



Map Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Natural Resources Geographic Information Systems Library," accessed December 2014, <http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/nrgislib/>.

## Concept Plan

Nashua is in the Cedar Valley family of communities, strongly defined and influenced by the Cedar River and, more recently, by the Avenue of the Saints (U.S. Highway 218). The river is impounded in Nashua to create Cedar Lake, a major feature enjoyed by both residents and visitors. There are other nearby attractions including the popular Little Brown Church and adjacent historic town of Bradford and its associated museum. The Avenue of the Saints, west of town, has shifted the focus of some businesses and other attractions away from the town center.

State Highway 346 runs east to west through the heart of town, separating neighborhoods from popular destinations and causing unsafe pedestrian crossings. The design team has suggested how to improve this.

The visioning committee is eager to inject new vitality into Nashua by maximizing the untapped potential of Cedar Lake. To accomplish this, the committee asked the design team to focus on the potential for two waterfront projects. One is a restaurant/marina complex on the site of the veterans memorial at the north end of Main Street, the other a condominium development along the shoreline of Cannon Park. The veterans memorial would then be relocated downtown on the vacant lot next to the post office.

The design team has developed a set of wayfinding signage to link and improve access to these and the other community attractions and amenities.

The visioning committee is seeking improvements to Main Street including repurposing the abandoned abutments and street right-of-way at the north end of downtown into a pedestrian bridge and corridor. In addition, they would like to add bump-outs and trees to Main Street where they would not conflict with truck traffic generated by the grain elevator.

The committee seeks improvements to Cedar View Park including a swimming pool complex, performance stage, and expanded, improved public lake access. In addition, the design team has suggested ways to improve access to the river below the dam and suggested improvements to enhance the Nashua signs west and northeast of town. In the future, planning a recreational trail system to connect Nashua to the Little Brown Church and other nearby communities will be the responsibility of the Northland Regional Council of Governments working with its client communities.



# Nashua

## Concept Overview

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Iowa Department of Transportation   Trees Forever   ISU Landscape Architecture Extension   ISU Extension Community and Economic Development   Summer 2015

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