



Iowa's Living Roadways Trails Visioning

Providing professional planning and design assistance to Iowa trails

Trails are key components of an inclusive and accessible community transportation system. Trails Visioning is a planning process that works with a local volunteer committee to identify a trail's attributes and opportunities for improvement. Trees Forever staff facilitate this multi-meeting planning process that results in community determined project areas and proposed enhancements to those project areas. As a result of participating in this program, trail groups across the state have succeeded in completing trail projects from this conceptual stage into fully implemented trail improvements.



Types of Projects

There is no restriction on the length of trail eligible for Trails Visioning. For trail systems of great length and/or complexity, you may propose to focus on a specific aspect of the trail, such as trailheads, way-finding signage, or introducing native plants along a trail corridor and/or addressing invasive plant species. Or you can identify a representative segment of the trail and address a degree of all these issues.

This planning process can address the following types of projects:

- Trailhead planning, design and improvements
- Protection/enhancement of natural areas adjacent to trail
- Safety and comfort of trail users
- Directional signage
- Stormwater management methods

Who can apply?

Any group who is invested in the conditions and use of a trail can be the lead group for an application (e.g., Friends of the Trail, a Park Board, a local Trees Forever group).

What is the local commitment?

A steering committee must be identified for the project and must represent the local community. Preference will be given to steering committees that include a rich cross-section of community members. Steering Committee members must commit to the following:

- participate in all eight Trails Visioning meetings and to recruit others to participate when appropriate.
- work with the Trees Forever facilitator to advertise meetings and major accomplishments in the process.
- pursue project implementation upon conclusion of the Trails Visioning process.
- celebrate successes with Trees Forever and program partners by attending the annual program celebration in the fall of each year and through ongoing communication.

How long does the Trails Visioning process take?

The Trails Visioning process covers three phases of the planning process: assessment, design and implementation planning. These phases are addressed in a series of meetings that take place over approximately six months.

What products does the steering committee receive at the end of the planning process?

The Trees Forever designer will produce several display boards that will include concept plans and drawings of what the trail could look like when the projects are completed. The steering committee will receive copies of these display boards, along with a narrative report. The Trees Forever facilitator will record and provide minutes of the Trails Visioning meetings and will assist the committee to plan how they can accomplish the projects envisioned.



Sponsors and partners for the Iowa's Living Roadways Trails Visioning program are:



Application Form:

Date: _____

1. Applicant Information

Community/County: _____

Organization/Committee Name: _____

2. Steering Committee

Confirm the Trails Visioning committee: Be sure to include people from the various community sectors and who have agreed to serve on the initial steering committee should your trail be chosen to participate. We recommend at least 8 members who represent a cross-section of the community. NOTE: information about a committee members' ability to participate in video conferencing is for planning purposes only and will not factor into a community's selection.

Primary Contact Person: _____ Occupation/Title: _____

Address: _____ Please check one: Work Home

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Please check one: Home Mobile Work

Does this person have the ability to participate in video conferencing (e.g. Zoom, GoTo Meeting)? Yes No

Skills, talents, history, connection/affiliations they bring to the committee. Connection to the trail.

Trail Manager Contact: _____ Occupation/Title: _____

Address: _____ Please check one: Work Home

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Please check one: Home Mobile Work

Does this person have the ability to participate in video conferencing (e.g. Zoom, GoTo Meeting)? Yes No

Skills, talents, history, connection/affiliations they bring to the committee. Connection to the trail.

Committee Member: _____ Occupation/Title: _____

Address: _____ Please check one: Work Home

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Please check one: Home Mobile Work

Does this person have the ability to participate in video conferencing (e.g. Zoom, GoTo Meeting)? Yes No

Skills, talents, history, connection/affiliations they bring to the committee. Connection to the trail.

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Skills, talents, history, connection/affiliations they bring to the committee. Connection to the trail.

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Skills, talents, history, connection/affiliations they bring to the committee. Connection to the trail.

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____
Primary Phone: _____ Please check one: Home Mobile Work
Does this person have the ability to participate in video conferencing (e.g. Zoom, GoTo Meeting)? Yes No
Skills, talents, history, connection/affiliations they bring to the committee. Connection to the trail.

3. Community Representation

Describe how the steering committee represents a cross section of the community and trail users (both current and desired). Also describe how the committee will help contact other community members and/or stakeholders to participate in the process and how local government partners will be informed and invited to participate.

4. Goals and Motives - Please explain what has motivated you to apply for Trails Visioning and what you hope to achieve through the Trails Visioning process.

5. Trail Description. Please describe the trail, including the following:

Length: _____ City or Cities: _____

Type of trail (rail trail, city trail, spur): _____

Estimated average number of users per year: _____

Location of major trailheads: _____

Trail surface: _____

Primary uses: _____

Destinations accessible by trail _____

Existing condition of the trail including vegetation, signage, landmarks, points of interest, etc.

Areas of concern:

6. Please include an aerial image of the trail section you wish to address and indicate where the areas of interest and/or concern are located. You may also submit photographs (no more than 6) of the areas identified on the map.

7. Support Letter(s). Attach a letter of support from the local trail manager and up to three other key trail supporters.

Statement of Assurances and Agreement

To the best of my knowledge and belief, members of the steering committee are committed to fulfill their responsibilities as participants in the Trails Visioning process. This application has been duly authorized by the trail management unit with jurisdiction over the trail with full understanding of the program requirements.

Signature of Contact Person: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Trail Manager: _____ Date: _____

Due Date: October 15, 2020

Please print, sign, and mail application to:

Deb Roman, Trees Forever, 80 West 8th Avenue, Marion, Iowa 52302
800-369-1269 Ext.110 • DRoman@treesforever.org