



Transportation inventory and analysis. Map Data Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Natural Resources Geographic Information Systems Library," accessed January 2016, <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/nrgislib/>

Transportation Inventory and Analysis

Knowledge of the transportation systems in and around a community is critical for sustainable transportation enhancement planning. Transportation systems include paved and unpaved roadways, pedestrian and bike trails, waterways, railroad lines or railbeds from abandoned railroad lines and airports.

The Garrison visioning design team met with the county engineer, city staff, and local officials to identify existing, past, and future transportation systems in the area, and to discuss possible transportation-related restraints and opportunities that could potentially affect project areas.

Garrison suffered a loss in July 2011 when large winds damaged the city's fire station and library, as well as many private residences and trees throughout town. In a move to overcome the disaster, community members quickly joined together and successfully raised funds to build a new library and fire station. The community is continuing to rebuild after the storm and is looking to their future by creating visions of how they want their community to look through their participation in the Iowa's Living Roadways Visioning Program.

The main north-south arterial through town is Sycamore Avenue (County Road V56). The primary east-west corridor is Maple Street. The intersection of these two streets was identified by residents as an area of concern because it is located just below the crest of a hill. One block south of this site is the intersection of Main Street and Sycamore Avenue which is a primary intersection that provides access to the Mercantile and downtown area. Both intersections need enhancements to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility. These two intersections also play important roles in linking the east and west sides of town together for pedestrians.

Garrison is situated on a hill with water draining towards Hinkle Creek. Flooding along the creek

becomes an issue during rain storms. Just north of the creek, following an old abandoned railroad bed is the 14.5-mile Old Creamery Nature Trail, which starts in Dysart and travels east through Garrison past historic sites such as the old Tile Factory and the Old Creamery ruins before ending in Vinton.

Residents have created a shorter, informal trail that they have named the "loop" trail. The loop trail is comprised of both a segment of the Old Nature Creamery Trail and various roadways throughout and around the town. Many community members enjoy walking around town on the informal loop trail. However the sidewalk system inhibits poor walkability so people tend to use the streets instead of the sidewalks.

While Garrison does have quite a few sidewalks, overall, they need improvement. Many of the existing sidewalks in Garrison are showing signs of their age, as they are either overgrown with sod, falling apart, uneven, narrow, missing segments, and/or do not meet current accessibility standards.



New Garrison Fire Station on Sycamore Avenue at north end of town.



South entrance to Garrison and Old Creamery Nature Trail on Sycamore Avenue.

Garrison

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