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# **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Upcoming Open House: Public Invited to Provide Feedback on UI Projects in Webster City**

[WEBSTER CITY, IOWA] – What do residents love most about Webster City and what do they want to see improved in the downtown and city parks? Those will be the topics for discussion at an upcoming Open House, Friday, March 29, at Fuller Hall Recreation Center, from 6-8 pm. The City of Webster City in collaboration with the University of Iowa invites the general public to discuss Webster City’s future. Students from the University of Iowa have been creating a Downtown Strategic Plan and Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Webster City over the last year.

The open house will give Webster City residents the chance to prioritize and rank their preferred projects for future development. The purpose of the event is to aid Webster City leadership and University of Iowa Urban and Regional Planning students working with the city as they develop the city’s downtown strategic plan and the parks and recreation master plan. Students will present recommendations and ask for community input to help the city prioritize their approach to downtown development and parks and recreation. Webster City residents are encouraged to attend, and both planning teams will be available to collect feedback and answer questions.

The open house will feature informational boards with solutions and recommendations as well as opportunities for public input. The event will also feature a kid’s “draw your dream park” coloring activity.

The Downtown Plan will lay a roadmap for revitalization, from the streetscape and building vacancies to housing and economic development. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan aims to increase usage opportunities by reimagining, updating, and improving the park system.

The open house is made possible through a collaboration between the City of Webster City and the University of Iowa’s Office of Outreach and Engagement. Through this partnership, graduate students in the School of Urban and Regional Planning will assist the city in the development of two plans, the downtown strategic plan and a parks and recreation master plan over the course of the academic year and will have both plans completed in May 2019.

**Event Details:**

Webster City Downtown and Parks and Recreation Open House: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Sampson Room of Fuller Hall Recreation Center, 625 Bank Street, Webster City, Iowa.

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**About the University of Iowa Provost’s Office of Outreach & Engagement**

The Office of Outreach and Engagement connects hundreds of University of Iowa faculty, staff, and students to people and places across Iowa every year, creating partnerships that address community issues, enhance curricular experiences and create positive impact. The Office was established in the spring of 2013 and has touched 92 of Iowa’s 99 counties through programs and activities. For more information visit <http://outreach.uiowa.edu> or call 319-335-0684.

**About the University of Iowa School of Urban and Regional Planning**

The University of Iowa is recognized as a leader in developing a curriculum attuned to the changing world of planning. At the heart of the master's degree program is an integrated curriculum that gives first-year students a solid foundation in the analysis of social problems and public policies and prepares them for careers beyond the traditional position of city planner. Students in the second year of Iowa's program focus on areas of concentration, which include economic development, land use and environmental planning, housing and community development, transportation, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). For more information visit <http://urban.uiowa.edu>.