

QUARTERLY REPORT

JULY 2015

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Capital Crossroads is **a bold but achievable vision** pushing Central Iowans to dream big, not settle for good enough, think long term, and work together.

CAPITAL CORE

Russ Cross and Scott Sanders

The Capital Core strategies are based on the philosophy that a strong, growing region needs a healthy central city in order to thrive. The Capital Core work focuses on three main areas: neighborhoods, downtown Des Moines, and public safety.

For the **Neighborhood Improvement** subcommittee, the Friends of SW 9th began a façade improvement grant program for commercial property along the corridor and have received a number of applications. The City of Des Moines, with support from the Polk County Treasurer, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, and Greater Des Moines Partnership, applied for a competitive technical assistance scholarship from the Center for Community Progress to develop a clear strategy for addressing vacant and blighted properties. The team implemented a second Neighborhood Blitz clean-up project in conjunction with Habitat's July Rock the Block event in the Capitol East neighborhood.

Des Moines was one of seven communities nationwide to receive a BUILD Health Challenge Implementation Grant in the amount of \$250,000 for Healthy Homes East Bank, a program aimed at combating pediatric asthma in the 50316 zip code through home repairs and family health education/care coordination. Partners include the Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Polk County Health Department, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, Mercy, Broadlawns, and UnityPoint hospital systems, Visiting Nurse Services, Des Moines Public Schools, Viva East Bank!, Polk County Public Works, Habitat for Humanity, and Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines.

The major challenge to this Capital Core initiative continues to be implementation resources, including funding (\$18-22M needed/year), and involvement from the private sector. There also is a need for community leadership to champion the cause of, and need for, neighborhood improvement.

The **Downtown Des Moines** team continues to make progress on the convention hotel. At its Board meeting in June, the IEDA awarded the project the ability to earn up to \$36.4M from the State's Iowa Reinvestment Act funding. The IEC Hotel Corporation, a non-profit entity formed by Polk County with Board representation by the County and the City to own and operate the convention hotel, held its inaugural meeting and is negotiating with a design-build development team led by Weitz and an operator/hotel flag.

The downtown residential population is growing. With an almost non-existent vacancy rate, housing development will be expanding this construction season. Approximately 1000 housing units are planned for 2015 construction. Ambitious new proposals for high-rise residential construction at 5th & Walnut/Court and 7th & Grand indicate growing confidence in the downtown housing market.

Cowles Commons opened to the public in late June.

The Younkers fire was a setback to reinventing Walnut Street. A new, local developer, Blackbird Investments, has acquired the remaining building and vacant lot with plans to implement the housing and commercial project in the existing building. The first phase of the streetscape implementation is planned for 2016. Realizing the retail vision remains a struggle.

Funding to implement Des Moines' first Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) remains elusive. The proposed route would connect downtown with Mercy Hospitals, the 6th Avenue corridor, Drake University, the Ingersoll and Roosevelt shopping areas, DMU, and several residential neighborhoods. The Greater Des Moines Partnership has formed a "working group" to meet periodically over the next several months to identify future options for implementing BRT.

There is summer construction throughout downtown on many of the "key development sites" identified in the Downtown Core implementation plan, including:

- AC Hotel in the East Village
- 201 E. Locust (full block redevelopment including extended stay hotel and market rate housing)
- 420 Court (Hy-Vee and market rate housing)
- Wilkins Building (western half of the former Younker's block)
- Hotel and housing in Gray's Landing
- The Bridge District (formerly River Hills)
- Artisan Row townhomes
- Polk County Courts district
- R&T Lofts (conversion of former Register Building to affordable and market rate housing)
- Randolph Hotel conversion to market rate housing
- 7th and Grand (demolition planned to begin in September)
- Principal Financial campus blueprint projects, including major renovation of corporate headquarters at 711 High

BUSINESS CAPITAL

Kathryn Kunert, Mark Miller, and Mike Crum

With a continued focus on targeted industries, partners, entrepreneurship, and international, the Business Capital took on many activities during the second quarter of 2015.

As part of entrepreneurial initiatives, the first Global Insurance Accelerator class graduated in May 2015 and the Square One DSM incubator was launched in June 2015. The Global Insurance Accelerator wrapped up its first class with a resounding success. Each of the six startups who participated in the 2015 class presented their business to the attendees of the Global Insurance Symposium. Over 400 attendees were in the room for the presentations. The seven investing companies have all indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the first-year program and are actively working on plans to make next year even more successful. This 100-day program is the only program in the world designed to specifically target companies supporting the insurance industry which is supported by multiple insurance companies.

Square One DSM is now open in its new facility at 321 E Walnut Street in the East Village. This facility enables a new service offering for the Partnership. Square One DSM now offers a resident accelerator program for local, high-potential companies that are past the incubation stage. This year-round program is tailored to specific goals and expectations for each company accepted, as well as a specific curriculum. Square One DSM will take no equity and provide no investment dollars. The first two resident businesses are in place at the Accelerator: Certintell (a provider of tele-health technologies focused on mental health services) and Adore Your Walls, an online art advisory service.

The Partnership, along with its local, state and utility partners, assisted on the following projects:

- American Packaging in Story City just announced a 100,000 square foot expansion they will break ground on soon.
- Vermeer broke ground on their new innovation center in Ames at the Iowa State University Research Park.
- Construction continues on [Boehringer Ingelheim](#) Vetmedica, Inc. (BIVI) \$50 million, 52,088 sq. ft. building at the Iowa State University (ISU) Research Park. Following BIVI's acquisition of NOBL Laboratories Ames operation in 1999, its research efforts in Ames grew with successful collaboration with ISU.
- Mercer is hiring more than 300 new employees in Urbandale for a variety of positions in sales, customer service, and operations.
- BirdDogHR, a technology and job recruitment firm, makes software for human resources and employee management. The company is moving to a larger new office building and leasing 13,000 sq. ft. at 4453 NW Urbandale Drive in Urbandale. Over the next three years, the company will be investing \$3.3 million and creating 71 high-paying jobs.
- Facebook announced plans to start construction this summer on its third data center building in Altoona. The new building will be the first "third" building on any data center site in Facebook's network.
- DuPont is investing more than \$200 million in a biorefinery in Nevada. It will be among the largest commercial-scale cellulosic facilities in the world. When construction is completed, this new facility is expected to generate 30 million gallons annually of cellulosic biofuel produced from corn stover residues, a non-food feedstock that consists of corn stalks and leaves.
- Ventech Solutions, a public sector focused system integration and consulting services firm, plans to open an office in Urbandale. The company will be investing nearly \$3 million and creating 125 help desk positions and 75 application developers.
- Kemin Industries broke ground on a 90,000-plus-square-foot global headquarters building as part of an ongoing \$125.5 million expansion plan.
- Probioferm, a probiotic contract manufacturing company, plans to construct a 22,000 square foot facility in Urbandale to accommodate the additional space needed for manufacturing and distribution operations. The new facility will also allow them to bring the packaging of their product in-house. Construction of the new \$1.9 million building should begin summer 2015 and be complete by the end of the year. This business expansion will result in 4 new jobs.

Several industry council meetings were held in the second quarter. Approximately 20 companies attended the Financial Services Council meeting on May 1. Brian Hemesath, Managing Director of the GIA, provided an update. Also, Mary Bontrager, SVP of Workforce Development with the Partnership, reviewed the growth in the metro area's diverse population over the last 10 years. From 2004 to 2014, the minority population, in the working age category of 20 to 64, grew by 58%. The Financial Services Council had another meeting in the second quarter. It was held on June 23 at Holmes Murphy to discuss the talent pipeline in Central Iowa. There was a great discussion between business leaders and university officials. Attending the meeting were Dr. Terri Vaughan, Dean of the College of Business & Public Administration at Drake University; David Spalding, Dean of the College of Business at Iowa State

University; Kent Henning, President of Grand View College; Tom Rice, Academic Director of John & Mary Pappajohn Education Center, University of Iowa; and MD Isley, Dean of Business & IT at Des Moines Area Community College. Several Information Solutions Council members participated in a tour of Facebook's data center on April 17.

CULTIVATION CORRIDOR

John May

The Cultivation Corridor is focused on completing the build-out of the initiative and on maximizing its impact moving forward.

The Cultivation Corridor continued to see success in quarter two across its three work platforms, including the release of its first [annual report](#), the opportunity to represent Iowa at a US-Canada ag innovation roundtable discussion with the Governor General of Canada, co-hosting a trade delegation from the China Ministry of Agriculture, and the announcements of groundbreaking and expansions of companies such as Beck's Hybrids, Climate Corporation, Kemin and Vermeer. The Iowa Ag/Bio Asset Inventory project is in its final data collection stages and a short survey targeted for Iowa companies in the value-added agriculture and human and animal health fields was administered. The Corridor is partnering with the Iowa Economic Development Authority [IEDA], Iowa Biotechnology Association, Iowa State University [ISU] and University of Iowa for this project.

In June, Iowa State University President and Cultivation Corridor founding co-chairman, Dr. Steven Leath, spoke at the 2015 high-profile [AAAS Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation Lecture](#), calling for a doubling of agricultural research funding to combat population growth and climate change.

The Corridor was represented at the BIO International Convention in June in Philadelphia, the largest gathering of biotechnology companies in the world. In addition, Cultivation Corridor was highlighted as one of handful organizations in the [Biotechnology Industry Organization's Economic Development Best Practices guide](#).

As the Corridor enters year two, John May, President of Agricultural Solutions and Chief Information Officer at John Deere, will continue his tenure as Cultivation Corridor Board Chairman in 2014-16 to ensure leadership continuity. During the Corridor's first year of existence, the region saw more than 20 agribusiness, agbioscience and agtechnology projects announced or commenced, and the Corridor generated nearly 20 new economic development leads for local economic development groups as a result of its work. Cultivation Corridor also appeared in 197 original news articles from national and international publications, including those in Spain and Israel. Lastly, the Corridor hosted and co-hosted trade delegations interested in Iowa agribusiness from Canada, China, Israel, Great Britain and Kosovo, while also traversing 39,000 miles to represent the region at meetings, trade shows and expos.

Cultivation Corridor is hosting an Iowa Business Leader ISU Research & Innovation Tour on August 12, with stops at the BioCentury Research Farm, BioRenewables Laboratory, and Workiva. For more information, contact Brent Willett, Cultivation Corridor at 515-360-1732/bwillett@cultivationcorridor.org or Mike Crum, Iowa State University at 515-294-7444/mcrum@iastate.edu.

WELLNESS CAPITAL

Jami Haberl and Rick Kozin

The Wellness Capital is focused on developing a Healthy Community Toolkit, ensuring effective coordination, and conducting a Wellness and Community Study. The Wellness Capital took on several activities to support these goals during the last quarter.

In January 2015, Greater Des Moines Partnership launched a toolkit for businesses to implement wellness programs. The Community Health Need Assessment is underway for Central Iowa. The completion of the CHNA will serve as a spring board toward improving well-being for the community and large – and not just opportunities for businesses.

The 2015 Healthiest State Conference was held on June 18, 2015. The “Taking Back Our Health,” conference featured a presentation of the Healthy Iowa Awards, updates on key Healthiest State Initiative programs, and keynote presentations from Mark Fenton, a national public health, planning and transportation consultant discussing how Des Moines can build more walkable, livable and bike friendly environments and Dr. Richard Deming, an integral figure in the Iowa community and in his field of radiation oncology as the medical director of Mercy Cancer Center. He is known in the community for his passion for his patients and their families; he spends countless hours being an advocate for lobbying efforts on healthy policy and cancer issues. The conference was sold out with 260 participating from across Iowa.

HSI has launched three new tools/programs:

- An assessment tool for schools, workplaces and communities of all sizes and that may have limited resources. The online assessment will acknowledge entities for the good work they are doing, provide feedback as to opportunities to make a difference, and nudge sustainable improvements by providing immediate feedback with access to resources and tools to implement change. To learn more visit <http://www.iowahealthieststate.com/assessment-program>.
- The TEAM (Teaching Employees Accountability Matters) training program is for employees and first-time supervisors. It features eight modules for each audience with the goal of establishing open communication and respect between the employer and employee by providing them with foundational expectations. To learn more visit <http://www.iowahealthieststate.com/team-training>.
- Get Your Bib On Campaign: Studies have shown that adults who visit the dentist once a year are 37 percent more likely to report good or better dental health. And adults who report good dental health are almost twice as likely to report good or better overall well-being. The campaign encourages citizens, in a playful way, to schedule a dental exam. To learn more, visit www.getyourbibon.com.

The Community Health Needs Assessment is moving along. There are five focus areas: Access to Care, Mental Health, Physical Environment, Workforce and Youth. The CHNA priorities will be decided upon in August. The development of implementation plans to address the priorities will be outlined later in the year.

Drake University AmeriCorps Community Health Program was funded which will support wellness efforts in 10 communities across the state. The program sends a combination of graduate and undergraduate students into rural and underserved urban areas across Iowa to develop practices that improve the health of residents in those communities. The Healthiest State Initiative is accepting applications for host communities. The deadline has been extended to July 31st. To learn more visit <http://www.iowahealthieststate.com/ameri-corps-community-health>.

AARP has developed a Livability Index (livabilityindex.aarp.org). This tool allows the region to measure its ability to create community health at the neighborhood, jurisdiction and county level across a comprehensive list of indicators (that can be aligned with the Capitals).

Wellness Capital has reached that point where all of the low hanging fruit has been plucked from the tree. Some significant pieces of the puzzle are coming into play, but the tasks ahead are all significant and will require long term dedication and some heavy lifting. The need for the community at-large is significant. The need for real help for small business, perhaps in the form of policy, is also significant.

The YMCA hosts monthly lunch meetings for those responsible for implementing wellness programs within their organizations. If you have a team member that would like to be a part of those conversations, please let Meg Fitz know.

When the Community Health Needs Assessment is released later this fall, there will be items in the report that impact all of Capital Crossroads. More details will be shared at the next quarterly meeting.

HUMAN CAPITAL

Dave Wilkerson and Chris Littlefield

The Human Capital is divided into two focus areas: 1) a comprehensive Cradle thru Career approach to education and talent preparation called EDGE – Education Drives our Great Economy; and 2) talent retention & attraction. The EDGE initiative is a collaboration of the Business Education Alliance and the Greater Des Moines Partnership and is under the direction of the EDGE Board of Director. The talent attraction & retention work is being directed and implemented through the Partnership’s Workforce Development/Education Board and staff.

In May, the **EDGE** Board adopted a robust community goal to increase the percentage of Central Iowa adults who have high-quality degrees, certificates and other credentials to 75 percent by 2025 with educational outcomes aligning to workforce needs. This goal will align to, but most likely exceed, a state-wide goal currently being developed through the State’s efforts supporting the National Governors Association.

In Central Iowa, we currently have 38.3 percent of our working age population with a Bachelor’s degree or higher, 32.4 percent have some college or an associate’s degree, and 22.8 percent have a HS degree or equivalent. The EDGE stakeholders are developing strategies and measurements that will move individuals in the latter two areas toward completion of high-quality degrees, certificates or other credentials in addition to preparing our future talent pipeline to achieve postsecondary attainment.

EDGE committees are currently developing an internal campaign to ensure that all 140 stakeholder groups under the EDGE umbrella educate and inform their staffs/members. Planning is underway to develop a collective impact model to develop an advocacy campaign targeting the Iowa Legislature and Executive Branch. This campaign will align with stakeholder groups’ agendas and begin in the fall of 2015.

The ***talent attraction and retention*** team continues to grow utilization of CarpeDM Career Center. Through employer postings and “scraping” from Indeed.com, the site continues to average approximately 10,000 Central Iowa job postings. There currently are 1,120 registered Job Seekers and 289 registered employers who have directly posted 586 jobs.

Recently, the American Chamber of Commerce Executives named the Greater Des Moines Partnership one of seven Exemplary Chambers of Commerce. Key to that designation was the Carpe DM – Seize Des Moines workforce attraction/retention campaign of which the website and Career Center are the core tools.

CarpeDM (www.seizedesmoines.com) traffic has grown substantially in 2015. Since the beginning of 2015, user sessions have increased by 41,480 (72% increase over 2014 totals) for a total of 65,365. Of those coming to the site, 66.8% are new users and 33% are returning visitors. Geographic location of visitors also continues to expand to 122 countries and 3,262 cities (up over 700 since March 2015). Following are analytics comparing 2014 statistics of the site to 2015 activity through June 16.

| ANALYTICS | 2014 | 2015 (7/15) |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Unique Visitors/Users | 20,938 | 27,886 |
| Overall Visits/Sessions | 30,006 | 41,480 |
| Pages/Visit | 3.88 | 3.71 |
| Returning Visitors | 30.3% | 34.0% |
| States Reached | 50 +DC | 50 + DC |
| Iowa Cities | 200 | 271 |
| Cities | 1965 | 2212 |
| Countries | 88 | 106 |

The cornerstone of the team’s college student recruiting efforts is the on-campus visits in the spring and fall each year. In the Spring of 2015 the team participated in on-campus career fairs or visits at 46 campuses across Iowa and surrounding states including Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and South Dakota, far surpassing the goal of 22 campus engagements in the first half of 2015. In May, the Greater Des Moines Partnership launched its 7th season of Do More in the City, a series of community engagement and professional development opportunities for summer interns. All interns and college students working in the Greater Des Moines area are invited to participate in Do More in the City and to date the team has reached over 200 young adults.

Each session of the 6-part series features components of personal and professional development and leadership mastery. Each program incorporate panels of community leaders as well as social and community awareness opportunities. The full schedule includes:

- May 27: Networking and Business Etiquette
- June 10: Intra/Entrepreneurship

- June 24: Building Your Brand Online
- July 8: Community Engagement
- July 22: Finding Your Leadership Style
- July 29: Arts and Culture/Graduation

Interns that participate in three or more of the events will receive a “Mastery of Community Leadership Certificate” upon completion. In addition, all interns will have an opportunity to enjoy a small group breakfast or lunch with executives from the community.

The team has formed a new committee to focus on improving the orientation and assimilation experience of our growing international workforce. The first social event was held in May where the group gathered valuable input from a broader pool of global ex pats to assist in developing programs and resources to support this specific demographic.

SOCIAL CAPITAL

Angie Dethlefs-Trettin and Phil Hodgins

The Social Capital team is focused on leadership, diversity, and civility. The committee has subgroups for the Regional Leadership Council, Community Connect, the Diversity & Inclusion Council, the Civility Initiative, and the Emerging Leaders Collaborative; their respective reports are as follows.

The Regional Leadership Council (RLC) continues to meet bimonthly and has focused on shared activities as well as continuing to develop a strong support network for each program. Progress will be made on a web platform during the summer and early fall for the board matching tool. The RLC received notification that Des Moines will host the 2016 regional conference for ALP! The RLC is in the beginning stages of planning and coordination but are looking forward to a wonderful event to showcase our region to leadership programs from across the country! Plans are underway for the second-annual Converge Mini-Conference for leadership programs in the region. This fall the RLC will be hosting the conference in cooperation with the Ray Center at Drake University and will be announcing more details soon. The RLC frequently discusses its future moving forward; as of now, the Community Foundation continues to make the most sense to convene the group. The topic will continue to be addressed.

Community Connect celebrated graduation at the final session of the program on June 15th. Anecdotal feedback from mentors and participants was positive regarding the overall experience and the new, focused curriculum. The team distributed a survey to get better data to use in planning the next session. Results will be shared with the committee at an upcoming meeting. Recruiting for the next program will start in the fall. The committee will discuss the goal of offering two sessions per year.

The Diversity & Inclusion Council attended the Center of Influence Training at Camp Dodge, drew 280 attendees to the Multicultural Reception, and hosted the Diversity & Inclusion Roundtable for 50 attendees. The next Diversity & Inclusion Roundtable and Multicultural Reception will be held Tuesday, August 25th at Principal Financial Group.

The Civility Initiative has followed up with the contacts at chamber and school boards that were sent the 7 Keys to a Respectful meeting to offer a civility presentation to their groups; research has continued on other groups to contact. The Initiative worked with the Institutional Research department at Drake to create a national survey on respect. It will provide baseline data to track progress on the effort. The

survey is available at

http://drake.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9HKg4vToOy77uPb. The Civility

Initiative has joined the Iowa Caucus Consortium, and one of the goals is to include civility in the caucus conversation. There are tentative plans for a speaker on civility in November, and a draft plan is in place to mobilize Drake students in the civility campaign. Social media has been used to expand the message, and there are ongoing talks with Drake University to include civility in class content, specifically in the communications and political science departments.

The Emerging Leaders Collaborative (ELC) continues to expand in terms of both size and engagement. The ELC has started issuing best practices learned during its meetings, and there has been an increase in resource sharing between groups.

CULTURAL CAPITAL

Mary Cownie and Brian Laurenzo

The Cultural Capital had a busy quarter. Bravo Greater Des Moines awarded more than \$3.3 million grand awards to 58 arts and culture organizations, while the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs awarded more than \$1.39 million in Artist Fellowship, Art Project, Cultural Leadership Partner, and Iowa Great Places grants.

Cowles Commons opened as a new destination venue in downtown Des Moines, and the Greater Des Moines Convention & Visitors Bureau launched a new culture-specific website. Bravo and the Cultural Capital also have begun a dialogue about how the arts can play a role in making Central Iowa a more veteran-friendly community. A major initiative of the Cultural Capital over the next year will be refreshing the Community Cultural Plan.

In collaboration with local arts leaders, including Bravo and the Iowa Arts Council, Americans for the Arts will host an Iowa Arts Advocacy Caucus event on August 14th from 9 am to 4 pm at the State Historical Building. More information is available at <http://artsactionfund.org/page/s/iowa-arts-advocacy-caucus>.

PHYSICAL CAPITAL

Michael Sadler and Dave Caris

The Physical Capital committee is focused on three key components: transportation, stormwater and flood control, and communications.

The Partnership has held two successful meetings concerning Bus Rapid Transit. Local stakeholders and interested parties have been. The next BRT working group meeting will be July 30, 2015.

The Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Authority has completed its study and the board has approved the report at their regular meeting on April 23, 2015. The WMA has also been named an Environmental Excellence Award recipient by the State of Iowa. Fourmile Creek was cited for its vision and initiatives undertaken to benefit Iowa's citizens both economically and environmentally. Governor Terry Branstad will present the award on August 4 in the Capitol Rotunda.

The City of Clive has launched its master plan for the Clive Greenbelt and started work on areas of need there.

The Physical Capital co-chairs have voiced the group's support of the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration and the associated increase in the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) which is endorsed as a resource for the funding of a planned new Des Moines International Airport terminal.

GOVERNANCE CAPITAL

Gretchen Tegeler and Bob Andeweg

The Governance Capital committee is focused on reinvigorating the MAC, identifying opportunities to regionalize certain public services, and maintaining the momentum of the Local Government Collaboration Project.

During the last quarter, the Governance Capital briefed a small group of developers on the regional water production feasibility study undertaken at the request of the Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission (CIRDWC). The group received feedback that it appears a longer-term perspective has not yet been incorporated, and conclusions cannot be drawn without it; this feedback was communicated to several members of the CIRDWC executive committee. CIRDWC has a technical committee that will do longer-term (2050) projections of demand and associated capacity requirements. The Des Moines Water Works lawsuit has added complexity to discussions about regional water production.

Other key accomplishments include the completion of the local government collaboration projects focused on law enforcement and parks & recreation; the Central Iowa Code Consortium continues to move forward; and, the full Governance Capital team met on July 21st.

NATURAL CAPITAL

Fred Hubbell and Bob Riley

The Natural Capital continues to make great strides in its four focus areas: land use, zoning, and climate; outdoor recreation and trails; air/water/soil; and, marketing and education.

The Iowa Parks Foundation is working with two areas within 50 miles of Des Moines to pursue regional park projects. The Hardin/Marshall plans on the Iowa River are coming along well, and the Webster/Hamilton/Boone/Story county projects are showing great promise. The Des Moines Water Works Park effort continues to move forward, and other organizations continue to pursue additional trail work.

Work on several Watershed Management Authorities continues. The groups are analyzing sample data and identifying hot spots that will require additional practices to be activated on upstream properties. In partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the Army Corps of Engineers, through its Great Rivers Program, has designated a section of the Des Moines River stretching from Red Rock to Saylorville as a "Great River." This section will receive special treatment in the Corps budget and activities relating to flows, river ecology, water quality, silt buildup, and recreation.

Finally, work continues on a comprehensive blue and green network. Baseline mapping efforts are underway. The draft vision is an active, culturally vibrant, well-nurtured web of connected greenspaces, trails and waterways. The network draws national visitors, fully aware of its recreation and public health benefits, community engagement, economic vitality and healthy ecosystems. Central Iowans embrace this system as they would their own backyard –and it's that easy to access.