

Iowa's Living Roadways

Community Visioning Program

Annual Report

January
through
December
2004



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

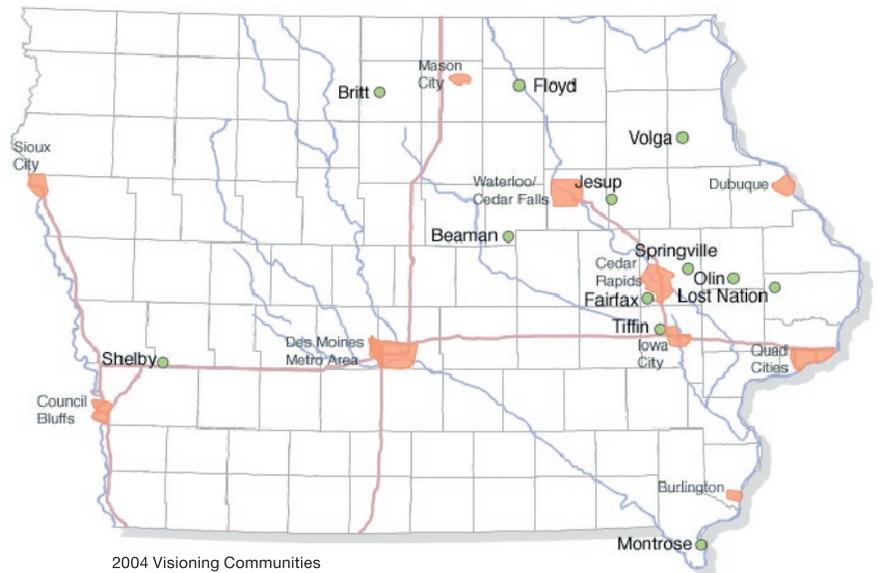
Contents

2	Executive Summary
4	Beaman
6	Britt
8	Fairfax
10	Floyd
12	Jesup
14	Lost Nation
16	Montrose
18	Olin
20	Shelby
22	Springville
24	Tiffin
26	Volga
28	'Local Voices' To Be Heard at the National Level
30	Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders
34	Michael Lanning: From Intern to Mentor
36	2004 Community Visioning Landscape Architecture Firm Profiles
37	Acknowledgements

Executive Summary

The Iowa's Living Roadways Program was born of an effort to provide integrated transportation design services to rural Iowa communities. The program is a collaboration involving the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT); the Living Roadway Trust Fund (LRTF); Iowa State University (ISU); and Trees Forever, a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization.

Iowa's Living Roadways consists of the Community Visioning Program and the Project Program. The Visioning Program provides transportation planning and design assistance to Iowa's small communities. The



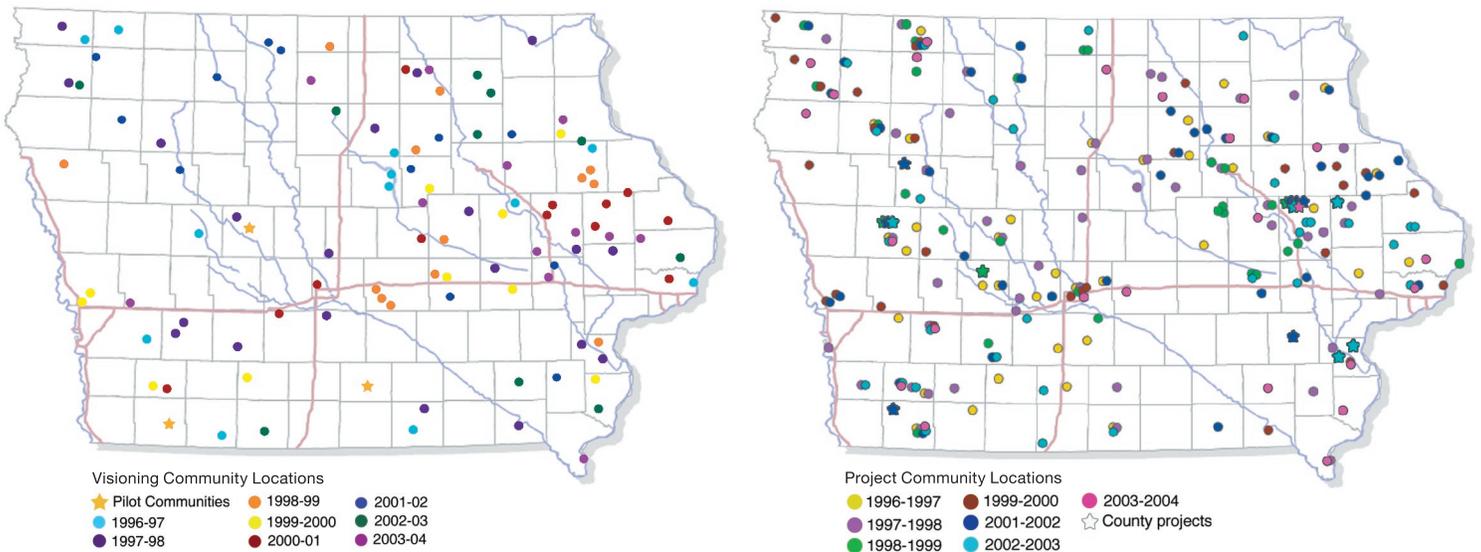
2004 Visioning Communities

Project Program funds the planting of native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees along transportation corridors. Both programs serve communities with populations of fewer than 10,000.

The sustainability and success of the program is reflected in the number of communities it has touched. Since Iowa's Living Roadways was created in 1996, 101 communities have participated in the Visioning Program and 168 communities have received grants to fund 246 projects from the Project Program.

Twenty-five communities applied to the Visioning Program in 2004: Algona, Beaman, Britt, Fairfax, Floyd, Guthrie Center, Guttenberg, Hawarden, Holstein, Iowa Falls, Jesup, Lost Nation, Manly, Milford, Montrose, Okoboji, Olin, Plymouth, Polk City, Reinbeck, Shelby, Springville, Stuart, Tiffin, and Volga. The 12 communities that were selected to participate are shown on the map on page 2.

Iowa State University organizes design teams composed of professional landscape architects, student interns, and ISU faculty and staff. The landscape architects who participate in the program are motivated



by a desire to help small communities and to mentor student interns who express an interest in community design as a career goal.

Many of the 2004 visioning communities have already begun securing funds for implementation and have even completed some of the enhancements proposed in their conceptual design plans. Summaries of the goals and proposed projects for each community are featured in this report.

Beaman

Trees Forever Facilitators: Pamela Helfer and Meredith Borchardt
Community Visioning Contact: Debbie Ashton

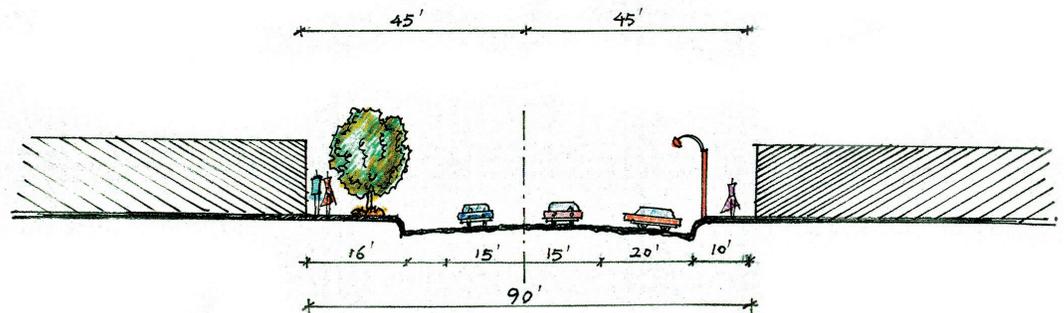
The town of Beaman is located in southern Grundy County, roughly 15 miles northeast of Marshalltown. The town is named for H.H. Beaman, who owned the land and platted it in October 1875. The town was incorporated in 1884 and today Beaman has evolved into a typical, friendly, small Iowa community with a population of 210.

The residents of Beaman have worked hard to identify needs, and to select, fund, and complete projects using volunteer labor. The results of their efforts include a new library, a new fire station, a refurbished gym, a restored community hall, a tennis/basketball court, and two community gardens. Beaman is also home to the Comet Trail, which is part

of the American Discovery Trail, a 6,300-mile route that crosses 15 states from Delaware to California.

Beaman applied to the Visioning Program because although the community is well kept, it lacked distinctive features. The Beaman visioning committee needed guidance in developing new ideas to improve the community. The design team addressed this concern with the following design concepts:

- North and south entrances: make the north entry sign more prominent by planting ornamental trees behind it and adding shrubbery and flowers in steel bins; move the south entry



Rendering of a cross section of Main Street in Beaman.

DESIGN TEAM



Paul R. Popelka

Paul is a landscape architect and urban planner with thirty years of experience in community planning, urban design, and land development projects. He is a partner at Engineering Plus in Ames, Iowa, and an Adjunct Professor at Iowa State University. Paul is a graduate in landscape architecture from the University of Minnesota and earned a Master of Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University in December 2003. He has been involved in the Community Visioning Program since its inception in 1996.

sign one block north to create a more welcoming entry into town, plant a backdrop of trees, and add wildflowers in steel bins.

- County Road T-29 corridor: add low maintenance flowering roadside treatment on the west edge; plant trees on the east side; add community signage along the road to identify key places, including downtown, the Beaman Conrad Liscomb Union Whitten (BCLUW) baseball field, and Comet Trail.
- Downtown Main Street: improve building facades; widen the sidewalk to 10 feet on both sides; add steel bin planters with flowers and plant ornamental trees at key locations; paint crosswalks; add street lights; establish a route for the Comet Trail and add bicycle racks.
- BLCUW baseball field and public gym: replace and enlarge the sidewalk at the front entryway to the gym, plant

trees along the north side, and create a paved patio landing area; plant new trees and wildflowers around the baseball field sign and build a new base with steel bin planters; plant trees along the south edge of the concession area, add playground and patio areas, and create shade by adding an overhead trellis.

- Comet Trail: reroute the trail through town via 2nd Street; plant trees and landscape at trailheads for screening purposes; add bicycle racks near the Beaman Tap to create a rest area; post signs indicating the trail route.

Implementation

Since completing the visioning process, the Beaman visioning committee has submitted applications to a number of grant programs, including the Trees Forever Branching Out Program, which is sponsored by Alliant Energy, and the ILR Project Program. Any funding from Branching Out will be used to plant trees by the library, the bank, the trailhead, the ball fields, and the water tower area. For the Project Program the committee decided to focus on the County Road T-29 corridor on the west edge of town. Beaman is also pursuing the Paint Iowa Beautiful grant for painting and improving the appearance of downtown businesses.



Comparison of the existing Main Street to a digitally enhanced Main Street.



Yijun Deng
Bachelor of Architecture,
Xiamen University, China,
2003;
Master of Architecture, ISU,
August 2005



Jacquelyn Peck
Bachelor of Architecture,
ISU, May 2006

Britt

Trees Forever Facilitator: Steve Estlund
Community Visioning Contact: Jeanie Purvis

Britt is located along Highway 18 in Hancock County, approximately 60 miles west of Mason City. Since Britt was established as a depot station along the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad, the railroad has played an important role in the life of the community.

Since 1982 Britt has been home to the Annual Draft Horse Show, during which draft horse enthusiasts from across the United States and Canada gather to compete. In keeping with its railroad heritage, Britt has also been the home of the Hobo Convention since August 22, 1900.

The Britt visioning committee focused its goals on promoting the town's connection to the railroad and to its draft horse history. To

meet these goals, the design team developed the following design proposals:

- Community entrances: install signs at the south and west entrances; construct the signs from fieldstone masonry and either create a replica of a horse drawn plow and plant native vegetation to emphasize Britt's agricultural roots or have a single tier serving as a perennial planter; plant ornamental trees as a backdrop.
- Highway 18 corridor: plant two offset columns of trees, one of overstory shade trees and the second of ornamental trees; plant a band of prairie grass and wildflowers;



Trees Forever field coordinator Steve Estlund helps Britt committee members map the community's resources.



Existing site for proposed Trailhead Park and multipurpose trail segment.

DESIGN TEAM



Monte Appelgate

Monte serves as a Senior Associate and Department Head of Landscape Architecture and Land Development for Yaggy Colby Associates in the Mason City office. He earned a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University in 1989. He has more than 14 years experience providing clients throughout north Iowa with landscape architecture and land development services on a variety of projects. Monte is currently serving on the Mason City Park and Recreation Board and the Mason City Riverfront Commission. Monte has been an enthusiastic participant in the Visioning program since 2002.

enhance the existing entrance sign by adding a two-tiered, decorative block planter.

- Trailhead park/multipurpose trail: convert the site east of Britt located along the Minneapolis and St. Paul Railroad into a trailhead park by adding a depot style shelter, an interactive wildflower area with a walking path, and parking; add a multipurpose trail segment to connect the trailhead park with the existing sidewalk system.
- Historic walking tour: create a historic walking tour program that links Britt's historic landmarks and provides information that allows visitors to understand the history of each site; identify sites on the tour route by embedding granite markers engraved with historical references in the sidewalk in front of each site; publish a pamphlet that contains images and brief descriptions of each site.

- Downtown streetscape improvements: add decorative crosswalks, sidewalk accents, and lighting to improve aesthetics and increase safety; incorporate the community's railroad and draft horse history into the design.
- John R. Camp Park: increase use of the park by installing a sidewalk system that allows access to the park from multiple areas; add amenities such as benches, decorative lighting, perennial planting areas, and bird watching stations; soften the existing drainage way with native grasses and decorative rock.

Implementation

The Britt visioning committee decided to start implementing its vision by enhancing the south and west entrances. Jack Leaman, visioning landscape architect and father of one of the committee members, is assisting the community with the sign design, as well as the planting design plans to be submitted with an application for ILR Project Program funds. The community has also submitted an application to the Trees Forever Branching Out Program.



Digitally enhanced conceptual plan for Trailhead Park.



Joe Aronson
Bachelor of Landscape
Architecture, ISU, May 2007

Fairfax

Trees Forever Facilitator: Mark Pingenot
Community Visioning Contact: Vernon Cerveny

Fairfax is a bedroom community of 1,200 residents located less than 10 miles southwest of Cedar Rapids, along Highway 151, south of U.S. 30. The original town was established south of Prairie Creek in 1841, but during the past several years, growth of Cedar Rapids turned to the southwest toward Fairfax, and new housing developments sprung up north of the original town. In addition, new businesses catering to travelers and metro area clients have been established along Highway 151.

The new residential growth to the north and along Highway 151, as well as Prairie Creek and the Union Pacific rail line through town, have created a divided town. A lack of interconnecting streets has also contributed to the sense of disconnect.

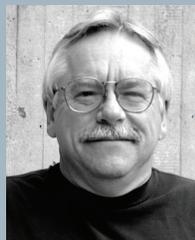
The residents of Fairfax are concerned about the growing disconnect in their community, as well as the negative aesthetic created by the businesses along Highway 151. These issues, along with the development of streetscape standards and refinement of existing trail plans, were identified by the Fairfax visioning committee. In order to beautify and unify the community, the design team proposed a number of projects:

- North and south entries: install similar entrance sign at each entry, along with plantings to create a backdrop and to increase the signs' prominence; reconstruct the Stoney Point Road intersection to include turning lanes and traffic signals;



Existing south entry.

DESIGN TEAM



Paul R. Popelka

Paul is a landscape architect and urban planner with thirty years of experience in community planning, urban design, and land development projects. He is a partner at Engineering Plus in Ames, Iowa, and an Adjunct Professor at Iowa State University. Paul is a graduate in landscape architecture from the University of Minnesota and earned a Master of Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University in December 2003. He has been involved in the Community Visioning Program since its inception in 1996.

extend the community bicycle path through the intersection to connect with the YMCA.

- Highway 151 corridor: install signage made from materials similar to those of the entrance signs to identify downtown, Fairfax Heights, Prairie View Estates, and other entrances; add roadside plantings and street trees along the corridor and plant ornamental trees at intersections; install new street lights that feature banners.
- Prairie Creek Trail extension: extend the trail into Fairfax along cemetery road and extend it into Fairfax Heights and Prairie View Estates; construct a bridge across Prairie Creek at the easement crossing; route the trail through town using existing streets and establish dedicated bicycle paths with signage and distance markers.
- Downtown Vanderbilt Street: add signage to identify downtown

entrances; install brick inlaid crosswalks; add plantings along the sidewalks and ornamental trees at key locations; install street lights with banners similar to those along the Highway 151 corridor.

- Railroad Park: convert the grassy area along Losey Avenue next to the rail line to a small park for watching trains; build a train shed based on the Fairfax depot with a patio area underneath; add a parking lot; plant wildflowers next to the railroad property and plant trees and bushes along Losey Avenue; add benches; install a fence at the property line.

Implementation

The Fairfax visioning committee is moving forward with the implementation of enhancements to the south entryway. The committee will submit an application for an ILR Project Program grant and has retained landscape architect Paul Popelka to assist with the design work.



Image edit of proposed south entry.



Yijun Deng
Bachelor of Architecture,
Xiamen University, China,
2003;
Master of Architecture, ISU,
August 2005



Jacquelyn Peck
Bachelor of Architecture,
ISU, May 2006

Floyd

Trees Forever Facilitator: Steve Estlund
Community Visioning Contact: Rick and Bobbi Lensing

Floyd is strategically located along the Avenue of the Saints, where Highways 218 and 18 intersect. This small town of 361 residents is located not far from Mason City (less than 30 miles), Waterloo (less than 60 miles) and Des Moines (141 miles).

Floyd was established in 1855 and has developed into a fairly prosperous community, with a local hardware store, a car repair garage, a body shop, an antique shop, a wheel wright doing buggy repair, a stone quarry, and several recently expanded businesses dealing with farm-related products.

A major safety issue and the highest priority identified by the Floyd visioning committee is the at-grade intersection of Hwys. 18 and 218. Several serious accidents have occurred there and the visioning design team proposes the

construction of a grade-separated overpass to improve traffic flow and increase safety. The solution is outside the scope of visioning and can only be implemented with the assistance of Iowa DOT.

Other design strategies developed to meet the goals of the Floyd visioning committee include the following:

- Land use, transportation, and circulation: encourage more retail commercial and office service providers to locate downtown and encourage light industry to grow on the west side of town; locate highway commercial land use along Hwys. 18 and 218; eliminate one access road along Avenue of the Saints and create a frontage road; build one road



Current conditions at Lion's Park.

DESIGN TEAM



Jack E. Leaman

The year 2004 marks 50 years of practice for Jack Leaman. Jack earned a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture in 1954 from Iowa State University. He returned to Iowa State and earned a Master in Community and Regional Planning in 1982. During his lengthy career, Jack has worked in both the public and private sectors in a number of states, including Iowa, Minnesota, California, Colorado, and New Mexico. He has taught at Iowa State, the University of New Mexico, and the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. In 1999, he started his own consulting office in Mason City.

leading to the quarry as a truck route and a second road east of the truck route to serve potential residential development; create a walking trail that connects key destinations in Floyd.

- Community entrances: install entrance signs constructed of either wood or recycled plastic that incorporate the “wagon wheel” theme and the town logo; plant evergreen trees as a back drop and native plantings in the foreground at the highway interchange entrance and the north and west entrances.
- Downtown: widen the sidewalk and install new curbing along the one-block business district; install new street lighting with banners, street trees, flower planters, and trash receptacles constructed with materials similar to that of the entrance signs.
- Lion’s Park: add a sand volleyball court, new bollards, trash receptacles, parking, and native plantings to the open space in the middle of the park.

- River development: enhance the public access area by improving parking and boat ramp facilities and by adding signage and plantings at the entrance.

A long-term proposal developed by the design team calls for the City of Floyd to acquire the quarry north of town. The area could be converted to an RV park with camp sites, trails, and fishing ponds.

Implementation

Upon completion the visioning process, the Floyd visioning committee immediately began working to make the proposed enhancements to the south entrance, along Highway 18. The committee enlisted the help of landscape architect Jack Leaman to develop a planting plan to submit with an application for ILR Project Program funds. The entrance sign will incorporate the wagon wheel design proposed by the visioning design team and is being built by an Amish wheel wright who lives in the community.



Image edit of proposed enhancements to Lion's Park.



Meredith Harr
Bachelor of Landscape Architect, University of Georgia, 2000;
Master of Community and Regional Planning/ Landscape Architecture, ISU, December 2004



Colleen Rafferty
Bachelor of Community and Regional Planning, ISU, August 2004;
Master of Community and Regional Planning, ISU, May 2006

Jesup

Trees Forever Facilitator: Patty Petersen
Community Visioning Contact: Marsha M. McGlaughlin

Jesup is located just north of Highway 20 on County Road V-62, about 20 miles east of Waterloo. In 1860, financial difficulties stopped the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad and as a result, a town sprung up at the railhead. It was named for Morris K. Jesup, president of the Dubuque and the Sioux City Railroad. Although this community of 2,343 residents has always been a farming community, it is also home to several businesses.

The community of Jesup had already made a number of improvements to the town prior to visioning. For example, a replica of the historic gazebo and new playground equipment were recently added to Land of Corn Park. Ten years ago the community library was

built with a federal grant and funds raised locally. The City of Jesup has been working on infrastructure improvements, such as new storm drains, and is participating in the Gold Medallion program to build low- to moderate-income housing.

Jesup applied to the Visioning Program in order to continue its infrastructure improvements, as well as to beautify the community and create a unified community theme to project to visitors. In addition to improving the infrastructure, the Jesup visioning committee decided that new recognition signage was needed throughout the community. The design team proposed the following project to meet the committee's goals:



Businesses on the north side of Young Street.

DESIGN TEAM



Craig D. Ritland

Craig earned his degree from Iowa State University in 1965 and set up his practice in 1970 in Waterloo. He is best known for his accomplishments in natural resource and cultural preservation of public lands. Craig recently was named a Fellow by the American Society of Landscape Architects. His projects include the restoration of coldwater streams, the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, a master plan for George Wyth State Park, and the Northern Iowa River Corridor Study. Craig has participated in the Visioning Program every year since 1996 and his background and skill in relating to the rural public and native Iowa landscapes is a tremendous benefit to the program.

- Gateway entry signage: remove the existing sign and install a long, limestone retaining wall with “Jesup” in large letters across the front and with a backdrop of evergreen trees at the South St. at V65 entrance; install two, large, limestone gateposts with brick insets on which the letters are placed at South and 6th Streets.
- Park signage: install two gatepost signs of limestone with brick insets, one on each side of Sixth Street, to identify Land of Corn Park and create a gateway into the central business district; replace the Parker Muncey Pioneer Park sign with a gatepost sign scaled for neighborhood park application; install gatepost signs scaled for neighborhood parks at the J-Hawk Tennis Courts and the Volunteer Liberty Park.
- Young Street improvements: replace the sidewalk on the north side and install brick accents, street trees, and period lighting; replace the sidewalk on the south side of the street with an eight-foot-wide sidewalk that

includes steps down to the park to accommodate the grade; paint existing period lighting to match the new lighting.

- Young Street and Sixth Street intersection: install a brick paver medallion that is designed to imitate the ceiling pattern of the gazebo at the intersection to mark the beginning of the central business district.

Implementation

The Jesup visioning committee is moving ahead with the new entrance signage proposed in the conceptual plan and plans complete the project by next spring. The community has applied to the MidAmerican “Trees Please” program for funding for the trees at the entrance sign.



Proposed plantings, period lighting, and streetscape improvements on Young Street.



Interns Haley Adams and Liz Oliveira plot the community's visual quality assessment on an aerial map.



Haley Adams
Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, ISU, May 2006



Liz Oliveira
Bachelor of Architecture and Urbanism, Federal University of Viçosa, Brazil, 2007;
Exchange Student, ISU Department of Architecture, 2004

Lost Nation

Trees Forever Facilitator: Patty Petersen
Community Visioning Contact: Leslie J. Schultz

Lost Nation is a small community of 497 people in eastern Iowa, located along Highway 136 in Clinton County. Before its incorporation in 1903, Lost Nation already had a railroad, churches, schools, businesses, and organizations. Incorporation led to a double railroad track, a fire department, and a waterworks. The name “Lost Nation” was in place long before the town was established and the story of its origin has many versions, all of which pertain to someone or something being lost.

Community enhancement has been an ongoing project in Lost Nation. The town has secured funding from the Woodmen of America and the Iowa’s Living Roadways Project Program. However, the community recognized the need for professional planning and design offered by the Visioning Program.

The Lost Nation visioning committee identified five main priorities on which to focus: downtown business district, downtown entryway corridor, the cemetery, the Gilmore Rustic Park entryway, and community organization recognition signage. The visioning design team addressed these goals through the following design proposals:

- Directional signage: enhance directional signage by incorporating either the Tree City USA logo or the covered wagon theme.
- Gilroy Rustic Park: install a fence and evergreens to screen adjacent properties; relocate the entry sign to the left for easier viewing and frame it with landscaping; add ornamental grasses, stepping stones, and understory trees to the memorial; add



Existing view of downtown.

DESIGN TEAM



Meg Flenker

Meg is the principal and owner of Flenker Land Architecture Consultants and has more than 14 years of professional experience in landscape architecture, land planning, and environmental and engineer consulting. She is a registered landscape architect in Iowa and Illinois. Meg established her practice in 1997. That same year, she began participating in the Visioning Program and has done so ever since, working in as many as three communities at a time. She earned a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University in 1989 and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Iowa in 2003.

accent plantings along the fence at the entrance; mark pavement with directional arrows; pave the park exit; add native prairie plants with a mowed border along the exit road; add a walking bridge across the stream, a butterfly garden on the abutment of the existing bridge, and a walking trail with native plantings and benches.

- Cemetery: plant overstory deciduous trees along the south perimeter to screen the adjacent grain elevator; install sidewalk, decorative lighting, and a pedestrian entrance with a wrought iron gate, a directory, and benches; accent vehicular access points with ornamental understory trees; define the front perimeter with fencing or vegetation.
- Downtown entryway corridor: add decorative pedestrian lighting that is integrated with vehicular lighting; install pavement markings to define parking areas and accent paving to mark pedestrian areas; install safe and accessible sidewalks to key points in town; replace dilapidated pavement and sidewalks; repair and preserve buildings.

- Downtown business district: incorporate decorative paving and lighting; decrease the width of the roadway and increase the width of the pedestrian area; transform empty lots into pocket parks; install pavement markings to define crosswalks and parking areas; install ADA accessible ramps at the end of blocks and at mid-block.

Implementation

The Lost Nation visioning committee has divided its members into subcommittees for the signage, the cemetery, the downtown business district, the downtown entry corridor, and the Rustic Park projects. The Cemetery Board began working on its plan for improvements to the cemetery. In 2005 old and damaged trees will be removed and new trees planted. In 2006 a drainage and sidewalk plan for the east side of Main Street will be developed in conjunction with the North Main Corridor Committee and the City of Lost Nation. Although these projects are ambitious, the committee members believe that their plan of action will set the stage for other projects on Main Street.



Digital rendering of proposed downtown enhancements.



Clare Kerofsky
Bachelor of Landscape
Architecture, ISU, 2007



Luke Parris
Bachelor of Community
and Regional Planning, ISU,
December 2003;
Master of Community and
Regional Planning, ISU,
December 2005

Montrose

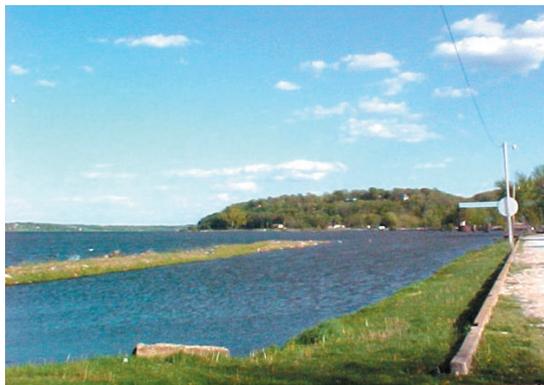
Trees Forever Facilitator: Roger Hunt
Community Visioning Contact: Celeste Cirinna

Montrose is located along the Mississippi River in Lee County, just east of U.S. Highway 61. The area was inhabited by Sac and Fox Indians and was known as Cutnose Camp until 1837, when David Kilbourne arrived and renamed the area Montrose, meaning “Mount of Roses.” From 1834 to 1837 the government owned the land and the first Fort Des Moines was located there.

In its heyday, Montrose was home to many factories and businesses and grew to a population of about 1,200. Much activity was created by the Mississippi River, as many boats stopped in Montrose to unload or load because of the river’s shallow rapids. However, after the construction of a government canal, boats no longer stopped in Montrose and the town population dropped and is currently 957.

The community of Montrose wants to capitalize on its heritage and its proximity to the river, U.S. 61, and the Santa Fe rail line to enhance its appearance and leave visitors with the impression of a prosperous town. Based on this goal, the Montrose visioning committee identified five main areas on which the design team focused its efforts.

- **Entryways:** enhance the existing sign at the north entrance by making it two-sided with a feature component to indicate local activities and attractions; include landscape plantings to add color and an anchor to make a connection with the Mississippi River; install a similar sign at the south entrance.



Existing view of Riverfront Harbor.



Digitally enhanced view of Riverfront Harbor.

DESIGN TEAM



Al Bohling, Jr.

Al earned a BLA from ISU in 1967 and an MLA there in 1969. He is the Community Development Team Leader for Shive-Hattery in Cedar Rapids. Al has served in many leadership roles, including nine years on the Iowa Board of Landscape Architectural Examiners, eight years as a writer of the national Landscape Architectural Registration Exam (LARE) and will serve this year on the Task Analysis Subject Matter Experts Committee for the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards. Al is a commissioner on the Mississippi River Parkway Commission, has served 10 years on the Louisa County Conservation Board, and is co-founder and president of the Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation. Al and his staff have participated in visioning every year since 1996.

- Jack Creek/north slough area: upgrade the Jack Creek bridge to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists; use some wooden features to add character and to calm traffic, along with lighting with flags or banners.
- Great River markets and museum: form a local group to purchase the local elevator property to develop an area highlighting the historic and natural resources of the community; create a meat market adjacent to the elevator property; add a bicycle lane to the road and develop and build a Mississippi River trail.
- Riverfront harbor: create a new jetty that increases the capacity of the boat harbor; install a beacon for river traffic to reinforce the maritime character of Montrose; enhance boat docks with benches, light fixtures with banners, trash receptacles, and plantings.
- Main Street entrance: enhance area by installing new paving with well defined curbs and crosswalks; add lighting, benches, trash receptacles, and planter boxes of a similar design theme.

Implementation

The Montrose visioning committee decided that a master plan is needed to implement the community concepts. The master plan will include the north and south entrances, the north slough, the market and museum area, the riverfront harbor area, and the Main Street entrance. The Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission and Geode RC&D have both been contacted and have expressed an interest in helping the community. Montrose has used the offer of Geode RC&D to act as a 501(C)3 to leverage its application for a \$4,000 grant from Alliant Energy Foundation for Community Grant Dollars. The visioning committee also established a new group, the Executive Planning Group (EPG).



Montrose visioning committee members identify their priorities during the goal setting meeting.



Phuong Nguyen
Bachelor of Landscape
Architecture/Environmental
Studies, ISU, May 2006



Patience Lueth
Bachelor of Architecture,
ISU, May 2001;
Master of Science of
Architectural Studies, ISU,
August 2003;
Ph.D. in Educational
Leadership and Policy
Studies, ISU, May 2005

Olin

Trees Forever Facilitator: Patty Petersen
Community Visioning Contact: Becky Keating

Olin was established in 1835 and is the oldest town in Jones County. It is located in the south central portion of the county, along Highway 38. This quiet community of about 700 residents is located near the Wapsipinicon River and is home to the Grant Wood Trail, which runs from Martelle to Olin and will soon be extended to Oxford Junction.

Olin has made a number of improvements using grant funds and local option sales tax monies. A new wing is being constructed on the school, which serves pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students. In addition, Olin has attracted two new businesses, created a new housing development, added a museum, and developed the Grant Wood Nature Trail.

The community of Olin applied to the Visioning Program to obtain assistance in improving the town's overall aesthetics. Particular areas of interest include the Grant Wood trailheads, entrance signage, and streetscapes. The design team addressed these concerns with a concept plan that focuses on connectivity:

- Mini-park enhancements and Hwy. 38 bridge: in the park, add crosswalks that create a node, slow traffic, and increase visual appeal; relocate the sign to the corner of the park; plant ornamental flowers in the flower bed to add color; incorporate pedestrian scale lighting with banners in the park and along the bridge.



Existing east side of downtown.



Image edit of proposed downtown enhancements.

DESIGN TEAM



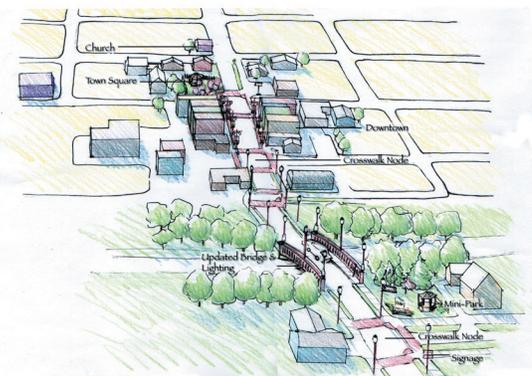
Al Bohling, Jr.

Al earned a BLA from ISU in 1967 and an MLA there in 1969. He is the Community Development Team Leader for Shive-Hattery in Cedar Rapids. Al has served in many leadership roles, including nine years on the Iowa Board of Landscape Architectural Examiners, eight years as a writer of the national Landscape Architectural Registration Exam (LARE) and will serve this year on the Task Analysis Subject Matter Experts Committee for the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards. Al is a commissioner on the Mississippi River Parkway Commission, has served 10 years on the Louisa County Conservation Board, and is co-founder and president of the Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation. Al and his staff have participated in visioning every year since 1996.

- Ceremonial School entrance: replace existing arborvitae with an updated planting; install a new crossing to encourage children to cross safely at the corner; add pedestrian scale lighting with banners.
- Maple Street modifications and new bridge: long-term improvements include creating an off-road trail for pedestrians and a dedicated bike lane on the road; interim improvements include widening the roadway and creating a bike/hike trail on the south side of the roadway; add pedestrian level lighting with banners and clear roadway markings.
- Downtown enhancement: add crosswalks between both curbs; install new, historic lighting with banners and planters; add canopies and new signs to existing building façades.
- Town square: convert the vacant lot at the north end of the business district into a town square to create a public space that could be used for holiday events, markets, and for attracting travelers to stop.
- Entrances: replace north and south entrance signs with signs made from Anamosa limestone to create consistency with the existing roadside park; landscape at the base and backdrop of the sign to improve aesthetics.

Implementation

Planning has begun for the entrance signs, mini park enhancements, and town square enhancements projects. Olin has applied to the Trees Forever Branching Out program to fund trees. Committee member Robert Graf is recruiting contractors to donate their assistance in constructing the entrance sign. The sign design will be finalized this winter.



Rendering of an aerial view of the Olin conceptual plan.



Phuong Nguyen
Bachelor of Landscape
Architecture/Environmental
Studies, ISU, May 2006



Patience Lueth
Bachelor of Architecture,
ISU, May 2001;
Master of Science of
Architectural Studies, ISU,
August 2003;
Ph.D. in Educational
Leadership and Policy
Studies, ISU, May 2005

Shelby

Trees Forever Facilitator: Brad Riphagen
Community Visioning Contact: Chad Henry

Shelby is located just north off Interstate 80, about 25 miles northeast of Council Bluffs. The town is named for Shelby County, which is named for Revolutionary War General Isaac Shelby. In 1870, Shelby was founded as a railroad town. When the railroad left in the 1960s, the community re-created itself, replacing the railroad economy with an active main street and rural trade.

Several landmarks give Shelby a distinctive character, such as: a 76-foot tall Agricultural Symbol; Carsten's Farm, an 1880s-era demonstration farm; and the Stone Arch, one of four 30-foot arch culvert bridges built by the railroad. The Stone Arch is unique because it is made of limestone rather than wood.



Sketch of a secondary path option on the south side of the Old Stone Arch bridge.

Shelby has initiated a number of improvements, including the Stone Arch Trail and an antique Coca-Cola® mural, as well as obtained funding for museum improvements, streetscaping, and other projects. The Shelby visioning committee used the visioning process to build on these ideas, and the design team developed the following proposals:

- Highway M16 entrance corridor: reinforce each entry with native roadside plantings and signage; add a community sign at the entrance near Agri-Symbol Park; place a “Welcome Arch” and appropriate plantings at the start of the residential district.



Intern Christine Sawyer assists with the Shelby visual quality assessment.

DESIGN TEAM



Nicki Jensen

Nicki's first experience with visioning was in 1998 with the community of Forest City. Since then, Nicki has been the visioning landscape architect for several communities, including Red Oak, Grinnell, and Shelby. Nicki earned a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University in 1994. Originally from Des Moines, she has worked in the metro area at several local consulting firms since graduating. She is currently employed as a project landscape architect by Howard R. Green Company. Nicki earned her Iowa Landscape Architecture Registration in 2000. Her interest and talent lie in public facilitation, graphic representation, and creative problem solving.

- Agri-Symbol Park: increase the visibility of the entrance and parking area by landscaping both sides of the drive and adding plantings to the existing island between the park parking lot and that of the neighboring body shop; add overstory and understory trees to provide a backdrop for the welcome sign; add pathways within the main circular trail to facilitate circulation through the park.
- Downtown improvements: reintroduce vintage lighting; widen sidewalks and install corner bump-outs; add crosswalks with accent paving; add flower planters, ornamental street trees, street furniture, and signage.
- Depot complex: landscape the area to connect the depot with the caboose; install seating areas; construct a brick memorial panel dedicated to depot project donors; improve accessibility by adding a ramp to the parking area; plant native grasses and wildflowers to add texture and variety.
- Memorial Garden: 1) install a gazebo and screen plantings in the back of the space; add a memorial wall, seating areas, and a path and a patio area in the center; plant ornamental trees, shrubs, and perennials to soften existing building walls; or 2) install a gazebo in the back center of the

space surrounded by a walkway; add roses to the outside of the walkway and commemorative flags in the back of the space; add a horseshoe pit and benches; incorporate an arch similar to that in Agri-Symbol Park.

- Trail system: develop a trail system to connect the Old Stone Arch trail from downtown to Agri-Symbol Park.
- Community signage: develop community signs constructed from similar materials and that project a similar theme, to add continuity.

Implementation

In mid-October 2004, the Shelby visioning committee held a weekend work day to construct a planting berm near the newly installed community sign and to remove the old, split rail fence from Agri-Symbol park and install a new fence similar to the one depicted in the visioning concept plan. The committee is currently working with Brad Riphagen to write a grant proposal for funds to install plantings and to finish some berms around the entrance signs at Agri-Symbol park.



Joshua Shields

Josh became involved with visioning in 1999 as an intern working with Paul Popelka, Meg Flenker, and Al Bohling. In 2000, Josh worked with Paul in the town of Sheldon. The following year, he again worked with Paul on Audubon County's U.S. 71 Corridor Project. After graduating with a BLA from Iowa State in 2002, Josh was a post-graduate intern for 18 months with the Cultural Landscape Program in the National Park Service Philadelphia Support Office. He returned to Iowa in November 2003 and was hired by Howard R. Green Company. He remains involved with the Visioning Program as part of the design team and has assisted with intern training in digital image manipulation.



Christine Sawyer

Bachelor of Art, University of Iowa, 1999
 Bachelor/Master of Landscape Architecture, ISU, 2005

Springville

Trees Forever Facilitator: Mark Pingenot
Community Visioning Contact: William Cooper

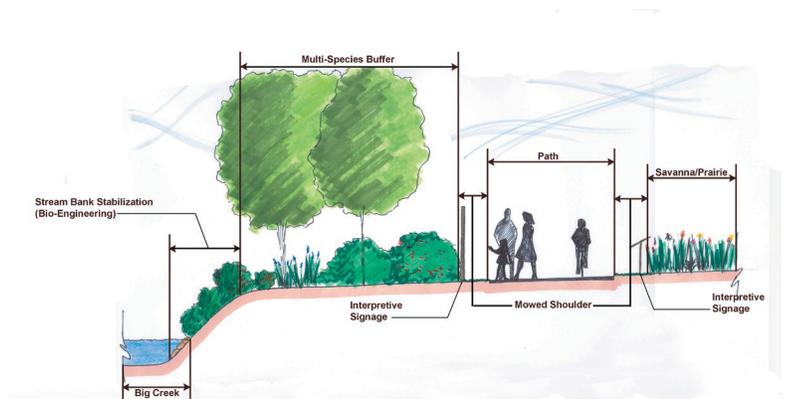
Springville is conveniently located next to Highway 151 in Linn County, with easy access to Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, and Iowa City. The community considers itself “just minutes from anywhere.” The town was incorporated in 1881 and has grown from 365 residents to more than 1,000. The name “Springville” was chosen because of the many cool and sparkling springs in the area.

Highway 151 has been upgraded to four lanes from Linn County into Dubuque County. Because of this change, the U.S. 151 corridor from Springville through Cascade was selected for inclusion in the U.S. 151 Corridor Enhancement Pilot Project in 2001-2002. Springville is one of four communities to take

part in the corridor project, which served as a strong foundation on which to build participation in the Visioning Program.

The Springville visioning committee was interested in developing entryway signage that would draw motorists’ attention from the highway, as well as community signage and a community “village” theme. The committee also wished to emphasize its natural areas. The design team addressed these goals with the following design proposals:

- Community entrances: incorporate the main entrance sign into a gateway structure to emphasize that it is the main community entrance; at the



Conceptual section drawing of the Graham Park plan.

DESIGN TEAM



Meg Flenker

Meg is the principal and owner of Flenker Land Architecture Consultants and has more than 14 years of professional experience in landscape architecture, land planning, and environmental and engineer consulting. She is a registered landscape architect in Iowa and Illinois. Meg established her practice in 1997. That same year, she began participating in the Visioning Program and has done so ever since, working in as many as three communities at a time. She earned a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University in 1989 and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Iowa in 2003.

secondary entrances, add short native grass plantings with drifts of forbs as accents and place deciduous trees in natural groupings along the top of the ditch slope.

- Downtown business district: move the utilities underground; install sidewalks with decorative paving accents; add lighting and amenities designed to reflect a community theme; create public spaces that reflect a “village-like” atmosphere.
- Community signage: create a family of community signs that share common elements to identify parks and local features and to recognize local organizations and service clubs.
- Downtown parking: convert the empty lot along Broadway Street into a parking lot that includes the decorative lighting and amenities of the business district.

- Cox Lake Park: install an accessible walkway from the upper parking lot to the shelter and along the southern part of the lake; add understory trees, prairie plantings, and plantings around benches; add shoreline plantings to increase aesthetics and attract wildlife; add permanent restrooms, rock-climbing boulders, and paved parking.
- Graham Park: enhance the existing wetland; restore native prairie and trees to create an oak savanna; install a looped walking path and a bike trail; add a riparian buffer along the Big Creek corridor.
- Butler Park: create a paved trail system that connects with Graham Park; build a pedestrian bridge at the site of the original foot bridge; add a pedestrian crossing under the Broadway overpass; improve site amenities.



Luke Parris, Clare Kerofsky (seated), and Meg Flenker work with the Springville committee.

Implementation

Springfield selected the main community entrance as its highest priority and submitted a grant application for the ILR Project Program due December 1, 2004. Landscape architect Meg Flenker is developing the design plans for the main entryway landscape. The next phase of this project will be the preparation of final design and construction documents for the brick entryway sign as generally conceptualized in the visioning concept plan.



Clare Kerofsky
Bachelor of Landscape
Architecture, ISU, 2007



Luke Parris
Bachelor of Community
and Regional Planning, ISU,
December 2003;
Master of Community and
Regional Planning, ISU,
December 2005

Tiffin

Trees Forever Facilitators: Pamela Helfer and Patty Petersen
Community Visioning Contact: Karin A. Dils

Tiffin is named after Tiffin, Ohio, because many of its first settlers came from Ohio. The two Tiffins are located 500 miles apart with Tiffin, Ohio, located just south of U.S. Highway 6 and Tiffin, Iowa, situated along Highway 6. This rapidly growing community of about 1,500 people serves as a bedroom community to Iowa City and Cedar Rapids.

The main resource for growth in Tiffin was the railroad. Highway 6 was constructed across the country and has since become the predominant route for transportation for residents. One of Tiffin's most celebrated businesses was the Lark Supper Club, a nightclub and eating establishment known throughout Iowa. Unfortunately, this landmark establishment was destroyed by a fire and all that remains is the empty lot.

Because of its rapid growth, the community of Tiffin is in the process of developing a land use plan. Recognizing the need for comprehensive planning that protects the environment as well as facilitates transportation and growth, Tiffin applied to the Visioning Program. In response to the expressed needs of the visioning committee, the design team proposes a network of arterial and connector streets be planned and developed in concert with land use development. Specific enhancements developed by the design team include:

- Highway 6 corridor: widen the street and incorporate a boulevard-style turning lane with landscaped medians; add sidewalk treatments and antique lighting and banners; plant large canopy trees and prairie vegetation; bury the utilities.



Existing Highway 6 corridor through Tiffin.



A digitally enhanced view of the Highway 6 corridor with proposed improvements incorporated.

DESIGN TEAM



Jack E. Leaman

The year 2004 marks 50 years of practice for Jack Leaman. Jack earned a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture in 1954 from Iowa State University. He returned to Iowa State and earned a Master in Community and Regional Planning in 1982. During his lengthy career, Jack has worked in both the public and private sectors in a number of states, including Iowa, Minnesota, California, Colorado, and New Mexico. He has taught at Iowa State, the University of New Mexico, and the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. In 1999, he started his own consulting office in Mason City.

- Ireland Avenue: extend Ireland Avenue north to connect with Highway 6 to improve traffic safety as well as aesthetics; plant trees along the road and native vegetation on the shoulders; line the streets with antique lighting and banners; improve the sidewalks and add crosswalks using special pavement at the intersection.
- East Park: relocate and modify the old Post Office building to serve as a concession stand and museum area; construct a new, multipurpose community center in the “Tiffin Village” style; install a swimming pool and a landscaped area; develop a park trail system that connects to the Coralville Trail System and eventually to the Clear Creek area.
- Former Lark Supper Club property: restore the “special experience in a special environment” created by the Lark Supper Club by developing a new restaurant or commercial shopping area designed in the “Tiffin Village” style; install ornamental sidewalks, decorative lighting, and street trees.

The design team recommends that a distinct community theme be incorporated into the proposed enhancements. A “Tiffin Village” theme could be designed in a style similar to that of some of the older structures in Tiffin.

Implementation

The Tiffin visioning committee decided to begin implementation with the Highway 6 corridor. The community will apply for ILR Project Program funding to do enhancements at the southeast corner of Jasper Avenue and Highway 6. The committee would like to install a plant bed similar to the Tiffin entrance sign foundation and plant ornamental trees and shrubs fronted with the Iowa flower, the wild rose. In addition, the electric company will be installing a large green junction box along Highway 6 near Jasper Avenue, and the committee wants to screen the view from the highway. Staff from the LA Extension office assisted in the preparation of the grant application by providing image edits depicting the proposed projects.



Tiffin committee members take inventory of their community's resources.



Meredith Harr

Bachelor of Landscape Architect, University of Georgia, 2000; Master of Community and Regional Planning/Landscape Architecture, ISU, December 2004



Luke Parris

Bachelor of Community and Regional Planning, ISU, December 2003; Master of Community and Regional Planning, ISU, December 2005



Colleen Rafferty

Bachelor of Community and Regional Planning, ISU, August 2004; Master of Community and Regional Planning, ISU, May 2006

Volga

Trees Forever Facilitator: Meredith Borchardt
Community Visioning Contact: Joan Follon

Volga is located in the southwest corner of Clayton County in northeast Iowa, at the intersection of County Roads C2W and C24, and is part of the River Bluffs Scenic Byway. This small community of 247 residents is situated in the floodplain of the Volga River, for which the town is named.

The river is the most significant natural resource in Volga not only because it provides beauty and opportunities for recreation, but because it has crafted a harsh history of flooding in the community, most significantly in 1999, when the dike was washed out. Despite these difficulties, the citizens of Volga have persevered.

As a result of the 1999 flood, 36 residences were bought out by FEMA and demolished, creating a 21-acre public green space. The

community has worked to develop the public space by adding a playground, a picnic area, restrooms, shelters, and other amenities.

Volga applied for visioning to obtain assistance in planning community entrance points and in improving the aesthetics of the community. The town is also working to establish a trail system and a pedestrian bridge. Based on the community's needs and drawing on its wealth of natural resources, the design team made the following proposals:

- Gateway signage: add one of three proposed signs, all made of limestone and having a backdrop of native white pines: 1) a large horizontal monolith, 2) a large vertical monolith, or 3) a



Landscape architect Craig Ritland takes notes as the Volga visioning committee discusses its community's resources.

DESIGN TEAM



Craig D. Ritland

Craig earned his degree from Iowa State University in 1965 and set up his practice in 1970 in Waterloo. He is best known for his accomplishments in natural resource and cultural preservation of public lands. Craig recently was named a Fellow by the American Society of Landscape Architects. His projects include the restoration of coldwater streams, the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, a master plan for George Wyth State Park, and the Northern Iowa River Corridor Study. Craig has participated in the Visioning Program every year since 1996 and his background and skill in relating to the rural public and native Iowa landscapes is a tremendous benefit to the program.

large stone featuring a waterfall falling from a composition of boulders and ending in a short stream enhanced with plantings.

- White pine forestation: plant white pines along C2W from west of Volga to past Washington Street near the proposed gateway signage; assist the County Conservation Board in finding



Image edit of Washington Street with tree plantings.



Image edit of Washington Street with a proposed roundabout and plantings.

a way to provide access to the White Pines, which currently are accessible only from the river.

- Washington Street improvements: plant trees in open spaces between buildings; narrow the street on the west side and plant street trees; replace bad sidewalks and add sidewalk from the central business district to the convenience store; install a limestone roundabout with plantings.
- Eastern area improvements: develop a pedestrian trail system that provides access to natural attractions (limestone formations, prairie); extend the existing prairie; create a low water crossing at the site of the damaged bridge.

The design team also proposed relocating the existing flood dike, recognizing the cost and effort involved. The benefits would be a more user friendly shore line on the west side of the river, as well as enhanced visual access.

Implementation

Residents of Volga have expressed strong support for phase I of the visioning implementation plan, which includes installing an entryway sign, planting white pines as a backdrop, and planting Norway maples and crab apple trees downtown. The Volga visioning committee is soliciting donations to the “Volga Memorial Tree Fund” to pay for the trees in phase I. The donated funds will be used as leverage during the grant application process.



Haley Adams
Bachelor of Landscape
Architecture, ISU, May 2006



Liz Oliveira
Bachelor of Architecture
and Urbanism, Federal
University of Viçosa, Brazil,
2007;
Exchange Student, ISU
Department of Architecture,
2004

'Local Voices' To Be Heard at the National Level

In January 2004, Local Voices workshops were featured in the Public Involvement poster session at the 83rd Annual TRB Meeting in Washington, DC.



On September 24, 2004, Julia Badenhope presented the paper, "Local Voices: Engaging Local Knowledge in Multi-Community Corridor Design," at the 9th National

Conference on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium-Sized Communities in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The conference is sponsored by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and includes participants from FHWA, state DOT offices, local and regional transportation and planning divisions, transportation and planning consulting firms, and research institutions. The paper was

selected as one of the top five conference presentations, and as a result Badenhope has been invited to present at the 84th Annual Meeting of TRB in Washington, DC, in early January 2005.

Sponsored by the Iowa DOT and developed in 2001 by ISU, the participatory corridor planning process focused on enhancing regional identity, preserving significant resources, and providing roadside amenities, as well as integrating technical landscape planning and design with sustainable community action at the county level. The process was applied to two highway corridors approximately 25 miles long. The U.S. 151 corridor, located in northeast Iowa, was recently widened from a two-lane to a four-



This section of U.S. 151 is an example of the rolling hills and valleys along the corridor.

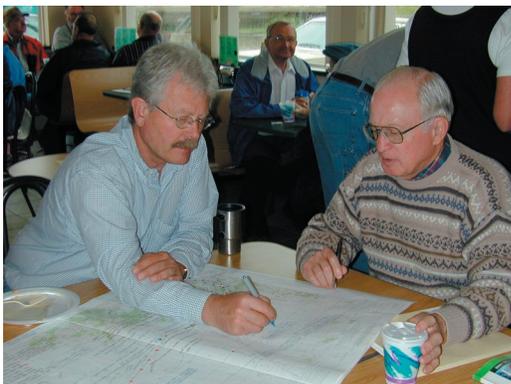
lane road. The U.S. 71 corridor is located in west central Iowa and is a two-lane highway. For each corridor, a local committee representing residents and stakeholders in the area was formed. Each committee worked with a design team consisting of a professional landscape architect, a student intern, and ISU support staff. The process was facilitated by a Trees Forever field coordinator.



This drawing illustrates the layered effect created by the existing hedgerows and field patterns as the driver moves through the rolling valley landscape.

The Local Voices workshop is based on asset mapping and oral history techniques. Individuals and small groups met with facilitators to map significant landscape features, tell the story of those features, and suggest an intervention strategy. The places identified in the workshops were integrated into the corridor analysis as “hot spots” for preservation and interpretation within the corridor. Local voices mapping workshops directly influenced the development of corridor design strategies by revealing places of special value and suggesting appropriate measures for preservation and corridor interpretation.

The benefit of using this method to assess the corridor landscape is that it revealed elements of local importance that may not have emerged in a traditional physical inventory and analysis of the corridor landscape. By beginning with local narratives, the project validated local experiences as a legitimate data source in project design, stimulated creative interpretation of place consistent with local values, and helped avoid conflicts caused by differences of value placed on landscape elements by consultants, DOT staff, and residents.



Landscape architect Craig Ritland records the stories of local corridor residents during mapping meetings in Cascade (Top Right) and just outside Anamosa (Left).

(Above) This image was captured as a “worst” view and was described as “cluttered.”

Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders

Landscape architect Craig Ritland reviews work done by intern Haley Adams during the charrette in Jesup (2004).



Since its inception as an Extension community design project in 1994, more than 60 students have worked as interns for the Community Visioning Program. During this time, the program has served more than 100 communities, with the

collaborative efforts of students; consultants; and staff from private practice, Iowa State University, Trees Forever, and the Iowa DOT. As part of this collaborative effort, students have taken leadership and service roles, conducted supporting research in the form of surveys and spatial analysis, and have contributed their considerable creative energies to crafting meaningful design solutions.

The marriage of professional design with community service creates a powerful experience that emphasizes the importance of service as a role for practice. Many students are motivated to apply to the program by the desire to gain professional experience; however, upon completion of the internship, the students come away with a strong appreciation for the value of service to not only the recipients but to themselves in terms of personal and professional growth.

“The internship also unveiled an interest I had, unknowingly, in community design. After realizing this interest, I decided to continue my education and pursue a master’s in planning with an emphasis in community design and development.”

- Colleen Rafferty

“The Visioning Program provided me an open door, a door that allowed me the tools, mentoring, and ability to learn and grow in my career. “

- Brad Haigh

In the early years of the program, the students worked together on all of the communities as a team, with each student intern assigned primary leadership for three to four communities. The interns worked on the research and design aspects of the project and provided support to the landscape architects during the charrette, a design workshop during which the design team invites community members to give input on preliminary designs.

In 2000, the program was restructured to provide more support to each community, with interns working full time for 10 weeks in a professional landscape architect’s office. The result has been increased efficiency in production of design products because of the daily interaction between the student and the practitioner. Another benefit is the opportunity interns have to work in a professional office with a private sector practitioner as a role model. Exposure to the world of private practice, combined with the efficiency of being on site with the design team leader, has helped students learn more and produce more during the brief, summer school break.

Although the internship continues to evolve, the positive impact that it has had on the professional and personal development of the student interns has remained strong. Several of the interns, past and present, shared with the Visioning Program staff how participating in the Visioning Program has affected their lives.

Weston Wunder

Student Intern, 2000
Landscapes By Design, Inc., Ames, IA

The visioning process played such an important part in my professional development, I don't really know where to start. I learned so many important skills and lessons while involved with this project. This project got me in the door with Brain Clark and Associates, which led to an internship during the school year. It also helped me understand so many things about community-based projects, like how important good graphics are to the general public understanding design intent. I got a chance to see how much more successful a project will be when the community has played a vital role in its design and installation. The ownership in the project that the residents have is so rare, and in my opinion is why this program is so successful. The presentation and communication skills I developed while working on this project are tools I use every day.

“ I also benefited from having the opportunity to shadow many different landscape architects, who all have varied styles and personalities.”

- Hope Quayle

Erika Dilley

Student Intern, 2001
Engineering Plus, Inc. in Ames, Iowa

The Visioning Program exposed me more to the field of planning and helped me see how landscape architecture and planning really go hand in hand. I learned a lot by attending the public input meetings and charrettes. The intern workshops where Tim Borich gave lectures on planning really opened my eyes to the field. Now I'm thinking about pursuing a master's in planning - either that or landscape architecture or a joint degree. So it's really helped me to broaden my horizons and my perspectives about the field. I learned about the more technical aspects of PhotoShop and Illustrator, and it's great to learn new tools and skills that help in your career. It was a really positive experience for me.

Jeanie Hau

Student Intern, 1998-1999
Landscape Designer, ISU Facilities Planning and Management

Although my schedule never allowed me to attend a visioning meeting, I did learn a great deal about the Visioning Program through post-meeting interviews with local citizens who participated. My experience with the ISU Visioning Program survey stressed the importance of citizen input because people care about the places they live in and they have a personal relationship with their surroundings that you as a visitor cannot understand through a handful of visits. The challenge as a designer is to listen to the many different views, opinions, experiences, and relationships with the land, community, and dynamics of a particular space and to strike a balance for a successful design solution that will not only be used, but will be cared about, cared for, and embraced. If you can accomplish this, then you are building sustainability in a community.



Olin's younger community members make suggestions to landscape architect Al Bohling during that community's charrette meeting (2004).

Colleen Rafferty

Student Intern, 2003 and 2004
Graduate Student in Community and Regional Planning, ISU

The Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning Program internship allowed me to develop the skills I learned in school and apply them to our projects. The internship also unveiled an interest I had, unknowingly, in community design. After realizing this interest, I decided to continue my education and pursue a master's in planning with an emphasis in community design and development.

Meredith Harr

Student Intern, 2004
The Island Institute, Rockland, ME

I know I would not have gotten my fellowship with the Island Institute if I did not have the visioning experience. In fact, I used one of the nearly completed towns we were working on as an example when I went through the interview. It was my work in small towns that appealed to the people I was interviewing with. I am now the Island Administrator for Fisher's Island, NY, because the similarities this village has with Iowa's small towns. Sounds like a stretch, but really, rural Iowa can feel like an island at times.

"I attribute the success I've had since graduating from ISU in large part to my participation in the Visioning Program."

- Joshua Shields



Interns tour the Cedar River Garden Center in Linn County as part of a roadside vegetation training session (2002).

Luke Parris

Student Intern, 2003 and 2004
Graduate Student in Community and Regional Planning, ISU

Through my work with the Visioning Program I have gained a better sense of the links between many different fields of study. Having a bachelor's degree in community and regional planning, I am aware of the many different needs that are common within a community. The work I have done through the Visioning Program has shown me in a very realistic way the connection between landscape architecture, architecture, and planning and the need for these fields to work together in a cohesive manner in order to create successful communities.

Holly Glick

Student Intern, 2002 and 2003
Bonestroo & Associates, St. Paul, MN

As an intern with the Community Visioning Program, I developed skills that not only enhanced my academic life but also shaped my interests and passion for community involvement throughout the design process. I worked with three communities over a period of two summers and thoroughly enjoyed building relationships with the steering committee members and evolving my creativity skills in planning and landscape architecture. A huge reward of mine is to see clients excited about a design they helped to create, so much so that they take the initiative to make it happen. Through visioning I also gained an ability to communicate ideas through graphics, drawings, and presentations in a way that non-designers are able to understand and discuss.



Interns Patience Lueth (foreground) and Phuong Nguyen (background) work on preliminary concept ideas with landscape architect Al Bohling during the Olin charrette (2004).

Kyle Beidler

Student Intern, 2000 and 2001
Graduate Student, Virginia Tech University

The Visioning Program was a wonderful opportunity for me to employ some of the theory I had been learning in the classroom to practice in the "real" world. Not everything works out as you would expect, but this context really allows you to explore new ideas and push the envelope of participatory design. I believe this is why I continue to concentrate on issues of community involvement in my studies.

Joshua Shields

Student Intern, 2000 and 2001
Howard R. Green Company, Des Moines, IA

The Visioning Program gave me direct access to professional landscape architects, who introduced me to a number of different graphic and presentation styles. I also worked alongside students from other disciplines, including architecture, graphic design, planning, and horticulture. These students were primarily from ISU, but a few participated from regional colleges and universities, creating an atmosphere in which I could learn about the design curricula at other universities, as well as differences among the design professions. I attribute the success I've had since graduating from ISU in large part to my participation in the Visioning Program. At Howard R. Green, in particular, I have found the skills from visioning useful for everyday projects. The graphic and written skills I honed while in visioning have allowed me to fit a much needed niche, that of graphic design, page layout, and presentation board specialist.

“The visioning process played such an important part in my professional development, I don't really know where to start.”

- Weston Wunder

Brad Haigh

Student Intern, 2000
The Norris Dullea Company, Denver, CO

The Visioning Program provided me an open door, a door that allowed me the tools, mentoring, and ability to learn and grow in my career. The experience I gained by being a part of the visioning process allowed me to apply knowledge from the classroom experience in a real world setting. I found in my interview process that the companies liked to see this hands-on type of internship. It was such a well rounded experience that gave opportunities to learn project manager skills, graphic design, PhotoShop, and public presentation skills. All of these tools have set the foundation for my career to grow and have allowed me to become a project manager within three years of graduating, hopefully soon to be an associate in the company.

Hope Quayle

Student Intern, 1997-1998, 1998-1999

The advanced skills in the Adobe programs that I learned were a real benefit of the Visioning Program. Having a network of landscape architects in Iowa whom I already knew before graduation was a real plus. In fact, I met my first boss through the Visioning Program. I also benefited from having the opportunity to shadow many different landscape architects, who all have varied styles and personalities. Working among different disciplines - landscape architecture, architecture, graphic design - helped me to develop good problem solving skills. I had internships every summer for four years while in school, but Community Visioning was by far one of my favorites.



Intern Paul Fyle (far right) assists Cherokee committee members as they inventory community resources (2001).

Sam Miller

Systems Administrator, 1999-2003
Graduate Student in Computer Engineering, Iowa State University

I would say my experience with visioning allowed me to improve my troubleshooting skills in person, over the phone, and through email. Most of the time when I would get phone calls from interns in the field, I knew I could fix the problem in a minute had I been sitting at their computer! It was difficult to have to explain every step in detail to them but I feel doing that allowed me to improve my skills as an engineer as well. Most of my class work, and research lately, involves a great deal of problem solving, which I am quite accustomed with now.

Michael Lanning: From Intern to Mentor



Michael Lanning has been a practicing landscape architect at Shive-Hattery, Inc., in West Des Moines for five years. He is also one of the first of many “offspring” of the Visioning Program and played an integral role in developing the program’s graphic identity. The road that Michael followed to get where he is today took many twists and turns, some of which crossed his path with then Extension Landscape Architect Julia Badenhope and the concept of community visioning.

Michael was born in Humboldt, which is located in north central Iowa. He first attended Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, where he met his wife Lynn, who is from Sioux City and was also attending Briar Cliff. The couple moved to Ames and Michael enrolled in the graphic design program at Iowa State, where he studied from 1980 to 1984, but left school one semester shy of graduating.

After spending the next 10 years as the art director for a local company called Contemporary Design, Michael was ready for a change. “I was starting to get ‘graphic design burnout’ but I was still interested in design, and I had always been interested in

“There was openness to new ideas but still a practical side – we were in the field working with real people on real projects with real deadlines, working with budgets.”

the earth sciences,” he said. He decided to give landscape architecture a try. “I started by taking the introductory classes and the history class and I discovered that landscape architecture was more than I thought it would be. It has the design aspect as well as the earth, geography, and landscape aspects.”

Michael was referred to Julia Badenhope for the Visioning Program for his sensitivity to the unique landscape qualities that create sense of place and for his graphic ability. “I was part of a student team working together in studio and Julia approached me and asked if I wanted to help out,” Michael explains. Intrigued by the concept of image editing he agreed to join the LA Extension staff.



This water fountain in Sac City’s Chautauqua Park was identified by its visioning committee as a priority in 2001.

When Michael started working, the Visioning Program was in its infancy and needed a graphic identity. Putting his graphic design skills to work, Michael designed the Iowa’s Living Roadways logo, which is still the focal point of the program’s identity. He also designed the first community application, various promotional packets, a facilitator’s manual, and the layout of the program presentation boards.

Michael describes his experience working for the Visioning Program as “fun and exciting,” and invaluable as well. “Working in a space where everyone was together created an open, collaborative environment.

“Interns in the office bring new ideas and different skills. You get to know them and learn their strengths. We let the interns really contribute to the design.”

We tended to experiment more and be more creative with the image edits,” Michael said. This environment helped the students learn the value of listening to and learning from people, rather than going into a community with preconceived ideas and assumptions. “There was openness to new ideas but still a practical side – we were in the field working with real people on real projects with real deadlines, working with budgets,” he added.

Michael graduated with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture in 1997 and continued to work in LA Extension while



Michael Lanning and student interns Holly Glick and Norman Ward created this design in 2001. Sac City applied for and received funding from the ILR Project Program to implement this plan.

taking graduate level courses. In spring 1998, he went to work for David Dahlquist. A year later, Dahlquist’s firm was incorporated into Shive-Hattery and the two continue to work there.

As a practitioner, Michael enjoys many of the same things that he did as an intern. “We also have a collaborative atmosphere [at Shive-Hattery],” he said. “I don’t know how much of it [can be attributed to] personalities, but we have five people who get along great.”

The projects and skills that he uses, especially image editing, are also similar to his work as an intern. “I still use image edits because they

are very effective way to illustrate a design for a client. Some people can’t make the leap from a plan drawing or from a written description, but it’s easier with an image edit.” Michael works primarily with public agencies on projects including byways, trails, waysiding communities, and landscape interpretation, and enjoys establishing long-term relationships with clients. “We have been working with some clients since the time when Dave had his firm – from the beginning.”

Shive-Hattery is one of the landscape architecture firms that participate in the Community Visioning Program, so Michael now has the opportunity to mentor future landscape architects. This experience has been positive for him as a practitioner, as well as for the students. “Interns in the office bring new ideas and different skills. You get to know them and learn their strengths. We let the interns really contribute to the design,” he said.

“Working in a space where everyone was together created an open, collaborative environment. We tended to experiment more and be more creative with the image edits.”

Michael’s path has come full circle. He still lives in Ames with Lynn and their two sons, Patrick and Daniel. He is still involved with the Visioning Program, but as a practitioner, acting as mentor to up-and-coming landscape architects. He values having student interns in his office because they bring new ideas and different skills. He believes that the visioning internship is a good transition to a professional career because interns still have the school aspect in which they can be creative but at the same time it is a real work experience.

2004 Community Visioning Landscape Architecture Firm Profiles

Craig Ritland, Landscape Architect, FASLA

Firm Philosophy: To improve the quantity and quality of open space, to preserve natural and cultural resources, and to create quality environments.

Location: Waterloo, IA

Established: 1970

Services: Master/comprehensive planning, corridor/transportation planning, urban design and streetscapes, parks and open spaces, campus/estate planning, and residential gardens.

Jack E. Leaman, Consultant, Inc., AICP/ FASLA

Firm Philosophy: To promote public participation in defining and resolving design problems in order for clients to better understand and appreciate the outcome.

Location: Mason City, IA

Established: 1999

Services: Land planning and development; recreation development; community and regional planning; and preparation of ordinances and regulations for zoning, subdivision, urban design, and land development guidelines.

Howard R. Green Company

Firm Philosophy: To proactively build relationships with clients who represent the best fit for the company and to couple those relationships with the knowledge and technical skills required to serve specific project needs.

Locations: Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, and Iowa City, IA; Moline, IL; St. Paul, MN; and St. Louis and Rolla, MO

Established: 1913

Services: airport planning; architecture; landscape architecture; construction management; engineering, including airport, civil, electrical, municipal, structural, and traffic; environmental consulting; master planning; transportation planning; and public involvement.

Engineering Plus, Inc.

Firm Philosophy: To provide high quality, innovative approaches to problem solving, successful implementation and highly personalized service for each client.

Location: Ames, IA

Established: 1982

Services: Landscape architecture, land planning, urban planning and design, civil engineering and land surveying.

Yaggy Colby Associates

Firm Philosophy: To provide prompt, quality, personalized services to meet the facility and infrastructure needs of municipal, building and site design, transportation, and land development clients throughout the upper Midwest.

Locations: Rochester, MN, and Mason City, IA

Established: 1970

Services: Engineering, architecture, surveying, planning, and landscape architecture.

Flenker Land Architecture Consultants

Firm Philosophy: To improve, adapt, and create environments that enrich the quality of our lives as well as allow compatibility between human development and the environment.

Location: Just north of Davenport, IA

Established: 1997

Services: Architectural-land planning, wetland delineation, wetland nitration design, park and recreational planning & design, grant writing, Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD), ecological planning and design.



With the help of the Tiffin visioning committee, landscape architect Jack Leaman notes significant areas on an aerial map of the community.

Shive-Hattery, Inc.

Firm Philosophy: To help our clients become more successful by understanding their businesses and addressing what is really important, promoting the best use of their money and other resources, and helping them avoid difficulty.

Locations: Cedar Rapids and West Des Moines, IA, and Moline, IL

Established: 1896

Services: Landscape architecture, planning, and design; consulting engineering services, including civil, electrical, environmental, mechanical, structural, process and transportation engineering; roof management; and construction administration, observation, and material quality control.

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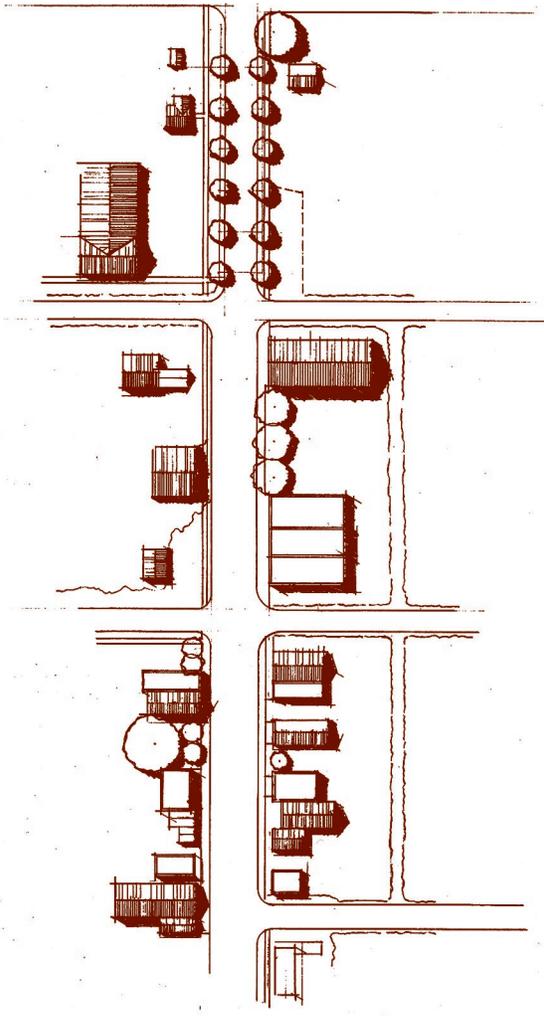
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