



Community Visioning Program Special Places Mapping Summary, 2011

Introduction

Every community has places that are of special value to its residents. Places may be valued as landmarks, such as historic trees or buildings. Other places may be valued as the site of childhood adventures or universal events. Some places just seem to evolve into local hangouts—a tavern, a diner or even a parking lot. Places may be valued because they are tangible reminders of past residents; they represent a shared history.

“Special places” refers to these places, which often contribute to residents’ perception of home and desire for community investment. By identifying a community’s special places and learning why those places are important, designers gain a better understanding of residents’ values and are able to incorporate those into a meaningful design. The design team conducted mapping interviews with Mount Vernon residents about their special places, and noted comments and locations on an aerial photo. These were then studied to discover themes and consensus among residents about their town. The results are communicated in the thematic maps to follow.

Workshop Date:
March 24, 2011

Number of Participants:
25

Mount Vernon, Iowa

Landscape Architect: Craig Ritland, FASLA, Craig Ritland Landscape Architects