

Iowa State University/City of Ames Past Cooperative Partnerships

Iowa State University and the City of Ames have had a long working relationship and have one of the best town and gown relationships in the country. The University is the major employer and basis for much of the Ames economy. The University faculty, staff and students contribute expertise and leadership to many community activities. One of the outcomes of this is the desire to thoroughly analyze, discuss and debate issues. That improves the quality of decisions made but sometimes causes tension and lengthens the decision making process but in general we have an excellent working relationship.

Significant Past Projects

Department of Transportation (DOT) - This was located in Ames because of the College of Engineering. Dean Marston agreed to be the first DOT Chairman only if it was in Ames.

NADC, NVSL -These federal laboratories were located in Ames because of a university/community effort involving the College of Veterinary Medicine in the 1960's. The current renovations that are underway were a concerted effort by Ames, ISU and AEDC to underwrite this effort. The Universities Washington liaison (Gary Steinke) played a major role in getting the increased funding resulting in the \$450 million renovation and expansion. The university provided a significant portion of the initial funding to AEDC to organize and present material to the federal officials for this project.

Hach Chemical- Located in Ames because Clifford Hach was a faculty member in Chemistry.

3M, Sauer-Danfoss, Becker Underwood facilities are all in Ames because of connections with ISU alumni or other University related officials. They hire ISU graduates, rely on expertise and benefit from the universities presence in the community.

Shared Services with the City

Iowa State has a number of shared services with the City which provide economic value to both organizations.

Sewage Treatment Plant- The University pays for its share of the capital and operating costs based upon volume (approximately 25%) The plant is also used by a number of faculty and students in research and teaching programs. In the past the Director has had faculty status to teach in the Civil Engineering programs.

Fire Protection Operation of the Fire Department-The University paid for approximately 25% of the capital and operating costs of the Fire Department. Originally one of the fire stations was located on campus under the old football stadium, moved to Welch Avenue.

ISU financed the first ladder truck when the city constructed the high rise Towers Dormitories. The University continues to provide financial support as well as Environmental Health and Safety staff providing training and expertise to the City for chemical, radiation and other hazardous material issues.

Water System- There are two underground well fields in Ames, one west and the other to the east. A number of years ago the University closed its water treatment facility agreeing to purchase potable water from the City connecting the water systems, substantially improving the supply and quality particularly in drought conditions.

Power Interconnection- The University and City electrical facilities are interconnected, providing backup and the ability to share power. They have cooperated on the development of tie lines and external power purchase agreements to the benefit of both organizations including wind electricity. Due to this cooperative arrangement, the community has enjoyed some of the lowest electrical rates in the Country.

Security and Police-The University and City have certified law enforcement programs which cooperatively provide law enforcement coverage for the community, sharing resources, training efforts and coverage. The University has more than 5,000 acres in or around Ames. Patrolling is coordinated to minimize duplication and coverage as both units routinely patrol. There are a number of cooperative efforts in the campus town area dealing with a variety of student living and business relationships.

Easements-Because of the location and size of the campus, the university has provided easements to the city for utilities, roads and communication right of way at no cost.

Parks and Recreation-Six of Ames major parks are located on University land where the university has granted 99 year leases at no cost. These include Brookside, Cyclone Area Community Center, Stewart Smith, Franklin, McDonalds Woods Zumwalt Station parks. The City park system generally maintains these and they are an asset to the Community. The University is currently working with the City to provide a central campus site for the municipal band concerts this summer while the Band Shell is being renovated. This facility is the site for the annual 4th of July fire works display. Most of the university recreational and athletic facilities are used during times of the year for community users. Lied recreational facility, owned by the University, provides indoor track, swimming pools for adult and seniors, high school use for cross country track and many other city/school events.

CyRide- This municipal transit system carries more than 5 million riders a year and is jointly supported by the City, University Administration and students. It is one of the most successful small town transit systems in the country. In addition to its operation, the University provided the land for the bus facility off of University Blvd. because of its central location.

Ames/ISU Ice Arena – Built in 2001, the Ames/ISU Ice Arena is an indoor facility, open year-round seating approximately 1,000 patrons. This facility has three agreements

between the city and ISU for easement, development and joint use. ISU owns the land but the City of Ames constructed and operates the facility for various uses including: public skating, figure skating lessons, ice hockey, pick up hockey, clinics, broomball and birthday party/events.

Land for Public Schools- The land for Ames High and the new middle school was provided to the community at it appraised value. Had the university not had the land or been willing to provide it the Ames school system would have great difficulty in having facilities where they needed them. We are currently discussing the possibility of making the 13th Street pasture land available to the school system to develop soccer fields for their use. We also will develop trails and other recreational activities through this area to serve the community. We also pay tuition for all children living in university housing to the Ames school system. Last year that was \$450,000 in addition to providing the school system with some flexibility to manage enrollments since these children can be shifted among facilities.

Municipal Airport- When the Ames Airport was developed in the 1940's the University and City jointed planned and supported the funding of the initial land. The university has been a major tenant and owns several hanger facilities at the airport.

Cultural and Entertainment Facilities

A majority of the communities cultural and entertainment facilities are provided by ISU. These include the ISU Center, Memorial Union, Reiman Garden, stadium and various campus auditoriums and buildings that are used for community events. Ames has not had to invest community funds in the development of these types of facilities. More than 1 million visitors a year come to events on campus. These include athletic, concerts, major traveling Broadway and other entertainment events. Ames has had all of the world's best orchestras and major national entertainers over the years. The university is a significant contributor to the entertainment and cultural life of the community. It also provides significant economic impact on the community.

Major events that come to Ames such as the Special Olympics, Iowa Games, Odyssey of the Mind, Order of the Arrow and other large conferences are the result of the presence of the University. During the Iowa caucus process Ames/ISU is a frequent stop on political candidates' visits exposing our community to the opportunity to exercise citizenship opportunities. Without cooperation many of these events would not occur.

Community Facilities

There are a number of other community facilities that have resulted from University/City cooperation.

Gateway Center Hotel
ISU Research Park

Major Streets through the community that are jointly financed:

University Blvd.

13th Street

State Street

Mortenson Road

16th Street

South 4th Street

Lincoln Way through campus town

These examples are cooperative projects and relationships that benefit the community. In addition, The city and university jointly support a number of community wide programs such as the AVCB, AEDC, Chamber of Commerce, a variety of community events and activities.