and a comfort station.
- An off-road bike and pedestrian path that connects Riverside Drive to Leeper Park including a boardwalk under Michigan Street.
- A pedestrian refuge island on Michigan Street at Riverside Drive to control turning movement and provide a safe pedestrian crossing.

