1000 Friends of Iowa

Benefits of membership

Quarterly Newsletter

The Land Use Bulletin is full of news from across the state, the latest policy developments, and information to help your local advocacy.

E-mail Communication

Public Policy Updates, news items, and action alerts

Advice and Organizing Assistance

Training to form local groups and influence land use decisions.

Share Your Land-Use News Statewide

We spread the word about local land-use issues, pass along lessons learned, and create networking opportunities.

Why the name

1000 Friends of Iowa?

The first 1000 Friends organization was founded in Oregon over 30 years ago. The goal is to enroll 1000 or more members who will contribute $100 annually to be recognized as Founding Friends. Today there are dozens of similar organizations across the United States focused on growth issues, several of them called 1000 Friends and are members of a national coalition, Smart Growth America.

Join 1000 Friends of Iowa today!

Membership Categories

- Student/Senior
- Individual
- Family
- Founding Friend
- Supporting Friend
- Sustaining Friend

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Issues we address to achieve responsible land use

**Sustainable Development**
New development can be planned to improve our communities without the consequences of sprawl. Sprawling, auto-dependent development results in a rapid loss of open space and gives us fewer choices in transportation. Re-use of existing buildings and infrastructure efficiently uses our tax dollars and brings the community benefits of smart growth.

**Civic Engagement**
The public should be involved in land use planning in a productive and meaningful way that fosters long-term civic engagement. Development can bring benefits to the community as a whole if citizens can influence when, where and how development occurs.

**Agriculture**
Iowa’s agricultural heritage is a legacy worth protecting for beginning farmers, local food systems, and sustainable agriculture. Productive agricultural land is an irreplaceable and finite resource.

**Natural Resources**
Healthy soil, air, and water enhance our quality of life, our economy, and recreational opportunities. Protecting natural areas as growth occurs is achievable through land use planning and policy.

What we do

- **Outreach and education** through public presentations, workshops, media coverage, and meeting with local citizen groups.
- **Training Citizens on Civic Engagement** by providing citizens with information, advice, and organizing assistance as they become involved in the local land use issues.
- **Affecting Local, State, and Federal Public Policy** by monitoring policy development, making recommendations, and by educating policy-makers about the economic, social, and environmental benefits of responsible land use.
- **Conducting Research** to help citizens and policy-makers access the expertise and data they need.
- **Annual Best Development Awards** and other initiatives to promote development projects that reflect principles of smart growth and sustainability.

Join the effort of 1000 Friends of Iowa to educate Iowa citizens and policy-makers about the benefits of sound land use.