

# Memorandum

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Stormwater Sustainability Committee  
**Date:** October 28, 2015  
**RE:** Water Quality Demonstration Project

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Amy Bouska of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was consulted to help locate potential sites for possible nutrient reduction type storm water treatment projects. A strong candidate for a fundable project was determined to be in the northerly right of way of U.S. Highway 30 in front of 533 through 517 Highway 30 SW.

These are a few of the items that help to make this an attractive candidate for funding:

Compact manageable drainage areas

Relatively flat unobstructed public areas for stormwater treatment

This is a highly visible area. U.S. Highway 30 traffic counts are in the vicinity of 10,000 vehicles per day (VPD). The possible addition of a trail along the northerly ROW adjacent to the proposed bio retention cells would also add to potential viewers from a pedestrian point of view.

The potential stormwater treatment amenities would fit within the long range corridor concept by the construction of the 10' width trail as shown on the regional comprehensive trails plan approved in the visioning process. Also the landscaping of the existing "ditches" would continue to help urbanize a former rural highway section by decreasing the steep sideslopes which make much of this area difficult, dangerous, or not possible to mow.

Although there is no specific budget set forth yet, the application guidelines suggest an asking of less than or equal to a project cost of \$200,000.00 which would include a \$100,000.00 local cost share (50%). An estimated budget will need to be included in the application when it is submitted.

The plan of action would be to complete the application to be included on the agenda for the regular City Council Meeting on November 19, 2015. If the application is approved by a resolution, the application could then be submitted prior to the December 11, 2015 deadline.



## Dan Boggs

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**From:** Bouska, Amy - NRCS-CD, Iowa City, IA [Amy.Bouska@ia.nacdnet.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:11 AM  
**To:** Dan Boggs  
**Subject:** FW: Urban water quality demo projects encouraged to apply for funding

**From:** Vande Hoef, Dustin [mailto:Dustin.VandeHoef@iowaagriculture.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:06 AM  
**To:** dustin.vandehoef@iowaagriculture.gov  
**Subject:** Urban water quality demo projects encouraged to apply for funding

For Immediate Release  
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015

Contact: Dustin Vande Hoef  
515/281-3375 or 515/326-1616 (cell)

### **APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR URBAN WATER QUALITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS**

*Funding available to help install and showcase water quality practices in urban areas*

DES MOINES –Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey today announced that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is requesting pre-applications for projects located in urban areas that are focused on improving water quality.

“We had a great response to our initial round of funding for urban water quality projects and now have nine projects across the state that are working in our towns and cities to help install practices that allow water to infiltrate and not just runoff from our urban areas,” Northey said. “This new round of funding will help us continue to build partnerships and engage all Iowans in helping to protect water quality.”

Municipalities, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), watershed groups and other non-governmental organizations are eligible to submit applications. Projects should focus on conservation measures that capture and infiltrate stormwater and reduce a property's contribution to water quality degradation, runoff and flooding by incorporating practices such as bioretention cells, native landscaping, permeable surfaces and soil quality restoration.

In addition to demonstrating urban conservation practices, projects should include strong outreach/education components to disseminate information on these practices to promote increased awareness and adoption of available practices and technologies for achieving reductions in nutrient loads to surface waters. Successful projects will serve as local and regional hubs for demonstrating practices and providing practice information to homeowners, municipalities, businesses, and local communities.

The maximum three-page pre-application must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2015. Pre-applications selected to submit a full application will be notified by January 5, 2016 and the full applications will be due on February 2, 2016. Projects selected to receive funding will be announced in late February.

Project pre-application guidance can be found on the Department's website at [www.IowaAgriculture.gov](http://www.IowaAgriculture.gov) under “Hot Topics” or can be requested by contacting the Department's Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality at 515-281-5851.

Currently, Nine Urban Conservation Water Quality Initiative Demonstration Projects have been funded and are in the process of implementation. The state has awarded \$655,194 in funding and partners and landowners participating in the projects will provide \$2.43 million to support urban conservation efforts.

Northey created the Urban Conservation program in 2008 and has urban conservationists that work to educate communities, businesses, developers and homeowners about practices that can be used in urban areas to reduce runoff and improve water quality.

#### Background on Iowa Water Quality Initiative

The Iowa Water Quality Initiative was established in 2013 to help implement the Nutrient Reduction Strategy, which is a science and technology based approach to achieving a 45 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus losses to our waters. The strategy brings together both point sources, such as municipal wastewater treatment plants and industrial facilities, and nonpoint sources, including farm fields and urban stormwater runoff, to address these issues.

The initiative seeks to harness the collective ability of both private and public resources and organizations to deliver a clear and consistent message to stakeholders to reduce nutrient loss and improve water quality. State assistance is limited to 50 percent on any practice and must be matched by the farmer, landowner or other source.

Earlier this year Northey announced that 1,800 farmers committed \$3.5 million in cost share funds to install nutrient reduction practices in each of Iowa's 99 counties. The practices that were eligible for this funding are cover crops, no-till or strip till, or using a nitrification inhibitor when applying fall fertilizer. Participants include 980 farmers using a practice for the first time and more than 830 past users that are trying cover crops again and are receiving a reduced-rate of cost share.

In addition to statewide cost share, 16 targeted Water Quality Initiative demonstration watershed projects have been funded to help implement and demonstrate water quality practices. The state has provided \$7.4 million in funding to support these projects and has leveraged an additional \$11.7 million in additional funding from partners and landowners. More than 95 organizations are participating in these projects.

Four projects focused on expanding the use and innovative delivery of water quality practices beyond an individual watershed have also received funding. These projects will receive \$3.06 million in funding through the Iowa water quality initiative over the next three years and be matched by \$2.59 million in funding from other sources. These projects include projects that will focus on expanding the use of cover crops, edge of field practices such as bioreactors and saturated buffers, and usage of water quality wetlands. A second round of funding for these projects has also been announced and applications are currently being accepted.

More information about the initiative can be found at [www.CleanWaterIowa.org](http://www.CleanWaterIowa.org).



**Request for Pre-Applications  
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship**

**Water Quality Initiative  
Urban Conservation Projects**

**Pre-Applications are Due:  
NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2015**

**cleanwater**  
 **IOWA**  
CLEANWATERIOWA.ORG

IDALS is seeking applications for projects that demonstrate strong ties to the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy by focusing on adoption of urban conservation practices that provide nutrient load reductions to water resources in combination with outreach and education components demonstrating how projects will work to support the nonpoint source action items outlined in Section 1 of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy can be viewed at <http://www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu>.

Applicants should demonstrate a proven track record of delivering low-impact development strategies and practices and have established strong partnerships with stakeholders that have or will be contributing significant resources to the project.

Desired outcomes for these projects will include concentrated efforts to demonstrate urban conservation practices paired with strong outreach/education components to disseminate information on these practices to promote increased awareness and adoption of available practices and technologies for achieving reductions in nutrient loads to surface waters. Quarterly, annual, and final reports will be required to document project progress and products as well as to provide aggregate accounting of practice adoption levels. Successful projects will serve as local and regional hubs for demonstrating urban conservation practices and providing practice information to other communities. We look forward to working with applicants for these funds to support demonstration projects across the state.

#### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), counties, county conservation boards, cities or other units of government, not-for-profit non-governmental organizations (NGO's) authorized by the secretary of state, public water supply utilities or watershed management authorities are eligible to submit applications. Applicants must be able to demonstrate legal authority to construct and maintain practices in the intended location prior to submittal of applications. Due to the nature of this program and the emphasis on implementation of urban conservation practices and documentation supportive of the nutrient reduction strategy, *applicants must* collaborate with IDALS's Urban Conservation Program staff. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to partner with stakeholders that will benefit from installation of urban conservation practices and would be able to assist with education and information transfer.

#### **ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

Eligible expenses include:

- Project costs (State funds not to exceed 50% cost) for the design and installation of urban conservation practices that are included in the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual (ISMM) and designed according to the design guidelines of the ISMM.
- \* Other practices (State funds not to exceed 50% cost) included in the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy and designed and implemented according to NRCS standards and specifications.
- Outreach/education components such as field days, publications, signs, and informational meetings.

#### **PROJECT DURATION**

Priority will be given to applications that can demonstrate the ability to rapidly implement the project / practices funded under this RFPA. Funds must be allocated / obligated no later than June 30, 2016 with installation completed no later than June 30, 2017. A high quality project with the possibility of future phases may be eligible for additional funding depending on future funding availability, project quality and project performance. Project funds will be available upon execution of a funding agreement with IDALS (anticipate agreements will be in place on or prior to April 1, 2016). Projects cannot incur reimbursable expenses before the funding agreement is executed.

#### **DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS**

The Primary Grantee will be responsible for submitting payment requests to IDALS. Expense payments will be made on cost reimbursable basis. The Grantee will submit invoices and/or other required documentation to IDALS for the disbursement of funds. An explanation of the process and the required documentation will be provided to the Grantee by IDALS as part of the project agreement process.

#### **FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

The Primary Grantee must include documentation of their ability to provide appropriate fiscal management of the funds requested in the project application. If the group is unable to meet this requirement themselves, they may include documentation of their partnership with an entity that has an appropriate fiscal management structure in place in order to be considered an eligible applicant.

### **PRE-APPLICATION DETAILS**

Pre-applications must be submitted following the format and page limits provided. Maps and letters of support will not count against stated page limits. Letters of support are not required as part of the pre-application but an indication of primary partners and their roles/contribution to the project should be provided. Letters of support documenting partner's roles/contributions will be required if a full application is requested.

Potential applicants must schedule a meeting with an IDALS Urban Conservationist to help formulate strong projects and pre-applications. Pre-applications will be reviewed by IDALS, and applicants that will be requested to submit full applications will be notified by January 5, 2016. Pre-applications must be submitted to be considered for full-application submittal.

### **FULL-APPLICATION DETAILS**

Full-applications will be requested by a select number of pre-applications based on an internal review by IDALS. Applicants requested to provide full applications to IDALS will be notified by January 5, 2016 and full applications expected to be due by February 2, 2016. Additional guidance on developing a full proposal will accompany notification to applicants by IDALS on January 5, 2016.

The projected timeline for the complete application process is detailed below:

- Pre-applications open: October 13, 2015
- Pre-applications due: December 11, 2015
- Selected pre-applications notified: January 5, 2016
- Full-applications due: February 2, 2016
- Selected full-applications notified: February 23, 2016
- Anticipated project start date: April 1, 2016

### **PRE-APPLICATION REVIEW & SELECTION**

Pre-applications will be reviewed by IDALS. Notification by IDALS of request to submit full applications will be done by January 5, 2016. Selected applicants will have the opportunity to meet with a representative(s) of IDALS at a mutually agreed upon time and location to discuss the pre- and full-application prior to the full-application due date of February 2, 2016.

#### **Pre-Application Evaluation Factors (points in parentheses- 100 points possible)**

- Demonstrated ability to implement the project /practices in an efficient manner; readiness to proceed quickly upon project approval (20)
- Project reduces nutrient loading to a water resource of high value to a large population of users (10)
- Demonstrated strong partnerships and landowner willingness/participation levels (10)
- Demonstrated linkages providing benefits to both urban and rural populations in the watershed (10)
- Demonstrated ability to reduce nutrient loading to Iowa surface waters (10)
- Collaborative outreach/education efforts to increase practice adoption and disseminate information broadly (10)
- Identified financial and in-kind support available from project partners as matching funds/resources (10)
- Project evaluation: Are the expected outcomes measurable, and is the evaluation plan suitable for measuring the outcomes? (10)
- Targeting of most effective practices to areas providing most benefit (10)

### **PRE-APPLICATION ASSISTANCE**

For assistance with pre-applications contact the Regional Urban Conservationist for your area or the Urban Conservation Program Coordinator:

Wayne Petersen, Urban Conservation Program Coordinator  
515-281-5833 (office) or 319-430-7480 (mobile) or [Wayne.petersen@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Wayne.petersen@iowaagriculture.gov)

- Western Iowa
  - Derek Namanny – 712-336-3782 x 3 or [Derek.Namanny@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:Derek.Namanny@ia.nacdnet.net)

- Eastern Iowa
  - Amy Bouska – 319-337-2322 x 3 [Amy.Bouska@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:Amy.Bouska@ia.nacdnet.net)
- Central Iowa
  - Jennifer Welch – 515-964-1883 x 3 or [Jennifer.Welch@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:Jennifer.Welch@ia.nacdnet.net)

For additional assistance, please contact the following IDALS Water Quality Initiative staff:

Matthew Lechtenberg, Water Quality Initiative Coordinator  
515-281-3857 or [Matthew.lechtenberg@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Matthew.lechtenberg@iowaagriculture.gov)

Will Myers, Water Quality Initiative Projects Coordinator  
515-725-1037 or [Will.myers@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Will.myers@iowaagriculture.gov)

#### SPECIAL NOTES

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Distribution of pre-applications is limited to people involved in the review process, but note that all pre-applications and subsequent reports and related information are in the public domain. All reports related to funded projects will be made available to all interested parties in printed, electronic, or other means of communication, without discrimination.

Names, addresses and telephone numbers of Project Coordinators (from funded projects) may be provided to interested news entities, potential project participants, or organizations for subsequent inquiries. Applications are used in the peer review process and submission of an application establishes consent by the author for appropriate distribution to fulfill review requirements.

Selected applicants of pre-applications will be requested to provide a full-application for consideration of funding. Full-applications approved for funding will be required to enter into a project agreement with IDALS. Sponsors of approved projects will be required to submit quarterly, annual, and final project reports utilizing forms and guidance provided by IDALS.

#### PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING PRE-APPLICATIONS

Submit one electronic copy of your project application to IDALS. Arrival date and time of the electronic copy will be used to determine whether an application has been submitted on time. Pre-applications must be received by 4:30 PM on December 11, 2015.

Applications will be accepted by either of the following methods:

1. Submit the electronic copy of the pre-application on some type of magnetic storage medium (CD, Flash drive, etc.) and deliver it to the address below:

*Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality  
c/o Tarrita Spicer  
502 East 9th Street  
Des Moines IA 50319*

2. Submit the electronic file containing your application in an attachment by e-mail addressed to [Tarrita.spicer@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Tarrita.spicer@iowaagriculture.gov). The file size limit for submission of applications by e-mail is 10MB in size. Hard copies of the pre-application will not be accepted without an electronic copy. If you need assistance submitting your pre-application, please contact Tarrita Spicer at 515-281-5851 or [Tarrita.spicer@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:Tarrita.spicer@iowaagriculture.gov).

**WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE  
 TARGETED DEMONSTRATION WATERSHED PROJECTS  
 PRE-APPLICATION FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE**

Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship

**Proposal Cover Sheet: (1 page maximum)**

Provide the following information on the Proposal Cover Sheet. Additionally, include the signature of the District Chairperson (if applicable) authorizing submission of the proposal.

1. Project Title:

Applicant Entity:

Contact Person:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

2. List the name, location, and the importance of the surface water that will be benefit by this project:

3. Include a listing of project partners at the time of pre-application:

4. Provide a total budget summary, utilizing the format shown here:

	IDALS Request	Applicant Contributions	Partner Contributions	Total Budget
April 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016				
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017				
Overall				

**Pre-Proposal Narrative: (2 page maximum)**

Provide a brief narrative on the following items:

- Describe the primary components/practices that will be installed by this project.
- Describe the primary anticipated benefits from each partner and benefits to urban and rural populations in the watershed.
- If there will be other / future phases of this project or if the things that would be funded by this application are part of a larger scale project, describe the larger project and how this application fits in or compliments other aspects of a larger project.
- Describe how the project will be evaluated to determine if anticipated benefits are realized.
- Describe the education/information program that will be developed as part of the project and anticipated budget.

Provide a description of each practice utilizing the format shown here (Table will not count towards the two-page maximum):

<b>Practice #1:</b> (provide name and description of practice)	<b>IDALS:</b> (IDALS budget contribution to practice)
	<b>TOTAL:</b> (Applicant and partner budget contributions to practice)
<b>Practice Details:</b> (provide a general description of the location, design status, permits required, and current permit status)	
<b>Practice #2:</b> (provide name and description of practice)	<b>IDALS:</b> (IDALS budget contribution to practice)
	<b>TOTAL:</b> (Applicant and partner budget contributions to practice)
<b>Practice Details:</b> (provide a general description of the location, design status, permits required, and current permit status)	
<b>Practice #3:</b> (provide name and description of practice)	<b>IDALS:</b> (IDALS budget contribution to practice)
	<b>TOTAL:</b> (Applicant and partner budget contributions to practice)
<b>Practice Details:</b> (provide a general description of the location, design status, permits required, and current permit status)	

## Rainscaping Practices

There are many Rainscaping practices to choose from. Install the practices that suit you and your conditions best to capture rain, reduce runoff and improve water quality in low!



### Rain Garden

A rain garden is a landscaped depression that captures rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces, such as roofs or driveways. Runoff collected in a rain garden is temporarily ponded before seeping down through the soil. Installing a rain garden helps restore a landscape's ability to manage water more sustainably.



### Bioretention Cell

On the surface a bioretention cell looks very similar to a rain garden. While a rain garden relies on soils with good percolation rates, a bioretention cell can be used in areas where the soils are more poorly drained. Bioretention cells rely on a rock chamber, modified soil, and perforated tile subdrain to infiltrate and filter water.



### Bioswale

A bioswale is a multi-purpose stormwater management practice that provides an alternative to storm sewers. By using a permeable soil bed and perforated subdrain tile, bioswales infiltrate water from frequent small rains. During heavy rains, bioswales convey runoff in a non-erosive manner over its vegetated surface. Bioswales can feature native grass and flowers or turf grass.





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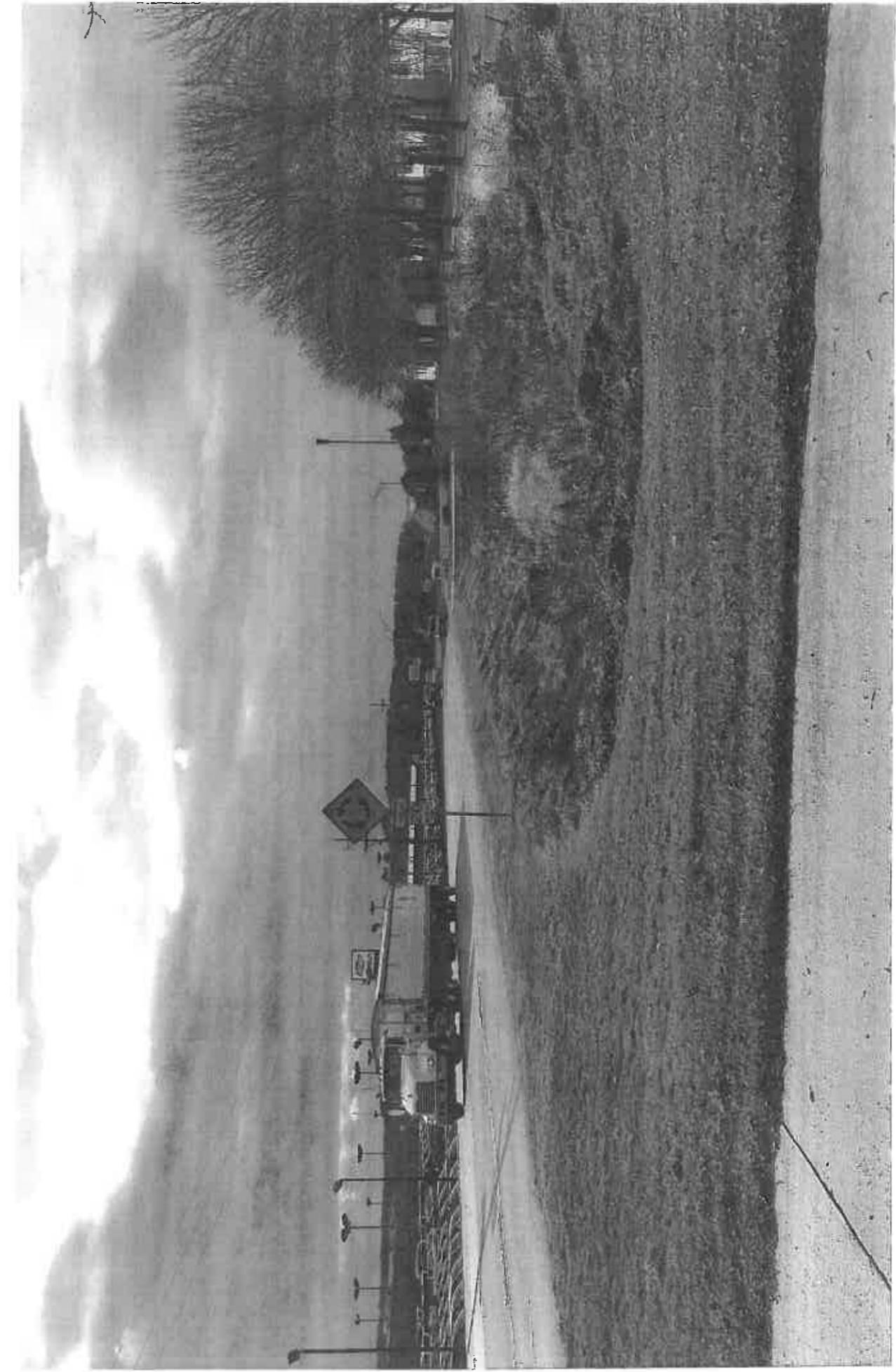




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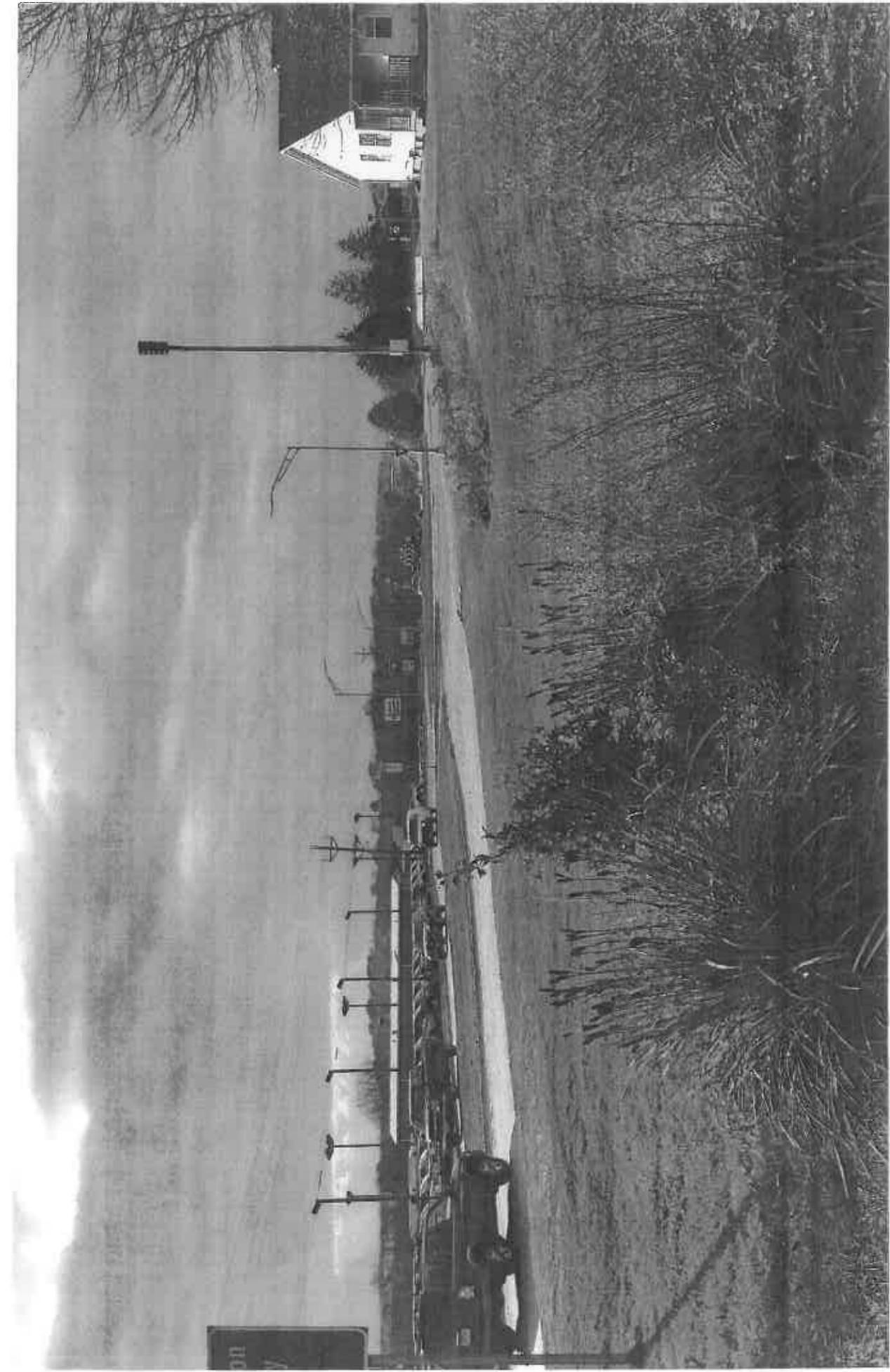
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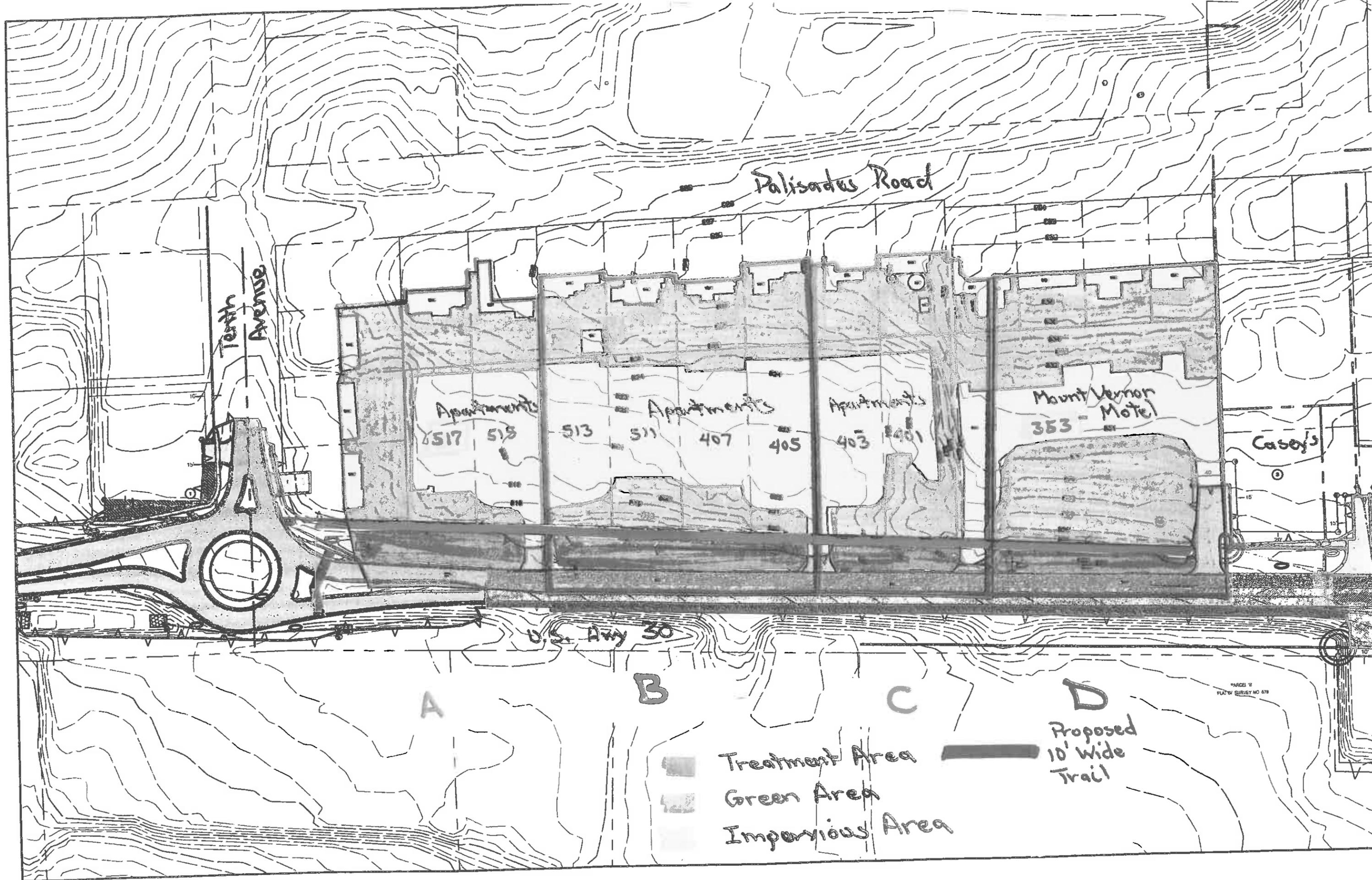
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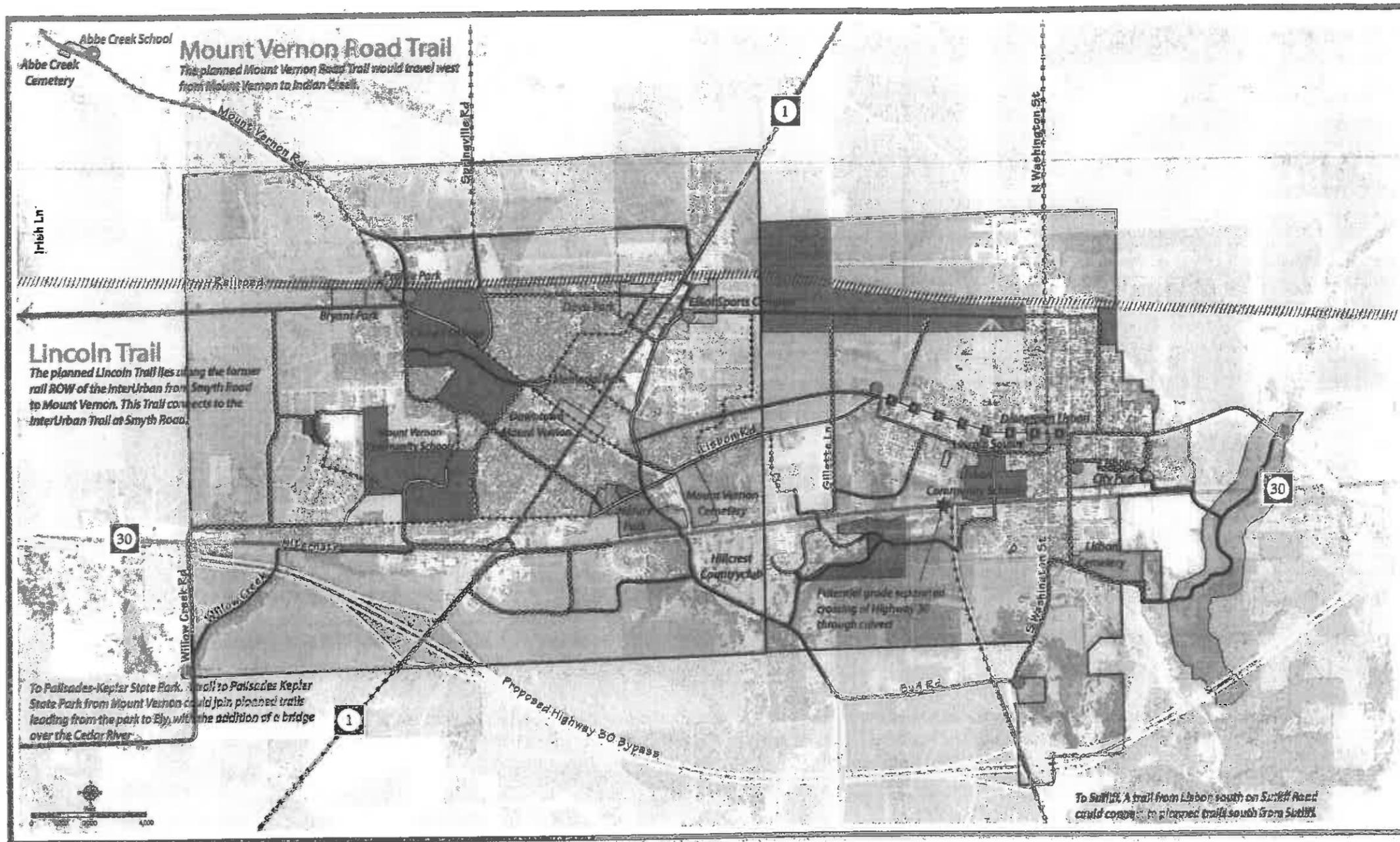


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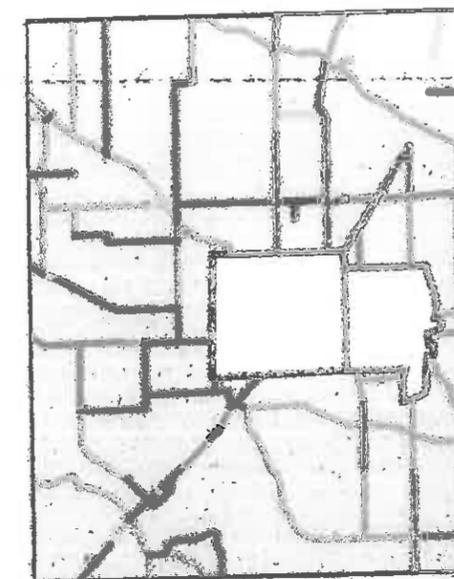








Linn County  
BLOS



Above: Excerpt from East Central Iowa Council of Governments 2011 Trails Plan. Notice majority of primary county roads exiting the community are given a Bicycle Level of Service grade of A or B, which is excellent to good bicycle environment. A full version of the trails plan can be viewed at: (<http://www.eciog.org/>).

### LEGEND

- Trailheads
- Old Lincoln Highway
- Planned Future Road
- Existing Trails
- LOS 1: Grade Separated Concrete Trail
- LOS 2: Bike Lanes, Standard Sidewalks
- LOS 3: Widened Sidewalks, Shared-Use Road
- LOS 4: Standard Sidewalks, Shared-Use Road
- LOS 5: Widened Shoulders, Shared-Use Road
- Schools
- Civic/Community Destinations
- Existing Parks and Green Spaces
- Proposed Future Parks and Green Spaces

# Mount Vernon

## Regional Comprehensive Trails Plan

Landscape Architect: Loren Hoffman, ASLA, Hall and Hall Engineers, Inc.

LA Intern: Nicholas Gulick and Robin Hamadani, ISU Landscape Architecture Extension

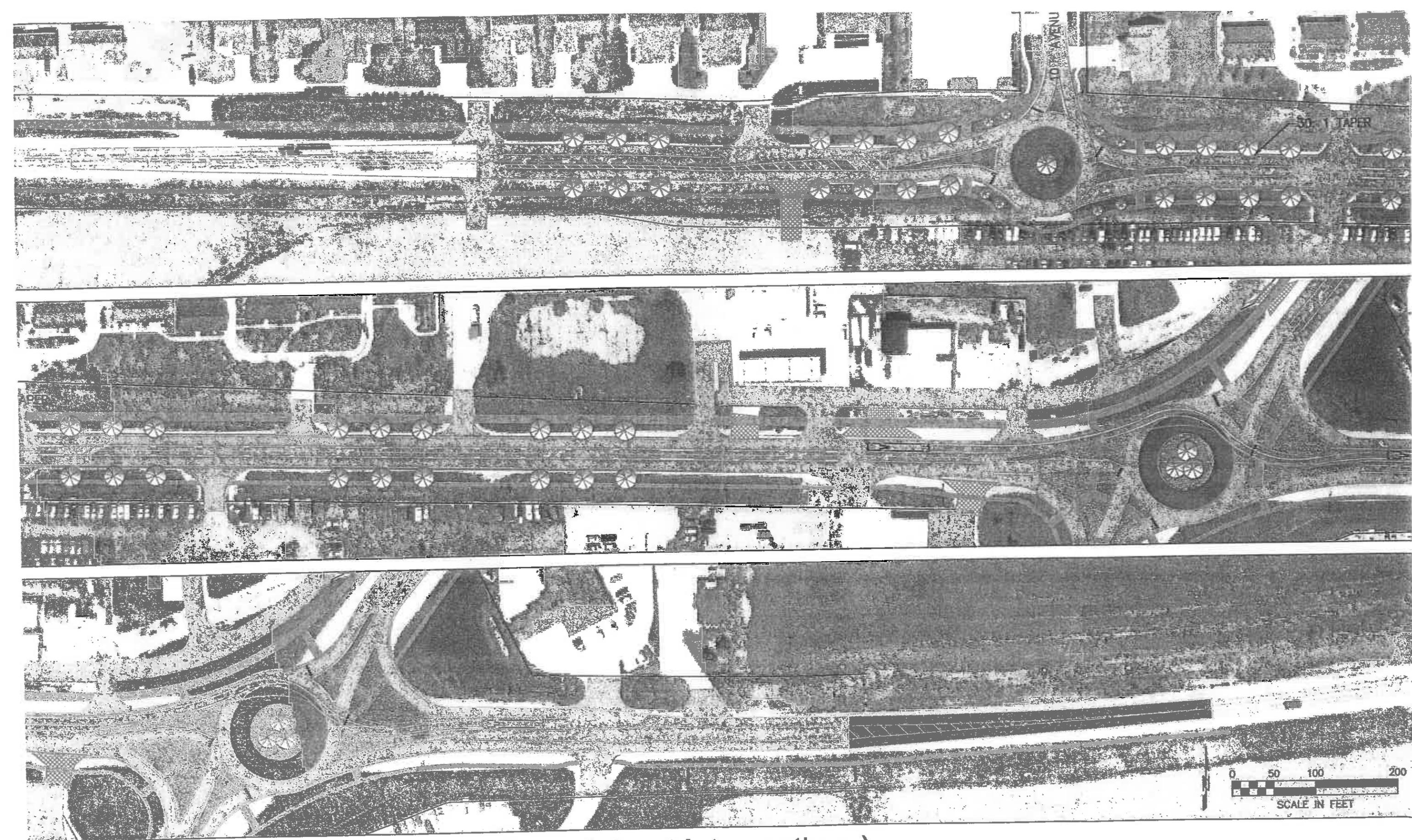
Iowa Department of Transportation    Trees Forever    ISU Landscape Architecture Extension

ISU Extension Community and Economic Development

IOWA'S  
LIVING  
ROADWAYS

Summer 2011





**Alternative 2: Urban Three-Lane (Roundabout Intersections)**  
(Interim and Ultimate Plan)

