

- September Project Highlights - 2017



Public Works

Airport Terminal is nearing completion. The majority of furniture for the terminal will be delivered/installed this week. A ribbon cutting for the Terminal will be held on October 21 from 9 am to 11 am.

Complete Streets Plan: Toole Design is now under contract to work with the COA to develop a Complete Streets Plan. More information about the process and updates on the plan can be found at <http://cityofames.org/completestreets>. Additionally, improvements made to improve transportation will continue to be release, for example, upcoming bike boxes educational video.

Shared Use Path Maintenance: A new method for shared use path maintenance is being used to help the deep cracks within the paths. The method is faster and will hopefully provide a smoother path for all users. The cable channel and City Facebook recently shared an informational video about the process with the melted material. See attached pictures.



S. Grand Avenue Extension: Design continues on this project, which will be bid in three separate bid packages. One project bid package will be the extension of 5th Street/Grand Avenue. Property appraisals are being completed now and then land acquisition negotiations will commence. Design on the second bid package (S. Duff Ave./S. 16th Street intersection/street improvements) is also underway. Land acquisition/appraisal preparation for this project will commence in the near future. Hydraulic modeling for the S. Grand Avenue extension over Squaw Creek through the golf course area has been finalized for placement and size of the bridges/culverts.

Flood Mitigation - Squaw Creek: PW Staff and design consultant have been meeting with individual property owners about impacts to their properties and answering questions that they have. Easements and land acquisition are also being considered and worked on. A Notice of Intent was filed for FEMA funding.

Upcoming Projects:




- **16/17 Concrete Street Pavement Improvements (Dawes Drive)** – Plan modifications are currently being made following the City Council direction received on July 25. Coordination with the design consultant for the 2007/08 Shared Use Path System Expansion (Bloomington to Ada Hayden) is occurring. Coordination with the Electric and Parks & Rec Departments will occur prior to letting the project. A letting is expected to occur in late fall with construction occurring in 2018.
- **2007/08 Shared Use Path System Expansion (Bloomington to Ada Hayden)** – Plan modifications are currently being made following the City Council direction received on July 25. Coordination with the design consultant for the 16/17 Concrete Street Pavement Improvements (Dawes Drive) is occurring. Coordination with the Parks & Rec Department will occur prior to letting. If DOT re-review goes as planned, the project can meet a January 2018 letting through the DOT. If the review process takes longer than expected, the letting may be in February 2018. Construction will occur in 2018.
- **2017/18 S. Duff Avenue Improvements** – Survey and wetland delineations have been completed with preliminary design progressing. A public information meeting is expected to occur in late September/early October to gain feedback over the project. The bid letting is estimated to happen in January or February with construction to occur in 2018.

- **2017/18 Arterial Street Pavement Improvements (13th Street)** – Survey has been completed with preliminary design progressing. Coordination with Union Pacific for the Railroad crossing is underway. A public information meeting is expected to occur in late September to gain feedback over the project. The project is on track to meet a February 2018 DOT letting with construction occurring in 2018.
- **2016/17 Storm Water Erosion Control (S. Skunk River)** – The design process has been substantially completed. The design consultant is coordinating with WPC’s consultant for the North River Valley Park Low Head Dam project for modeling and permitting. Pending delays in the permitting process, a late fall/early winter letting is anticipated so construction could occur throughout 2018.

Water & Pollution Control

Water Plant

- The **Water Plant ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house** was a huge success. An estimated 1,300-1,500 guests joined us during the day, at times spending up to an hour waiting for an opportunity to see inside the facility that they’ve watched go up over the past 33 months.

		
<p>Mayor Campbell sharing remarks during the ceremony.</p>	<p>Cutting the ribbon</p>	<p>Staff interacting with the guests</p>

There are still a number of construction details to be wrapped up. It is likely that another change order will be presented to Council during September.

The consultant for the **Low Head Dam Safety Modifications Project** has submitted 60% complete design drawings. Staff is arranging a time for the various stakeholder groups to meet to provide their feedback on the proposed improvements. Staff has learned that the

State Historic Preservation Office has taken an interest in the project. If an archeological assessment of the project site is required, it could delay the construction that was anticipated to happen this winter.

Administration

- Staff are working on an **update to Divisions 2 and 3 to Chapter 28 of the Municipal Code**. There are three main areas being addressed by the update.
 - ***Water Meter Setting Requirements***. Most of the revisions are to update the Code to match the existing practice following the transition to the Automatic Meter Reading system. One change, however, could be considered significant by some customers. The changes include a proposal that would mandate individual meters for each dwelling unit in new apartment buildings constructed after the effective date of the new ordinance. Staff has contacted developers in writing, who have built apartment buildings in the last several years to explain the proposal. Staff also invited them to a public meeting on August 22 where they could talk face-to-face with W&PC staff. Unfortunately, no one attended the meeting, and no other responses to the invitations were received. Staff will attempt an additional round of outreach prior to bringing the proposed revisions to Council later this fall.
 - ***Industrial Pretreatment Program Modifications***. Following an inspection last fall, the US EPA had a small number of modifications to the City's program that they are requiring us to make. Staff is reaching out to all of the customers covered by the program to make them aware of the changes. No public meetings are planned, as these changes are being mandated by US EPA.
 - ***General Updates***. There are a few additional changes that are being proposed elsewhere in Chapter 28. The two most notable include: a.) language shared with Council previously that would grant staff the ability to make adjustments to a customer's water bill in the event of a mechanical failure during the summer when the higher seasonal water rates are in effect; and b.) a requirement that when a lead water service line is disturbed, it must be replaced in its entirety.

WPC

- The **Structural Repairs** project is underway. A new walkway leading to the solids contact basins has been installed, and numerous repairs to the precast concrete have been made. One change order was approved at the staff level to address issues with the concrete curbs around the base of the digesters.

- Work on the **Primary Clarifier Recoating Project** is going slower than expected. The existing coatings on the tanks have taken longer to remove than the contractor anticipated. The project will carry over into the spring.

Police

Parking Enforcement and Outreach is underway in the South Campus area. Outreach activities have included group presentations to student groups and Campustown Action Association, street outreach in Greek areas, Destination Iowa State and WelcomeFest, door hangers, and emails. In addition, warnings and citations are being written with available staff. Recruitment to fill the additional CSO enforcement positions is also underway.

The Saturday before ISU classes has developed an **informal party tradition** referred to as "801 Day." Ames Police and ISU Police and staff engaged in extensive outreach and patrol efforts. Pre-event outreach had involved property managers and security services in preparing for this event. Although it was a very busy day, people were generally cooperative and responded well to nuisance party-related education.

The **opening of elementary and secondary schools** involved retraining and support of crossing guards. Officers also emphasized a presence in and around the schools as students and drivers adjusted to fall activity.

Preparations are also underway for the first two **ISU football games** which traditionally draw large crowds before and after the game. The ISU vs. Iowa game specifically involves all available police staff to manage the activity prior to and after the game.

Library

Hoopla at the Library!

Hoopla is a digital media service that allows customers to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, e-books, comics, and TV shows that play on their computers, tablets, phones, or TVs! Titles can be streamed immediately or downloaded for offline enjoyment later. There are thousands of titles to choose from, with no waiting lists, holds, or fines! Library card holders may check out up to 6 items per month. Hoopla items are returned automatically—after 3 days for movies and TV, 1 week for music, and 3 weeks for eAudiobooks, eBooks, comics and graphic novels—so there's never a worry about fines. Hoopla services were introduced to the Ames community in July with funding from the APL Friends Foundation.



5,564 Summer Meals Served

Stats are in for the 2017 USDA Summer Food Service Program:

- Free meals served to children and teens: 5,321
- Meals purchased by adults: 243
- Program Length: 55 days (weekdays, June 6 – August 22)
- Average number served per day: 101



As noted in July, this summer’s program was a collaborative effort made by the Library, Ames Boys and Girls Club, Nevada Community School District, and United Way of Story County. It was also supported by the US Department of Agriculture, AmeriCorps, APL Friends Foundation, and APL Youth volunteers.

Summer Reading Dance Party



On August 25, an after-hours celebration was held for youth who completed the Library’s Summer Reading Program. The party was attended by 176 youngsters and 169 caregivers who enjoyed pizza, games, a D. J. spinning dance tunes, and other activities. The party was provided in partnership with APL Friends Foundation and Great Western Bank.



September is Library Card Sign-up Month

This September marks the 30th anniversary of Library Card Sign-up Month—a time when the American Library Association joins public libraries nationwide to highlight the value of a library card. APL will encourage school-age kids (K-12) to get cards in September with help from crime fighting DC Super Heroes, the Teen Titans. From Starfire’s power of flight to Kid Flash’s super speed, the Teen Titans have the capability, courage, and teamwork to rise to any challenges thrown their way. And what’s the only thing more powerful than a Teen Titan? The transformative power of a library card!

Free Teen Titans bookmarks will be offered at Library service desks in September. APL will also celebrate by replacing, without charge, borrower cards that have been lost or misplaced.

Electric

SunSmart Ames – City staff has narrowed the solar development proposals down to two companies. In early September a final choice will be made. The airport site has been given the “green light” by the FAA and staff is meeting with the airport and local pilots to answer any questions they may have. Sale of “power packs” continues. Information about Sun Smart Ames is being mailed to all City customers in City Side next month. An email was also sent to City of Ames project.

Top O Hollow substation – Design is underway for improvements to the Top O Hollow electrical substation. These changes will reduce outage time and increase reliability to electric customers in the northern part of Ames. A meeting with local residents living around the substation will be held in September.

Planning & Housing

- The National Register nomination of the Ames Main Street Historic District has been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office for consideration. As a participant in the Certified Local Government Program (CLG), the Historic Preservation Commission and the Mayor are required to review and comment on proposed National Register nominations of properties within its jurisdiction. The nomination will be included on the September 11 agenda for the Ames Historic Preservation Commission, and the September 26 agenda for the City Council. The State Nominations Review Committee will meet on October 13, and make a recommendation for listing to the National Park Service.
- The Council will discuss at their September 26 meeting the scope of the Ames Urban Fringe Plan Amendment proposed for the North Growth Gap Area near George Washington Carver Avenue and Cameron School Road.

- City Council will review feedback on potential changes to occupancy limitations at its September 12 meeting. This meeting is a follow up from the July City Council workshop on changes to rental occupancy restrictions as a result of recent changes in state law.
- Campustown Action Association (CAA) continues to work on a petition to create a Self Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID) to help fund added services for the area. The SSMID funding would apply to commercial properties, but not residential properties in the area. If CAA is successful on their petition drive, they may present the petition for City Council action in October which would result in holding a public hearing and adopting an ordinance to create the SSMID.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- In August the City of Ames celebrated ribbon cuttings at the following locations:
 1. The completion of ADA Parking Lot Improvement for Mainstream Living Inc., as part of the City’s CDBG Public Facilities Improvement Program for Non-Profit Organizations. The improvements greatly increase the safety access to the facility for both the disabled clients as well as staff.



2. The completion of the rehabilitation of a single-family home in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa that is being sold to a first-time homeowner family as part of the City’s CDBG Acquisition/Reuse for Affordable Housing Program.



- Staff anticipates presenting the Developer’s Agreement for 321 State Avenue to City Council as part of the City’s CDBG Public Infrastructure Improvement Program for the development of single-family affordable housing units.

Fire

Suppression

- Firefighters reviewed safety guidelines and practiced two very high risk rescue procedures this month: trench rescue and water rescue at Furman Aquatic Center (thanks to Parks and Recreation staff!). Firefighters have also recently been training on fire inspection procedures and are now performing company level fire inspections on business occupancies throughout Ames.

Inspections

- Inspection staff utilized the Dangerous Building section of the code to have a deteriorating garage at 1107 Grand removed (see the attached before and after photos).
- The numbers again indicate a very busy construction season, as Inspection staff issued a total of 487 building permits (332 residential and 155 commercial) since January 1, 2017.

