

# **IDEAS FOR CHANGE** Jay P. , Ana E, Nia K,Camila R, Lexi R, Stephanie S

## Topic Statement: What do we do with empty land?

There are several actions that can be taken to improve housing and land use in Santa Rosa, California:

- 1. Promote the construction of affordable housing.
- 2. Adopt inclusive housing policies.
- 3. Promote the use of renewable energy.
- 4. Promote sustainable land use.
- 5. Implement water conservation measures.
- 6. improve infrastructure.



## Topic Statement: What do we do with empty land?

- Lack of operational needs
- No funds
- Local Support

How to turn a 2 mile vacant property into something that could benefit our community and its residents?



# **Existing Conditions**

- Overgrown Grass
- Trees and shrubbery
- Inaccessible
- Wildlife





# **Existing Conditions**

- 1. Housing cost.
- 2. Affordable Housing Shortage.
- 3. Land use for agriculture and viticulture.
- 4. Environmental impact.
- 5. Demographic change.



Single and multi family developments, public educational buildings, office uses, roadways, creeks.

The area is divided into three subunits; West, Central and East.

Current housing and land use conditions in Santa Rosa, California have changed with the growth and diversification of the city, increasing housing demand and putting pressure on land. The city has faced challenges around affordable housing and the availability of land for development, but has worked to protect rural and agricultural areas near the city while encouraging development in already urbanized areas.

#### **Case Studies**

Small communities have taken advantage of small spaces of empty land and converting them to tiny house communities.

One of the most relevant studies is the General Plan of Santa Rosa 2040, which establishes a long-term vision for the development of the city. The plan focuses on promoting housing density and diversity, as well as the protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Some of the plan's specific recommendations include:

- 1. Encourage the development of affordable, high-density housing in existing built-up areas.
- 2. Improve access to public transportation and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
- 3. Preserve and protect rural and agricultural areas near the city.
- 4. Encourage sustainable construction and land use practices.

In addition, a study by the Center for Climate Change and Global Health at the University of California, Los Angeles suggests that increased investment in public transportation infrastructure and the promotion of affordable and sustainable housing could improve the quality of life. residents and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

#### Case Studies: Transforming vacant land to housing





#### Lessons Learned

- Maintenance & restoration is key
- Still keep some of its conditions, not all of it has to be used
- The importance of careful planning.
- The need for proper management of natural resources.
- The importance of community participation and funding
- The need for an integrated approach.
- The importance of innovation.





# Short Term Recommendations: Temporary RV Park

- RV shelter for homeless
- Inspired by Fairgrounds RV Park
- Only active in Summer months
- Housing Financial Assistance: Local government and nonprofit organizations may provide financial assistance to residents to help them pay their rent or mortgage. Particularly helpful for those struggling to keep up with housing costs due to lack of employment or reduced income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.





# **Tiny Homes**

Efficient towards out case regarding the amount of empty land there is around. The lots aren't as big enough to serve for multi family housing. Could be as big enough for a loft styled bedding, a big enough bathroom, living room and kitchen for a person.









Co housing with community environments are also another option we can work towards these unused areas of land. Adding homes would be great since the area is around schools and shopping centers.

## Beautification around Highway 12





