

Augustana College Augustana Digital Commons

2015-2016: Clinton, Iowa

Sustainable Workshops Landscapes Initiative

2016

Clinton Regional Trail Analysis

Dr. Christopher Strunk
Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois

Victoria Lason
Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swliclinton>

 Part of the [Geographic Information Sciences Commons](#), and the [Physical and Environmental Geography Commons](#)

Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Strunk, Dr. Christopher and Lason, Victoria. "Clinton Regional Trail Analysis" (2016). 2015-2016: Clinton, Iowa.
<http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/swliclinton/7>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Sustainable Workshops Landscapes Initiative at Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2015-2016: Clinton, Iowa by an authorized administrator of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@augustana.edu.

Augustana College



Clinton Regional Trail Analysis

Fall 2015 • Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative

Dr. Chris Strunk • Professor • Department of Geography

Victoria Lason • Biology

Augustana College
639 38th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201



Acknowledgements

Other students that contributed to this project through their coursework were Grant Burke, Barrie Chileen, Erienne Davis, Marina Deligiannis, Brenna German, Kortney Hix, Taylor Johnson, Claire Kepner, Jessica Kras, Natalie Lamy, Irene Mekus, Long Nguyen, Duc Anh Nguyen Ngoc, Eleanor Nolan, Nicolas Riojas, Zoe Robb, Robert Rosene, Erin Runde, David Soliz, Joseph Strain, Alyssa Szymanski, Rebecca Van Deventer, and Benjamin Wells.

The Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative (SWLI)

The concept of the Upper Mississippi Center for Sustainable Communities (UMC) came from exploratory meetings with more than 125 on and off-campus community stakeholders between January and August of 2013. The need was clear: our area's urban and rural communities have identified many environmental and economic sustainability issues and do not have the staff, expertise, time or funding to address them. The vision of the UMC was to mobilize Augustana's faculty and students to help communities solve the social, economic, and environmental challenges facing the rural and urban landscapes of the Upper Mississippi region by integrating the study of these current, local issues into coursework taught on campus. After two pilot years, the UMC implemented a unique collaborative learning model named the Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative.

The Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative is modeled after the Sustainable Cities Year Program at the University of Oregon. Augustana College is the only exclusively undergraduate institution in the country to adapt this highly successful program to a residential liberal arts setting. The model creates a full one-year partnership between Augustana and a city/county partner, matching existing courses from multiple departments and other learning experiences (independent study, senior inquiry, internships) with community-identified and driven sustainability problems. The SWLI also helps cities and counties achieve their economic, social, and environmental sustainability goals while working with limited resources.

The Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative represents a paradigm shift for service learning experiences in higher education. Instead of asking groups and communities to participate in initiatives that originate in academia, the UMC asks communities to identify their most pressing social, economic, and sustainability challenges. It then provides these groups and communities with the human and academic resources of Augustana College faculty and students to help them address the challenges. This is not a one-time group of volunteers. SWLI student and faculty participants commit to supplying three, 10 week terms of sustained research, study and work in the classroom and in the field. The UMC is establishing enduring relationships between Augustana and these constituents so they can continue to work together to find creative solutions, test and evaluate their effectiveness, and try again as challenges and problems change.

The Mississippi River city of Clinton, Iowa (pop. 26,473) was chosen as Augustana's 2015-16 SWLI partner. Students and faculty are collaborating with Clinton officials and community stakeholders to complete 15 community-identified projects. Throughout the year, these projects are being worked on by 150 students in 15 courses in the humanities, social, and natural sciences. Because these projects are community-driven priorities, the fresh ideas, designs and products students generate address critical but unmet needs and have real-world impact.

Project Description

As part of the Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative, our Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) class is proposing an expansion of the regional trail system to include dedicated bike lanes and shared-lane markings (sharrows) that will connect the Mississippi River Trail with the entire city. In order to determine the ideal streets and paths for a future regional trail system, students used GIS to locate and map efficient routes along Clinton streets with features – such as stop signs, traffic signals, cross walks and low speed limits – that would create a safe environment for bikers, pedestrians, and drivers. First, streets with speed limits below 30mph were marked as candidates for safe bike routes, given that it would lower the risk of high-speed collisions with automobiles. Secondly, the presence of traffic signals and stop signs helps to assure bikers that incoming traffic will halt when the proper sign is present. Similarly, clearly marked cross walks appropriately signal to the biker where she or he can safely pass to avoid crossing the road at hazardous areas, assuring the increased safety of anyone on the road. A combination of these elements can create an ideal regional trail system for bikers and pedestrians in Clinton.

Our map identifies a number of local streets that can be incorporated into the regional trail system on the basis of bike safety and accessibility to the Mississippi River trail. The blue route represents the biggest priority, in our view, for a North-South bike route that connects neighborhoods to Eagle Point Park, the downtown, and to schools, parks, and points of interest in Clinton. Our class also identified several future routes that would increase the accessibility and connectivity of the Clinton Regional Trail System but are in need of sharrows (marked in green on the map), minor improvements (marked in yellow on the map) such as traffic signals, or significant improvements (marked in red) such as dedicated bike lanes because of high speed limits on the roads. We recommend that the City of Clinton explore the possibility of creating bike routes along Main Ave, 2nd Ave S, 13th Ave N, Bluff Blvd, and Mill Creek Parkway to provide a longer loop and greater accessibility for bicyclists.

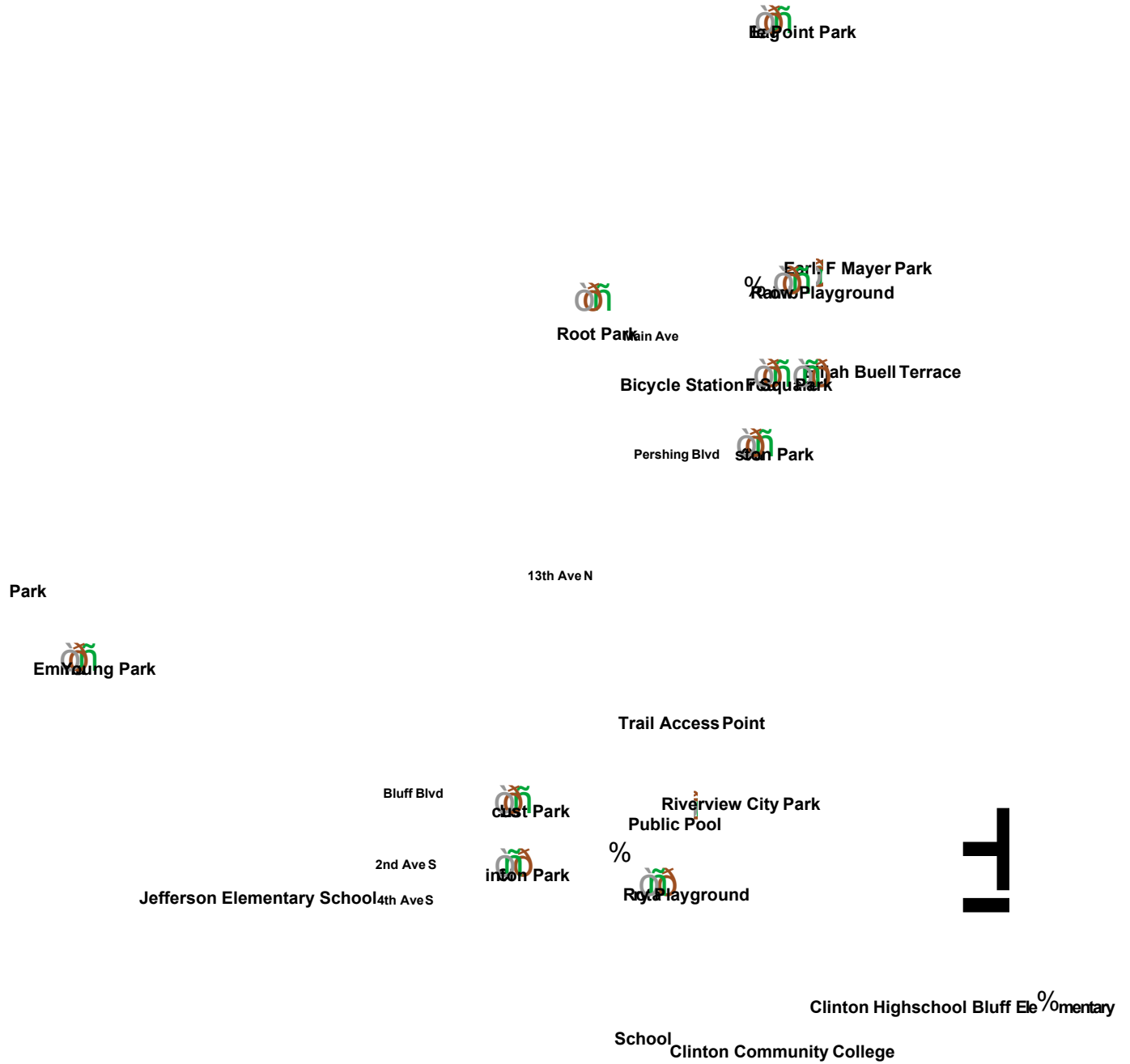
The following is a description of the proposed bike path along 22nd Pl, S 14th Street, 5th Ave S, N 2nd Street, and Pershing Blvd. While bikers are free to enter the bike path upon any point, our first prominent access point is at the intersection of Liberty Ave and 22nd Pl, a road that is considered to be in great condition. Traveling North West upon 22nd Pl, bikers will pass Chancy Park. Continuing down the path on S 14th Street, the next intersection is near Bluff Elementary School. While the path does not last long upon S Bluff Blvd, the road would require further safety measurements such as stop signs, or sharrows to ensure a biker friendly atmosphere. The bike path then continues, connecting Clinton Community College, Clinton High School, and Jefferson Preschool. The road conditions between these stops are in decent condition, but the City should consider implementing additional school crossing and bike safety signs in order to alert drivers to the presence of bikers near these school. Upon continuation, the path along 5th Ave S passes the George Curtis Mansion, conveniently located between Clinton Park and DeWitt Park.

Approaching the downtown, this proposed bike path leads to the Carousel School of Dance and the Rotary Playground, with a side path leading to the public pool. Road conditions

along this stretch vary and some are in need of significant improvements to accommodate bicyclists, most notably near the intersection of 2nd Ave and US Hwy 67. In the downtown, the proposed bike path connects to the Mississippi River Trail, allowing bicyclists to bike along the river or visit other points of interest along the trail. The proposed bike path continues along N 2nd St until reaching Pershing Blvd, which is already a popular route for local bicyclists and provides an alternative and safe route between the downtown and the Bike Station, an important node for bikers in Clinton. Finally, the proposed bike path connects bicyclists with Eagle Point Park, a popular destination for residents and visitors to Clinton alike. Ultimately, the proposed bike path effectively connects a multitude of points of interest, schools, parks, and the existing Mississippi River Trail, and offers additional possibilities to connect with a future loop around the city of Clinton.

New Clinton Recreational Trail Map

Looping Downtown



5th Ave S
6th Ave S

George
Curtis
Man
sion



0
0
.1
2
5
0
.2
5
0
.5
0
7
5
1

Miles



11th Ave



Legend



