



CITYSIDE

DECEMBER 2022

BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN UNDERGOES UPDATE

More and more people are expressing the desire to leave the car keys at home and embrace alternative transportation. This can be challenging when motorists, cyclists, skate boarders, electric bikes, and pedestrians share some of the same transportation infrastructure. Walk Bike Roll Ames is a project to develop a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan for Ames. This plan will help the community become a place where walking, biking, and rolling is safer, more comfortable, and easier for everyone in Ames, regardless of their age or ability.



benefits and financial incentives to using alternate transportation.

Traffic Engineer Damion Pregitzer is leading the project and explained the importance of creating a plan now to ensure Ames is more bike and pedestrian friendly in the future. "Not everyone in Ames has vehicle or wants to drive. This plan will help guide decision-making around transportation so residents have more choices," Pregitzer said. "To develop the best plan, we are seeking feedback from as many residents as possible."

The City has hired Toole Design from Madison, Wis., to assist in developing a plan and to help create wayfinding signage and to develop sign standards. The project team began work this summer with the goal of presenting a plan to the Ames City Council in fall 2023. Reducing dependence on motor vehicles can decrease our community carbon footprint and helps Ames become more sustainable. There are also health

In addition to creating the Walk Bike Roll Ames Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide representative input, there will be other opportunities to get involved. The team will be launching a website, email address, and planning events like bike rides or group walks to gather feedback. For more information and updates about Walk Bike Roll Ames, go to www.CityOfAmes.org.



ARE YOU ON A SNOW ROUTE? THINGS TO KNOW WHEN IT SNOWS!

Winter weather is just around the corner and that means snow is not far behind. If you park on a snow route, you will want to know when the snow ordinance is in effect. Snow plowing

begins after two inches of snow accumulates on the major streets in Ames, and two inches of snowfall also activates the City's snow ordinance.

When the snow ordinance is in effect, drivers parked along snow routes – marked with red and white signs – need to move their vehicles to avoid ticketing and/or towing. Vehicles may return to the street when it has stopped snowing, no additional snow is forecast, and the

street has been plowed from curb to curb. Because this happens at different times throughout the city, there is no official announcement that the ordinance is over.

Notification about the snow ordinance will be shared with local media, the City's website (www.CityOfAmes.org), and Ames TV. Also check @CityofAmes, @AmesPublicWorks, and @AmesPolice on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Project Share Seeks Donations
- New City Forester
- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Most City of Ames offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, and Tuesday, Dec. 27. Additionally, most City offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, for New Year's Day 2023.



PROJECT SHARE PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR UTILITIES

A simple way to share the warmth with those in need is to make a monthly pledge or a one-time contribution to Project Share.

Project Share is a program developed by Ames Electric Services to assist low-income customers with winter utility bills. A committee appointed by the Ames City Council determines the permissible uses of the funds donated to Project Share. The guidelines established by this committee ensure that 100 percent of every contribution is used to assist low-income customers. Last year, Ames Electric Services contributed \$4,457 in staff time



and materials toward the cost of administering this program. Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) shares in the administration of the program

by determining the eligibility of households for Project Share funds.

Project Share's success is the result of our customers' compassion and generosity. Through

your support, Project Share has provided \$505,843 in assistance to 4,137 households since the program's inception in 1990. Last winter alone, Project Share provided \$23,961 in assistance to 160 households. With your continued generosity, more Ames households will stay safe and warm this winter.

Contribution to Project Share

I wish to make a monthly contribution to Project Share. I understand this amount will be listed on my monthly utility bill and that I can cancel my pledge at any time by contacting the City of Ames Utility Customer Service office.

\$1/month \$2/month \$5/month \$10/month other \$___/month

I wish to make a one-time contribution to Project Share rather than making a monthly pledge. I have enclosed a \$_____ donation to Project Share.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return this form with your utility bill payment or mail to: Ames Electric Services, Attn: Project Share Committee, P.O. Box 811, Ames, IA 50010-0811.

NEW FORESTER JOINS CITY

New City Forester Gabbi Edwards joined the Ames Parks and Recreation Department recently, and she's already busy.

As City Forester, Edwards is responsible for the care and management of 17,000 trees in the public rights of way, 38 parks, and acres of green space around Ames. This includes pruning trees, monitoring them for disease and pests, and growing a diverse urban forest. To combat tree damage from the 2020 derecho and the emerald ash borer, Edwards has been involved in several fall tree plantings including one with The Ames Foundation and another with local biofuels company REG planting trees in Hira Park.

Edwards is available to speak to your group about the forestry profession. Contact her at gabriele.edwards@cityofames.org.



City Forester Gabbi Edwards gets to work!

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave., and streamed via the City website, Facebook and YouTube

6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13

6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20 (workshop)

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG

MONTHLY FACILITY CALENDARS

CHECK OUT ALL FACILITY CALENDARS FOR EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND HOURS AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/PRCALENDARS

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA



Ugly Sweater Public Skate

Join us from 8:15 to 9:45 p.m. on Dec. 7, and wear your ugly sweater to kick off the holiday season. Receive \$1.50 off admission by wearing an ugly sweater or present a valid ISU student ID. No pre-registration required.

Learn to Curl (ages 10+)

This program will focus on basic skills, instruction, and practice with an emphasis on having fun! Explanation of rules and demonstrations will be provided. Class will be held from 8:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Dec. 17. Register by Dec. 11.

Learn to Play Broomball

Sign up for this fun introductory class to learn how hockey and soccer work together to create Broomball! No skates required. Fun activity for the whole family. Next session offered Dec. 17 from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. Register by Dec. 11.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Winter Break Tennis Camp (Grades 1-6)

Spend your break learning the game of tennis from the professionals at Ames Fitness Center. One-hour lessons each day, Dec. 27-30. Register by Dec. 18.

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Adult Indoor Volleyball League

Get a team together for the winter season of indoor volleyball. Women's and Men's officiated leagues are played during the week; Coed plays on Friday/Sunday. Games start in late January and end in early April with a double-elimination tournament. Register by Jan. 8.

HOMWOOD

Looking for a location for your next meeting, social event, or golf outing? Look no further than Homewood Golf Course & Clubhouse. This is the time to be thinking ahead! Contact Nate Pietz at 515.239.5363.



FITNESS & WELLNESS

Come reap the fitness benefits of the Community Center Weight Room. The weight room is equipped with Cybex weight equipment, and the cardio room features treadmills, ellipticals, bikes, and more! Costs are per visit versus a monthly membership fee. To schedule an orientation or receive more information, contact Nancy Shaw at 515.239.5353.



REGISTRATION & INFORMATION

TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS OR TO GET MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT 515.239.5350 OR VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG

ENERGY Q&A

Q: I've been hearing a lot about heat pumps lately. What are they? Are they something I should be looking into to heat my home?

The term “heat pump” can mean a lot of different things depending on the situation. Let’s talk about heat pumps in general and then get more specific regarding the second part of your question – whether you can use a heat pump to provide some or all the heating for your home.

In the broadest definition, a heat pump is a device that transfers heat using the refrigeration cycle. You likely already have something like this in your house. A refrigerator or freezer is technically a heat pump, as are an air conditioner and a dehumidifier. However, when most people talk about “heat pumps” they are usually talking about air-source heat pumps – a system that can heat and cool your home.

Air-source heat pumps are very similar to conventional air conditioners except that they can provide cooling and heating. Some homes can be heated almost all winter with a heat pump, although systems come with electric heating as a backup. Older, draftier homes may be a better fit for a hybrid heating system, where an air-source heat pump is installed along with a natural gas furnace. This installation is very similar to a conventional



air conditioner and furnace. In a hybrid system, your HVAC contractor will set a switch-over temperature that controls when the heat pump operates (usually when outdoor temperatures are 25-60 degrees) and when the furnace takes over heating (at the colder parts of the year). Heat Pumps are getting more and more efficient and better at providing heat at low temperatures. Some newer cold-climate heat pumps can deliver heat down to temperatures as low as -5 degrees. That's pretty good considering that in Story County, 99% of the annual heating hours are at 0 degrees or above.

The best time to consider upgrading to an air-source heat pump is when you are already considering changing out your AC or furnace.

It's possible a heat pump may require some extra electrical work depending on your home. Air-source heat pumps are a good option for providing heating and cooling that uses increasingly cleaner electricity.

One last note: a geothermal system is also a heat pump – and one you might have already heard about. Geothermal is an even more efficient way to heat and cool than an air-source heat pump, but comes with a higher upfront price tag.

Joel Zook, Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177 | Joel.Zook@cityofames.org

AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

1.5% ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT (787,916 kWh)

11.9% ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY WIND POWER (7,429,720 kWh)

0.4% ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY SOLAR POWER (347,843 kWh)

18,690 MILES DRIVEN BY ELECTRIC VEHICLES USING PUBLIC EV CHARGING STATIONS

49 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,595

DEGREE DAY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Power Out | 515.239.5240 |
| Street Light Out..... | 515.239.5500 |
| Utility Bills..... | 515.239.5120 |
| Energy Questions..... | 515.239.5177 |
| Tree Too Close to Electric Line? | 515.239.5500 |
| Digging? Contact Iowa One Call..... | 811 |
| Storm Water Concern..... | 515.239.5160 |
| Rusty Water..... | 515.239.5551 |

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