

2023 Updates

The City adopted EnvisionCR in 2015 as the City's comprehensive plan. The annual review of EnvisionCR is the time to examine and report on the progress the City is achieving in implementing our comprehensive plan. This review process ensures that this plan is up to date and provides flexibility to account for changing conditions. The timing of this review is crucial as it serves as a reminder to City Departments to consider them in the development of their annual budgets and work plans.

The annual review process involves updating two elements and all the Initiatives in EnvisionCR. The status of each Initiative is reviewed and updated accordingly along with comments that provide additional information on the status. Completed Initiatives are removed and new ones may be added. Additionally, the outcome of planning efforts involving public infrastructure and quality of life are also reviewed annually since these plans are incorporated into the comprehensive plan upon adoption.

This year, the narratives of StrengthenCR and InvestCR were updated in addition to the status of 53 Initiatives. Of these 53 Initiatives, 30 were completed, 5 new ones were added, and 4 were recategorized as ongoing. The following infrastructure and quality of life plans were also updated in this review cycle: NW Neighborhood Area Action Plan, Mt Vernon Road Corridor Action Plan, College District Area Action Plan, Czech Village/NewBohemia Area Action Plan, Historic Preservation Plan, Wellington Heights Neighborhood Action Plan, Pedestrian Master Plan, 6th Street Corridor Action Plan, Westdale Area Action Plan, Community Climate Action Plan, Public Art Plan, and the **Age Friendly Action Plan**. In these plans, combined 429 Action Steps were updated with 174 completed.

In the Age-Friendly Action Plan 47 initiatives have been updated and 11 completed.

Age Friendly Action Plan Goals & Initiatives - 2023 Update, Adopted September 2022

AGE FRIENDLY ACTION PLAN

| | | Schedule | Lead | Status | Comments |
|---|--|---------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Housing Goal 1: Increase public awareness and implementation of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) | | | | | |
| 1. | Development of multilingual guidance resource about the ADU permitting process; available in-person, online, and over the phone. | 2-3 years | Development Services | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| 2. | ADU promotion/education in collaboration with Neighborhood Finance Corporation, AARP Iowa and others. | Within 1 year | Community Development | Complete | Educational seminar on ADUs with NFC and AARP in City Library in January 2023. Held Gingerbread contest. Complete 2023. |
| 3. | Investigate grant opportunities to support housing affordability barriers, including design services to build ADUs. | 2-3 years | Community Development | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| 4. | Develop GIS viewer to inform and illustrate possibilities with ADUs. | 2-3 years | Information Technology - GIS Division | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| Housing Goal 2: Expand incentives that foster affordable, accessible and supportive housing | | | | | |
| 1. | Advocate and work with state to encourage housing tax credit program to support developments in close proximity to broader range of public amenities, not just transit (i.e. transit, and other amenities that support 15-minute neighborhoods). | Within 1 year | City Manager's Office | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| 2. | Explore feasibility of promoting Universal Design features (no-step entries, wide doorways, easy-grab lever-style handles). | 4-5 years | Community Development | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| 3. | Analyze current city incentive programs for opportunities to support site selection criteria that promote 15-minute neighborhoods. | 2-3 years | City Manager's Office | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| 4. | Create map of age-restricted developments to understand current proximity to services and amenities and identify gaps. | 2-3 years | Community Development | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| 5. | Create a site selection resource to share with developers that details priorities to consider i.e. transit, and other amenities that support 15-minutes neighborhoods. | 4-5 years | Community Development | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| Housing Goal 3: Reduce barriers to reputable repair help | | | | | |
| 1. | Promote Minor Home Repair Program and other home repair resources in new ways. | 2-3 years | Community Development - Housing | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| Housing Goal 4: Employ innovative approaches to support broader participation by Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program participants to increase enrollment in the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program | | | | | |
| 1. | Update FSS program flyer, with approval of Program Coordinating Committee | Within 1 year | Community Development - Housing | Started | In progress. |
| 2. | Explore branding the FSS program to spark increased participant interest and understanding. | 2-3 year | Community Development - Housing | Started | The City promotes the FSS program at Section 8 Briefings, sends recruitment letters to Section 8 participants. |
| 3. | Increase promotion of FSS program to Section 8 Program participants through a variety of networks including targeted in-person outreach and informational fair and partnerships with community organizations. | Within 1 year | Community Development - Housing | Started | In progress. |
| Health and Community Goal 1: Explore increased role for partnerships between first responders, health care and community-based organizations | | | | | |
| 1. | Utilize Unite Us Community Platform to link to neighborhoods with community partners, including the Police and Fire Departments by identifying missing community partners and encouraging those organizations to join the Unite Us platform. | Within 1 year | Community Development - Housing | Complete | The City paired up with the Unite Us platform in January of 2022 to make referrals for individuals in need of assistance and one of the most valuable partners is the Heritage Aging Services. Completed 2023. |
| Outdoor Spaces and Buildings Goal 1: Advance cultural, social, and economic value through public art | | | | | |
| 1. | Research best practices and platforms to establish and app-based, self guided mural walk. | Within 1 year | Community Development | Complete | Completed 2023. |
| 2. | Develop and implement an art show event geared towards older community members | Within 1 year | Library | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |

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| AGE FRIENDLY ACTION PLAN | | Schedule | Lead | Status | Comments |
|---|---|---------------|------------------------|-------------|---|
| Outdoor Spaces and Buildings Goal 2: Nurture the existence of "Third Places" and other important community spaces to foster social capital and to advance sustainability efforts to becoming 15-minute city | | | | | |
| 1. | Explore feasibility of partnerships (i.e. with Economic Alliance, Downton District, library and/or other appropriate entities to promote winter skywalk activity. | Within 1 year | Community Development | Started | Wellbeing Advisory Committee is a potential partner. |
| 2. | Look for and support appropriate opportunities for joint uses of community assets and facilities, leveraging scarce resources whenever possible. | 2-3 years | Community Development | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| Social Participation Goal 1: Promote healthy living and social connections throughout the City's parks | | | | | |
| 1. | Implement Rec and Connect initiative that offers free, programmed opportunities geared towards older adults to explore the City's parks and connect with others. | Within 1 year | Parks and Recreation | Complete | Completed 2023. |
| Social Participation Goal 2: Foster neighborhood connections | | | | | |
| 1. | Explore feasibility of neighborhood block parties to support neighborhood connections. | Within 1 year | Community Development | Started | City is purchasing a neighborhood block party trailer. |
| Social Participation Goal 3: Promote availability of accessible, affordable, and fun social activities | | | | | |
| 1. | Support the Life Enrichment Center by providing assistance with initial branding and regularly sharing copies of the OurCR Magazine / Play! Guide. | Within 1 year | Community Development | Ongoing | Ongoing. |
| 2. | Identify residents who have voiced experiencing a lack of connection, including, but not limited to: Veterans, people with disabilities, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and nursing home and assisted living residents, and develop outreach and engagement plans which reflects their unique culture, strengths and needs. | Within 1 year | City Manager's Office | Started | City is working on an Equitable Engagement Toolkit which is set to launch in fiscal year 2024. |
| 3. | Support social connection and digital literacy through senior oriented technology classes. | 2-3 years | Library | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| 4. | Increase circulating technology options. | Within 1 year | Library | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| Transportation Goal 1: Support sustainable mobility access | | | | | |
| 1. | Explore opportunity to bring electrification to City parks to support charging for electric wheelchairs/scooters. | Within 1 year | City Managers Office | Started | Staff is exploring and identifying an Electrification Committee. |
| 2. | Ensure coordination with Climate Action Plan for mobility hubs equipped with charging for electric mobility devices (wheelchairs/scooters). | Within 1 year | City Managers Office | Started | The Community Garden in Parks Plan was adopted April 25, 2023. The plan includes opportunities to add features. |
| Transportation Goal 2: Promote active transportation | | | | | |
| 1. | Communicate low cost/no-cost transportation options through in-person education on how to use transit (including loading bicycles), bike lanes, 380 Express and explore creation of short videos in partnership with students (i.e. Coe College, Kirkwood Community College, Mount Mercy University, IA BIG). | Within 1 Year | Community Development | Complete | Done with part of Move More Week in October 2023. |
| 2. | Identify opportunities to enhance and update transit maps, stop times, and visuals on City website. | Within 1 Year | Transit | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| 3. | Identify opportunities to consistently update the ridecrt.com app. | Within 1 Year | Transit | Complete | The City has hired a third party vendor Transloc to manage the ridecrt.com app. Completed 2023. |
| 4. | Explore opportunities to be used within transit buses or stops to increase communication (i.e. scrolling messages, live maps, monitors with information and/or recorded stop announcements). | 2-3 Years | Transit | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| 5. | Identify highly-used stops (i.e. with 10 or more boardings/a lightings) to prioritize installation of route stop signage (i.e. maps with route information and /or QR code sticker for arrival times). | 2-3 Years | Community Development | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| 6. | Incorporate real-time bus route information into rotation on screens at City facilities. | Within 1 Year | Information Technology | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |

Age Friendly Action Plan Goals & Initiatives -2023 Update, Adopted September 2022

AGE FRIENDLY ACTION PLAN

| | | Schedule | Lead | Status | Comments |
|---|--|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| Respect and Inclusion Goal 1: Provide new experiences to cultivate understanding and enhance the relationships between city government and residents | | | | | |
| 1. | Develop Residents Academy to provide experiences to better understand the procedures, responsibilities, guidelines, policies and laws that guide decision-making, with an emphasis on connecting with residents currently underrepresented in community engagement efforts. | 2-3 Years | City Manager's Office | Started | City is working on an Equitable Engagement Toolkit which is set to launch in fiscal year 2024. |
| Respect and Inclusion Goal 2: Foster intergenerational community spaces for all ages | | | | | |
| 1. | Conduct feasibility study for Intergenerational Activity/Rec Center. | Within 1 Year | Community Development | Complete | The City hired CSL to perform study. Public outreach conducted from April through June 6th 2023. Completed in November 2023. |
| Communication & Information Goal 1: Promote and expand communication channels | | | | | |
| 1. | Explore partner communication methods to supplement existing communication tactics. For example, bring information about neighborhood associations, public meetings, engagement opportunities etc. to Rollin' Rec, libraries, farmers markets, Hoopla, Next Door. Organizations like Horizons could pass out information through Meals on Wheels, etc. and word of mouth communications encouraged through community connectors. | 2-3 Years | Community Development | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| 2. | Build awareness and train City staff on using contract partner Hands Up for Video Remote Interpretation and document translation needs. | Within 1 Year | City Manager's Office | Complete | Staff across departments received interpretation resource training in Spring 2023 to ensure language services are provided for City programs and services. |
| 3. | Share communication resources with Life Enrichment Center. | Within 1 Year | Community Development | Ongoing | Resources are regularly shared with Life Enrichment Center. |
| 4. | Continue to update the City's Age-Friendly webpage with news, projects, and activities. | Within 1 Year | Community Development | Ongoing | Webpage is updated regularly. |
| Communication & Information Goal 1: Maximize potential of MyCR mobile app as community resource | | | | | |
| 1. | Explore how to integrate Play! calendar into Mobile CR digital app. | Within 1 Year | City Manager's Office | Started | In progress. |
| 2. | Explore improvements to City web calendar through website review process. | 2-3 Years | City Manager's Office | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| Civic Participation & Employment Goal 1: Continue to develop and expand Municipal Volunteer Programs | | | | | |
| 1. | Expand Snow Buddies program by exploring partnership opportunities with Aging Services and implementing improvements from pilot year. | Within 1 Year | Community Development | Complete | Worked with United Way, Mt. Mercy University and Coe College, and Aging Services to address this. |
| 2. | Create new volunteer opportunity to clear municipal garden plots in fall (Garden Buddies Clean-Up Crew). | Within 1 Year | Parks and Recreation | Complete | Completed 2023. |
| Civic Participation & Employment Goal 2: Bolster Equitable Engagement Toolkit development | | | | | |
| 1. | Support current equitable engagement efforts to develop process for cross-cultural communication. | Within 1 Year | Community Development | Started | City is working on an Equitable Engagement Toolkit which is set to launch in fiscal year 2024. |
| 2. | Support current equitable engagement efforts to prepare engagement strategy focused on older adults and youth to expand and strengthen outreach. | 2-3 Years | Community Development | Started | City is working on an Equitable Engagement Toolkit which is set to launch in fiscal year 2024. |
| 3. | Explore new partnership opportunities to broaden outreach (i.e. Meals on Wheels, Assisted Living, Green Square Meals, etc.). | 2-3 Years | Community Development | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| Civic Participation & Employment Goal 3: Attract a diverse and inclusive community for all | | | | | |
| 1. | In alignment with the City's Welcome is our Language campaign and regional strategy of supporting a diverse workforce, create a "Welcome to the City" information resource for newcomers. | 2-3 Years | City Manager's Office | On-Schedule | No updates at this time. |
| Civic Participation & Employment Goal 4: Expand City's workforce strategy | | | | | |
| 1. | Develop a process to seek out employment opportunities to facilitate direct connections to employers and employment services that are age-friendly. | 2-3 Years | City Manager's Office | Complete | The City worked with Linn County to create a Community Resource Hub website which includes senior employment resources. Completed 2023. |