

IOWA'S  
LIVING  
ROADWAYS

Community Visioning Program  
Annual Report 2013





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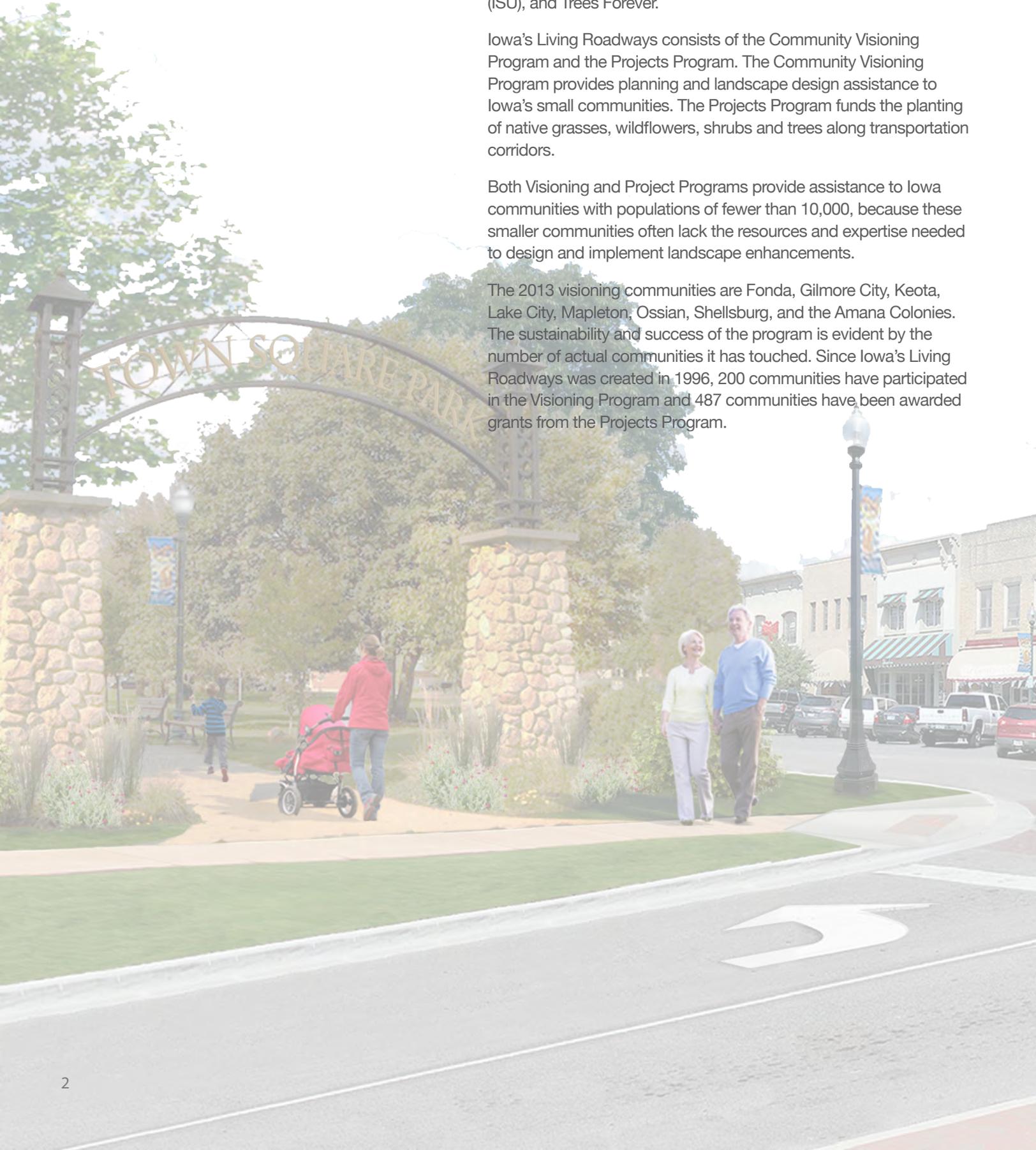
## Executive Summary

The Iowa's Living Roadways Program was born of an effort to provide 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.

Iowa's Living Roadways consists of the Community Visioning Program and the Projects Program. The Community Visioning Program provides planning and landscape design assistance to Iowa's small communities. The Projects Program funds the planting of native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees along transportation corridors.

Both Visioning and Project Programs provide assistance to Iowa communities with populations of fewer than 10,000, because these smaller communities often lack the resources and expertise needed to design and implement landscape enhancements.

The 2013 visioning communities are Fonda, Gilmore City, Keota, Lake City, Mapleton, Ossian, Shellsburg, and the Amana Colonies. The sustainability and success of the program is evident by the number of actual communities it has touched. Since Iowa's Living Roadways was created in 1996, 200 communities have participated in the Visioning Program and 487 communities have been awarded grants from the Projects Program.



# Communities



# Fonda

*Trees Forever Facilitator: Jeff Jensen*

*Landscape Architects: Brett Douglas and Dylan Jones*

*Interns: Rachel Johnson and Chris Riggert*

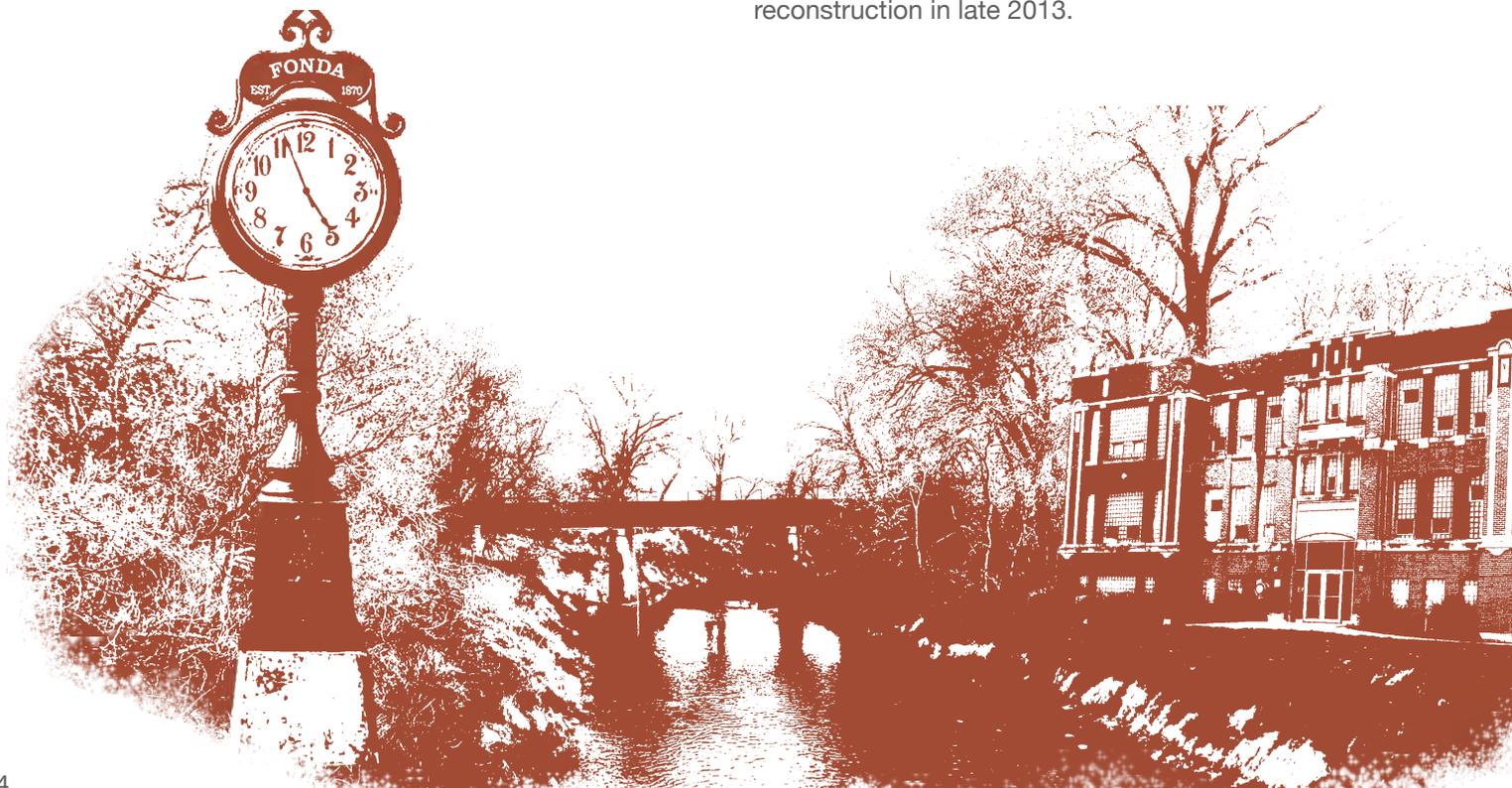
Fonda is located the east bank of Cedar Creek in the southwest corner of Pocahontas County along State Highway 7. This town of 673 residents has the motto "Hometown with a Heart." Denizens and visitors to Fonda enjoy many opportunities for interacting with nature. The town's primary public park, Straight Park, provides patrons with a venue for bird watching; fishing; walking, running or biking on trails; and camping.

Straight Park was named after the Straight brothers, founders of the Fonda Brick and Tile Works. In 1915, the widow of L.S. Straight donated the five acres owned by the brothers to the city to be made into a public park. Located on this land was a hollow created by mining clay to make bricks. When the company stopped production, "The Pit" filled with clear spring water and was a popular swimming area

at a time when no other town had a pool. In the winter, The Pit was used as an ice skating rink.

Fonda residents identified Main Street as the central access route to many destinations in town, including the library, the opera house, the post office, and Central Park. When asked about community assets, they identified Fonda City Park, the pool, Straight Park, and Big Cedar Creek as major recreational outlets for the community. Residents also pointed out that these popular recreation areas have access issues such as no sidewalks.

The city has made several efforts to beautify the town, most recently by removing run-down or derelict buildings from the business district. Another priority for the city is the Farm-to-Market route built in 1920, which serves as the only southern entrance into town. It has been renovated several times over the years and has been slated for reconstruction in late 2013.



Improvements the Fonda visioning committee would like to see for their community include enhancing the downtown area, modernizing the entrances into town and making them more welcoming, and upgrading Straight Park into a more visitor-friendly recreational area. The visioning committee and the visioning design team chose to focus on enhancing and expanding the camping facilities in Straight Park, redeveloping the streetscape in the downtown area to increase safety and aesthetics, and creating a family of way-finding signage to make navigating the community easier for visitors.

Fonda residents are interested in connecting different amenities in town via a recreation trail. The design team proposed a multi-use trail from the rodeo grounds, through Straight Park, and north either along the creek or through town to the golf course. A water trail on Cedar Creek was also proposed.

*Steering Committee:*

*Jeanne Calkins*

*Melissa Devereaux*

*Celenia Gonzales*

*Kristy Hess*

*John Kelly*

*Wanda Krier*

*Alex Leu*

*Marcia Leu*

*Dennis McManus*

*Phyllis Menke*

*Rachel Murphy*

*Dianan Nevarez*

*Angela Podraza*

*Cheri Wernimont*

*Don Wolfe*





1

1. Proposed streetscape enhancements would include lighting, banners, planters, and benches, making the streetscape more pedestrian friendly.
2. A family of way-finding signage would give Fonda a graphic identity, as well as help visitors find important destinations.
3. The empty lot on Main Street could be redesigned as a pocket park with public art.
4. A trail along Cedar Creek would be a scenic connection between Straight Park and the golf course.
5. The Straight Park master plan includes 10 more RV sites, three cabins, a paved trail around The Pit, and other amenities.



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# Gilmore City

*Trees Forever Facilitators: Jeff Jensen*

*Landscape Architect: David Stokes and Eric Doll*

*Interns: Annie Glawe*

Gilmore City is located on the county line separating Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties, roughly 30 miles northwest of Fort Dodge. The town, originally called Blooming Prairie, was named Gilmore City in honor of C.N. Gilmore, the superintendent of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad line that reached the town in the 1880s. With its population just over 500 people, Gilmore City is home to many long-time farming families, some of them dating back to the town's settlement.

During the community assessment process, citizens identified the assets and barriers within and around the town. Participants listed the Gilmore City Café, Casey's, the public library and the post office as popular destinations, and named City Park, the school park, and the wrestling room/athletic center as major recreation sites. Traffic on State Highway 3 is a major source of income. Drivers on this highway purchase gas and other goods at the city's gas

stations and the local convenience store. Highway 3 is also a major commuting route for residents who work outside Gilmore City.

One major asset to the community is the limestone quarry situated just north of the town. A private company owns the active part of the quarry, which has been in operation since the 1880s. A part of the quarry that is no longer being mined—Moore Recreation Area—is considered a recreation opportunity by the Gilmore City visioning committee. The quarry ponds located just east of the quarry along 330th Avenue are popular fishing sites. Two regional recreation sites are Lizard Lake, located seven miles to the southwest of Gilmore City, and Three Rivers Trail, which is six miles north. Some residents would like trail connections to these sites.

The Gilmore City visioning committee consists of members of the Gilmore City Garden Club. Since 2008, club members



have made it their mission to improve Gilmore City by landscaping and planting trees and flowers. Accessibility is a major concern of the visioning committee, particularly along Gilmore Street, the town's main street. Sidewalks along the street are cracked and poorly maintained, making it difficult for users to navigate. Updates to the lighting, signage, and the landscape have also been requested to revitalize the streetscape.

With input from the committee, the design team decided that improvements to the town's drainage infrastructure, visual enhancements along Gilmore Street, preservation of historic limestone buildings, further development of Sunset Park, and an extensive trail system would be the main course of action for the Community Visioning Program.

*Steering Committee:*

*Connie Benjamin*

*Mary Jo Borland*

*Haley Davis*

*LaVonne Hoover*

*Darlene Jergens*

*Putter Jergens*

*Angie Kritzer*

*Linda Lynch*

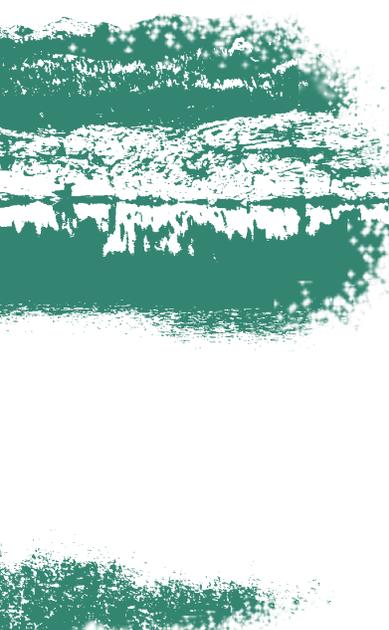
*Judy Marchant*

*Russ Naeve*

*Angie Peters*

*Abbey Stein*

*Marilyn Stein*



1. The proposed entrance signage is made from limestone boulders with corton steel lettering.

2. Trees and shrubs would create a backdrop for the entrance sign and short perennials in front would anchor the sign.

3. The proposed design of Sunset Park includes an outdoor classroom, a wetland, an event space and a trail.

4. Streetscape enhancements with porous pavement and curb cuts would improve storm-water drainage by capturing and storing the water, which would be absorbed by trees and plants.

5. The concept plan for Gilmore City shows the locations of proposed enhancements and a trail system.



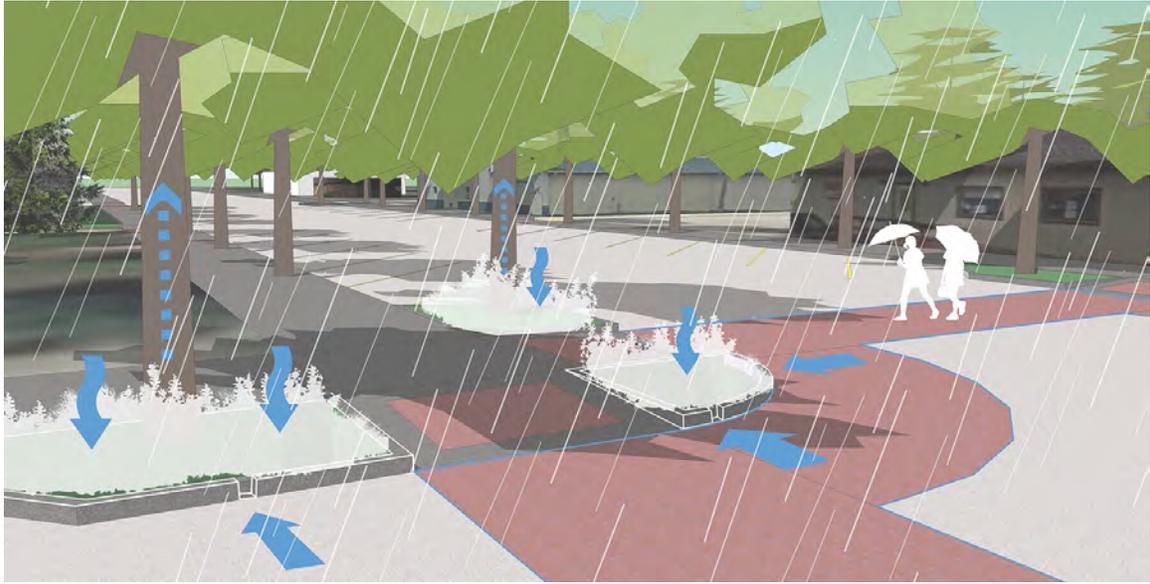
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# Keota

*Trees Forever Facilitator: Patty Petersen*  
*Landscape Architects: Brett Douglas and Bob Slipka*  
*Interns: Rachel Johnson and Chris Riggert*

Keota is located on the east edge of Keokuk County along the boundary between Keokuk and Washington Counties. In 1872 a rail line was built nine miles south of Hinkletown, Iowa. The new rail line was a major blow to the town of 200, and soon founder Harmon Hinkle, along with several of his associates, relocated a number of businesses along the rail line. This new settlement was later named Keota.

Just over 1,000 residents inhabit the town of less than one square mile. Yet, despite its size, Keota has made a splash with its big personality. The psychological marketing firm PYCO recently named Keota as America’s most extroverted city. According to PYCO, 62% of Keota’s adult population can be classified as extroverted—5% more than that of New York City.

As part of the visioning process, Keota residents were asked to name places they considered to be assets to their town. Participants mentioned the library, pool, and County Line Market as popular destinations, as well as the recently begun Keota Farmer’s Market. Community members listed the golf course, Kewash Nature Trail, and the cemetery as popular walking routes. Some people walk at “The Bowl”—the football field—when it is dry. Residents expressed the value of making trail connections with the surrounding communities, as well as within Keota.

Keota’s comprehensive plan lists three transportation goals: provide a safe and efficient multimodal transportation network, make the community universally accessible, and develop an effective way-finding system. The Keota visioning committee also wants to



improve the Kewash Nature Trail, a fourteen-mile route along a former railroad right-of-way that extends from Keota to Washington. The existing “trailhead” in Keota is buried among agriculture and commercial industries on the east side of County Road V15, which is busy with truck traffic. As a result the trail is inaccessible as well as virtually hidden. Residents expressed the desire to have a trail in the community that connects to the Kewash.

The Keota visioning committee and the design team focused on five major improvements: park updates, the Kewash trailhead, the downtown streetscape, the intra-city trail, and a family of way-finding signage that reflects Keota’s identity. The intra-city trail would be a loop that connects the school, cemetery, the parks, and downtown.

*Steering Committee:*

*Abby Dodd*

*Melinda Eakins*

*Scott Flynn*

*Tom Hahn*

*Denny Lyle*

*Levi Lyle*

*Sara Lyle*

*Sharon Lyle*

*Erin McGuire*

*Niki Osweiler*

*Ed Raber*

*Mark Schneider*

*Ritz Sheets*

*Marilyn Sieren*

*Kevin Slaubaugh*

*Tomisha Sprouse*

*Dan Striegel*

*Connie Vincent*

*Todd Vittetoe*

*Linda Werger*

*Lisa White*





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1. *The formalized entrance to Wilson Memorial Park features a new sign, a flag pole, and a new location for the veterans memorial.*
2. *The plan view of Wilson Memorial Park shows Park Avenue closed off and a trail loop that will connect with the intra-city trail.*
3. *The plan view of the Broadway streetscape includes trees, bump-outs, crosswalks, signage, and angled parking.*
4. *The proposed Kewash trailhead would require rerouting the trail south to Centennial Avenue.*
5. *Trailhead amenities would be designated parking, a shelter, restrooms, and shade trees.*

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# Lake City

*Trees Forever Facilitators: Brad Riphagen  
Landscape Architects: Brett Douglas and Dylan Jones  
Interns: Rachel Johnson and Chris Riggert*

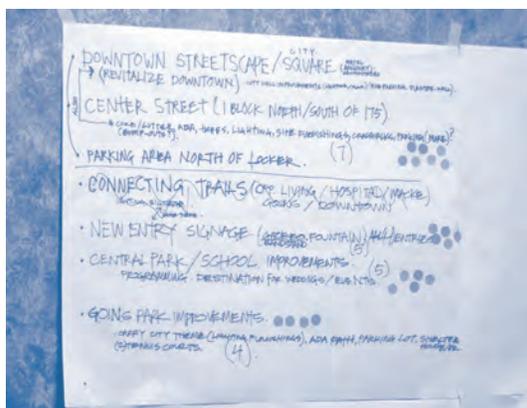
Lake City is located in Calhoun County along State Highway 175, about 45 miles southwest of Fort Dodge. The town's website boasts that Lake City has "Everything but a Lake." The town is home to 1,727 residents as well as Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, Ltd., a nationally recognized pipe organ manufacturing company. Residents are proud of their attractive town square and the community-owned movie theater where tickets are only \$2.

Lake City has many outdoor recreation opportunities, including the Lake City Country Club, Macke Memorial Park, Goins Memorial Park, the rodeo grounds, and Rainbow Park. People can exercise both indoors and outdoors at Opportunity Acres. Other popular destinations are the library, the movie theater, and the drive-in restaurant.

Due to the recent efforts of the Lake City Recreational Trail Committee, a three-mile trail has been mapped and marked with signage. The trail connects several parks and

a museum and meets up with the previously existing trail. Combined, the linked parks and trails create a five-mile loop. Some residents pointed out during the assessment process that the trail does not connect with two key recreation areas—Rainbow Park and Opportunity Acres.

The Lake City visioning committee wants to make the town more pedestrian friendly. The city started a street pavement program in 2004, making most roadways functional. Lake City has issued bonds for three major streetscape projects, the next of which will be downtown. Sidewalks in the city's downtown area have been mended to eliminate tripping hazards, but the committee and the residents would like to see more aesthetic and functional improvements. The city has also suggested adding to the new trail so bikers and walkers can avoid using Highway 175. The east and west entrances along Highway 175 and the north and south entrances on County Road N41 are



heavily traveled, so the committee wants to visually enhance these four entrances by emphasizing the beauty of the surrounding natural environment.

Based on the desired improvements expressed by the people of Lake City, the design team proposed augmenting accessibility throughout Goins Park by creating structured parking and paving a path to connect the park's features. Another project put forward was creating a public outdoor space on the grounds of Central School. The town square and community and entrance signage are also addressed in the concept plan.

*Steering Committee:*

*Gary Bellinghausen*

*Trent Blair*

*Gary Fahan*

*Tami Green*

*Kim Kelley*

*Tony Macke*

*Jolene Schleisman*

*Scott Schleisman*





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*Existing*

*Proposed*

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1. *Improvements to the veterans memorial would include a remembrance wall with lighting and seating.*
2. *Bump-outs, street trees, and angled parking are some of the features of the plan for town square.*
3. *The processional plan for the Central School property creates a walkway through a canopy of trees that ends at an event lawn.*
4. *The north event space plan includes a covered pergola to separate the event lawn from the rest of the space.*
5. *The enhanced streetscape would feature bump-outs with trees and plantings to slow traffic and create a more pedestrian-friendly environment.*
6. *The Goins Park plan features structured parking—either paved or gravel—along with additional trees and a walkway that would improve accessibility.*

# Ossian

*Trees Forever Facilitator: Meredith Borchardt*

*Landscape Architects: Craig Ritland and Samantha Price*

*Intern: Jake Wilson*

Ossian is a community of 845 people located in northeast Iowa. The town encompasses one square mile of the southeast quadrant of Winneshiek County. Hundreds of visitors stop at the Ossian Community Center along US 52, as it is one of the few places to stop along the highway between the Minnesota border and Dubuque.

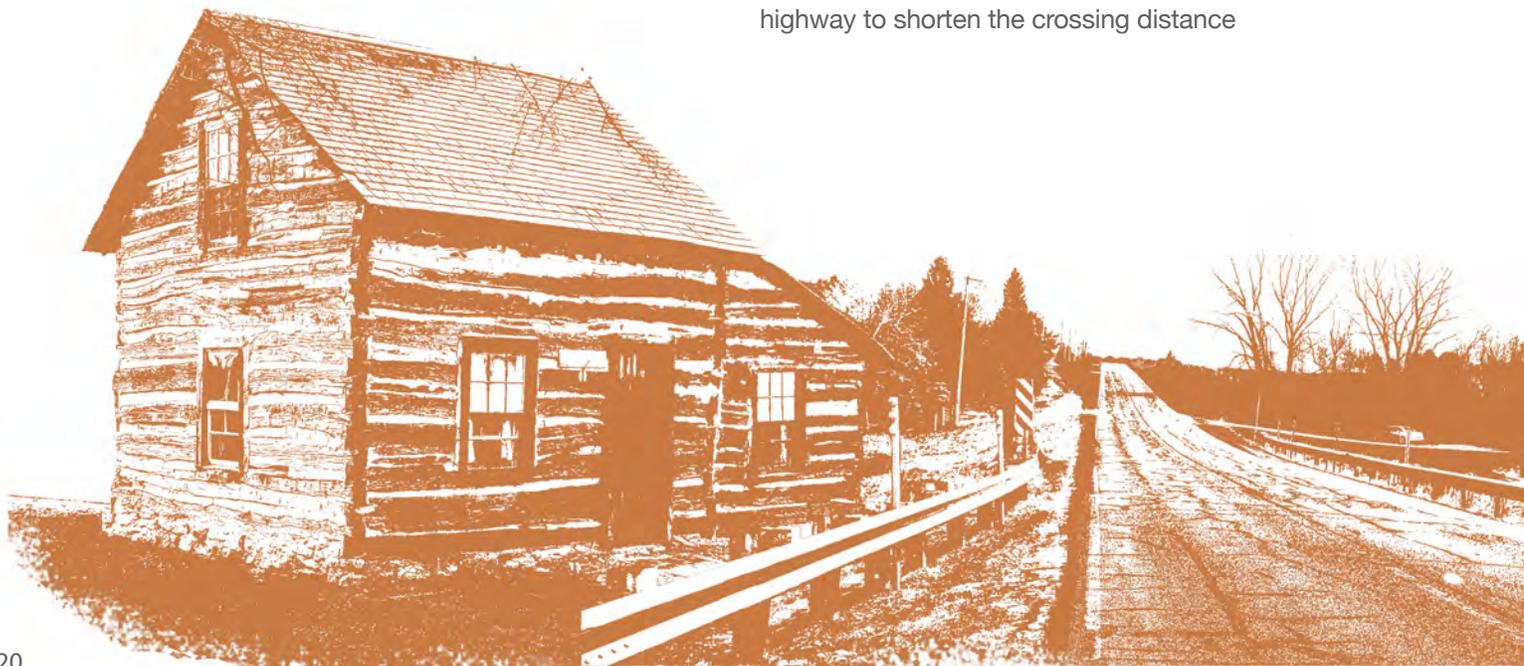
US 52 is an asset to Ossian because it brings travelers through town. However, trucks hauling grain to Clayton, McGregor, or Prairie du Chien, dramatically increases the amount of truck traffic, creating a hazard to pedestrians and school children who have to cross the highway to get to school.

Walking and running are popular recreation activities among Ossian residents. In fact, the town hosts three 5Ks every year. The biggest impediments to walking, running, and cycling in and around Ossian are a lack of sidewalks and poor lighting. Venues for outdoor recreation include Silver Springs County Park, Carey's Park, Ossian City Park, and the school playgrounds. Children like to fish at Silver Springs, and adults enjoy walking the

trail around the pond. The ball diamond at the park is used by several local ball clubs. Carey's Park is the site of the annual Ossian Fest and is located along the parade route.

Safety was a major reason that Ossian requested assistance from the Community Visioning Program. Residents want safe connections among the key destinations in town. Ossian has already participated in the Northeast Iowa Safe Routes to School Program. The Ossian visioning committee also hopes to develop a thriving retail area in the community by filling available storefronts and beautifying the downtown area. The committee would also like to develop marketing and retail strategies to draw both residents and visitors to downtown Ossian.

Through the visioning process, the steering committee defined four priorities for Ossian, the first of which is redesigning Carey's Park to accommodate the needs of residents. Suggested improvements include a band shell, dance area, terraced seating, a new sign, and restrooms. Improving downtown Ossian is the second priority and includes adding bump-outs at intersections along the highway to shorten the crossing distance



*Steering Committee:*

*Evroul Beckman*

*Terri Bushman*

*Tom Bushman*

*Eileen Courtney*

*Jane Fosaaen*

*Clark Goltz*

*Shelley Goltz*

*Patrick Henry*

*John Heying*

*Natalie Knutson*

*Joe Kreiner*

*Mike Meyer*

*Arlan Paulson*

*Karl Schroeder*

*Barb Schwamman*

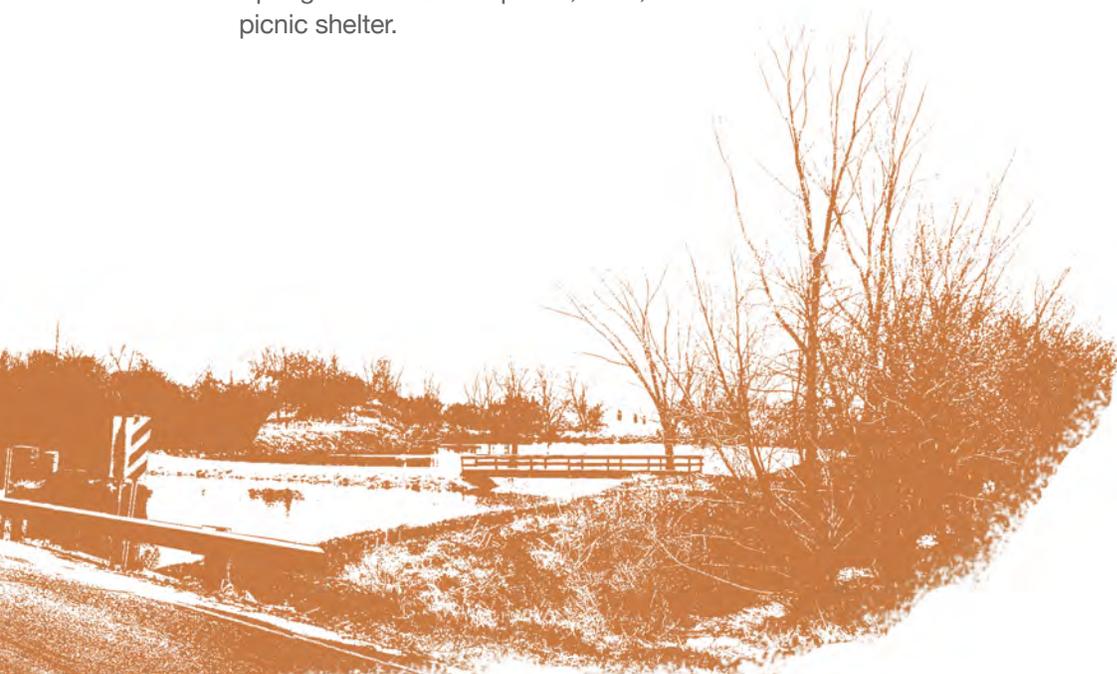
*Chuck Sender*

*Lynette Wenthold*

*Chris Woodson*



for pedestrians. More recreation trails to area attractions are also important to the committee, as well as updating Silver Springs Park with campsites, trails, and a picnic shelter.





1. *The plan for Carey's Park features a band shell, a dance area, a terraced seating area, and restrooms.*
2. *Improvements to the downtown streetscape would include decorative paving and pedestrian crosswalks.*
3. *The existing downtown area lacks trees and other pedestrian amenities shown here.*
4. *Silver Springs County Park is a popular destination that is difficult to reach on foot or cycling; the design team proposed a trail from the sidewalk on Jesse Street, through the park, and around the golf course.*
5. *The proposed trail in Silver Springs Park would follow the edge of the pond, which is already an established route for some walkers.*



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*Existing*



*Proposed*

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# Shellsburg

*Trees Forever Facilitators: Dustin Hinrichs*

*Landscape Architects: Craig Ritland and Samantha Price*

*Intern: Jake Wilson*

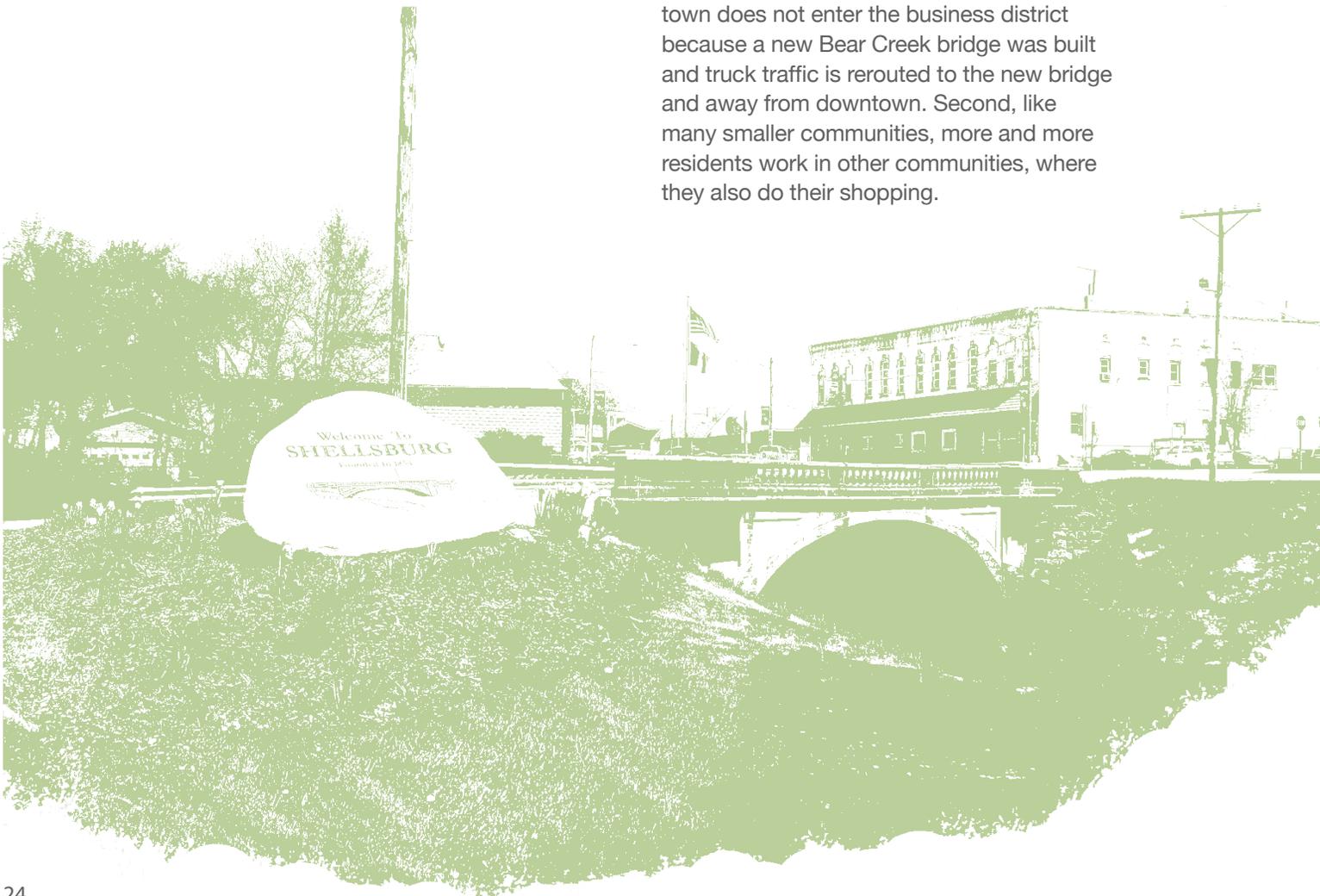
Shellsburg is located along County Roads E36 and W26 in Benton County, a few miles northwest of Cedar Rapids. This town of just under 1,000 residents was founded in 1854, and grew considerably after the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad (now the Iowa Northern Railway) arrived in the 1870s. The railway serves as a freight route between producers and larger rail lines.

Although Shellsburg is not located on a state or US highway, many vehicles pass through town daily. According to the Iowa Department of Transportation, approximately 3,000 vehicles per day pass

through on County Road W26, which is the designated truck route from Cedar Rapids and one of the busiest in Benton County.

Several historic structures are still standing in Shellsburg, most notably the Sells Street Bridge, a concrete-filled spandrel arch bridge built in 1915 that spans Bear Creek. The bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places and is an important landmark in Shellsburg. However, it is in need of repair, and to repair it without compromising its status as a historic landmark will be costly.

Although Shellsburg businesses are diverse, they are few in number, for primarily two reasons. First, much of the traffic through town does not enter the business district because a new Bear Creek bridge was built and truck traffic is rerouted to the new bridge and away from downtown. Second, like many smaller communities, more and more residents work in other communities, where they also do their shopping.





Shellsburg has many opportunities for recreation, including the golf course, the city park, Bear Creek, and the wooded area with a trail and reconstructed prairie located east of the school. About two miles to the north is Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area. Shellsburg residents would like a multimodal trail to Pleasant Creek, as well as a trail and sidewalk system to connect key destinations in town. One connection in particular that the visioning committee desires is between the east and west sides of the city park, which currently are divided by a busy road. Many people also want a trail along Bear Creek.

The Shellsburg visioning committee, with support from Shellsburg Area Community Group (SACG), requested assistance from the Community Visioning Program. Based on residents' input, the design team created a

concept plan that makes the downtown more pedestrian friendly with new sidewalks, lighting, bump-outs and crosswalks. The team also proposed a way-finding system to make it easier for visitors to find the business district despite the bypass. Updating the park and relandscaping its banks along Bear Creek and creating a community trail were also proposed.

*Steering Committee:*

*Kelsey Blattler*

*Bill Bruce*

*Nancy DeKlotz*

*Jean Fish*

*Stephanie Hahn*

*Marlys Harms*

*Keith Hazen*

*Jay Herman*

*Sue Herman*

*Chris Mott*

*Lori Mott*

*Dan Pence*

*Tim Peters*

*Monte Railsback*

*Debi Reynolds*

*Rick Robertson*

*Sydney Robertson*

*Danny Roehr*

*Ed Schaeffer*

*Glenda Shipley*

*Lonnie Speckner*

*Kathleen Steffen*

*Nancy Thorkildson*

*Shadov Vogt*

*Sheila Wendel*

*Marshall White*



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1. The proposed way-finding signage incorporates the historic spandrel bridge into the design.
2. The design team chose one building downtown as an example of historic preservation.
3. Downtown Shellsburg could be more pedestrian friendly with marked crosswalks, bump-outs, and pedestrian-scale lighting.
4. The proposed park plan involves acquiring the private properties between the parks and realigning Pearl Street to allow for a new bridge, while keeping the historic bridge as a pedestrian crossing.
5. Planting woody vegetation and rock terracing would stabilize the Bear Creek stream bank in a more attractive way.



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# Long-term Disaster Recovery



# Mapleton

*Trees Forever Facilitator: Brad Riphagen*

*Landscape Architects: David Stokes, Eric Becker and Eric Doll*

*Interns: Colby Fangman, Annie Glawe and Chelsea McCaw*

On April 9, 2011, the lives of 1,224 residents in Mapleton, Iowa, were changed forever. That evening, a Category 3 tornado with winds up to 165 miles per hour tore through the community.

The tornado damaged 60 percent of the town, destroying 46 homes and 21 businesses and hundreds of maple trees, for which the town is named. Also severely damaged were grain bins at the Mapleton Grain Company. The dearth of trees on the west side of town and the mangled grain bins are stark reminders of the disaster.

For the most part, the debris is gone and some rebuilding has been done. However, in terms of disaster recovery, cleaning up is only the beginning of a process that can take decades. Part of this process for Mapleton included participating in the 2013 Community Visioning Program. However, the visioning process is only one step in a series of steps that began immediately after the tornado, starting with meeting the immediate need of the storm victims.

After completing the initial cleanup, Mapleton was ready to think about long-term planning, and Iowa State University landscape architecture students and faculty were ready to help. In working with ISU, the Mapleton Rebuild and Recover Committee, which is spearheading these planning efforts, had the foresight to understand the importance of research-based planning.

In fall 2012, Julia Badenhope, associate professor of landscape architecture, and J. Timothy Keller, professor of landscape architecture, brought their community design studio to Mapleton to identify landscape-based strategies for the town's long-term recovery. The designs that the students developed were based on site visits, a community survey, and public workshops.

Using the information they gathered as a framework, the students developed a series of project proposals that addressed community infrastructure, renewable energy, recycling existing resources, and new uses for open spaces—including those created by the tornado. The students created presentation boards to illustrate each of their proposals, as well as a PowerPoint presentation and a written handbook. They





*The tornado dropped this semi into the Mapleton Grain Company bins.*



*Between 1,200 and 1,500 trees are believed to have been lost in the storm.*

*Steering Committee:*

*Jenna Cormes*

*Sandy Davis*

*Tony Davis*

*Mary Dougherty*

*Kevin Goslar*

*Doug Hageman*

*Roger Krohn*

*Bev McNamara*

*Kieth Moore*

*Lois Moser*

*Judy Mulder*

*Alan Nielsen*

*Joan Nielsen*

*Steven Oberg*

*Frances Schmeling*

*John Stoll*

*Karla Uhl*

*Sue Wessling*

*Marie Whiteing*





*Student Adam Mekies assists committee member JoAnn Nielsen with the questionnaire.*

also set up a website to keep residents updated throughout the semester. Overall, residents appreciated the students' efforts and were impressed with the ideas put forward.

Badenhope, who is also the director of the Community Visioning Program, encouraged the Rebuild and Recover Committee to keep the community engaged by participating in the visioning program, which played an integral part in Mapleton's long-term planning. Research methods including focus groups, mapping, and a community survey brought forward information critical for understanding the needs of the community as well as opportunities for enhancement.

*"I'm speaking for the entire town of Mapleton when I say that we really appreciate that our town was selected as a community looking at improvements."*

*—Lawrence Nelson, long-time resident and former high school principal.*





The Community Visioning Program assessment process included focus groups with Mapleton residents that addressed transportation assets (top map) and barriers (bottom map). Participants' responses were mapped on aerial photos, revealing residents' needs and desires.

“Through the focus groups and survey conducted as part of the visioning process, the Rebuild and Recover Committee and the City of Mapleton were able to see that drainage issues in the Westside District are impeding both rebuilding and healthy activity in that area,” said Badenhope.

To better understand the situation, visioning program staff conducted an urban watershed study in which the drainage system was quantified and mapped. With the data from the watershed study, the visioning design team developed a proposal for mitigating storm-water runoff and improving walkability in the Westside District.

“The design concepts have led our Mapleton Rebuild and Recover Board to a much deeper understanding as to how we can mitigate problems, even those we knew [of] before the tornado, [such as] where water flows in Mapleton, and how we can address those issues to create beautiful green spaces and living spaces we didn’t know were possible,” said Marie Whiteing, chair of the Rebuild and Recover Committee.

The Mapleton visioning committee decided to focus on addressing storm-water drainage issues, pedestrian crossing nodes along

Highway 141/4th Street and Highway 175/ Front Street, recreational trails master planning, and street tree restoration.

The visioning design team proposed street designs using the Complete Streets model for the Westside District, 6th Street, and Main Street. Storm-water management is addressed using integrated green infrastructure. The trails plan includes trails on the Maple River, Mucky Creek, in the Carhart Recreation Area, and in the Tower Place neighborhood. The design team also recommended tree species best suited to the area as well as a planting palette.

According to Badenhope, communities recovering from disaster need to do projects that help people regain confidence. With assistance from ISU, the Rebuild and Recover Committee applied for an Iowa’s Living Roadways Projects grant, which they used to plant native grasses and forbs in the gazebo park along the roadside of Highway 141 this summer. The Lion’s Club immediately replaced the gazebo that was destroyed by the tornado. However, the rest of the park had virtually no vegetation. The committee chose to do this planting project first because it could be done quickly and is highly visible. In addition, the gazebo is an important cultural landmark to residents.



The Mapleton Valley–Anthon Oto Community School District also received an ILR Projects grant to landscape the bus barn area south on Highway 141.

“Using the money the school set aside for this project as a match, we will be able to landscape the south side of Highway 141 to the intersection which goes to Danbury [Highway 175],” said Whiteing. “This is a great addition to our storm-torn community.”

The next project was a tree-planting day on September 30. Following the tornado, Zella Craig Thomas, former Mapleton resident and current mayor of Rodney, established a tree fund, which was used to purchase 63 trees. Brad Riphagen, Trees Forever field coordinator, demonstrated for residents the proper way to plant and care for the trees.

“Every recipient of a tree or trees had lost trees in the tornado,” said Whiteing. “We hope to continue with this fund and eventually replace the 1,200–1,500 trees estimated to be lost [from the storm].”

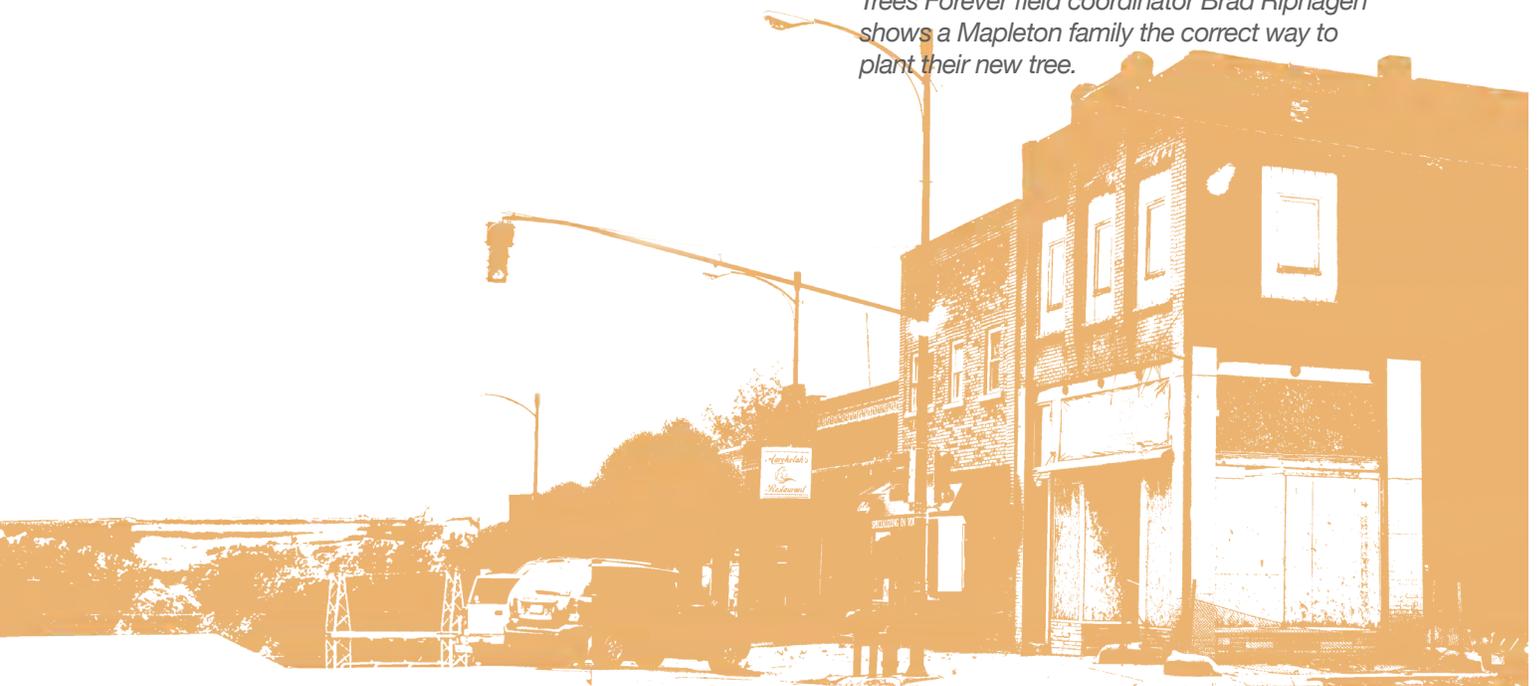
The focus groups conducted through the visioning process also showed Mapleton residents’ strong connection to the land



*Prairie plantings at gazebo park create a positive impression to drivers entering town on Hwy. 141.*



*Trees Forever field coordinator Brad Riphagen shows a Mapleton family the correct way to plant their new tree.*



and the countryside. Many of the assets identified by focus group participants were natural features such as the Maple River, Mucky Creek, and the Schoenjahn Wildlife Area. Participants also expressed the desire for a trail system. The Community Visioning Program design team responded with open space and trails plans.

A component of the open space plan is development of the Carhart Conservation Area located west of town in a riparian area along the Maple River. The area is named for Arthur H. Carhart, a Mapleton native who introduced integrated conservation and recreation planning to the US Forest Service, and advocated for conservation, game management, and hunting access of Forest Service lands as opposed to timber harvest. In October, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources awarded Mapleton a REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) grant for the Carhart Conservation Area.

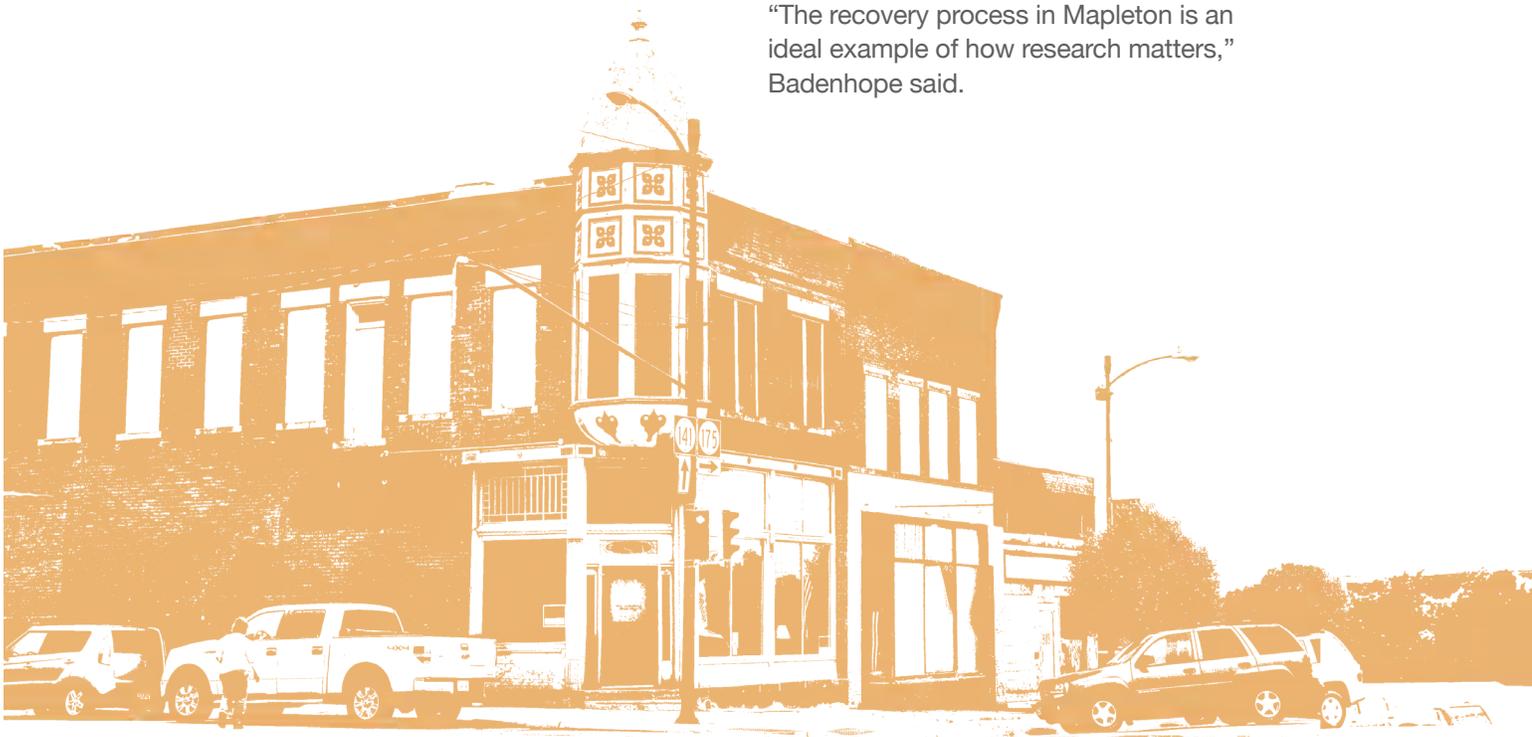
Through the ongoing recovery process, ISU continues to be involved. Badenhope and Carl Rogers, associate professor and licensed landscape architect, are continuing

work in Mapleton with the 2013 community design studio. One group of students will do neighborhood designs incorporating lighting and open space plans. A second group will develop a pedestrian network using Complete Streets principles. Again, research will play a significant role in the design process.

“The issues revealed by the focus groups and survey led to the urban watershed study, which led to the redesign of the streetscape on the west side of town,” said Badenhope. “The city supports infrastructure improvements to the west side so the community design studio is going to work on housing in that neighborhood.”

ISU Extension Community and Economic Development is collecting data that will inform the students’ work. Abbie Gaffey, community development specialist, is studying housing needs and Biswa Das, Extension specialist and assistant professor of community and regional planning, will conduct an economic analysis that shows the economic impact of the tornado, as well as projects the long-term tax revenue needed to maintain improved infrastructure.

“The recovery process in Mapleton is an ideal example of how research matters,” Badenhope said.





*Julia Badenhope consults with designers from Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company during the community visioning design workshop.*



*Landscape architect David Stokes explains one of his design concepts to a community resident and Trees Forever field coordinator Brad Riphagen.*

“The design concepts have led our Mapleton Rebuild and Recover Board to a much deeper understanding as to how we can mitigate problems...and how we can address those issues to create beautiful green spaces and living spaces we didn’t know were possible.”

—Marie Whiteing, chair of the Mapleton Rebuild and Recover Committee



1. *The proposed trail through the Carhart Recreation Area is a granular loop through the secluded Maple River riparian area.*
2. *A Complete Streets plan employs street trees and perennial plants as storm water infiltrators, as well as permeable sidewalk pavement.*
3. *A bird's-eye view of the intersection of 4th and Main Streets shows how bump-outs, street trees, and pedestrian-scale lighting would make the area more inviting.*
4. *One option for green infrastructure storm-water management is surface treatment that includes three materials laid vertically one on top of the other.*
5. *Another option for green infrastructure features weirs (either rock or concrete) that slow water speed and stop sediment movement.*
6. *Trees, crosswalks, curb ramps, and lighting would create a more pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly crossing along Highway 141.*



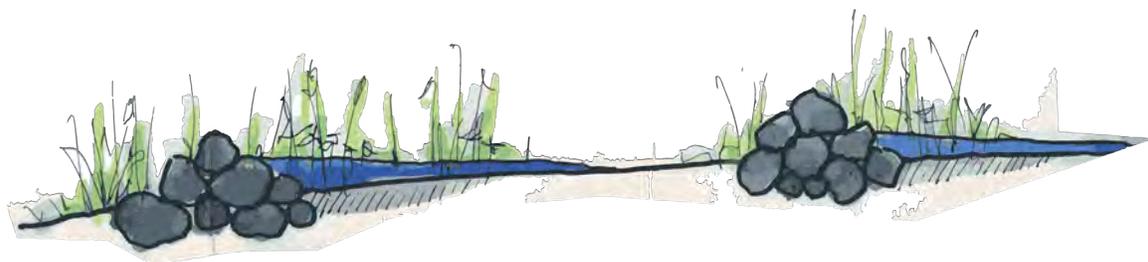
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# Cultural Landscape Interpretation



# The Amana Colonies

*Trees Forever Facilitators: Mark Pingnot, Carole Teator*

*Landscape Architects: Tim Keller, Genevieve Keller, Harlan Groe and Robert Harvey*

*Interns: Paola Sepulveda and Adam Mekies*

In 1855 members of a religious group known as the “Community of True Inspiration” began to purchase the farms of pioneer settlers in Iowa River Valley and established a community in the area now known as the Amana Colonies. Designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1965 because of their significance in American history, the Amana Colonies today are home to descendants of its original settlers, as well as others who have become residents since the Amana Great Change of 1932.

Because of their unique history and well-known traditions of hospitality and craftsmanship, the Amana Colonies are a major visitor attraction in Iowa. As a result, the Amanas are also home to a wide variety of tourism-based businesses, including both restaurants and retail businesses that market primarily to visitors. The Amana Colonies Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACCVB), in cooperation with the Merchants of Amana, Inc., coordinates the marketing of the Colonies and their various festivals, such as Oktoberfest. Because the Amana Colonies are unincorporated, the Amana Colonies Land Use District (ACLUD) exists to manage development and architectural changes in much of the NHL area. Amana Refrigeration, a home appliance manufacturer founded by an Amana native in 1934, is now a division of the Whirlpool Corporation. Still located in Middle Amana, it remains a major regional employer.

The Christian sect that established the Amana villages originated in Germany in 1714 and advocated a simple form of worship, Bible study, and a belief in God communicating His will through chosen instruments or *Werkzeuge*. The *Werkzeuge*, when inspired, delivered testimonies that admonished the faithful to be more fervent in their worship and to lead lives of simplicity and humility. Facing increasing religious persecution and economic hardship in their native Germany, the Inspirationists, under the leadership of Christian Metz (1793–1867), immigrated to the United States in 1842–1846, settling on a 5,000-acre tract of land on the former Buffalo Creek Indian Reservation near Buffalo, New York, where they established six villages on their New York and later, Canadian lands. As a financial necessity, the members pooled their resources and used a common fund to pay for the passage from Germany and to purchase land and equipment. Originally a temporary measure, communal living became permanent in 1846.

In 1854, seeking a home removed from the worldly influences of Buffalo, the Inspirationists sent a scouting party to Kansas and later, to Iowa. In June 1855, a





*Amana in 1894 (Courtesy of the Amana Heritage Society)*



*Amana Woolen Mill circa 1900 (Courtesy of the Amana Heritage Society)*

*Steering Committee:*

*Darian Childers*

*Jon Childers*

*Rose Danaher*

*Larry Gnewikow*

*Elly Hoehnle*

*Peter Hoehnle*

*Laura Hoover*

*Reynold Moessner*

*Betsy Momany*

*JinYeene Neumann*

*Catherine Oehl*

*Marc Phelps*

*Ivan Reihmann*

*Brogan Schanzr*

*Sarah Tarnowski*



second party began to purchase what eventually became a 26,000-acre tract of land in Iowa County, Iowa. During the years 1855–1864, members relocated from their villages in the northeast to their new Iowa site, which was named “Amana,” a term from the Song of Solomon 4:8 that signifies “remain true.”

In Iowa the group established seven villages, each in the center of its own farm. Each village had its own church, school, bakery, and blacksmith shop. Factories that produced calico fabric and woolens were located in Amana and Middle Amana. These items were sold on the outside market and provided income for the community. Members worked at assigned jobs and ate in communal kitchens.

By 1932, the effects of the Great Depression, the dissatisfaction of youth, and the inefficiencies of the communal system led community members to vote to reorganize the Society as a joint-stock corporation and to establish the Amana Church Society to oversee the religious life of the Inspirationists. The Amana Church Society continues to hold weekly services in the villages of Amana and Middle Amana. Members of the



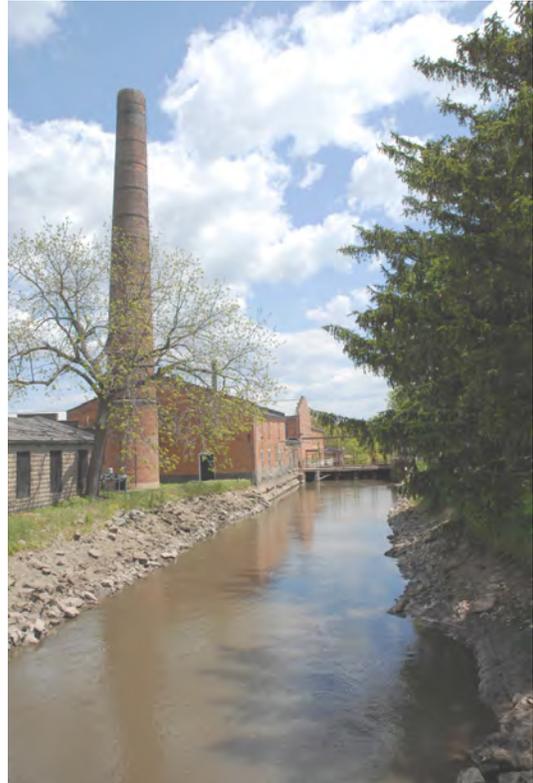
*Women working in a communal garden (Courtesy of the Amana Heritage Society)*

new Amana Society received stock in the corporation, which continues to manage the farms and businesses of the old Society. Today, Amana Society, Inc. continues to manage many businesses, but other shops and businesses are privately owned, as are most residences. Many current residents of the Amana Colonies are descendants of the Inspirationists, stockholders of Amana Society, Inc., and members of the Amana Church Society; others have chosen to live in the Amanas today for a variety of other reasons.



Sustainability has been a hallmark of the Amana experience for more than a century and a half. As a communal society, the colonies were virtually a self-contained unit, able both to supply for the needs of residents and to produce famous woolen, calico, furniture, and other products for a nationwide clientele. For decades, the Amana Society, Inc. has maintained the largest privately owned forest in Iowa, and Amana residents are justifiably proud of the natural areas that have provided generations with outdoor recreational activities. More recently, initiatives such as the High Amana wetlands, the Price Creek watershed project, and the Amana Society's new methane digester, have extended this emphasis on environmental sustainability and quality of life into the twenty-first century.

The seven villages are situated within a matrix of crops, forests, pastures, wetlands, and small patches of prairie. Eight thousand acres of crops include white, waxy, and yellow-dent corn, food-grade soybeans, and hayfields. Yellow-dent corn and hay feed the 2,000 brood cows and 4,000 Amana beef cattle in the feedlot. The forestry division manages 7,700 acres of forest reserve, the largest privately-held forest in Iowa. The primarily deciduous forest produces oak, walnut, cherry, and hickory lumber. One small section of forest known as the "Tannenwald" has historical significance. The Norway



*Amana Woolen Mill (Source: Robert Campagna, courtesy of the Amana Heritage Society)*

spruces in the forest were transplanted by the residents following a decree that all trees in the villages must be food-bearing fruit or nut trees. The beloved spruces were planted in a section of upland forest, and are now regenerating on their own.





*Transportation assessment with the steering committee*

The Amana Colonies are unique from other communities participating in the Community Visioning Program because they are a designated National Historic Landmark, are located in part along the Iowa Valley Scenic Byway, and are a major tourist attraction in Iowa. Therefore, the visioning process in the Colonies included many different facets. The Amana Colonies consist of seven distinct villages— Amana, East Amana, High Amana, Homestead, Middle Amana, South Amana, and West Amana. Therefore the process needed to address each village individually as well as the area as a whole. Because of the Colonies status as a National Historic Landmark along a scenic byway, proposed enhancements needed to adhere to both NHL guidelines and Iowa



*Goal setting with the steering committee*

Department of Transportation signage guidelines. The historic significance of the Colonies makes them a popular visitor destination. As such, the design team took into consideration the needs and desires of visitors and those who frequently interact with visitors—the Amana Society, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and local businesses.

The concept plan developed brings together community goals, ideas, and visions for the Amana Colonies. Based on input from the community, the program steering committee identified specific priority areas and the design team developed design concepts and illustrations to address these priority areas:





*Steering committee priorities*

**Way-finding System:** The assessment process revealed the need for a cohesive system of way-finding within the Amana Colonies and in each village that would meet the needs of residents, visitors, and industrial traffic, while addressing signage and landscape recommendations appropriate for a National Historic Landmark. In addition to directional and place signage, the committee proposed interpretive exhibits at key points throughout the colonies.

**On-and Off-road Trail Facilities:** The steering committee expressed the need for additional options for walking and cycling throughout the Amana Colonies, including sidewalks, shared roadways, and off-road trail development.



*Public presentation of design concepts*

**Vegetation Management in Transportation Rights-of-Way:** The committee addressed the need for vegetation management throughout the Colonies not only for beautification and unification, but also for erosion control, storm-water and water-quality management, prevention of invasive species, habitat preservation, and improved safety.

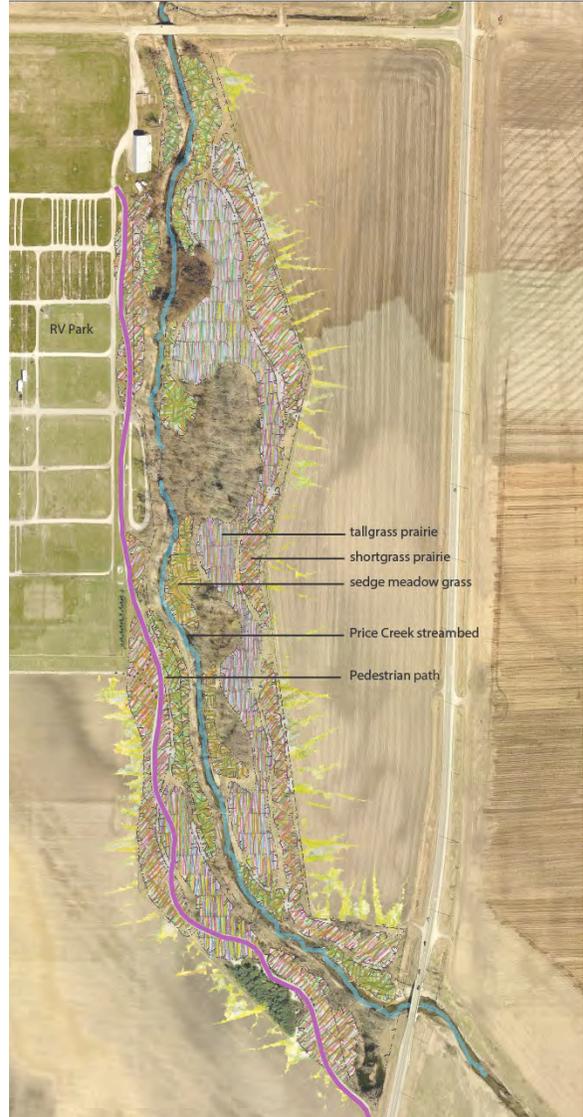
**Traffic Safety:** Traffic issues identified during the assessment process include blind intersections and traffic congestion related to the Whirlpool shift changes, school start and dismissal times, and special events. In addition, GPS devices often misdirect truck traffic to the Whirlpool plant into residential areas in the villages.





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1. *The turnout and interpretive exhibit of the historic quarry and the digester is one example of several proposed exhibits that reinforce a strong sense of place and history in the Amana Colonies.*
2. *Stream-side vegetation rehabilitation for Price Creek includes grasses, sedges, and forbs that will help slow the runoff of farm pollutants and animal bacteria entering Prices Creek and assist in stabilizing its banks.*
3. *The wetland overlook near High Amana could expand observers' understanding of the nature of wetlands and aquatic, bird, and wetland plants in the area.*
4. *The Mill Race overlook could showcase both the beauty of the Iowa River Valley and the industrial heritage of the Amana Colonies.*
5. *The Lily Lake overlook could interpret the lake's formation and the American lotus lilies that cover it.*



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1. *The turnout/interpretive area at East Amana will provide a place for semitrailers and other large vehicles to turn around without entering the village.*
2. *The existing open space at the intersection of US 151 and US 6 provides an ideal location for a turnout and interpretive area for Homestead.*
3. *The Barn Museum is proposed as a site for a South Amana interpretive exhibit, which could feature Native American history and Meskwaki-Amana relations.*
4. *The interpretive area in the Amana barn complex adjacent to Price Creek will interpret Amana barn construction techniques as well as creek ecology.*
5. *In response to community input, the design team proposes installing a planted area of native vegetation to aid in storm-water mitigation in the area south of West Amana where Route 220 and County Road F15 intersect.*
6. *An interpretive exhibit at the Middle Amana Church could provide information about the Amana Church Society and its history, as well as a map of the rest of Middle Amana.*
7. *The High Amana sign is an example of the uniform entry signage proposed for the Colonies that identifies each village as a National Historic Landmark.*



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# J. Timothy Keller, FASLA



# Interpreting and Preserving

When people think about landscape architecture, images of colorful gardens, manicured estates, and carefully sculpted golf courses might first come to mind. These examples of landscape architecture benefit communities and contribute to quality of life, but some landscape architects also undertake projects and develop bodies of work related to contemporary issues such as the environment, historic preservation, and social justice.

Tim Keller is one of those distinctive individuals, and the State of Iowa—among many other places—has profited greatly from his work.



*Second-year landscape architecture students conduct field sketching (top) and listen to a lecture during the Savanna Studio (bottom).*

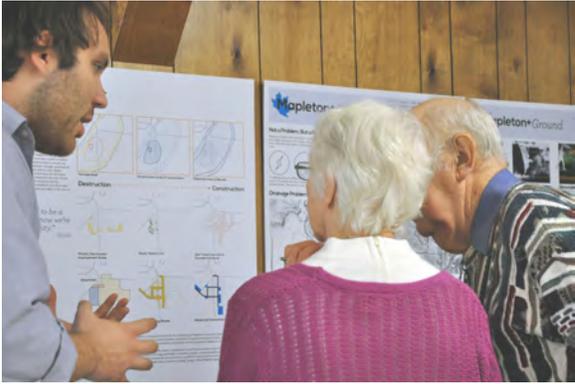
Tim, who was born in California and grew up in Virginia, is a self-proclaimed “child of the revolution,” who saw firsthand the inequality of the “separate and unequal” African-American elementary schools that his mother visited as a social worker in rural communities in Central Virginia.

Tim was an undergraduate student in the late 1960s and early 1970s, earning a BA with Distinction in anthropology from the University of Virginia. He describes that as a time “when many Americans were committing to make our country a better place for all to live.” In 1970, he attended the first Earth Day celebration in New York City, in response to the writings of Rachel Carson, the marine biologist and conservationist who wrote *Silent Spring*, and Ian McHarg, the Scottish landscape architect and educator renowned for his book *Design with Nature* and resource-based regional planning.

Discovering that the profession of landscape architecture was redefining itself more broadly in response to contemporary social and environmental issues, Tim realized that he could study and practice landscape architecture as a way to pursue his growing interests in the relationship between culture and landscapes. He went on to earn a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia School of Architecture.

In 1975, Tim and his spouse Genevieve Keller, who is an architectural historian/preservation planner, cofounded Land and Community Associates, through which they have pioneered cultural landscape preservation initiatives and worked in communities throughout the United States. Tim and Genevieve whom he describes as his partner in “life and work,” were both Loeb Fellows in Advanced Environmental Design at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University and co-recipients of the Public Service Award, the highest award conferred to private citizens from

# Our Cultural Landscapes



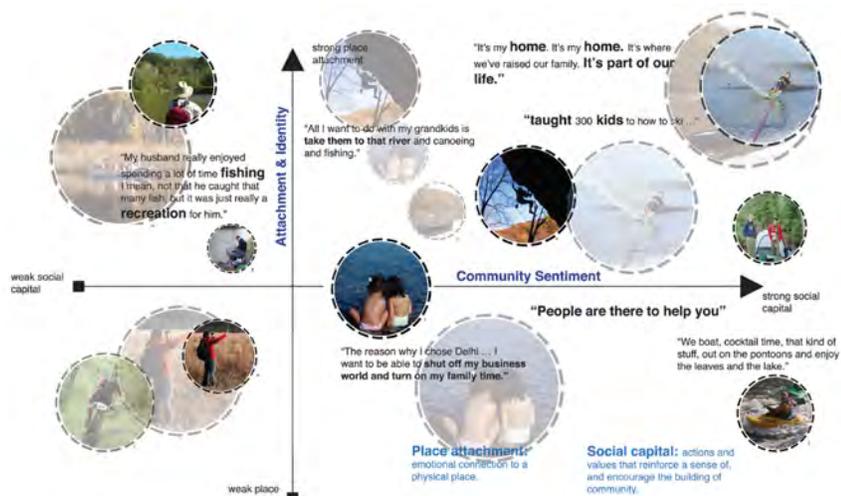
A key component of the learning experience in the community design studio is student interaction with clients such as these Mapleton residents (left) and the Delaware County Supervisor (right).

the US Secretary of the Interior for their contributions to the field of historic landscape preservation. In addition to their practice and advocacy, the Kellers have contributed to the growth of cultural landscape initiatives in the United States as coauthors of National Register of Historic Places Bulletins *How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes* and *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*, and as contributing authors to the award-winning books *A Richer Heritage* and *Saving America's Countryside*.

The Kellers, who have focused their practice on rural and traditional places and community engagement, have enjoyed working with National Historic Landmarks such as the Amana Colonies in Iowa; unique communities such as Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay; Main Street cities in Virginia and North Carolina; and with the National Park Service at numerous parks, historic sites and

monuments that include Yosemite National Park, the San Antonio Missions, and the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site.

"I have been fortunate to live in and work with a number of communities facing and attempting to deal with dramatic change," Tim said and continued, "I am pleased to have endeavored to 'give voice' to the important ideas and values of the watermen of the Chesapeake Bay, the Plain Sect peoples of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and a diverse cultural community in the Hanalei Valley of Kauai."



As part of the Lake Delhi Alternative Futures project, students interviewed residents to learn about the social and cultural importance of the area. Residents spoke about their love of the lake and what drew them to the area.



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*Group discussion in the community design studio (1), conversation with clients about student work (2–3), a planning meeting with the Amana Colonies visioning committee (4).*

Tim and Genevieve first came to Iowa during the 1970s because their firm was selected to develop a master plan for the Amana Colonies. Near the same time, the Kellers were awarded a six-week residency in Red Oak through the Architects in Schools program of the National Endowment of the Arts. Years later when Tim was serving as chair of the ISU Department of Landscape Architecture, one of his former 8th-grade students from Red Oak approached him in the atrium at the ISU College of Design to tell him that the decision to study design had stemmed from that middle school experience, and Tim learned firsthand the impact of those few weeks in western Iowa.

The Kellers remained in Iowa working in the Amana Colonies and with the Architect in Schools program through 1981. Tim also taught at ISU in 1979–1980, filling in for a landscape architecture faculty member on sabbatical. Tim and Genevieve returned to ISU when Tim was hired to chair the Department of Landscape Architecture, while Genevieve joined the faculty as an affiliate associate professor.

Tim Keller will leave a lasting legacy at ISU. During his tenure as chair of the Landscape Architecture Department, the Savanna Traveling Studio was launched and has continued for more than a decade. After retiring as chair of the department, Tim enjoyed co-leading the Savanna Studio and reflected, “This semester-long learning community has afforded students entering landscape architecture the opportunity to explore both natural systems and their cultural responses from our border with Canada to our border with Mexico.”

Tim also touched many students’ lives by teaching a theory seminar and co-instructing a community design and advocacy studio. The community design studio has taken on projects dealing with wildlife conservation, hunger and food deserts, and long-term disaster recovery. Students in this studio



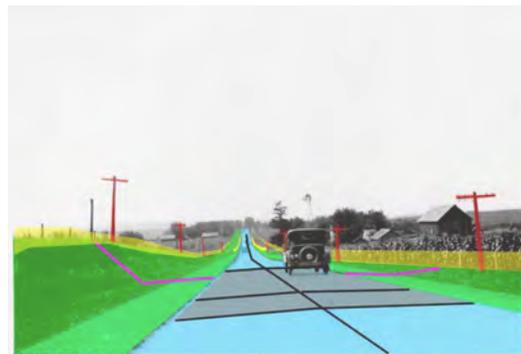
*Students in the Rebuild and Recover Mapleton studio proposed downtown streetscape enhancements that make the area more pedestrian friendly while addressing storm-water drainage issues.*

learn to interact with communities and work one on one with citizens to come up with design solutions. Citizen engagement is a key component of the learning experience.

Also during Tim's tenure as chair, associate professor Julia Badenhope developed Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning Program. Tim's role as mentor and co-principal investigator contributed greatly to Community Visioning's success. The program, which has brought community-directed design to 200 Iowa communities, has earned the US Federal Highway Administration Award for Environmental Excellence and the American Planning Association Outstanding Planning Award.

Tim was the principal investigator on several Iowa Department of Transportation projects including a corridor management plan for the Lincoln Highway. Having heard his father relate stories of the Lincoln Highway while traveling through Ames on a cross-country trip from New York to San Francisco in 1916, Tim particularly enjoyed the process that revealed the historic and character-defining features of the historic highway.

The Kellers continue to pursue their passions for cultural and historic landscape studies and community engagement. Through the recently completed Amana Colonies Visioning Project, they have enjoyed revisiting their early work in the Amana Colonies and reestablishing relationships there. The Kellers have two sons who grew up traveling with their parents to historic sites and national parks. Nathaniel is



*This image shows the elements of the road used for the analysis of the Lincoln Highway corridor. Cedar County, Iowa, two miles west of Wheatland, 1926. (Photo courtesy of University of Michigan Special Collections.)*



*This farmstead along Interstate 80 shows how the corridor reflects the identity of Iowa.*

an environmental attorney and Michael plans for a career in immigration law.

In his free time between projects, Tim enjoys canoeing the Rivanna and James Rivers and trekking through the woods with his Kerry Blue terriers.



# People



# Interns



## **Colby Fangman**

Colby earned a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from Iowa State University in 2012, and he is currently pursuing a master's degree in interdisciplinary graduate studies, focusing on design rhetoric and visual communications. Colby began working with Community Visioning in spring 2013, mapping community assessment data for several of the 2013 visioning communities, organizing focus group and special places mapping workshops, and managing the data collection process. Over the summer, he took an active role in the long-term, open space planning process for the city of Mapleton. As a native of rural northeast Iowa he understands the importance of design outreach to small communities.



## **Annie Glawe**

Annie has been working for the Community Visioning Program since summer 2012, starting with the community of Mapleton. She helped the Mapleton Rebuild and Recover Committee apply for an Iowa's Living Roadways Projects Grant, which was awarded in fall 2012, to plant native vegetation in the roadside park. Annie participated in the planting, which took place in June 2013. The site has since developed into a well-loved native planting. This summer she worked with Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company on the transportation design for Mapleton and Gilmore City. She helped the Rebuild and Recover Committee with a second Projects Program grant, which is funded and scheduled for installation, for the north entry into Mapleton. Annie loves working with Iowa residents and native plants.



## **Rachel Johnson**

Rachel is a fourth-year architecture student at Iowa State. This summer was her first experience working for the Community Visioning Program as an intern for Genus Landscape Architects in Des Moines' east village. She worked with two communities, Lake City and Fonda, on concept plans for downtown streetscape enhancements, park master-planning, and branding community identity through signage. Her favorite aspect of the visioning program was the community visits, because interacting with such passionate community members made the work meaningful. She worked with landscape architect Dylan Jones, who has had multiple years of experience with the visioning program.

### **Chelsea McCaw**

Chelsea graduated in May from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture. In her final year at Iowa State, Chelsea worked with Mapleton through the community design studio, and became interested in community planning and the political process. This summer with Community Visioning she worked closely with Mapleton again and enjoyed seeing what became of the proposals that she and her classmates created last fall. Chelsea spent six months last year working for a landscape architecture firm in Houston, Texas, and returned to Iowa with renewed affection for the Midwest. She hopes that her first years in the professional world allow her to stay in the region and expand her knowledge of the culture and ecology here.



### **Chris Riggert**

Chris recently graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in landscape architecture. While at Iowa State, he was an intern and later an intern mentor for the Community Visioning Program and grew to understand the dynamics of Iowa's small towns and community engagement. Chris also worked instructing students in graphic production and communication as a teaching assistant for two years, and was president of the Student Society of Landscape Architecture. During spring 2012, Chris studied abroad in Sweden, and traveled across Europe. He is excited to apply his education in practice, and is interested in pushing the boundaries of the profession to engage the urban environment in new and innovative ways.



### **Paola Sepulveda**

Paola earned a bachelor's of landscape architecture from Iowa State University and is close to completing her master's degree. She is originally from southern California, but has spent nearly a decade living in the Midwest after leaving home for the University of Michigan, where she earned a bachelor's degree in 2006. Her interest in landscape architecture comes from her experience in urban and community planning. Her passion for public space led to her conception of an investigative study of guerilla drive-ins in two US cities—a project that helped shape her understanding of how issues of community and culture intersect with the landscape. This year Paola became a full-time staff member for ISU Extension Community and Economic Development, where she works as a program coordinator.





### **Jake Wilson**

Jake earned a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture and environmental studies from Iowa State University in May 2013. He grew up on a farm near the small southwestern Iowa town of Lenox, where he spent all of his free time outdoors. His interest in landscape architecture stems from his appreciation of the outdoors and the way that people interact with it. In his free time, Jake enjoys hunting, fishing, and horseback riding. Jake has enjoyed the opportunity he had during the community visioning process to work with small rural Iowa communities similar to the one where he grew up. This summer Jake worked with Ritland+Kuiper Landscape Architects in the communities of Ossian and Shellsburg.

# Practitioners

## Eric Becker

Eric is a licensed project landscape architect who has been actively developing and assisting with projects from schematic design through construction documentation and construction administration phases for more than six years at Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company. His professional experience has showcased his knowledge of technical functionality, along with human interaction within designed spaces. His national and international travel has provided him with an understanding of the diversity of climate, culture, and site characteristics involved with projects. In his spare time, Eric enjoys spending time with his family and friends and giving back to the community through volunteering. He also enjoys many outdoor activities such as skiing, backcountry hiking, softball, and travel.



## Eric Doll

Eric was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa, and earned his BLA, along with an Iowa ASLA Merit Award, from Iowa State University in spring 2012. As a student at ISU, Eric took advantage of every educational opportunity, building a broad skill set and scope of interest. Eric minored in horticulture with an emphasis on soil science, which provided him with a smooth landing at Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company. His unique travel experiences and passion for art and plants has given him the creativity and passion the profession of landscape architecture needs. When not spending time working, Eric enjoys spending time with his family and friends, playing disc golf, cooking, being outdoors, and occasionally juggling.



## Brett Douglas

Brett is the founding principal of Genus Landscape Architects. His collaborations with renowned architects, landscape architects, designers, and artists provide Genus with seasoned experience and a unique approach to each design challenge. Brett brings 15 years of experience with a variety of project scales from citywide park planning, streetscape design, and campus master plans to lake shore restoration and green roof installations. A recent president of the Iowa Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Brett remains active in the community as a member of the Friends of the Botanical Center Board, Terrace Hill Site Committee and the Heritage Carousel Board.





### **Harlen Groe**

Harlen is a practicing landscape designer and lecturer at Iowa State University, where he teaches plant identification/design. His work in historic documentation/preservation for the Historic American Building Survey and Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) and for the Library of Congress has appeared in many publications, including *Landscape Architecture Magazine*. Harlen is coauthor of *Natures Heartland: Native Plant Communities of the Midwest* (Boon and Groe) and *North American Plantfile: a visual guide to plant selection for use in landscape design* (Hightshoe and Groe), and has contributed photography and graphics to many landscape exhibits, reference books, and research publications.



### **Robert Harvey**

Robert is a landscape architect and landscape historian, as well as a professor emeritus of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Iowa State University. He has a professional practice in historic landscape preservation and rehabilitation and worked as the landscape and site planning consultant for the preparation of the *Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House Comprehensive Development Plan* for the Woodland Historic District in Virginia, a National Trust Historic Property. Robert R. Harvey & Associates prepared the *Historic Grounds Report and Landscape Plan* for the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, Illinois, for the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service in Omaha, Nebraska.



### **Dylan Jones**

Dylan earned his bachelor of landscape architecture from Iowa State University in May 2010. He served as an intern for Community Visioning for three years of his academic career and continues to be involved as a professional. Dylan has had several other meaningful work experiences, one in Brooklyn, NY, where he honed his skill in model making and graphic representation. Just over two years into his professional career at Genus Landscape Architects in Des Moines, IA, he continues to be involved with Community Visioning and other projects of various scales, from urban planning to detailed site design.

## **Genevieve and Tim Keller**

Tim and Genevieve Keller work with and advocate for communities as practitioners, authors, and teachers. Tim and Genevieve are founding principals of Land and Community Associates, an award-winning firm that pioneered cultural landscape preservation practice in the United States. Land and Community Associates is nationally recognized for addressing distinct cultural communities, historic landscapes, and transportation corridors and has received numerous state and national recognitions including three Honor and four Merit Awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects. The Kellers have worked throughout the United States providing assistance to National Historic Landmarks such as the Amana Colonies in Iowa; unique island communities such as Hanalei, Hawaii, and Tangier, Virginia; Main Street cities in Virginia and North Carolina; and the National Park Service at numerous parks, historic sites and monuments.

Tim and Genevieve were both Loeb Fellows in Advanced Environmental Design at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University and corecipients of the Public Service Award, the highest award conferred to private citizens from the US Secretary of the Interior for their contributions to the field of historic landscape preservation. As coauthors of National Register publications *How To Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes* and *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Districts* and contributing authors to *Saving America's Countryside: A Guide to Rural Conservation and A Richer Heritage*, *Historic Preservation in the Twenty-First Century*, they have played a major role in articulating and shaping cultural landscape policy, practice, and study in the United States.



## **Samantha Price**

Samantha graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in landscape architecture in 2009. Samantha was first an intern for Community Visioning in 2009 before continuing on with RITLAND+KUIPER Landscape Architects, where she has continued to work with the Community Visioning Program. She is currently working towards completing her licensure and hopes to be a licensed landscape architect within the next year. This year Samantha worked with Craig Ritland in the communities of Shellburg and Ossian.





### **Craig Ritland**

Craig earned his degree in landscape architecture from Iowa State University in 1965 and established Craig Ritland Landscape Architects in 1970 in Waterloo. He is best known for his accomplishments in natural resource and cultural preservation of public lands. Craig was named a Fellow by the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2002. Some of his projects have included the restoration of cold-water streams, the Cedar Valley Lakes and Nature Trail projects, a master plan for George Wyth State Park, and downtown Waterloo River Loop projects. Craig has participated in the Community Visioning Program every year since 1996 and enjoys relating to the rural public and native Iowa landscapes of the communities he serves.



### **Bob Slipka**

Bob earned a bachelor of science in environmental design in 1997 and a bachelor of landscape architecture in 1998 from North Dakota State University. As a licensed landscape architect, his professional experiences include a variety of transportation and downtown enhancement projects, as well as projects that create meaningful environments for play and recreation in communities across Iowa. Since 2009, he has been providing a supporting role in Community Visioning projects at Genus in Des Moines. He continues to be involved with Community Visioning in areas such as facilitation, student intern mentoring, and development support.



### **David Stokes**

David is a landscape architect with 13 years of professional experience providing clients with urban design, landscape design, comprehensive master planning, parks, trails, and greenways planning/design on projects of all sizes throughout the country. David also has professional experience in facilitating public input and stakeholder meetings, cultural/environmental assessments, biological assessment studies and other various GIS related analysis planning projects. Since joining Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company, David has worked extensively on green roof and green infrastructure design, agronomic soils design, subdrainage and storm-water management design, and water resource management for public and private sector clients.

# Trees Forever

## **Meredith Borchardt**

Meredith Borchardt is a field coordinator working with volunteers in northeast Iowa through many different Trees Forever programs, and is a program manager for several community forestry programs. She and her husband and two children live outside of Clarksville. She graduated from Luther College with a double major of biology and religion. She later earned a master's of science degree from Iowa State University in botany, doing a research project on the effects of mowing and fertilization on diversity in a new prairie reconstruction.



## **Dustin Hinrichs**

Dustin Hinrichs works in Trees Forever's main office in Marion, Iowa. His focus area is primarily Linn County and other areas of eastern Iowa. He has a master's degree in political science from Western Illinois University and a bachelor's degree in biology and environmental health from Iowa Wesleyan College. Dustin joined the Community Visioning Team last year and worked with Patty Petersen facilitating in Center Point. This year Dustin facilitated the visioning process in Shellsburg.



## **Jeff Jensen**

Jeff Jensen is Trees Forever's field coordinator for northwest Iowa and program manager for Trees Forever's water quality program, Working Watersheds: Buffers and Beyond. Jeff lives on his family's farm in northern Kossuth County near Fenton and has a passion for agriculture and alternative crops, particularly hazelnuts. Jeff's background also includes work with growers on a range of local foods issues such as food-safety plans, value-added processing, marketing, and business planning. This year, Jeff facilitated the visioning process in Fonda and Gilmore City.





### **Patty Petersen**

Patty Petersen has a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Iowa State University and has been with Trees Forever since 1991, coordinating tree planting events, training volunteers with tree selection, reviewing site plans and facilitating local efforts. Patty has extensive experience with media, especially TV and radio. Before joining Trees Forever, Patty worked as a horticulturist in eastern Iowa for Iowa State University Extension.

### **Mark Pingnot**

Mark has a bachelor of arts in biology and is a certified arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture. A dedicated field coordinator and educator, Mark recently led the development and implementation of the Vinton Shellsburg High School model outdoor classroom project. Mark coordinates the Stewards of the Beautiful Land program, and he enjoys supporting volunteers, and working with farmers and landowners. He is also a Community Tree Steward and has been certified in S130/S190 Wildland Firefighting. According to Mark, "I enjoy all aspects of restoration and management of woodlands, wetlands, prairies and savannas, and environmental education." Mark lives with his wife, Carrie, and two children, outside of Vinton, Iowa.



### **Brad Riphagen**

Brad Riphagen has a bachelor of arts in biology and a master of science in land resources with a focus on prairie restoration and soils. He has been a Trees Forever field coordinator since 1995 and has worked in almost all the program areas, including community tree plantings, Community Visioning, and buffer/watershed work. He has also taken a strong interest in reduction of storm-water runoff, especially in urban areas, through the use of infiltration practices such as rain gardens and bioretention basins. Brad is energized by the interaction with volunteers around the state and especially in southwest Iowa. "The fact that people want to make where they live a better place and that Trees Forever can provide some assistance in their efforts is very gratifying."



## **Shannon Ramsay**

Shannon cofounded Trees Forever in 1989 as a volunteer; today she has more than 20 years of wonderful Trees Forever history. Whether working with staff, board, partners, or volunteers, Shannon strives to create a structure that supports and sustains those involved. Currently the National Chair for the Alliance for Community Trees, Shannon has served on numerous national and local boards. Shannon's undergraduate education is in creative writing and philosophy from the University of Mississippi, with graduate-level work completed on management, fund-raising, and nonprofit management. Shannon enjoys the outdoors, whether hiking, kayaking or gardening. She lives on 45 acres along the Wapsipinicon River in Jones County, Iowa.



## **Carole Teator**

Carole Teator is Trees Forever's program director and also manages the Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning program for the organization. Her duties include leading Trees Forever's nine field coordinators who serve as facilitators for the community visioning process. Carole has master's degrees in both English and community and regional planning from Iowa State University and she has worked for Trees Forever for more than twelve years.

# Iowa DOT

## **Stuart Anderson**

Director, Planning, Programming, and Modal Division, Iowa DOT



## **Troy Siefert**

Director, Planning, Programming, and Modal Division, Iowa DOT



## **Mark Masteller**

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