

Program Overview

The city of Polk City is one of 10 communities selected to participate in the 2020 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. The Community Visioning program, as part of Iowa State University's Landscape Architecture Extension, organizes initial focus groups with design interns as well as transportation needs and behaviors surveys. The program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Community Goals

The Polk City steering committee identified a number of goals and priority areas during the visioning process: connections to existing trail systems, safer streets, improved way-finding signage with a unified community identity, and year-round recreation opportunities.

Capturing the Polk City 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
- 2a-h. Bioregional Boards
- 3a-c. Transportation Assets and Barriers
- 4a-f. Survey
5. Transportation Inventory and Analysis
6. Goal Setting
7. Concept Overview
- 8a. Trails Overview
- 8b. High Trestle Trail Connections
- 8c. Trailheads
9. Way-finding Signage
10. Community Beautification
11. Safety
- 12a. Parks Overview
- 12b. 3rd Street Park (All Seasons)
- 12c. Lost Lakes Park
- 12d. City Sports Complex



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Jeffrey L. Bruce and Company LLC

Landscape Architect: Eric Doll PLA, ASLA
Interns: Sandeep S Kumar, Zoey Mauck

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

