

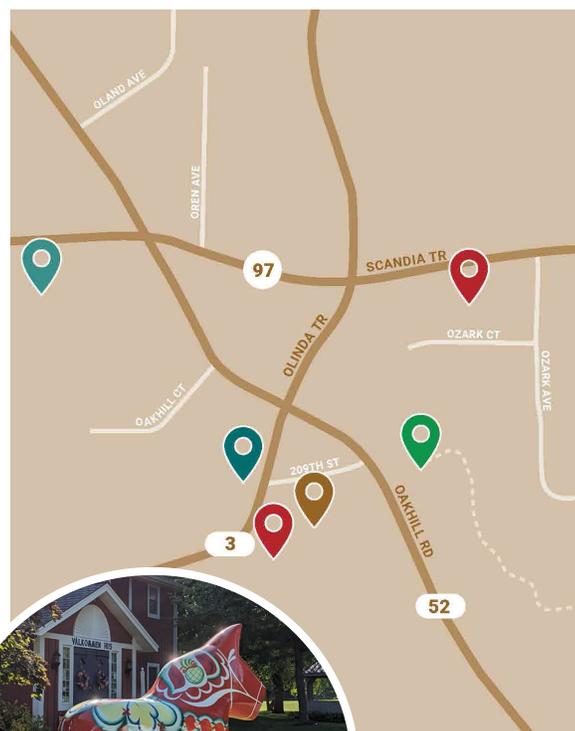


CONTEXT AND VISION

SCANDIA CITY CENTER STUDY

PURPOSE

The City of Scandia, along with Washington County, is studying how to make downtown Scandia more connected for people of all ages and abilities for walking, biking, and generally getting around. Taking into account the future Gateway State Trail extension and trailhead (to be located behind Meister’s Bar off of Oakhill Drive), along with the planned Water Tower Barn Scandia project, the study will identify how to make Scandia destinations (such as Scandia Elementary, Gammelgarden, City Hall Park, and Scandia Plaza) more accessible through intersection improvements, new or upgraded sidewalks or trails, wayfinding, and more. Ultimately, the purpose of the study is to develop a multi-modal vision for the Scandia City Center. The study area includes the areas surrounding the intersections of CSAH 3 (Olinda Trail), TH 97 (Scandia Trail), and CR52 (Oakhill Drive).



Map of Study Area within Scandia



CONTEXT INFORMATION



Gateway State Trail

GATEWAY STATE TRAIL

The Gateway State Trail is one of the most used trails in the Minnesota State Trail system, owing to its scenic landscape and location near major concentrations of people. The Minnesota DNR has been working to acquire land and funding to extend the Gateway Trail from its current end point at Pine Point Regional Park to Scandia. Long-term, there is a vision to extend the Gateway State Trail further north and west. Currently, the plan is to extend the trail north into William O'Brien State Park and then on to Scandia. A representative with the MnDNR is on the Project Management Team (PMT) for the Scandia City Center Study to provide guidance and communication about this project as it relates to Scandia.

The future trail extension will accommodate bicyclists, pedestrians and horseback riders and the future trailhead will be accessed by Oakhill Drive, via City-owned property just north of Meister's Bar. Signage, wayfinding, and other supportive amenities for trail users are up for consideration as part of this study.

THE SCANDIA HERITAGE ALLIANCE

The Scandia Heritage Alliance (SHA) was formed in late 2016 by a group of Scandia residents with a common interest in restoring Scandia's historic Water Tower Barn. SHA aims to strengthen community bonds through the celebration of Scandia's history and cultural heritage. One of the SHA's projects include the development of the Scandia Heritage Trail, an interpretive walking trail that links historic sites and tells the story of Scandia's history.



Spelmansstamman celebration

WATER TOWER BARN ARTS AND HERITAGE CENTER

The SHA envisions returning the historic Water Tower Barn as an Arts & Heritage Center and telling the important story of its role in the early 20th century economy. As the state's only remaining tankhouse, this unique barn stood behind the Scandia Mercantile and provided water to early businesses and residents. In 2014, the barn was dismantled and the components were put into storage. In May 2023, the Minnesota Legislature included \$2.2 million for the Water Tower Barn Arts and Heritage Center in a statewide capital investment bill.

Plans for the Water Town Barn Arts and Heritage Center include design for historical displays, demonstration of the tankhouse and windmill, an indoor stage, an outdoor amphitheater, a water play area, wetland overlook and trails, and a café with summer hours. The site for the future Water Tower Barn Arts and Heritage Center is located just south of City Hall Park with access from Olinda Trail. SHA has worked with the City of Scandia to develop a plan for a future sidewalk connection along Olinda Trail to the new facility, along with trails connecting through adjacent properties to Oakhill Drive.



Historic image of Water Tower Barn captured in 1989 by Melvin E. Wolff



Rendering of the Water Tower Barn Arts and Heritage Center

SELECTED HISTORIC SITES IN SCANDIA REPORT (2021)

The Selected Historic Sites in Scandia Report was developed as a result of the 2019 Scandia Comprehensive Plan Update, which identified the importance of heritage tourism with an overarching goal to “maintain and promote the City’s cultural character and history.” In 2020 the SHA was awarded a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage grant to research the history of this area in order to support a future outdoor heritage trail. This research report is a project of that grant. The goals of this report were to identify local historic sites that would be appropriate for inclusion in a future heritage trail, and to conduct initial research on those sites.

Components of this report that relate to the Scandia City Center Plan include:

- Selection for sites to study for inclusion in the report was based partially on if they were located on existing or future bike, pedestrian, or boating paths.
- Specific reference to the hope that the Gateway bike and hiking trail will connect to Scandia’s historic areas.



Above: Scandia Heritage Map
Below: Image from Scandia Historic Sites Report



Scandia Elementary School

SCANDIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Scandia Elementary School is located on TH97 (Scandia Trail), just west of the intersection of CR52 within the study area, and is part of the Forest Lake School District. The school had an enrollment of 327 students in 2024. Per the most recent school policy, students are allowed to walk or bike to school if they are accompanied by a guardian or older sibling, or if their guardians provide a written note of permission. The majority (75%) of students bus to and from school every day, while about 15% of the students arrive and leave via parent drop-off and pick-up. As of Fall 2024, there are only 2-4 students that have been given permission to walk or bike to school.

Through conversations with community members and stakeholders, it is apparent that safety and traffic concerns have hindered the number of students who walk and bike to school over the last decade. Many long-time residents recall safely walking and biking to school as children, but are not comfortable sending their own children on the same routes. The primary concerns are the high speed of travel along TH97 (the posted limit is 55mph), and a lack of sidewalk and trail connections along TH97. There is a mid-block crossing near CR52, however it is rarely used and does not connect on the north side to a sidewalk or trail.

In the last year, the drop-off and pick-up protocol was updated to direct vehicles around the building, eliminating queuing along TH97 at busy times (see the diagram). Bus and vehicle drop-off and pick up locations are now located north and east of the main entry to the school building, and vehicles are directed to exit the campus via the access drive east to CR52. This update has been a successful upgrade.

Often, teachers and staff bring students on walking field trips to nearby destinations within the Scandia City Center, such as City Hall Park, Gammelgarden, Elim Cemetery, and Lilleskogen Park. These destinations are also popular on good weather days for students to travel to after school is let out. There is a sidewalk along the west side of Oakhill Drive (CR52), however there is no sidewalk along Olinda Trail at the cemetery, and crossing of Olinda Trail at 209th Street to access the park or Gammelgarden is challenging.

Making travel to and from the school by foot or on a bike safer and more convenient is a priority for this study.

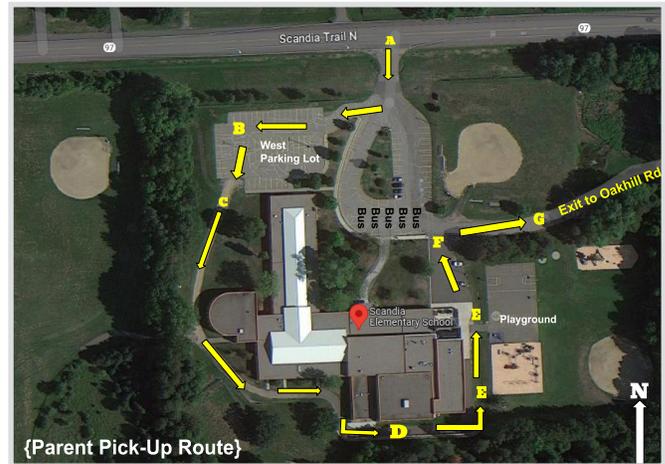


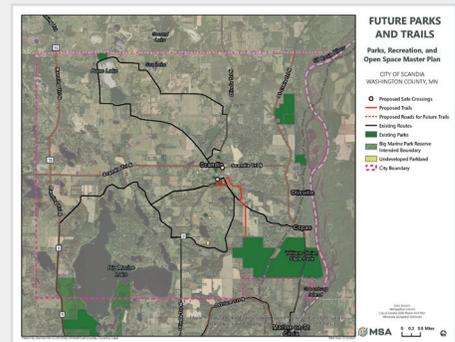
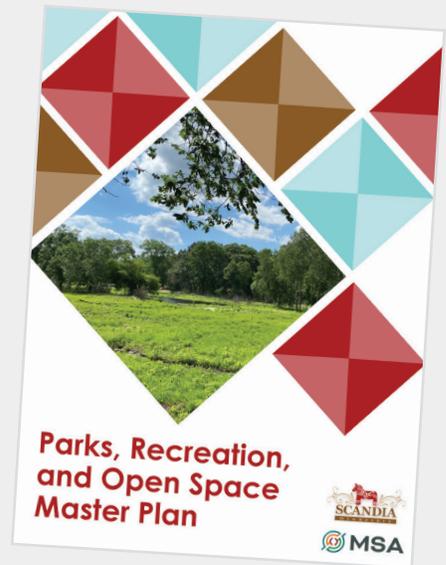
Diagram of updated parent drop-off/pick-up circulation at Scandia Elementary School

PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN (ADOPTED 2023)

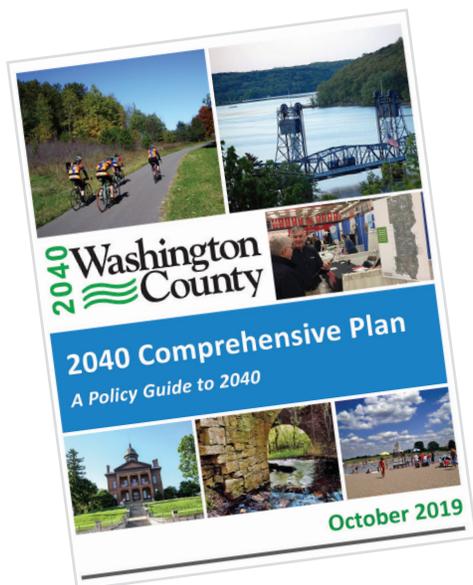
The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan replaces the policies highlighted in the “Parks and Recreation” Chapter of Scandia’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan. This plan is intended to provide City officials with the most up-to-date recreational priorities for making budgeting and implementation decision. The plan analyzes current and projected population changes, community feedback, geographical data, and existing conditions to generate overarching goals and objectives. Park and trail-specific recommendations break these goals into actionable steps, bolstered by lists of funding opportunities and potential partnerships. Engagement for this plan showed a strong interest in additional separated trails.

This plan has many components specifically relevant to the Scandia City Center Study:

- There is a strong focus on connections between destinations in downtown Scandia, the Gateway Trail, the rest of Scandia, and neighboring communities.
- Specific locations and intersections where sidewalks or crossings could be improved to address safety are called out.
- Locations where additional wayfinding and other tourism related amenities could be added or updated are identified.
- The plan contains a specific recommendation to connect the Gateway Trail to downtown Scandia and a recommendation for a designated path leading from downtown to this new trailhead.

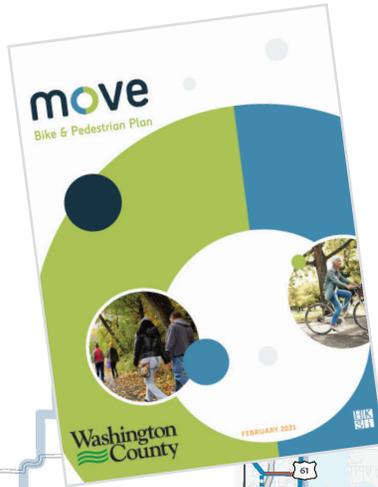


Future Parks and Trails map from 2023 Master Plan



WASHINGTON COUNTY 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (ADOPTED 2020)

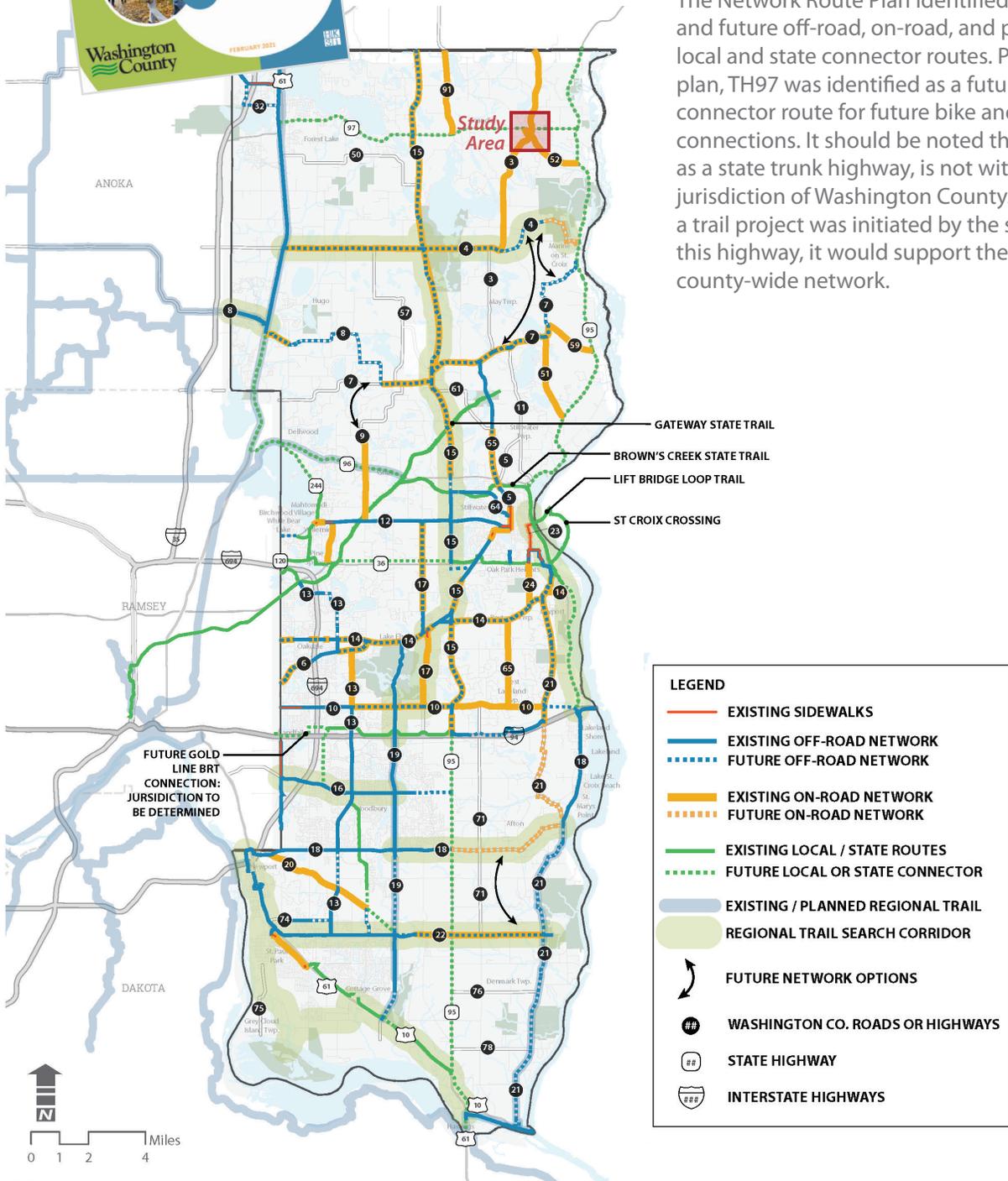
The Washington County Comprehensive Plan primarily focuses on county and regional trails, especially as they relate to the Metropolitan Council’s Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN), which is identified as part of the Metropolitan Council’s 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP). The RBTN helps to define the region’s on-street bikeways and off-street trail connections, and how the system works together to serve regional transportation trips by bicycle. This plan supports growing the trail network and providing increased opportunities for all people to access the outdoors.



MOVE: WASHINGTON COUNTY BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN (ADOPTED 2020)

In 2019 and 2020, Washington County developed a county-wide bicycle and pedestrian plan, which was a recommendation from the County's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of this plan was to create a future bicycle and pedestrian network, identify barriers, gather broad community feedback to inform network investments, and to guide policy and priorities for biking and walking into the future.

The Network Route Plan identified existing and future off-road, on-road, and potential local and state connector routes. Per the plan, TH97 was identified as a future state connector route for future bike and pedestrian connections. It should be noted that TH97, as a state trunk highway, is not within the jurisdiction of Washington County. However, if a trail project was initiated by the state along this highway, it would support the overall county-wide network.



Network Route Plan

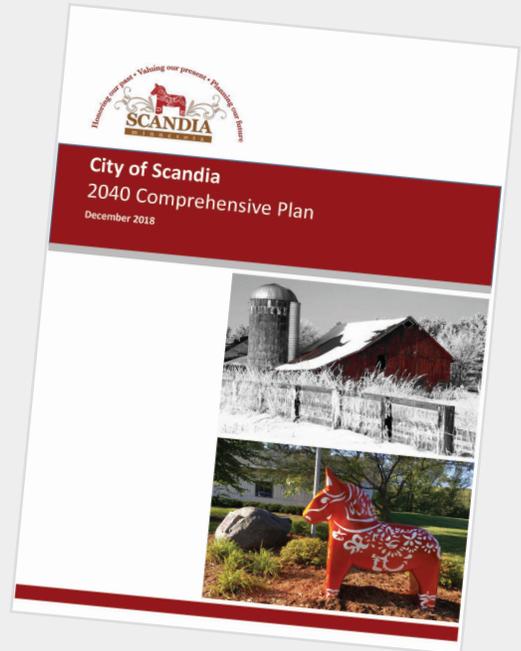
CITY OF SCANDIA 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (ADOPTED 2019)

The City's current comprehensive plan advocates for a strong and responsive parks and trails network. The plan states that parks and recreation amenities and programs are a critical element to sustaining the community and that "park, recreation, and open space goals need to be integrated with Scandia's land use, transportation, and economic goals."

In the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update Community Survey, 13% of survey respondents identified walking, biking and horse trails as one of their top three development priorities for the City of Scandia. It should be noted that this is the second highest ranking after commercial growth as a top priority. Focus groups also expressed a desire for sidewalks and bike paths in the city.

The Goals and Objectives in this plan that directly relate to the Scandia City Center Study

- **Goal:** Support a network of parks and trails to provide community -wide connections to serve the health and welfare of the City's residents.
- **Objective:** Emphasize the importance of making connections to regional trails, including the Gateway Trail, the Immigrant Trail, and the Hardwood Trail.



13%

of survey respondents identified walking, biking and horse trails as one of their top three development priorities

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

SCANDIA, MINNESOTA

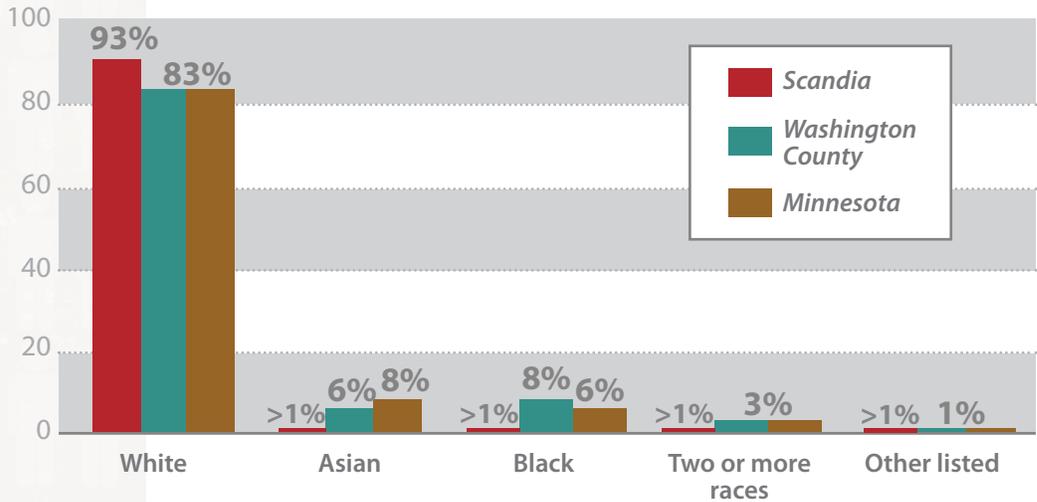
OVERVIEW

Scandia is home to nearly 4,000 residents as of 2023 ACS Estimate. Scandia has a rich Scandinavian heritage and is the site of what is believed to have been Minnesota's first Swedish immigrant settlement.



RACE & ETHNICITY

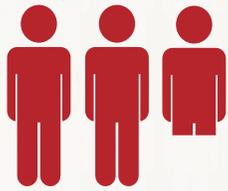
The reported race of today's population in **Scandia** is majority white (93%) with 5% of the population reporting as two or more races. Less than 1% of people identify as each of the following: Black, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, or some other race. Overall Scandia's population is less racially diverse than Washington County or the state of Minnesota as a whole.



Washington County is about 83% white, 8% Asian, 6% Black, 3% two or more races, and less than 1% each of the following: American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander; additionally, 5% of the population identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

In the **State of Minnesota** 83% of the population is white, 8% is Black, 6% is Asian, 3% two or more races, 1% American Indian and Alaska Native, and less than 1% Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander; additionally, 6% of the population identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

HOUSEHOLDS



Average 2.6 Persons Per Household in Scandia



Washington County - Avg. 2.6 Persons Per Household



Minnesota - Avg. 2.4 Persons Per Household

Average persons per household is 2.6. This is on par with the rest of Washington County which is also at 2.6, and slightly higher than the state of Minnesota average at 2.4 persons per household.

PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY



25%
Scandia

8%
Minnesota

6%
Washington County

Households with one or more persons with a disability is 25% in Scandia, which is about 3x higher than the state of Minnesota at 8% of households, and about 4x higher compared to Washington County at 6%.

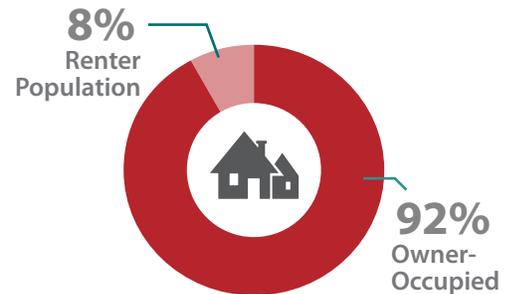
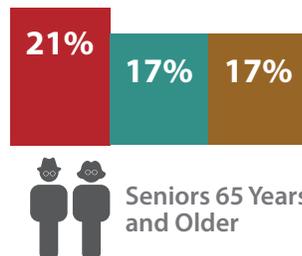
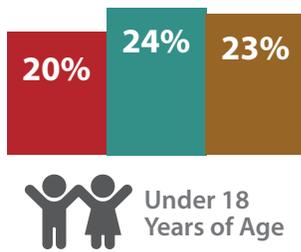
HOUSEHOLD INCOME



Household income is lower in Scandia with a median income of \$103,004 per household compared to Washington County where the median is \$110,829, but higher than State of Minnesota where the median is \$84,313.

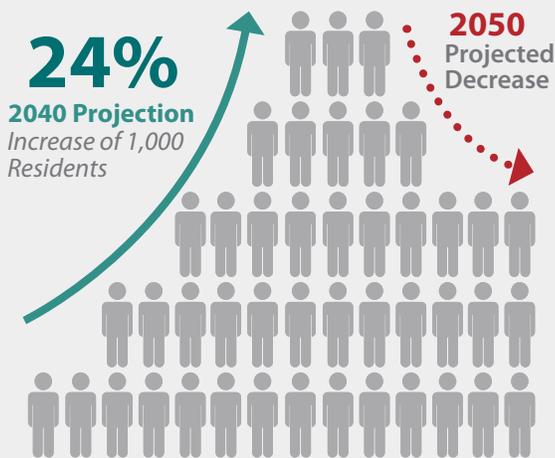
POPULATION BY AGE

About 20% of the population in **Scandia** consists of children under 18 years; and 21% of the population is seniors 65 years and older. Scandia's population skews slightly older, but is similar to **Washington County** where 24% of the population is under 18, and 17% is 65 or older, and to the **state of Minnesota** where 23% of the population is under 18, and 17% is 65 and older.



OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS

Most people in Scandia live in owner-occupied households (92%); the renter population is around 8%.



POPULATION GROWTH

Scandia has experienced population growth throughout its history, although the rate of growth has fluctuated significantly over time. This growth has primarily been the result of the roadway construction and expansion, inexpensive land, conversion of seasonal cabins to year-round homes, and an influx of urbanities interested in a rural lifestyle. Based on the Metropolitan Council's Thrive 2040 projections, Scandia is projected to add roughly 1,000 more residents over the next 15 years, a 24% increase from current population levels. However, recently released preliminary population forecasts from Imagine 2050, projections show much lower rate of growth and a trend toward eventual population decline in Scandia.



EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

Employment projections through 2040 show an average growth rate of 11% per decade; preliminary forecast adjustments do not suggest that this will change significantly from previous projections.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT – PHASE 1

OVERVIEW

In order to build a successful study or plan, input and engagement with residents, visitors, and businesses is key. Insights provided by the local experts will ultimately guide the recommendations and direction of this study. To understand what is most important, where barriers exist, and to generate ideas, a number of events and tools were created to engage the Scandia community in this study. Engagement included in-person and virtual events, an online mapping tool, and meetings with select stakeholder groups. Washington County is hosting a project website, which is serving as the main hub of information for the study, as well as providing opportunities for public involvement. [Click here](#) to visit the webpage.

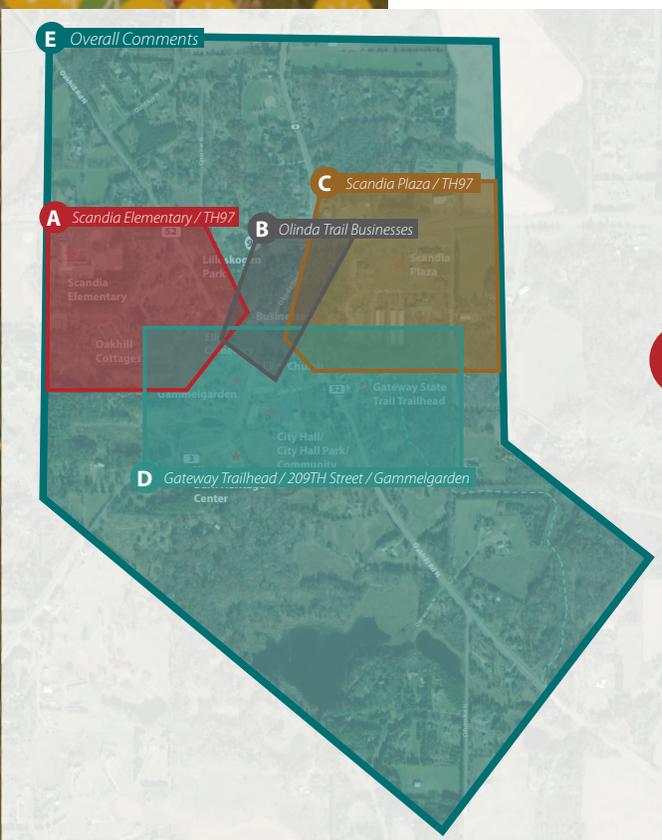


VINTERFEST AND WALK ABOUT

Scandia's 19th Annual Vinterfest occurred on January 26th and 27th 2024. This event is two days of family friendly events celebrating winter and Scandia's rich cultural heritage. Events included a Pancake Breakfast, a snow sculpture contest, the Pleasant Valley Cloggers, a Kubb Tournament, kid friendly food and crafts, a chili cook-off, and Fireworks.

The project team hosted a booth at the entry of the Lion's Club pancake breakfast on Saturday, January 27th. The materials provided introductory information about the project and study area, and visitors were encouraged to speak with the project team about ideas and concerns within the study area.

Following the pancake breakfast, the project team led a Walk About (walking tour) around the City Center Study area to discuss and identify issues and opportunities on-site. The resulting conversation was very successful in connecting ideas to actual places within the study area.



A SCANDIA ELEMENTARY / TH 97: WHAT WE HEARD

- Potential for paved trail connection to park trail (through Lilleskogen Park connecting 3, 52 parallel to 97)
- Crossing needed at 97
- During winter, flood butterfly park for recreational rink rather than competing with hockey rink
- People drive too fast on 97
- Safety concern crossing 97 to get to CR 52 for people walking, getting to the park
- Scandia Elementary students walk from school to Gammelgarden after school
- Destinations: Scandia Elementary, Lilleskogen Park

Key map for comments collected at Vinterfest and the Walk About

B OLINDA TRAIL BUSINESSES: WHAT WE HEARD

- Install EV charging stations!
- Would love to see bike trails to Scandia Café
- Bike Racks! Throughout town, people bike to yoga, other services

C SCANDIA PLAZA / TH 97: WHAT WE HEARD

- I live north of town and would love to have a way to bike down to town
- Walkers along 97 (connect to commercial district at to Cenex)
- Scandia Pizza has ice cream (= kiddos)
- Strip mall is disconnected; need sidewalk to Olinda
- Would like to find a way to walk along 97 to reach the school
- Concern connecting Scandia Plaza with walkway; need a bridge over creek to Gateway Trailhead, Olinda Trail
- "I thought there was a connection from the commercial district to Scandia Plaza?"
- Would like to see trail through 97 cornfield (east of gas station) and other trails generally to connect to Scandia Center

D GATEWAY TRALHEAD / 209TH STREET / GAMMELGARDEN: WHAT WE HEARD

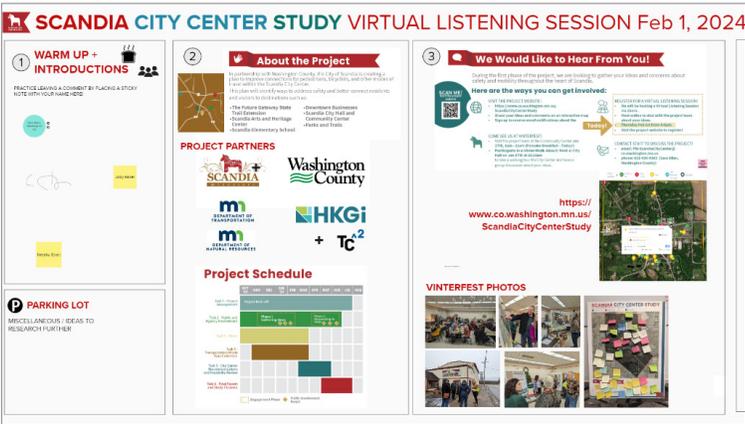
- Add a bridge and crossing light [to cross Oakhill at 209th Street]
- Meisters, City Hall Park, Gammelgarten are big destinations
- My kids bike to the school playground along this route (future Gateway Trail extension)
- A boardwalk should be planned through Heritage Improvements
- There is an old idea to connect a roadway to 52 from east of the Gateway Trailhead
- Need connection to Water Tower Barn Site
- Intersection of Olinda and 209th Street is difficult to cross
- Want a bike trail through Olinda to Downtown Scandia
- Want safe crossing downtown at Gammelgarten and Heritgace Center / Olinda Trail that is historically sensitive. Examples at Colonial Williamsberg and Salem, NC
- Something that gets us across from community center to Gammelgarten; safety for kids
- Path from Community Center to Old Historic Hay Lake Erickson school site so we can bike there, then around Oxboro back to Oakhill
- Idea for sidewalk along cemetery
- Trailhead needs more than parking (kiosk? Benches?)

E GENERAL COMMENTS: WHAT WE HEARD

- Would like to continue biking from south of town but choose not to due to safety concerns on road shoulder
- More people are riding fat tire bikes around here
- Lots more bikers are coming here, more every day
- A lot of folks live close enough to walk or bike downtown (1-3 miles), but don't think of it
- Create a loop walking trail through downtown
- Scandia is really active; people work together to get things done
- See the Old Marine Trail as a good example
- Target and Walmart Store [are needed]
- See Miron Rd to Olinda and paved trail at Pine Park Rd (May Township)
- Need a path to William O'Brien to avoid 95
- Make a place to go bowling
- More walking trails
- Many people mentioned they don't have access to internet



The project team met with residents at the 2024 Scandia Vinterfest and conducted a walk about to discuss ideas within the study area



Digital whiteboard used for the Virtual Listening Session

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

A virtual public meeting was held on Thursday, February 1st from 4-6pm to discuss ideas for how to improve safety and connections for walking, biking, and generally getting around the city center of Scandia. The meeting was facilitated using Zoom and Mural, a platform for sharing content where participants are able to move around the information shared as they wish and leave virtual sticky-note comments. The meeting was facilitated similarly to an open house or pop-up event. While attendance was low, the conversation was very insightful.

VISION – WHAT DOES THIS PLACE WANT TO BE?

The following vision ideas were expressed by residents through the in-person engagement events.

- FAMILY-FRIENDLY AND SENIOR-FRIENDLY DESTINATIONS AND PATHWAYS.**
- WELCOMING TO VISITORS – AMENITIES TO SUPPORT VISITORS AND BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT AN AFTERNOON TRIP TO SCANDIA**
- WELL-CONNECTED, WALKABLE FOR ACTIVE LIVING**
- FOCUS ON SMALL, LOCAL BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY-BASED EVENTS**
- CONTINUE TO SHOWCASE, CELEBRATE A LIVING HISTORY AND HERITAGE**

SOCIAL PINPOINT | INTERACTIVE MAPPING TOOL

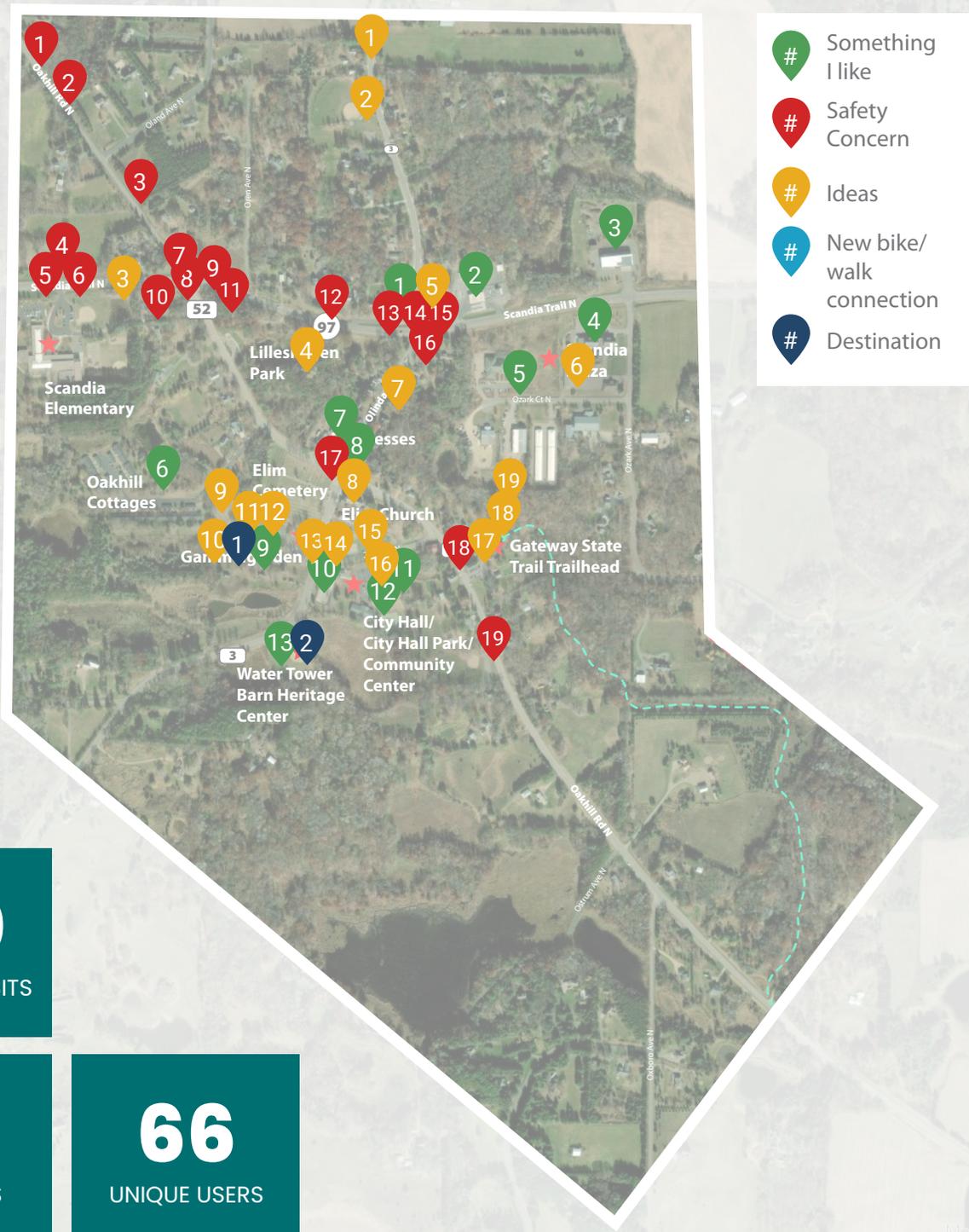
An online engagement tool called Social Pinpoint was used to engage the community online. Social Pinpoint is a map-based online engagement tool that allows community members to leave comments on specific areas of the city via a map. Commenters are able to interact with each other, by upvoting or downvoting other comments.

The Social Pinpoint map was open for comment from December 2023 through March 2024. In that time, 64 unique users left 54 total comments on the map to share ideas, safety concerns, destinations, and things they like about Scandia’s City Center. The top three comments with the most upvotes (indicating agreement) were in regards to pedestrian safety.



KEY THEMES

- Lots of concern for safety at Oakhill and TH 97, Olinda Trail and TH97
- Concern for speed of traffic, safety for pedestrians along th97
- Comments related to needed park improvements at Erickson Ballfield, Johnson Memorial Park
- Ideas for crosswalk at Olinda Trail and 209th Street, sidewalk along 209th Street
- Ideas for completing sidewalk network on Olinda Trail and Oakhill Rd
- Ideas for horse-related facilities at Gateway Trailhead
- Idea for roundabout at Olinda Trail and Oakhill Rd
- Positive support for local businesses
- Idea for local bus service to transport seniors and people with mobility challenges to Stillwater, Forest Lake, etc.



180
TOTAL SITE VISITS

56
COMMENTS

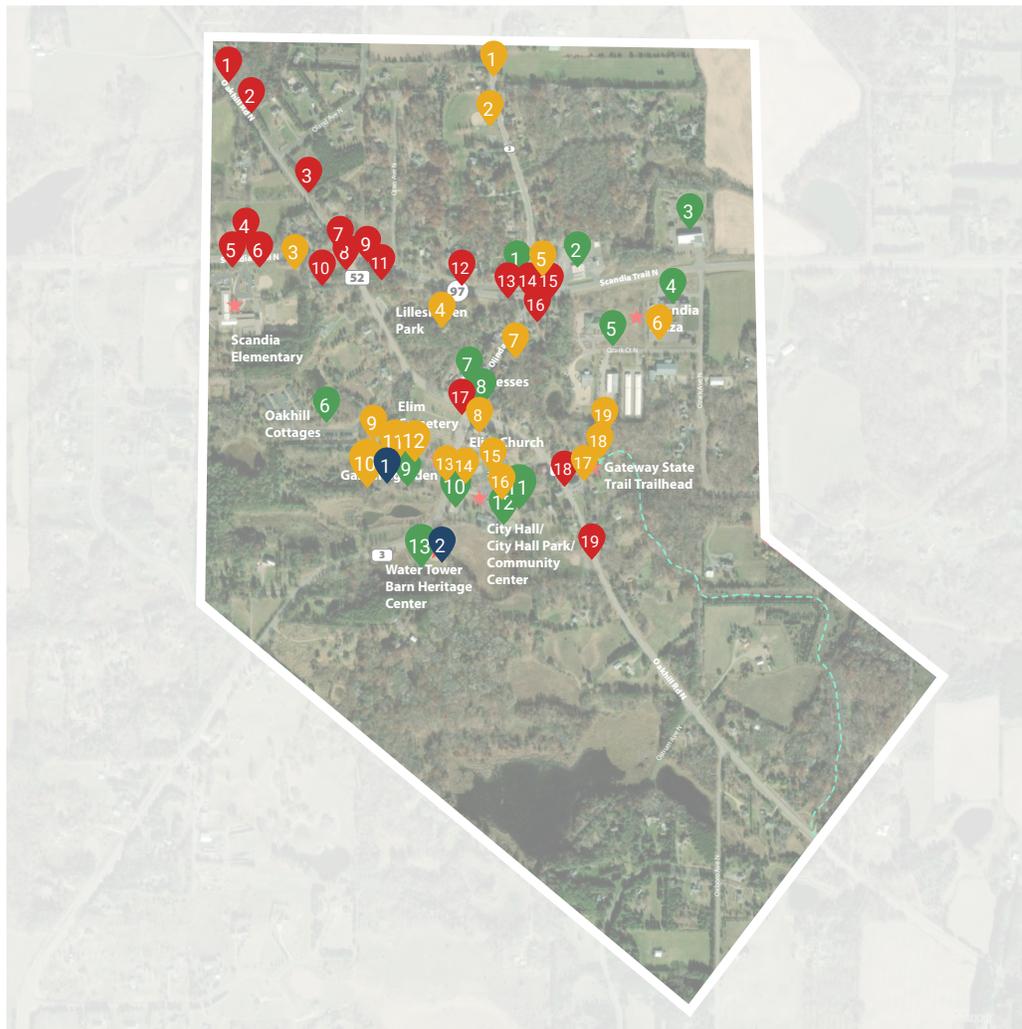
66
UNIQUE USERS

Key map for comments collected through Social Pinpoint

#	+	-	COMMENT
1	5	-	Make this safer for pedestrians living in these neighborhoods to walk along Oakhill. People drive very fast on this road. Perhaps lower the speed limit, add speed bumps, or add a walking path.
2	4	-	No speed limit signs! I think the speed limit on Oakhill from 97 to Oldfield Ave (at least) is actually 30 mph, that's what Google/Apple Maps say at least, but there are no speed limit signs facing either direction through this whole stretch! And of course people treat this section as if the limit is 55. Adding speed limit signs (and a radar "your speed" sign or two) should be the bare minimum for this road.
3	5	-	Residents along Oakhill and turnoffs north of 97 are effectively cut off from pedestrian access to town. There are many current and future children and families in these neighborhoods, yet walking to school, town center businesses, parks, etc, is very unsafe due to the speeds people drive on Oak hill and the very dangerous crossing at 97.
4	6	-	My kids biked to Scandia Elem. in the early 2000s from the opposite side of Hwy 97 (we live on Pomroy Ave). At the time, kids needed permission from to bike to school, and they were 2 of only 6 kids who biked to school. It is extremely dangerous crossing Hwy 97, and I worried about them every day. They would bike the shoulder of 97 from Pomroy and then cross at the 4-way stop sign at Olinda. Our community would benefit immensely from off-road trails that feed into Scandia Elem and downtown.
5	4	-	Dangerous intersection
6	6	-	Why is there no school zone speed limit? Seems like other communities throughout the state of Minnesota have a slower speed limits around the school zones. Its very dangerous entering and leaving the school on 97 and even from oakhill. Why not a 35 mph zone from west of the school to the fire department?
7	8	-	This is a very dangerous intersection for pedestrians and vehicles. Left turns from EB 97 to NB Oak Hill are particularly dangerous due to lack of bypass lane, the high speeds people drive on EB 97, the hill limiting visibility, the fact that people accelerate very fast on WB 97 from Olinda stop sign, etc. The speed limit through the whole area from west of elementary school until east of fire station should be reduced. Roundabouts at school, Oak Hill, and Olinda perhaps would be a good idea.
8	3	-	The angle makes it so hard to see when going south on Oakhill.
9	5	-	This is a very dangerous intersection. Drivers are coming up the hill very fast, and there is limited visibility. Concern about the school children walking/parents and bus transportation.
10	1	-	Unsafe for pedestrians and students to cross.
11	7	-	This is a challenging intersection - especially if you are making a left turn onto Highway 97. Not sure what could be done. It also would be good to somehow make this safer for pedestrians to cross here.
12	6	-	Walking along 97 in area of school, Oak hill, and Olinda is very dangerous largely due to lacking paths or sidewalks on either side of 97. This really limits the feeling of a connected and walkable community despite the actual distances being very short and certainly what should be walkable.
13	5	-	Traffic is unaware pedestrians cross this area. No signage or roadway markings despite sidewalks along west side of Olinda connecting over 97.
14	2	-	Need better traffic controls and monitoring to mitigate the accidents, and lack of adherence to the 4 way stop.
15	2	-	Add pedestrian flashers please.
16	7	-	Make this a safer place for pedestrians to cross.
17	3	3	A roundabout is the only solution at this intersection. It would make it safer on Hwy 97 by the school as traffic would be naturally slowed. Make the speed limit on Hwy 97 40 mph until past the bottom of the hill (Odell) and then increase it to 50 until the top of the hill.
18	3	-	Parking on both sides of the street makes driving through on a busy day at Meisters difficult.
19	1	-	People pick up speed here before it turns to 55- especially around the ball field.

#	+	-	COMMENT
1	-	-	The tennis courts are great but need updating
2	2	-	The location of the future Arts & Heritage Center is missing from this map. The Water Tower Barn will set at home plate on this baseball field. Please call Susan Rodsjo, Scandia Heritage Alliance, at 651-233-0267 to obtain a copy of the trail and sidewalk plan associated with the Arts & Heritage Center.

- # Something I like
- # Safety Concern
- # Ideas
- # New bike/walk connection
- # Destination



Key map for comments collected through Social Pinpoint

#	+	-	COMMENT
1	1	-	Longstanding businesses in the community.
2	-	-	Convenient place to fill up the car and get a snack.
3	-	-	Outstanding Fire & Rescue volunteers!
4	1	-	It's great to have a bank, post office, and local businesses so close to home.
5	1	-	Beautiful prairie next to Prairie Restorations! The plants and colors change almost every couple of weeks. Wish there were more areas like this around Scandia!
6	3	-	There's a community garden for those in the Cottages. Great idea! It would be nice to see more of these around town.
7	-	-	Good variety of small, local businesses!
8	-	-	Nice to be able to get groceries without having to drive a far distance!
9	1	-	Gammelgården Museum offers free community events from May-December; hosts field trips with students from local schools; has classes for people of all ages; beautiful grounds (flowers, native prairie, pond, heritage vegetable garden, and bluebird trail); free music during the summer; and brings in tourists (from MN, U.S., and world) who also support local businesses.
10	1		Hockey, skating and skate park is great for youth.
11	1	-	Accessible resource for organizations to use for events. Provides a place for the community to gather when there are events.
12	-	-	New playground is amazing!
13	-	-	Like it!

#	+	-	COMMENT
1	2	-	Provide benches along sidewalks and trails so those who are walking have places to sit, if needed.
2	2	-	This playground could use improvement. Perhaps consider fitness equipment for teens and adults since there is none in Scandia.
3	1	-	Put clear highway signs w speed limit posted
4	1	-	Plant more native plants - flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees - around this park to further develop it. Provide seating so that people can sit and rest, if needed.
5	2	-	At minimum, crosswalk road markings for increased awareness.
6	1	-	This could be a senior center with quality, engaging programming. See Community Thread for a good model. It would support those 55+ living Scandia with having enriching programs without having to drive to other communities.
7	1	1	It would be nice to have sidewalk on BOTH sides of Olinda Trail, from where the new arts center will be all the way north to at least the Creamery.
8	-	-	Have some type of sign that is near the corner that lets the community know about upcoming events and activities. It needs to be easily visible so people at the intersection can glance at it quickly and be aware of upcoming programs in the community.
9	2	-	Create a paved shortcut for those living in the Cottages to visit Gammelgården, the Scandia Community Center, and other businesses and organizations in Scandia.
10	3	-	If this ballfield is not being used, it would be nice to see it changed to a restored prairie to support pollinators and wildlife.
11	3	-	It would be great to have this playground upgraded with more modern equipment for youth, teens, and adults. There are no fitness areas with equipment for teens and adults anywhere in Scandia.
12	1	-	The tennis court needs to be refurbished in some way. There are cracks in the tar and no net for playing tennis.
13	6	-	Add a cross walk here and add side walks on olinda trail.
14	2	-	Add a light to show when pedestrians are crossing.
15	4	-	Could we add a sidewalk/path from town center to community center?
16	2	-	Look into having some type of bus or mini-bus/van transportation using the Community Center parking lot as a pick-up/drop-off location. Add other points around Scandia for pick-up/drop-off points too. See Forest Lake and Stillwater - both have great transportation systems for seniors and those with mobility challenges. We have nothing like that here. We want people who have lived here to stay here rather than having to move elsewhere when they no longer can drive.
17	-	-	Assuming this is a trailhead for horse trailers and vehicle(s). Need enough room to pull in and turn around and park a long trailer. Need porta potty or a building with restrooms and handwashing. Horses are tied to the side of the trailer and thus need space between trailers to accommodate a horse(s). Sample of what is needed Pine Point Park Trailhead.
18	-	-	Please add water bottle filling station for cyclists and hikers.
19	3	-	It would be helpful to have a trail connection from the trailhead to Scandia Trail - bank area. Better than people having to walk up Olinda then along 97 to get to the bank etc.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Key stakeholder groups were engaged through one-on-one meetings during this phase of the project, in order to better understand their unique perspectives.



SCANDIA HERITAGE ALLIANCE

The project team met with Susan Rodsjo, SHA Founder and Board President, on Tuesday, February 13th to discuss the Water Tower Barn Arts and Heritage Center project, as well as get a better understanding of how the Scandia Heritage Alliance has been collaborating with the City to achieve their goals. The project team reviewed the schematic trail plan for the future Water Tower Barn project, along with the proposed trail and network connections in the adjacent areas that will connect pedestrians and bicyclists to City Hall Park, Oakhill Road, and to the Arts and Heritage Center, as well as circulate around the wetland area adjacent to the project site.

As part of the redevelopment agreement between SHA and the City, the City has agreed to build a sidewalk along Olinda Trail to connect to the new facility. Discussions have also been underway regarding improvements to the crossing of Olinda Trail at 209th Street, as this would support programming partnerships between SHA and Gammelgården.



SCANDIA ELEMENTARY

The project team met with Shannon Carufel, Principal of Scandia Elementary School to discuss safety and ideas for improvements that could impact the school. This meeting offered insight into the issues and opportunities for improved circulation for students to and from Scandia Elementary through the City Center Study Area.

Ideas for improvements that were discussed in this meeting include:

- Reduction of the speed limit (preferably down to 30mph) along the entire stretch of Scandia Tr/TH97 from the school to Scandia Plaza
- Installation of sidewalks or a separated trail along TH97 to connect to Scandia Elementary
- Installation of a user-activated crosswalk (RRFB) to cross TH97 near or at CR52
- Continuous sidewalks along Olinda Trail to Gammelgården, City Hall Park
- An improved crosswalk at 209th Street and Olinda Trail



ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Through engagement with stakeholders, input provided by the broader community, and through observations and insights gathered through background research, the following are issues and opportunities that this study intends to prioritize:

- Traffic calming, streetscape and safety improvements along TH97, to aid in pedestrian crossing and pedestrian comfort.
- Improvements at CR52/TH97 and Scandia Elementary
- Future downtown trail and sidewalk plan to include:
 - Connection from Scandia Plaza to Olinda/Oakhill
 - Oakhill Cottages to City Hall Park
 - Heritage Trail to Gateway Trail Trailhead
 - Downtown businesses to Gateway Trail
 - Walking loop (overall)
 - Address gaps in the sidewalk along Oakhill, Olinda Trail
- Improvements along 209th Street to focus on pedestrian connectivity, event space, placemaking
- Wayfinding plan and design concept (throughout the study area)
- Gateway Trail Trailhead amenities and design





DRAFT MULTI-MODAL VISION

THE FUTURE SCANDIA CITY CENTER WILL BE:

- Family-friendly and senior-friendly, with pathways that connect to destinations.
- Well-connected, walkable for daily use throughout the year.
- Welcoming to visitors with amenities that support pedestrians and bicyclists, along with horseback riders, with connections to businesses with the intention of making Scandia a great place for an afternoon trip.
- Focused and supportive of small, local businesses and community-based events.
- Celebratory of the heritage of Scandia with evidence of continued commitment to sharing the living history of the area.

