



Touring Avoca prior to the design workshop

Program Overview

The city of Avoca is one of 10 communities selected to participate in the 2020 Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning Program. The program, which selects communities through a competitive application process, provides professional planning and design assistance along transportation corridors to small Iowa communities (populations of fewer than 10,000).

Goals for the Visioning Program include:

- Developing a conceptual plan and implementation strategies with local communities
- Enhancing the natural, cultural and visual resources of communities
- Assisting local communities in using external funds as leverage for transportation corridor enhancement

Each visioning community works through a planning process consisting of four phases of concept development:

1. Program initiation
2. Needs assessment and goal setting
3. Development of a concept plan
4. Implementation and sustained action

Avoca Program Overview



On-site collaboration of the design team prior to the design workshop

Capturing the Avoca Vision

Based on the needs and desires of the residents, as well as a detailed inventory of community resources, the design team developed a conceptual transportation enhancement plan. This plan, as well as the inventory information, is illustrated in the following set of presentation boards:

- Program Overview
- Local Geography
- Bioregional Assessment
- Transportation Assets and Barriers Assessment
- Transportation Behavior and Needs Assessment
- Transportation Inventory and Analysis
- Concept Overview
- Walnut St. & Crocker St.
- Former Grain Elevator Site
- Former School Site
- Mez Buttermilk Flat Park
- Edgington Memorial Park
- G18 Water Access
- Library Activity Trail



Presentation of ideas at the design workshop

Each visioning community is represented by a steering committee of local residents and stakeholders who take part in a series of meetings that are facilitated by field coordinators from Trees Forever. Iowa State University organizes design interns, and ISU faculty and staff. The program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

This year, the typical Community Visioning process was changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meetings were conducted virtually, and the in-person presentations were held outdoors with masks and appropriate social distancing.

Community Goals

The Avoca visioning committee identified several goals and priority areas during the visioning process, which include:

- Pedestrian Safety
- Downtown Development
- Trail Improvements



Residents reviewing designs on kiosks in town



Final presentation of designs in Avoca



Final presentation of designs in Avoca

RDG Planning & Design

LAs: Anne Machian, PLA, ASLA; Bruce Niedermyer, PLA, ASLA, LEED AP
Intern: Dani Hodgson

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

