



Residents interacted with the design team in the creation of concepts and provided feedback during the design workshop held on July 8, 2021



Members of the local Calamus community visioning committee helped explain, answer questions, and gather input during the design workshop



Tactical urbanism was used in Calamus during RAGBRAI to create an interactive showcase for Calamus's participation in the Iowa's Living Roadways Visioning Program. The display, which was set up in the downtown, used milk crates to create arches and seating areas

Program Overview

The city of Calamus is one of 10 communities selected to participate in the 2021 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 (less than 10,000 residents).

Visioning Program Goals:

- Develop a conceptual plan and implementation strategies alongside local community residents.
- Enhance the natural, cultural and visual resources existing within communities.
- Assist 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

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's Department of Landscape Architecture and ISU Extension and Outreach, of which Community Visioning is part, manage the visioning process and the design team. In addition, ISU project staff and interns conduct a bioregional assessment and public input sessions, including transportation assets and barriers (TAB) focus groups, a random-sample survey, and a survey of high school students. Iowa State University, along with Trees Forever and the Iowa Department of Transportation, select private-sector Professional Landscape Architects (PLA) to be part of the design team and work with the various communities in creating their "community vision" and transportation enhancement plan.

Iowa State University processes the information collected from the focus groups and surveys and provides the data to the steering committee and design team for their use in developing community-centered transportation enhancements based on the needs and desires expressed by residents participating in the focus groups, surveys, and the public design workshop.

The Community Visioning program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Community Goals

The Calamus steering committee identified a number of goals and priority areas during the visioning process. These goals and priorities were reflective of what residents identified during their participation in the TAB workshops held virtually in late February and early March 2021 (see boards 3a-3c), as well as the results of the sample survey and a survey of high school students.

- ▶ Create a train quiet zone within the city limits
- ▶ Upgrade the downtown streetscape to attract businesses and patrons and improve accessibility
- ▶ Improve community identity and physical and visual connectivity throughout Calamus by improving streetscapes, expanding and upgrading the sidewalk system, implementing way-finding signage and, decorative lighting
- ▶ Create more outdoor recreational opportunities for residents by creating a trail system throughout Calamus and a multi-use trail to neighboring Wheatland
- ▶ Expand the sport field offerings to include a football field with a track and more parking at the sport fields
- ▶ Identify opportunities for new residential expansions

Refer to board 7, "Goal Setting," for further details related to the community goals noted above.

Capturing the Calamus Vision

Based on the needs and desires of the local residents, as well as a detailed inventory of community resources, the design team developed transportation-based community improvement project concepts, which are illustrated in the following set of presentation boards:

1. Program Overview
2. Bioregional Assessments
3. Transportation Assets and Barriers Assessment
4. Transportation Behaviors and Needs Assessment
5. High School Survey
6. Transportation Inventory
7. Goal Setting
8. Concept Plan Overview
9. Community Identity
10. Entryway Signage
11. Accessibility & Connectivity
12. Streetscape Enhancements
13. Downtown
14. Trail System
15. City Growth
16. Train Quiet Zone
17. Implementation

This board set is supplemented by a shared set of boards with Wheatland that addresses the proposed trail segment connecting Calamus to Wheatland. These supplemental presentation boards are identified as Cal-Wheat boards and include the following four boards:

1. Trail Plan & Identity
2. Trailhead
3. Trail Enhancements
4. Syracuse Bridge Area

Calamus Program Overview

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