

## Program Overview

The city of Garrison is one of 10 communities selected to participate in the 2016 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 (population 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 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 firms, and ISU faculty and staff. The program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

## Community Goals

The Garrison visioning committee identified a number of goals and priority areas that they wanted the design team to focus their efforts on during the visioning process. The committee based their selection on community input received and background information collected by Iowa State University at the start of the visioning process. This community input and background information is summarized on boards 2 through 3. The priority areas selected by the committee are listed below in order of preference along with the goals:

- **#1 Sycamore Avenue Corridor Enhancements:**  
Modify the existing Sycamore Avenue corridor to create a "complete street" where the corridor is enhanced with both visual and physical elements to enable safe access and use for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists of all ages and abilities. The enhancements along the corridor also need to reinforce the identity of Garrison while improving way-finding and creating a positive first impression to passersby and visitors.

- **#2 City Park Enhancements:**  
Revitalize the City Park to make it more accessible, usable and visible to the community. Incorporate enhancements that appeal to a greater cross-section of residents as well as offer a variety of activities that appeal to a larger age range.

- **#3 Loop Trail around Garrison:**  
Integrate enhancements that will designate and reinforce the existing, but unofficial, "short" and "long" loop routes around Garrison that residents utilize for walking, jogging and biking.

- **#4 Downtown Beautification:**  
Enhance the existing downtown to make it more aesthetic and inviting to visitors as well as to potential businesses and investors.

- **#5 Pocket Park/Hero Memorial Park:**  
Utilize empty spaces in the downtown area to create pocket parks that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors and serve as outdoor spaces for community events as well as events complementary to those at the Mercantile. Transform the old library site into a memorial for paying tribute to fallen heroes of the community.

- **#6 Community Entryway Enhancements:**  
Highlight the entryway signage as well as enhance the community gateways so they are welcoming and clearly define the limits of Garrison.

- **#7 Community Identity and Way-finding Signage:**  
Reinforce the identity of the Garrison community through the repeated use of a city logo that captures the unique qualities to which Garrison citizens relate. Create wayfinding signage that helps alert visitors to special public areas within the community.

- **#8 Sidewalk Accessibility Enhancements:**  
Improve pedestrian accessibility throughout the community. Identify the highest priority routes to ensure that they meet the latest recommended standards for accessibility and are connected without any missing segments.

## Capturing the Garrison Vision

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

1. Program Overview
2. Bioregional Assessments
3. Transportation Assets and Barriers
4. Transportation Inventory and Analysis
5. Concept Plan Overview
6. Design Process Overview
7. Community Identity, Way-finding and Entryway Enhancements
8. Sycamore Avenue Corridor Enhancements
9. Downtown Enhancements
10. Hero Memorial Park
11. Central Park
12. Sidewalk Accessibility Enhancements
13. Loop Trail Enhancements and Stormwater Improvements
14. Loop Trail Enhancements: Arboretum and Old Creamery Site
15. City Park Enhancements



The "Parents" focus group discusses assets and barriers during the TAB workshop.



Committee members prioritize their goals at the goal setting meeting.



Committee members review and discuss the proposed concepts at the final review.



A community member talks with the landscape architect at the design workshop.

# Garrison

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Iowa Department of Transportation Trees Forever ISU Landscape Architecture Extension ISU Extension Community and Economic Development

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