



Preliminary design review



Community design workshop



Preliminary design review



Downtown streetscape

Program Overview

The city of Van Meter is one of 10 communities selected to participate in the 2019 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).

Goals for the Visioning Program include:

- Developing a conceptual plan and implementation strategies with local communities
- Enhancing the natural, 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 interns, and ISU faculty and staff. The program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Community Goals

The Van Meter visioning committee identified a number of goals and priority areas during the visioning process:

- Improve pedestrian connectivity and accessibility to local destinations
- Enhance the arrival experience of motorists entering town from the north
- Improve the downtown streetscape by adding aesthetics and site amenities
- Create a park space for families and community events in downtown

Capturing the Van Meter Vision

Based on the needs and desires of the local residents, as well as a detailed inventory of community resources, the design team developed a sidewalk and trail improvements plan, concepts for enhancing the downtown business district, and concepts for a new downtown pocket park. These plans, as well as the inventory information, is illustrated in the following set of presentation boards:

01. Program Overview
02. Bioregional Context
03. Transportation Assets and Barriers Assessment
04. Transportation Behaviors and Needs Assessment
05. Transportation Inventory and Analysis
06. Goal Setting
07. Concept Overview
08. Assessment & Survey Analysis
09. Sidewalk & Trail Improvements
10. Entry Corridor Beautification
11. Downtown Improvements
- 12a & 12b. Pocket Park Concepts



Pocket park design opportunity



R16 and F90 intersection