

Program Overview

The City of Clarion is one of 10 communities selected to participate in the 2017 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:

1. Develop a conceptual plan and implementation strategies alongside local community residents.
2. Enhance natural, cultural, and visual resources existing within communities.
3. 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 strategies

Each visioning community is represented by a steering committee of local residents and stakeholders who take part in a series of meetings and focus groups that are facilitated by field coordinators from Trees Forever. The Community Visioning program, as part of Iowa State University's Landscape Architecture Extension, organizes initial focus groups with design interns as well as transportation needs and behaviors surveys. The program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Community Goals

The Clarion Steering Committee identified a number of goals and priority areas during the visioning process: a comprehensive trail system, formalized trailheads and trail amenities, enhancements to the city parks, street and sidewalk improvements, and downtown renovations.

Capturing the Clarion 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
4. Survey
5. Transportation Inventory and Analysis
6. Goal Setting: Assessing and Programming Community Needs
7. Concept Overview
- 8a. Comprehensive Trail System
- 8b. Trail Safety and Amenities
9. Access to Recreation
10. Accessibility/Connectivity
11. Smart Housing Growth
- 12a. Highway 3 Conversion
- 12b. Downtown Infrastructure
13. Identity/Signage Typologies
- 14a. Stormwater BMP Strategies
- 14b. Hanson Park Renovation



The design team displays conceptual designs at the annual pancake breakfast in the Clarion Fire Station. Nearly 1,000 people participated in the breakfast.



Landscape architect Eric Doll prepares to document goals and programming ideas from the steering committee.



The design team getting situated with an informational table at Clarion's annual Festival in the Park.



Jeffrey L. Bruce and Company presents the preliminary design concepts to the steering committee.