

The Built Environment Work Group teleconferenced on Feb 13, 2008 at 10 am. Present: Wiemerslage, Erdman, Edwards, Ranum, Mansfield, Rodenberg, Englehardt and Nordschow.

The purpose of this working group will be to review and gather data around "the inviting options and spaces for physical activity" in our region. The domains the WKKF is asking us to consider in our review include: 1) Schools 2) Parks and Recreation, 3) Active Transportation and 4) Community Design/Land Use.

Before we can start looking at policies and strategies to integrate into the Action Plan, we need to learn more about what information is out there about our area. This process will take place in 3 steps.

1. Collect information about the area, resources and infrastructure.
2. Decide the best way to map or organize the information (maps, web maps, tables, graphs)
3. Use the information to develop strategies for the initiative.

The WKKF does not expect our region to create and conduct new assessments at this date in time, only assist in gathering existing data. ***This data will help inform the Regional Team on the current reality for our fitness environment and where effective strategies lie for our region to increase access to safe and inviting activity options and spaces for physical activity.***

Experts you could consult with in the future include Rich Bell (WKKF TAP Team member for our built environment), Chris Seeger (ISU Extension Landscape Architect & Asst. Professor), and Katherine McCarville (Upper Iowa University Asst. Professor of Geosciences), Loren Toussaint (Luther). Anticipated timeline for this task is between February 2008 - late June 2008.

1) Schools – building, grounds, curricula procedures and norms, as well as accessibility of schools and the quality of routes to and from school

The Safe Routes to Schools grant will be able to help with this. We need a list of schools (districts and buildings) in the 5 counties. We'll check with Lora. This info may also be useful for the Active Transportation piece. The SETA site also has info. Info should be collected by county planning groups with # of students, buildings, etc. Would be nice to know where actual facilities are. Include information on low-income and underserved.

School Info

- How do kids get to school?
- building hours
- grades in each school
- public use policy
- playground quality and status
- kids eligible for free/reduced lunch

School Playgrounds - In some communities the playgrounds are at the school. What are some ways to collect this information? The work group talked about creating a form to send with Regional Team members to the county meetings. Ann and Cindy could also collect information with the school site visits. Photos would be helpful.

2) Parks and Recreation (Section 3 of handout)

- 1. PLACES = Accessibility and quality of parks, playgrounds, trails and natural open space, Indoor recreation centers, gyms, pools**
- 2. PROGRAMS = programs that encourage people to use them.**

What type of data is out there on PLACES?

- Decorah has maps of parks and public areas
- County Conservation boards have county maps
- Iowa DNR website - county & state properties... Re playgrounds - specific amenities do not exist yet (this could be a new overlay) Can we get city parks on a map. www.iowadnr.com - We used this page for the NIFF - it's a visual but not a lot of detail.
- Carver Trust grant program for Clayton & Fayette - 5 playgrounds added where there wasn't a school. Playground ID and assessments would be good to take this back to the county - great for them to do.
- List of communities in each county (from www.iowa.org/communities)

<u>Allamakee</u>	<u>Clayton</u>	<u>Fayette</u>	<u>Howard</u>	<u>Winneshiek</u>
Dorchester	Clayton	Arlington	Chester	Calmar
Harpers Ferry	Edgewood	Clermont	Cresco	Castalia
Lansing	Elkader	Donnan	Elma	Decorah
New Albin	Elkport	Elgin	Lime Springs	Fort Atkinson
Postville	Farmersburg	Fayette	Protivin	Jackson Junction
Waterville	Garber	Hawkeye	Riceville	Ossian
Waukon	Garnavillo	Maynard		Ridgeway
	Guttenberg	Oelwein		Spillville
	Littleport	Randalia		
	Luana	St. Lucas		
	Marquette	Wadena		
	McGregor	Waucoma		
	Millville	Westgate		
	Monona	West Union		
	North Buena Vista			
	Osterdock			
	St. Olaf			
	Strawberry Point			
	Volga			

Teresa will look @ the playground assessment that Howard Co. used to develop a simple assessment. We need to ask each community if they have maps. We need to ask the "age" or rating of the quality of the playground. The assessment should also have examples of the types of places/programs that we are looking to capture.

Contact people need to be identified for each community. The Conservation Boards will be able to help with the rural areas. These contacts will be identified at the Feb county planning team meetings. This is

a way to promote your community. This is what your amenities are. Ex. Volga and the playground that is in place after the flood.

We also need to inventory the trail facilities. Fayette is currently working with Kata M. (Upper Iowa U) working to develop a map of existing trails. Maybe we ask and see if we can do that in the other counties. Clayton has an older map of existing trails and proposed trail routes. Winn - have some mapping, not all in one place.

We may be able to use some of the Regional Team Assessment funds to pay for someone or an agency or county to pull this information together for us. RC&D might be entity to pull together a discussion on all of the mapping and see what all has been done. Co. Engineer offices may be sources of info.

Once we know what exists...how do we know if people are using it? Park & Rec programming might know usage for programs. We may have to do some sampling for the built environment.

PART 2: What type of data is out there on PROGRAMS?

- Contact the city clerk to gather most of the activities that would fall under "Park & Rec"
- Volunteers from Co. teams to gather info to include church programs, other civic groups that sponsor activities, etc. Tim would follow-up with the county conservation boards to get a list of programs.
- Each of the Ec. Dev. Coordinators will have information as well.

3) Active Transportation – physical arrangements and facilities that support walking, biking, public transit, and other active means of transportation

Work group members should review the section and mark the areas that apply to NE IA. Note reasons for why some of this information may not apply.

4) Community Design/Land Use – how the layout of the community and the quality of places affects the accessibility and use of key destinations and opportunities for physical activity.

We need to ask if communities have comprehensive planning documents.

NEXT STEPS: Regional Team mtg. on Feb 27 – there will be time for the work groups to continue to work on gathering information. We will examine the questions related to Active Transportation and Community Design to see what fits/applies to our area. Many of the questions in the Assessment Tool are geared toward urban settings. We need to be prepared with answers on why particular questions did not apply to NE IA.

The March County Planning Team meetings will be a good opportunity to let people know what we'd like to collect and how they can help. The assessment and data example will be ready to present by then.