

Program Overview

The city of Riverside is one of 10 communities selected to participate in the 2022 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).

Visioning Program Goals

- Development of a conceptual plan and implementation strategies with local communities
- Enhancement of the bioregional, cultural, and visual resources of communities
- Assisting 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

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 Riverside visioning committee identified a number of goals and priority areas during the visioning process. These goals and priorities are reflective of what the community members expressed during their participation in the Transportation Assets and Barriers workshop (see boards 3a-3c).

- Strengthen connectivity within Riverside with accessible trails and sidewalks
- Expand the existing trail system to nearby communities and become part of a regional trail system
- Enhance vehicular and pedestrian circulation at key intersections
- Improve access to the English River and incorporate site improvements and amenities to enrich the user experience and attract visitors
- Incorporate traffic-calming measures, as well as modifications to circulation patterns in to increase the comfort of users and improve their experience
- Enhance the downtown streetscape to improve pedestrian accessibility and aesthetics

The Riverside Vision

Based on needs and desires of the local residents, as well as a detailed inventory of community resources, the design team developed a conceptual transportation enhancement, which is illustrated in the following set of presentation boards:

1. Program Overview
2. Bioregional Assessments
3. Transportation Assets and Barriers
4. Transportation Inventory
5. Programming Objectives
6. Concept Overview
7. Community Connectivity
- 8a. Downtown Enhancements
- 8b. School Parking Reconfiguration
- 8c. Ella Street Five-Way Intersection
9. English River Access



The Riverside steering committee reviewed previously gathered data and, together with the design team, developed common themes that shaped the goals.



In July 2022, the design team and members of the steering committee toured various sites around Riverside in order to gain a better understanding of the community and their priority areas.



Following the July 2022 tour, community members were invited to participate in a design workshop where they were encouraged to share their visions and ideas for Riverside and the priority areas, as well as provide feedback to the design team.



The designers reviewed the preliminary designs with the steering committee in August 2022.

Riverside Program Overview

Martin Gardner Architecture

Designer: Kyle Martin, Landscape Architect: Meg Flenker
Intern: Zahra Salahshoor

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

