



November/December 2018 Project Highlights



Photos taken at Ada Havden Park by Kevin Kaine

Planning & Housing

Planning:

- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the midst of **updating the Story County Flood Insurance study** to include 2008 topographic data. The Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Study were released to the City on November 15. City staff will review them for non-technical corrections (city boundaries, street names, and stream and river names) and provide comments to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA will schedule a community coordination meeting to update city staff on the process of adoption and answer any questions about the updated flood hazard maps. The new maps should be ready for adoption by the City within 12-14 months.
- Campustown follow up on issues regarding a **potential plaza along Chamberlain Street** and relationships to traffic circulation and parking will be reviewed by the City Council on December 11th. These issues are in response to City Council's request for more information at the July City Council workshop concerning visioning for Campustown.

- There will be a **kick-off meeting for the new Comprehensive Plan update of the Land Use Policy Plan (LUPP)** as part of the December 18, 2018 City Council meeting. City Council will meet with staff and the City's consultant, RDG, to discuss preliminary interests for the new Comprehensive Plan. Public outreach efforts will begin in January and February to solicit public feedback on issues related to planning for the community through 2040.

Housing & Community Development:

- Construction of the **Tripp Street Extension** at 321 State Avenue is 95% complete, and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2018 to celebrate the accomplishment.
- Staff is gearing up to initiate the process of developing the **2019-2023 CDBG Five-Year Consolidated Plan**. The plan is due to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by May 17, 2019. This process will include a public forum interactive workshop with City Council and the public on December 4. The forum will provide an opportunity for the City Council and the public to identify potential housing and community development priorities and goals for the next five-year plan.
- Staff will also be starting an update to the City's 2013-14 **Fair Housing Analysis of Impediments Study**. The purpose of the Study is to help communities determine what goals need to be addressed to ensure fair housing is a reality through proactive planning and intervention.

Human Resources

- **Revisions to Personnel Policies & Procedures**
Staff from Human Resources, Legal, the City Manager's Office and other departments are currently engaged in a comprehensive review of the City's Personnel Policies and Procedures. The purposes of this project are to make certain the City's policies are compliant with current law, to make improvements and updates wherever needed, to adopt best management practices from other progressive cities, and to incorporate policies that legally can no longer be included in labor agreements. The Brick Gentry Law Firm from Des Moines has been engaged to assist with this review. Various stakeholders are also being consulted to identify areas where updates are needed.

The updated policies will be brought to City Council in late February or early March for review and approval. An organization-wide educational effort will then follow to ensure all employees are aware of the updates.

Staff's work with Brick Gentry also includes an update to the Civil Service Commission's Policies and Procedures. The most recent comprehensive review of those policies was conducted 15 years ago. Those changes will not come to City Council for approval, but will instead be considered and adopted by the City's Civil Service Commission.

- **Development of City-wide Teams**

The City's *Excellence Through People* consultant, Donna Gilligan, is assisting with the creation or improvement of several City-wide teams. These include the following:

- **Diversity and Inclusion Team** – The most exciting new initiative is the creation of a city-wide team to support diversity and enhance the environment of inclusion within the organization. This team should be established and running by February.
- **Health Insurance Advisory Committee** – This group of union and non-union representatives has advised City administration on insurance related issues for nearly 15 years. Changes in the team's composition are now necessary due to revisions in the State's collective bargaining law. The team's charter will also be updated to engage employees across the entire organization in 2-way communication related to benefits.
- **City-wide Safety Team** – Many operating departments already have safety teams in place. Led by the Risk Manager, this city-wide team will take a comprehensive approach to safety issues that affect all departments.

Library

- **Check out an experience at Ames Public Library!**

In addition to the books, movies, games, and downloadable materials you've always been able to use for free, your Ames Public Library card now allows you to check out free passes to a variety of nearby attractions. Reservations for specific dates must be placed and most passes allow admission for two adults and two children. Destinations Ames Public Library offers now include:

- Blank Park Zoo
- Greater Des Moines Botanical Center
- Living History Farms
- Reiman Gardens
- Science Center of Iowa



Visit "Using the Library" on the [APL website](#) to check availability and reserve your pass!

Public Works

Ames on the Go mobile app is available in the Apple and Google Play stores as well as on the City of Ames website. This mobile app allows you to make a request or report a concern and directly links to the Public Works Department. Additionally, for registered users, Ames on the Go allows for communication and feedback. There are several reporting categories including snow related events.



The Ames On the Go app for Ames is the fastest, easiest way for you to submit non-emergency requests to your community, stay updated, and initiate change in your community.



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Water & Pollution Control

- **Water Plant**

At the October meeting of the American Water Works Association-Iowa Section, the annual “**Best Tasting Water in Iowa**” competition was held. For the second year in a row, Ames was chosen as the winner. We will now go on to compete at the national competition that will be held in Denver in June of 2019.

Negotiations are still on-going with the general contractor for the new Water Treatment Plant regarding the **Liquidated Damages claim by the City**. The City’s “final settlement offer” was submitted to the contractor on November 11. As of the date of this writing, there has been no response.

Construction permit applications have been filed for the construction of the **North River Valley Well Field Project**. Once those are received, staff will bring a Notice to Bidders to Council. Staff will also be asking Council to extend the consulting engineering contract for the well field project into the construction phase. The original contract included design phase services only.

- **Water Pollution Control**

Work to develop a **Nutrient Reduction Feasibility Study** for the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) is wrapping up. The purpose of the study was to identify the most appropriate, cost-effective means to meet the goals of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Staff and its consultant presented the recommended approach to Council in a workshop on November 20. The approach has two main components.

1. Begin a three-stage **conversion of the WPCF** that will fully achieve the goals of the Nutrient Reduction Strategy within 20 years, while maximizing the useful life of infrastructure already in place. The recommended approach also provides redundancy for the trickling filters and allows for capacity increases at each of the three stages to meet any new demands due to growth in the community.
2. Begin an **investment in watershed-based practices** that will not only provide reductions in nutrient loadings to area waterways, but also offer other ancillary benefits such as flood mitigation, drinking water source protection, improved wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, or other benefits. This work would prioritize projects within the City limits, although upstream projects are also a possibility.

Major infrastructure maintenance and replacement projects continue within the WPCF.

- Installation of a **third bar screen** is wrapping up, as is an upgrade to the **security camera system**.
- **Structural rehabilitation** work is on-going.
- Installation of **final clarifier launder covers** is under contract.
- Replacement of the **primary clarifier drives** is underway.
- A construction kickoff meeting was recently held for the **digester complex improvements** project.
- Design work has begun on the **Methane Generator #1 replacement** project.
- Council will be asked to approve a contract on December 11 to replace the **screw pump drives**.

The **Story County-owned access bridge over the South Skunk River** remains closed. Staff has informed the County that the existing City-owned access road may be used by area land owners temporarily until the bridge reopens. As of the end of November, City and county staff are still negotiating a shared access agreement that would allow the bridge to be reopened to light passenger vehicles, but require heavy loads to come in using the City's access road. There is no word from the County on when they may undertake a permanent repair/replacement of the bridge.

Police

- The RFP for a **new, county-wide radio system** was released by Iowa State University in mid-October. Iowa State is managing the RFP process for everyone in the county. A round of questions has been presented and answered. The responses were due November 30. A professional consulting firm, Mission Critical Partners, will provide support as we review those responses.

- **Police Body Worn Cameras** are now being used by all officers. Several units have failed and were replaced by the manufacturer. Officers are working to establish the routine of activating cameras and coding recordings.

- **Animal Shelter Update**

The second week of October was a great week for donations at the Ames Animal Shelter. We received \$2,715.35 in monetary donations and close to that same amount in in-kind donations.

- A photographer from Lasting Impressions Photography donated \$340 in cash to help animals.
- AmericInn and Country Inn & Suites donated over \$1,700 from hotel guests who paid to play games in their lobbies. The guests loved the idea of helping the local animal shelter.
- Workiva held a Giving Back shopping spree at Walmart and purchased over \$2,200 worth of supplies from our wish list. The picture below shows the supplies they purchased for use at the shelter.



- Iowa Home Consulting donated time and resources to completely remodel the Veterinary Medical Room for the Animal Shelter. The changes show a much cleaner and well organized work environment that is safer for both staff and the animals. The Animal Shelter team is very thankful for Iowa Home Consulting for their work and partnership.

