**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Greene kicks off 2017 Community Visioning program**

**Contacts:**

Emily Ascher, Greene Visioning Committee, 319-816-4849

Meredith Borchardt, Trees Forever, 641-430-3854

Greene is participating in the 2017 Iowa’s Living Roadways Community Visioning Program. Community Visioning is a transportation enhancement planning process that serves Iowa communities under 10,000 in population.

The program helps community volunteers envision aesthetic and ecological improvements along roadsides and related landscapes by blending environmental stewardship with community improvement projects. Greene is one of ten communities selected to participate in this award-winning program this year.

The Greene Visioning Committee has met two times and learned about the community through a variety of maps. These meetings are part of a larger goal to assess local resources and identify community needs. The information gathered will be used to develop a long-term transportation concept plan.

The next step in the process will be a focus group workshop on Saturday, March 18, at the St. Peter’s Lutheran Church. Residents will be invited to share ideas about how they get around town, barriers they encounter, and assets of the community in a small group setting. For further information about participating in a focus group or the overall visioning process, please call Emily Ascher at 319-816-4849 or Trees Forever field coordinator, Meredith Borchardt at 641-430-3854.

The Iowa’s Living Roadways Community Visioning Program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation in partnership with Iowa State University Extension Landscape Architecture and Trees Forever, an Iowa-based nonprofit organization with a mission to plant trees and care for the environment. Since 1996, over 200 Iowa communities have benefited from the Visioning Program.