



Program Overview

The city of Independence is one of 10 communities selected to participate in the 2023 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 (populations of fewer than 10,000).

- Goals for the Visioning Program include:
- Developing a conceptual plan and implementation strategies with local communities
 - Enhancing of the bioregional, cultural, and visual resources of communities
 - Assisting local communities in using external funds as leverage for transportation corridor enhancements

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 organizes design teams composed of professional landscape architects, student interns, and ISU faculty and staff. The program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Community Goals

The Independence visioning committee identified a number of goals and priority areas during the visioning process. These include:

1st Street W Improvements: 1st Street W is a prominent corridor as you enter Independence from the west. The steering committee would like to improve the aesthetics of the corridor, as well as address drainage issues, add amenities, and enhance safety.

Trail Connections: The existing trails are poorly signed and lack amenities the community would like, such as signage, benches, lighting, and exercise equipment. The steering committee would like to expand existing trails and sidewalks to connect to priority locations within the community.

Signage & Way-finding: Independence has a new logo that the steering committee would like to use to create a consistent family of signage. The committee expressed its desire for community-wide way-finding signage to help residents and visitors find destinations.

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 Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

