

Program Overview

The city of Mount Vernon is one of 12 communities selected to participate in the 2011 Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning Program. The program, which selects communities through a competitive application process, provides professional planning and design assistance along transportation corridors to small Iowa communities (populations of fewer than 10,000).

Goals for the Visioning Program include:

- Developing a conceptual plan and implementation strategies with local communities
- Enhancing the natural, cultural and visual resources of communities
- Assisting local communities in using external funds as leverage for transportation corridor enhancement

Each visioning community works through a planning process consisting of four phases of concept development:

1. Program initiation
2. Needs assessment and goal setting,
3. Development of a concept plan
4. Implementation and sustained action

Each visioning community is represented by a steering committee of local residents and stakeholders who take part in a series of meetings that are facilitated by field coordinators from Trees Forever. Iowa State University organizes design interns, and Iowa State University faculty and staff. The program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Community Goals

The Mount Vernon visioning committee identified a number of goals and priority areas during the visioning process.

1. Trail Connectivity and Safety
2. Integrated Signage Plan
3. Unified Transportation System

Capturing the Mount Vernon Vision

Based on the needs and desires of the local residents, as well as a detailed inventory of community resources, the design team developed a conceptual transportation enhancement plan, which is illustrated in the following set of presentation boards:

1. Program Overview
2. Special Places Mapping
3. Bioregional Assessment
4. Regional Context
5. Destinations and Connections
6. Barriers and Other Challenges
7. Preferred Commuting Routes
8. Preferred Walking Routes
9. Preferred Biking Routes
10. Preferred Running Routes
11. Enhancement Priorities
12. Transportation Inventory and Analysis
13. Visual Quality Assessment
14. Concept Plan
15. Comprehensive Trails Plan
16. Regional Comprehensive Trails Plan
17. Lighting Improvements Master Plan
18. Highway 30 Underpass near Nature Park
19. Highway 30 and Highway 1 Roundabout Pedestrian Accommodatons
20. Highway 1 Crossings | 4th Street (sheet 1 of 2)
21. Highway 1 Crossings | 4th Street (sheet 2 of 2)
22. Highway 1 Crossings | 7th Street
23. Residential Street - Widened Sidewalk Concepts
24. Bryant Road and 1st Street Intersection Improvements
25. Nature Park Pedestrian Entrance at 4th Street
26. Prairie Park Trailhead Concept
27. Community Signage



Mount Vernon

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Iowa Department of Transportation Trees Forever ISU Landscape Architecture Extension ISU Extension Community and Economic Development

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