

# IOWA

## PLANNING NEWS

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### COMMUNITIES ADOPT PLANNING

Clear Lake and Hawarden, Becoming Aware of Future Opportunities of Small Cities, Prepare to Meet Them

Efforts to establish city planning as a practical, economical, long range development process have been made recently in two of Iowa's smaller cities, where theoretically past mistakes have not as yet left scars which cannot be easily corrected, and where the future offers large opportunities for growth and development as communities in which the more abundant life may be freely enjoyed by all inhabitants.

These cities are Clear Lake, in Cerro Gordo County on the shores of beautiful Clear Lake, which has adopted by city ordinance a city planning program and has established a City Planning Board, and Hawarden, situated on the Missouri River in Sioux County, where an unofficial Community Planning Board has been organized under leadership of the Chamber of Commerce, with many civic and social organizations cooperating and represented on the Board. The 1930 popula-

tion figures are: Clear Lake, 3,066; Hawarden, 2,459.

It should be of significant interest to many of Iowa's larger cities that these two towns are so aware of their future opportunities.

Iowa Planning News asked leaders in these two community planning activities to relate how these movements came about and what is the present plan of procedure. Their accounts are presented herewith.

#### IOWA ENABLING ACT

The Iowa Code contains an enabling act permitting cities to adopt by ordinance official city planning programs. The act specifies the composition of a City Planning Commission, terms of office, etc., making it explicit that no member of a City Planning Commission receives any compensation for his services as such. The Code states that a City Planning Commission shall consist of "not less than seven members, who shall be citizens of such municipality and who shall be qualified by knowledge or experience to act in matters pertaining to development of a city plan and who shall not hold any elective office in the municipal government."

#### OFFICIAL BOARD IN CLEAR LAKE

By Dr. A.B. Phillips  
Mayor of Clear Lake

The idea of a planning board for Clear Lake was originated in the Civic League, a women's organization.

In April 1936, the Lake Shore Committee of this organization was requested to attend a State Park Conference in Ames, and as a result a luncheon was held in Clear Lake at the Lake Shore Hotel with the Lake Shore Committee in charge, to

which representatives from the City Council, Rotary Club, Lions Club, American Legion and Commercial Club were invited.

After the luncheon, Mr. R. H. Matson, Director of the Iowa State Planning Board, outlined briefly the functions of that body. Mr. Dwight G. McCarty, for a quarter of a century chairman of the Emmetsburg City Planning Commission, was introduced and told of the planning and the many improvements which they had accomplished in Emmetsburg over a period of years. He showed blueprints to bring the results more vividly to our attention.

Prof. P. H. Elwood of Ames, Consultant to the State Planning Board, then spoke of things he, as a stranger, had observed in and about the city, bringing to our attention the need of a planning board and a zoning commission.

Following this meeting, the Mayor investigated the desirability of a planning board and took the matter up with the City Attorney, also obtaining more information from the people at Ames.

When this subject was presented to the City Council, they were not well enough informed to pass judgment, so asked for more time in order to consider it more carefully.

In December 1936, the Civic League sent a resolution to the City Council asking the Council to adopt city planning. Many times during the next year, this subject was brought up for discussion, but was not brought to a vote because there was considerable opposition from some of our citizens who expressed their sentiments to members of the Council and the Mayor. They did not think it wise to attempt to force such an important issue upon the city unless we had almost the unanimous approval of all the civic organizations as well as the citizenry.

Finally, at a regular meeting of the City Council in February of this year, the planning program was approved and an ordinance was presented to govern such a body. This ordinance was duly

passed.

In naming the first Planning Board for Clear Lake, the Mayor and Council considered persons with open minds, choosing those who were not interested in or members of any other city board or project in order that we might obtain the best results for the future needs of Clear Lake and vicinity.

The membership of the Board includes Mrs. F. P. Walker, Mrs. Henry Halverson, Frank L. Knutson, Irving C. Jensen, Dr. A. A. Joslyn, Raymond J. Aurdal and Mrs. George Newman.

We asked this Board to receive and consider worth while suggestions for the betterment of our city.

I feel that city planning is largely a matter of education. In order to have a city beautiful, plans must be made and carried out in a deliberate manner, choosing wisely those things which will make for the benefit and happiness of all the citizens, remembering that hasty decisions are often unwise and regretted through the years to come.

Due credit should be given the Civic League in sponsoring so worthy a cause, and for their patience and forbearance during this educational period.

#### COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD IN HAWARDEN

By H. Visser, Chairman

The Hawarden Community Planning Board is made up of representatives of the following organizations: School Board, Park Board, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars and their Auxiliaries, Golf Club, Rotary Club, Women's Club, City Council, Ministerial Association, Chamber of Commerce and the Mutual Improvement Group.

Each of these organizations is entitled to one representative who holds office for one year, or until his successor is appointed.

It is also necessary that each representative be qualified with a thorough knowledge and experience in mat-

IOWA SHARES IN  
TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

By R. H. Musser  
Regional Conservator  
Soil Conservation Service

More than 8,100,000 "soldiers" are being mobilized this spring for the war against soil erosion in the Upper Mississippi Valley!

That is the number of trees and shrubs going into the ground on farms included in erosion control demonstrations in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota and Wisconsin. More than 2,118,000 are being planted on farms in Iowa.

The trees are being planted on denuded hillsides and in severely eroded areas to aid in the reclamation and conservation of soil resources. Approx-

ters regarding the municipality and development thereof, and interested in carrying out objectives of the Board.

The articles of the Board call for four regular meetings each year, and as many special meetings as the officers in charge, or three members find it necessary to hold.

The object and purposes of the Board are to promote the general welfare and development of matters pertaining to the good of the city and the people living therein, to make surveys, investigations and recommendations to the various bodies that have authority in regard to various improvements.

In organizing the Board, it was thought the representative members would cover every section of the town and all classes of the population, and any matter proposed by this Board would be proposed only after thorough discussion and review by all members.

The Board itself has no legal standing and only acts as a suggestive body to the City Council and other organizations that have authority to complete various projects.

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imately 6,253,000 hardwoods and 825,000 conifers are being planted in the region as a whole.

This "army," with the exception of minor shipments from other regions, was raised in Soil Conservation Service nurseries at Ames, Iowa, Elsberry, Missouri, and Winona, Minnesota.

Principle hardwood species planted include black locust, green ash, black walnut and red oak. Principle conifer species are western yellow pine, Scotch pine, Norway pine, red cedar and jack pine.

Black locust is more widely used than any other species because it has proved itself especially suited to gully control plantings. The tree is rapid-growing, has a spreading root system and does relatively well in poor soils.

In addition to conifers and hardwoods, approximately 1,031,000 shrubs and vines are being planted to serve the dual purpose of conserving soil and providing food and cover for wildlife.

These plantings are confined to the edge of wooded areas and to gullies.

Vines and shrubs being planted include wild plum, wild grape, mulberry, Virginia creeper, caragana and raspberry.

Numerous experiments have shown that erosion and runoff are at a minimum in ungrazed wooded areas, even though the areas are steep. The leaf litter which accumulates beneath the trees "cushions" the rain and keeps the soil in good condition to absorb water.

It is important, however, that the woods be protected against grazing. Grazing animals trample the leaf litter and damage undergrowth and young trees, reducing the economic value of the woods as well as its effectiveness in the control of erosion.

Tree planting for this spring is virtually completed in Missouri and southern Illinois, and is well under way in Iowa. Planting work has just begun in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

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# CRESTON PLANNING INSTITUTE

Strong Educational Program Arranged for Southwest Counties  
May 12; Open to the General Public

What is believed will be one of the strongest Iowa programs for public enlightenment on community and county problems held in the past two years, with planning as the central theme for consideration, has been arranged for a group of 12 southwestern Iowa counties, at Creston, Thursday, May 12.

Known as the Second Southwest Iowa Regional Planning Institute, the program will be presented in four sections. Morning, afternoon and evening sessions will be held in the Jefferson School auditorium, with a luncheon at the Iowana Hotel.

The Institute is being sponsored cooperatively by the City of Creston, the Creston Commercial Club and the Iowa Conference on Planning, with the assistance of the State Planning Board.

It is open to the public, men and women, farmers and townspeople, public servants and private citizens. There will be no registration or admission charges, and anybody interested in general problems affecting agriculture and urban communities is invited.

Following are the speakers and their subjects:

Opening Session - 9:30 a.m.

"Citizen Interest in County and Regional Planning," J. M. Beck, Editor, Centerville Daily Iowegian & Citizen.

"Rural and Urban Cooperation for Agriculture," Murl McDonald, Ames, Asst. Director, Agricultural Extension Service, Iowa State College.

"Long Time Planning to Conserve the Soil," R. H. Musser, Des Moines, Regional Director, Soil Conservation Service.

Luncheon - 12:15 p.m.

"Community Planning Problems." "An interview with Prof. P. H. Elwood, Ames, Regional Counselor, National Resources Committee; Consultant, Iowa State Plan-

ning Board; Head of Department of Landscape Architecture, Iowa State College. Conducted by Mayor S. Ray Emerson of Creston.

Afternoon Session - 2 p.m.

"National, State and Regional Planning," H. H. Kildee, Dean of Agriculture, Iowa State College; Chairman, Iowa State Planning Board.

"Community Planning Procedure," Prof. J. R. Fitzsimmons, Extension Professor, Landscape Architecture, Iowa State College; Technical Adviser in Community and Recreational Planning; Landscape Adviser, State Conservation Commission.

"Conservation of Health Resources in Iowa," Dr. Marvin F. Haygood, Deputy Commissioner, Iowa State Department of Health.

"Rural and Urban Water Problems of Southwest Iowa," O. J. Baldwin, Iowa City, Planning Engineer, State Planning Board; Asst. Professor of Civil Engineering, State University of Iowa.

Evening Session - 8 p.m.

"The Human Equation in Planning," Rev. L. G. Ligutti, Pastor, Church of the Assumption, Granger; Founder and Director of the Granger Homestead Project; Chairman, Iowa Conference on Planning.

There will be opportunity for questions and discussion following each address.

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## Bibliography Supplement

A supplement to the last issue of the Bibliography of Reports and Other Publications of the Iowa State Planning Board has been prepared, and will be sent on request to any person desiring the latest information on new reports. If you have not had a Bibliography, one will be sent on request without charge.

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CORYDON PLANNING  
COMMUNITY FOREST

Corydon, in Wayne County, will be the first city or town in Iowa to have its own community forest, with initiation this spring of such a project as a part of the Chariton Basin Demonstration Project.

It is planned that approximately 50 acres of city owned land lying west and south of the city reservoir will be planted. Trees to be grown on the area are to be oak, pine, green ash and walnut. Because of the particularly favorable soil, climate and rainfall of this vicinity, such an enterprise should be most successful, according to forestry experts advising on the project.

The purpose of the forest is to reduce the siltation of the reservoir, to provide a game production area and later to provide through the sale of timber an income which will in part defray some of the cost of the city water system. Similar forests in other states have been known to provide from \$5 to \$10 per acre per year in addition to upkeep costs.

The 60,000 seedlings necessary have been acquired at a nominal cost. Labor necessary for ground preparation and planting is being provided through a WPA project. Technical guidance is being furnished by the Iowa State Conservation Commission, the State Forester, the Agricultural Extension Service and the Iowa State Planning Board.

It is contemplated that other portions of the city reservoir area will be planted either next fall or the following spring.

While Corydon will be the first city in Iowa to have its own community forest, some 1,097 other cities and towns in 27 other states have developed such projects. Nearby states having community forests are Illinois with seven comprising 36,557 acres; Minnesota with one of 3,000 acres; Missouri with 21 comprising 9,432 acres. Like Corydon, those communities have developed community forests primarily to protect the municipal water supply.

IOWA COAL OUTPUT FOR 1936

(See map on back cover)

Information by State Mine Inspector

County	Tonnage	No. of Mines
Adams	31,132	21
Appanoose	660,211	36
Boone	448,314	19
Dallas	399,882	7
Davis	16,716	7
Greene	55,278	5
Guthrie	30,301	7
Jasper	61,106	12
Jefferson	6,500	2
Keokuk	8,629	4
Lucas	561,497	10
Mahaska	152,236	39
Marion	367,520	72
Monroe	246,524	22
Page	46,139	5
Polk	522,061	25
Taylor	15,691	4
Van Buren	15,250	9
Wapello	104,442	34
Warren	133,293	14
Wayne	28,072	10
Webster	51,291	13
State	3,962,085	427

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BETTER HEALTH

(Editorial in the Centerville Daily Iowegian & Citizen, April 8, 1938)

We are moving steadily toward better health standards. The stress is being laid on prevention. Also we are discovering new serums and counteracting agencies. Some scourges have been almost removed from the list to be feared. We still have heart disease, cancer, pneumonia, kidney ailments and apoplexy as our main causes of death. These are mostly accompaniments of older years. But we are attacking them. Here in Appanoose County we have a Centerville school nurse, a county nurse, and the Chariton Basin health unit headquarters. These are agencies of prevention. We have an aroused interest over certain diseases that are now being specially attacked, such as cancer and venereal diseases. It is one of the recompenses of a time of depression that we are establishing better health standards.

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# TABULATE RECREATION DATA

State Planning Board Project Suggests New Approach to Problem  
of Providing Adequate Leisure Time Activities

By Howard Chandler  
Project Supervisor

Now entering the final phases of tabulation is one of the most comprehensive studies of recreation ever undertaken in the United States. The Iowa State Planning Board, with the aid of the Works Progress Administration and in close cooperation with the National Park Service and the State Conservation Commission, has been engaged for more than a year in studying recreational problems primarily as economic problems.

Today recreation is a commodity. Not goods to be bought and sold by the package, to be sure, but nevertheless consisting of items to be supplied and consumed in accordance with the same economic laws that govern the exchange of merchandise generally.

To frame an intelligent program for recreation, therefore, it is first necessary to gain the greatest possible knowledge of demands for and supplies of various types of recreational facility.

It is hoped that through its attempts to measure supply and demand in recreation, this survey will enable the people of Iowa to gain maximum benefits from the active and proposed programs through advice based on factual information.

Recreational demands have been measured by a comprehensive leisure time activity questionnaire which was filled out and returned by 2,600 Iowans from every county in the state.

Questions concerning leisure time use in the home, in sports and outing

activities; in social circles and in commercial recreation appeared in the questionnaire. Individuals were quizzed both as to the extent of their present participation and as to their unsatisfied desires for other types of leisure activity.

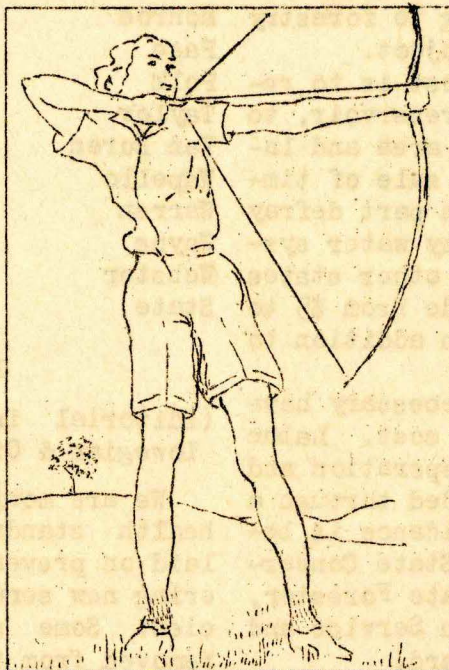
Through tabulation of these data and a process of estimation, it is anticipated that the active and potential demand for various leisure time activities can be stated for any given area in the state.

The present supply of recreational facilities in the state has been determined by as complete an inventory of recreational areas as could be devised and administered. Workers in 97 of the 99 counties in Iowa compiled information concerning the recreational facilities present in parks, schools, churches, playfields, playgrounds, clubs, community centers, pool halls, taverns and all other recreation areas.

Having determined these essentials, the State Planning Board hopes to formulate programs for more efficient use of existing activities and to point out to interested agencies additions to existing recreation programs to meet the greatest popular demand.

In a world where leisure time is intermittently on the increase, this study should prove of real value in directing activities in recreation into channels which will achieve the greatest good.

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