

Community Visioning



Scotch Grove sign along Highway 38

The Community Visioning Program integrates landscape planning and design with sustainable action to empower community leaders and volunteers in making sound, meaningful decisions about the local landscape. Throughout the process, the committee identified and investigated the physical and cultural dimensions of landscape issues, sets goals for change, and developed implementation strategies for meeting community goals.

Scotch Grove is one of ten 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 with populations of fewer than 10,000. In the 25 years of the Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning Program, Scotch Grove is the second unincorporated community to participate.

Goals for the Community Visioning Program include:

- Development of a conceptual plan and implementation strategies with local communities
- Enhancement of the bioregional, cultural, and visual resources of communities
- Assist local communities in using external funds as leverage for transportation corridor enhancements

Program Overview



Current Streetscape at the Village Crossroads, looking east

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



Scotch Grove, Summer 2022

The Scotch Grove Visioning steering committee identified a number of goals and priority areas during the Community Visioning process. The residents of Scotch Grove at the focus groups and design workshop identified three priority areas: Regional Trail Connections, The Village Crossroads, and Historic Depot Park. 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 plan, which is illustrated in the following set of presentation boards:

1. Program Overview
2. Bioregional Assessment
3. Transportation Assets and Barriers
4. Transportation Inventory
5. Historical Context
6. Performance Objectives
7. Concept Plan Overview
8. Regional Trail Connections
9. Historic Depot Park
10. The Village Crossroads

Scotch Grove Program Overview

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Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

