



*Downtown streetscape in Washington.*

## What is Community Visioning?

Community Visioning engages community leaders and volunteers in a multi-meeting process to develop solution-based conceptual landscape plans for the community's transportation system.

## Who is eligible to apply?

Iowa communities with populations of 10,000 or fewer are eligible to apply to the Community Visioning program.

## What support is provided?

- Expert facilitation of community meetings by Trees Forever
- Access to Iowa State University research capabilities
- Access to leading landscape design and planning firms
- Guidance on implementation

## What is my community's commitment?

Communities selected to participate in Community Visioning agree to form a steering committee that represents the community, including a local government partner. Members of this committee are required to attend a day-long workshop at the beginning of the process and an annual meeting at the end.

## Want to Know More?

Find Program Information and Application Materials at:  
[www.communityvisioning.org](http://www.communityvisioning.org)

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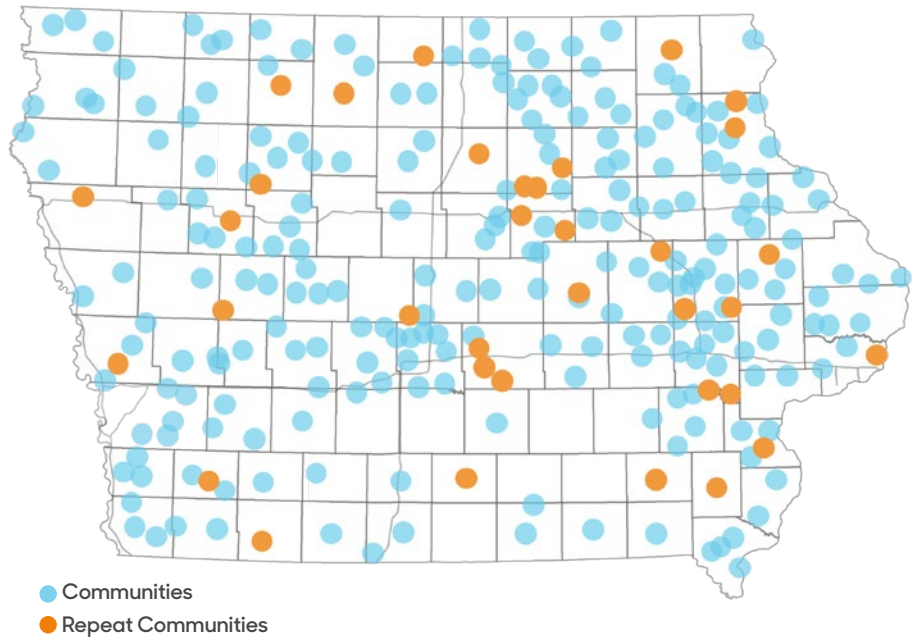
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# More Than 250 Communities & Counting!

Since 1996, the Community Visioning program has assisted more than 250 Iowa communities throughout the state, ranging in size from towns of fewer than 100 residents to cities with close to 9,000 people. Of these communities, approximately three dozen have gone through the process more than once.

The dedicated leaders and volunteers from these communities have come together to create accessible sidewalks, trails, bridges, roadside parks, and more. In this report, you'll see the diversity of projects created with assistance from Trees Forever field coordinators; private-sector landscape architects; and ISU faculty, staff, and students. These have forever changed the landscape of Iowa!



## Examples of What Our Communities Have Done



Built entirely by volunteers, **Beautiful Plaines Prairie Park**, located along the Iowa Valley Scenic Byway (Highway 21) is a signature project of Belle Plaine's visioning process.

The most prominent feature in Woodbine is the iconic grain elevator, which was in danger of demolition. Through visioning, the local committee decided to pursue installing **public art on the elevator** and using the visioning concept plan, successfully funded and completed the project. A second major project—the **US 30 bridge over the Boyer River**—was completed by the Iowa DOT, which agreed to incorporate some of the visioning concepts into the bridge design.

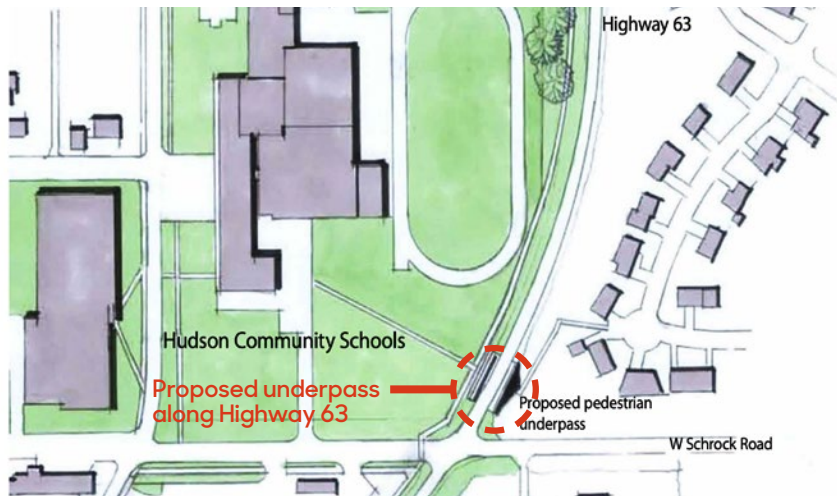


Belle Plaine



Woodbine





Highways 63 and 58 geographically divide the town of Hudson, interrupting the safe flow of pedestrians and bicycles. In particular, youth had to cross Highway 63 either to get to school or to reach the sports fields. To address pedestrian/cyclist connectivity and safety issues, the visioning design team proposed extending the existing trail and constructing an **underpass on Highway 63** to provide a safe route to school. Through grants and local fundraising, the visioning committee was able to fund the more than \$1 million project.



The Monona visioning committee partnered with residents and high school students to design and produce **downtown street banners** that reflect how Monona residents feel about their town, schools, and the surrounding rural area. The downtown streetscape is just one of a number of large-scale projects Monona has completed, which include a trail extension, ADA-accessible restrooms in both City Park and Gateway Park, new trailheads, an ADA-accessible playground in Gateway Park, way-finding signage, and the restoration of the historic bandstand in City Park.



Mapleton's **Carhart Recreation Area and Arthur Carhart Trail** addressed the community's desire to provide outdoor recreation opportunities to residents. The projects received nearly \$150,000 in funding from the REAP program.



**ILR Community Visioning Program**

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[www.communityvisioning.org](http://www.communityvisioning.org)

Highway 30 pedestrian crossing in Glidden  
(Photo by Larry Devine, Carroll Times Herald).



98%

About 98% of visioning communities complete at least one project.

50%

Nearly 50% of visioning communities complete four or more projects.

75%

Nearly 75% of communities funded projects through local volunteers.

85%

Nearly 85% of visioning steering committees are still active in some way.

63%

Representatives from 63% of the communities reported that the program had a positive impact on their town.