

Breakout Session 1

NICE PLACES TO LIVE

Time Check neighborhood, Time Check Park, Time Check pre-flood, Czech Village (8) – family oriented, neighborhood ownership – pre-flood, walk-able, contained, nice style of homes (porch, gardens)

New Bohemia Area (4)

Taylor Neighborhood, Cedar Rapids (2) - Had WIC; HACAP; Metro Connections; before and after with school district.

Ellis Park, Ellis Blvd Area, Ellis Boulevard on the river (5) – ski shows, pools, golf, walking, biking

Own neighborhood (**Ellis Blvd Area**) – Big trees & wide streets, sidewalks, Everyone knows each other, small contained neighborhood, houses don't all look the same, small shops with stand alone & not strip mall – traffic issue

Pre-flood Cedar Rapids – well kept neighborhoods

NW neighborhood

Cedar Rapids (downtown)

Bowman Woods/Cedar Hills – planned neighborhood

Cedar Rapids (3) – Farmer's Market, sidewalk cafes, easy to get around, walk everywhere, smallness, low crime, centrally located businesses – lack of sidewalks, pedestrian connections

Cedar Rapids Grand Avenue/Bever (2) – Walkable, Destinations like Bever & Brucemore Park

Meadowbrook Drive – Cedar Rapids (2) – Good place to have kids, sidewalks went all the way to schools, diverse age groups, history, mix of families – vibrant colors (no beige)

Cedar Rapids 2nd Ave – Grand (Front porch culture)

Cedar Rapids as a whole – nice neighborhoods – equal – close knit neighbors

Rolling Green – Cedar Rapids

Cedar Hills in Cedar Rapids – family friendly, **safe**, pedestrians & bikes, centralized business & commercial area in each square mile, ownership

SE Cedar Rapids – “Porch” community (friendly, neighborly)

Intergenerational mix – allows for mentoring

Socializing center – fellowship, communication area, year-round access

Safe area

Economic development within each neighborhood – businesses & private

Family friendly

Activities – mini golf, go-carting, etc.

Stony Point, Northbrook, Cedar Rapids – kids can ride their bikes everywhere, safety, traffic calming, local schools & swimming pool

Swisher/College Community Area

Development by Reservoir (Shueyville, IA)

Marion IA (Green square & surrounding businesses)

Mount Vernon IA

Westport

Oakville--Jackson

Clinton, IA

Stone City, IA

Dubuque IA - Dubuque Riverfront (4) - downtown

Anamosa & Central City IA (2) – central Main Street – Pedestrian friendly, destination place, aesthetics, architecture, water features, green space, access to goods & services

Ely IA– spread out neighborhood, friendly, quiet

Des Moines IA (4) – clean – Farmers Market, Downtown area – Mixed neighborhoods

West Des Moines IA

Waukee – Stony Point (2) – traffic calming, schools, swimming pool – spread out neighborhood, friendly, quiet

Iowa City, Downtown Iowa City, The Peninsula Iowa City (8) – Housing (senior, condos, close to facilities), Fun - city with small town feel – pedestrian-ized campus feel, good bus system – mixed use

Elkader IA– restoration, existing structures

Wyoming, IA – historical places (can be small: single grave)

Fredericksburg – community center for gatherings

Sioux City IA – riverfront area

Ames IA (2) – efficient bus system, obliging to passenger, 24 hours a day – town center

Creston IA

Iowa Falls IA

Smalltown USA – small town “feel”, feeling of security, walkability safety, mix of single family, apartment buildings, lots of stuff to do, block meetings, accessibility

Minneapolis MN, South Minneapolis – Lake Harriet, Uptown Minneapolis (5) – accessible, well laid out, good entertainment – skywalk – light rail, skywalks, shopping centers, homes nearby

Rochester MN– arts and culture, preservation

Edina MN – Senior/Children’s Hotel Year round, shared facilities

St Paul MN (2) – Amphitheatre/Pavilion

Red Wing MN

Maplewood MN

Stillwater, MN

Madison WI (4) – families, entertainment, food, farmer’s market – Education/Business, Mixed use with residential, farmer’s market

Milwaukee WI– neighborhood – good mix, nite life, clean

Wisconsin Dells WI

Baraboo, WI – easy to get around (signs) clean

Madison WI – lakes & trails

Old Market Square (Omaha, NE)

Savannah MO – Walk-able downtown, good mix of uses, opportunities for kids to interact safely, good mix of ages

Independence, MO

Kansas City, Spanish Area of Kansas City (2) – Country Club Plaza, Residential, Trails, Shops

Hannibal MO

Branson Landing MO

Lawrence KS – Affordable housing, home ownership, quality rentals, neighborhood, college town type, gathering spots, shops, café’s resale shops, small gathering pockets, areas of shops – Country Club district

Bolingbrook, IL (Colonial Village)

Chicago IL (7)– Art/museums/Library – church defined, neighborhoods—south side —Lincoln Square – attractions – bungalow district, historical character, walkability features, downtown residences, grocery in downtown, church, restaurant, school, libraries, transit, services (drugstore- dry cleaner)

Bucktown (Chicago) – Intermingling of houses & restaurants & shops

Evanston IL – subway, small shops, easy public transportation

Naperville/Downers Grove IL – walkable, streetscaping, complete street, mixed income neighborhood, multi-cultural mix arts, business opportunities (diversified), tolerance – acceptability for religions, arts, cultures, races, music

Rock River IL (Rockford IL)

Geneva/St Charles IL (2)

Lake View IL

Galena IL (3)– Maintained historic district, naturalized flood proofing

Hyde Park – Cincinnati, OH

Mariemont, Cincinnati, OH

Cleveland OH – community center

Germantown Village Columbus, OH – architectural design standards applied to redevelopment

Rapid City, SD

Providence, Rhode Island – arts, cultural & entertainment along/in river, services

Washington DC (2)– public transportation center, access & ability to walk

East Market – **Washington, DC**

Pittsburg Squirrel Hill

New York City – Harlem & Alphabet City

Asheville NC (3)– affordable, mixed city, no greenification, socio-economic diversity, multi-generational living, walkable neighborhood, recreational activities, government support of activities – Mixed neighborhoods

Boston Beacon Hill Area

Hanover NH

Suburb of Detroit

Hudson Heights – Manhattan

Ridgefield CT – Traditional downtown scape, central square, Gazebo Dog area, gardens, playground, historical presence, maintained even with new buildings, sidewalks, businesses in front, parking lots in back

Baltimore Harbor

Switzerland (water areas)

Italy – farmers market, community square area

European towns/cities (Prague), plazas, gathering places

European towns – easy access to all amenities, not strip malls, etc. museum

Greece – coordinated “natural” look to neighborhood

Europe – empty space for events in downtown

Redding UK – river as center of activity, unique mix of architecture
Germany, Austria – scale of city favors non-vehicle transportation
Pondicherry, India – emphasize pedestrians along beach, wiFI @ community centers
Belgrade – Green space, central gathering place, 24 hours a day, open space within main part of city
Frankfort, Germany – Street fairs, walk-able, public transit was great
Villages in England – all necessities in walking distance – butcher, bakery, etc.

Oklahoma City – arch, movie theatre, Pro Bass Shops, Baseball Stadium

Dallas TX

Austin TX

San Antonio TX – easy access to nature, trees, facilities, etc.

Some U.S. cities – bike events, close streets once a month for bikes, safe and good for interaction

San Antonio TX (5) – ped friendly, vibrant river area, close to services, ie shops, restaurants – Riverwalk – riverfront, flowers, trees, activities – River Walk, Recreation activities @ schools

Boulder CO (3) – not big, walking place, shops, limited driving

Denver (3) – Business district – well connected bike trails

Stapleton – A part of Denver – good use of rehab of industrial areas

Breckenridge CO – arts & culture, diverse businesses, river walk, inclusive, mixed-income neighborhood

Colorado – town houses with community, trees areas, commercial buildings with residential look

Ft Collins CO – extensive bike path, wide sidewalks, vibrant downtown, ped mall, whole food markets

B Wd Areas – **Salt Lake City UT**– sidewalks, alleys, universities, businesses, blvd, streets walkable 10-12 feet strip of flowers, tree lined

Las Vegas – Downtown

Yellowstone MT

Glendale, AZ – family friendly neighborhood

Scottsdale, AZ – grocery store, connectivity

Santa Fe NM– art, old + new, sense of place, feel

Florida – River/recreation

Key West, FL (Residential)

Florida Keys

Mt Dora, FL

Birmingham AL

Memphis TN—Mud Island

Gulfport, MISS

New Orleans – transportation, self-contained neighborhoods, walk to shops

California

San Francisco (2) - San Francisco Bay

Oregon

Portland OR (3) – sidewalks, park like downtown, block long parks with mix uses – greenspaces, fountains for wading, music in parks, special bike events – pedestrian, transit friendly

Fremont, Capitol Hill, Belltown, Seattle – walkable sense of ownership, businesses owned by families from the neighborhood, open air markets, full of character, events for neighborhood (specifically), personality, identity

Seattle – Pike’s Market

WHY YOU LIKE IT

- Like the people
- Neighborhood community
- Activities in Neighborhood
- Well-maintained homes
- People helped each other, sense of community
- Old fashion neighborhood
- Neighbors look out for one another
- Single family (affordable)
- Access to retail, culture, jobs
- Wetland restoration

- Entertainment, dining, visually pleasing, green space, parks
- Safe environment
- Accessible, connected sidewalks
- Farmers Market – enclosed, accessible year-round
- Maintain historic buildings
- Naturalized flood wall
- Play areas
- Families
- Walkability & access to transportation
- Landmarks & historic assets
- Multi-generational activities
- Shopping/variety of retail
- Street life (vendors, cars, people)
- Centrally located Business
- Park like Downtown
- Nearby Residences from business
- Small town
- Food
- Light Rail
- Skywalks
- Shopping
- Nice Streets
- Good family value sites, i.e. Boys and girls Club
- People know each other
- Multi-generational facilities
- Need to resolve before we can move forward
- Unsolved issues re: buyouts (concerned about various issues)
- Property taxes
- Insurance – May cancel if not occupied
- Expectations of maintenance issues for properties
- Hard to plan and move ahead
- Recovery comes first!
- Picnic areas
- Bring in opportunities for music, concerts
- User friendly parks (Parking, restrooms, sidewalks, space between road and river)
- Ball diamonds (good if used)
- Soccer fields
- Ability to walk in neighborhood
- Grocer store (Neighborhood)
- Attractive landscaping
- Gardens, trees
- Safe neighborhoods
- Ability to grill
- Yard activities
- River and harbor (Access to River)
- Able to fish
- Parking
- Trails
- Separation by interstates, plan to maintain neighborhood integrity
- Small - neighbors know each other
- Able to work together
- Neighborhood - maturity and community
- Farmers market, close walking distance
- Safe places for everyone
- Safe places to live
- Stronger communities
- Little Kiosks/Vendors/Street life
- A great place to “grow up”
- Places for kids to go in neighborhoods after school
- Take care of abandoned buildings and cars lots
- Knowing everyone in the neighborhood
- Educational opportunities
- Indoor activities/library
- Walking distance

- Different ages playing together
- Walking to corner stores
- Community centers/gathering
- Neighborhood focus instead of sprawl
- Downtown library-in walking distance to neighborhoods and programs for teens
- Active recreation in the neighborhood
- Activities/access to the river
- Pavilions/ducks on the river - good for families
- Levee drive/walk. use flood protection to make a great park
- Aquarium/science museum – opportunity for kids to learn and be involved
- Cultural diversity – exposure to others
- Shopping – bunch of store fronts
- Diversity/Different/ Individual stores
- Outdoor Experience of shopping, Cars and people
- Something for everyone – small kids, and adults activities
- A destination/reason to come downtown
- Six Flags next to Water Park
- Entertainment venues
- Historic assets/infrastructure (Golden Gate)
- Celebrate our landmarks
- Transportation access (safe)
- Neighborhood Grocery (not big chain)
- Family connected neighborhood
- Pride & ownership in neighborhood
- Lots of homeowners
- Pride in your yard
- Security/Neighborhood “watch”
- More open space/green space
- Wildlife
- Age diversity
- Planned places for churches, playground, schools
- Shade trees
- Walking neighborhood—lots of area to walk
- Peaceful
- Gambling
- Places for kids to go play
- River nearby
- Not cookie cutter neighborhoods
- House in on flat land (for planting gardens, barbecue, decks, sit outside, play area)
- Trails, place to swim
- Community centers
- Convenience Centers
- Historical information
- Museum/water park
- Destination places
- Convention center
- Library/branches
- Nature
- Bowling alleys
- Dance halls
- Roller rinks
- Concerts
- Attractive landscape
- Connectivity of bike trails
- Benches/seating
- Neighborhood schools
- Waterfront, some retail, walking
- Entertainment—wide variety
- Band concerts in the park
- Riverfront parks—water, boats, skiers, fishing, launch, watching rescue personnel, ice skating
- Utilized Ellis Park
- Bring the harbor back
- Variety of housing types
- Pavilion/Recreation area

- Public restrooms
- Crazy Horse Monument—National/Regional Attractions
- Live bands – fun
- Commitment to culture
- Downtown functions
- Shopping—walk-able
- Convenience of services
- Festivals, farmers markets, flea markets
- Sidewalks
- Public transportation
- Attractions
- Specific neighborhood character (Czech Village)
- Embrace culture
- Activities for children/young adults
- Services specific to area
- Indoor facilities
- Nightlife—bar district
- Open space next to the river
- Utilize water (river) as an “attraction”
- Location—central and access to walking to commercial needs (i.e. bank, grocery, etc.)
- Transportation—all modes—accessible
- Diverse neighborhood (race, age, ethnicity, etc.)
- Access to culture & cultural events
- Recreation: parks, trails
- Access to community services
- Public transportation into downtown area/hub
- “Pedestrian friendly” neighborhoods: walk, run, bikes, safety concern: being safe for kids and residents
- Neighborhood watch/Association/Activities/Newsletters
- Knowing your neighbors
- Banners identifying the neighborhoods
- Banners identifying the neighborhoods
- Park/green space-area for running and jogging
- Skate park
- Safety of the neighborhood
- Presence of police patrol; kids not afraid of police
- Variety of housing-condos; duplex, etc.
- Generations of the same family create tradition/consistency
- Bike trail led to/connect to larger bike trail system
- Flowers, plantings, especially in Metro area, generates pride in neighborhood
- Animosity-going forth
- Terrific ideas
- Diversified tables of people
- More Business’ involved
- Major businesses represented
- No forum to have meetings between City setup meetings
- A lot of emphasis on transportation in a variety of formats
- Destination neighborhood
- Note: importance of preservation, cost benefit over time
- Transportation – connectivity, trains, trolley, buses, private, public
- Mixed Use – housing & various levels
- Arts & cultural
- Preservation of Historic areas & adaptive use
- Diversity
- Population
- Identity
- Mix of age
- Access to basic services – meet basic needs of life
- Perception of safety
- Green (feeling of home) streetscape
- Safe Walkways/Trails
- Public Gathering
- Farmer’s Market
- Importance of Athletics
- Specific Design Standards

- Street signage
- Visually attractive store fronts
- No bars on the windows
- Year round recreation facility, rec center
- Enclosed Farmer's Market in central location
- Trail system with feeder trails to serve other neighborhoods
- Flood proof buildings
- Libraries – Branches – Bookmobiles
- City/County facilities out of flood plain
- After school programs in the neighborhoods
- School involvement
- School as Community Center
- City and County work together
- Environmentally friendly
- Greenspace
- Gathering space within neighborhoods
- Diversity of affordable housing
- Diversity of neighborhood
- Pedestrian mall
- Locally owned businesses
- Kid-friendly
- Restoration of buildings
- Festivals
- Farmer's Market
- Public transit
- Walkable
- Wide sidewalks
- Outdoor ice skating with facilities
- Advertising of city amenities (parks) or what city has created
- Affordable destinations
- Honoring natural resources
- Honoring cultural heritage
- Places to sit (gathering spots)
- Street art
- Plenty of parking
- Developed waterway
- Preserve housing stock
- Natural gathering places (indoor/outdoor)
- Things to look at
- Mix of retail & recreation
- Well-maintained recreation facilities
- City built facilities
- Clean-ness
- Restaurants in neighborhoods
- Walkable
- Mixed use (live, services, green space (inviting, food), small retail, benches, trail
- Older buildings
- Stores on 1st & apartments above
- Higher density
- Helping, caring neighbors
- Location of homes, connected with open views – no tall fences, lots of well-placed porches
- Diversity of housing styles – co-mingle
- Access to retail, culture, jobs
- Wetland restoration
- Parking – not focus, people are the focus
- Access to alternate transportation
- Outdoor recreation – use water as resource/build around
- Pedestrian Center – attractive to citizens, entertainment, dining, visually pleasing, green space, parks
- Safe environment
- Accessible, connected sidewalks
- "Kid Lot" – center for all ages with fun activities – neighborhood rec centers, incorporate schools, use existing structures efficiently/effectively
- Multi-generational
- Pedestrian friendly

- Shopping
- Walking trails along river
- Stretching exercise stations
- Easy travel throughout city
- Fishing piers

Additional Notes

Cedar Rapids is not safe for pedestrian crossing or bikes
CR needs improvements to bus service
CR needs safer play areas
CR needs police precincts
Improve mass transit efficiency
Mini Malls (not sure if “liked” or “disliked”)

Concerns

Priorities discussed at table may not be ones recorded
Perception of hidden agenda – proactive effort to rebuild trust
Citizens provided detailed goals information
Want to be sure it is not lost
Low income representation low
Often those affected cannot come on a Saturday

Common Themes From One Report Back

Mixed Use – including mix of housing, Mom & Pop Retail with housing above
Walkability/Bikeability (bike trails, sidewalks, connectivity, walking paths)
Integrating river into neighborhoods (see as Asset/bring areas together, clean & accessible)
Multi-Generational (activities/HSG)
Gathering Places
Flexible, accessible transportation (smaller buses)

Unique Ideas From One Report Back

Birdwatching area
Fishing piers
Destination water park
Develop area between Coe and Mt Mercy (paths to build social connections)