



THE LAND USE BULLETIN

Fall 2016

Pipeline Fight Makes Headlines in Iowa & Around the World



In June, the Iowa Utilities Board, violating their own order, told Dakota Access that they could begin construction without all of the pending permits. Since then, there has been a flurry of activity from the Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition and other pipeline fighters up and down the pipeline route.

The situation has become more dire as Energy Transfer Partners sold large shares of the pipeline to Canadian company Enbridge Corporation, leading to much speculation.

Public pressure resulted in Enbridge backing out of two other pipeline plans. However, the company is very motivated to see this pipeline completed. But pipeline fighters are very motivated to ensure it is not.

Here in Iowa, the coalition, which includes 1000 Friends of Iowa and 30 other groups across Iowa, have hosted numerous actions

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Best Development Awards Celebrates 15 Years!



We're excited to announce that the 2016 Best Development Awards kicked off Sept. 1 with the call for nominations. Not only is it the 15th anniversary of the awards program, we added three categories that are game changers in sustainability:

Renewable Energy; Transportation/Complete Streets; and Urban Placemaking/Green Space.

It's because of our incredible member support that we're able to reach out across Iowa and honor those who are choosing to invest in smart growth solutions. Recognizing the smart growth projects of today encourages the sustainable development of tomorrow.

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1000 Friends of Iowa

Celebrating 18 years!

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We thank you for your support!

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Founded 1998

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1000 Friends of Iowa is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting farmland and natural areas and promoting sustainable growth.

Founded in 1998 and based in Des Moines, Iowa, we unite Iowans in efforts to:

- Conserve and protect our agricultural and natural resources
- Revitalize our neighborhoods, towns, and cities
- Improve the quality of life for future generations

Best Development Awards continued from page 1

But there is more to do. We are committed to using the Best Development Awards as a tool to foster innovation and awareness in Iowa communities, which are undergoing vast revitalization and development now more than ever. Showcasing projects that incorporate smart growth principles is a positive way to share and highlight the real-life stories of citizens, businesses, and local governments who are choosing sustainable practices that are not only good for the environment, but are economically viable, innovative, and successful. We hope their work inspires others to do the same.

We invite you to join us for the 2016 Best Development Awards ceremony as we honor recipients on Jan. 19, 2017 at the Iowa State Capitol. Thank you for your support!



Photos of a few past Best Development Award winners (from top to bottom): TEC Corp. in Sioux City designed by M+ Architects; Cedar Rapids Public Library in Cedar Rapids designed by OPN Architects; a Des Moines residential renovation; and The Roosevelt in Ames, an old school readapted into single-family condos.

The City of Monona's Aquatic Center permeable pavement project was a co-winner for Storm Water Management.

See more winners at 1000Friendsofiowa.org

Pipeline Fight continued from page 1

Coalitions Aim to Stop Pipeline

and events, organized a pipeline monitoring network, and filed lawsuits to stop the pipeline.

This summer, the coalition hosted two river flotillas near the location that the pipeline is proposed to cross. The flotillas were to draw attention to what could happen if the pipeline is allowed to bore under these rivers.

The pipeline monitoring network has been observing construction and reporting suspected violations as they occur. On September 7, pipeline monitors observed and recorded the pipeline construction happening in the rain at multiple locations – something that was expressly prohibited in the permit. The monitors reported the violation and stopped construction for the day.

Leading up to Labor Day, hundreds of protesters gathered in Boone County to block construction. And a permanent camp has been set up along the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers.

1000 Friends of Iowa, Food and Water Watch, and other coalition partners organized a rally and petition delivery of nearly 30,000 petition signatures calling on President Obama to take a stand and to revoke the Army Corp permits that have been granted, to deny the final two permits, and to honor all treaties with the Standing Rock Sioux and other tribes.

Although there has been a lot of good work in Iowa, the heart of the efforts to stop the pipeline have been happening in North Dakota at the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's Sacred Stone Camp.

Thousands of Native Americans from the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and 90 tribes from across the country have joined together in an historic effort to not only stop the pipeline to protect sacred burial grounds and the water that the tribes rely on, but to also take a stand to have the treaties recognized and be able to have a say over what happens to their lands.

The tribes also won a temporary construction ban on part of the land in the pipeline's path, but not before the company, lead by Enbridge, destroyed many sacred sites and burial grounds. The pipeline's security guards tried to intimidate the protesters by turning attack dogs loose on the peaceful protesters and sprayed them with pepper spray.

1000 Friends of Iowa and the Coalition stand with the tribes. The pipeline fight is a long way from over. Stay tuned for more opportunities to make your voice heard.



Pictured from top to bottom: Affected landowners Dick and Judy Lamb at a No Bakken rally; Volunteers gathering petition signatures on RAGBRAI; Pipeline protestors at a summer flotilla; Pipeline fighters on an affected landowner's property in Oskaloosa.

Stopping Sprawl in Iowa City's North Corridor

By Mike Carberry and Tom Carsner

In November 2016, Johnson County citizens can elect a majority of County Supervisors who want to close the last loophole allowing urban sprawl to creep into the rural areas of the county. If successful, this land use policy would be a culmination of 17 years of effort to slow rural residential development by various groups of Johnson County residents.

Johnson County opened the door to urban sprawl when the loophole was created in the North Corridor in the 1980s. The North Corridor Development Area (NCDA) is the only area where residential development, other than farmstead splits, is encouraged in the county. The area has expanded or contracted each time a new land use plan has been created, most recently in 2008, but has always been in the north central part of the county. Since zoning began in Johnson County in 1960, there remain 1,600 lots in the entire county, and 800 in the NCDA, that are zoned residential, platted, and ready to build on.

The effort to slow urban sprawl began in earnest in 1999 after the county paved two miles of Prairie du Chien Road north from Interstate 80. The Board of Supervisors planned to continue the pavement ("half an Interstate" of widening, flattening, and straightening naturally curvy and hilly rural roads) on Prairie du Chien on to the Coralville Reservoir, and on Newport Road north and east to Highway 1.

Rural and city residents saw this proposal as opening the door to widespread residential development and along with the road design, changing the nature of the area from rustic rural to suburban residential. The area has many farms, but is also known as one of the last undeveloped locations in the county with beautiful scenery and rolling hills, which attract bicyclists, motorcyclists, and tourists.

After eight years of persistently raising various issues and gaining publicity in the county, and finally beating an incumbent Supervisor in a primary election, the road plan was defeated. The county could never show that residential development brought economic or environmental benefit to the county, let alone pay for itself. Commercial development is already strictly limited in the county.



The rolling hills and beautiful scenery that still remains in Johnson County that will be protected with responsible land use planning.

In 2017, Johnson County will revise its land use planning again in a Comprehensive County Plan. The proposal to eliminate the NCDA would not stop rural residential growth because of the existing 1,600 lots (800 in the NCDA), which would still be available for building. At present rates of development, these lots will satisfy demand for up to 20 years. However, this proposal will stop any new development plans in the NCDA. Developing more densely in cities and infill areas, and not directing funds to improving rural roads, is argued to have greater economic and environmental benefit. Cities will naturally expand their residential growth, but the county does not need to encourage it.

For the first time in 57 years, since zoning was instituted in the county in 1960, rural residential development will have significant controls that can assure that urban sprawl has ended in Johnson County.

Mike Carberry was elected to the Johnson County Board of Supervisors in 2014 running on a Smart Growth platform. He is a longtime environmental advocate who also serves on the boards of 1000 Friends of Iowa, the Iowa Sierra Club, and the Iowa Wind Energy Association.

Tom Carsner is a past chair of the Iowa City Sierra Club and has spoken to the Johnson County Supervisors about smart rural residential growth for 25 years.

Farma-Save Signs Still Having an Impact

One of our earliest goals as an organization was to draw attention and raise awareness about urban sprawl and poor land use decisions. Our creative co-founder, LaVon Griffieon, came up with a great idea of creating signs that people could put up along busy roadways, based on the old Burma-Shave signs of yesteryear.

The 1000 Friends of Iowa Farma-Save signs have popped up around Iowa since the late 1990s and still draw attention to urban sprawl. Quite often we hear from people who have seen the signs on their travels around the state. The messages are still just as relevant today.

If you'd like to help raise awareness about urban sprawl and poor land use, and have land along a well traveled roadway, we have several sets of signs ready for a new home!



Here's what you need to know to host a set of Farma-Save signs:

1. Pick a strip of land along a well traveled roadway or empty storefront windows.
2. In order to ensure passerby's can read the signs, the signs should be spaced 90 feet apart with a total length of 360 feet.
3. Choose the set of signs you want based on what is relevant for your area:
 - a. *To the earth/make amends/park your car/bike with friends*
 - b. *These old buildings/still got magic/their destruction/would be tragic*
 - c. *Urban sprawl/ain't too pretty/save our farms/build in the city*
 - d. *Urban growth/on rural ground/how 'bout raising/hogs downtown*
 - e. *Walmarts and roads/Sprout up like weeds/and our tax dollars/are the seeds*
 - f. *Keep our mainstreets/strong and healthy when we buy local/our towns stay wealthy*
 - g. *These lovely hills/unique beyond measure/time is a ticking/to save such a treasure*
4. You can pick up the signs or we can deliver them to you.
5. Once installed, keep the area mowed or free of weeds, shrubs, etc., that will block the view of the signs.
6. Take pictures and send them to us! We'll let others know where they can see the signs!

Contact us at: kfoi@1000friendsofiowa.org or (515) 288-5364.

Where the Sidewalks End

Fighting for sidewalks and walkability in Windsor Heights.

Interview by Lori Schervish

Most people know Mike Draper as the owner of Raygun, where yesterday's headlines inform the next humorous and often poignant t-shirt slogans that mock the ridiculous and celebrate the ironic. But Draper hasn't been spending all his time as a business owner, he's also a dad to three young sons and a high-profile advocate of sidewalks and walkability in Windsor Heights. The sidewalk controversy began years before Draper and his wife Laura moved to Windsor Heights so they could be within walking distance of their kids' school. The absence of sidewalks while walking to Cowles Elementary School on 64th Street was one of the first things that struck them as transplants to the small city. Fast forward to the past year where the efforts to build more sidewalks in Windsor Heights has culminated in electing two pro-sidewalk City Council members, a pro-sidewalk petition, and the beginning of a more walkable Windsor Heights with the revising of sidewalk ordinance language, which if passed on Sept. 19, will finally open the door to creating policies that includes 26 new sidewalks in a city where so many sidewalks end.



Mike Draper and his son on 64th Street in Windsor Heights where there are no sidewalks for Cowles students to walk to and from school.

Q: What's your advice to others trying to pass walkability or sustainability efforts in their community?

The main thing I've learned is that if you're going after an issue, some of the battle is selecting where the battle is fought. The biggest advantage to you is going to be setting as many of the parameters as you can beforehand, which was why after listening to people like John Rousseau who were fighting this issue for years before me, an important step was to get new people on the city council. Once you've tipped the odds in your favor, you still have to make sure you tick all the boxes. You want to think about simple messaging, simple imagery, and then you just keep working on that. I had known it was going to be a difficult fight, so my thinking had been that focusing efforts on a sidewalk leading to a public school that served students as young as three years old would be an easier fight – it has not been, but it's moving in the right direction.

Q: How can people who want to support you get involved?

Sometimes the handiest thing, especially if they are residents of Windsor Heights and support walkability, is to email City Council and let them know. So much can be done just by letting other people know you're supportive. It's hard to stand up and do something and feel like you're totally by yourself if everybody who is for you silently sits back. I don't think people understand how much an email saying you support something will make a difference.

Q: What are your thoughts about a more walkable Windsor Heights in the near future?

I believe sidewalks, walkability, Complete Streets, and multiple forms of transportation are all good things. It does lead to healthier communities in general. It's hard for me to see this menacing downside by giving people multiple ways to explore and move through their community.

What's next if the ordinance language passes?

It's the nuts and bolts of policy and trying to shepherd it through – this is why it takes so much patience to advance something versus just fighting against it. The anti-sidewalk side can just say "No." We have to determine route, placement, cost, and timeline – there's just so many more things you have to work on simultaneously instead of just, "No."

From a positive standpoint, there's a lot that a small city like Windsor Heights could do, anything from zoning to water quality. The makeup of the City Council is pretty progressive and action minded. I think they have a good team of people. There's a lot of potential, but first thing's first, sometimes you have to overcome the simplest hurdles. People often forget how important the little things are. The sidewalks issue does seem small, but once you get momentum on your side, then other issues can get easier to tackle. I do think once the sidewalks get done, some people in Windsor Heights who are apathetic now, will be like, "huh, well maybe we can do something else."

Little Village, Big Ideas

One neighborhood's fight against poor land use policies transforms their community.

Note: Executive Director Kari Carney participated in a tour of the Little Village neighborhood, hosted by the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) as part of the Re-Amp Annual Conference in June. Little Village is a great example of how people can take a stand for equitable and sustainable land use and have a real impact.

Little Village is a neighborhood in Chicago, officially called the South Lawndale neighborhood. The neighborhood was originally nicknamed the "Little Village" by the Polish immigrants that settled there in the mid-20th Century. Now the neighborhood is predominantly Latino and has the largest population of Mexican-Americans in the Chicago area.

Because the neighborhood has always been a low-income working class neighborhood, it was long targeted for poor land use, bringing a large number of toxic businesses to the area. This included two of the dirtiest coal plants in the Chicago area and other heavy industry that released toxic pollution into the neighborhood. But when local residents, especially the children, started to get sick, some having severe asthma attacks, the neighborhood decided to organize.

In addition to the polluting industry, there were several toxic brownfield sites left behind by old industry that closed and abandoned the sites. This included an asphalt shingle factory and a site where oil barrels were dumped.

With the help of the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO), the community shut down the coal plants, both closing just before 2012, and started pushing the city to clean up the brownfield sites. However, the community wanted to make sure that they were the ones deciding what happened in their neighborhood.

After several years battling with the city, LVEJO and community members were able to get the City to first clean up a 1.5 acre site. LVEJO turned the now-cleaned



Pictured at top (l to r): Little Village park plans; a photo of the bountiful community gardens in Little Village; (at bottom) organizers speak in front of one of the Chicago coal plants that was shut down in their neighborhood.

up site into a community garden and activity hub. Neighborhood residents grow vegetables, fruits, flowers, and even raise chickens and rabbits. They hold free weekly community meals, offer art classes and gardening classes, and many other activities. On the day of our tour, the garden was bustling with community members tending to their crops.

In addition to the community garden, LVEJO organized to turn another neighboring brownfield into a vibrant 22-acre park that includes a playground, soccer fields, basketball courts, baseball diamonds, and a skate park. Hundreds of families use the park daily.

Through organizing, LVEJO and the community have started to take back their neighborhood and demand the type of land use they want for their community. Though there is still much work to do, this newly transformed neighborhood is a shining example of what's possible.

1000 Friends of Iowa



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Upcoming Events

Oct. 6 — 2016 Iowa Environmental Council Annual Conference

This year's conference, EConomics: Dollars, sense & sustainability, will explore the bond between the environment, communities, and economy and will delve into how to seize opportunities to advance policies, programs, and practices that offer ecological, economic, and societal benefits.

Oct. 12-14 — Rural Creative Placemaking Summit

You're invited to the University of Iowa to join this cross-sector collaboration aimed to elevate intercultural perspectives and build policy presence for deeper consideration of rural creative placemaking.

Nov. 1 — Lecture: Author Margaret Atwood

Iowa State University presents "Fiction, the Future and Environmental Crisis," a free lecture by Margaret

Atwood, revered author, poet, and environmental activist.

Nov. 4 — The Women, Food & Ag Network Annual Conference

The Women, Food and Ag Network 2016 annual conference is Nov. 4-5, at the Lied Lodge and Conference Center, Nebraska City, Neb. The conference theme is Women, Culture, and Permaculture: Making a Living in Harmony with the Land, featuring keynote speaker Karryn Olson-Ramanujan.

Dec. 3 — 1000 Friends of Iowa Annual Meeting

Save the date! 1000 Friends invites members to its annual meeting. Stayed tuned. More information to come.

Find event details and more event listings at:
www.1000friendsofiowa.org/events