

Program Overview

The city of Slater 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 (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 Slater steering committee identified a number of goals and priority areas during the visioning process, which include improving sidewalks, adding pedestrian crossings, establishing connectivity throughout the community, improving Arboretum Park and it's trailhead, determining branding and wayfinding, improving the downtown streetscape, and creating a new trailhead in the northwest part of town.

Capturing the Slater 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 Assessment
3. Transportation Assets and Barriers Assessment
4. Transportation Behaviors and Needs
5. Transportation Inventory and Analysis
6. What, Where, & Why?
7. Concept Overview
8. Streetscape Beautification & Parking Improvements
9. Walkability and Safety
10. Proposed Signage and Way-finding
11. Arboretum Park Trailhead
12. Junction Park Trailhead
13. Junction Park Trailhead Renderings
14. Implementation Plan



The steering committee and designers toured the city the day of the Design Workshop. They are checking out the city's dump site with the intention of turning the site into a new trailhead.



An easy connection from Marshall Street to the Heart of Iowa Trail would help create an intercity loop for residents.



The intersection of Highway 210 and Linn Street is heavily trafficked through much of the day. A lack of pedestrian crosswalks and signals keep residents from walking north to south.



Marshall Street has a wide right-of-way and allows for the addition of a dedicated bike lane.



Existing signage at the junction of the High Trestle Trail and the Heart of Iowa Trail in Slater.