

Neighborhood Planning Process: Community Kick-off Event on January 10, 2009

During the January 10th event, residents, sitting in groups of ten, discussed ideas for sustainable neighborhoods in Cedar Rapids. All of the comments recorded during these discussions are listed below. Each group also voted for the top five most important ideas, which is reflected in the "Priority Votes" column.

Table Number	Recorded Sustainability Ideas	Priority Votes
1	Streamline Process (Contractors) Bldg/Zoning/Permits	4
1	Advocate projects of neighborhoods	
1	Neighborhoods - Coordinate Effort	
1	Each Neighborhood - Combine Services for community center, police and boys and girls club	3
1	No Cookie Cutter Neighborhoods - housing style, businesses blend into community, more inviting and attractive home fronts, porches and garages	
1	Mt. Trashmore - Windmill Energy	
1	Sinclair - Twin Parks	
1	Business Types Unique to Area	
1	River - Creates Energy	
1	Use river as entertainment	
1	Use Solar More	
1	Private Rights trump some instances of public rights	
1	Less wall (Levee)	
1	Natural Resources	
1	Run Off - Drainage	
3	Need to Control Water Runoff	
3	System to Attract Development Investment	
3	Creatively Use The River To Create a Canal	
3	Community Involvement	
3	Safety	
3	Flood Mitigation	
3	Do It Better	
3	More Information of Youth	
3	Job Creation Based on Sustainability	
3	Affordable Housing	
3	Community Involvement	
3	Create Focal Point In Commercial Area to Attract	
5	Dealing with water run off - more detail about environmental preventatives and results	
5	Effects from surrounding land - farms	
5	Natural resources	
5	View from those directly affected	
5	Trash still on curb not encouraging	
5	Seeing green progress	
5	savings building - rebates, etc.	
5	Partner either builder/supply store to provide housing to code (prefab homes)	
5	Create funding to rebuild	
5	Poor Transit system - more smaller buses	
5	Trend toward smaller homes	
5	Direct surface water back into earth	
5	Make recycling easier (BIOHAZARDS)	
5	Expand recycling to accept styrofoam and plastic bags	

5	Ski Club - Community Entertainment	
5	Employers contributions - donate time, labor, etc.	
5	City Skate Park, Kaboom Playground	
5	Fix up houses	
5	Consider water quality of Cedar River	
5	Inequity of water usage regulations between residents and businesses post-flood	
5	Rebuild GREEN	
5	Protect low-income residents	
5	Protect natural resources (build green)	
5	Preserve historic bldgs. - or relocate	
6	Like "quality of life" as sustainable	
6	Like going beyond "Parks"	
6	People are more important than greenness	
6	Time for implementation is discouraging to some	
6	Protect city from river & river from city	
6	- Accountability of farmers - could we be the first to take this on!?	
6	Urban environments are underdeveloped - great places where built environment meet natural environment?	
6	It's easier & faster to drive - make it less so, eliminate parking	
6	Impacts of flood walls/levees on upstream & downstream - overengineering system	
6	Need to be leaders re: watershed, farming, and flood protection	
6	Palo, Waterloo, etc. need to be involved - we all need to deal with stormwater	
6	Natural resources is more than water	
6	Don't take path of least resistance	
6	Cheap energy vs. clean energy	
6	Infrastructure - more efficient to reuse rather than replace	
9	Maintain neighborhoods connection w/river	
9	Making Cedar Rapids downtown a destination	
9	Reestablish adjacent neighborhoods with identity & pride	
9	Penford - does it still belong on the river?	
9	Develop downtown in a significant way	
9	Downtown embrace the river	
9	Parking ease downtown - improve parking accessibility to draw people downtown.	
9	Walkability	
9	*Housing	
9	Accessibility to services	
9	Transportation	
9	*Destinations w/in neighborhoods	
9	Increasing greenspace w/density	
9	Help people reconnect with work.	
9	Greenways that incorporate activities, active recreation, trails	
9	Incentives for green building.	
9	Shared geothermal energy for neighborhood & businesses. (help w/utility bills)	
10	Proximity - Connecting community as a whole	
14	Connected neighborhoods -	
14	Lack of entertainment (venues, cultural attractions) In each neighborhood have a center with necessary retail, services, movies b/c transportation costs, elderly getting around	
14	A new economic perspective, more cooperation, less less competition, a living wage, more equal opportunity	
14	Seed affordable single-family housing into the n'hoods	
14	Affordable housing in the heart of the city, near jobs	

15	Need to protect our energy sources	
15	More efficient street connectivity	
15	Reduce auto traffic & more mass transit - within city, connect to other communities	
15	Maintain jobs,create new	
15	Need for outside help	
15	Keep CR economic heart of Iowa	
15	Coordinate w/other cities	
16	Community Accessibility	
16	Build smart keeping environment in mind	
18	Policies that support 'green initiatives' - LEED/other/'green'guidelines/ordinances, Planning & Zoning, parking req., storm water retention, landscape/green space - rain gardens	
18	EDUCATION! - Teach people what sustainability is & how to do it	
18	Smart growth - limit sprawl - use existing infrastructure	
18	Construction waste recycling & give access to small companies-	
18	we have lots of flood waste & rebuilding - develop a regional building waste program	
18	Hydroelectric dam - move it south? - also supports recreation initiative, wind farms, agriculture, bio-mass	
18	Use land resources - Iowa State has resources/expertise in bio-mass, UNI has environmental/energy department, Iowa State architecture students 'green' house/ideas	
18	Make the river a destination	
18	Take care of issues "up river" - is there a regional solution? Are we working together?	
18	Correct storm water issues (run-off, infiltration, previous, surfaces)	
18	Support Arts & Culture - things to do	
18	Recreation - bring people here - make the river a recreational/opportunity	
18	Aesthetics - streetscapes, quality streets & paths	
18	Use local resources, talents, etc. in rebuilding	
18	If we do it 'right', it will cost us less in the long run (rebates, 'life-cycle costing)	
18	Attract businesses that want to be in a community that supports " green initiatives "	
18	Policies in place to support sustainable initiatives'	
19	Using local labor pool for rebuilding	
19	Better building/design	
24	Storm water management	
24	Riverfront plan	
24	Inclusion of non-vehicular modes of transportation	6
24	Preservation of Historic Structures	
24	Public access - enhanced	
24	Better security - enhanced	
24	Bicycle trail - continuity	
24	Bike racks	
24	Places to eat/drink near parks/trails	
24	Simplified connection of primary roads	
24	Context sensitive design	
24	Wide sidewalks/bike lanes	
24	Better disabled access	
25	Tax abatement for green building	
25	Manufacturing along river still there	
25	Keep Rockwell & Aegon here	
28	Using river as focal point	
28	Walkability and connectivity	

28	Density, improved drainage & energy efficiency	
31	Cultural Diversity	
31	Storm water run-off management	
31	Better handling of wste / trash generated	
31	Preserve open spaces/parks	
31	Preserve river /waterways	
31	Tax revenue options - different	
31	Use of taxes to subsidize new	
31	Financial feasibility e.g.: steam power plan	
36	How will the new development impact the neighboring owners?	
36	Risk of "Taxing Out" People	
36	Find Balance between development, generating Business and Value AND excessive raise of value & taxes	
36	The most SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES are LOCAL ECONOMIES	
36	Adjust policies to support small/local business funding mechanisms	
36	Build buildings so they can sustain future floods	
36	Diversity	
36	Easy Access	
36	Greenway	
36	Light Rail	
36	Bikeway	
36	Connectivity	
36	Walking districts/School districts	
36	Economic sustainability	
36	Enterprise zones	
36	Worldwide notice	
36	Fund neighborhoods for neighborhood projects and let them decide what's important	
36	Walkability	