

**Actives**


"[To get around trains stopped on the tracks] sometimes you have to go south of town and go out and around, or you have to go south of town east... or west quite a ways out of the way on gravel [road]s."

"I would love to see some kind of a trail between Calamus and Wheatland if we can utilize the Old Lincoln Highway that runs by the Wapsi, but...that is subject to flooding in the spring, and it's really, really buggy in the summer."

"Even when I walk in town, I'm walking in the street. I never walk...on the sidewalk...because it's just easier and more room to move, and I usually have my dog with me..."

"I generally tend to walk more on the rural roads, which is nice because there's more scenery...but to go for a nice long walk it's hard to do it in town, so I prefer to do it out of town, but there's really nowhere to walk..."

"[I would like] a loop all the way around the entire town with bridges that get you over the train tracks and Highway 30 so then you've got a three-mile loop that's paved."



**Youth**


"[Both railroad crossings] need improving, but the one by the cemetery is the worst one."

"It takes me a while to get to the...fire station because there's always either a train stopped or a lot of cars."

"...the roads are pretty slick in the winter time... so I'll have to drive over to the Wheatland... activity center and run on the treadmills."

"In Calamus...walking up to the school and back is pretty nice...I know a lot of people walk [at the school]. Other than that a lot of people utilize that mile loop...Not that there [are] a whole lot of landmarks there, it's just the only structured area we have to walk."

"Half of Calamus doesn't even have sidewalks the rest are uneven sidewalks."



**Parents**


"If you have somebody playing at the ball park and you have another child or family member walking the path, [it would be nice to have]...a loop [where] you can check in or you can go see them easily."

"One of our biggest problems is when the trains stop in town, when they block both sets of tracks, to get from the north side to the south side where the post office is, the school, the park."

"[The railroad crossings are] rough...on top of that you just never know for sure when there's a train coming through... and if you happen to have one that stops, at what point are you going to get back across the tracks to the ball diamond...to pick your kids up?"

"It'd be super cool if somehow we could turn old [Highway] 30 into a walking path between Calamus and Wheatland."

"[First Street] is extremely dark at night when you're trying to run through there, plus those railroad tracks are really steep, so when you come off there running in the dark, it's very treacherous."



**Older Adults**


"I live on the east side of Calamus, and there is a blacktop near our home... There's a lot of people that walk out that road on the black top. I find that people...use the streets because...the asphalt or pea gravel covering is easier on their legs than what the concrete sidewalks are."

"[The] biggest difficulty [in getting around] is the railroad...When you live on the south side of the track, you either [have] to go over the tracks north or you have to head east. There really isn't a place going west. It's east and then south...and you just keep going until you don't have to hit a train."

"I don't like to walk inside, I like being out in the fresh air...I enjoy the flowers. I like the park...and of course visiting with people. In a small community, you know a lot of people and you can stop on your walk and visit."

"The parking congestion [at the elementary school] is mostly with the softball/baseball season and then maybe [during] Christmas programs."

"...the majority of the walkers, even in the nice weather, walk in the street. They don't use the sidewalk because the sidewalks aren't in that great of shape... some of them are narrow, some of them are broken, some places don't have sidewalks..."



**Mobility Challenged**

"[My child] has low vision...and [they're] special needs too... If [they were] trying to walk anywhere here into town, the sidewalks are awful...They're broken, [or] people will let the grass grow up so much between the cracks, that it's actually a lump."

"The new sidewalks by the library and by the CALCO have the new handicapped slanted curb...those have been a very positive for the town."

"[Lighting] doesn't seem like much [of an issue] when you're just walking, but if you're pushing a walker [or] a wheelchair, the difference in the level of the slabs of sidewalk, or...a hole in the sidewalk...will turn your wheels... If...it catches you off guard, you could go forward with your walker and you would tumble over the top of it..."

"Our railroad track crossings are always horrific...They just seem to split out to where they get holes in them and they're terrible."

"My husband is in a wheelchair and I am in a walker. If there are holes or cracks in the sidewalk, that makes it difficult to walk with a walker."



**Steering Committee**

"...from the park to the school, I don't think there are any streetlights that I can think of. So, when you have a night softball...or...baseball game, or a concert,...you would be walking in the dark..."

"All the other roads are very residential [with] pretty slow-moving cars for the most part...People do feel pretty safe walking down the street with their kids in strollers or a group or a couple adults or an adult and a couple kids."

"It would be awesome to have a walking or bike path between Calamus and Wheatland."

"I really like to walk down the road that goes through the cemetery because it's just a little bit more scenic, it's a little bit hilly, and there [are] trees and flowers all over..."

"There's definitely a favorite route that most...people [walk], and that's Grove Street and Main Street; [they] make that big loop almost like a parade route. I think that gets used a lot because it goes past the park and the campground."

# Calamus

## What People Said

**Transportation Assets and Barriers**  
 Julia Badenhop, Sandra Oberbroeckling, Chad Hunter  
 Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

