



Community Vision Board Summary

Chippewa County Fair Engagement | August 2025

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Purpose

The Community Vision Board at the Chippewa County Fair invited residents to share ideas, dreams, and priorities for Montevideo's future. This interactive engagement tool captured over 100 unique suggestions across five categories: Housing & Spaces, Businesses & Jobs, Community Life, Families & Youth, and Wild Ideas & Dreams.

Key Themes & Community Priorities

Housing & Public Spaces

- **Affordable & Workforce Housing:** Strong demand for more rentals, townhomes, and slab-on-grade housing.
- **Public Space Revitalization:** Requests for updated parks, playgrounds, sidewalks, and street repairs.
- **Event & Gathering Spaces:** Interest in indoor play areas, wedding/event centers, and community hubs.

Businesses & Retail

- **Food & Dining Diversity:** High interest in restaurants like Taco John's, Chipotle, Culver's, Hu Hot, and local bakeries.
- **Retail & Services:** Repeated requests for nail salons, tattoo shops, meat lockers, and delivery services (e.g., DoorDash).
- **Entrepreneurial Opportunities:** Suggestions for arcades, skate shops, and specialty stores.

Community Life & Culture

- **Arts & Events:** Strong support for a Fine Arts Center, art classes (pottery, painting, weaving), and music festivals.

- **Inclusive Celebrations:** Desire to revive Fiesta Days, host block parties, and expand small concerts and markets.
- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Calls for better signage, lighting, and amenities on bike trails.

Families & Youth

- **Recreation & Play:** Splash pad was the most frequently mentioned idea, with enthusiastic support.
- **Expanded Programming:** Requests for gymnastics, swimming lessons, and indoor pools not tied to the high school.
- **School Investment:** Multiple mentions of passing school referendums and updating facilities.

Wild Ideas & Dreams

- **Creative Placemaking:** Drive-thru Christmas lights, themed pool weekends, electric scooters, and even hosting a Vikings game.
- These ideas reflect a desire for joyful, memorable experiences and imaginative community identity.

Strategic Takeaways

- **Top Priorities:** Splash pad, Fine Arts Center, affordable housing, and updated pool facilities.
- **Community Identity:** Residents value arts, events, and inclusive public spaces that foster connection.
- **Economic Development Opportunities:** Strong appetite for diverse food options, retail services, and family-friendly amenities.
- **Infrastructure Needs:** Parks, sidewalks, and bike trails require attention to support active lifestyles and accessibility.

Next Steps

- Share findings with the City Council, EDA Board, and partner organizations.
 - Explore feasibility studies for top-requested amenities (e.g., splash pad, Fine Arts Center).
 - Integrate community input into strategic planning, grant applications, and future engagement efforts.
 - Consider follow-up surveys or pop-up events to refine priorities and gather additional feedback.
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