



# *Exploring our Future: Housing and Safety*

Conservation - Accessibility - Improvement - Safety - Recreation

# MEET THE PRESENTATION TEAM



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## **Purpose:**

We believe in affordable housing, preservation of open land, safety for pedestrians and the accessibility of the cities we live in. We want to create a healthy community and bright future for young people.



Meah Van Voorst  
Scott County 4-H

~  
WHO  
WE ARE  
~

4-H is an out-of-school, hands-on learning program; youth choose a project that's interesting to them and explore it with peers and caring adults. It is a leadership program where youth discover what they love. 4-H clubs are groups of youth who want to learn together.

~  
OUR  
FOCUS  
~

~ **Balancing open space and farmland with the need for affordable housing**

~ **The safety of pedestrian through walkable cities**

Our group chose these issues because we believe they are **essential problems** where solutions are needed. By conducting various research through interviews and different focus groups with youth, we have found data to support the importance of land use and conservation and pedestrian safety in the regions.

# OUR METHODS

**We compiled our information in a few different ways:**

- Interviews (ages 14-18 within the seven counties, primarily Scott)
- Researching different housing types and housing inequality
- Having group discussions on improving sidewalk safety and how it can be improved



# ISSUE ONE: Balancing Open Space and the Need for Housing

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*“We are worried we won't be able to find housing when we are adults.”*

## **Defined**

Cookie cutter houses and houses on large lots is not an efficient use of undeveloped land. Encouraging more dense development, keeping housing and businesses in one area, make areas more walkable.

## **From Our Community**

Everyone needs a home and open land to live, making these things unavailable and unaffordable affects us mentally and physically. Housing is something we need however we also should balance this with the need for open space.

# PERSONAL EXPERIENCES



**Open and clean land is necessary for our mental and physical health.**

***Vision statement:***

Our region has clean healthy land. Our community cleans and protects the land. our housing is affordable to all communities.



**A clean land environment is one that is free from pollution and contamination. It is important to have a clean land environment because it is essential for human health and well-being.**

**Quotes:**

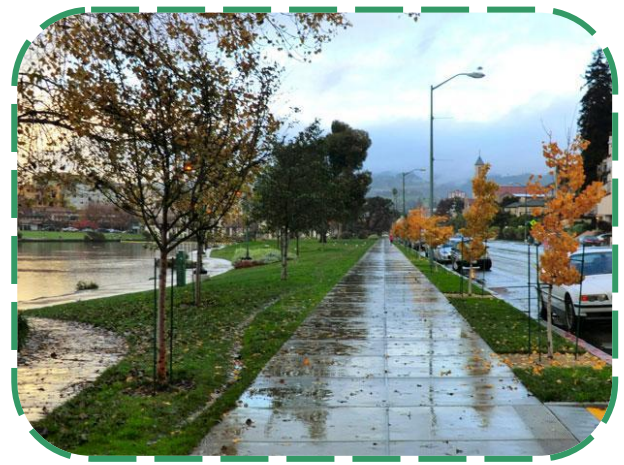
~ “My parents grew up in the country. They had a chance to explore and be kids. Now, we have 1/3 acre. **We don’t have a chance to explore.**”

~ “Housing and how we use the land are important to young people as we will be the ones living with the outcome. **Once the land is gone, there isn’t a reverse.**”

# ISSUE TWO: Pedestrian Safety

In our 28 interviews, **78% described how the lack of sidewalks makes them feel unsafe** and even described walking as “scary” since they were exposed to traffic. Adding and improving this infrastructure is important for many things, as our research highlighted **recreation and transportation** as the most common uses of sidewalks.

**Increasing pedestrian safety is important because unsafe areas can decrease quality of life, limit activity, and cause stress to pedestrians.**



**Pedestrian Safety Defined:**  
Pedestrian safety looks like infrastructure to support the needs of the communities; enough sidewalks and crosswalks in the regions.





# PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CONT.

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

### Quotes:

“We need to accommodate people who live here and those who don’t have cars. **We just assume everyone has a car.**”

“In Prior Lake, you are driving to most of your places. **But I do think it is important to have sidewalks in neighborhoods; especially where children are using them.**”

“**I got hit by a car crossing the road, and the car didn’t even stop to see if I was all right.**”

“**If there is no crosswalk, no one stops for pedestrians.**”

## VISION STATEMENTS:

**Our region is safe, walkable, and accessible.**

**Our region supports pedestrian infrastructure regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.**



# RECOMMENDATIONS AND GOALS

## **SIDEWALK SAFETY:**

All communities in the region should have adequate pedestrian and bike infrastructure to keep people safe. This includes:

- **Building wider sidewalks**
- **Installing safety features at intersections (blinking crosswalks, sidewalks, etc.).**
- **Infrastructure installed at busy or dangerous locations.**

## **LAND USE AND HOUSING:**

- **Building a wide range of housing to fit different families needs.**
- **Making sure the types of housing built is affordable for the people that will be buying them.**
- **Making sure open space is kept as well as ability and space to do outside activities and to maintain animal habitats.**



# THANK YOU!



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