

Envision Scotts Valley Community Workshop #1

June 3, 2017

Scotts Valley Community Center

Community Comments

Following are comments made by participants at the workshop. Comment stations were provided for each of the four main general plan categories; 1) Built Environment, 2) Natural Environment, 3) Mobility, and 4) Community. A fifth station "Looking to the Future" was an informal "graffiti" station where participant was asked to provide open-ended comments.

Built Environment

Town Center

- Please do something with the Town Center property to mitigate the eye sore it creates on a permanent through fare as it will be some time before Town Center is built.
- Make downtown center walking/bike friendly. No driving in middle of it. Park outside of it. Please don't mess this up!
- Town Center make it mixed use with condos/rentals on top 2-3 stories.
- Open Town Center area for multifamily housing to increase demand for retail activity. Existing and future.
- If a town center is built make it car free zone, ideas from Stanford shopping center.
- Design Town Center with parking around and walk friendly between stores.

Commercial

- Need to fill our empty businesses and seriously consider merging with SLV schools in the future.
- Too many hotels. No more buildings.
- Too many hotels for a small city.
- I don't think more hotels is the right growth for our City. More culturally innovative structures like museums or even a bowling alley for the youth of our community to have for a place to hang out without having to go into Santa Cruz.
- Solar power on businesses, buildings.
- Protect jobs by protecting commercial, zoning and development.

- Too many commercial venues on Scotts Valley Drive.
- Different variety of restaurants, more family sit down restaurants. We have a lot of Asian but very little European (Italian, French and English).
- Do not require commercial building in front of new housing along Scotts Valley Drive.

Residential

- Accessibility
 - Single story housing that allows aging in place
 - Affordable housing
 - Allow everyone to access our streets in Scotts Valley, wheelchair, and visually impaired
- Cramming houses on lots that are too small for them. See Lockwood for a prime example.
- Stop building residential in the middle of commercial. More separation between street front and front door.
- Apartments so our kids can move out.
 - Yes
- Need for affordable housing, including rentals, condos.
 - Definitely
- More workforce housing so people who work in the City can be part of our community.
 - Yes
- Expand schools or stop creating housing, as more houses are built, classes in the schools are getting overcrowded.
- Not enough affordable single family homes.
- Create well planned med-high density affordable housing along Scotts Valley Drive to interact with retail and create a more “town” instead of ugly strip wide sidewalks and protected bike paths included.
- Affordable housing with adequate parking access, water supply, road access.
 - A Must!!!! Need inclusivity.
- Space around houses, condos and apartments to breathe our fresh air.
 -
- I am not interested in seeing further residential development.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

- Keep parks free.

- Open up the Green Hills/Meadow Way/Navarro Gate.
 - Yes please
- More activities/organizations for teens to keep “busy” away from mischief and drugs/alcohol. Bring ice rink/skating back.
- Please fund and build the Scotts Valley Sports Complex.
- Build Scotts Valley Sports Complex.
 - Now!!
 - Ditto
- Protect our beautiful trees.
- Create trail in open space across from high school.

Design

- The city should take into account building height which blocks existing building view. Please re-visit building height.
- Green bike lanes, apartments and walkability.
- LEED certified building.
- Scotts Valley needs more architecture that incorporates natural elements. Could be a mountain theme, not rustic but something with mountain character.
- Need community pool.
 - Yes!
- Maintain the views of the mountains from Public right-of-way.
- No more cookie cutter PUDS like what is on Scotts Valley Drive. Looks like Sunnyvale. Scotts Valley needs a unique identity, not the same styles as over the hill.

General

- Help keep Scotts Valley small to the General plan. Don’t override it so often.
- Find a city in the world we like and copy it.
- Community Power.
- Let’s grow our City in a responsible way, keep jobs, minimize crime but don’t keep it a secret. Needles, etc. are found all over the streets of Scotts Valley. Please keep our children safe.
- First need to identify an end goal, then can identify the details (i.e. milestones) to get there. With no end goal, it’s too open ended.

- Responsible growth.
 - Right on

Natural Environment

Access

- Access for the community to the fields across the high school with biking/mountain biking trails.
- Set aside right-of-way/easements for trails associated with development.
 - Yes
- More trails and mountain biking trails. More open space.
- Open RE community park behind Santa's Village. Make it clear it is a community park from the beginning so new residents don't try to keep people out.
- Open Glenwood Trails
 - More walking paths
 - Yes
 - Ditto
- Make sure all persons can access our beautiful parks. Preserve rather than tear down, as in Polo Barn Tree circus, etc.! We are resembling strip mall city.
- Creation of a loop trail around Scotts Valley.
 - Yes
 - Good idea
- Maintain green open spaces, more bike paths and walking trails. Better endoscopic on main through fares.

Maintenance / Safety

- Loitering on the bottom of Sand Hill Road.
- Coordinate with schools and community organizations (I'll help).
- The banks of Camp Evers Creek need a haircut! They also need trash removal Boy/Girl Scouts?
- Improve neighborhood, fire risks (overgrown grasses, dry wood etc.).
- Should FID do annual drive by of high risk areas?

- Impact of weekend tourists using Wise app to use community mountain roads and the impact they have (trash, erosion of already fragile roads, noise, pollution etc.).
- Scotts Valley Drive between Oak Creek and Mt. Hermon Drive large trees and shrubs always shedding debris, always on sidewalks, fire hazards from dry matter.

Preservation

- Set aside, preserve and conserve open space, especially the Sand Hills.
 - Yes!!
- Housing to get more dense while open space is preserved.
- More green space, dense housing.
- As much green space and walk ways as possible.
- Minimize unnecessary housing.
- More vegetation round housing developments. Protect our large trees.
- Emphasis of “native” to Scotts Valley and preservation of it to keep small town feel.
- Preserve small infill natural habitats when development is approved. We lost ALL spring peepers in and 100% destroyed natural habitat at ground level for lawns. SAD
- Our city is very beautiful, but a lot of our housing is very dense. Some of this area needs to be protected, but not at the cost of neighborhood conditions.

Resources

- Expand recycled water lines.
- Recharge aquifer and bring back water table.
- Make sure there’s adequate water for all the building being done (Housing, hotels, Kaiser, 1440 etc.).
- Better tree preservation.
- Preserve open lands.
- Ease permit requirement for tree counting. Some properties have tree issues that others DO NOT! (i.e. not all tree situations are created equal).
- I can’t water my plants or wash my car in the summer because they are building 3 new homes across the fence. Stop the building!!! No infrastructure.
- Glenwood preserve as an outdoor classroom, endangered species make it an amazing opportunity
 - Yes

- We have the blessing of getting good rainfall to other areas of Silicon Valley. Can we have a storm water collection system and store this water locally for Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz benefit?
- I live in Carbonera Creek lots of wild life bobcat, coyote occasional cougar, deer. Keep the wildlife in mind. Ban rat and gopher poisons that go up the food chain and kill the predators that keep vermin under control.
- For every tree that gets cut off, plant a new one. We refer to trees cut down due to construction.

Mobility

Bicycles / Pedestrians / Transit

- Bike and pedestrian crossing over/under Highway 17 by Vine Hill school safe routes to schools.
 - Yes
- Better bike lanes.
- Bike and pedestrian crossing over/under Highway 17 by Disc Drive.
- Bike/pedestrian bridge north side of town over Highway 17.
- North Scotts Valley bike/pedestrian Highway 17 overpass.
- Work with Caltrans to install the Highway 17 pedestrian overpass at Vine Hill (Save our kids) vs. wild life underpass!!!!
 - Good idea.
- Scotts Valley Drive/Glenwood, Highway 17 off ramp intersection is dangerous to bikes and pedestrians.
- Protected bike paths separated from cars, from residential/parks/mobile homes to retail, events etc.
- Make sure trip from middle school is safe, especially Wednesday early release.
- Protected bike lanes.
- Bicycle improvements – more paths and bike lanes.
- Develop circulation patterns that encourage safe bicycling within city rather than cars. We are an excellent town to become an example for sustainable transportation.
- Connect Scotts Valley with Santa Cruz and Felton with a protected bike route.
- Better bike lanes with something to separate cars. Could be curb even?

- More green lanes for bikes, protected bike lanes on Scotts Valley Drive and Mt. Hermon Road.
- Bike paths off road.
- Granite Creek needs sidewalks and designated bike lanes.
- Pilot project for protected bike lanes along Scotts Valley Drive.
- Scotts Valley Drive has the opportunity to be a walkable/attractive street.
- Highway 17 bus great for commuters over the hill.
- Create network of protected bike lanes connecting all the schools (Brook Knoll and Sky Park).
 - Scotts Valley Drive
 - Mt Hermon (Highway 17 to Lockhart Gulch
 - Lockwood
 - Glenwood
 - Granite Creek
- Bike /walk friendly, trees to cool the town.
- Downtown center that is bike/pedestrian friendly (they spend more money).
- Expand parking at Cavallaro Transit Center.
- Separated bike paths throughout city, connectivity N&S, and E&W, connect to Felton.
- Make all current sidewalks and businesses wheelchair accessible before more construction.
- I want more sidewalks leading from neighborhoods to the main through fares. It is unsafe for kids and adults to get around and hence, we are raising poorly conditioned kids that get around by cars!!
- Make sure wheel chair, scooter users can get safely to Post Office, stores, etc.
- More ADA pedestrian facilities.
- Make sure people of abilities can get to public stores, post office, library, Dr. offices safely. No safe route exists from Spring Lakes to Post office.
 - Yes
- Safe routes to shops for wheelchair users.
- Improve sidewalks by adding wheel chair accessible accommodations.
- Work to keep Scotts Valley smaller. Continue sidewalk on Glen Canyon to Green Hills Rd.

- More sidewalks and bike lanes in residential areas.
- Encourage biking and sustainable transportation to reduce Mt. Hermon Road congestion. Zip bikes and cars, bike paths separate from cars, wide sidewalks (without hydrants in middle) shade trees along paths.
- No dedicated bike lanes, prioritize transportation methods that people use most.
- Go after Grant money for improvements around schools.
- Bus rides for kids to Vine Hill and Brook Knoll.
- Create a protected beautiful bike path from Scotts Valley to Felton and from Scotts Valley to Santa Cruz. Connects us to “outside world” and promotes good health, reduces pollution.
 - Good idea
- Fix Bethany Avenue sidewalk (street ramp) at Baymont Pre-School and repave Bethany Drive (particularly in light of 1440 org traffic).
- Many people walk Glen Canyon Road from Mt. Hermon to Green Hills it is dangerous. Sidewalks desperately needed and bike path.
- Traffic signage upgraded (3-way stop missing on corner of Green Tree and Oak Tree Blvd).
- Hop on/Hop off open trolley bus that takes you places just around Scotts Valley.

Highway 17

- No new on ramps on Highway 17. Find a way to help Granite CK ramp off load Mt. Hermon to Scotts Valley.
- Work with Caltrans to improve on/off ramp prior to next General Plan update.
- Mid-town interchange, please.
 - Good idea
- Mid-town interchange.
 - Please investigate.
 - I second that.
- Access to Highway 17 from vine Hill area is very bad du to traffic. Maybe back-ways to get to Scotts Valley easier.
- Entrances to Scotts Valley from Highway 17 are too short and cars accumulates against the blind curves, rising an accident.
- We need a sound wall along Highway 17, the ambient noise is a problem. You can hear the highway everywhere in Scotts Valley.

Arterial Streets

- Study the thru traffic on Mt. Hermon and change the county and Scotts Valley communities accordingly.
- U-turn at Mt. Hermon and Scotts Valley Drive. Many cars need to back up to complete the turn.
 - Yes
- U-turn at Mt Hermon and Scotts Valley Drive. Cars often need to back up to make turn.
- Consider alternative routes and road configuration to increase accessibility to the North end of Scotts Valley to decrease traffic jams at peak hours. Put speed bumps on Green Hills Road when it's repaved. People speed routinely.
- Keep Scotts Valley Drive at 35 mph to keep small town "slow" feel and re-enforce it.
- Open up Green Hills Road, remove gate.
 - Second this one, strongly agree.
- Have Caltrain assist with maintenance of Mt. Hermon Road, used as primary connection Highway 9 to Highway 17.
 - Is this possible?
- Coordinate red lights.
 - Second that
 - Third that
- Better planning and light control of Scotts Valley Blvd. and Glenwood intersection is very dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists.
- Better (signal) timing on Scotts Valley Drive/Glenwood/Granite.
- Need crosswalk guard at Scotts Valley Drive/Granite Creek/Highway 17 intersection.
- With all the new development on Scotts Valley Drive and the Granite Creek area, the intersection there will be negatively impacted. Any new development needs to have mitigation plans for this?
- Waze App on iPhone redirecting traffic up Glenwood Drive is a huge issue with not being able to get home, blocks road for emergencies and concern for fires.
- Need right hand lane on Glenwood at Hacienda and Scotts Valley Drive.
- Glenwood, 17, Scotts Valley Drive, Hacienda mess need to be reworked for future traffic.
- Glenwood Drive from street to city limits especially around the "turns" before Canyon the road is going to crack and fall into the meadow.

- Synchronize the lights. Traffic is horrible. I see at least 5-10 cars a day running red lights in Scotts Valley.
- Repaving of road that runs parallel with Scotts Valley Drive behind Ivey's Porch is a nice way for locals to take a back way through town when traffic is very heavy, while still respecting neighborhood.
- Build infrastructure to traffic before approving projects (signals, intersectional lanes).
- Something needs to connect all the neighborhoods to central parts of town.
- Too many U-turns on Scotts Valley Drive turning at Quien Sabe Road. When I try to exit Quien Sabe Road going left, I had a few close calls. Would signage help?
- Live on Sky Park. Town Center will kill Mt. Hermon Road round-a-bout is not a good idea or will fix any traffic issues?

Local Residential Streets

- Scotts Valley is a mixture of public and private roads. Many private roads are used by the whole community. It is unrealistic to expect a few homeowners to maintain what are effectively public roads.
- Private rides without street, HOA structure and funding are a crisis pending. There needs to be an effort to organize a solution before it is an emergency and costs to repair will be even greater.

Parking / Design / Other

- Medians (more) street trees, landscaping, art.
- Why are there NO electric vehicle charging stations throughout city properties and required for new development? We are far behind the norm on this.
- Fix chewed up streets, public and private.
- Parking garage at the corner of El Pueblo and Scotts Valley Drive and have all the buses pick up there (Google, Yahoo, Apple).
- Subterranean parking in downtown, underground parking.
- Building is out of control. NO parking in town.
- Solar Power infrastructure for charging electric vehicles.
- Car parking.
- Fix potholes.
- Enforce red light runners.

- Look into how Napa fixed issues with Highway 29. Dug a main street and added frontage roads on sides.

Community

Events / Activities

- More community events.
- Focus on after school activities.
- More community activities for older kids, clubs, groups etc.
- Sports option at SVMS and SVHS are limited due to a few student's that have had previous practice or are inherently good at a given sport. We need to allow more kids to engage by allowing our schools to have more trainers and facilities.
 - Yes
- Keep 4th of July celebration, parade activities.

Land Use / Design

- Make Scotts Valley welcome to persons of all abilities in parks/rec and housing etc.
- Keep small town feel but offer more great eateries so we don't have to go out of town for more variety.
- Keep it small.
- Funds to maintain the trails. How can we do that?
- Decrease commercial development, Keep Scotts Valley quaint.
- City Center, Community Center.
- As much accessible green space.
- More art, museums.
- Help maintain small town feel.
- Bring back community yard waste bins to encourage better yard maintenance and care.
- Make Scotts Valley an inclusive community.
- Extend Camp Evers on Glenn Canyon along the creek to Mt. Hermon.
- More varieties of restaurants such as Italian (the only type of food we don't have here).

Facilities

- Dog park area is great, thank you.
- Sky park is wonderful, maybe more walking trails.
- Please keep the private gun range available.
- Connect all of our beautiful parks with paths.
- Water features (pay the liability insurance for gosh sakes).
- Bicycle cops patrolling Sky park (i.e. skate parks) and businesses on Mt. Hermon to deter shop lifter/crime.
- City should have helped fund a pool at Boy's and Girl's club (for high school and community use).
 - Interesting idea.
- Thank you for the senior center. The library and emerging theatre/performance arts center.
- Community guy workout facility.
- What happened to the Boy's and Girl's on Scotts Valley Drive. Lately, I see lots of cars and Google bus.
- Build Scotts Valley Sports camp.
 - Yes
- Build high school pool and use as community pool on weekend.
 - Yes
 - We really need a good swimming pool for school and community like the one hosted in SLV.
 - Definitely.
 - Why can't we do a bond to build Scotts Valley high school pool for community pool.
- Keep dog park and bike track in Sky Park. People like to let dogs off leash in park and it's nice to point, need to fence area.
- Town Center slows plans to remove track and dog park but as community these things bring people together.
- Fix up Scott House.
- Dog park – new one if current one removed.
 - Yes

- Lodato Park, Lovely Park. Dog off leash is dangerous, please enforce.
- Sky Park, please install lower basketball hoops on poles for younger children, so they can play too.

Access / Inclusion

- Consider traffic at school let out and drop off times.
- Another over pass?
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Safe for kids to walk / bike everywhere.
- Open trails on Glenwood.
- Open up all of Glenwood, work with Land Trust.
- Let developers dedicate right-of-way to trails in the back (steep parts) of their properties, park, impact fees?
- Work with State parks to create a mountain bike trail to Santa Cruz.
- Trails in Glenwood Meadow \$10 million in state (often that the friends of Government worked hard at getting back the 90's -speaker pro-term 5th division).
- Do more for the handicapped, elderly, shut ins, mentally ill, developmentally challenged etc. Members of our community.
- Expand safe routes to school efforts and beyond the entire community for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Looking to the Future

Community Character & Design

- Work to keep Scotts Valley a small town
- Scotts Valley needs more mountain town character in its designs. Create design guidelines so the commercial properties are developed to create more of a unique identity. Cookie-cutter designs, such as regarding PUD on Scotts Valley Drive, should be discouraged. Protect the views of the mountains from the public right-of-way.
- Let's become a city with a sense of community, identity and diversity. Not just a bedroom community. Support all kinds of populations (Economic differences, age differences, ethnic diversity, political diversity) Add your favorite diversity here _____.
- More cowbell.

- Learn from the past, improve upon what we have – no need to “recreate” Scotts Valley, just keep what is loved.
- Planned growth only, meaning no growth until infrastructure need are addressed, primarily roads and traffic needs (Hwy 17, access.... major town interchanges).
- Move people in the streets to more affordable housing. Respecting the environment and community.
- Scotts Valley needs a better Instagram page.
- The future of Scotts Valley depends on meeting the needs of all-old, young, businesses and families. The trick is not to favor one group over all but to have a balanced approach.
- More diversity of people, flavors, opinions, experiences. More openness, more acceptance.
- Willingness and courage to see what is on the other side of the door.
- Include water features, pay for liability insurance.
- Make Scotts Valley beautiful, more public arts and landscaping.
- Continue to be safe place to live.
- Quality of life-clean air, clean water.
- Great landscaping – trees along Scotts Valley Drive.
- All “eye sores” empty lots cleaned up.
- Trees down Scotts Valley Drive.
- For Lori – “The Box” we have all the components of a great city, but to drive through you may not know that. We need to “wrap the box and put the ribbon on top”.
- Communication
 - City leader’s involvement and communication with the community, keep up the good work.
 - Keep our town a place where everyone is safe, feels connected.
 - Bring in more businesses with professional opportunity (i.e. tech/startups) so we can work where we live and support housing growth.
- We are happy to live in a small and family oriented town. Please we need to keep up with the times but stay a small town.

Housing

- Scotts Valley needs to have safe and affordable housing for everyone. More single level housing units which allow people to age in place.
 - Good idea
- Mixed living and affordable for all from first time owners to seniors.
- More dense housing and so more green. 3 stories too high, obstruct view.
 - Yes, thank you.

Commercial

- Scotts Valley needs a quality bookstore, record store and museum.
- I think we should have stores focused on clothing.
- Downtown development (a true downtown for Scotts Valley).
- Healthy business community by local owners.
- Town center – walkable, lots of places to gather.
- Quality bakery.
- We need to bring tech to the city, like Amazon.
- Work on leasing or empty buildings to these companies.
- We need more family restaurants. I currently have to take family to Santa Cruz for good food.
- Bring in businesses like East Side Eatery in Capitola.
- Town center should be in the middle of town. Should have put it where the middle school is and have the middle school by Sky Park.

Mobility

- More walking trails similar to Lodato that take advantage of the beautiful mountain surroundings.
- Traffic flow instead of deliberate traffic block, co-ordinate signals.
- Improved City Planning, regards to traffic lights, etc. Need better parking logistics as well.
- Bicycle center of a community.
- Safe sidewalks which can rake people in scooters and wheelchairs to get their basic needs met, safe routes to buy food, go to post office, library, doctor's office etc.
- Well cared for roads and parks.

- Open gate at Meadow Way/Green Hills Road. Easier for people going North-go North and people going South-go South.
 - Good idea.
 - Nooks and crannies side by side with open seating spaces like on Catalina Island and Los Gatos).
- Have underground parking. Keep above ground pretty.
- Now is the time to plan for improved transportation to/from schools. Emphasize bussing and/or ride sharing. Also, improve pick up/drop off access for school traffic.
 - Plan for auto/truck traffic and pedestrian, bicycle traffic.
- Traffic mitigation handled.
- Open Glenwood trails.
- Time to create a sustainable pedestrian and bike friendly real town of the future. Think out of the strip-mall box. Create shaded, car-free transport/walking corridors to encourage health, reduce congestion and keep residents in town for events, shopping and fun.
- Create a long-term plan to absorb private roads into city infrastructure and don't permit anymore non-conformity streets.
- Infrastructure (roads, interchanges need to be upgraded to keep up with the development especially Granite Creek intersection.
- Let's develop and use clean energy, fix the potholes.
- Bus stops ship Apple/Google/Yahoo employees.

Public Facilities

- I believe that there should be more activities for the youth community. For example, music/band in the park, and sports competitions, video game competitions with rewards like money gift cards. Also, have the drama department do more performances in the parks. I think this would help the youth be more active in Scotts Valley since most believe it's boring. Have more things like Santa Cruz.
- Fund and build the Scotts Valley Sports Complex
 - Please
- I think the little town of Scotts Valley should have more activities for the youth. Also, hopefully a pool for the high school.
- Community pool in Sky Park.
- Great day care for children and seniors.