

Iowa's Living Roadways Accomplishments



Thank you, Mark Masteller

After two decades of dedication to Iowa's Roadways, Mark Masteller, the chief landscape architect of the Iowa Department of Transportation, is retiring. Mark is responsible for helping the Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa State University and Trees Forever create *Community Visioning* and the Iowa's Living Roadways programs as well as providing solid guidance and direction. In this photo, Trees Forever Board Chair Brad Morgan (left) and Trees Forever CEO and Founding President Shannon Ramsay (right) recognized Mark (middle) with a 2017 Trees Forever President's Award for his dedication to the Trees Forever mission.



Thank you, Mark, for your long-term effort! You've made a huge difference in communities across Iowa.



Givers, Makers & Stewards

Iowa's Living Roadways Celebration

2017 Annual Report



Inside:

- **Givers:** the people who donate their time, talents and treasures for the greater good.
- **Makers:** the folks who coordinate, put their words and dreams into action and "make it happen!"
- **Stewards:** the individuals who maintain the infrastructure, native plants and trees; the people who apply for more grants to keep the project growing and keep the dream alive.

Celebrating Givers, Makers and Stewards

For more than 20 years, Trees Forever, Iowa State University and the Department of Transportation have helped Iowa communities create new visions for their towns through Iowa's Living Roadways.

- *Community Visioning* leads participating communities through the initial planning and design stages.
- Iowa's Living Roadways *Projects* works with communities to plant native plants and trees along their roads and trails.
- Iowa's Living Roadways *Trails* Visioning assists trail groups and communities enhancing their trail system by adding safety improvements and planting trees and native prairie.
- The Iowa DOT's Living Roadway Trust Fund provides hundreds of classes, workshops, presentations and educational materials to Iowans of all ages.

“We're constructing green infrastructure for the future by using trees and native plants as our building blocks.”

– Shannon Ramsay, Trees Forever CEO and Founding President



A Standing Ovation to Ossian

The hard work of the Ossian *Community Visioning* group has paid off! Through *Community Visioning*, the committee improved Carey's Park by creating the Education & Performance Pavilion, removing some dated park features and improving the walkability of the park. They undertook a massive earthworks project to level the terrain and make the area more useable for park-goers. The committee discovered a community treasure in Reilly Construction, who donated their time and resources to construct the pavilion. Now everyone's accomplishments can be celebrated through stage performances for generations to come!



Happier Trails in Manning

Manning's vision has become a reality already thanks to many givers, makers and stewards in the community! This driven community went through *Community Visioning* twice to get a very clear focus on what they wanted to see in their town. Community entryway signage, Main Street renovations, plantings throughout the community, Trestle Park development, pedestrian bridge construction and community art projects are the tangible products of Manning's efforts. The Manning *Community Visioning* group has been very dedicated to developing and completing the trail system that connects local parks. As 2017 participants of *Trails Visioning*, they now have a plan in place to make those trails more safe and useful than ever!



Changing the Game in Bondurant

“With the momentum building, the Bondurant Community Foundation was formed because people within the town wanted to give and needed a place to make sure their donation was used to the fullest.”

– Ted Bzdega, Bondurant Community Visioning Committee Member



A game changer – that's how members of Bondurant's *Community Visioning* committee feel about participating in the Community Visioning process. *Community Visioning* helped Bondurant pull together many different community initiatives and provide a new focus. An existing and exciting community entryway project called “Porch Swings and Fireflies” melded with the various projects formulated during *Community Visioning*. Bondurant was named an Iowa Great Place in 2017 by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. And, Bondurant's not slowing down – next on the list is a community greenway and trail project. Giving back to the community, making projects happen, and stewarding existing resources is just the way of life in Bondurant.

Educating Community

Each year, Trees Forever and the Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund partner to teach how native prairie grasses, flowers, trees and shrubs along road and trail rights-of-way provide improved water quality, erosion control, living snow fences, and pollinator and wildlife habitat. Community betterment groups, youth and school organizations, service clubs, roadside maintenance professional organizations and many more benefit from this training. Together we are spreading the important message about native plant use, pollinator and wildlife habitat and the positive impact of integrated roadside vegetation management practices.



Muscatine Cub Scouts measure the circumference of a large, old white oak while learning to identify trees.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the most recent Community Visioning graduates and newest participants.

