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## **Public Input**

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This Chapter summarizes the public input activities that helped to improve this Plan. These activities include citizen surveys, community input meetings, and public informational meetings. It is important to note that the information and opinions summarized in this Chapter informed the development of strategies in other parts of this Plan, but there is no policy content in this Chapter.

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## Public Engagement Overview

A transparent public participation process is the foundation to a successful plan process. Given the demographics of Story County, both traditional and non-traditional methods were used to engage residents and stakeholders. Along with the C2C Project Team, a C2C Citizen Task Force was created. The group was comprised of representatives invited from each school district and community in Story County as well as individuals from the following stakeholder groups: transportation, development community, health care, economic development, natural resources, human resources, social services, and Iowa State University.



Beyond the input from the C2C Project Team and C2C Citizen Task Force, there were many other methods to engage residents and stakeholders and receive feedback.

### Project Website

A project website was developed where posts and feedback were shared such as the project schedule and draft documents. It also provided an avenue to share draft materials and solicit comments throughout the planning process. This aspect of the communication and participation strategy is important for transparency, and for sharing information with stakeholders who are unable to attend meetings.

### Social Media

Social media outlets were used to make residents aware of the process and direct them to the project and/or County website for more information. Story County engaged citizens with social media updates on Facebook and Twitter.

### Branding and Promotion

To improve general public awareness and participation in the process, several strategies included:



- Brand the process – Creation of a simple image and tag line to accompany all materials related to the planning process.
- Local media promotion – Utilization of local media, radio programming and newspaper venues to promote the C2C planning process and public meetings.



- Newsletters and leafleting – Insert notifications in local newsletters and public notice boards distributed across the county promoting the public meetings, for distribution to residents and businesses by team and C2C members.

### County - Wide Survey

The development of a county - wide survey served as an essential tool to reach those that could not make the Community Vision and Identity Workshops and to give individuals an anonymous platform to voice opinions and concerns. The survey was primarily online, distributed via Survey Monkey. There were also paper copies available at all city halls and libraries throughout Story County for those who preferred to complete a printed survey.

### Community Vision and Identity Workshops

A platform was provided for residents to get involved in the planning process through a series of meetings held across Story County. These meetings were conducted in four locations: Ames, Colo, Huxley and Story City. At each meeting citizens were asked about strengths and weaknesses in various categories. The input received helped to form the goals and objectives of this Plan. More information on this process is located in Section 2.2.

### Public Open Houses

In January and February of 2016, towards the end the planning process, the County hosted five open houses at different locations across the County to present a near final draft of the C2C Plan to the citizens and stakeholders of Story County. The goal was to solicit feedback for further review by the C2C Project Team, C2C Citizen Task Force, and the Planning and Zoning Commission. An online virtual open house was also available during the two - month open house period. The online open house allowed people to view recorded presentations and review the same materials presented at the public open houses.



## Presentations to School Boards, City Councils and Civic Groups

- 2/23/15 – Nevada City Council
- 2/26/15 – Nevada School Board
- 3/2/15 – Gilbert City Council
- 3/4/15 – Roland City Council
- 3/24/15 – Huxley City Council
- 3/30/15 – Ames School Board
- 4/2/15 – Collins City Council
- 4/6/15 – Maxwell City Council
- 4/6/15 – Cambridge City Council
- 5/18/15 – Collins - Maxwell School Board
- 6/1/15 – Colo City Council
- 6/8/15 – Slater City Council
- 6/8/15 – Ballard School Board
- 6/9/15 – Kelley City Council
- 7/6/15 – McCallsburg City Council
- 7/13/15 – Zearing City Council
- 7/13/15 – Roland/Story School Board
- 7/20/15 – Gilbert School Board
- 7/20/15 – Story City City Council
- 9/17/15 – League of Women Voters
- 2/17/16 – Nevada Rotary Club
- 2/25/16 – Ames Golden K Club
- 3/26/16 – Nevada Golden K Club

## Public Open Houses - Draft Review

In January and February of 2016 the planning team held Public Open Houses at five locations across Story County to unveil the draft plan to get feedback and critiques from the citizens. An online open house was also available, allowing people to view an open house presentation and review the same materials presented at the public open houses. Comments collected from participants are included below and on the boards shown on the following pages.

### Open House Feedback from Questionnaires and Online Comments

Which goals of the C2C Plan are most important to you?

- Land Use
- Conservation
- Bike paths
- Sustainable/smart growth
- Watershed improvement/protection
- Historic preservation
- Greenway/trail protection and development
- Emergency preparedness
- Clean water in rivers and streams
- Primary/secondary road improvements
- Land Use Goals 2, 3 and 7; Natural Resources Goals 1, 3 and 4; Emergency Preparedness Goal 5; and Cultural Resources Goal 2
- Good communication between county and municipalities
- Infrastructure
- Improve small town economic development
- Preserving Lincoln Highway and Ag. land

Do you feel there is anything missing from the draft C2C Plan and/or the C2C planning process?

- Helping to keep buildings out of floodplains
- An operational plan to move from planning to implementation
- Well thought out as to passing information and scheduling meetings to gather input



## Open House Boards and Input

# Goal Preferences

### Land Use Goals

LU1: Identify and map areas to guide future development in unincorporated Story County.

LU2: Preserve, protect, and plan around the physical characteristics of the land, including floodplains, steep slopes, wetlands, rich soils, and rare geologic or environmental characteristics.

LU3: Consider the availability and capacity of local services and infrastructure when determining future land uses.

LU4: Evaluate short and long-term financial impacts to the County budget when considering development proposals.

LU5: Establish open space buffers or greenways at the periphery of cities, and provide connectivity from one city to the next.

LU6: Continue to protect and preserve Story County's agricultural resources for current and future generations.

LU7: Identify and preserve areas of historical and cultural significance.

LU8: Ensure that land use transitions are gradual or designed to reduce potential incompatibilities among land uses.

Goals which require consistency

### Economic Prosperity Goals

EP1: Story County will cooperate regionally to focus on common goals and allocating resources accordingly to maximize successful business start-up, retention, expansion and recruitment efforts.

EP2: Create a healthy and sustainable regional economy by the retention, expansion and recruitment of businesses.

EP3: Economic growth should not exceed the ability of the natural or built environment to sustain growth over the long term.

EP4: Story County will create and encourage a regulatory environment that offers flexibility, consistency, predictability and clear direction.

EP5: Promote public/private partnerships that encourage innovation and creativity in the economic expansion of our region.

EP6: A strategic approach in the pursuit of new jobs is to recruit, retain and expand the types of industries that provide quality, good-paying jobs.

EP7: Business should be encouraged to partner with labor unions and other organizations to develop specialized training programs to meet the needs of employers.

EP8: The various communities must work individually and together to ensure that adequate space is available for expansion of business.

EP9: Story County and each community should complete infrastructure studies to identify needs for additional infrastructure capacity in order to serve forecasted and anticipated economic expansion.

Requires Smart Growth Implementation Plan and other SWG planning documents and data

# Open House Boards and Input

## Goal Preferences

### Agricultural Resources

**AR1:** Protect agricultural practices in areas with prime soils and viable agricultural interests.

**AR2:** Minimize conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural land uses.

**AR3:** Preserve farmland and the rural landscape as a viable foundation for a strong and growing agricultural economy.

*Handwritten notes:*  
 - AR 1: Focus on...  
 - AR 2: ...  
 - AR 3: ...

### Community Facilities and Services

**CF1:** Ensure the County's community public facilities protect public health, as well as the county's natural resources and rural character.

**CF2:** Support and maintain high-quality county facilities and services to meet the needs of residents.

**CF3:** Provide adequate access to quality educational and recreational facilities for all county residents in Story County.

### Communications and Public Safety

**CP51:** Encourage and provide open communication between residents and Story County.

**CP52:** Ensure safe communities by protecting health, welfare and property in Story County.

**CP53:** Support and maintain high-quality County facilities and services to meet the needs of residents.

### Emergency Preparedness

**EP1:** Mitigate the risk of impacts before a disaster.

**EP2:** Protect Story County's residents and property during a disaster.

**EP3:** Successfully recover from disasters.

*Handwritten note:*  
 - Flooding!

### Housing

**H1:** Plan for safe, attractive and affordable housing to meet existing needs and forecasted housing demands of all residents of the county.

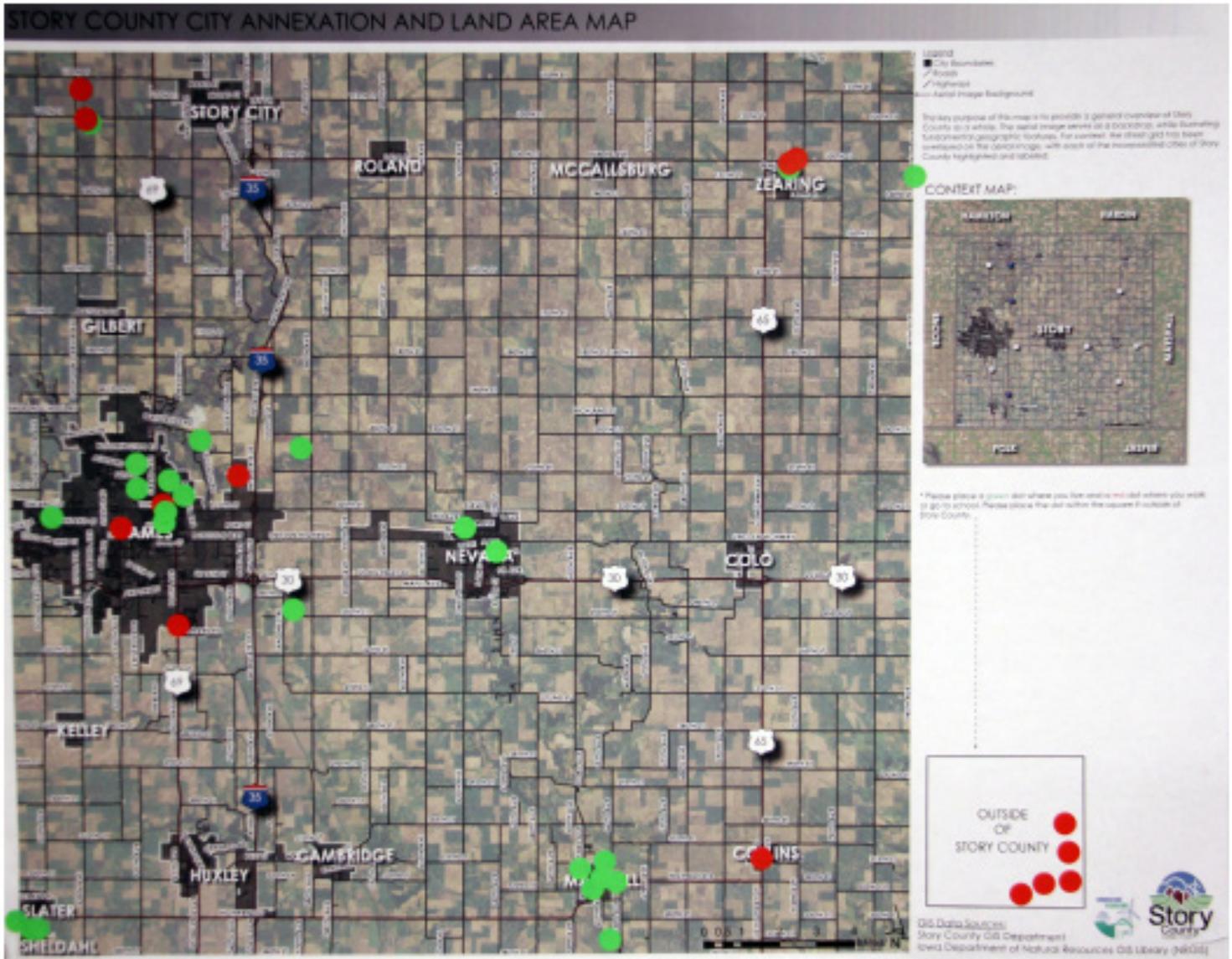
**H2:** Plan for housing types and densities that reinforce the predominately rural character of the unincorporated areas of the county.

**H3:** Housing is planned for, designed, and built in a way that responds to residents' needs and reflects their voices and experiences.

*Handwritten note:*  
 - AR and CP...

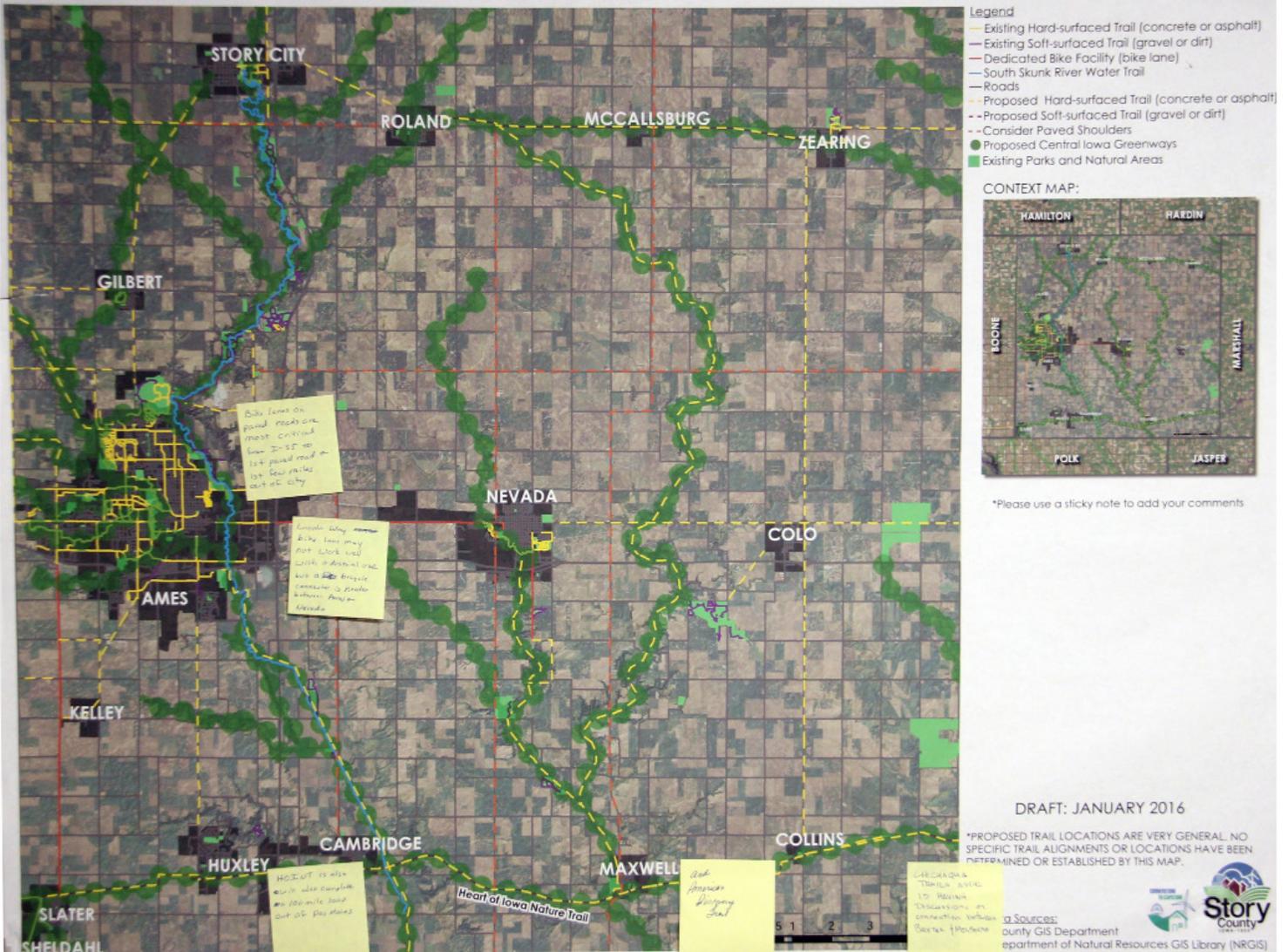
Story County Comprehensive Plan 2036: Cornerstone to Capstone

# Open House Boards and Input



# Open House Boards and Input

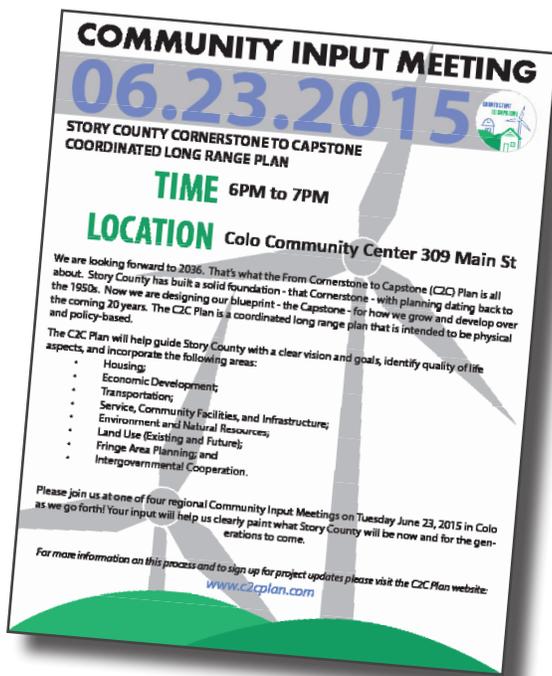
## STORY COUNTY PROPOSED TRAILS AND GREENWAYS MAP



## 2.3 COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

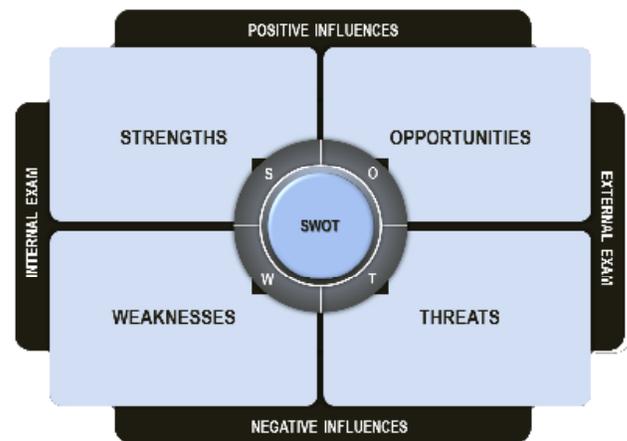
### Community Workshops

Four Community Vision and Identity Workshops were part of this C2C planning process. The workshops were held in Huxley (June 18, 2015), Colo (June 23, 2015), Ames (June 25, 2015), and Story City (June 30, 2015). Citizens from nearby municipalities and rural areas participated in these workshops and gave valuable input through a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). The SWOT analysis covered four areas including: Natural Amenities, Governance Leadership and Learning Environments, Economy and Prosperity, and Growth - Oriented and Sustainable Infrastructure. These four areas are further explained along with the Vision for Story County's C2C Plan in Chapter 3: The Foundation.



### SWOT Analysis

This Plan is grounded in a set of issues about which the residents and individual municipalities of Story County are concerned, and opportunities for positive change. The Plan seeks to address perceived deficiencies and capitalize on opportunities. This section is a compilation of key issues and opportunities. A SWOT analysis exercise was used to gather this information from the Planning and Zoning Commission, C2C Project Team, C2C Citizen Task Force as well as from the general public at four Community Vision and Identity Workshops.



**Strengths** - characteristics that give the community an advantage over others.

**Weaknesses** - characteristics that place the community at a disadvantage relative to others.

**Opportunities** - elements the community could exploit to advantage the community.

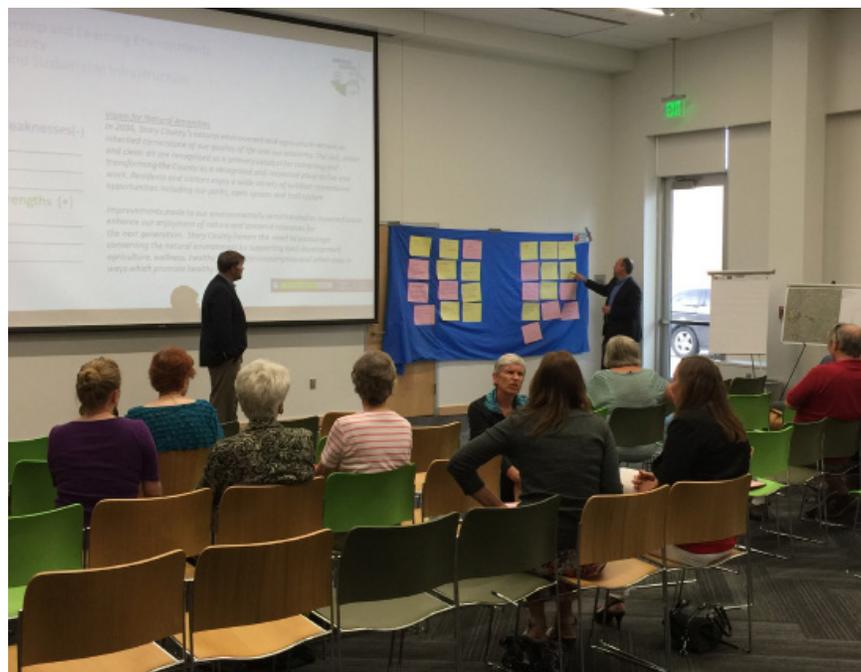
**Threats** - elements in the environment that could cause trouble for the community in the future.



## Weaknesses and Threats

### Natural Amenities

- Flood mitigation
- Losing prime farm ground to urban development
- Water quality
- Wastewater treatment issues
- Development encroaching on floodways
- Lack of connectivity in greenbelt areas
- Lack of funding for improvements
- Farm chemicals
- Identifying critical areas
- Illegal dumping
- Recycling/reuse issues
- Loss of natural habitat
- Nitrogen runoff
- Overuse of aquifer
- Threat – transforming
- Need for publicizing rural Story County outdoor sites—rural and small towns don't get the attention like Ames does
- Threat – water quality protection
- Agricultural threats to natural resources
- Factory farms
- Water quality lakes and streams
- Not connected hiking and biking trail system
- Ensuring sustainability and quality of river
- Public transportation
- Destruction of wetlands, native prairie, wood lands
- Bike trails, bike lanes on county highways are dangerous
- Need more people to actively volunteer
- Water quality improvements needed
- Need to continue adding and connecting trails
- Need to increase public park properties and infrastructure (Iowa is 49th in percent of public lands)
- Supervisors put cost before quality, this creates mediocrity
- Issues with flooding
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Limited areas for hunting access
- Too many bugs
- Poor water quality in Skunk River
- Skunk River water level is not stable either too high or too low
- Agriculture stormwater runoff issues
- Libraries – stretched with providing more services
- Rural/smaller towns have less access to AP and Advanced Classes
- County Board should have more rural representation



## Weaknesses and Threats

### Governance, Leadership and Learning Environments

- Need for non - athletic youth facilities
- Small school districts
- Declining enrollment
- Lack of long term fiscal planning
- Need for more cooperation/coordination between Ames and county
- Need more involvement in government and leadership
- Need for more community cooperation
- Cynicism about political involvement–need to pass onto someone!
- Too much analysis/paralysis by analysis
- ISU Extension has lost offices and leadership
- Threat of partisanship at local government scale
- Understanding local government and civics, how county and city governments work is being lost
- Getting people involved
- Housing availability and a lack of services in town
- Unavailable land, cost to build and low turn - over for housing
- Communication or lack thereof
- Lack of services in small communities
- Youth opportunities/outside areas (outside of Ames)
- Work together with county
- Inadequate addressing of flooding/preserving floodplain
- Continue to provide/increase resources to educational opportunities
- Affordable housing – throughout the county
- Unwilling to invest in green infrastructure and transportation opportunities
- Mental health
- Uncontrolled growth due to ISU
- Supervisors put businesses more important than residents
- Supervisors are timid, avoid controversy
- Immediate profit before long term planning/welfare
- Need sustainable environmental and agricultural collaboration education
- Leadership resistant to change
- Continued support for county government excellence
- Need a wider variety of citizens involved in government and leadership
- Lack of affordable housing



## Weaknesses and Threats

### Economic Prosperity

- Small businesses can't afford Ames or Story County
- Concerns about bond measures for schools and public buildings - long term financial planning for infrastructure bonds
- Ever increasing direct taxes that threaten economic prosperity
- Need more manufacturing jobs
- Need skilled employees
- Educated and skilled people tend to move away - not enough jobs
- More economically challenged families than we realize
- Lack of economic diversification
- Insufficient housing for workforce
- Small - town businesses struggling
- More retail/retail competition w/web - based businesses
- Need more low - cost housing, especially in Ames
- County leadership, young professionals program needed
- Impossible to build affordable housing with current regulations, impossible without subsidies
- Local regulations more of a threat to development than federal strings
- Communities need to review and update codes and regulations to assist growth, not impede growth
- Some cities in county struggling
- Not enough affordable housing
- What is the next TIF project? What is the process? Need more input from development community
- Small businesses growing
- Property maintenance
- Commerce too concentrated in Ames (little towns need it too)
- Loss of downtowns
- Rich farm corporations prosper at expense of neighbors
- Affordable housing
- Suburban and exurban sprawl = loss of habitat
- Employees can't afford to live in Ames = long commute
- Preparing for aging population
- Lots of low/moderate wage jobs
- Lacking opportunities for non - knowledge economy- need entry level jobs
- Growth shouldn't be only goal, other goals should be maintenance and improvement of existing facilities
- Econ vision is Ames - centric
- Excluding Ames, rest of county does not have high paying jobs (need a balance county - wide)
- Poor/limited public transportation
- Story City outlet mall is mostly vacant and in disrepair
- Limited services available for them
- Concentration in specialty retail (antiques)
- High cost of limited and housing options
- Lack of senior housing options
- Long wait in Story County for housing vouchers
- Rental housing maintenance (absentee landlords)
- Student housing demand impacts rental rates
- Small towns have little to no businesses and less tax base



## Weaknesses and Threats

### Growth - Oriented and Sustainable Infrastructure

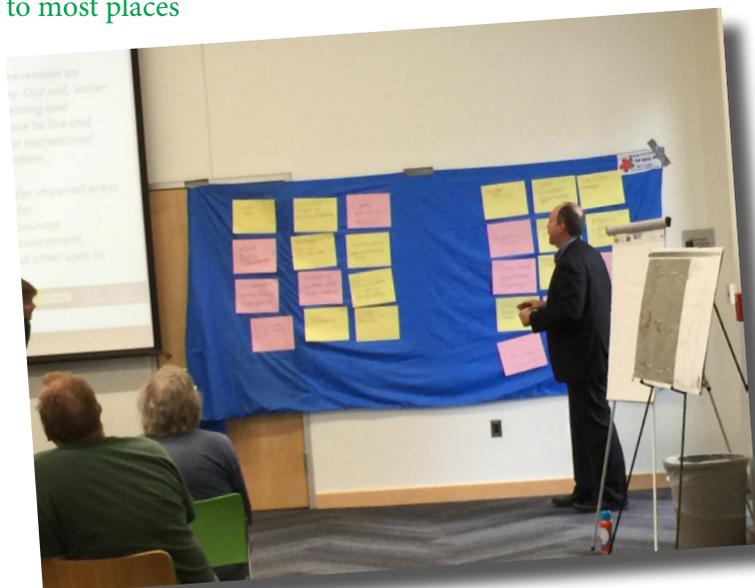
- Hard to strike a balance between growth and sustainability and protecting good farmland
- Road and bridges in some areas have size limit issues
- Need to attract new businesses
- Wind expansion, needed
- Threat of individual septic system failures and impact on water quality
- Drainage districts...how will they deal with water quality?
- Growth unbalance and taking prime farmland
- DNR and impact on small communities
- Need broadband in rural areas
- Lack of bike paths on public roads
- Affordable housing
- Conflict of preserve farm ground vs. developing rural residential pockets/housing need
- Lack of landfill - need effective way to recycle
- Rural/city water rights issues
- Wastewater regulations causing major improvements
- Small cities need infrastructure \$ help
- Main street death
- Need long term solutions for sewer systems
- Lack of funding for water/sewer infrastructure
- Community pooling resources for needs - transportation, clothing for needy, lunches for needy
- Rural population
- Bigger isn't always better, growth can mean improvement of existing infrastructure
- Increase in impervious surfaces and inadequate storm water management
- Alliant prices for solar is a disincentive to make residential investment
- Need to develop a county - wide network of services
- Ames needs to annex more land
- Bike/pedestrian conflicts on bike lanes
- Safe bicycling infrastructure for commuting
- Need more low income health and dental care opportunities
- Not enough emphasis on green and renewable infrastructure for example power, water, transport, soil
- Street infrastructure and highway congested - no room for growth
- Need a balanced approach to growth
- Bikes on County highways are dangerous, need land on shoulders
- Growth along I35
- Gravel road maintenance
- Bridge maintenance
- Road closures for repair
- Traffic
- Agriculture/urban growth conflicts
- Rural State Revolving Fund (SRF) Developments
- Erosion from new construction and development
- Gilbert growth pressures - impact from school district
- Limited EMS/Fire Volunteer poor
- Limited pool of medical services - not spread evenly through county
- Need for communications infrastructure expansion
- Poor wired and wireless communications services
- Many commute to work
- Impact of increased crime from Ames growth
- Community resistant to change and new ideas



## Strengths and Opportunities

### Natural Amenities

- Camping and recreational areas, scout camps
- Bike paths
- Greenbelt and river valley recreation
- Broader interest in ag. and new interests and perspective on the importance of agriculture
- Ada Hayden park
- Southern quarry, potential recreational opportunity
- Zearing Park
- Hickory Grove
- Ag. Related businesses
- Build on natural amenities
- Great County parks
- County is assisting long term planning
- Ag community
- Stakeholder engagement
- Parks and green areas
- Streams/rivers (stormwater management)
- Green belts
- More interest in preservation of natural resources
- Ada Hayden
- Hallet's Pit
- Plan for recharging aquifer
- Water resources
- Natural areas
- Strong economic development
- Growing respect and use of natural resources
- Trails plan
- Watershed planning and lake cleanup
- Park upgrades
- Bike/walking trails to most places
- Trail planning
- Recreation
- Support for existing and developing natural environments – parks, leasing centers, open spaces
- Educating the public about wind farming - adults and youth
- Water policy that fits 2036
- Great volunteer opportunities
- Air quality except near factory farms
- Start on a great trail system
- Community supported agriculture and local food systems
- Active county conservation program
- Soil increase sustainability treat it like an organism
- Park maintenance
- Great County park system
- Ada Hayden Park
- Community gardens
- Citizens aware of environment and challenges
- Good river and several good creeks
- Greenbelts, Ada Hayden, McFarland Parks
- Great soil for agriculture
- Trees Forever (new Story City grant)
- Personal pride in property maintenance (city and county - wide)
- Skunk River
- Lots of volunteers for community improvements
- Good canoe and river access to Skunk River
- Natural prairie area "Prairie Park"
- Story City and surrounding area has nice parks



## Strengths and Opportunities

### Governance, Leadership and Learning Environments

- Good Board of Supervisors
- ISU and ISU Extension
- Better utilize RC and D ideas and promote work
- Public has opportunity to be engaged at many levels, transparency
- Service to county citizens is an opportunity to serve public
- Willing engagement and opportunity
- County is fiscally well
- Economic viability of communities within the county
- ISU
- Location I35 and Hwy 30
- High valuation of education
- High level of community engagement and involvement
- County - wide leadership and development
- Strong K - 12 schools systems
- Proximity to ISU
- Good formal and informal education
- Communities have good idea of where they want to go
- Story County has been the formula other counties have copied
- Location (central Iowa) and location to Ames
- Family community (keep/maintain small towns and schools)
- “Others” learning experience to connect people to nature
- ISU
- Story County Conservation classes and awareness
- Story school system
- Transportation and effective county government
- EMS collaboration
- Story County Conservation collaborating w/school district (could be improved)
- Great opportunities for citizen involvement in government and leadership
- High quality education across the county
- Modern methods for communicating w/citizens
- Boy Scouts - educational
- Libraries
- Great schools
- County Conservation and educational programs
- Zearing Threshold Learning Center
- Story City has a strong city council (they care)
- Story City Chamber





## Strengths and Opportunities

### Economy and Prosperity

- Smart management of economic growth, protect farmland and preserve farms with future development
- Board using TIF of wind turbines
- Rural expansion of home businesses would foster innovation and overall economic growth
- Well - educated and diverse workforce
- Attitudes of staff
- Population growing
- Midwest/central Iowa economic stability
- Current economic growth in Ames, Story City, Huxley
- Marketing ourselves and communities
- Strong agricultural system and research - well positioned for growth
- Transportation strong - roads and rail
- Niche agriculture
- High - tech development drawn to area
- Local school trade of skill development with youth
- Facebook presence
- Small town survival education and economy
- HIRTA
- Enlarged Dakins Lake

### Growth - Oriented and Sustainable Infrastructure

- Hwy 30, I35—great asset
- Potential workforce with good work ethic
- Resource Recovery Plant
- Hwy 65 Corridor
- Drew Kamp
- Bridges being addressed
- Wind energy facilities and more solar
- Research park big for new industry
- Develop buffer strips and associated education of public
- Could develop county - wide compost system
- More companies moving in
- Lincoln Highway Corridor Plan
- Transportation systems; highway, rail, and air
- Heart of Iowa Trail is part of the American Discovery Trail
- Health care
- Location
- Rural setting - close knit, help each other out ex: snow blowing for the elderly

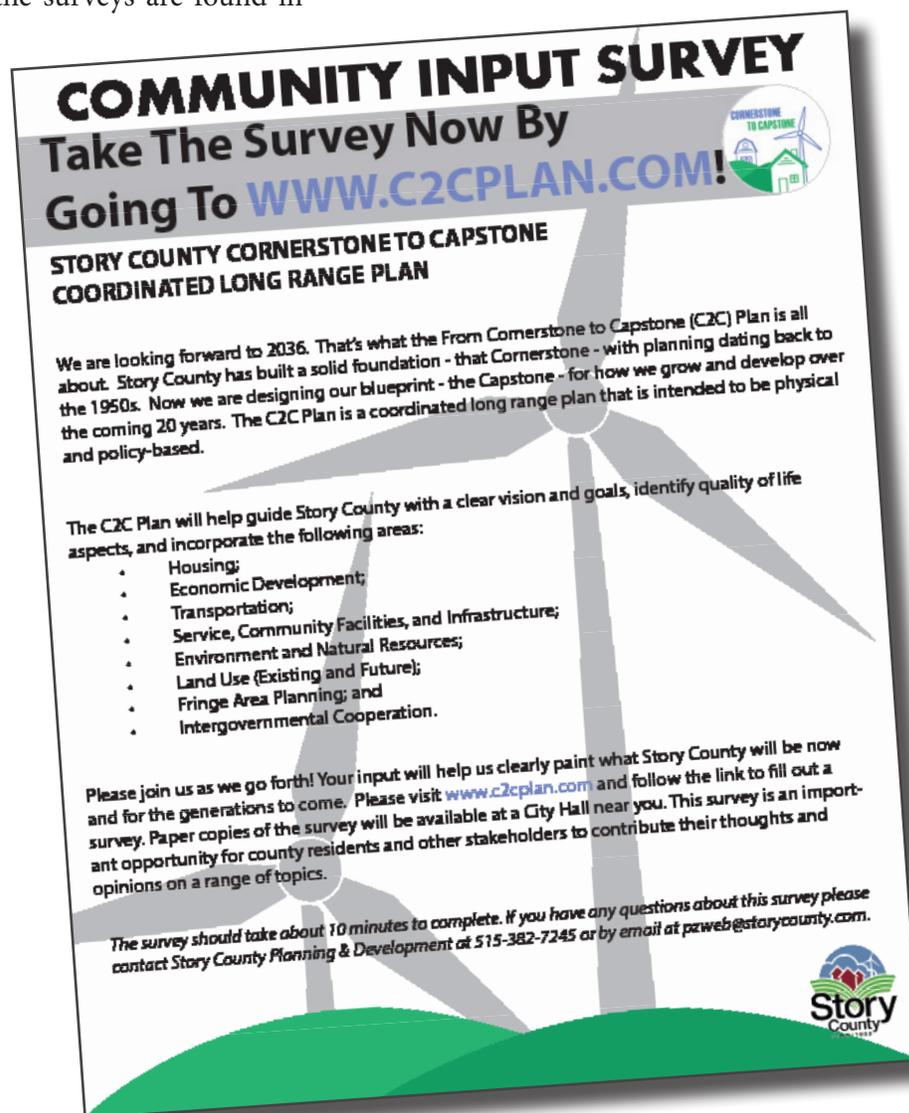
- Threshold Learning Center - school programs, hikes, barn dormitory, venue for celebrations, after school programs, mini golf, new Dakins Lake
- Hickory Grove – fishing, camping, swimming
- Need more small manufacturers and small businesses
- Micro - economics outside of Ames (i.e. Huxley)
- Tiny house movement
- Lots of business growth in Ames and surrounding area
- Local foods support and sustainability
- Strong knowledge economy
- Lots of students available for low wage jobs
- Diverse small businesses
- Research Park
- Need support of the micro - economies and rural areas
- Ease of commuting (if you have a car)
- Business mobility
- Story City industrial
- Availability of Bethany Life
- Story City Main Street
- Care is taken with public money (responsible)

- Connected educational opportunities
- Some attention to green growth and smart growth
- Opportunities needed for county incentives for small scale solar
- Story County leader in green building, make sure to keep it up
- Increase affordable high density redevelopment
- Good services
- Need agricultural soil infrastructure, demand cover cropping
- Many transportation resources available, more education needed
- Long - range infrastructure planning (proactive and funding)
- County trail planning - bike trails connecting cities
- Public safety response
- Growth along I35

In June 2015, Story County residents were surveyed on a variety of subjects pertaining to the creation of the C2C Plan. Surveys were distributed both online and hard copies were available at local city halls and libraries. The survey was completed by 674 respondents in total.

This report summarizes the results of the survey and attempts to synthesize the input from Story County citizens. Each section includes a small sample of written comments from respondents that exemplify and reinforce the majority viewpoints.

The entire results from the surveys are found in Appendix B.



**COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY**  
**Take The Survey Now By**  
**Going To [WWW.C2CPLAN.COM](http://WWW.C2CPLAN.COM)!**

**STORY COUNTY CORNERSTONE TO CAPSTONE  
COORDINATED LONG RANGE PLAN**

We are looking forward to 2036. That's what the From Cornerstone to Capstone (C2C) Plan is all about. Story County has built a solid foundation - that Cornerstone - with planning dating back to the 1950s. Now we are designing our blueprint - the Capstone - for how we grow and develop over the coming 20 years. The C2C Plan is a coordinated long range plan that is intended to be physical and policy-based.

The C2C Plan will help guide Story County with a clear vision and goals, identify quality of life aspects, and incorporate the following areas:

- Housing;
- Economic Development;
- Transportation;
- Service, Community Facilities, and Infrastructure;
- Environment and Natural Resources;
- Land Use (Existing and Future);
- Fringe Area Planning; and
- Intergovernmental Cooperation.

Please join us as we go forth! Your input will help us clearly paint what Story County will be now and for the generations to come. Please visit [www.c2cplan.com](http://www.c2cplan.com) and follow the link to fill out a survey. Paper copies of the survey will be available at a City Hall near you. This survey is an important opportunity for county residents and other stakeholders to contribute their thoughts and opinions on a range of topics.

*The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. If you have any questions about this survey please contact Story County Planning & Development at 515-382-7245 or by email at [pzweb@storycounty.com](mailto:pzweb@storycounty.com).*

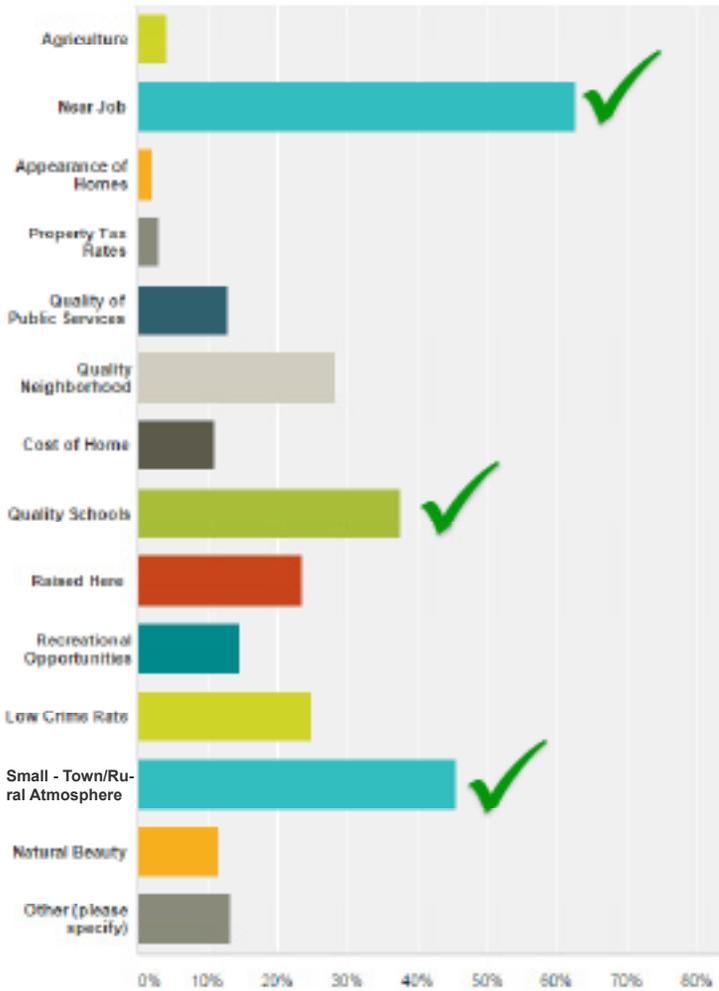
**Story County**



## Quality of Life Highlights

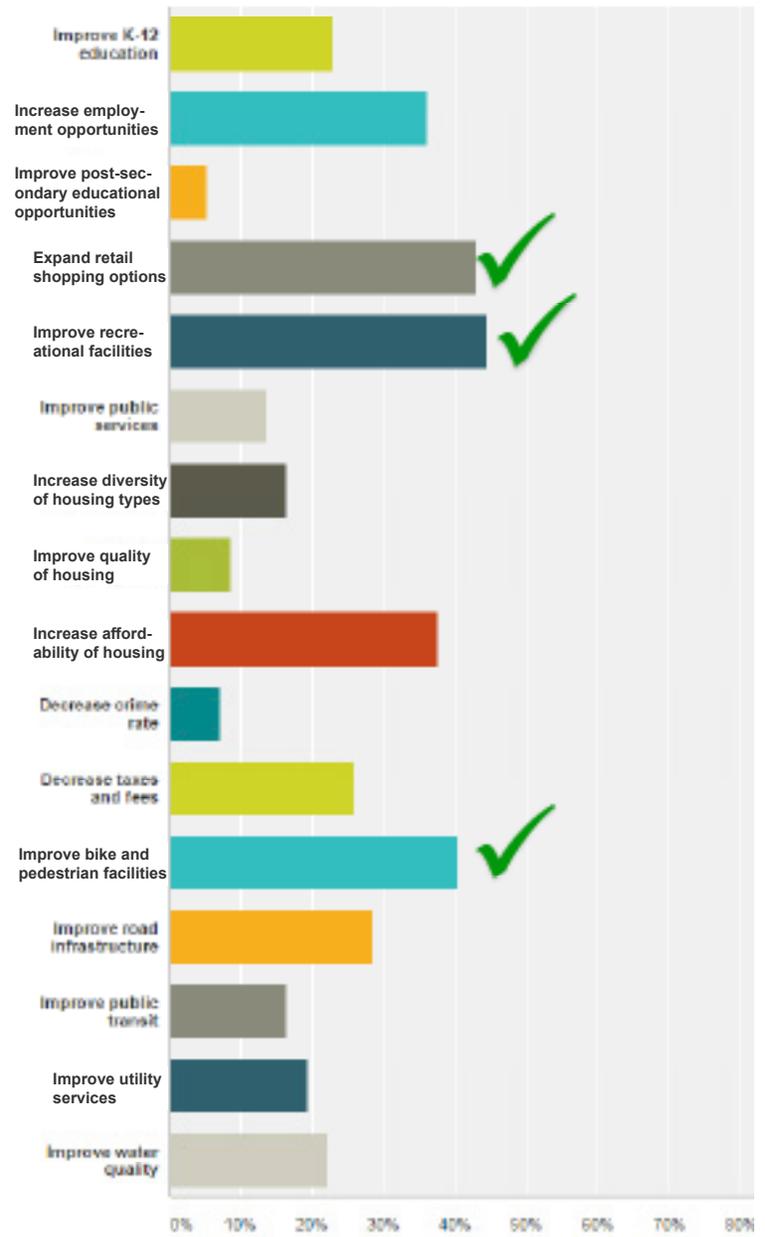
What are the three most important reasons you and your family choose to live and/or work in Story County?

Answered: 646 Skipped: 7



Please indicate changes you think would improve the quality of life in Story County (please check up to four).

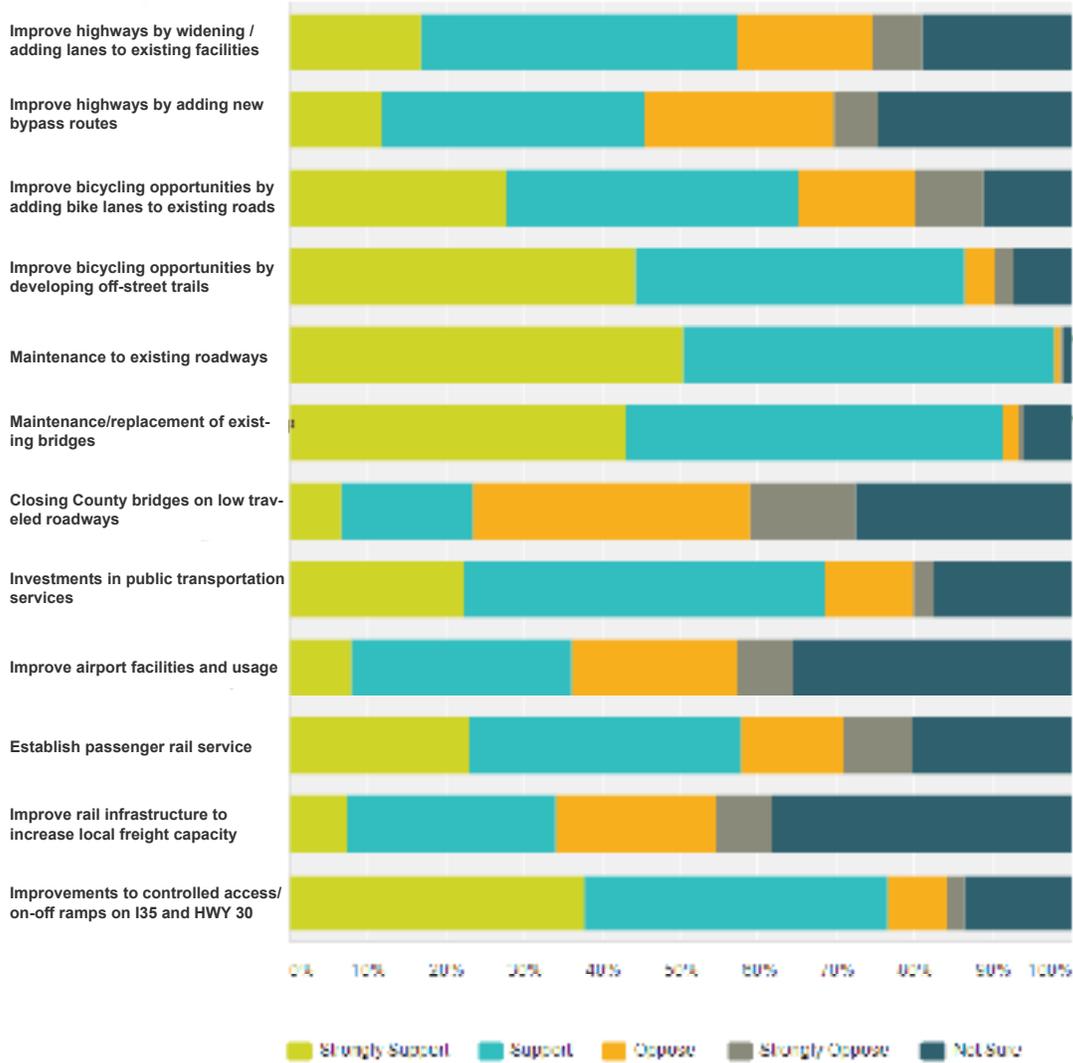
Answered: 643 Skipped: 19



# Transportation Highlights

During the next ten years, which of the following transportation investments do you support in Story County?

Answered: 807 Skipped: 46

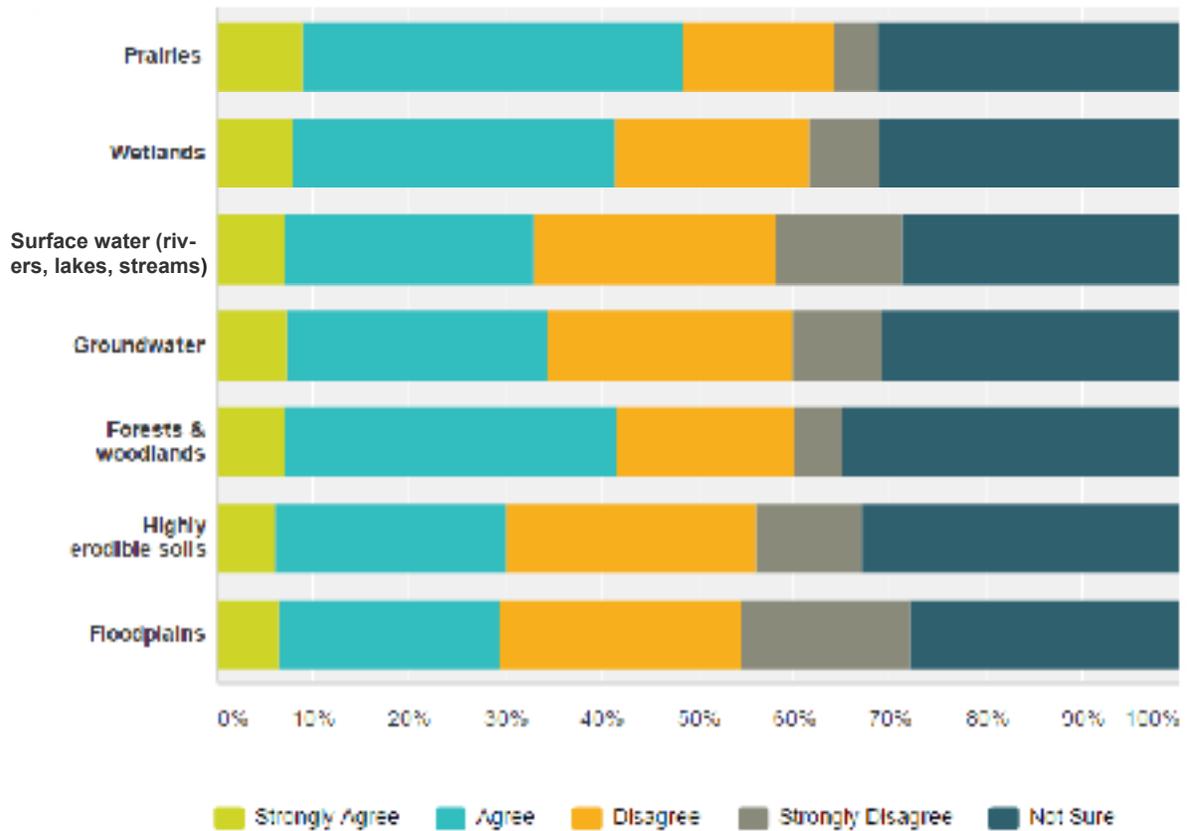




## Natural Resources Highlights

**In your opinion, current environmental policies and regulations in Story County adequately protect the following environmental areas from damage or disruption:**

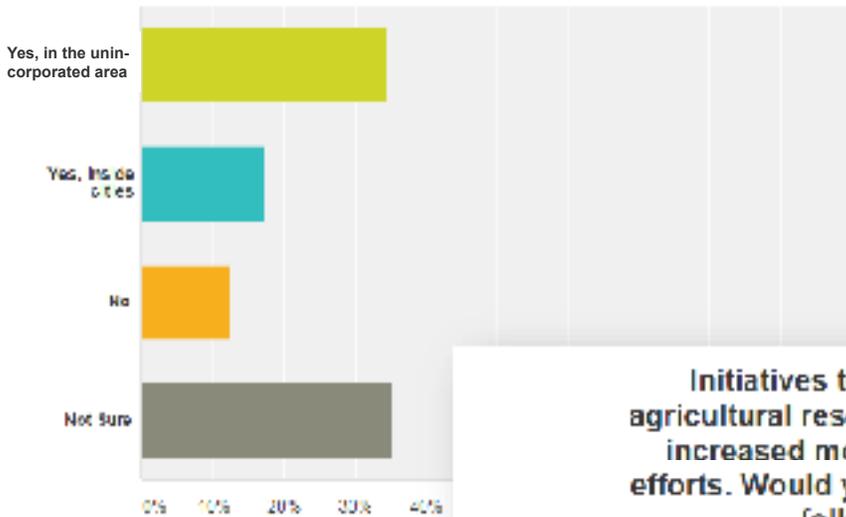
Answered: 568 Skipped: 84



## Agricultural Resources Highlights

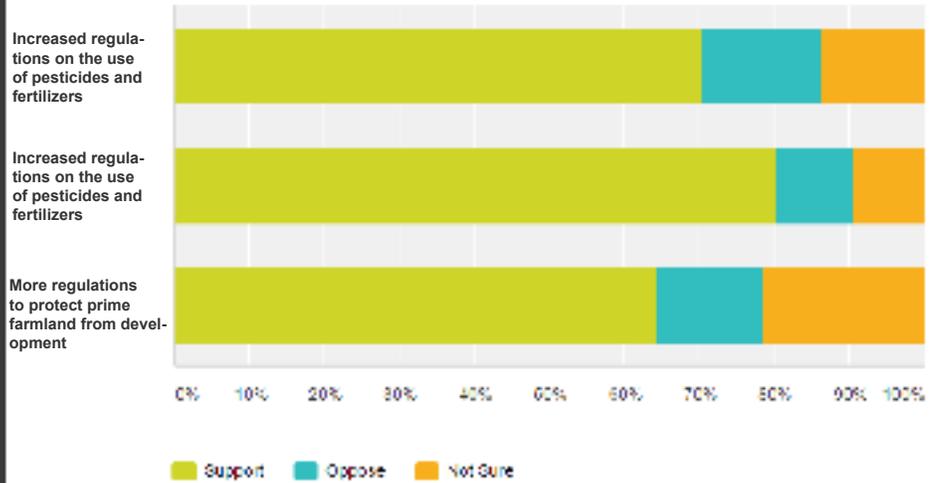
Should Story County provide more opportunities for agricultural businesses?

Answered: 660 Skipped: 103



Initiatives to protect and improve agricultural resources sometimes include increased monitoring and regulation efforts. Would you support or oppose the following efforts?

Answered: 665 Skipped: 83

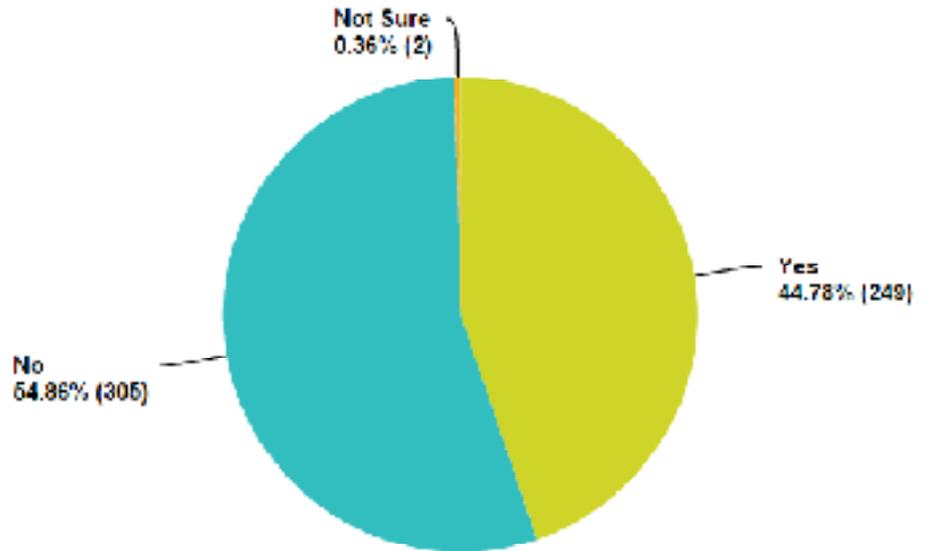




## Hazards Highlights

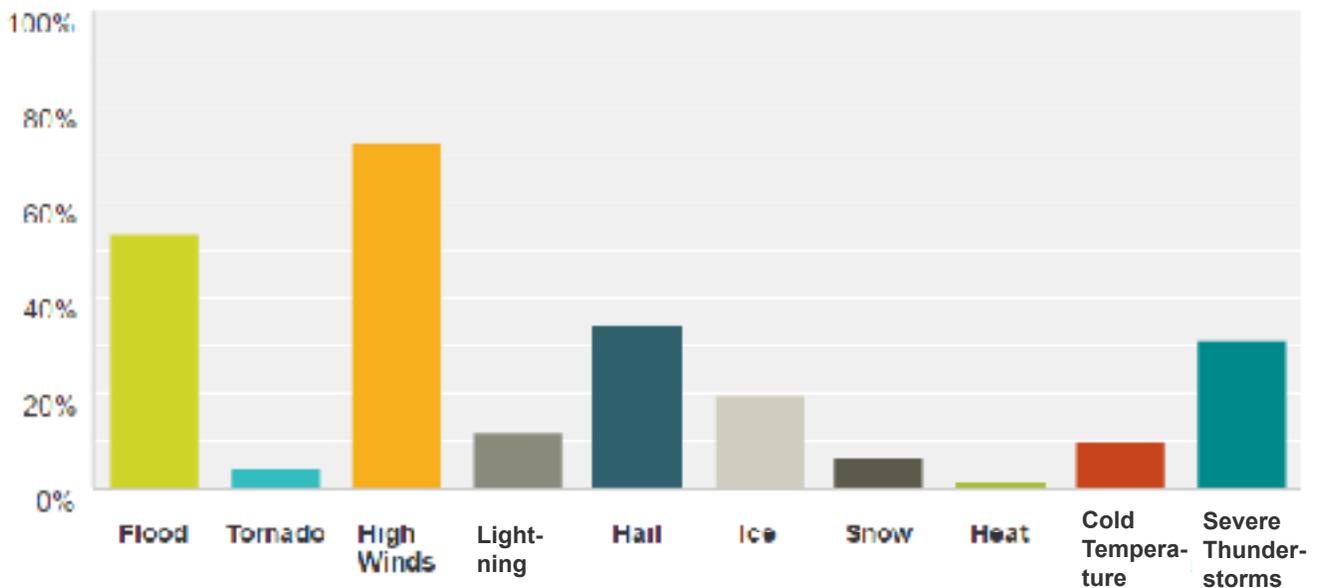
### Have you or your family experienced damages in Story County as a result of severe weather?

Answered: 558 Skipped: 97



### If yes, indicate what kind of severe weather caused the damage. (Check all that apply)

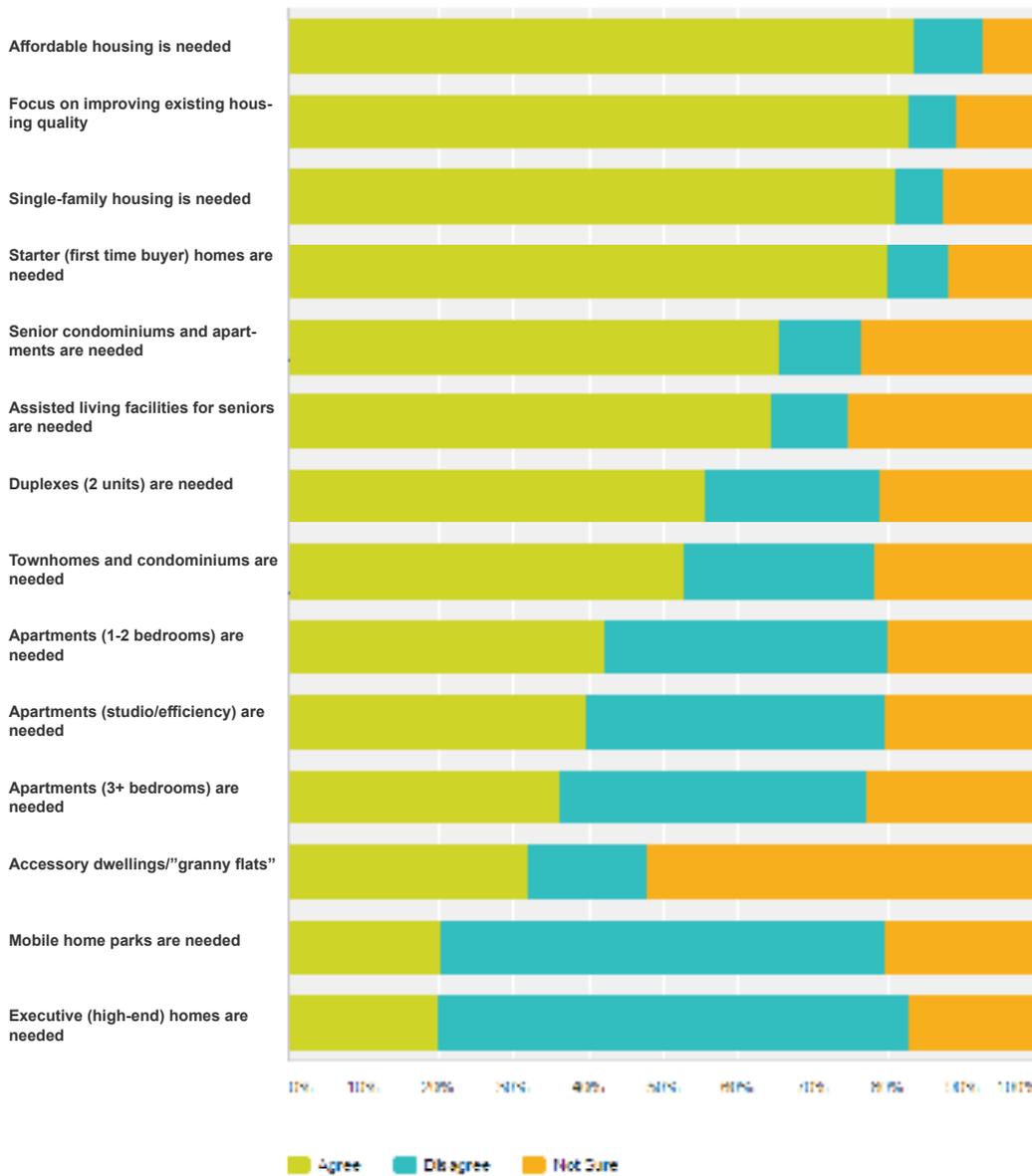
Answered: 250 Skipped: 403



## Housing Highlights

Please share your opinions about the types of new housing and housing improvements needed in Story County.

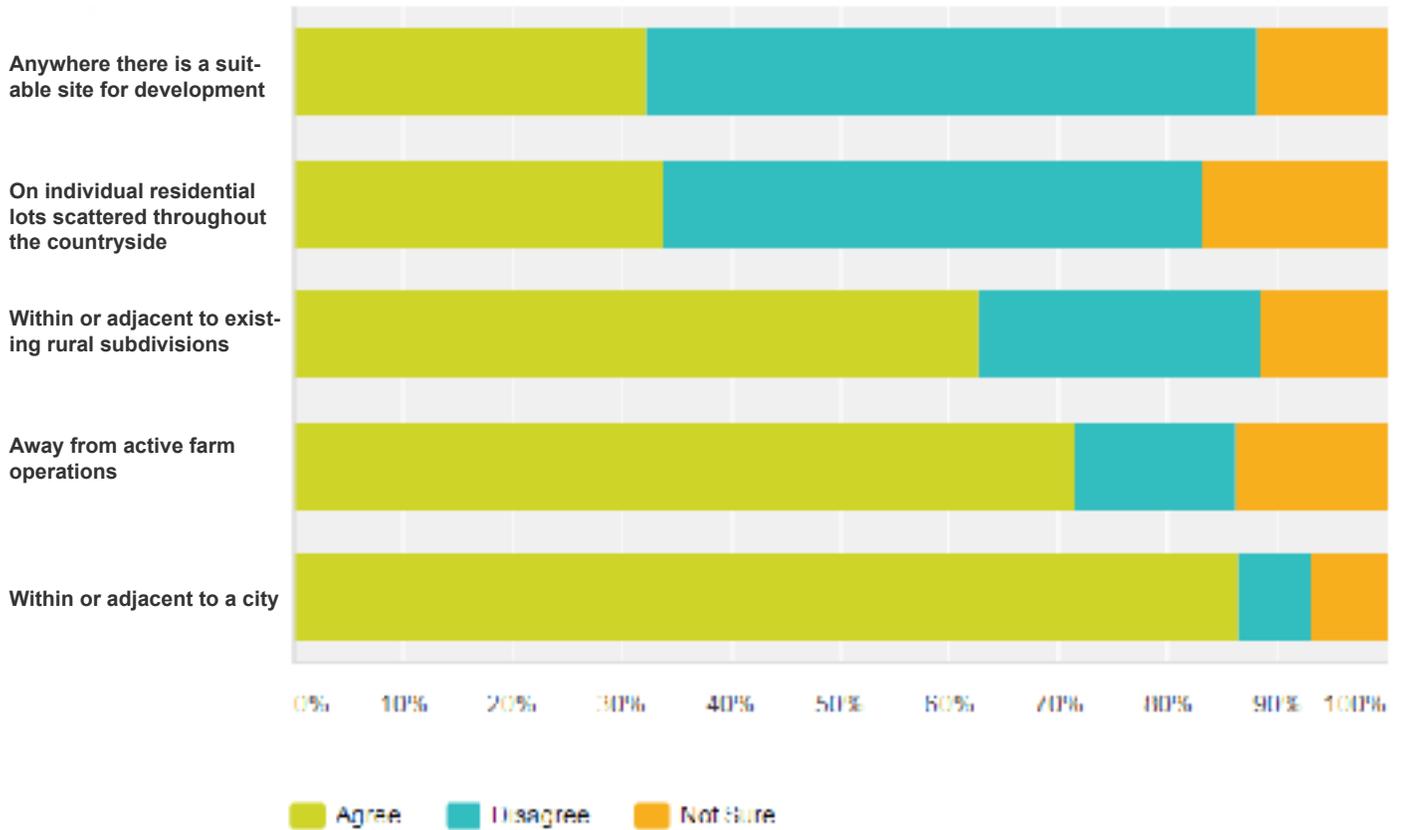
Answered: 547 Skipped: 111





## In Story County, new residential development should be located:

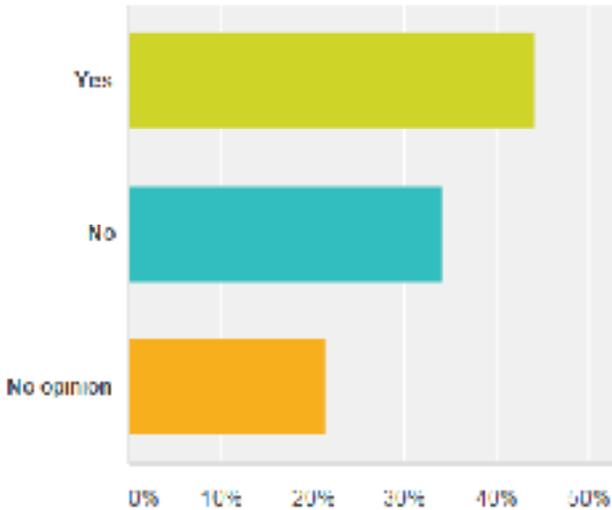
Answered: 539 Skipped: 114



## Economic Development Highlights

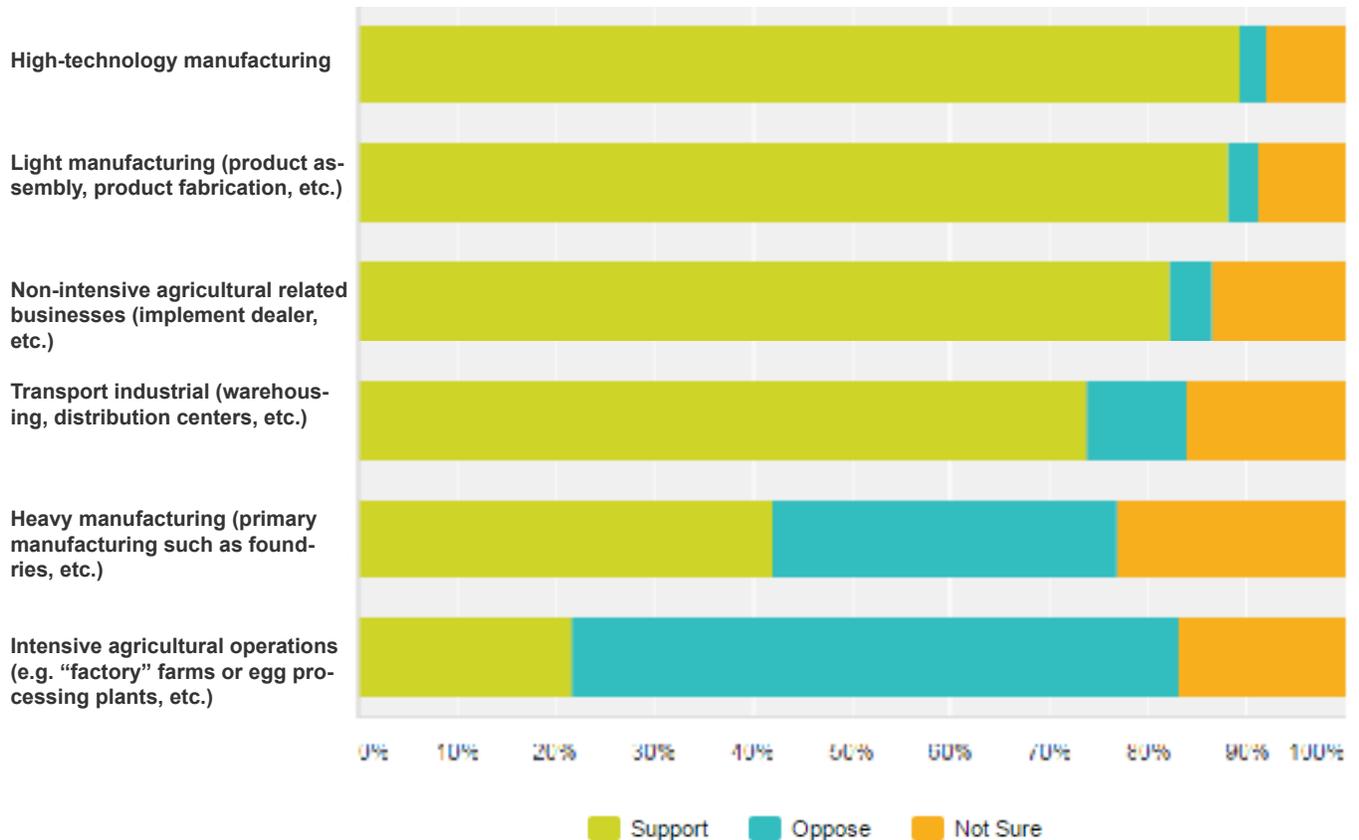
**Do you believe Story County should commit additional tax dollars to attract and retain private sector jobs in the county?**

Answered: 531 Skipped: 122



**Do you support or oppose the development of the following types of industrial establishments in the county?**

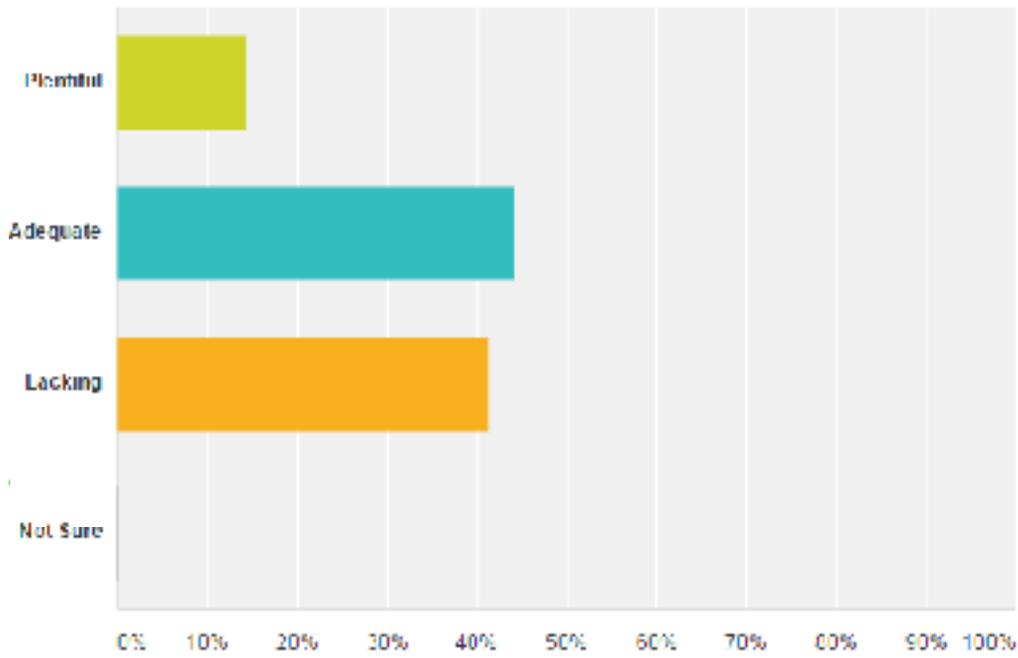
Answered: 535 Skipped: 118





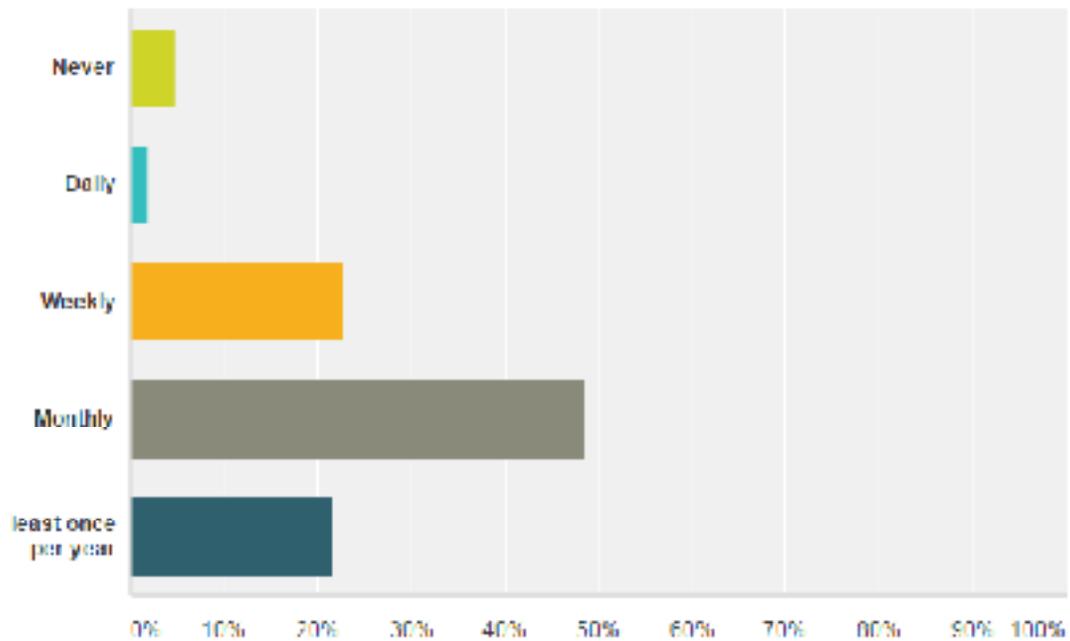
### In your opinion, how would you describe the availability of places to shop or dine in Story County?

Answered: 531 Skipped: 122



### How often do you shop?

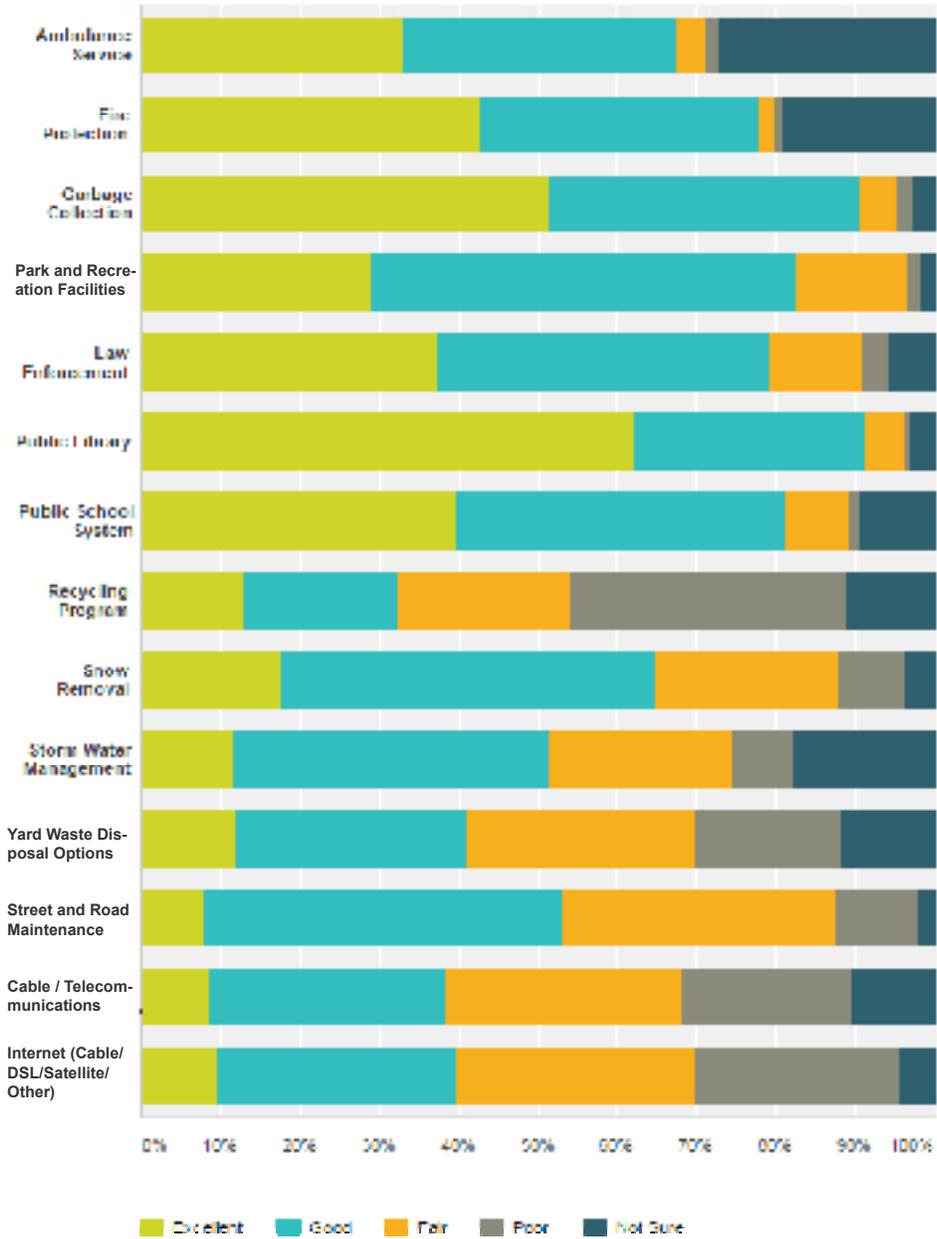
Answered: 532 Skipped: 121



## Community Facilities and Services

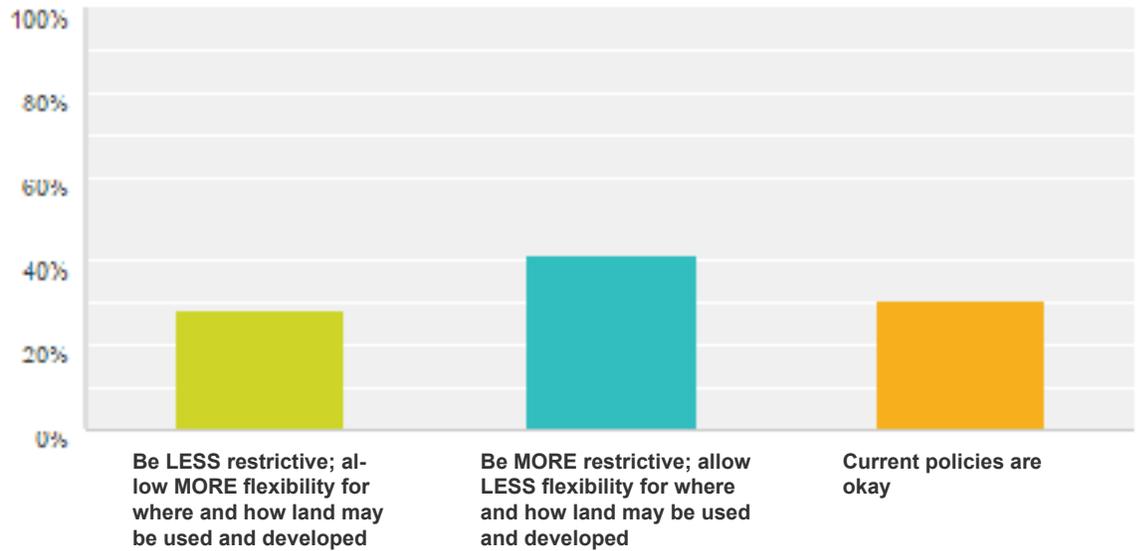
From your experience, please rate the following services in your community.

Answered: 639 Skipped: 123



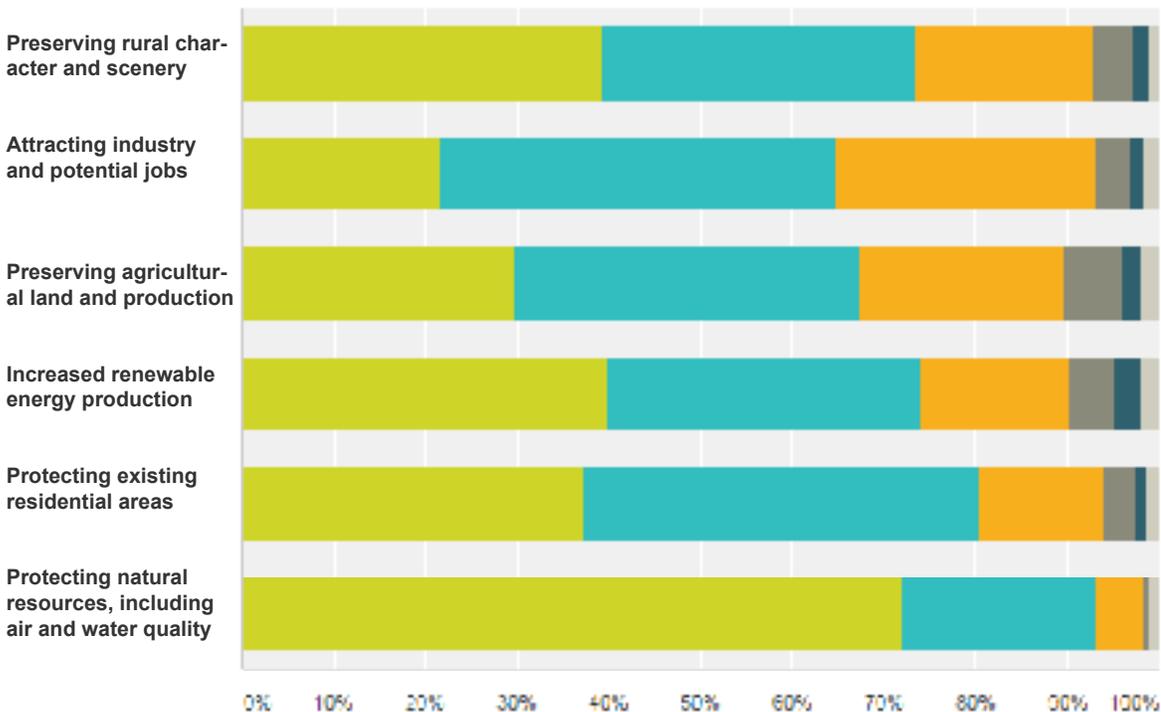
## Land Use Highlights

### How would you direct County civic leaders and planners with regard to land use policies and regulations?

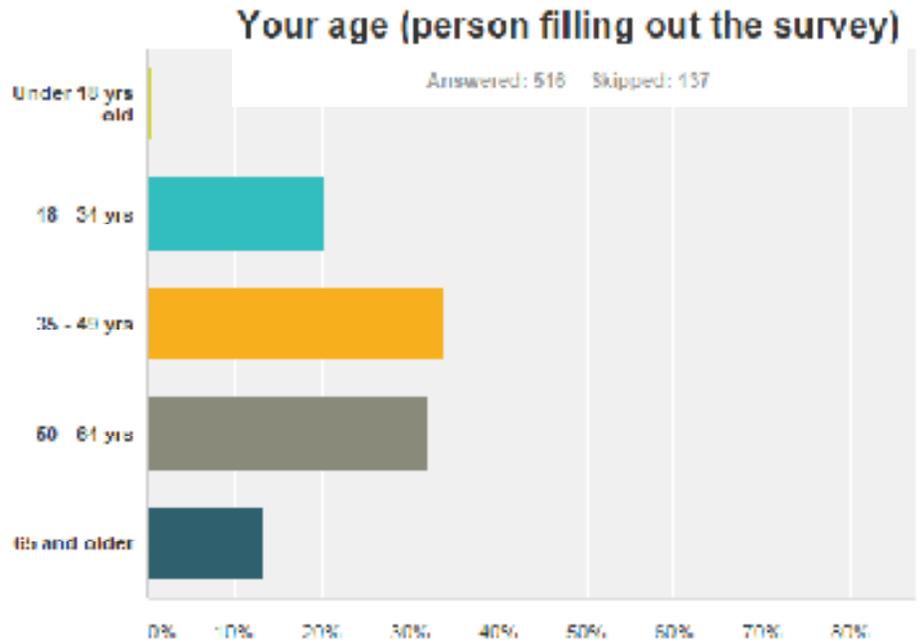


Whenever a development project is proposed, be it new homes, new commercial or manufacturing uses, or mining or energy uses, County leaders must balance competing interests. Please indicate the importance of each of the following to you:

■ Very Important   
 ■ Important   
 ■ Somewhat Important   
 ■ Somewhat Unimportant  
■ Unimportant   
 ■ Not Applicable

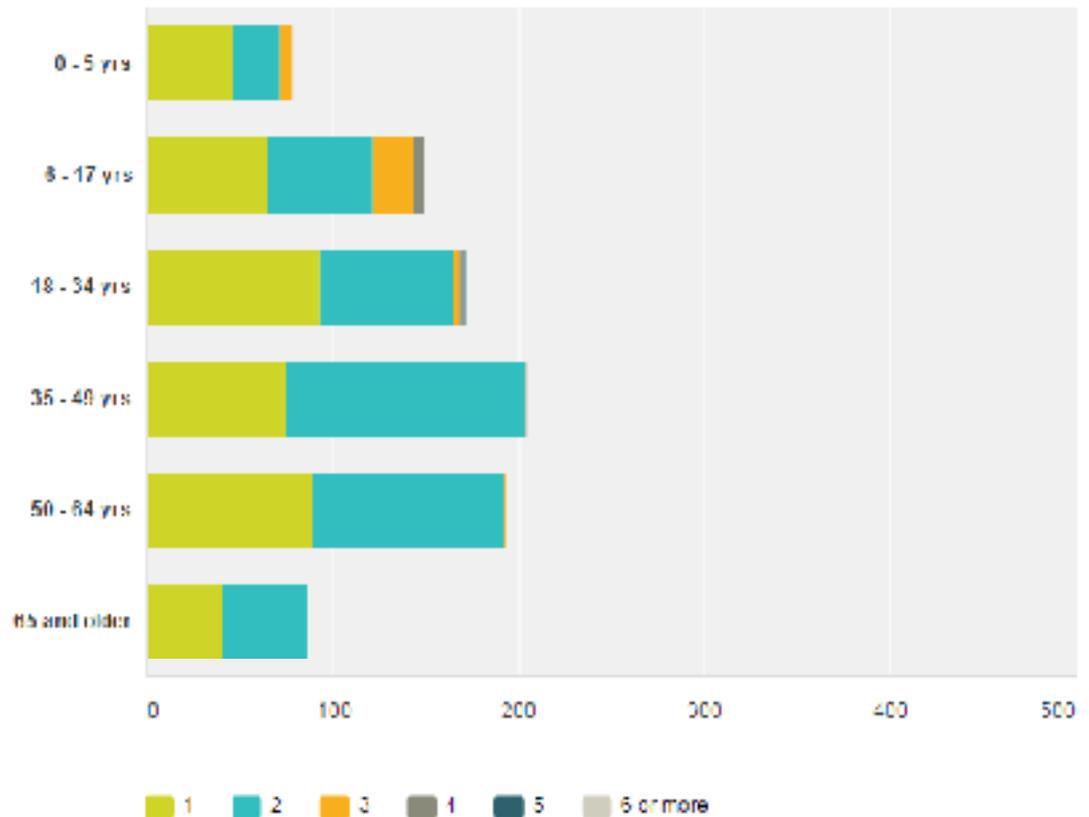


**Respondents**



**How many people in each of the following age groups live in your household, including yourself?**

Answered: 517





### Where in Story County do you live?

Answered: 628 Skipped: 148

Answer Choices	Responses	#
In Ames	49.24%	253
In Nevada	11.30%	63
In Story City	7.82%	42
Near Ames	7.33%	39
In Roland	4.28%	23
In Healey	2.34%	15
Near Nevada	2.85%	14
In Mansfield	1.76%	9
In Elliott	1.76%	9
In Dalo	1.67%	8
In Quaker	1.30%	7
Near Gilbert	1.30%	7
Near Story City	1.14%	6
Near Mansfield	0.82%	5
Near Cole	0.78%	4
In Cambridge	0.67%	3
In Collins	0.67%	3
Near Healey	0.39%	2
Other rural area outside Story County	0.39%	2
Near McCollisburg	0.39%	2
Near Roland	0.19%	1
In Zearing	0.19%	1
Near Zearing	0.19%	1
Other rural area in Story County	0.19%	1
Near Cambridge	0.19%	1
In Healey	0.19%	1
Near Healey	0.19%	1
Near Collins	0.19%	1
In Jewett	0.00%	0
Near Jewett	0.00%	0
Near Quaker	0.00%	0
In McCollisburg	0.00%	0
Total		628

### Where is your place of employment?

Answered: 626 Skipped: 148

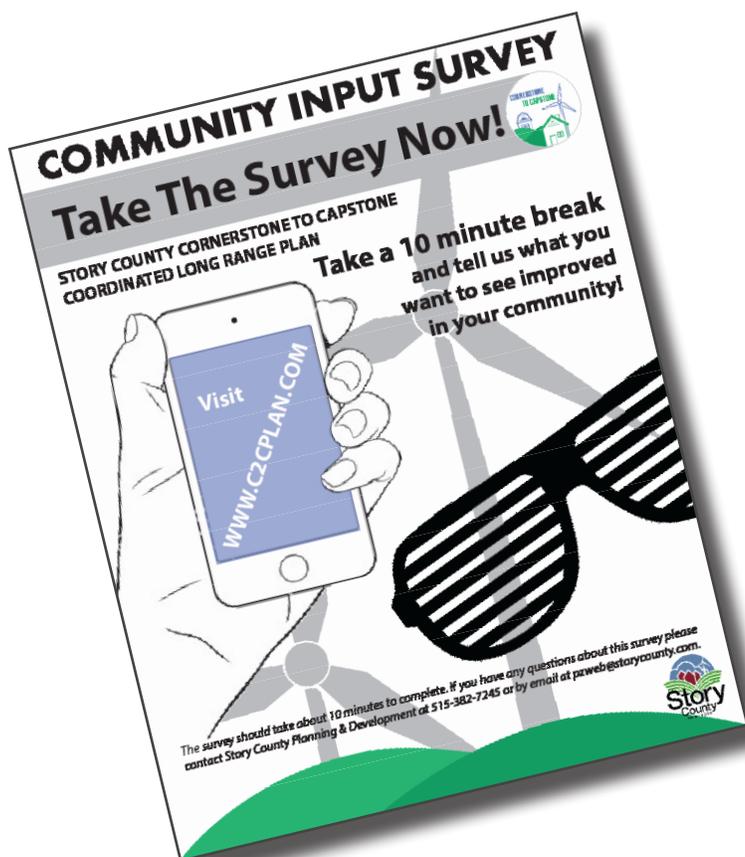
Answer Choices	Responses	#
Ames	62.14%	279
Not Employed	14.68%	78
Nevada	10.86%	57
Other (please specify)	0.32%	44
Des Moines Metro	2.88%	21
Story City	2.38%	18
Healey	1.37%	7
Roland	1.37%	7
Mansfield	1.12%	6
Elsewhere within Story County	0.80%	5
Elliott	0.79%	4
Dalo	0.63%	3
Cambridge	0.32%	2
Collins	0.32%	2
Quaker	0.16%	1
Zearing	0.16%	1
Healey	0.00%	0
McCollisburg	0.00%	0
Jewett	0.00%	0
Total		626

## Youth and ISU Surveys

In July 2015, a survey that focused on Story County youth was released on a variety of subjects pertaining to the creation of the C2C Plan but catering more to the interests of the youth in the county. There were 110 respondents in total primarily from ages 14 to 18 years of age.

This report summarizes the results of the survey and attempts to synthesize the input. Each section includes a small sample of written comments from respondents that exemplify and reinforce the majority viewpoints.

In October 2015, a survey that focused on Iowa State University students, staff and faculty was released. The survey was available from October 2015 through November 2015. The survey contained a variety of subjects pertaining to the creation of the C2C Plan but catering more to the interests of ISU students, staff and faculty in the county. The response rate was very low.



## Youth Survey Results

The survey responses below are word clouds based on the most common responses given to the questions.

*How do you describe Story County and the city you live in to people you know or meet that don't live here?*

Great County Trees Knows Needs Friendly Residents Small Town Team Place Smaller Nice Kind Live Lots of Corn Story County Boring Community Wonderful Safe Nevada Rural

*What do you like about living and going to school in Story County?*

Caring People Involved Love Parks Big Competitive Good School Little Safe Nevada High School Community Family Friends Sports Nice Makes Small Town Outside of School Story County Far Teachers Fact School Districts Everybody Size offer Enjoy Smaller

*Has Story County been a good place to grow up and why?*

Environment Everybody Loved Plenty Small Town Willing to Help Friendly Education Live Little Safe Stuff Place Care Nice Not Too Big Opportunities Hard Family Pool Fun Horrible Iowa



**What would you like to change about Story County and your city?**

Street<sup>Shops</sup> Fun<sup>Farmland</sup> Think<sup>Students</sup> Roads  
 Olive Garden School<sup>Stores</sup>  
 Story County Improve Our County Gilbert  
 Rid<sup>Restaurants</sup> Rude<sup>Place</sup> Stuff<sup>Activities</sup>  
 Town

**Do you think you will stay in Story County after graduating from High School? If not, do you think you will you move back some day? Why or why not?**

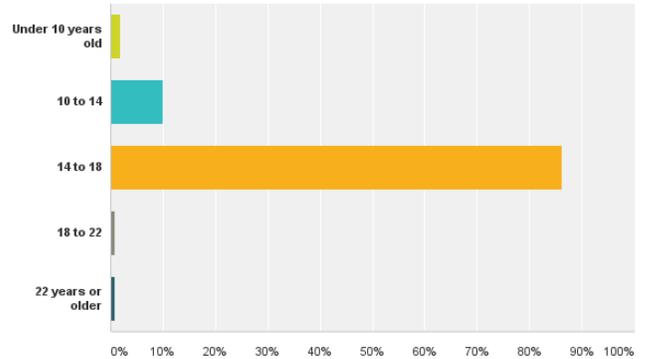
Experience<sup>Kind</sup> Family<sup>Attend</sup> Place<sup>Job</sup> Live  
 Ames Story County ISU Think<sup>Depends</sup>  
 College Iowa

**Anything else you'd like to add that will help the Story County create a great comprehensive plan?**

Ames<sup>Schools</sup> Think<sup>Low</sup> Nope<sup>Community</sup>  
 Story County Kids

**Q7 What is your age?**

Answered: 109 Skipped: 1



**Q8 Which school district do you attend in Story County?**

Answered: 110 Skipped: 0

