



Map Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Natural Resources Geographic Information Systems Library," accessed May 2015, <http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/nrgislib/>.

Analysis of Assets

Transportation assets are facilities that provide access and create positive user experiences while people are traveling. Residents of Nashua noted that the open-spaces organized around the lake—including parks, the beach, camping, developed trails, and the welcome center—are all important destinations. On the west side of the lake, Charles City Road provides access to Cedar View Park and also provides a decent **running route (1)**. To reach Lakeshore Park and trail, people walk and bike on across the dam before getting on **Chickasaw Street (10)**, where they travel on the road itself as there are no sidewalks. Walking **Lakeshore Trail (12)** is popular with active adults, seniors, and steering committee members; youth like fishing at Veterans Memorial Park, boating and swimming at the lake, and hanging out at Cedar View Park. **tubing to Plainfield (9)** on the Cedar River is popular with teens and adults.

In other parts of town, kids play at the **school (4)** and the **cemetery (8)** and watch figure-eight races at the **fairgrounds (13)**. In winter, sledding on **Tracie's hill (7)** is enthusiastically endorsed, although kids have to go south on Greeley/Addison Blvd for nearly a mile from the school site. Youth walk, bike, and run to get around town, using Amhearst Blvd, Greeley/Addison Blvd, and Main Street as their primary routes south of Highway 346. They note the wellness center and the library as two indoor destinations that they visit on their own. Adults enjoy the lakeshore areas, the downtown area, and historic sites farther **out of town (14)** such as the museum and the Little Brown Church. These sites are partially accessible on sidewalks, but residents note that it would be great to have sidewalks or a trail all the way to these important destinations.

North of Highway 346, **Amhearst Blvd (1)** is a popular biking and running route, as traffic is lighter and slower than many other roads nearby. Active recreation users also use the triangle of streets formed by Charles City Road, Sample Street, and Amhearst Blvd as a route. The **Dollar General Store, the welcome center, and Subway (2)** provide food and restrooms. The **Dairy Treat (3)** is a local hot spot, which serves as a landmark and provides a cool treat on a hot summer day. These services support recreation activities on the lake and at Cedar View Park.

Walkers such as seniors, who need a level surface, often use the track at the **high school (4)**, the streets in **Schluter's addition (5)** or the wellness center to get exercise. They also walk on the street on



Cedar Lake has lots of boating activities

Lakeshore Hill (11) to enjoy the good pavement and the beautiful surroundings. The **Country Club (6)** south of Schluter's addition is also an important adult recreation spot south of town.

What people in Nashua mention most when describing the positive qualities of the transportation setting are streets with sidewalks, the natural setting, access to water and water travel for recreation, and local gems such as the Little Brown Church. They appreciate sounds and views of nature; a sense of security when walking, biking and driving; and social opportunities to be with friends and family in open spaces and at area events.

Enhancements desired include connected sidewalks and crosswalks, especially along Highway 346. This improvement would create a safer feeling when walking over the bridge and dam near Veterans Drive and Main Street, as an example. Some would like to create better local routes for pedestrians and cyclists by building on proximity and logical movement between places like the Amhearst dead end and the west side of Schluter's addition. They would also like to create a nicer environment by planting trees to shade Main Street and managing trees and vegetation along the lake to preserve views of the water from the trail. Finally, most groups mentioned the desire to extend the trail network to meaningful destinations, such as the **Borlaug Center (15)**, to Waverly and **Denver (14)** and to Charles City from Asherton Road.

Nashua

Transportation Assets and Barriers | 2. Analysis of Assets