

GATEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ehrhart Griffin & Associates (EGA) was retained to perform surveying and civil engineering tasks for a 32 acre campus lying west of 42nd Street between "T" Street and "Y" Streets in South Omaha. The property contained existing buildings, former building pad sites with pockets of buried rubble and debris, poorly compacted earthen fill over poor soils, a major drainage way for the area which drained into a wetlands, and a major 2-lane public street with high traffic volume and a history of high speeds. We worked very closely with the landscape architect to not only protect the wetlands during construction, but design around this area to provide an outdoor classroom effect for educational opportunities.

Schematic design for the first phase of master plan implementation – the elementary school – began in '09, and construction commenced in '11. The school was open and held its first classes in the Fall semester of 2013.

Rolling slopes with mature grass coverings belied the fact that former building pads contained buried rubble and building debris from the demolition activities. Despite researching historical documentation as well as the drilling and analysis of over 30 geotechnical borings, there was more unsuitable soil found than initially anticipated. Knowing that off-site removal of this material would be cost prohibitive, we worked diligently with the landscape architect, geotechnical engineer and the contractor to establish on-site solutions, such as deep bury pits in non-critical areas capped by several feet of good material, thereby minimizing the cost of the change order to the extent possible.

Early coordination meetings with the key decision makers of the City's Public Works Department resulted in the improvement of 42nd Street, from Q Street to Z Street, to a three lane street section. Landscaped islands were provided at key points to serve as a form of traffic calming. Coordination with a CSO (combined sewer overflow) project in this area enabled this project to provide future sewer connections that minimized construction costs of that project.

The Bottom Line

Terry Morrison, Project
Manager

- Demolition & Site Preparation •
- Utility Coordination •
- Surveying Services •
- Construction Management •
- Permit Attainment & Management •

Standard site design elements – grading, utility services, storm water detention and treatment meeting City ordinance and ADA accessibility were also performed. The design team was complimented on its approach to erosion control for graded areas away from the immediate elementary school site. The parking lot was designed in such a way to provide more than necessary vehicle storage lanes for pickup/dropoff times at the start/end of each school day, a feature that OPS has struggled with in the past.

All survey and design information used to create the platting and construction documents were prepared using state of the art electronic surveying and computer aided drafting (CAD) equipment and software.

