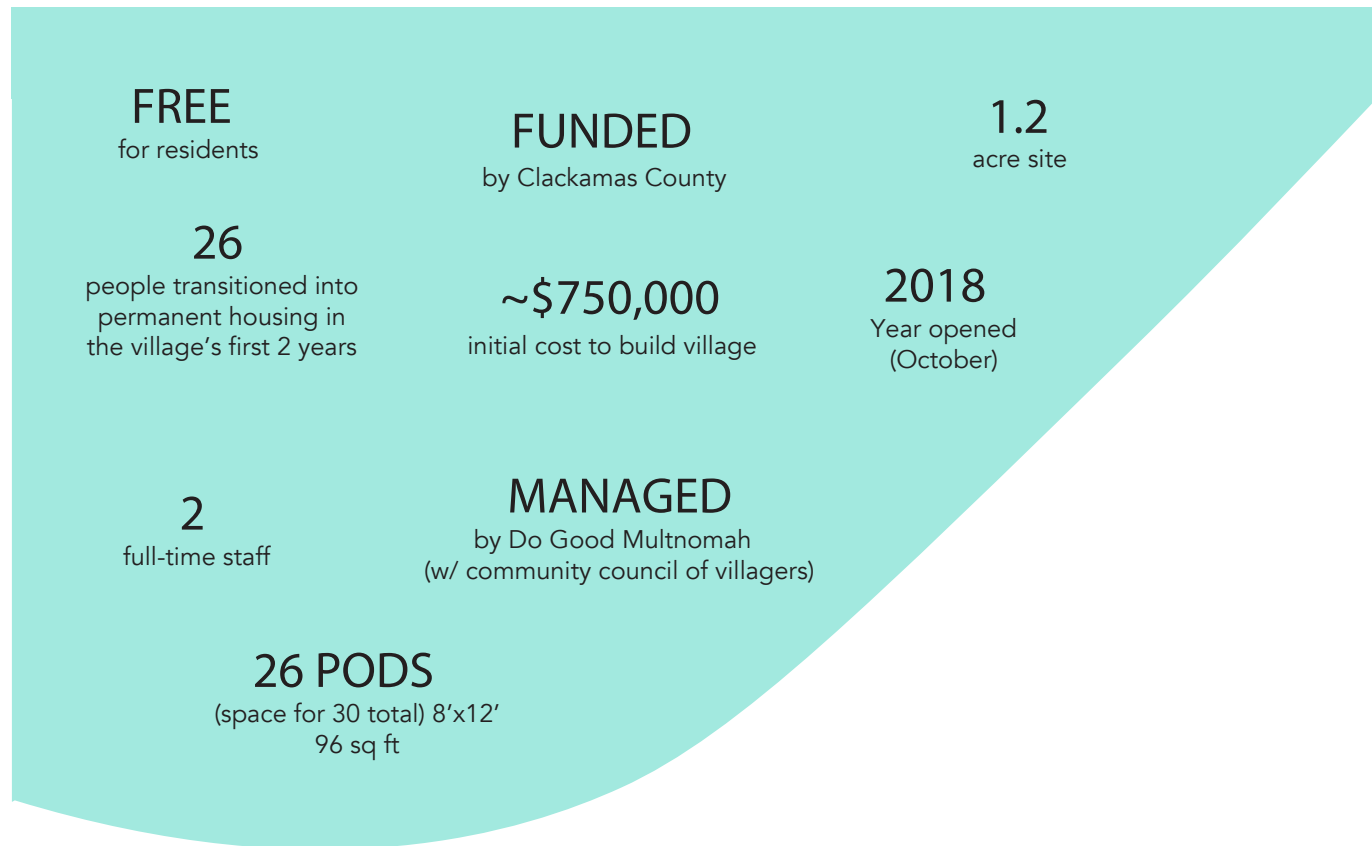




Clackamas County Veterans Village

Image credit: Communitecture



Clackamas County Veterans Village

[Village Profile]

The Clackamas County Veterans Village is a transitional shelter community for 25-30 veterans. The village is located in an industrial area of the city of Clackamas, is funded by Clackamas County, and is Managed by Do Good Multnomah. The development of the village is the result of a unique collaboration between Clackamas County, Communitecture, the Center for Public Interest Design (CPID), City Repair, the Village Coalition, Lease Crutcher Lewis, Portland State University School of Architecture, Catholic Charities, partners in the City of Portland and Multnomah County, and others.

Immediately following the creation of the Kenton Women's Village in June of 2017, Clackamas County Health, Housing, and Human Services saw an opportunity to apply limited funding it had reserved to serve veterans experiencing homelessness toward a project type like a village that they hoped would have greater impact. While the Kenton Women's Village (KWW) was able to benefit from Multnomah County's state of emergency on housing and homelessness, neighboring Clackamas County did not have the same declaration and would be pursuing the village as a fully code-compliant de-

velopment. Many of the organizers of the Clackamas County Veterans Village (CCVV) were instrumental in the creation of the KWW, and this offered a new opportunity to more closely consider how a village's infrastructure and components might be viewed within the context of traditional construction, development, and permitting processes. The strategy for creating and funding the pods was anything but traditional, however.

At the time of the village's creation, the preferred pod by villagers of the 14 different prototypes at the Kenton Women's Village was the S.A.F.E. Pod by SRG Partnership. The pod utilizes 21 trusses of the same size for its roof and wall framing, each truss made from just two 2x4s. The pod's walls push outward to the peak of the truss, creating a more open feeling. With rigid insulation on the outside of the framing, the form offers the possibility for shelves, storage, and furniture to be built into the depth of the wall. With an interest in creating a the pods inexpensively and quickly, village organizers from the CPID coordinated with the the PSU School of Architecture who agreed to incorporate the creation of the trusses as part of the school's annual Diversion De-

"It was wonderful having a front row seat to the incredibly unique process that resulted in the Clackamas County Veterans Village as part of the design team. In addition to working on site design and coordination efforts, I had the great opportunity to join PSU's Diversion Design-Build team to utilize 690 of the SAFE pod trusses to build the Treeline Stage for the Pickathon Music Festival. Once disassembled, the trusses moved to Oregon City to become the first 15 SAFE pods to compose the Veterans Village. Since then, the village has taught us a lot about building spaces that feel safe, welcoming, and inclusive to vulnerable groups. But to me, most importantly, it demonstrated the power of design to lead creative processes able to minimize negative environmental impacts and maximize positive social ones."

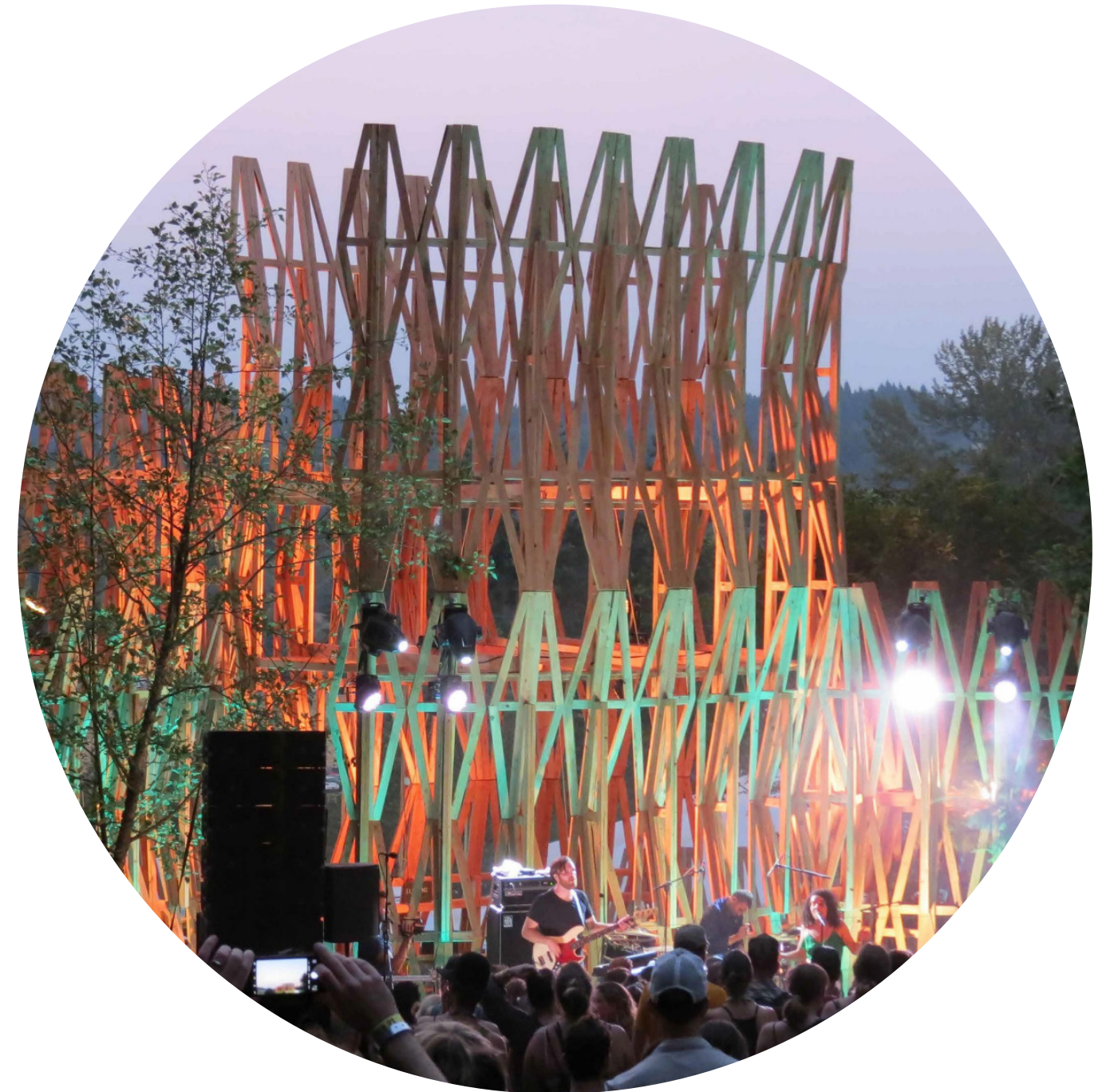
- Marta Petteni, Co-Designer of CCV & Diversion Design-Build team member

sign-Build Studio course in which students and faculty create a temporary stage for the Pickathon Music Festival. Using this process and funding offered through the City of Portland, hundreds of trusses were used to create the 2017 Treeline Stage for the festival, and a structural skeleton of a S.A.F.E. Pod was constructed at the festival to inform concert-goers about the purpose of the stage and invite them into conversation about the village movement.

Once the stage was deconstructed, the trusses were moved to a site within Clackamas County (required for building inspection) to begin the construction of the pods. The village is designed to accommodate 30 pods, but the team planned to create just 15 for the first phase of the village in the interest

of production time, initial budget, and allowing the village community to grow at a rate conducive to fostering a positive community atmosphere. Communitecture, the village's architect of record, adapted the S.A.F.E. Pod design to meet code requirements, and a contractor from Born and Raised Construction was brought on site to oversee the building of the pods by volunteer labor. City Repair, a nonprofit focused on placemaking through community and volunteer efforts, managed the volunteer outreach and coordination (as well as liability aspects of volunteer construction) for the project.

In designing the residential areas of the village, Communitecture and CPID designers arranged the sleeping pods into clusters, following recommendations developed by



The 2017 Treeline Pickathon made of Pod Trusses

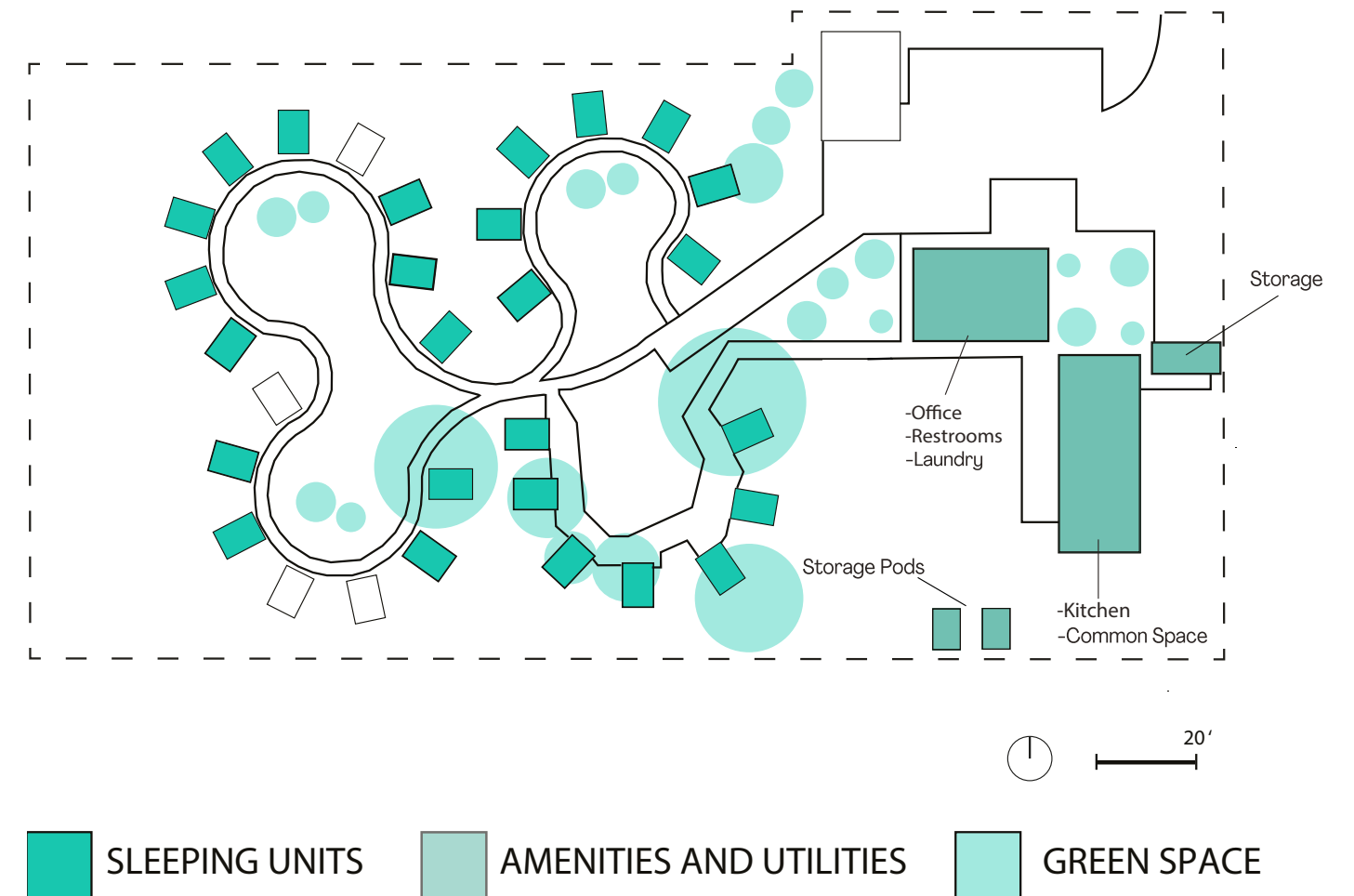
Image credit: PSU School of Architecture

a PSU graduate architecture student whose thesis had focused on designing veterans housing. The common facilities are made from stick-built modular buildings and include a large kitchen, bathrooms and showers, laundry, a TV lounge and meeting space where veterans can talk with their caseworkers and other service providers. The Clackamas County Veterans Village opened in the fall of 2018 with 15 sleeping pods and has begun adding more toward the goal of 30 total (the village is currently at 26 pods at the time of this writing).

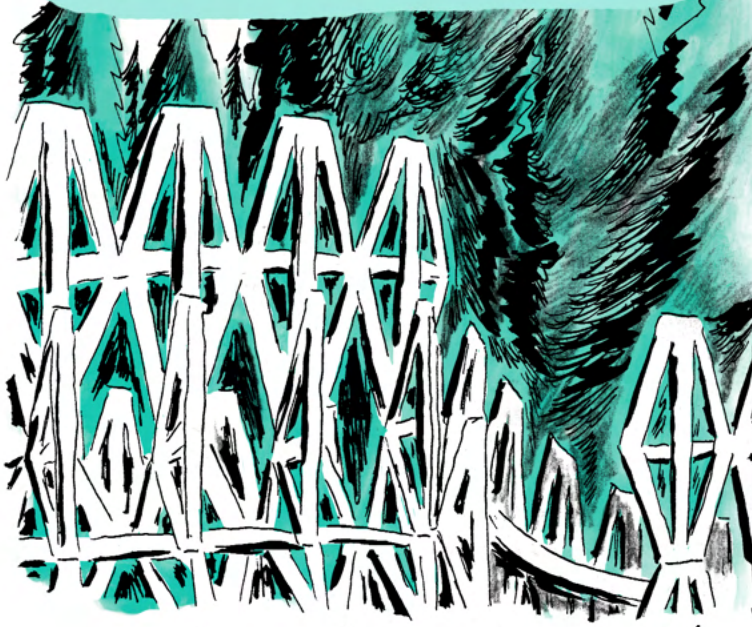
Initially, the pods were off-grid, with full utilities provided in the common facilities. Each of the four pod clusters has a street light with electrical outlets, and during particularly cold weather the village found it had to run electrical cords to the pods to power space heaters. As a result, the pods were later hooked up to electrical power and outfitted with radiant heating panels similar to those used at the Kenton Women's Village. The sleeping pods come with a bed, interior storage space, operable windows, a porch with a built-in seat, electricity, lighting, and heat. The ground cover and pods in one of the pod clusters were designed to meet ADA standards, and this cluster is located in nearest proximity to the common buildings.

The Clackamas County Veterans Village is a managed village with two full-time village managers. While staff makes all major decisions regarding operations and rules, there is a community council made up of elected villagers at CCVV that allows villagers to make decisions around certain aspects of village life. The village site is isolated and pres-

ents challenges for villagers to access services and public transportation, and even resulting in several village applicants choosing not to join the village because of its location. However, some services are brought to the village, and a food pantry specifically for veterans is located in close proximity, and this has proven to be an extremely helpful resource for villagers. The village was created for veterans based on funding designated for this group available at the time, but the village model seems to serve this population well, with villagers noting that their military experience prepared them well for communal living and somewhat austere living conditions.



Inspired by the success of Kenton Women's Village, Clackamas County Health, Housing, and Human Services pursued the development of a pod village.



PSU's School of Architecture provided an innovative way to reuse the SAFE pod trusses. A temporary stage installation was erected by students in the Diversion Design-Build Studio.



This stage hosted performances during the Pickathon Music Festival, and was made up of materials that would be utilized in the pods.



Volunteers helped construct the pods and were managed by an on-site contractor.



The village opened in the fall of 2018 with 15 pods with plans to build more over time, and they are currently up to 25 pods.



Though the shared experience of PTSD can lead to some interpersonal challenges between villagers, their skills and experience with close-quarters military life help to form a strong community at Clackamas.

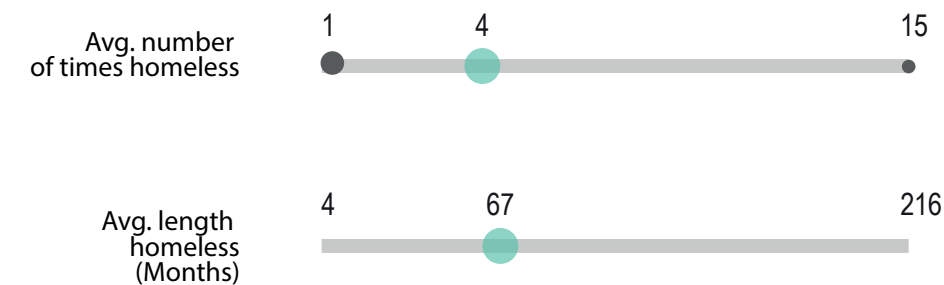
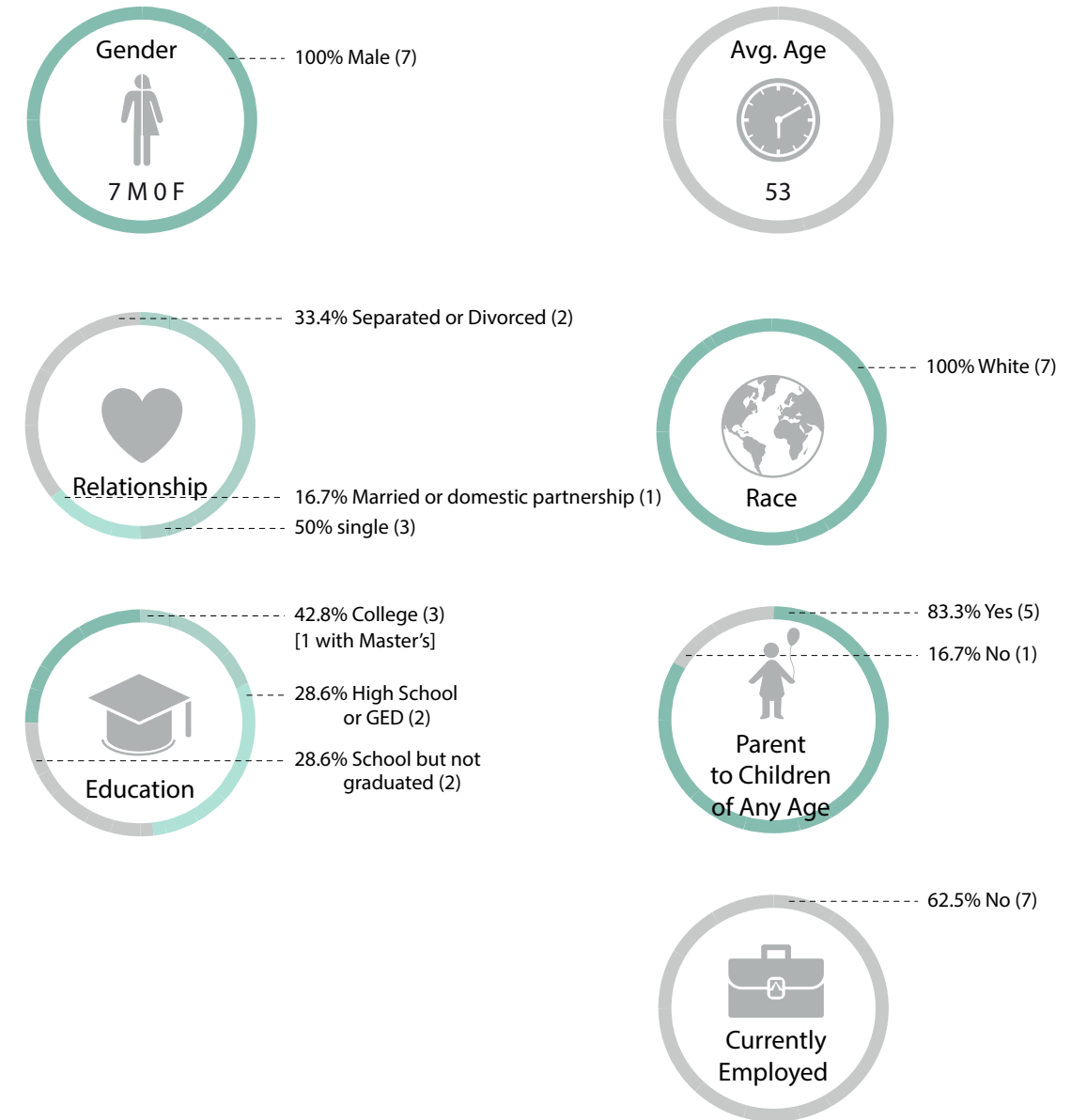


Clackamas County Veterans Village

[Villager Interview Results]

At each village, all current villagers were invited to participate in a survey and interview. The findings in the following pages represent only those villagers who elected to participate and not the entire population of the village.

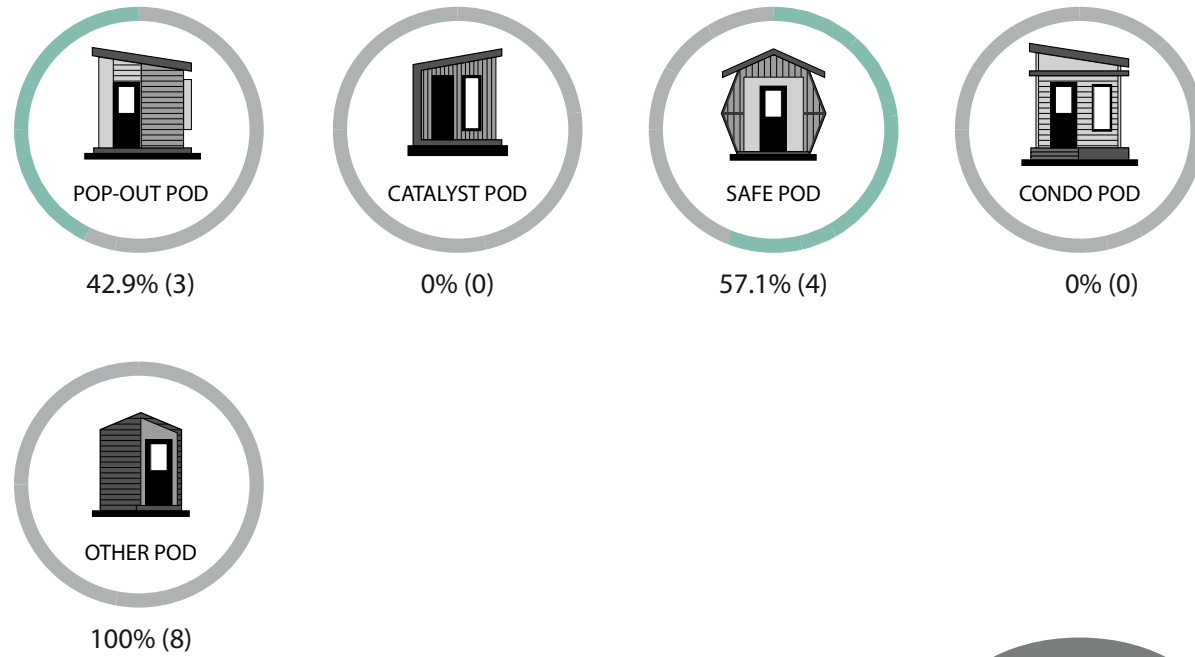
RESIDENTS DEMOGRAPHICS



RESIDENCE AT VILLAGE



PODS POD TYPE



POD DESCRIPTION, LIKES & DISLIKES

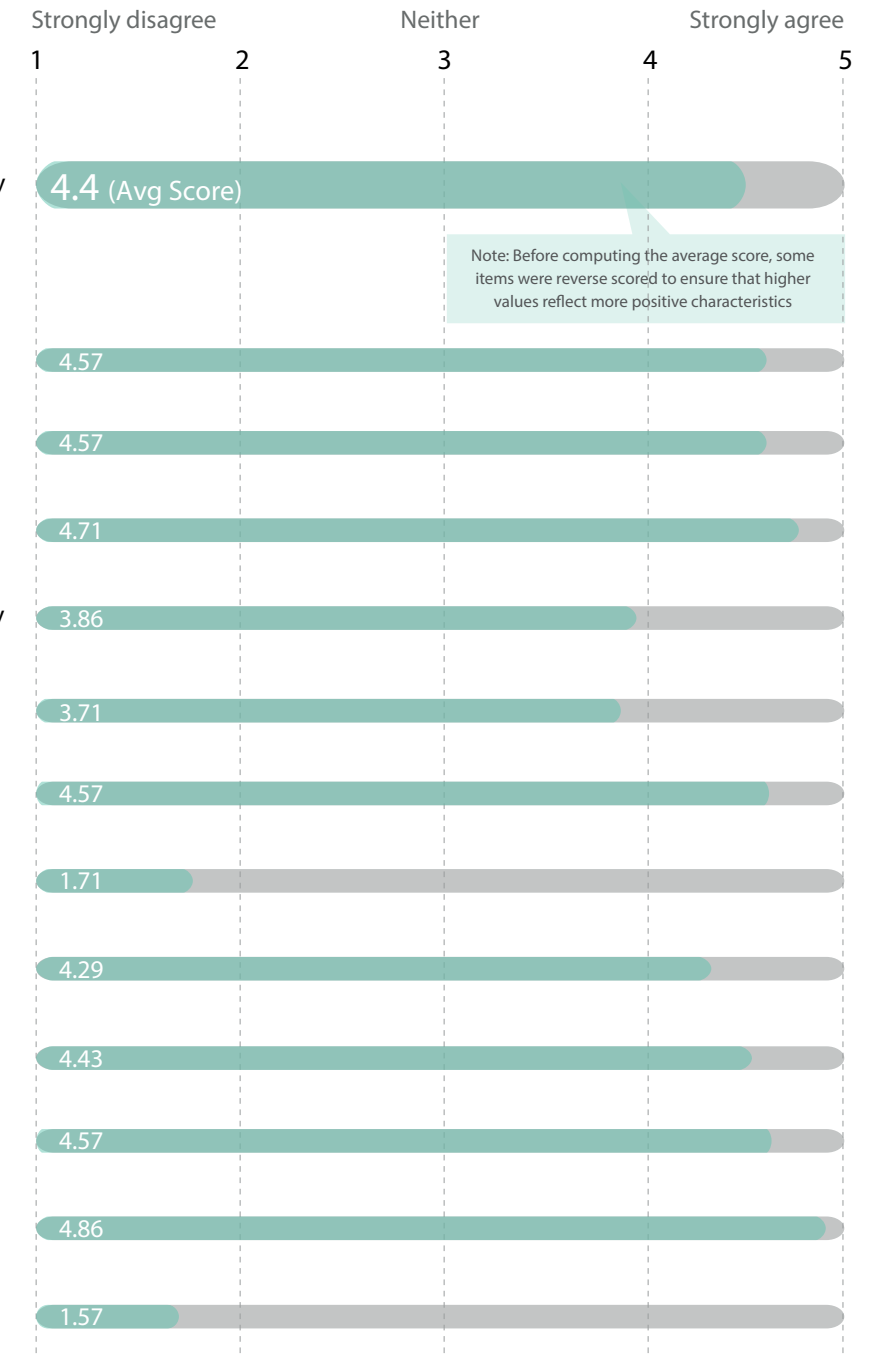
■ Likes ■ Dislikes



POD QUALITY



Pod Quality



VILLAGE
VILLAGE SOCIAL CLIMATE



Village Social Climate

Strongly disagree Neither Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

4.47 (Avg Score)

Note: Before computing the average score, some items were reverse scored to ensure that higher values reflect more positive characteristics

1. I feel like part of this village, like I belong here.

4.71

2. I know the rules in this village, and I can fit in with them.

4.57

3. I feel safe in the village.

4.57

4. Sometimes I feel unwelcome in the village because of my ethnicity and my cultural background.

1.14

5. There are other aspects of who I am that make me feel unwelcome in the village

1.43

6. People in the village are friendly to everybody no matter what the person's skin color or ethnic

3.57

7. People in my village treat me as an equal.

4.43

VILLAGE SENSE OF
COMMUNITY



Village Sense of Community

Strongly disagree Neither Strongly agree

1 2 3 4 5

4.00 (Avg Score)

Note: Before computing the average score, some items were reverse scored to ensure that higher values reflect more positive characteristics

1. I think this village is a good place for me to live

4.71

2. Other residents and I want the same things from the village

3.43

3. I feel at home in the village

4.43

4. I care about what other villagers think of my actions

4.14

5. I have no influence over what this village is like

3.43

6. If there is a problem in the village people who live there can get it solve

4.57

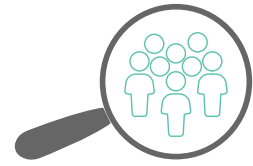
7. I feel a strong sense of community in this village

4.29

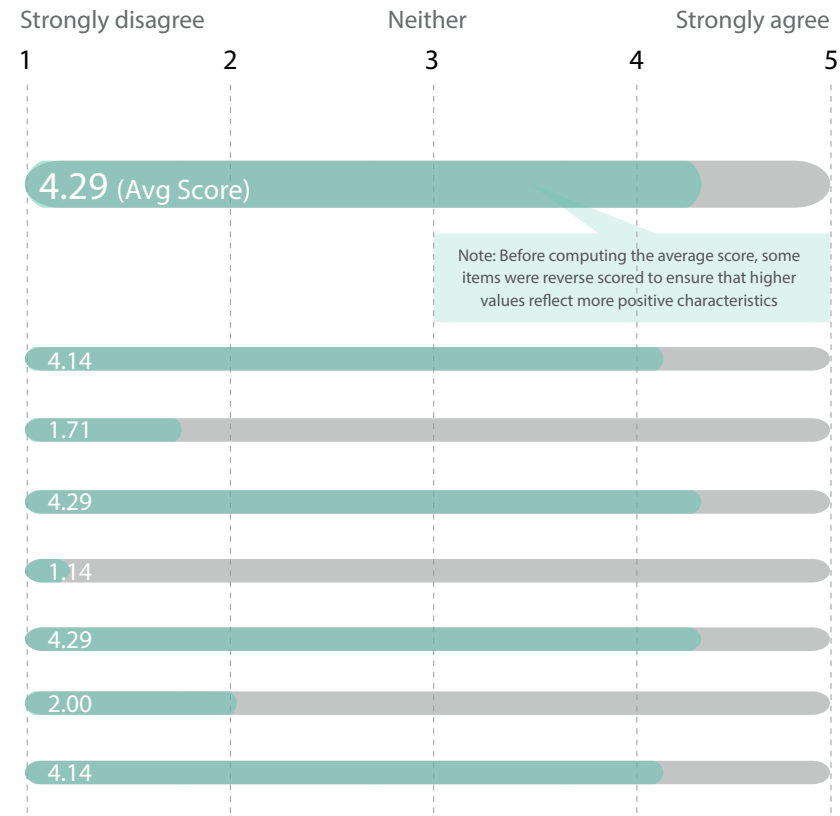
8. People in this village generally don't get along with each other

2.14

VILLAGE RESIDENT SCALE



Village Neighbor Scale



VILLAGE DESCRIPTION, LIKES & DISLIKES

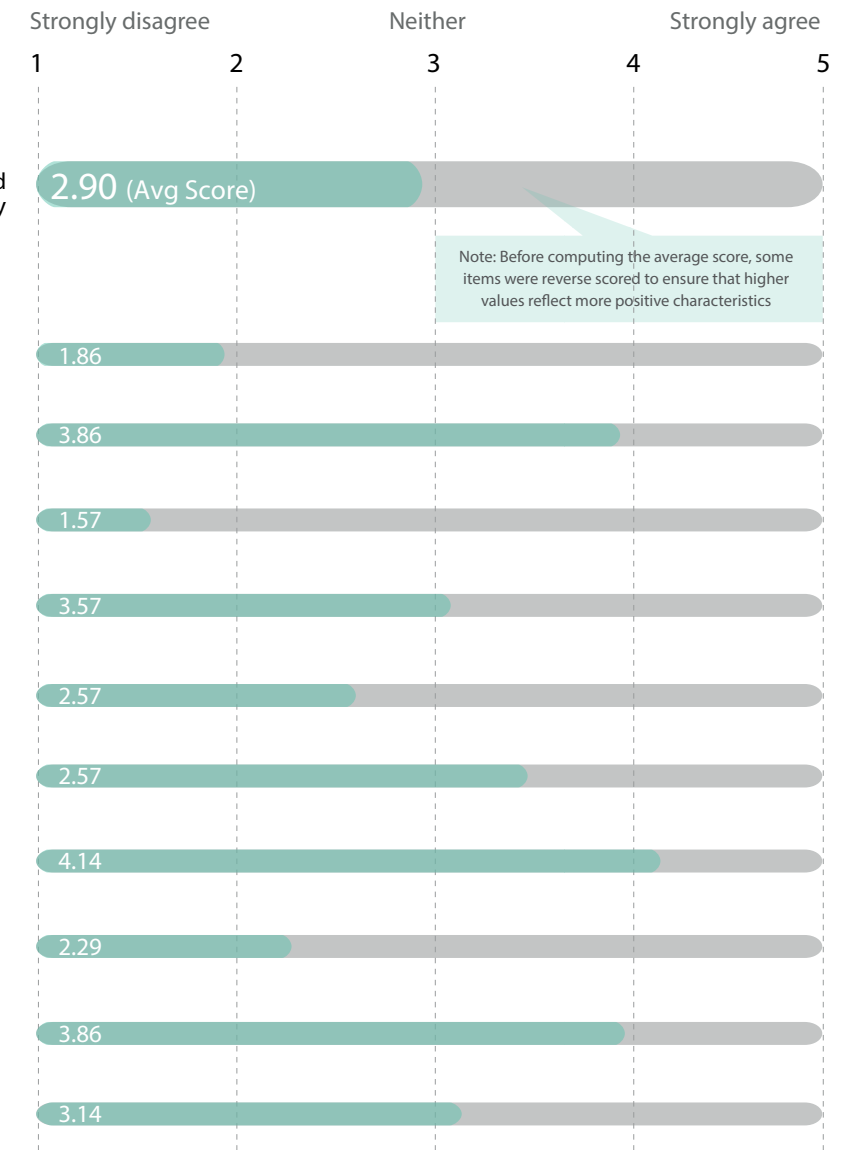
■ Likes ■ Dislikes



NEIGHBORHOOD NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY



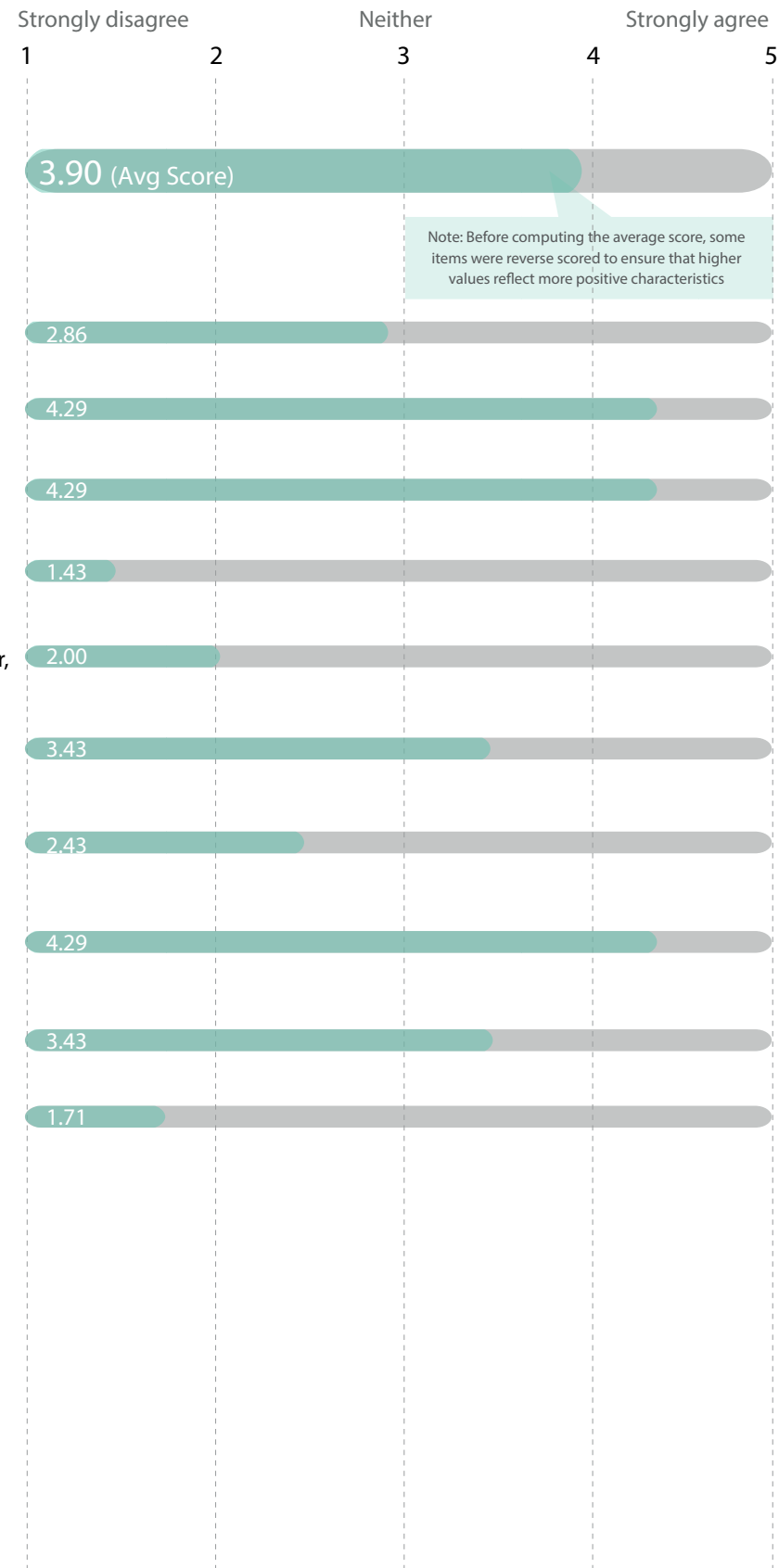
Neighborhood Quality



NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL CLIMATE



Neighborhood Social Climate



RESIDENTIAL SATISFACTION

1. "How satisfied are you with your pod as a place to live?"



VERY DISSATISFIED
0% (0)



NEITHER DISSATISFIED
OR SATISFIED
0% (0)



SATISFIED
14.3% (1)



VERY SATISFIED
85.7% (6)

2. "How satisfied are you with your neighborhood as a place to live?"



VERY DISSATISFIED
28.6% (2)



NEITHER DISSATISFIED
OR SATISFIED
28.6% (2)

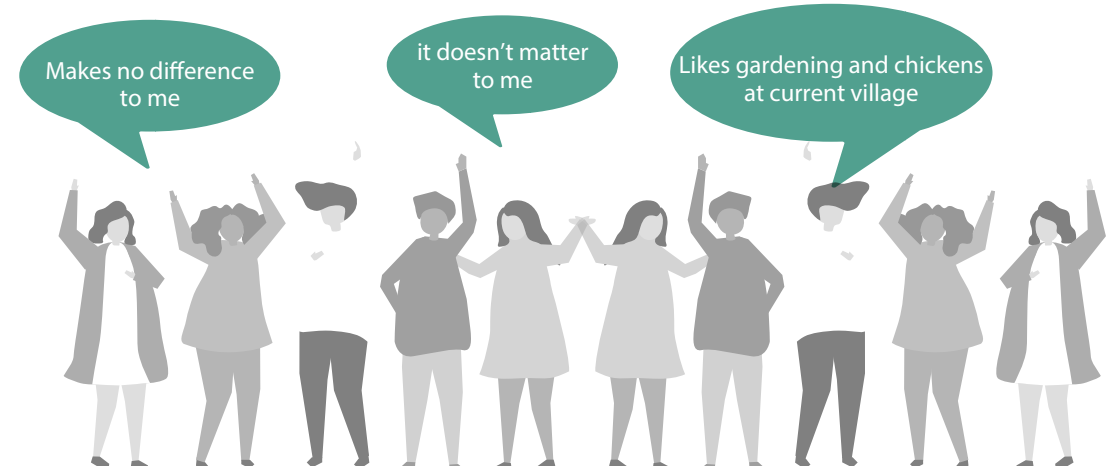
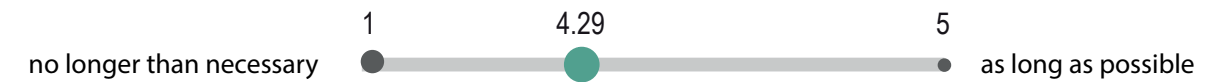


SATISFIED
28.6% (2)



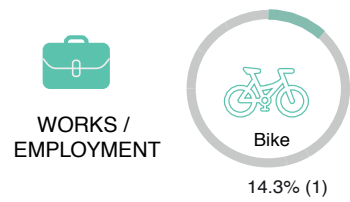
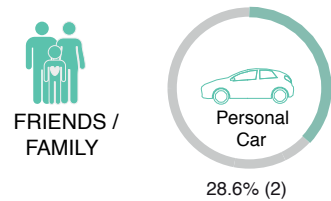
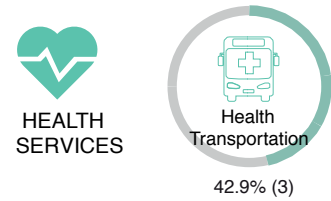
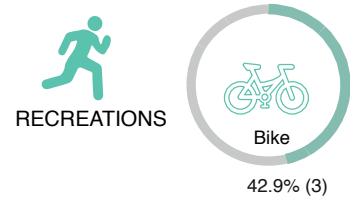
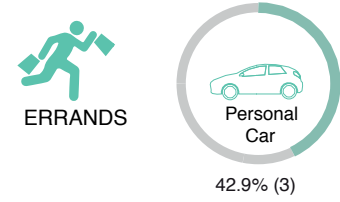
VERY SATISFIED
14.2% (1)

3. "How long do you want to live in the Village? And why?"



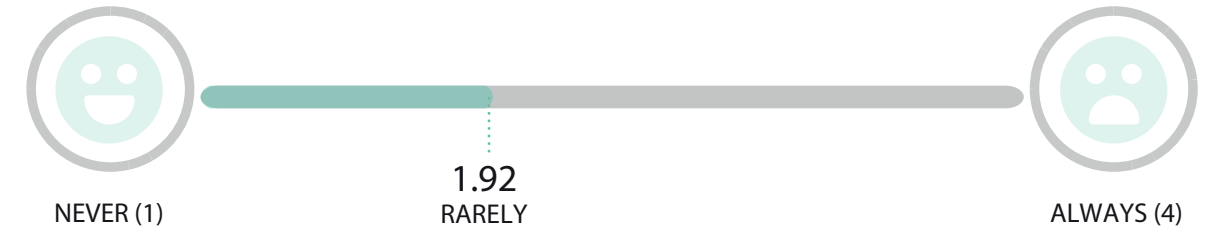
TRANSPORTATION

1. Most commonly used transportation methods in the past month.

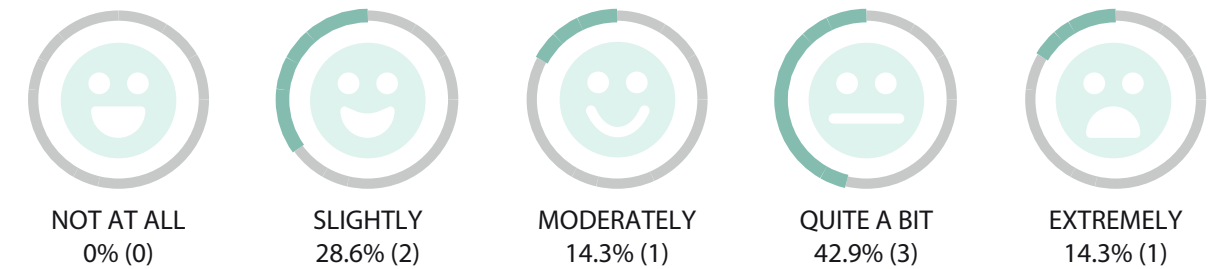


LIFE SATISFACTION AND STRESS

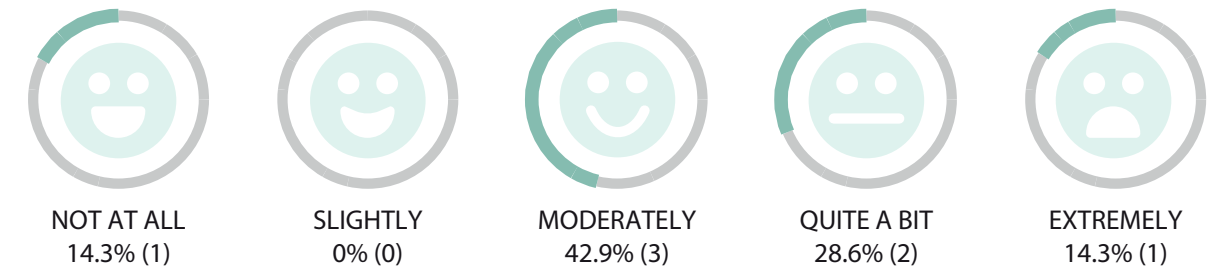
1. How often do you feel lonely on a scale of 1 (never) to 4 (always)?
On average residents said:



2. How much did your physical health interfere with daily activities in the last month?
The average response from residents on a scale of 1 to 5 was:



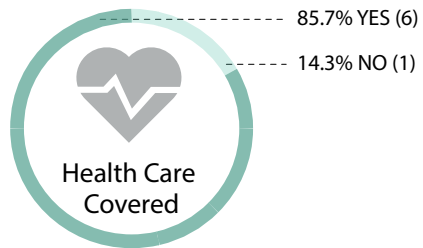
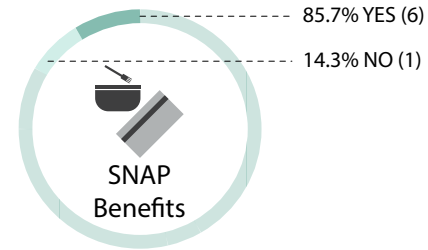
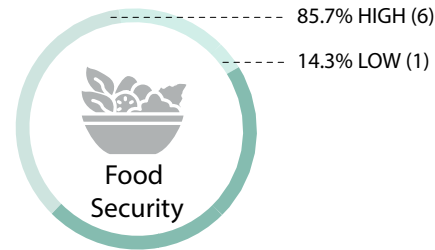
3. How much did your emotional health interfere with daily activities in the last month?
The average response from residents on a scale of 1 to 5 was:



4. How do you feel about your life overall right now?
The average response from residents on a scale of 1 (terrible) to 7 (delighted) was:



HEALTH AND BASIC NEEDS



Waiting on benefits through the VA. Frustrated because Previous provider had me come in several times and pay co pays and issues weren't addressed.

Asking for help is a barrier



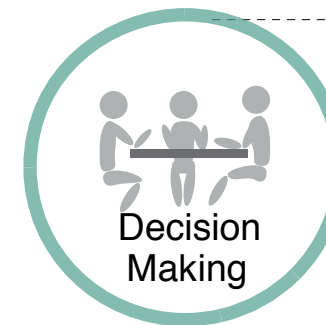
Governance and Decision Making

1. When the village has group meetings, what are the most important elements to help facilitate a productive meeting?

Elements ranked from most important to least important

(1= most important, 6= least important)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adequate space to meet indoors	1 (16.7%)	3 (50%)	1 (16.7%)	1 (16.7%)	-	-
Adequate space to meet outdoors	-	1 (16.7%)	3 (50%)	1 (16.7%)	1 (16.7%)	-
Outside (non-villager) facilitators	-	1 (16.7%)	-	4 (66.7%)	-	1 (16.7%)
Established rules for the meeting	4 (66.7%)	-	2 (33.3%)	-	-	-
Comfortable seating	1 (16.7%)	-	-	-	5 (83.3%)	-
Food/Drinks provided at meeting	-	1 (16.7%)	-	-	-	5 (83.3%)

2. How much decision-making power should village residents have?



Villager Experiences and Recommendations

It's not hard to live here, it's really not. It's actually a very nice place. It's a good place. If you're trying to recover or recuperate from something, it's an ideal place for that and they'll help you all they can.

And the good part is people cook something, they will share it with you. I try to get everybody together by grilling when it's outside.

I have a voice at the meetings, if I ever choose to use it. If I have a concern and I bring it up to one of the service providers, it's generally ... I generally won't say anything unless I feel like it's getting out of hand. Of course, by the time I feel it's been getting out of hand, they're already aware of it and have already taken appropriate measures to correct it. In that aspect, yeah, I have a voice and I'm free to exercise that, whether it be at the weekly meetings, or if I want to go when there's a service provider here and spend 15 or 20 minutes talking to them about it.

"It's kind of the experience of actually owning your own house individual-like, so you get a little bit of your dignity back—a lot of your dignity back. It makes you feel like you're part of something bigger than just worrying about yourself. You got other people that you get friendships with and you want to help because you know they've been through some stuff also, whether PTSD from military experience or what not."

More livable, that is inside accessibility to bathrooms, because there's 60 yards, that's too far. Some of these guys have bladder issues.

