

Program Overview

The city of Monona 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 (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. Community Visioning, as part of Iowa State University Landscape Architecture Extension, organizes initial focus groups with design interns and transportation needs and behaviors surveys. The program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Community Goals

The Monona 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 Monona 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. Transportation Inventory and Analysis
5. Goal Setting: Assessing and Programming Community Needs
6. Concept Overview
- 7a. Comprehensive Trail System
- 7b. Trail Safety and Amenities
- 8a. Community Parks
- 8b. Gateway Park
- 9a. Community Signage Plan
- 9b. Community Signage Elements
10. Destinations and Sidewalks
11. Downtown Improvement Plan
12. Downtown Street Amenities



Landscape architects present preliminary design concepts to the steering committee.



The landscape architect team working through concepts based on the goals of Monona.



Residents taking the landscape architects on a guided tour of Monona.



Steering committee working through goal setting worksheet.

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

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