



June 2019 Project Highlights

City Manager's Office:

- **Update to Personnel Policies & Procedures**

The team of staff members from the City Manager's Office, Human Resources and the Legal Department have made great strides working with Brick-Gentry Law Firm to update the City's Personnel Policies & Procedures. The policies themselves will be catalogued in an on-line format similar to ISU's so they are easily accessible to all users. A new Employee Handbook is also being created. That document is being written in an easily understandable format and will be provided to all current and new employees. A final review stage with the City's Executive Leadership Team will occur in late June and early July. The policies will then be presented to the City Council in late July or August.

As a reminder, this project was needed for three major reasons:

1. To modernize the Policies to make sure they comply with current legal requirements,
2. To make the Policies more accessible to supervisors, employees and the public, and
3. To allow Brick-Gentry to make sure the City is following best practices as established by other city governments and public employers.

CyRide

- **Summer Sunday Brown Route**

By now, most transit riders in Ames are aware that CyRide recently revised bus service in Ames with CyRide 2.0. As the final phase of service changes were being prepared to launch this summer, it was discovered that an area of the community from 13th Street and Stange Road to North Grand Mall were not being served on Sunday by the Brown Route. The problem was identified quickly and CyRide acted to identify a solution to the problem and requested a service modification from the Ames Transit Board of Trustees. The Board agreed with Interim Director Neal's assessment and approved the request to add service.

- **Big 10 & Friends Parking & Transportation Conference**

On May 20th, CyRide was asked to provide a presentation on transit in Ames to the opening session of the Big 10 and Friends Parking and Transportation Conference hosted by Iowa State University. Barb Neal and Rich Leners spoke on the history of transit in Ames, the unique operating structure, the three-party governance of CyRide, and the success CyRide has enjoyed over the years. Later in the week, a group of conference participants toured the CyRide facility and took part in a round table discussion of the challenges university communities face with parking and transportation.



- **Bus Wash Replacement**

New City of Ames employees and preschool children have something in common. They both enjoy seeing the bus wash on facility tours. After 17 years of dependable service, CyRide’s bus wash is being replaced this summer. The new and improved bus wash is scheduled to be in-service by the time ISU classes resume in the fall.

- **Reconstruction of the Green Endpoint Turnaround**

The west end of CyRide’s Green Route is located at the corner of Ontario Street and California Avenue. Several years ago, CyRide purchased a corner residential lot to install the area where buses turn around. The turnaround is currently in rough condition, requiring the existing roadway to be removed and replaced. Reconstruction is scheduled to begin June 3rd and estimated to take three weeks—weather permitting.

Library:

- **Welcome Your New Library Director!**

Ames Public Library's staff and Board of Trustees invite the public to drop in and meet the Ames Public Library's new director, Sheila Schofer on Tuesday, June 18, from 4-6pm in the library auditorium. Light refreshments will be served.

- **Summer Lunches**

The summer lunch program returns to the Ames Public Library June 3 - August 22 (excluding July 4th). Lunches will be served in the library auditorium Monday-Friday from 11:30am-12:15pm. Having a full stomach of good food is important for everyone in the summer! Take this opportunity to share a meal together. Lunch is free to all youth 18 years and younger; Meals for adults are \$3.50. (Sorry, no baby formula is available.) We invite you to attend our programs before or after, too! *Provided in partnership with USDA Summer Food Service Program.*

- **Summer Reading Incentive Program**

Adults, teens, children, and infants are invited to take part in our Summer Reading Incentive Program June 1 – August 22! Log reading minutes AND activities to earn prizes. Come enjoy Ames Public Library this summer and explore all the great books to read and fun stuff to do. Pick up any prizes earned at the Youth Desk, Teen Desk, Adult Desk, or Bookmobile. Sign up online at www.amespubliclibrary.org.

Planning and Housing:

Planning

- One outcome from the Neighborhood Summit last fall was direction by Council for staff to reach out to neighborhood associations about program improvements. Active Neighborhood Associations were emailed a survey about how they function and what topics are of interest to their groups. They were also invited to a meeting on May 9, 2019 to discuss existing neighborhood programming and ideas for programming in the future. Staff will create an additional survey directed toward individuals that are not part of formal neighborhood organizations to gather feedback on potential neighborhood programming. Once more information is gathered, staff will bring proposed changes back to City Council for discussion.
- Ames Plan 2040 scenario evaluation is underway. RDG is in the process of showing the development of the City in four different directions to support 15,000 additional people in the City. Once the concepts are finalized, RDG will present the information to City Council to hear feedback on preferences for future growth and infill development. We anticipate providing City Council an update in July.
- The East 13th Street regional mall development agreement amendment proposed by the Elwell Companies will move ahead as a rezoning and master plan application to the Planning and Zoning Commission later in June. Staff anticipates City Council review in July of the proposed amendment.

Housing and Community Development:

- The public improvements to extend Tripp Street through the 321 State Street property is now complete. Staff anticipates meeting with City Council this month to discuss and finalize the next phases of the project.
- Staff anticipates sharing the draft of the 5-Year CDBG Consolidated Plan and 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan with Council this month at the City Council workshop on June 18th.

Police:

Administration

- StoryComm approved a contract with RACOM and Harris for a new radio system. The result will be a new radio infrastructure and new radios for all City radio users. The same system will serve nearly all emergency responders in Story County. It will also serve other public service agencies that are eligible to join. The system will meet the newest standards for public safety radio operation. The project will include a new, but temporary, system that is expected to be operational in about 7 months. The temporary system will then be replaced by a permanent system that is expected to be operational in about 20 months.
- City staff participated in an annual "EOC refresher," a meeting designed to reacquaint employees with the set up and their role in Emergency Operations Center operations during a disaster or other incident that requires more than one department's response. About 30 people participated in the exercise.

Animal Shelter

- In preparing for our annual "Commitment to Transparency and No-Kill" unfiltered statistical data findings, the Ames Animal Shelter reports the following increase in intakes and outcomes of animals entering the facility. Statistical data compares intakes/outcomes from 07/01/17-05/29/18 to 07/01/18-05/29/19.
- **INTAKES**
 - 10% increase in the overall amount of all animals entering the shelter (686 to 759)
 - 23% increase in cats/kittens (250 to 309)
 - 35% increase in dogs/puppies (192 to 260)
 - 31% increase in stray dogs/puppies (117 to 154)
 - 175% increase in dog/puppy protective custody (12 to 33)

- **OUTCOMES**

- 26% increase in cat adoptions (220 to 279)
- 25% increase in dog adoptions (72 to 90)
- 37% increase in cats returned to their owner (45 to 62)
- 33% increase in dogs returned to their owners (124 to 165)
- 36% increase in number of animals sent into foster homes (88 to 120)

- The current Live Release Rate (utilizing No-Kill standards of data reporting) is **97.18%** for dogs, cats and domestic rabbits. Pictured here is Gizmo, a nine month old Cocker Spaniel that is waiting for his forever home.



Parks and Recreation:

- **Ames Foundation Tree Planting**

In the spring of 2015, The Ames Foundation entered a multi-year partnership with the City of Ames to fund and plant trees to replace the ash trees that will be lost to the Emerald Ash Borer and to diversify the City's tree canopy. The Foundation's primary role is to raise funds needed to help defray the cost of new trees and to organize interested citizens who will help plant and maintain these trees in our community parks, green spaces, and rights-of-way.

On May 18, approximately 25 volunteers gathered at the Ames Municipal Cemetery to receive a lesson in the proper planting of containerized trees from Iowa State University Professor Dr. Jeff Iles. They then received maps to planting locations from City Forester Paul Tauke and spread out to plant 61 trees in the City's right-of-way (the area between the sidewalk and the curb). Trees were planted on Glendale, Douglas, Carroll, Crawford, Russell, Hazel, Duff, and Clark Avenues. Trees were also planted on East 9th and East 13th Streets.



With the assistance of the volunteers all 61 trees were all planted, mulched, and watered by 11:30 a.m. All participants received an Ames Foundation T-shirt and the thanks of the Foundation and the City of Ames.



- **Live Healthy Iowa Track Meet**

On May 15, the Parks and Recreation Department hosted the Live Healthy Iowa Track meet at Ames Middle School. 145 registrants (6-14 years of age) competed in the 50 M dash, 100 M dash, 200 M dash, 400 M dash, 800 M dash, 1600 M run, softball throw, and standing long jump. 25 youth who finished first in Ames in their respective events will be attending the state meet on June 22 in Marshalltown.

- **Cemetery Interpretive Signage**

Staff has been working with the Ames Historical Society, specifically, Sharon Wirth, Board Co-President, and Alex Fejfar (Research & Exhibits Manager) to develop interpretive signs to educate residents on the history of Ames Municipal Cemetery. The first sign has been installed which can be seen in the pictures below. Staff designed the area and completed the installation which included pouring the concrete, setting the benches, planting trees, and finishing the landscaping. Additional signage will be added throughout the cemetery in the future.



- **Adopt-A-Flower Garden**

The 2019 Adopt-A-Flower Garden Program consists of more than 50 flower gardens located throughout the City park system and at several City facilities. For the 25th consecutive year, Holub Garden & Greenhouses has donated the flowers, over 21,000 this year, to support the program. Dozens of individual volunteers and service groups sponsor the flower gardens and are responsible for spring planting and subsequent maintenance throughout the growing season, such as weeding and spring and fall cleanup. The program includes both experienced and novice gardeners. City staff provided guidance on plant selection and maintenance and assists with watering throughout the growing season.



Electric

- A Boiler Tube crew is at the plant replacing superheater boiler tubes in Unit #8. These tubes are needed to maintain reliable operation of the plant through the summer season. These tubes are considered "temporary" and will be replaced next spring, with specially coated tubes that are more adapted to handle the environment within the boiler created by burning refuse-derived-fuel.
- Work continues at the Top-O-Hollow substation site to improve the reliability of electric service to customers who are served by the substation. The wet spring weather has delayed the completion of the work.
- SunSmart Ames, the planned community solar farm sits at 65% subscribed. As we approach 80%, staff will bring the project to the City Council for approval.