



April 5, 2024

**Meeting Summary**

**Stakeholder Meeting #1 – Local Organizations**

**RE: Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Park and Trail Improvements**

Date: March 20, 2024

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Attendees: **City of Santa Rosa (City):**  
Emily Ander (EA), eander@srcity.org  
Kim Hatch (KH), khatch@srcity.org  
Jeff Tibbetts (JT), jtibbetts@srcity.org

**CAP Sonoma Head Start (CSHS):**  
Kathy Kane (KK), kkane@capsonoma.org  
Christina Dutton (CD), cdutton@capsonoma.org

**South Park Coalition (SPC):**  
Annette Arnold (AA), annette@sonic.net

**Callander Associates (CALA):**  
Nate Ritchie (NR), nritchier@callanderassociates.com  
Dave Rubin (DR), drubin@callanderassociates.com

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with representatives of local organizations to introduce the project and receive initial guidance. The items noted below were discussed during the meeting. The feedback received will be considered during the park and trail master plan design process.

**Item**

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1. SPC performs regular park clean up events (once per month in the park and once per quarter throughout the neighborhood).
2. Illegal dumping and graffiti are problems on the trail.
3. Dark areas of the trail invite criminal activity, especially between Rutledge and Grand Avenues.
4. The park should have more shade, cast by some type of overhead structure and not just trees.
5. There should be more lighting in the park to discourage illegal activity, especially at the south end.
  - a. The lighting direction should be controlled, so it doesn't shine into the neighboring properties.

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- b. CSHS wants more lighting to illuminate parent meetings at night. There are already lights on the buildings, but more is needed in the park and parking area.
6. Safety is a big concern. There has been vandalism to the Head Start buildings and broken windows in the past.
7. The unhoused situation has recently improved, but people have lingered in the park during the past around the buildings, especially in the picnic area on the north side of the park.
8. The Head Start program currently has 20 children, the Early Head Start program has 8 children, and there are 6 staff for both programs.
9. Parents sometimes take children to the park playground after school.
10. CSHS wouldn't be able to use the basketball court area because it's not enclosed.
11. CSHS is limited in what activities they can do in the park because enrolled children can only play in their licensed play yard.
  - a. The play yard associated with CSHS facility is configured in a specific way to comply with the licensing rules.
  - b. To be licensed, the play yard needs to be enclosed with fencing and the play structure needs to only be designed for children under 5 years old.
12. CSHS toddlers go for frequent walks through the park, and an accessible walking trail is desired.
  - a. The adjacent trail could potentially be used by CSHS if it was more nicely developed. It's a potential asset because it doesn't cross a street.
13. Parking is an issue and it would be beneficial to add more dedicated parking spaces.
  - a. Some people are forced to park farther away from the park on the street than desired.
  - b. People coming to the park don't have a good place to park and it's a concern of neighbors to have their parking taken by people outside the neighborhood.
14. Some events are held in the park that ask CSHS to use the concrete area surrounding the buildings and electrical power from inside the building. Ideally, those events would have separate park facilities.
  - a. Power is not offered to the public by the City as a general policy, so power outlets should not be provided in the park as part of the renovation.
15. SPC would like a space for events. The CSHS buildings don't hold enough people.
  - a. They would like to have meetings in a covered and paved location with a stage.

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- b. Typical gatherings include social events, potlucks with neighbors, coffee with cops, and celebrations.
16. CSHS could utilize a covered space during family Welcome Day events in September.
  17. If an amphitheater or stage is added, it shouldn't occupy too much park space because large events are relatively infrequent. Events occur ~ 1x per month.
    - a. A flexible paved area that could be utilized for other activities when events are not taking place would be ideal.
  18. Large events in the park include the South Park Day & Night Festival, Juneteenth events, and Summer in South Park.
    - a. Some of these events could have several hundred people.
    - b. The groups organizing these events bring tables and chairs and sometimes a canopy. They want to have a large open space to set up.
  19. The center walkway divides the park, so removing it might be worth considering during the design process.
  20. The play area and picnic area are hidden and could be more central.
    - a. If the play area was located closer to the soccer field, a parent could watch one child playing soccer while the other child uses the play area.
  21. The soccer field works well but needs more seating, either benches or bleachers.
    - a. When considering seating around the field, if it is fixed in place, it shouldn't prevent different size soccer field configurations and orientations.
    - b. Some community members are not in support of synthetic turf and would rather continue to have natural grass field.
  22. SPC understands from the local soccer club that a futsal court is desired.
  23. Dog walking is a popular activity, but the neighborhood hasn't expressed support for a dog park. There should be dog waste bag dispensers though.
  24. The basketball court is well used and it can be loud for the school buildings. If the court was relocated farther away from the school that might be better.
  25. The play area should have equipment with more exciting features (climbing, spinning, tactile experiences, slide, swings, etc.)
  26. A climbing wall and fitness equipment are other desirable park amenities.
  27. Annette provided some additional printed comments from community members and amenity images during the meeting that will be considered during the design process.
  28. The park and park amenities should be ADA accessible.

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29. The next step is for the City and design team to hold a community meeting to receive input from the greater community. After that, the design team will start on conceptual design alternatives for the park and trail. Then, another meeting will be held with the stakeholders to review the initial designs.

The information above is Callander Associates' understanding of items discussed during the meeting. Callander Associates is proceeding with the project based on this understanding.

Submitted by:

Nate Ritchie  
Callander Associates



April 5, 2024

## Meeting Summary

### Stakeholder Meeting #1 – Soccer Organizations

**RE: Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Park and Trail Improvements**

Date: March 20, 2024

Time: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Attendees: **City of Santa Rosa (City):**

Emily Ander (EA), eander@srcity.org

Kim Hatch (KH), khatch@srcity.org

Jeff Tibbetts (JT), jtibbetts@srcity.org

Scott Wilkinson (SW), swilkinson@srcity.org

**Soccer Groups:**

Adolfo Mendoza (AM), Atlético Santa Rosa Soccer Club,  
adolfo@mendoza@sbcglobal.net

Rochelle Cook (RC), Santa Rosa Youth Soccer League,  
rhvjohnson@yahoo.com

Kristoc Camacho (KC), South Park Football Club, kristocmusic@gmail.com

**Callander Associates (CALA):**

Nate Ritchie (NR), nritchie@callanderassociates.com

Dave Rubin (DR), drubin@callanderassociates.com

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with representatives of soccer user groups to introduce the project and receive initial guidance. The items noted below were discussed during the meeting. The feedback received will be considered during the park and trail master plan design process.

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1. The City is planning to upgrade fields at other park facilities in the future as part of separate projects, so MLK is not the only City facility that will be improved.
2. Atlético has been practicing and hosting soccer games but not playing games at MLK.
3. KC coaches about 50 kids at MLK park and most of them come from the neighborhood and don't require parking.
4. The soccer leagues use FIFA standards. The desired field dimensions are 75x110 yards for 11v11. A 9v9 field should be striped within the large field going the same direction. Two smaller 7v7 fields should be striped perpendicular to the larger field.
5. Striping colors should be white for the primary field, blue for the smaller field in the same direction as the larger field, and yellow for the smallest fields that are perpendicular to the large field.

**BURLINGAME**

1633 Bayshore Highway, Suite 133  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
650.375.1313

**GOLD RIVER**

12150 Tributary Point Drive, Suite 140  
Gold River, CA 95670  
916.985.4366

**SAN JOSE**

2025 Gateway Place, Suite 285  
San Jose, CA 95110  
408.275.0565

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6. In general, the number of people enrolled in the soccer leagues in Santa Rosa has declined over the last few years but demand is expected to increase with the 2026 World Cup.
7. The soccer leagues accommodate kids ages 6-19, but it's likely that MLK would host kids from 10-15 years old (middle age range) due to available parking and park size.
8. Lights and synthetic turf are desired because they increase the length of time each day and the number of days a year that the field can be used. Synthetic turf without lights is not ideal because it will still limit usability when the daylight hours are shorter.
  - a. Having lights on the soccer field may also help increase park safety.
9. Fencing is recommended to control field access if the surfacing is synthetic.
10. Good drainage is desired to allow year-round playability.
11. A separate futsal court is desired.
  - a. The best surface for a futsal court would be the same as tennis court surfacing.
  - b. The court shouldn't be fenced on all sides, just fenced at each goal line.
12. Other recommended park amenities to support the soccer field are a picnic area, restroom, space for equipment storage, spectator seating, shaded area, and secondary field area for agility and practice.
  - a. Use of the futsal court and secondary field should not be regulated, so that games can occur anytime the park is open.
13. A rebound wall would be helpful for soccer practice.
14. Installing security cameras may improve overall park safety.
15. A water bottle filling station and additional water fountains are desired. The current water fountain is inoperable.
16. The current restroom configuration causes safety concerns because people can hide inside and engage in undesirable activities.
17. The current field condition could be improved. This could be achieved by cutting the grass more often, aerating, and providing better irrigation during the dry season.
18. Other concerns at the park that impact soccer use include the unhoused, RV parking, lack of parking spaces, and dog use.
19. The next step is for the City and design team to hold a community meeting to receive input from the greater community. After that, the design team will start on conceptual design alternatives for the park and trail. Then, another meeting will be held with the stakeholders to review the initial designs.

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The information above is Callander Associates' understanding of items discussed during the meeting. Callander Associates is proceeding with the project based on this understanding.

Submitted by:

Nate Ritchie  
Callander Associates



July 10, 2024

### Public Outreach Round 1 Summary **Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Trail Master Plan**

Community Meeting: May 11, 2024, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Kawana Springs Elementary School  
Online Survey: May 11, 2024 – June 1, 2024

#### OVERVIEW

The first community meeting during the public outreach process for the Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Trail Master Plan project was held on May 11, 2024 in the Multipurpose Room at Kawana Springs Elementary School. The event began with a brief presentation and then attendees visited a series of stations where they could learn about specific aspects of the project and provide feedback. A project survey was offered in English and Spanish and in printed and online formats.

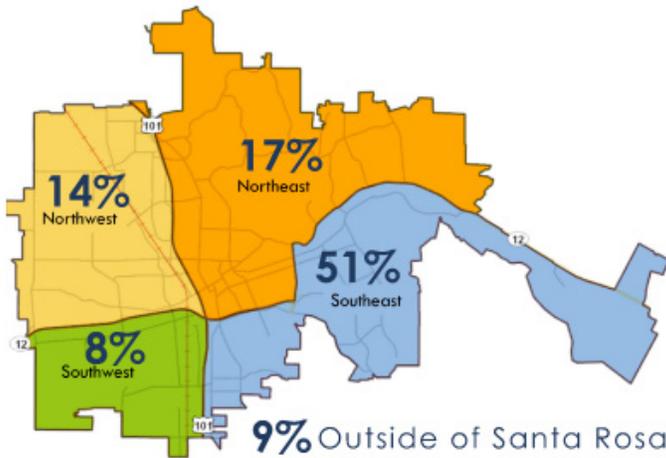
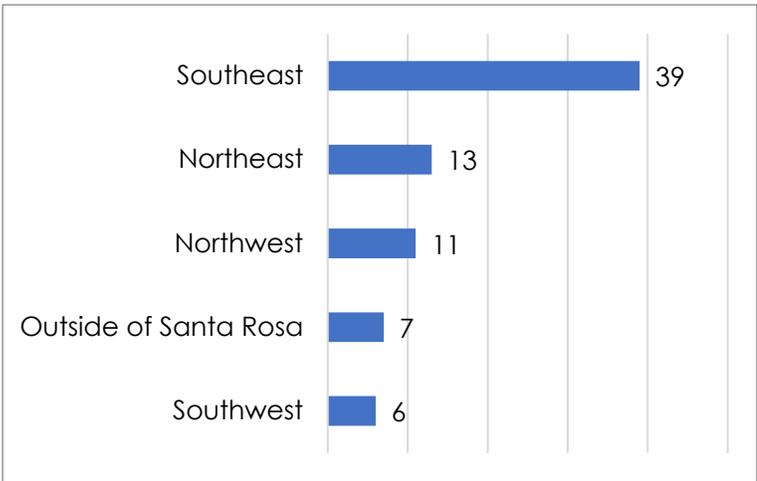
Thirty-one (31) people attended the community meeting based on the event sign-in sheet. Seventy-six (76) surveys were received, which included thirteen (13) paper surveys, sixty-two (62) online surveys in English and one (1) online survey in Spanish.

The data that was collected from the community is summarized below.

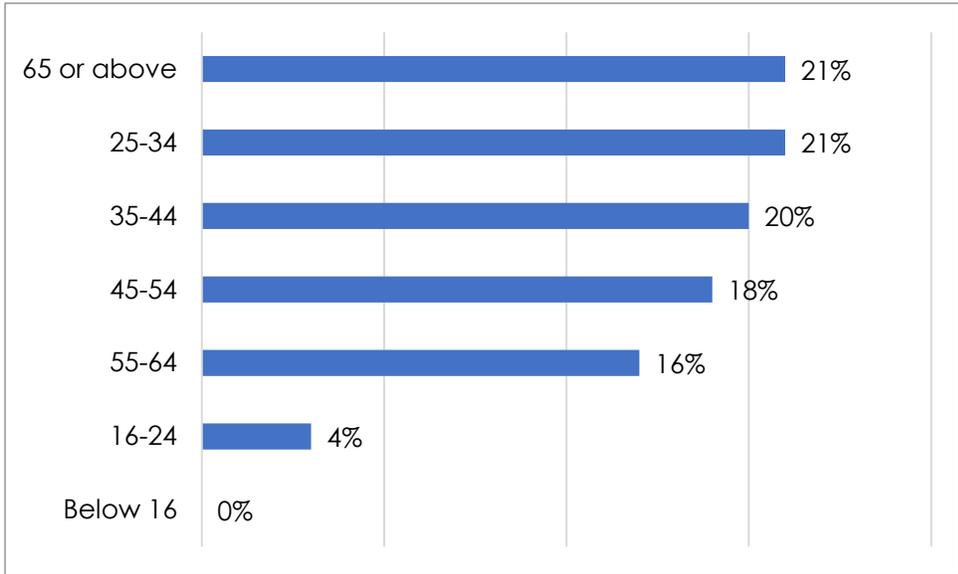
#### RESPONSES TO SURVEY CONTEXTUAL QUESTIONS

The following responses are for questions that were only asked on the survey.

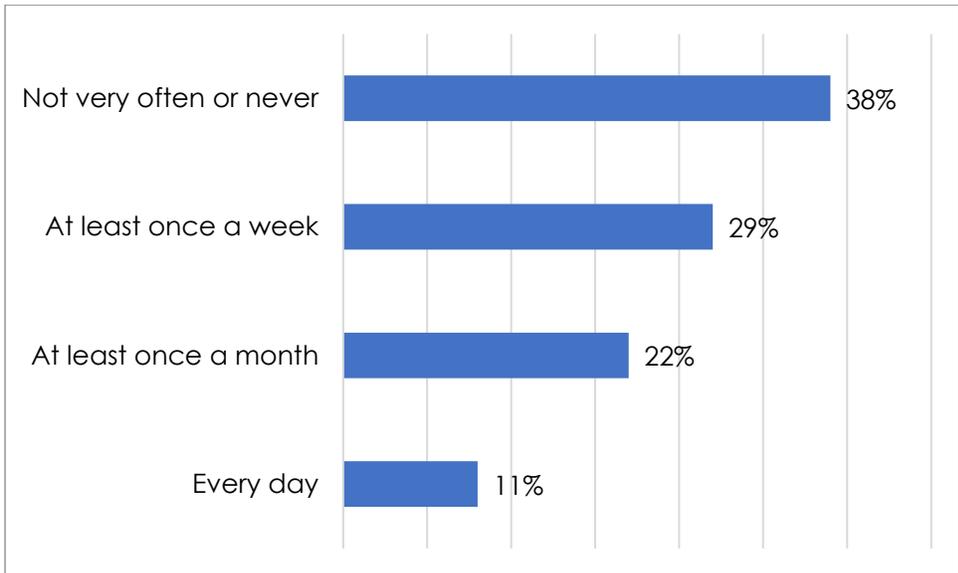
##### **Where in Santa Rosa do you currently live?** (76 Responses)



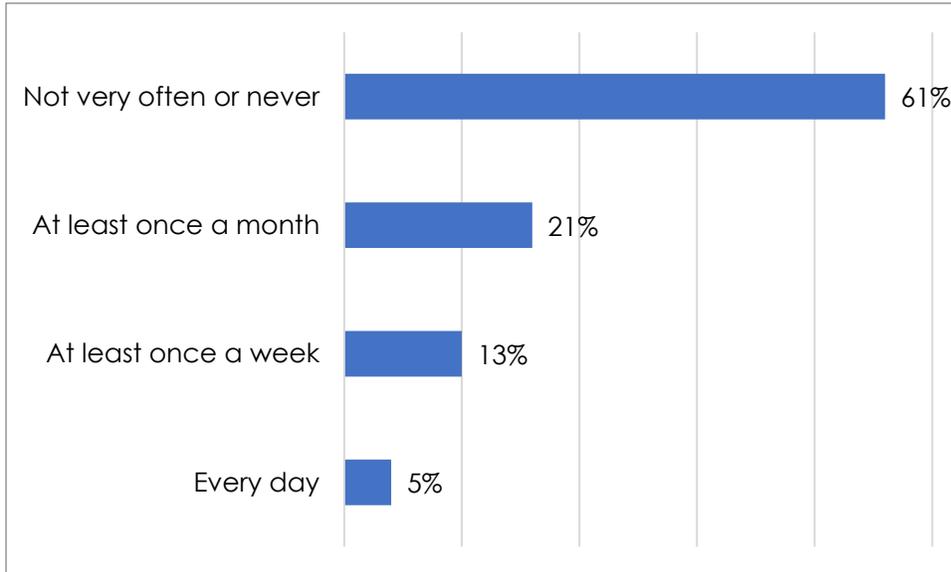
**Please select your age range.** (76 Responses)



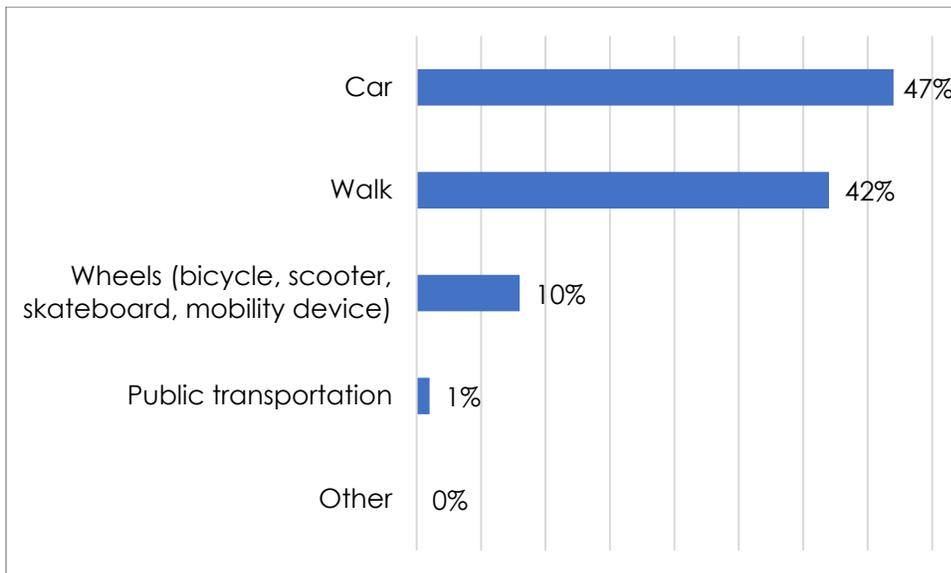
**How often do you use Martin Luther King Jr. Park?** (76 Responses)



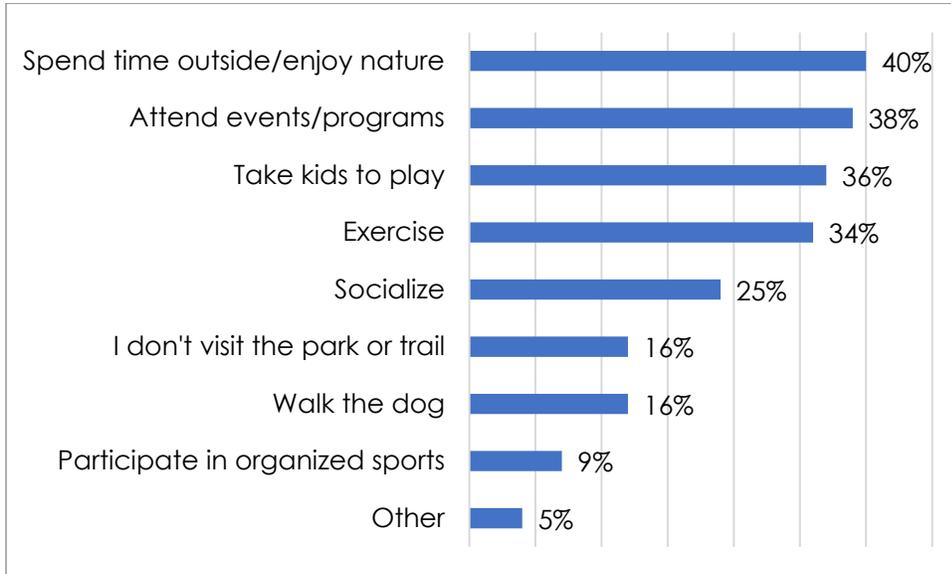
**How often do you use the trail that connects the park to Petaluma Hill Road?** (76 Responses)



**What form of transportation do you use to access the park most often?** (78 Responses)



**What are the primary reasons you visit the park and trail?** (choose all that apply)  
(76 Responses)



Other:

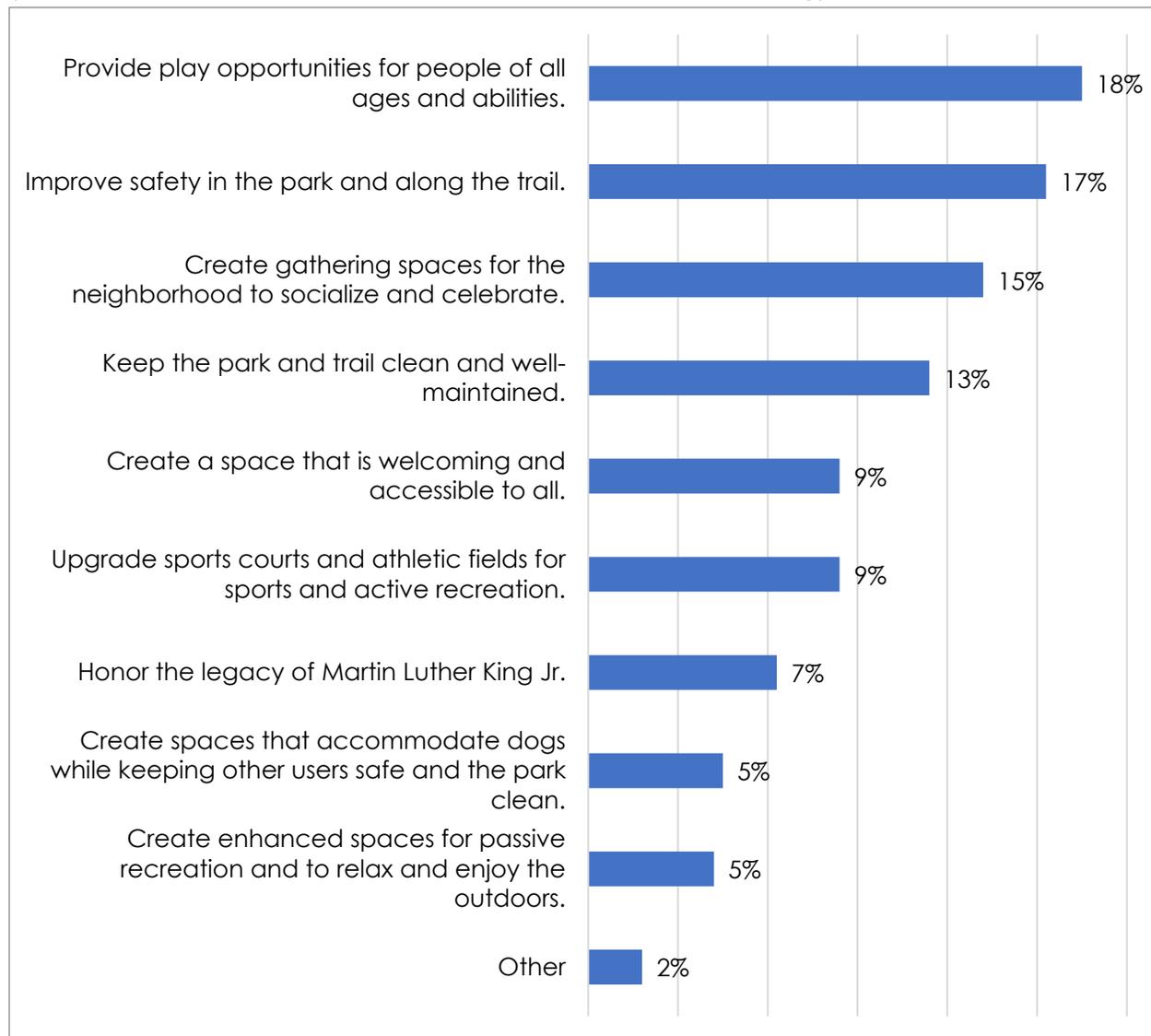
- It's the safest bike route from my home to the commercial spaces on Santa Rosa Ave
- Play soccer
- Parking
- Play organized futbol

## RESPONSES TO PROJECT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

The following responses are a combination of survey data and information collected during the community meeting through sticker votes and written comments.

### **What goals are most important to you for the future park and trail? (choose 3 goals)**

(299 Responses – From the online survey and community meeting)



#### Other Responses:

- No homeless camping
- Allow ample shading, parking and seating for park users
- Safety is a big concern with the amount of gangs that come vandalize the park and trail
- Parking
- Add more flowers and trees

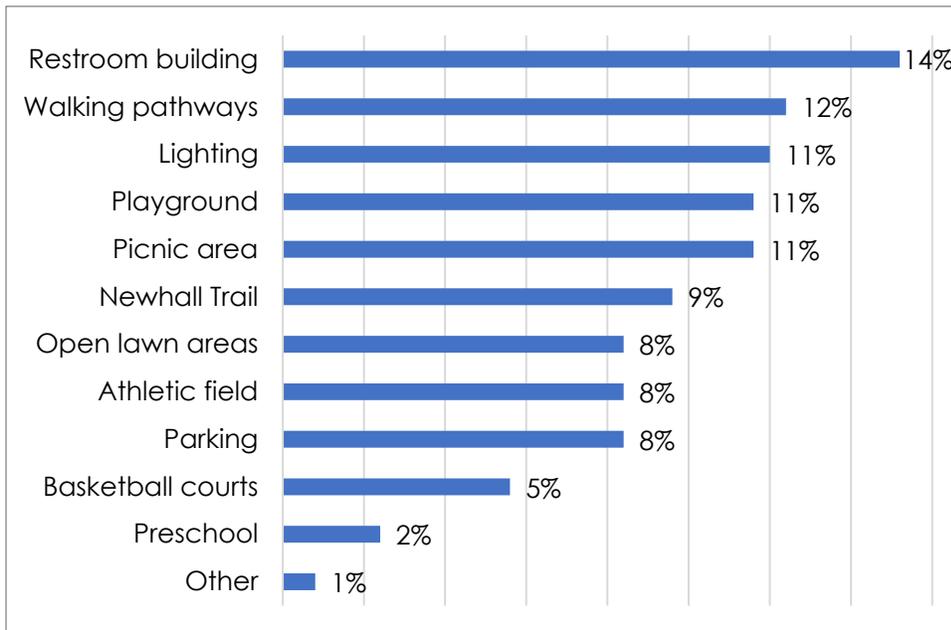
Community Meeting Comments:

- More trees
- More curb access for strollers and wheelchairs
- A playground that's age appropriate and not too futuristic, still two age groups, just upgraded
- Keep bike path separated from sidewalk
- More wildlife habitat – flowering bushes, rocks and native plants
- Coffey park has markers in the concrete walkway, showing distances for people trying to walk a mile (or km) for health reasons.
- Art/mural for courts
- Provide boys with attractive alternatives to joining gangs
- Basketball only
- Softball only
- Field sports
- MLK statue fountain
- Create an environment where kids are comfortable to be themselves

**What existing park amenities do you use the most or are most important to improve?**

*(choose all that apply)*

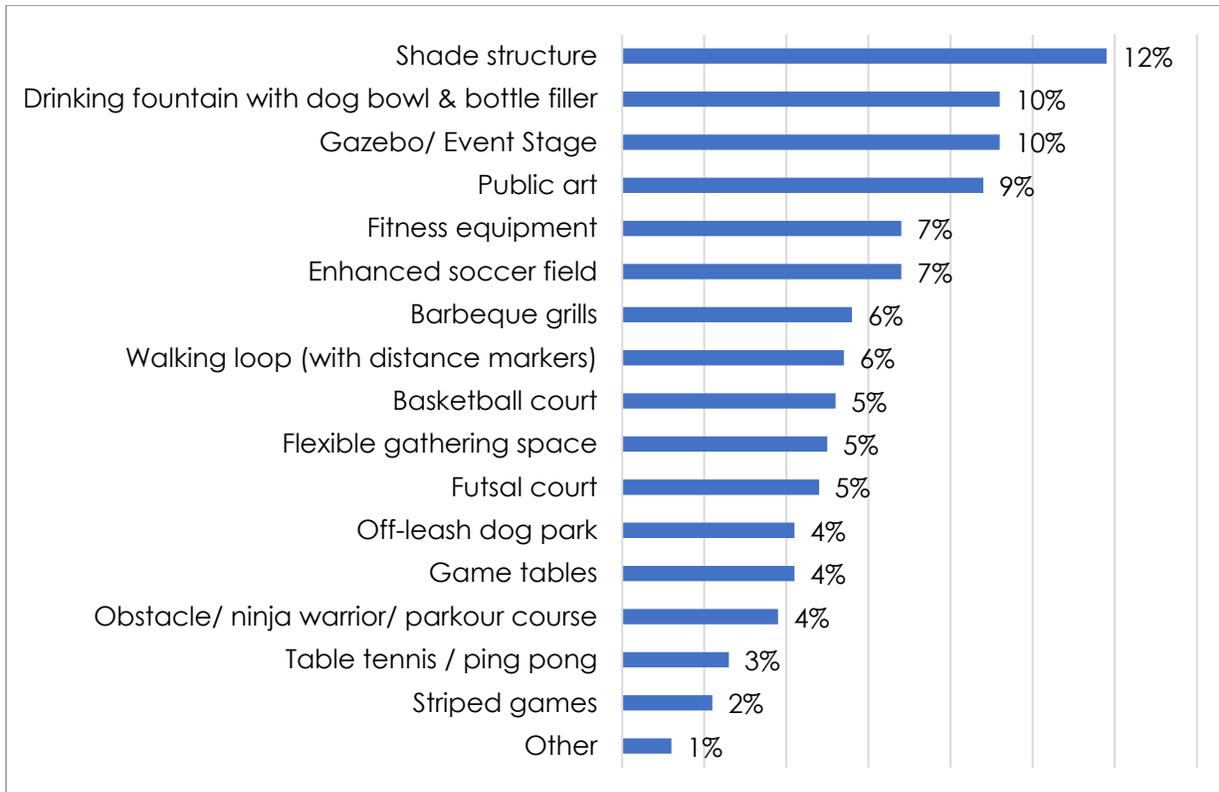
*(76 Responses – From the survey only and not the community meeting)*



Other Responses:

- All amenities should be accessible for people with disabilities and seniors
- It's important to improve accessibility by the basketball courts and at the main entrance on Temple and for Frazier to have a driveway slope to enter the park

**What new park amenities would you like to see added or improved?** (choose 5 amenities)  
 (484 Responses – From the online survey and community meeting)



Other Responses:

- Lots of shaded places to sit
- Tennis and pickleball
- Accessible playground
- Splash pad
- Parking
- Flower gardens

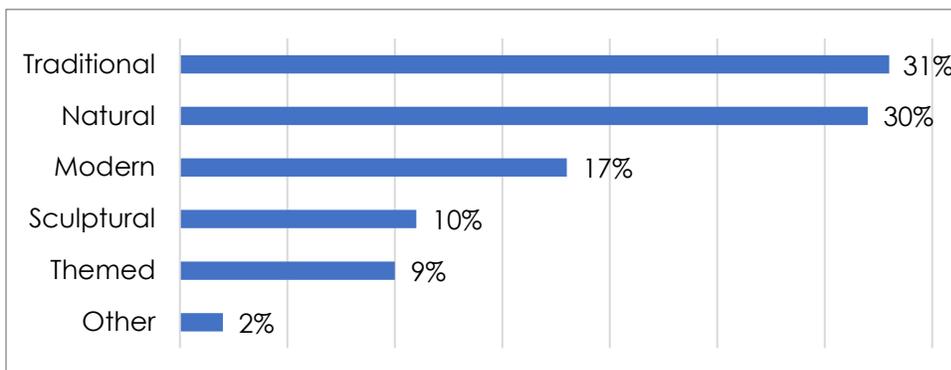
Community Meeting Comments:

- Dedicated small dog area (separate from large dogs)
- Dog park for big dogs and little dogs
- Plexiglass backboard for basketball
- Full basketball courts (expand and have two)
- Softball field
- Keep basketball court, BBQ, open space and original mural
- Keep existing mural
- Wheelchair access
- No more concrete for flexible gathering space (hot and unusable outside of events, mostly just for vendors)
- Community garden
- Kids splash pad
- Pool
- Art walls along trail

- Open field
- Park history interpretive panel
- South Park logo
- Lacrosse
- Tennis
- Track
- Open lawn
- Consignment stands
- More disabled parking
- A park sign on Hendley Street
- Upgrade the park sign, but don't change the name
- Hopscotch
- Trash cans along trails
- Shade over play area
- Don't take out trees, add more if possible
- Something for teens to do
- Don't let a synthetic turf soccer field take up park space during large events

**What playground style do you like most?**

(106 Responses – From the online survey and adults at the community meeting)



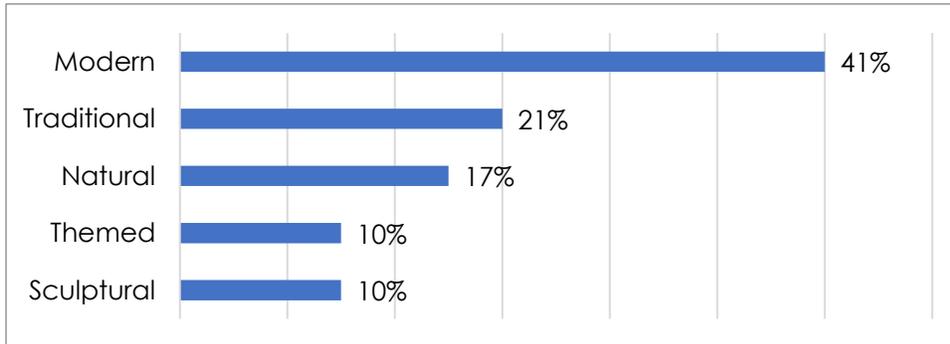
Other Responses:

- One that is accessible to all levels of mobility
- Accessibility for all



**What playground style do you like most?**

(29 Responses – From the kids table at the community meeting)



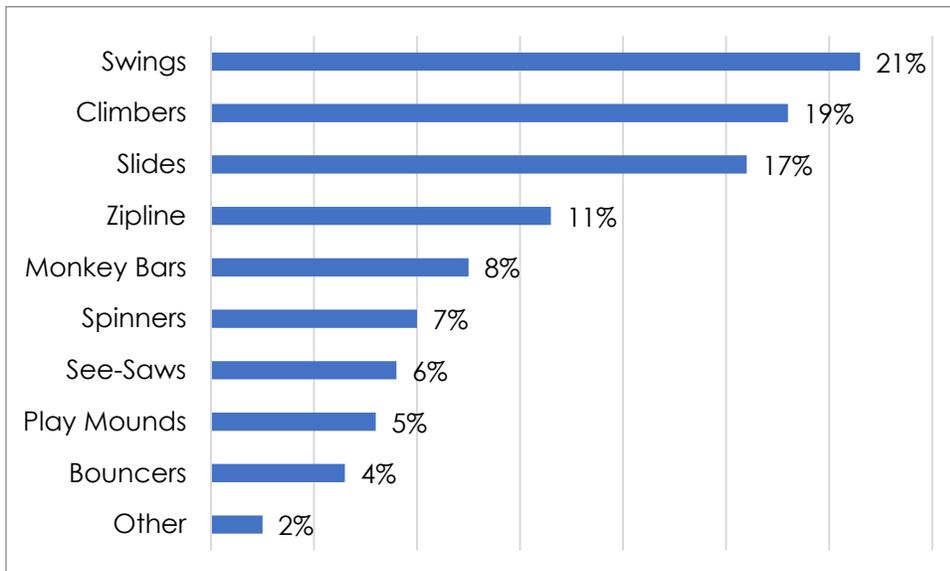
**For those that selected a 'themed' playground style, the following themes were suggested.**

- Nature (2 votes)
- Plants/animals
- Insects
- Family
- "I have a dream"
- The Coffee spot (after Rev. Dr. James Coffee)
- Playland
- Sonoma county history
- Agriculture

**What type of play equipment is most important to include in the playground?**

(choose 3 equipment types)

(301 Responses – From the online survey and adults/kids at the community meeting)



Other Responses:

- Play structures that are low enough to the ground that if children were to fall off the structure it would not be devastating

- The less moving parts the better, because teens will try to break it
- Something that can't be easily vandalized or destroyed
- Accessible for all
- Any structure that allows all capabilities

Community Meeting Comments:

- Pulley and bucket like Holly Park SF
- Sand-digging machine (excavator)

**What type of play equipment is most important to include in the playground?**

(choose 5 equipment types)

(Responses from adults/kids at the community meeting on more specific equipment types)

**Spinners**



	<b>Globe Spinner</b>	<b>Pole Spinner</b>	<b>Chill Spinner</b>	<b>Group Spinner</b>
<b>Meeting Station</b>	1 vote	0 votes	0 votes	5 votes
<b>Kids Table</b>	0 votes	3 votes	0 votes	1 vote
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 vote</b>	<b>3 votes</b>	<b>0 votes</b>	<b>6 votes</b>

**Swings**



	<b>Rope Swing</b>	<b>Belt Swing</b>	<b>Group Swing</b>	<b>Face to Face Swing</b>
<b>Meeting Station</b>	1 vote	4 votes	5 votes	0 votes
<b>Kids Table</b>	1 vote	1 vote	3 votes	1 vote
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 votes</b>	<b>5 votes</b>	<b>8 votes</b>	<b>1 vote</b>

**Climbers**



	Transition Climber	Net Climber	Rock Climber	Agility Climber
<b>Meeting Station</b>	2 votes	1 vote	6 votes	1 vote
<b>Kids Table</b>	1 vote	3 votes	7 votes	0 votes
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 votes</b>	<b>4 votes</b>	<b>13 votes</b>	<b>1 vote</b>

**Slides**



	Roller Slide	Traditional Slide	Tube Slide	Companion Slide	Spiral Slide
<b>Meeting Station</b>	2 votes	4 votes	1 vote	2 votes	0 votes
<b>Kids Table</b>	0 votes	2 votes	1 vote	1 vote	3 votes
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 votes</b>	<b>6 votes</b>	<b>2 votes</b>	<b>3 votes</b>	<b>3 votes</b>

**Bouncers**



	Double Rider	Bouncer Pad	Group Rider
<b>Meeting Station</b>	0 votes	2 votes	1 vote
<b>Kids Table</b>	0 votes	3 votes	1 vote
<b>Total</b>	<b>0 votes</b>	<b>5 votes</b>	<b>2 votes</b>

**See - Saw**



	<b>Group See-Saw</b>	<b>Traditional See-Saw</b>	<b>Standing See-Saw</b>
<b>Meeting Station</b>	5 votes	0 votes	1 vote
<b>Kids Table</b>	6 votes	0 votes	1 vote
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 votes</b>	<b>0 votes</b>	<b>2 votes</b>

**Monkey Bars**



**Play Mounds**



	<b>Rings</b>	<b>Ladder Bars</b>	<b>Rubberized Surface</b>	<b>Synthetic Turf</b>
<b>Meeting Station</b>	3 votes	1 vote	0 votes	3 votes
<b>Kids Table</b>	0 votes	3 votes	0 votes	1 vote
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 votes</b>	<b>4 votes</b>	<b>0 votes</b>	<b>4 votes</b>

**Zipline**



	<b>Rope Zipline</b>	<b>Spinning Zipline</b>	<b>Glide Swing</b>
<b>Meeting Station</b>	5 votes	3 votes	3 votes
<b>Kids Table</b>	3 votes	2 votes	1 vote
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 votes</b>	<b>5 votes</b>	<b>4 votes</b>



- Have the trail clean and put cameras for people throwing trash there. And getting abandoned cars out of the way. Too many cars in the neighborhood.
- Unless you can address the gangs/homeless/drug dealers & users, it won't be a good location for families/children. More parking and clean/usable restrooms that are open!
- Please give parents more seating around the playground and soccer fields. There is not really anywhere to sit except the picnic tables which are far from the play structure! Would love to see better entrances and sidewalks on Temple Ave closer to the playground. Parking on this side fills up and it is hard to get out of the car where the bushes are (closer to Frazier Ave)
- Generations have played soccer at this park. Let's honor that tradition and history and improve the field. Thank you.
- More lighting
- Flowers and blooming trees make a park more beautiful. Hanging flower baskets and shade trees would also enhance the park.
- Keep Homeless people away so that they don't sleep there or trash that place. My kids and I feel unsafe. As well as the trail. We have seen homeless people and drug addicts around the areas.
- More community events
- More updated playground but not too wild, driveway slopes where they need to be by the basketball courts and path that goes from Frazier and temple. Updated bathrooms, basketball courts, etc. And to maintain grass, garbage, etc. Are important in my opinion.
- All weather soccer field with lights, shade, and play ground. A park that is clean, easy to maintain, does not encourage car camping/RV parking. Bathrooms
- Keep the park clean.
- We could really use a park that even kids in wheel chairs could use. Also, a great park that encourages community and families to gather
- Nature area with native plants/trees and signage and benches for sitting
- Many families live in this area, as well as elders. Let's focus on making our spaces, safe accessible and fun for all!
- 2 words: clean and safe. After that it should be geared toward the locals. I play basketball there often and those courts get a lot of use, but soccer is the big deal.
- I would like to see the soccer field and softball field. It will allow girls athletes to practice. When South Park was originally formed, there was a softball field for women's sports.
- Honor local black history and history of South Park. Water feature that is kid friendly. Prioritize bathrooms. Wildlife habitat and landscaping along bike path to discourage people from dumping.
- Create a park that will be an alternative for kids and adults too because this generation is more attached to technology instead of nature. We love nature and it is good for our souls and health.
- Native plants and pollinator plants. Picnic areas in shaded parts. Garbage cans on trail.

- I'd like to see a skate park and futsal courts to inspire the youth to do more than just play in the playground.
- Plant more trees

## **SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS**

Based on the contextual survey questions, the survey results seem to be a good representation of local park users.

- 51% of survey respondents live in the Southeast quadrant of Santa Rosa (the same quadrant as the park), and the age of people that took the survey had an even distribution from 25 to over 65.
- 62% of survey respondents use the park at least once a month, and 40% use the trail that connects the park to Petaluma Hill Road.
- 53% of survey respondents travel to the park on foot, wheels, or by using public transportation, while only 47% use a vehicle.

Based on feedback received about the park specifically, common themes from the public outreach data include the following:

- Most people visit the park to spend time outdoors, attend events, exercise, and to use the playground.
- The community's most important goals for park improvements are to make the park usable by people of all ages and abilities, while improving safety. The park is an important asset for the neighborhood as a gathering space and for socializing, so spaces that support these activities are desired.
- Out of existing park amenities, the restroom is the most important to improve, along with connection paths (including the trail) and increased lighting levels. Out of the existing program elements, it appears that the playground and picnic area are slightly more important to improve over the athletic field and basketball courts.
- Out of the new park amenities that were presented through inspiration images, adding a shade structure or gazebo for community events was most important. A drinking fountain with a bottle filler and dog bowl is also highly desired because the current fountain is in disrepair. The community would like to see public art integrated into the design, and adding fitness equipment and enhancing the soccer field were also popular ideas.
- For the playground, when both the adults and kids' responses are considered, the most popular play equipment styles are Traditional, Natural, and Modern. The most popular equipment types when considering both the feedback from the survey and votes during the community meeting are Climbers, Swings, and a Zipline.

Common themes from the open-ended questions and comments during the community meeting reinforced the answers given to specific questions. There is generally an overall desire to clean-up the park and trail and to increase safety by adding more lighting. The restroom, athletic field, playground, and basketball courts are the most important existing amenities to improve upon. Providing shade/shelter and event space for neighborhood use are the most desired enhancements.



September 10, 2024

## Meeting Summary

### Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Local Organizations

**RE: Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Park and Trail Improvements**

Date: August 7, 2024

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Attendees: **City of Santa Rosa (City):**

Emily Ander (EA), eander@srcity.org

Kim Hatch (KH), khatch@srcity.org

Jeff Tibbetts (JT), jtibbetts@srcity.org

**CAP Sonoma Head Start (CSHS):**

Christina Dutton (CD), cdutton@capsonoma.org

Gemma Villasenor (GV), gvillasenor@capsonoma.org

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP):**

Gail Seymour, gyseymour@gmail.com

Yessenia Resendiz Torres, resendiz.yessenia@gmail.com

**South Park Coalition (SPC):**

Annette Arnold (AA), annette@sonic.net

**Callander Associates (CALA):**

Nate Ritchie (NR), nritch@callanderassociates.com

Dave Rubin (DR), drubin@callanderassociates.com

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with representatives of local organizations to show the three design alternatives and receive guidance. The items noted below were discussed during the meeting. The feedback received will be considered during the park and trail master plan design process.

### Item

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1. A large majority of park users are soccer players based on local observations, so maybe this user group was underrepresented in the survey since Enhanced Soccer Field was not more popular in the survey results.
2. At the preschool, the parents likely won't use the parking lot drop off. A parent typically parks and then brings their child into the classroom.
  - a. For Alternative 1, more parking and less drop off space may be more ideal.
  - b. Currently, there are 28 students in the preschool and eventually another 8 are expected.

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**SAN JOSE**

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## Meeting Summary

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**RE: Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Trail Improvements**

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- c. Currently, parents park along Temple when dropping off their children.
3. Dedicated preschool space around the preschool buildings should be organized to relate better to the building doors and circulation patterns, so parents don't need to pass through multiple gates when dropping off a child.
  - a. In Alternative 1, having the play yard on the south side of the buildings is not ideal. The play yard should be on the north side of the buildings.
  - b. In Alternative 3, having the play yard on the east side of the buildings could work, but the students would exit directly from the building, so there would need to be a fence and gate between the building and play yard.
  - c. In Alternative 2, the expanded size of the play yard on the north side of the building is beneficial because it will allow better use of that space. Also, there is a restroom inside the building that can be accessed while children are using the play yard when the play yard is on the north side.
  - d. As the concept design is refined, further coordination should occur with CAP Sanoma regarding the layout of dedicated space around the preschool buildings and desired size.
4. The trees should be large enough to provide shade.
5. In general, more shade is desired than what is shown in the Alternatives.
  - a. Protect as many existing mature trees as possible to provide more shade.
  - b. The playgrounds should have shade incorporated.
6. Consider providing a cooling center to serve the neighborhood during extreme heat events in a location with plenty of shade. The cooling could come from fans or water mist, possibly utilizing solar power.
  - a. Alternatively, a heating center would be desirable during the winter.
7. It is particularly important to add lights to the south end of the park, since that's where undesirable activity at night occurs more frequently.
  - a. The lighting levels throughout the park should be enough to provide good visibility all night.
8. Consider adding public art or an interpretive feature to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr., similar to the interpretive elements at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia.
9. The current park has six basketball hoops (half courts are overlaid on the full court). Consider providing an equivalent amount of court space as part of the park improvements.

## Meeting Summary

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10. The basketball court should be located next to the community gathering area in Alternative 2, since the futsal court will be fenced and the basketball court could be used during events to accommodate food trucks.
11. Currently the park has 14 tables, and at least the same number should be provided within the new community gathering area.
12. In Alternative 2, ideally the open lawn and community gathering area are switched so the gathering area is on the east side of the lawn, so if people congregate during school hours there will be less noise for the preschool.
  - a. The basketball court is also currently a noisy park use that would ideally be located farther from the preschool buildings.
13. On Alternative 3, one concern is the size of the dog park and how much park space it occupies.
14. Having the playground in close proximity to the athletic field is ideal because it allows parents to watch kids that are playing soccer and also on the playground at the same time.
15. Preschool students could potentially use the naturalized planting area in Alternative 3 if it had an educational component.
16. In Alternative 3, the community gathering area and basketball courts would ideally be located farther away from the preschool buildings.
17. In Alternative 3, the play area shouldn't surround the shade structure because it limits the space available around the structure for large events.
18. In Alternative 3, don't provide seating opportunities in the green space on the north side of the building to discourage people from congregating there during school hours and possibly disrupting school activities.
  - a. The green space along the northern park edge should be kept open to discourage tents and homeless encampments.
19. The fence material on the trail should not have a solid surface to discourage graffiti, or it should be easily painted over.
20. Homes that are adjacent to the trail may want to have gates that open onto the trail.
21. The existing art mural with children's handprints near Petaluma Hill Road has not been damaged by graffiti. If there are areas on the trail that are susceptible to graffiti, consider installing a similar mural with children's input.
22. Directional signage on the trail with nearby destinations might be helpful to inform users where the trail leads.
23. Exercise stations along the trail could encourage use, but are not ideal because space is limited and police vehicular access is desired.

**Meeting Summary**

Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Local Organizations

**RE: Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Trail Improvements**

September 10, 2024

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The above information is Callander Associates' understanding of items discussed during the meeting. Callander Associates is proceeding with the project based on this understanding. The comments received will be considered as the project moves forward.

Submitted by:

Nate Ritchie  
Callander Associates



September 9, 2024

## Meeting Summary

### Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Soccer Organizations

**RE: Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Park and Trail Improvements**

Date: August 7, 2024

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Attendees: **City of Santa Rosa (City):**

Emily Ander (EA), eander@srcity.org

Kim Hatch (KH), khatch@srcity.org

**Soccer Groups:**

Adolfo Mendoza (AM), Atlético Santa Rosa Soccer Club,  
adolfo@mendoza@sbcglobal.net

John Quinn (JQ), Santa Rosa Youth Soccer League,  
john\_m\_quinn@hotmail.com

Adam Brand (AB), Santa Rosa United, president@srunity.com

Jose Espinoza (JE), Tahuichi Futbol Club, futbol@fctahuichi.com

**Callander Associates (CALA):**

Nate Ritchie (NR), nritchier@callanderassociates.com

Dave Rubin (DR), drubin@callanderassociates.com

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with representatives of soccer user groups to show the three design alternatives and receive guidance. The items noted below were discussed during the meeting. The feedback received will be considered during the park and trail master plan design process.

### Item

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1. The field size shown (75 x 110 yards) is acceptable for the Santa Rosa Youth Soccer League.
2. Walking paths on the east and west side of the field should have bench seating or bleachers for soccer spectators.
3. The space behind the goal on Alternative 2 is useful because it can be used as warm-up space for players prior to a game and could allow for games to be played back-to-back.
4. Futsal is a desirable use and should have a dedicated court.
  - a. If futsal is combined with basketball in a multi-use court, there might be conflicts between user groups if people from each sport want to play at the same time.

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## Meeting Summary

Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Sports Organizations

**RE: Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Trail Improvements**

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5. There aren't enough facilities in the City to accommodate soccer during winter months, so if the park has lights and synthetic turf, its primary focus should be on sports rather than community gathering.
  - a. With lighting and synthetic turf, the soccer field would likely see heavy use in the winter when other City facilities are less usable because of days being shorter and increased rain.
6. The soccer field can serve users of multi-generations and all abilities. There can be games organized for both youth and adult players and for people with different skill levels and abilities.
7. Alternative 2 is generally preferred by the soccer stakeholders, because there is more space dedicated to the soccer field and has separated basketball and futsal courts.
  - a. Having the playgrounds next to the fields is an advantage to both uses since parents with kids that play soccer often have younger children that use the playground during games.
8. If reverse angled parking could be accommodated on Alternative 2, it would better support the field and reduce the parking impact to the neighborhood.
9. The futsal court should have a low fence to contain balls. A high fence would interfere with spectators. A good example is Alicia Park in Rohnert Park.
  - a. Benches on both sides of the futsal court, or a dedicated space to setup chairs outside of a walkway, should be enough to accommodate spectators. Bleachers are probably not needed.
10. In Alternative 2, if the futsal court is fenced, the basketball and futsal court should change locations, so the basketball court is adjacent to the community gathering area and can become an extension of the community gathering area during events.
  - a. The basketball court could be used by food trucks, and should have vehicular access from the street via the northeastern corner of the park.
  - b. Consider moving the fitness court between the basketball and futsal court to provide more space between those uses.
11. Lighting will be considered at the futsal and basketball courts as the design continues to develop.
12. In Alternative 3, having the futsal court near the soccer field is a good relationship that could allow players to use the futsal court for warmup space before games.
13. There should be more buffer space along the northern park edge in Alternatives 2 and 3 to provide greater separation between the adjacent homes and the dog park and sports courts, since those uses could be noisy.

## Meeting Summary

Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Sports Organizations

**RE: Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Trail Improvements**

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- a. In Alternative 3 the dog park could be switched with the open lawn and the Community gathering plaza reoriented to the north to provide more buffer between the dog park and adjacent homes.
- b. The parking lot provides a good buffer from the adjacent homes in Alternative 1.
14. If the field is synthetic turf, the park would ideally have space to store field grooming equipment, a Gator, and extra materials for turf repair.
  - a. The site requirements for this might be (3) 24' long storage containers based on another park site.
  - b. Ideally, the grooming equipment and Gator are housed on-site, so they don't need to be brought from off-site, since grooming typically occurs on a frequent basis.
  - c. However, because the park site is small, it may be more feasible to store maintenance equipment off site.
  - d. If the City contracts out maintenance to a 3rd party, the maintenance contractor might provide the grooming equipment if desired.
15. A downside to Alternative 1 is that the parking lot reduces the amount of park space and may not resolve all parking needs because of its small size.
16. The soccer field should be fenced in to discourage vandalism and unauthorized use.
17. Trees near synthetic turf could cause more maintenance with litter dropping on the field, so distance is encouraged.
18. Bus stops should be added nearby to help with transportation for park users.
  - a. In Alternative 1, public transportation could have a stop at the parking lot drop off.
19. The Sonoma County Fairgrounds may be a good location for overflow parking.
20. Hydration stations dispersed throughout the park would be good for use by soccer players.
21. Fencing around a synthetic turf field is commonly four-foot-tall chain link on the sides with higher fencing behind the goals to control balls.
  - a. Fence gates should be kept closed to block vehicular access to the field and limit use by dogs.
  - b. The Petaluma Community Sports Fields complex is a good example of soccer field perimeter fencing.
22. Ideally, the dog park would reduce the use of the soccer field by dog owners, but since the soccer field is so much bigger, realistically it will likely still attract dogs.
23. Having the restroom centrally located may discourage undesired use by non-park users.

**Meeting Summary**

Stakeholder Meeting #2 – Sports Organizations

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The information above is Callander Associates' understanding of items discussed during the meeting. Callander Associates is proceeding with the project based on this understanding. The comments received will be considered as the project moves forward.

Submitted by:

Nate Ritchie  
Callander Associates



November 4, 2024

## Public Outreach Round 2 Summary **Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Trail Master Plan**

Community Meeting: August 24, 2024, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Lighthouse Christian Church (920 Bennett Valley Road)

Vince Harper's South Park Day and Night Festival: September 14, 2024,  
Martin Luther King Jr. Park

Online Survey Period: August 24, 2024 – September 23, 2024

### **OVERVIEW**

The second community meeting during the public outreach process for the Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Trail Master Plan project was held on August 24, 2024 in Lighthouse Christian Church (920 Bennett Valley Road). The event began with a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session, and then attendees visited a series of stations where they could learn about specific aspects of the project and provide feedback. Station 1 provided project background information and a timeline for the overall public engagement process. Station 2 offered a summary of community feedback from the previous round of public outreach. Station 3 displayed three design alternatives for the park, a design concept for the trail, and character images for proposed amenities.

Participants provided feedback during the meeting via written comments, sticker voting, and a survey questionnaire. The survey was offered in English and Spanish and in printed and online formats. The online survey remained open for four weeks after the meeting, so the broader community could provide their input. Some paper surveys were received after the community meeting as well. Additional feedback was collected during the 15th Annual Vince Harper's South Park Day and Night Festival.

Twenty-one (21) people attended the community meeting based on the event sign-in sheet. Forty (40) surveys were received, which included nine (9) paper surveys, thirty-one (31) online surveys in English.

The data that was collected from the community is summarized below.

### **RESPONSES TO SURVEY CONTEXTUAL QUESTIONS**

The following responses are for questions that were only asked on the survey.

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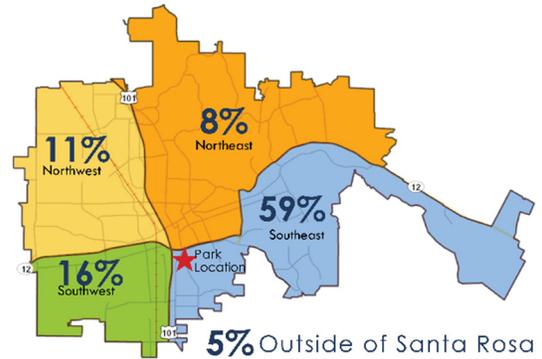
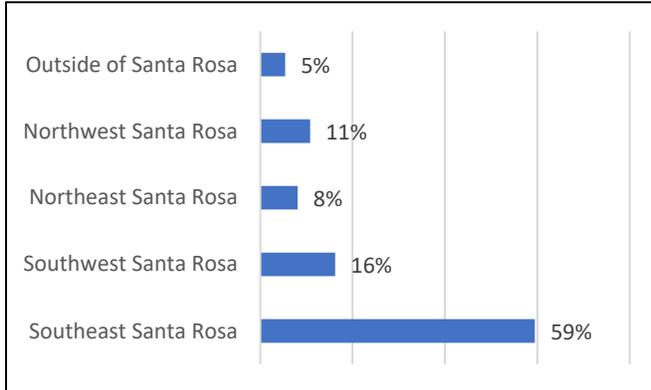
#### **RENO**

275 Hill St,  
Suite 260  
Reno, NV 89501  
775.787.2828

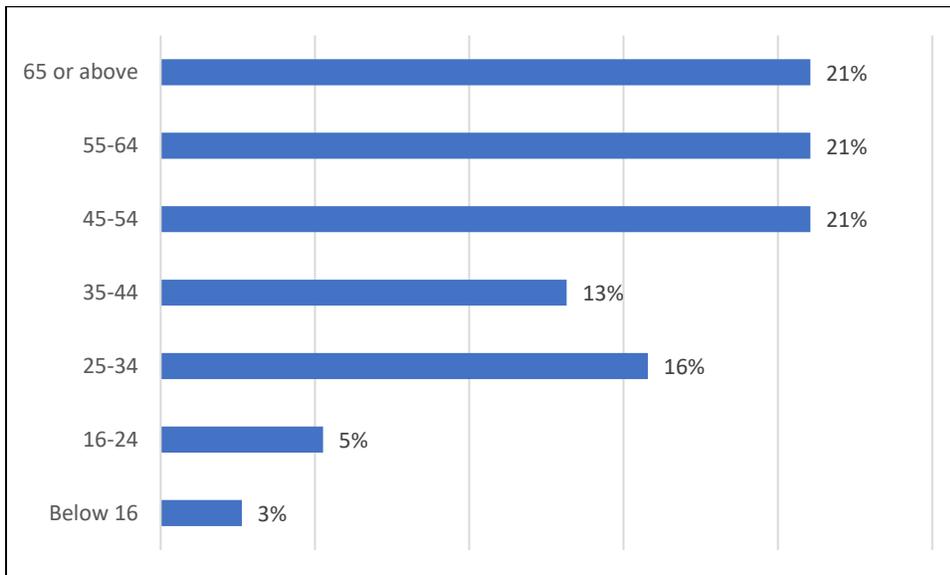
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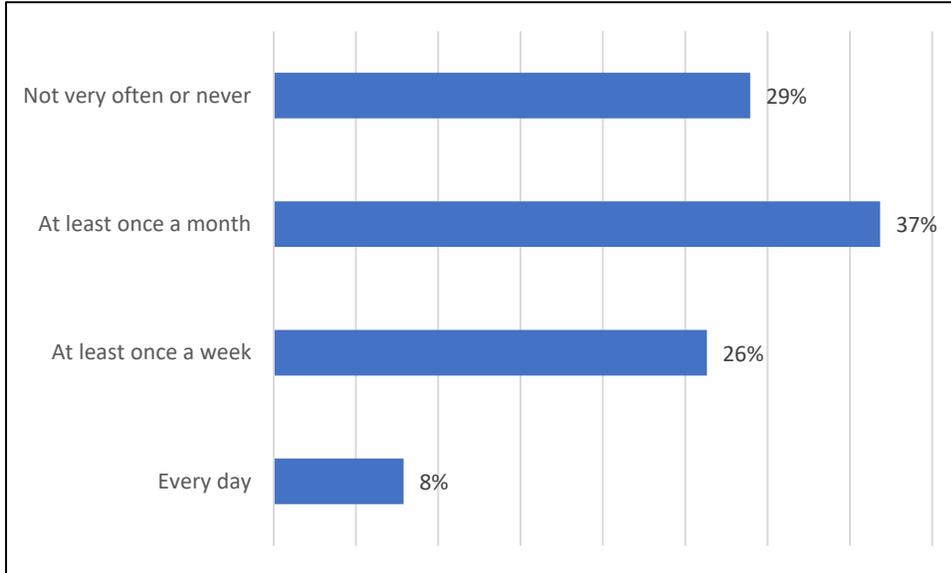
**Where in Santa Rosa do you currently live?** (37 Responses)



**Please select your age range.** (38 Responses)

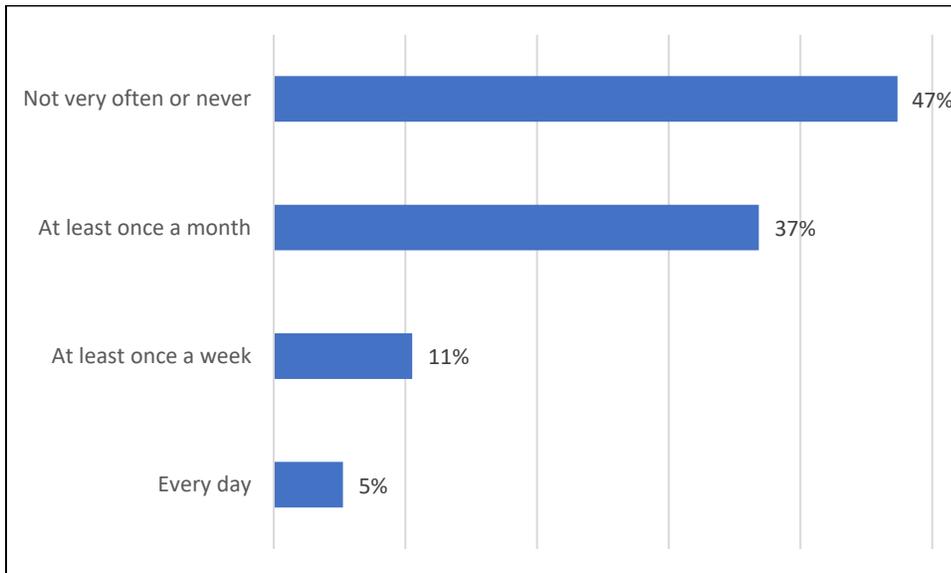


**How often do you use Martin Luther King Jr. Park? (38 Responses)**



71% of respondents use the park at least once a month

**How often do you use the trail that connects the park to Petaluma Hill Road? (38 Responses)**



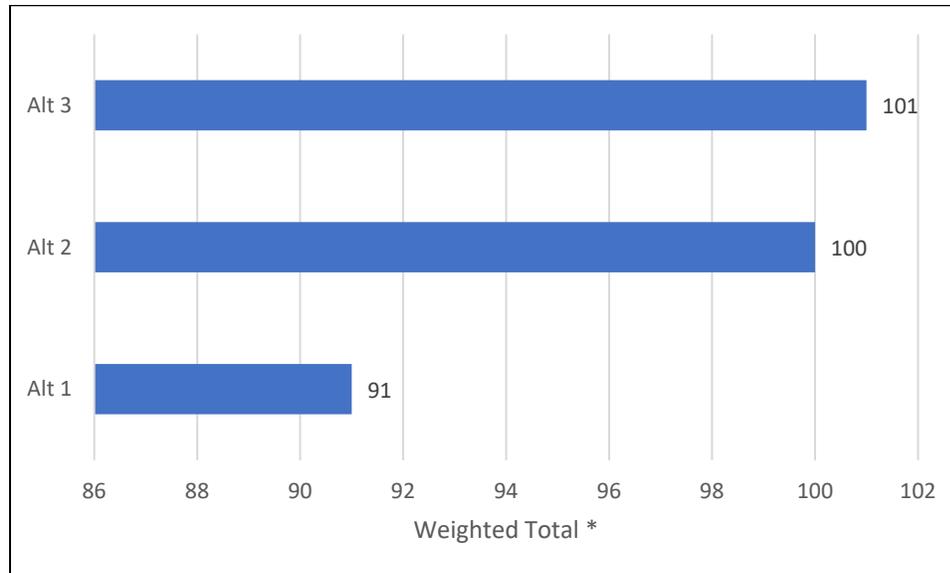
53% of respondents use the trail at least once a month

## RESPONSES TO PROJECT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

The following responses are a combination of survey data and information collected during the community meeting through sticker votes and written comments.

**Please rank the design alternatives in order of preference from 1-3, with 1 = highest ranking and 3 = lowest ranking.** (refer to attachments at the end of this document to see the plans)

(51 Responses – From the online survey, the community meeting, and Day & Night Festival)



Alternative 3 was the top ranked concept.  
Alternative 2 was the middle ranked concept.  
Alternative 1 was the lowest ranked concept.

\* This chart displays a weighted total, calculated by assigning points to each vote based on ranking. Rank 1 is assigned 3 points as the highest preference, while Rank 3 is assigned 1 point as the lowest. Each vote is multiplied by its corresponding point value, and all points are then summed to produce the final totals.

### Additional Community Meeting Comments:

#### Design Alternative 1:

- Prefer natural turf, astroturf melts and is dangerous
- Parking lot in park is potentially dangerous, like (alternative) #3 (for the) reverse angle parking
- I don't recommend a turnaround. I think it takes too much (space) and not needed in a small area.
- This design is my number one choice, because it seems to be an update to the existing (park), but I don't agree with trees being removed, (retain) as much as possible.
- Soccer field
- Layout
- Parking
- Prefer bike lane

#### Design Alternative 2:

- Consider switching the central shade structure with lawn

- Prefer planting buffer

Design Alternative 3:

- Instead of (creating) too much concentrated dog waste (and there are many dogs), people should walk their dogs
- The parking makes the street smaller
- Neighborhood events
- Not many (people) use the basketball court

General Comments:

- Don't expand the pre-school area at expense of park area
- Not fond of dog park
- Shade is needed
- Keep fence at futsal away from edge of playing area
- Remove hang out overnight
- Plans should include cameras on poles/police monitoring systems.
- Locate restroom a little further away from picnic area due to bad smell
- Restroom design is needed, consider number of stalls
- Memorial plaque (northwest side of redwoods), has been removed adjacent to a memorial tree, would like it replaced
- Two basketball courts are necessary
- There are not any tennis or pickleball courts in the park currently
- If parking lot is provided, then gate it at night time
- Prefer park activities versus parking lot
- Don't reduce the width of Hendley Street
- Ensure that under 16 kids are represented by reaching out to schools
- Like the idea of bikes coming off Hendley Street into the park
- Coordinate with the preschool/head start program
- Provide electricity for events through lockable outlets
- Explore solar power for lighting and irrigation. Could be located on shade structures.

Comments During Question-and-Answer Period:

- Provide shade in the playground
- Get the balance of amenities right to address seniors as well as sports
- Some concerns about synthetic turf, there are health issues with using it
- Definitely leave the soccer field in any improvements
- Sports groups can use the field anytime if it becomes synthetic turf, which could gain more use
- If you have to remove trees, replace them
- Address uneven pavement and address ADA issues
- Consider permeable pavement for trail

- Definitely include shade throughout the park
- Provide high quality art, especially if it's a mural

***What do you like most about your top ranked alternative?***

(34 Responses – From the survey only and not the community meeting)

Alternative 1:

- Seasonal use
- Preserve the redwoods and shaded green areas for picnic (area), drum circles, gatherings. More gardens! I don't want to see the basketball court from Hendley St.
- It seems to have the biggest community gathering area. Also looks like it has more trees, and space under trees.
- The parking lot/drop off zone is very inviting. Also, (I like) the large shade structure, and the two lines of picnic tables under the trees.
- Everything flows better and the designated parking looks efficient
- I like Central Green (alternative) as number one because it is a multifunctional space where people can gather for picnics, outdoor events, sports activities, or enjoy nature. It acts as an open area that can accommodate various uses without being overly structured.
- Parking, I wonder if this may help folks access the park as street parking (space) varies
- I like the central green plan alternative. It incorporates most elements needed to meet the needs of South Park residents with something for everyone.
- The neighborhood coalition is made up mostly of seniors. The soccer and basketball facilities are geared for adolescents and youth. The preschool and Head Start programs and playground area address the needs of our neighborhood children.
- Families need a safe and comfortable setting to have picnics and events with adequate facilities.
- Seniors lost the senior center so their interests and needs could be addressed in the plans. All needs should be incorporated and included in the master plan.
- Plenty of green space

Alternative 2:

- It includes futsal and basketball courts. Includes some additional parking. Kids and tot playgrounds (are) next to each other and the soccer field.
- Separate basketball and futsal courts
- No space wasted on parking, more space for play, no dog park
- Good number of amenities, attractions for a wide range of visitors. Felt (this alternative is) the most cohesive of the 3 concepts.
- (Provides) distance between shaded picnic area and preschool per reasons discussed in first meeting
- I like the dedicated futsal court, as well as the expanded soccer field
- Increased field space, central open lawn, increased parking
- The basketball and futsal courts
- No expanded parking inside park

- Central youth and tot playgrounds

Alternative 3:

- Space
- Larger space for community
- Looks like the most open permeable space, preserves trees, prioritizes recreation over parking
- Additional parking
- Dog park, interesting lines for the sidewalk creates visual interest, trees throughout. It had a good layout that will feel good when you're in it.
- It preserves a lot of existing trees and has a lot of shaded picnic areas
- Lots of the existing trees remain. Dog park, more street parking, fitness area and fitness loop. Park sign finally facing Hendley Street.
- The dog park invites residents with dogs for a place to exercise them safely
- I like the dog park and the drought tolerant low planting
- I like the expanded outdoor yard for the preschool and traffic diverted from Hendley Street, since I live on that street
- Central restroom, community area, keeps paved plaza
- Multi use court (futsal and basketball)
- Love the reverse parking idea
- Tot and playgrounds separated, but visually equally from community area
- Lots of picnic area along paved plaza
- Keeps existing trees and does sacrifice park to parking
- I like having a park for dogs
- I like playgrounds next to the food court areas
- I like the reverse parking on Hendley
- I like the trails
- I like the soccer field
- Layout
- Added parking on Hendley
- Central shaded area with existing trees
- Diagonal parking
- Central gazebo and restroom
- Expanded preschool

***What do you like least about your top ranked alternative?***

(27 Responses – From the survey only and not the community meeting)

Alternative 1:

- Having the soccer field. But I know it's important for the kids that play soccer. I just prefer quiet parks with flowers and trails.
- The parking lot within the park takes up too much space and could be a dangerous hang out at night

- I don't like that the dog park takes up so much space
- How to identify and enhance those elements of central green space that are currently underperforming or lacking in some way
- Less space for open court play
- I think that the parking area on the left side of the plan diagram should be replaced by a small dog park and at least 3 action courts. Action courts incorporate net sports and basketball and are widely popular for all age groups. Skills involved for soccer should be incorporated into the designated soccer area.
- Action courts which are not super expensive would address the needs of adults of all ages for aerobic exercise, and I've seen people with disabilities successfully play paddle tennis in Venice, California where the courts are very popular to all people
- South park neighbors and friends should think outside the box and address the needs of all demographics of the neighborhood
- Use weed-resistant grass

#### Alternative 2:

- Soccer field grass takes up too much space. I'd give that space to the kids' playgrounds. Not enough shade. I'd swap pavilion and grass area so the pavilion won't get overshadowed by cars going down Hendley Street.
- Doesn't look like existing mural backdrop at field is kept
- Small tot playground
- Not very familiar with futsal court, and can pickleball be played there?
- No reverse angle parking, no parking lot
- Less shade trees than Alternative #1

#### Alternative 3:

- I'm not sure how well the angled parking will work. I would like the flow of it to be a little softer like Julliard (park) or Hearn Ave. More curvature.
- There is not a lot of central space for events, such as the South Park Day and Night Festival (under the trees are covered booth spaces, but they need to be able to form a perimeter around a central stage area)
- While there is more street parking (and) more bike riders will be likely to use the sidewalk in the park to avoid riding behind all the cars that can back out unexpectedly
- The open lawn seems to be a better area for the picnic tables. Under the design plan, they sit next to the multi-use court and the youth playground, which seem noisy.
- I do not think that so much open lawn is necessary. I don't see lawn outside the soccer field getting used when I visit the park daily.
- The dog park, I am concerned about the dog waste issue, if pet owners do not dispose of it
- Dog park (is) too large
- Preschool outdoor expansion (is) too generous
- Good fit utilizing, (remain) some existing features
- People won't use much space on the parking lot

- No added shade at playground areas
- Multiuse court is small
- Small fitness area

***How could your top ranked alternative be improved?***

(29 Responses – From the survey only and not the community meeting)

Alternative 1:

- More trees for shade and garden areas
- Combine it with the angle parking from Alternative 3, and get rid of the parking lot. Also, no astroturf, but real grass. Absolutely nix the dog park! The head start also doesn't need its lot expanded, because that is not available to the community.
- A small community garden would be nice
- Organizing community events such as outdoor movie nights, yoga classes, or farmers markets can draw more people to the central green. Collaborating with local organizations to host these events fosters community engagement and creates a sense of ownership among residents.
- The central green concept would be improved by incorporating a small enclosed clubhouse in the plan. We need a safe and comfortable meeting area for the South Park neighborhood coalition, especially with the closure of the senior center. The meeting site could be used for planning educational and community events (plant sales, bicycle repair classes, presentations on nutrition and health, meetings with city representatives, police and fire spokespersons, and other neighborhood groups).
- The needs and concerns of South Park business owners, the South Park Commons, the Coalition members and residents and homeowners could be addressed and problems solved.

Alternative 2:

- (Provide) more shade for the field
- MLK statue incorporated at a focal point of plaza area
- Add reverse angle parking, or any other measures that would increase parking availability without sacrificing overall design
- (Provide) one or more water stations/drinking fountains
- (Provide) more shade trees
- Switch shade structure with open lawn, open lawn between Hendley Street and shade structure

Alternative 3:

- (Provide) more shade trees, especially around/in open lawn and dog park, (provide) benches along path
- Combine features from Alternatives 1 and 2
- Instead of (creating) straight lines of trees, have them more dispersed, more natural looking
- Perhaps integrate the playground area closer to the preschool buildings

- Playground areas could be bigger. The lawn area might not get used as much as something with activities.
- Move the picnic tables to the open lawn area. Move the gazebo and restrooms where the picnic tables were originally.
- I think there can be more trees and drought tolerant planting, as opposed to more lawn.
- More picnic tables covered by a roof
- Maybe fitness area
- More shade for play structures
- Instead of expanding the preschool playground, build a small/ medium community meeting room
- Add more shade in playground and open lawn areas
- I alternatively like Option #1 with the parking on Hendley from Option #3, instead of an interior parking lot

***Are there any elements that you think are missing from the alternative designs?***

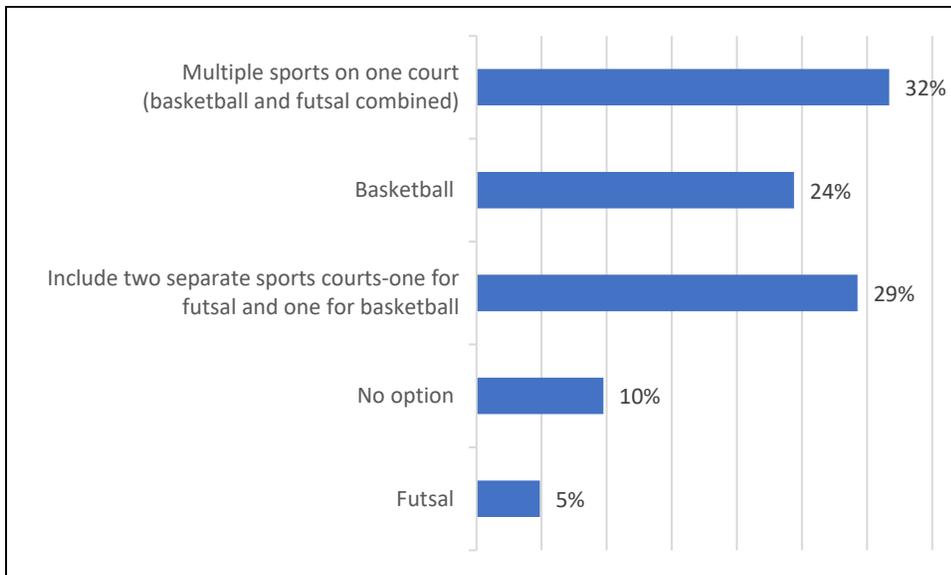
(27 Responses – From the survey only and not the community meeting)

- Native plants
- Again, no plastic grass. Environmentally terrible. Dangerous. Not good in hotter climate. Can the drainage be worked so the kids can play soccer after it rains?
- Pickleball?
- Art work, info about MLK and or park establisher
- More shade structures
- As much shade as possible
- ADA accessible play structures, and other amenities such as the basketball court
- Are there BBQ pits in the community gathering space? If not, there should be.
- Dog areas are missing in 2 of the designs
- Might be good to see schematics for lighting
- Coffey Park has a ping pong table and one with a chess/checkers board on it - I don't know if any of the alternatives considered those - how well are they working at Coffey Park?
- Increasing amenities, enhanced safety measures, or more recreational opportunities so the park can become more inviting and functional for its visitors
- More MLK elements
- It looks like parking is anticipated with slanted rows on Hendley. If that is incorporated, great! If this is only suggested, then please add it in.
- I don't think I'd like to use space for a dog park. Not that it would not be nice, but space is limited and I'd prefer it for other uses.
- Cooling station elements / silence hubs
- A space for community meetings
- More shaded areas
- Dog park

- I think all the plans should emphasize the maximum beneficial use that could be afforded to all South Park residents who will hopefully use the park.
- In the future a police substation could be included in the park concept area so that the police and the community could interact and citizens feel safe in the park area.
- The lot and home adjoining the park across from Frazier Avenue was sold recently and most likely could in the future be purchased for a fair price.
- The big lot and already existing home could address missing elements that the park concepts may have overlooked or not included such as a police substation, additional parking, bocce ball courts, a habitat and/or new garden (small), a community space for backgammon, chess and dominoes.
- I'm concerned about the bike path which you did not mention. My backyard backs onto the path (Whitegate Apartments, Senior Complex). In addition to repairing (the fence?), I would like to keep the existing trees along the path. Not only do the trees provide shade, but they act as a sound buffer. The entrances to the bike trail from the 800 block of Aston should be moved. Those areas plus the access from Grand Avenue and Turk attract gang activity, illegal fireworks, kids revving up their cars, and in general too much after dark noise in those areas.

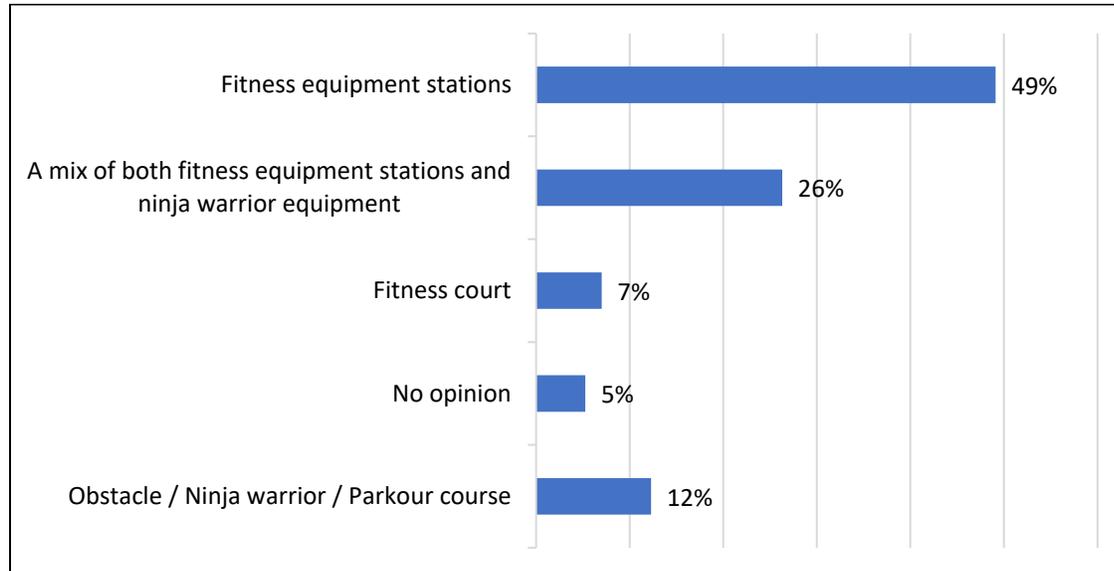
**A sports court will be included in the park renovation. Which sports should the court support?** (choose one, based on the following images)

(41 Responses – From the online survey, the community meeting, and Day & Night Festival)



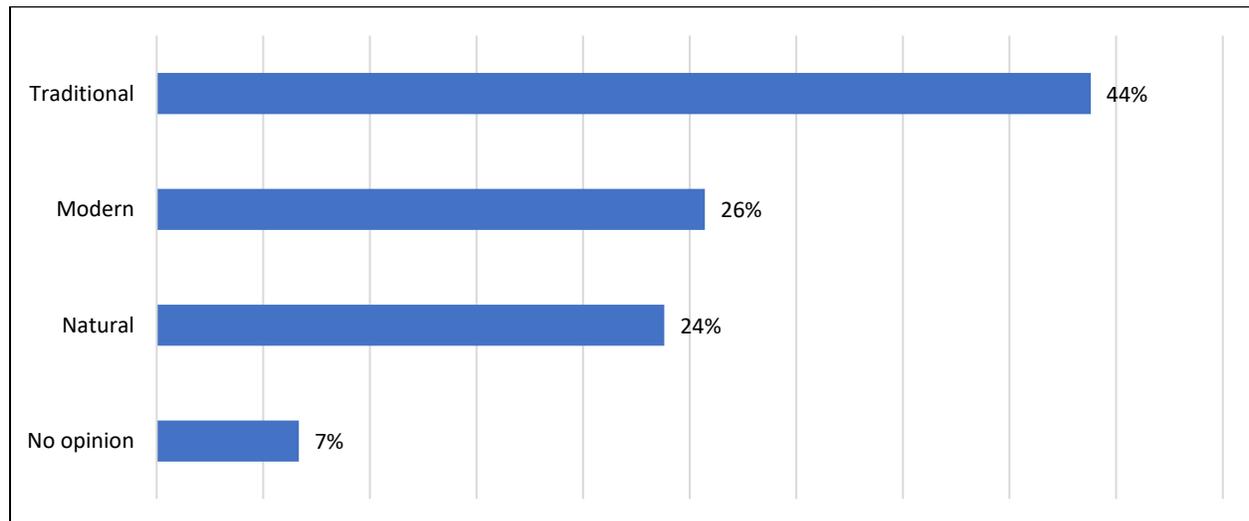
**What type of adult fitness elements should be included at the park?** (choose one, based on the following images)

(57 Responses – From the online survey, the community meeting, and Day & Night Festival)



**The park improvements will include a new playground. Which playground look and feel do you prefer?** (choose one, refer to attachments to see inspiration images for different playground styles)

(105 Responses – From the online survey, the community meeting, and Day & Night Festival)



**For the playground style you chose in the last question, what aspects of the inspirational designs do you like best (color, materials, equipment types, etc.), or what would you like to see added?**

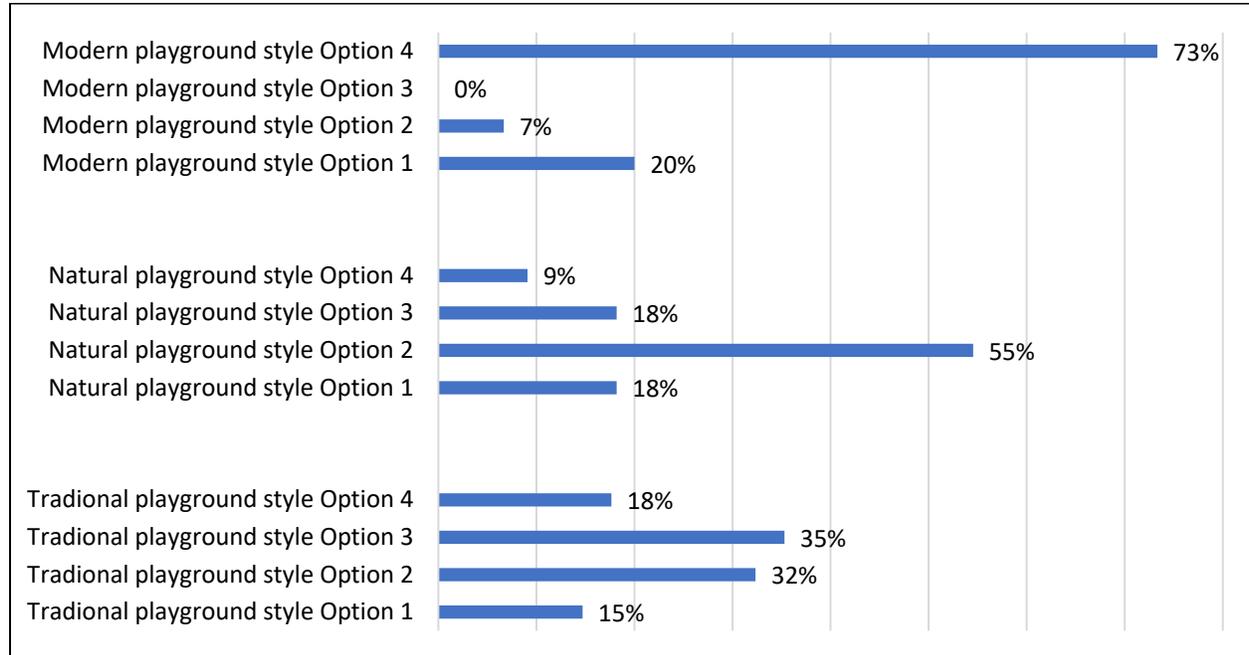
(26 Responses – From the survey only and not the community meeting)

- Color, material and hanging bridge

- Natural materials, no plastic, but the kids liked the modern ones
- Great colors, cool slides and several of them (my grandson went on slide until he was 15!), interesting design, not what you usually see
- Wood, ropes, climbing options
- I really like natural materials and didn't vote for natural style because it's often just synthetic materials made to look natural. I like the innovativeness of modern playgrounds but sometimes they look confusing instead of inviting. For example, I feel like the place to play one is conceptually cool but something about the sharp lines, tallness, and bee theme intimidated me as a kid. But I see kids playing on it now, so who knows. For this park I could see bright colors in combination with wood. As an adult visitor who chills out on playgrounds sometimes what I enjoy is a big multi-level structure I can climb and sit on and SWINGS! swings are the best.
- Imaginativeness
- Honor feedback from the children at community meetings
- I like the fourth, the lower right example. The rubber matting beneath the jungle gym and the grass surrounding is inviting as well as relaxing.
- I like the variety of equipment, materials, and color scheme
- Mimicking objects a child might encounter and interact with in a wild space - logs, rocks, trees to climb
- Brown, tan (color)
- Materials (should be) less plastic. I have seen natural hollow logs sanded and treated to be included in natural playgrounds - do any of the other parks have the raw materials to make something like that? A high school shop class could do sanding and finishing.
- Swings and shade
- I would like to see more wood. My son would like water features, excavators, and a pulley system.
- Color(ful), (provide) shade, usable by wider range of (all) abilities
- Bright colors, eye catching shapes, adds visual interest to park in addition to looking very fun to play on
- I like the variety of equipment, some good for young children and some for older children
- Plenty of short & log slides
- Plenty of swings (traditional swings)
- Climbing structures for both small and older kids
- Supports lots of gross motor activities
- Ease of use, easy to understand
- Because it is challenging, creative, and pushes kids to think
- What is popular and safe for children including swings and teeter totters. Chemical toxins should be excluded and plans should address what has worked and been successful and safe in other locals. Local artisans and artists should be hired to bring in innovations and local labor and products should be utilized.
- Maybe some adaptive equipment

**Place stickers on the parts of the designs you like most.** (see images for different playground styles)

(60 Responses – From the community meeting and Day & Night Festival only)



Images of Traditional Play Equipment:



Images of Natural Play Equipment:

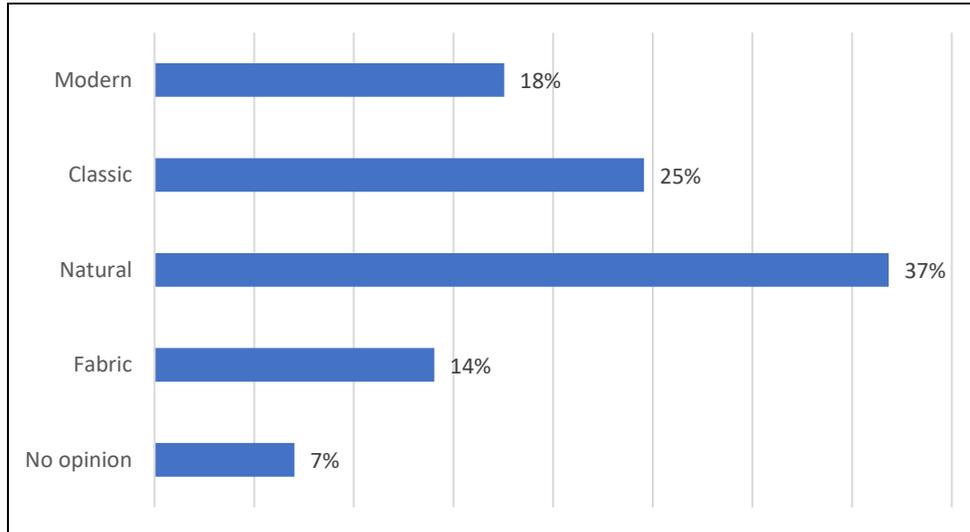


Images of Modern Play Equipment:



**Overhead shade is planned at amenities throughout the park (playground, picnic areas, athletic field, etc.) At the community gathering area specifically, what style would you prefer for the main shade structure? (choose one, based on the following images)**

(57 Responses – From the online survey, community meeting and Day & Night Festival)

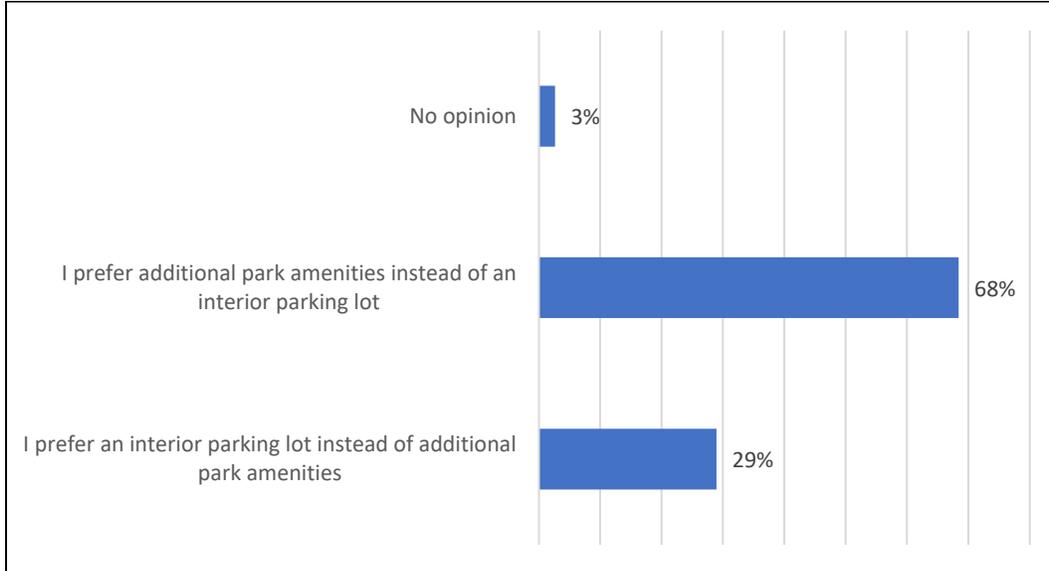


Images of Shade Structure Style:



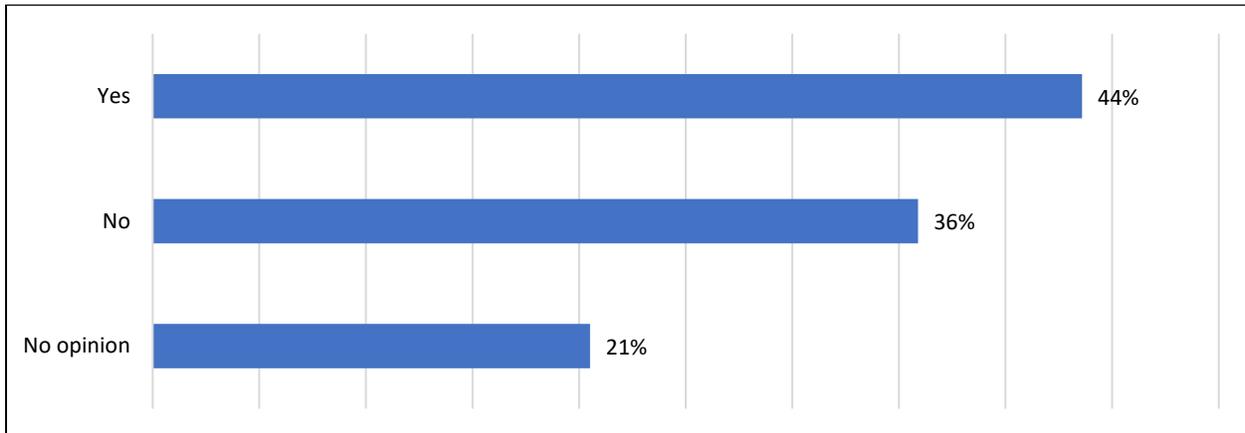
**Additional parking has been incorporated into each design alternative. How do you feel about using park land for an interior parking lot rather than additional park amenities?**

(37 Responses – From the survey only and not the community meeting)



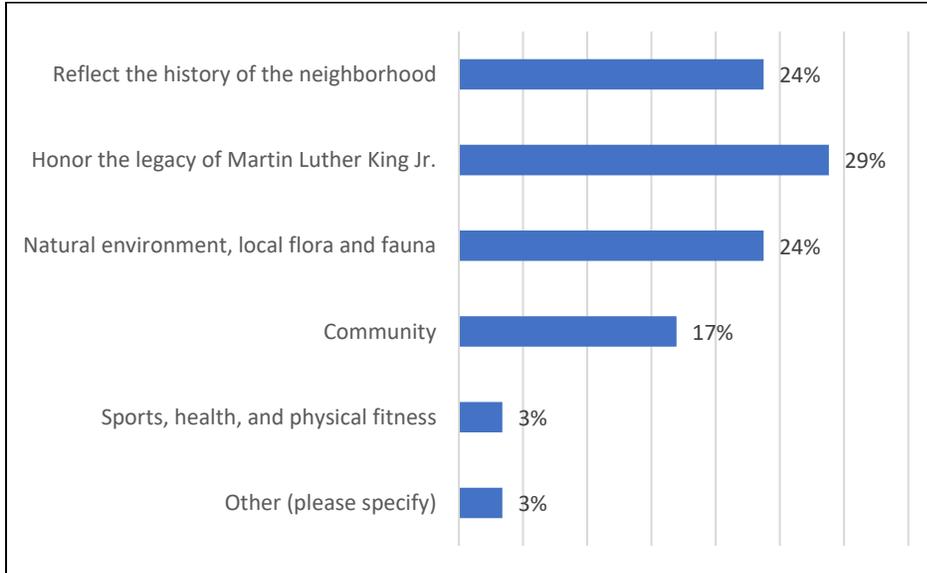
**Should an off-leash dog area be included in the park design?**

(39 Responses – From the survey only and not the community meeting)



***In terms of incorporating public art in the park, what theme should the public art express?***  
*(choose one, based on the following images)*

(59 Responses – From the online survey, community meeting and Day & Night Festival)



Images of Public Art Themes:



Honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.



Reflect the history of the neighborhood



Community



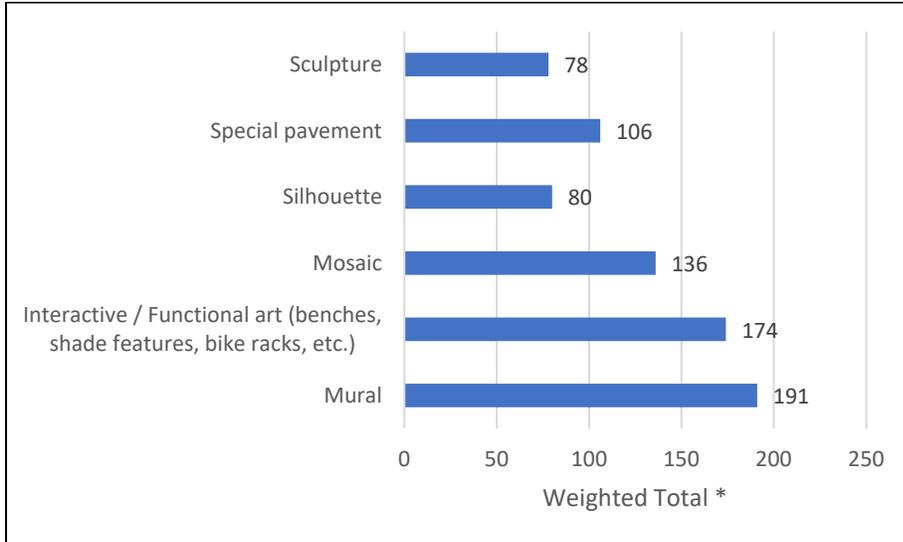
Natural environment, local flora and fauna



Sports, health, and physical fitness

**Please rank the type of public art you would like to see in the park in order of preference from 1-6, with 1 = highest and 6 = lowest ranking (based on the following images)**

(38 Responses – From the online survey, community meeting and Day & Night Festival)



Rank #1 = Mural  
 Rank #2 = Interactive/  
 Functional Art  
 Rank #3 = Mosaic  
 Rank #4 = Special Pavement  
 Rank #5 = Silhouette  
 Rank #6 = Sculpture

\* This chart displays a weighted total, calculated by assigning points to each vote based on preference ranking. Rank 1 is assigned 6 points as the highest preference, while Rank 6 is assigned 1 point as the lowest. Each vote is multiplied by its corresponding point value, and all points are then summed to produce the final totals.

Images of Public Art Types:





## SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

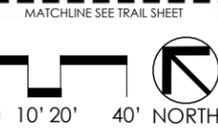
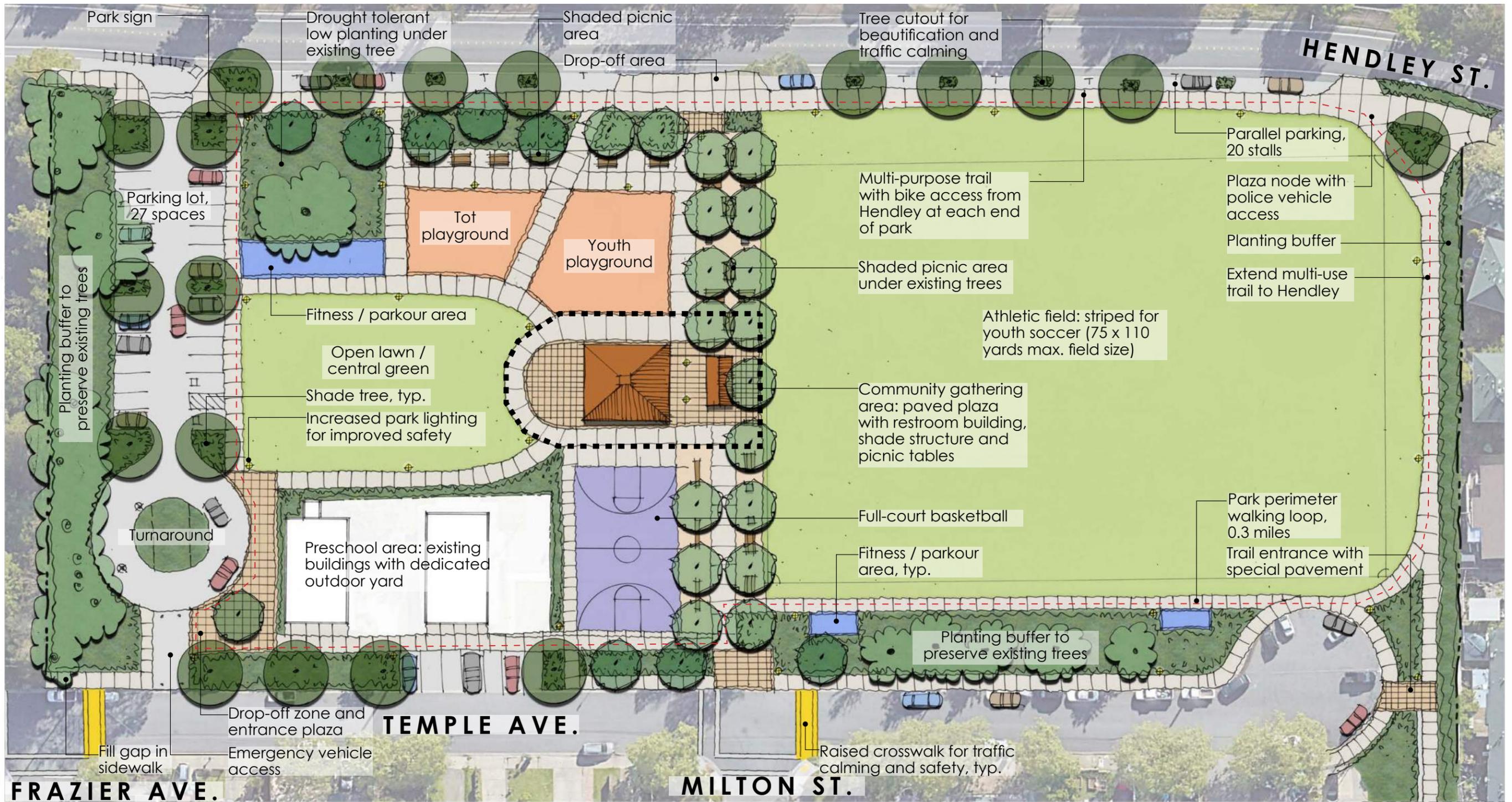
Based on the contextual survey questions, the survey results seem to be a good representation of local park users.

- 59% of survey respondents live in Southeast Santa Rosa, and people of every age range took the survey although the three age groups above 45 years of age had higher participation and under 24 years of age had the lowest participation.
- 71% of survey respondents use the park at least once a month, and 53% use the trail that connects the park to Petaluma Hill Road.

Based on feedback received about the alternatives and park specifically, common themes from the public outreach data include the following:

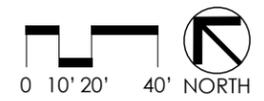
- Design Alternatives 2 and 3 ranked almost equally by respondents as being the preferred design.
- Shade continues to be the number one priority of the community. It is desired in the play area, close to the soccer field, over the picnic area, and available during events. The community is concerned about any plan that removes trees from the park and trail. They desire any tree that is removed be replaced. They would like to see more trees in the renovated park than are there now.
- The park needs to accommodate a number of community events and small to large gatherings. There were mixed feelings on where the central shade structure should be located in relation to the open lawn, the preschool, and Hendley Street. A natural shade structure style is most desired.
- Ensure activities, spaces, and access for all age groups and abilities. There is a desire for increased programming in the park.
- Feedback was mixed on the amount and type of basketball, futsal, and multi-purpose courts but 61% support providing space for multiple sports.
- There was little support for an interior parking lot. The community expressed their preference for using park land for park amenities and activities rather than for parking. There was support for reverse angled parking along Hendley Street and expansion of parking on Temple.

- There were mixed opinions on whether to keep the Class I - Shared Use Path within the park boundaries. There are concerns with user conflicts between bikes and pedestrians. It is safer for cyclists who are traveling west to come into the park and connect to Newhall Trail.
- The community responded with interest in traditional play equipment that reflects nature although the highest ranked playground design was Option 4 of the Modern Play Equipment. There is a desire for the play equipment to be made of natural materials especially wood, to be colorful, and to be fun. Climbing, sliding, and swinging elements are most desired. A central location and shade are desired for the play area.
- There is broad-based support for keeping and enhancing the soccer field because it is important for the children and families in the neighborhood. There is concern that the field dominates the park. The community expressed strong opinions for and against an artificial turf soccer field.
- Support for an off-leash dog area exceeds opposition by only 8%, and the feedback received is mixed. There are community concerns about dog waste.
- Fitness equipment stations are valued over a fitness court or ninja warrior course. There is some support for ninja warrior equipment in addition to traditional fitness equipment stations.
- Accessibility should be considered for all park amenities but especially the paths and play equipment.
- There is interest in incorporating sustainable and environmentally conscious design elements into the master plan - native or pollinator plant species, solar panels to power lights, irrigation, and events, and permeable pavement.
- Based on feedback regarding public art in the park, the community ranked the theme of Martin Luther King Jr. as their favorite. Their second choice was the history of the neighborhood and the natural environment. In terms of art type, the community preferred murals as their first choice, followed by interactive or functional art.



# DESIGN ALTERNATIVE 1 – CENTRAL GREEN

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARK AND TRAIL MASTER PLAN



# DESIGN ALTERNATIVE 2 – EXPANDED FIELD

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARK AND TRAIL MASTER PLAN





February 7, 2025

Public Outreach Round 3 Summary  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Trail Master Plan**

Community Meeting: December 3, 2024, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM  
Lighthouse Christian Church (920 Bennett Valley Road)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service: January 20, 2025, Martin Luther King Jr. Park

Online Survey Period: December 3, 2024 – January 22, 2025

**OVERVIEW**

The third community meeting for the Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Trail Master Plan project was held on December 3, 2024 at Lighthouse Christian Church (920 Bennett Valley Road). The event began with a presentation followed by a question-and-answer session. Attendees then joined one of five (5) breakout groups which were facilitated by CALA and City staff. Two (2) of the breakout groups were facilitated bilingual, allowing Spanish speakers an opportunity to participate in the process. A series of questions were asked by the facilitator in each breakout group to prompt further discussion. The questions asked the attendees what they liked about the draft master plan, how the plan could be improved, what improvements should be prioritized, and whether the soccer field should be natural or synthetic turf.

Participants provided feedback during the meeting via written comments and a survey questionnaire. The survey was offered in English and Spanish and in printed and online formats. The online survey remained open for seven (7) weeks after the meeting, so the broader community could provide input.

Approximately seventy six (76) people attended the community meeting based on the event sign-in sheet. Seventy six (76) surveys were received, which included thirty (30) paper surveys and forty-six (46) online surveys in English.

The data that was collected from the community is summarized below.

**NOTES FROM BREAKOUT GROUPS (FLIP CHART NOTES)**

Breakout group questions:

**Question 1. What do you like about the draft master plan?**

- Futsal – lighting and cover during rain
- Play during rain
- Kids remain active especially during rain
- Benches
- Futsal court
- Soccer field and seating
- Lights for field
- Fencing around soccer field
- Shaded picnicking

**BURLINGAME**  
1633 Bayshore Highway,  
Suite 133  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
650.375.1313

**GOLD RIVER**  
12150 Tributary Point Drive,  
Suite 140  
Gold River, CA 95670  
916.985.4366

**RENO**  
275 Hill St,  
Suite 260  
Reno, NV 89501  
775.787.2828

**SAN JOSE**  
2025 Gateway Place,  
Suite 285  
San Jose, CA 95110  
408.275.0565

- Play area location
- Consider restroom access hours
- Would roofing be provided at futsal court?
- All ages are accommodated
- Crosswalks and lighting at park / trail
- Central play area with rubber surfacing is good for visibility
- Placement of play area structures
- Fitness stations pull up bar
- Futsal
- Provide multi-use for basketball court to allow for two futsal courts
- Shade structures and trees
- Permanent stage is important
- Spectator seating

**Question 2. How can the draft master plan be improved?**

- Beautiful shady park
- A little of everything
- Love the light, which is important for safety
- Want a fence to prevent balls on Hendley Street
- Using all space available
- More disabled access parking for all park users
- Safety – require permits for events
- Keep restroom clean
- Increased restroom maintenance
- No fencing around futsal court
- No basketball court
- Shaded picnic will encourage unhoused
- Don't need as much picnicking
- More trash receptacles and drinking fountains
- Concessions / snack shack at restroom building
- Traffic calming – particularly at Temple Street
- Lighting is important all around the park
- Shade for spectators
- Field lighting
- Lots of hydration drinking fountains, including stations for dogs
- Light for path
- Security cameras
- Currently amplified sound is required to face away from the neighborhood and the stage is configured so amplification into the lawn would occur toward the neighborhood
- The South Park Coalition would like a place to meet under cover
  - Design the center shade structure for 10 to 60 people
  - Provide a clubhouse if possible
- Meeting location needs electrical power
- The current basketball court is well used and the new design has it reduced, so consider adding more basketball courts
- Consider adding tennis courts
- Shade over play equipment is needed
- Keep all trees
- Provide more park space and reduce preschool area

- Concern about cleaning graffiti off history walk
- More picnic tables
- Provide speed bumps along Temple Street
- Embed interpretive elements into concrete to make them more durable (i.e. text in pavement)
- Add walls on three sides of the shade structure so it's similar to a clubhouse building
- Need a neighborhood place to meet to replace senior center

**Question 3. What do you like about the trail design?**

- It will be good that there will be lighting
- Addition of lighting
- Will there be security cameras?
- Work with police department regarding patrols
- Lighting / trash cans
- Open, better visibility
- Wider, allow patrols
- Lighting

**Question 4. How can the trail design be improved?**

- Provide pet bag dispensers and signage
- Safety first
- Add garbage cans
- Consider including benches
- The trail will get a lot of use with the improvements
- Open and high visibility is important
- Fence upgrades
- Security cameras

**Question 5. After the core improvements are accounted for (restroom building, picnic areas, pathways, park lighting, and trail improvements), where should the remaining funding be spent?**

- Lighting park and trail
- Other rankings:
  1. Soccer
  2. Futsal
  3. Basketball
- Lights on field and fencing
- Futsal court and roof
- Emphasis should be on kids
- Futsal vs. basketball
- Futsal is more important
- A combined court could also work
- Futsal and basketball courts
- Hand ball wall
- Shade structure area

**Question 6. Should the soccer field be rehabilitated with natural turf or converted to synthetic turf? Yes or no and why?**

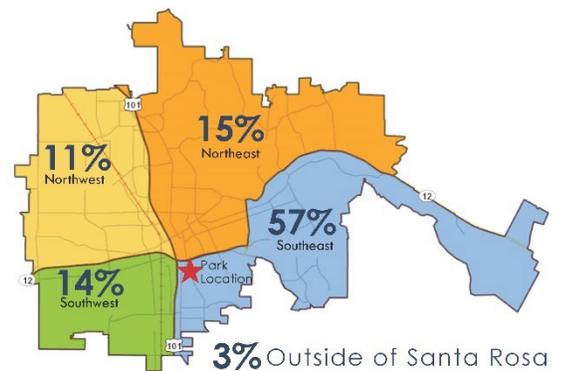
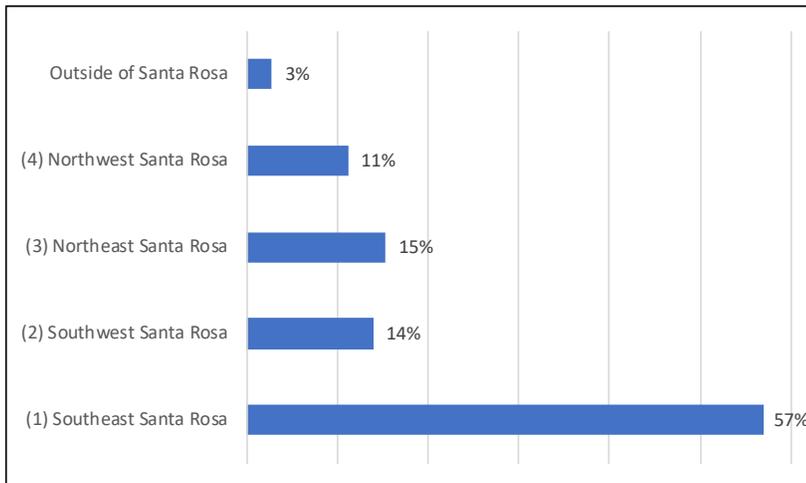
- Synthetic turf (4 groups preferred)
  - Provides longer playing hours, play during rain

- Natural turf is good but shuts down quickly when rains
  - Key is to have a place to play when it rains – if not synthetic then consider providing a covered futsal court
  - Synthetic turf will provide year-round use
  - Synthetic turf will improve quality of kid's training
  - Synthetic turf is desired
  - All weather kids can play year round
  - Field lighting would be great too
  - Synthetic
  - There is a need for maintenance and lighting
- Natural turf (1 group preferred)
    - Pets are allowed if they are controlled
    - There is a need for maintenance and lighting

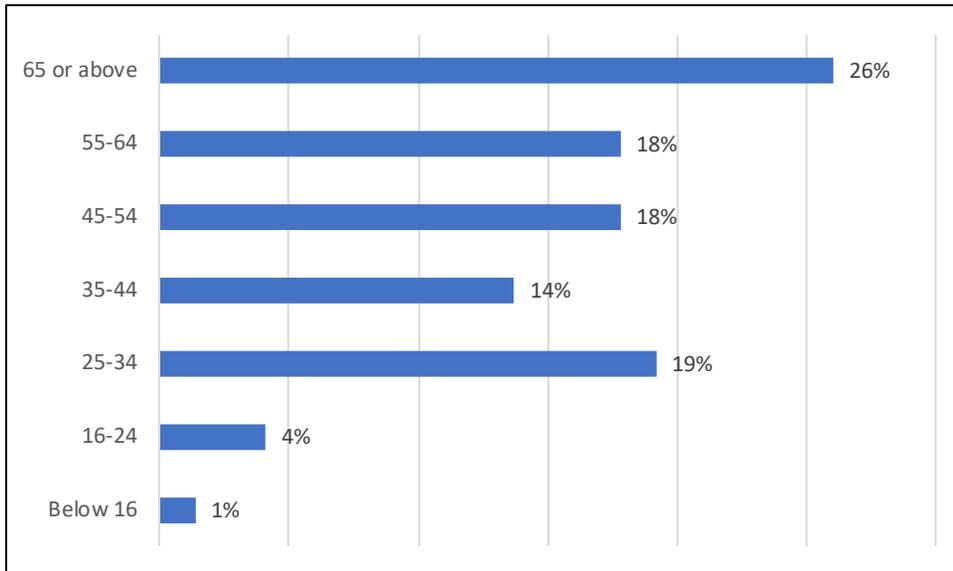
### **SURVEY #3**

#### Responses to Survey: Contextual Questions

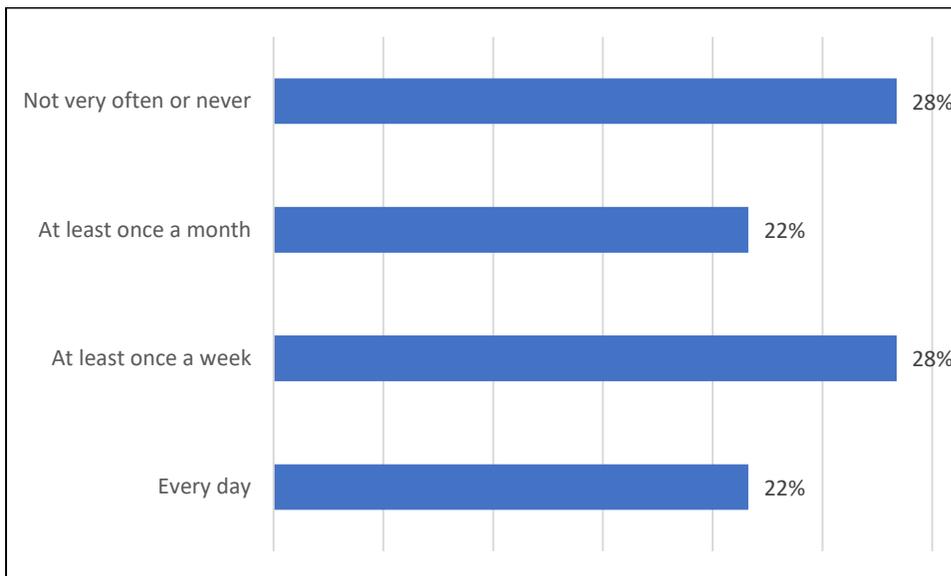
#### **Where in Santa Rosa do you currently live? (72 Responses)**



**Please select your age range. (73 Responses)**

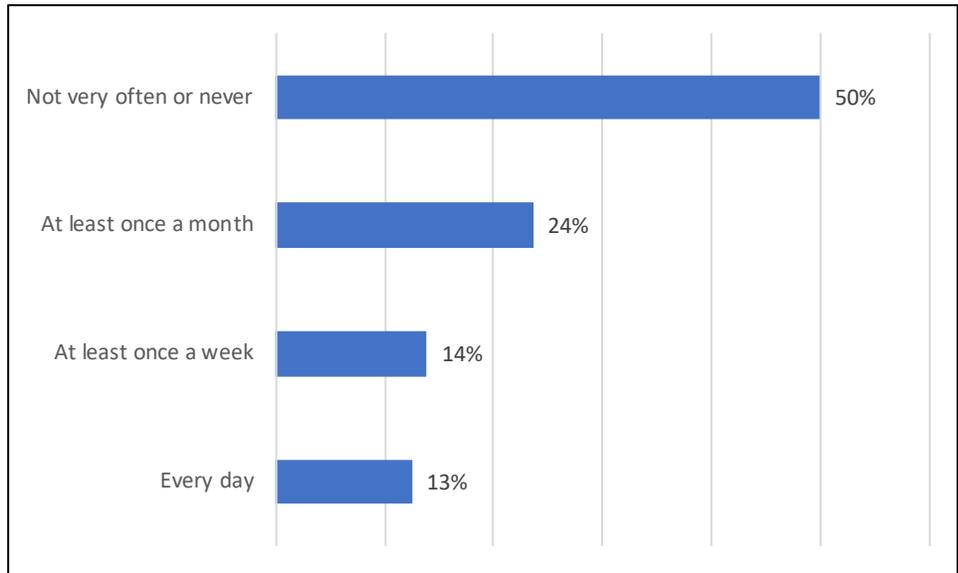


**How often do you use Martin Luther King Jr. Park? (74 Responses)**



72% of respondents use the park at least once a month

**How often do you use the trail that connects the park to Petaluma Hill Road? (72 Responses)**



50% of respondents use the trail at least once a month

Responses to Survey: Project Specific Questions

**What do you like about the draft master plan?** (refer to attachments at the end of this document to see the plans)

- It is well-organized, inclusive of the community needs, but we need a community center (a place to meet and hold gatherings)
- Futsal courts, basketball courts, porch swing
- Futsal courts and soccer field seating
- The feeling of expansion, but in actuality it's the great use of the space. The futsal court is the most ideal.
- The futsal court is a good idea
- I like the way it organized
- Good melding of ideas from the first two meetings
- I like everything except for the shading picnic tables
- No dog park – we don't need it
- Why does the preschool get so much space?
- The additional of futsal court, shaded areas, lighting, placement of the playground and stage
- Planned placement of the playground
- Futsal field
- Enhanced soccer field
- It's better than what we have
- Large lawn space for community gathering
- Addition of futsal court
- Keeping trees on center
- Central lawn area, multiple sources of shade
- Variety of play spaces
- Central shaded walkway
- Walking loop

- Bike path
- I love it. I think it's great for our community and will bring us all together.
- Keeping all the trees
- Improving soccer field
- Improving child play areas
- Keeping the center divide
- I am very happy that this plan keeps most of the existing mature trees and adds more shade to the park
- A walking path seems absent, and children's play area seems to have switched spots with the basketball courts, so nothing was gained. The picnic tables are a nice addition.
- The soccer field and futsal court
- I like the perimeter loop, improved lighting on (the) trail, play areas, and gathering areas, use of shade
- I love the master plan! I love that a futsal court is included, which would allow kids and adults to play street soccer all year. I would love to see the fields be synthetic turf, perhaps with cork fill. Synthetic turf is so much more useable and needs a lot less maintenance.
- Lights, pavement, and landscaping along the Newhall Bike and Pedestrian Trail
- I like the additional sport courts
- Play area is being moved to the center of the park
- A lot! I like the native plants, the trail plan, and the history walk,
- Keeping lots of trees, variety of spaces
- I like the bathrooms, walking path, different exercises for different age groups, and meeting areas
- The new sport courts and nicely organized soccer field
- Open areas
- Something for everyone!
- Multi-use and all ages, space for concerts and community events, bathroom facilities, shaded areas
- Separated play areas by age, central green space, shaded picnic tables
- Incorporates many activities for whole family and community
- I like the whole idea of the park, except the name
- Fitness equipment and shade areas
- Less car parking, more park!
- The expanded play areas and moving them to the center of the park is a HUGE improvement
- I don't see where the playground is going to go? I see only one small section for the playground that I'm not sure is the playground.
- The emphasis on trees for shade and the addition of picnic tables for family use and meeting spaces

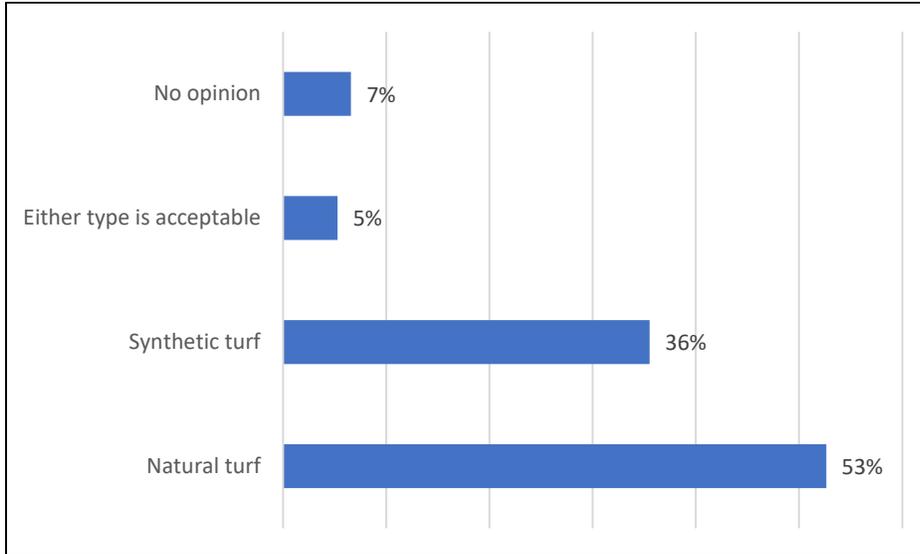
### ***How could the draft master plan be improved?***

- Just include an indoor community meeting room
- More lighting so people can play at night, and weather covers for the futsal courts so they can be used all year
- Land acknowledgement (Native American)
- Dedication to suicide prevention
- Suicide prevention awareness put to its peak at all times

- More lighting and maintenance / park up keep
- Lights around the tables and walking areas
- Need more electrical outlets near pavilion
- It can be improved by installing a roof over futsal
- Remove the picnic table to better create a community room for events
- Group picnic and meeting area for parties and events
- All abilities access
- How to prevent dumping on trail
- Parking for handicap
- Clean restroom there never kept clean, always dirty
- Access to electric on the stage area
- Consider lighting for the field soccer
- Consider neighbors view with bleachers placement
- No enclosed clubhouse for plant sales, tai-chi, community meetings, bicycle repair classes, etc. Franklin Park has a clubhouse as do other Santa Rosa parks. Also, no net sports areas. There used to be a tennis court at Austin and Hedley, and the basketball courts are diminished.
- Please keep all mature trees
- Include covered space that can accommodate the community. With space for band, need access electrical outlet near space for events. Confirm amplified sound can accommodate stage placement facing neighbors. Rename Newhall Trail to Pomo Trail, Latino Trail. or Chicano Trail.
- Both meeting areas
- I honestly love the layout. I think it fits everyone!
- Add significant shade to child play areas
- Add a clubhouse type structure with power for meetings, classes, etc. Add rest-type benches along the trail.
- Add four more garbage/recycle containers
- Add a formal walking/jogging path, and a small dog park replacing the proposed fitness cluster
- Reduce preschool footprint or make some of their area multi-use
- More natural landscaping, flower walls, and rock work
- Softball field
- Hendley is a busy street and kids play area is right by parking spaces. Will fences be placed or some type of barriers to keep kids safe?
- Add flowers and attractive comfortable seating. The existing seating ideas look uncomfortable.
- A dog park
- How many of those beautiful Walnut and Sycamore trees will be cut down? It will take decades to grow trees to that high, so I would like to see a plan that prioritizes keeping as many of those trees as possible.
- Half the park is a soccer field
- The three sport lots leave little natural space
- The two courts are where kids play right now are on a hill. Where is the music stage and food truck locations?
- Tree and garden area is small
- Picnic gathering spaces are small
- It's not clear where bathrooms are, definitely want public bathrooms and drinking fountains

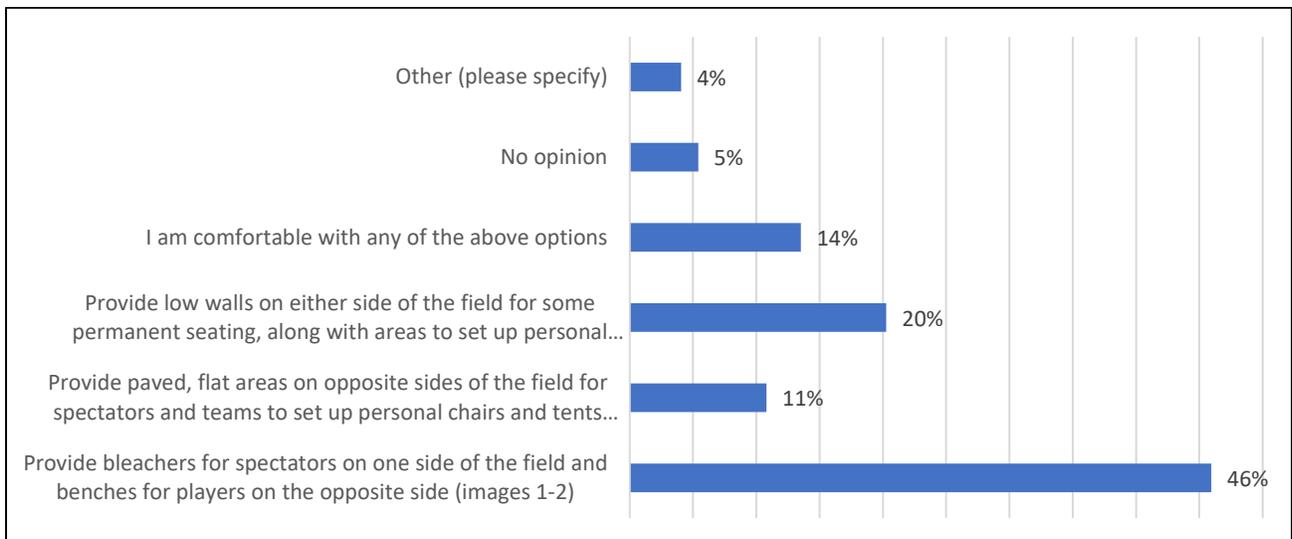
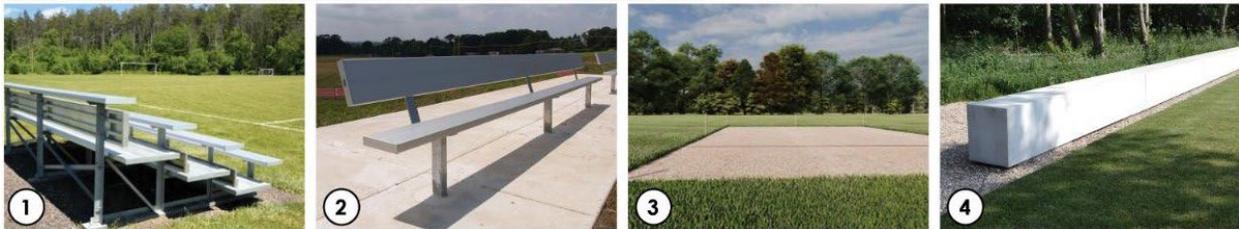
- There should be a clubhouse for a neighborhood this size to plan events and be available for the neighborhood coalition. The basketball courts should be expanded because they are popular.
- More designated areas for walking/running, prioritizing child play area safety
- Community garden for neighborhood health and well-being
- Recirculating splash pad and cooling fountains for any age. They can raise from the bottom structure, so we have use of the area when it's not hot outside. Then this area can serve multiple purposes.
- Hard to tell what is NW of the preschool. Whether the educational planting takes up that space or if it is part of the preschool. Maybe consider having access to the educational planting, from the school/fenced area. Consider growing food for preschoolers? Cannot tell whether maintenance has access for trash/recycle collection and park up-keep. Emergency access to center of park would be nice. Water feature consideration? Water faucets or water jug filling station. Futsal Court is soccer only, can the other court be multi-use?
- Basketball and pickleball/outdoor yoga/other. Big soccer field can double as...? Music in the park. Artificial turf off-gassing needs to be looked into. Chemicals are awful smelling and unhealthy. Double check popularity of outdoor gyms. Used to be called parcourses. Not used as much as originally thought. Any chance we can bring swings back to playgrounds? Aluminum slides are discouraged due to possible heating/sun!
- Solar panels on all shade roofs
- Separate bicycle pathways from pedestrians
- Provide shaded bench seating such as an amphitheater for concerts and plays
- More bathrooms, and have them cleaned daily and open 7 am to 9 pm
- Children areas are separated, but what if a parent has both older and younger children to watch?
- Are there drinking fountains, water bottle refill stations and a faucet and trough for pets to drink? Absolutely, natural turf only!!!
- "Porch swing" style seating could encourage loitering/sleeping by the unhoused. Would avoid anything that could turn into a bed.
- Flip the spectator and player seating on soccer field. There will be more spectators and players needing shade. Spectators can't sit behind goals, so those trees won't be used for shade by spectators.
- Although Dr. King was a national icon, he never personally visited the site or city. We have many local heroes who have been a force for Santa Rosa and deserve to have a park named in their honor.
- Add rain gardens to areas near the courts to benefit from the runoff. Add rain gardens or bio-swales to the curbside areas instead of that tiny strip of grass at Temple Avenue.
- Having a large amount of bike parking. Don't sacrifice any part of the park for car parking.
- I want to emphasize that seating around the playgrounds is much needed for parents/guardians.
- Fix the damage to the existing mural before you do anything! The people depicted on it are important Santa Rosa people!
- Install bocce ball courts
- Space for a cooling station is needed
- Just make sure it's handicap accessible

**Would you like the soccer field rehabilitated with natural turf (including improved drainage and a level playing surface) or converted to a synthetic turf field? (choose one)**  
 (76 Responses)



**We plan to provide seating for soccer spectators and players. What type of seating would be most beneficial? (choose one)** (74 Responses)

Images of Seating for Soccer Spectators and Players

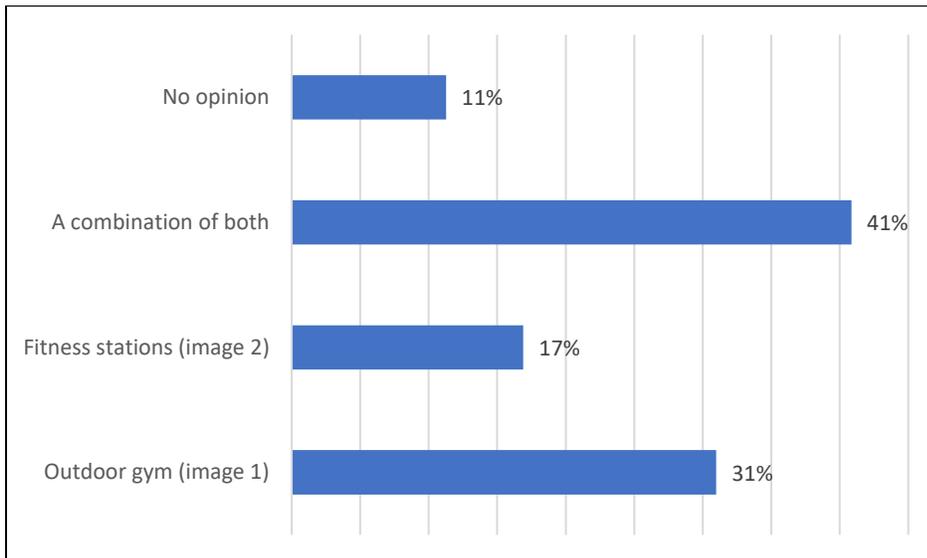


Other comments:

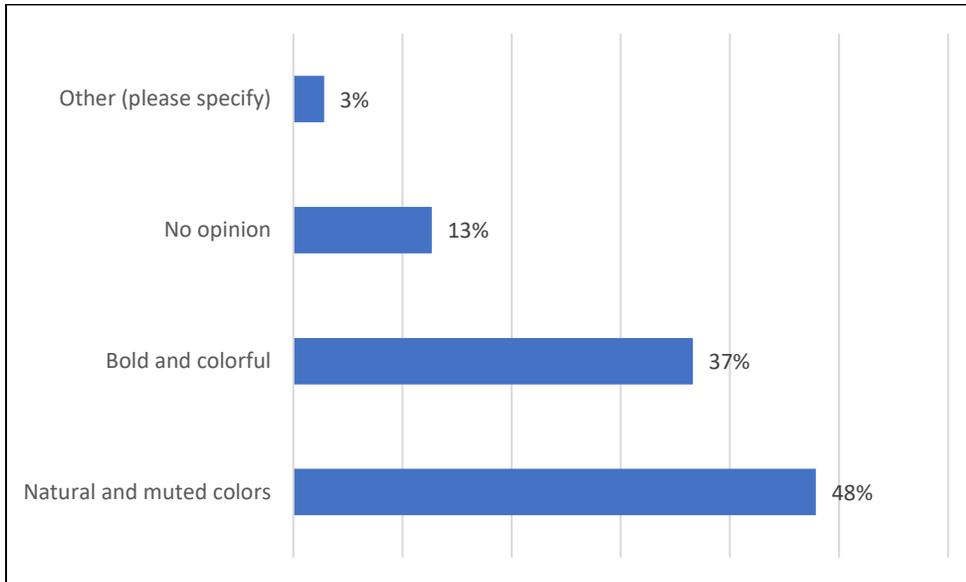
- Add picnic tables around the perimeter. Eating from bleachers or benches isn't easy.
- Black benches, like are already present, are less likely to get graffitied.
- One set of bleachers for people who don't bring chairs. Otherwise, chair area (grass not paved).

**Would you rather see a large outdoor gym at a single location within the park, or smaller fitness stations dispersed throughout the park?** (choose one) (71 Responses)

Images of Outdoor Gym and Fitness stations



**Do you want play equipment to have more natural and muted colors (greens and browns) or be bold and colorful?** (choose one) (71 Responses)



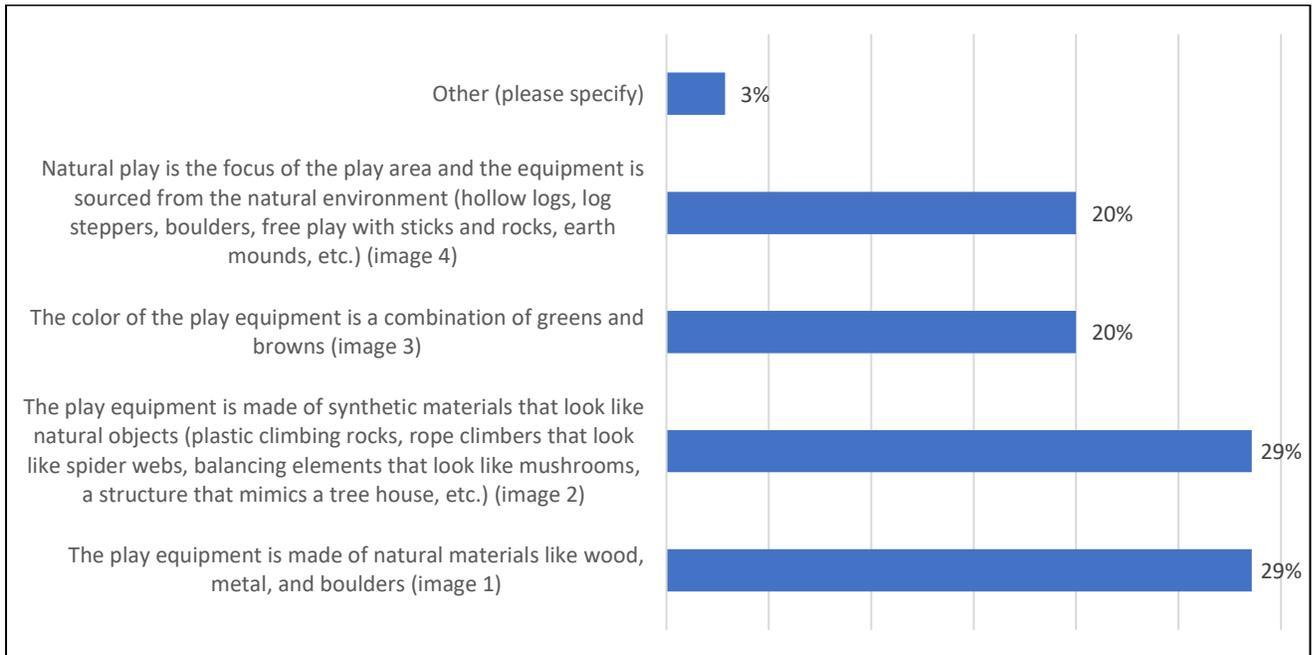
Other comments:

- Ask youth professionals, maybe bright colors for children?

**We have heard support for “nature-oriented” play equipment. What does this mean to you?** (choose one) (70 Responses)

Images of Play Equipment

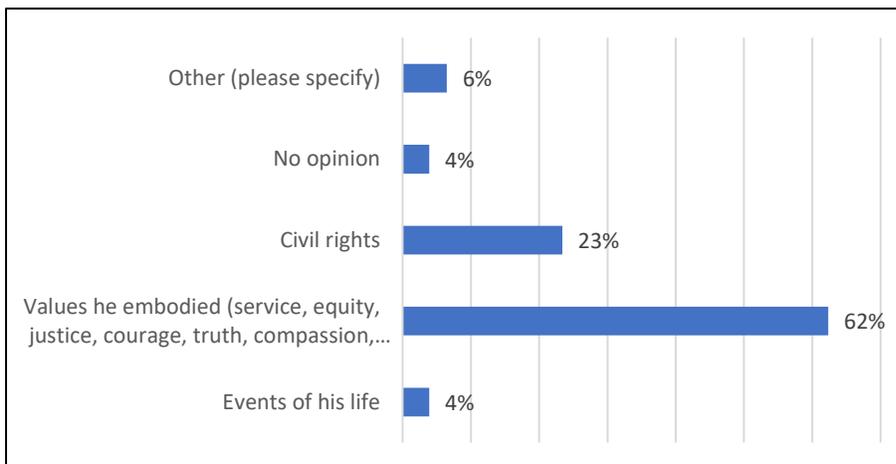




Other comments:

- Image 1 and 4
- Definitely image 2 and may include the logs in image 4. The play structure in image 2 is awesome for younger children, and the tree logs in image 4 provide safe natural structures that promote movement, connection to nature, and a place to develop large motor skills. Definitely prefer image 2 and elements of image 4. Lovely and fun designs in both. Probably too much money to build a different structure for the older kids? I know one was trying to accomplish this, but for safety reasons, might be better to build two different structures? Just a thought.

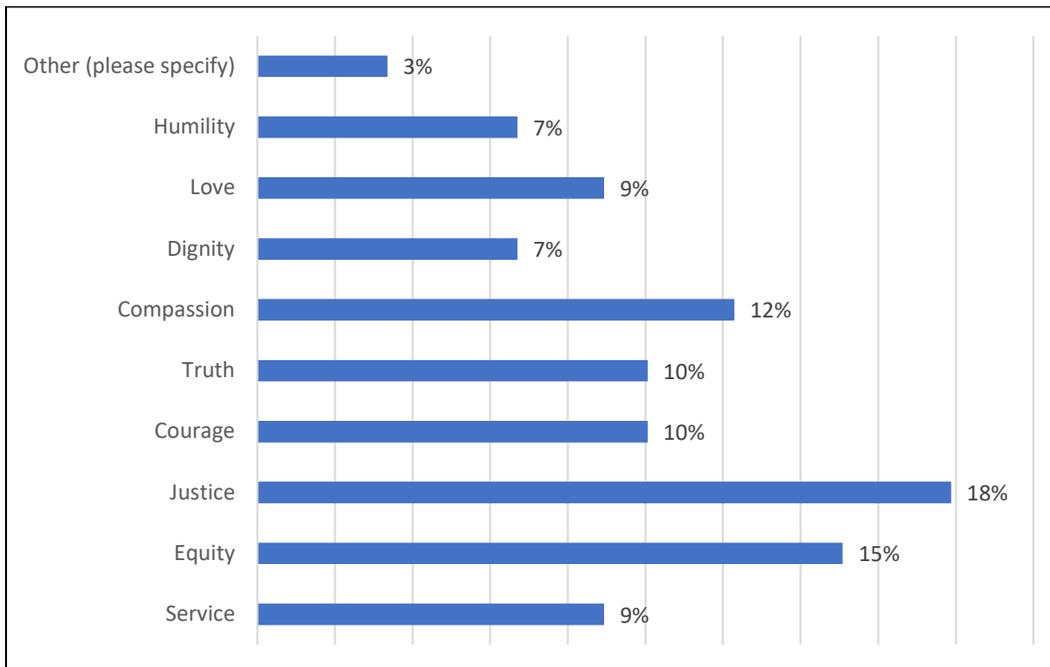
**The public art theme will commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. based on community feedback received so far. What aspect of Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy should the art focus on? (choose one) (77 Responses)**



Other comments:

- All of the above since they are all connected
- Both Events and Values
- A local hero please not Dr. King
- His speeches
- Due to the controversies surrounding MLK and the FBI tapes set to release in 2027, I would encourage the focus on his accomplishments as a Civil Rights activist

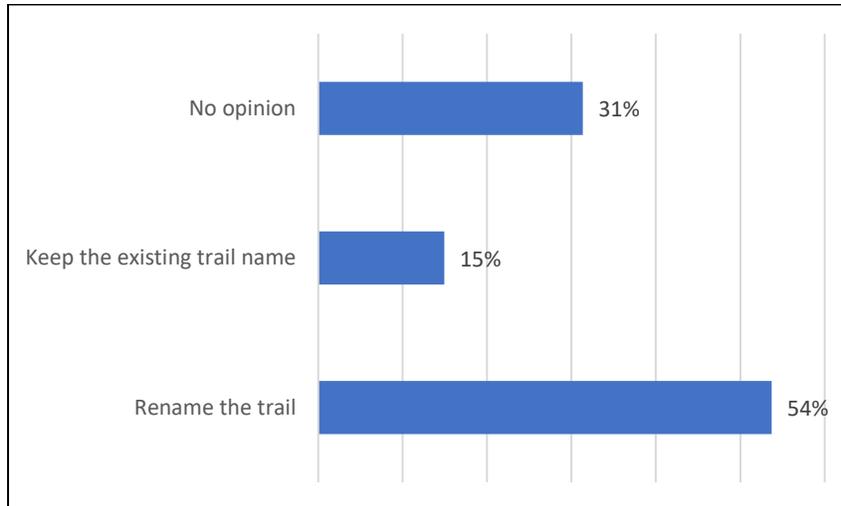
**If you chose “values that Martin Luther King Jr. embodied” in the previous question, which values are most important to represent? (choose one) (179 Responses)**



Other comments:

- Our youth is our future
- The future of children – “the youth playing together”
- You win with any and all of them
- Focus on his speeches

**Would you like to rename the trail that connects the park to Petaluma Hill Road? The trail is currently named "Newhall Bike and Pedestrian Trail". (choose one) (67 Responses)**

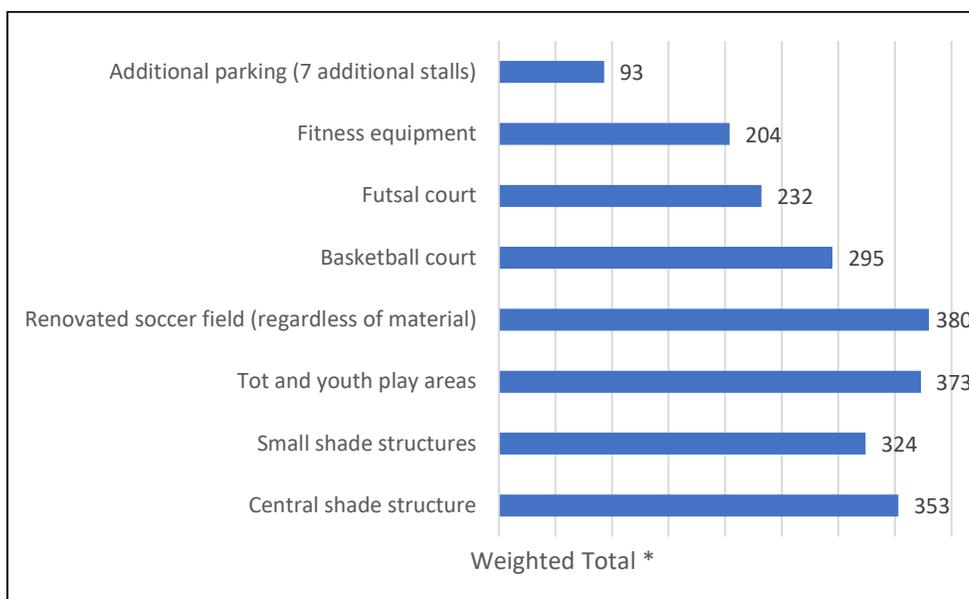


**If you would like to rename the trail, what should the name be and why?**

- Chicano Trail: to be representative of the community
- We have the park MLK, even though the existing black community left the neighborhood
- South Park Trail or Pomo Trail to honor the local native Americans
- Something MLK dedicated or themed
- In adjacent to MLK's name – "Memorial Trail" or any nearby streets,".... Passageway"
- Bike and Pedestrian Trail. I do not know what "Newhall" refers to.
- Anything else
- Native American name?
- South Park Neighborhood Trail to create ownership and awareness of the neighborhood
- Name it similar to park name
- Snoopy Trail
- These names reflect our neighborhood: Pomo Trail, Latino Trail, Chicano Trail
- Something that reflects the community at South Park
- MLK Trail
- South Park Trail
- South Park Bike and Pedestrian Trail
- MLK Trail, in keeping with the park so the connection is clear
- South Park - aligns with the community in which it is located
- Martin Luther King Jr. Trail
- I don't know who Newhall was, or his/her involvement in the community. Renaming the trail to honor someone in the community who embodied the same traits of MLK Jr. would be great.
- MLK Community Trail
- Who is Newhall? If I knew that I might think it is worth keeping. The name might not be as important as a sign letting people know where it goes – to Petaluma Hill Road.
- Esperanza Trail (Hope Trail)

- South Park Trail. MLK Trail. I have a dream Trail/Yo tengo un sueño Trail. Viva MLK Trail. Raza Trail (Race Trail).
- Williams/Gray Trail for Platt Williams and Gilbert and Alice Gray, who founded the first Santa Rosa NAACP chapter here in South Park. To honor the African-American history of South Park.
- Is Newhall a local person? Explain why this name on displays.
- Commemorate an outstanding Parks and Recreation professional who has made a difference in their community. Or, something that represents MLK's vision (Equality Trail, Diversity Trail, Trail of Dreams, Justice Trail, Trail of Hope, Dignity Trail, Trail of Truth, Truth Trail, Friendship Trail.)
- Freedom Ride and Walk Trail
- West Fairgrounds Trail
- I don't have a suggestion, but I would like it to have a name that has meaning and value.
- Yes, perhaps rename the trail to something fun or creative? OR, if, the park connects to trail ~ can the name also reflect MLK in some way? MLK Pathway Connections for Bikes and Pedestrians? Something that involves his name and heart intentions would be an improvement.
- Mabel McKay Trail

**Please prioritize the improvements shown on the master plan, to identify what is most important and help guide the use of available funding. The restroom building, picnic areas, new pathways, park lighting, and trail improvements will all be included as part of the first phase of improvements. Please prioritize the remaining park amenities from most important to least important 1-8, with 1 = most important and 8 = least important.** (64 Responses)



- Rank #1 = Renovated soccer field
- Rank #2 = Tot and youth play areas
- Rank #3 = Central shade structure
- Rank #4 = Small shade structures
- Rank #5 = Basketball court
- Rank #6 = Futsal court
- Rank #7 = Fitness equipment
- Rank #8 = Additional parking

\* This chart displays a weighted total, calculated by assigning points to each vote based on ranking. Rank 1 is assigned 8 points as the highest preference, while rank 8 is assigned 1 point as the lowest. Each vote is multiplied by its corresponding point value, and all points are then summed to produce the final totals.

## **FEEDBACK DURING MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE**

- There is a desire for a for a handball wall/court, which could potentially be incorporated into the futsal court if a retaining wall is needed due to the grade differential.
- Universally accessible swings are desired to accommodate families with unique needs.
- Questions arose about creating a separate lawn/gathering area, when the soccer field could potentially serve the same purpose.
- Support was expressed for including a synthetic turf soccer field.
- Having a defined walking path and lighting would benefit people that walk the park every morning, some with dogs, before they go to work.
- Regular groups meet in the park to play basketball, and they should continue to be accommodated.

## **OVERALL SUMMARY**

The feedback from Community Meeting #3 reflected a deep sense of community pride and a strong desire to create a park that would serve as a welcoming, safe, and functional space for all ages.

Many participants voiced their enthusiasm for the proposed futsal court, particularly the addition of lighting and even a protective cover to allow for play during rainy weather. Shaded seating areas, well-placed picnic tables, and an inclusive playground were also met with widespread approval. Residents appreciated the park's thoughtful design, which maintained much of the existing tree canopy while incorporating new shade structures to enhance comfort.

However, the community was also vocal about areas that needed improvement. Concerns were raised regarding restroom cleanliness and maintenance, as well as the need for increased safety measures such as additional lighting, security cameras, and enhanced police presence. Several attendees advocated for a dedicated community meeting space, either as a clubhouse or a covered structure, to host neighborhood events and gatherings. Additionally, fencing was suggested to prevent soccer balls from rolling onto Hendley Street, and requests were made for improved traffic safety along Temple Street, especially near the park's entrance.

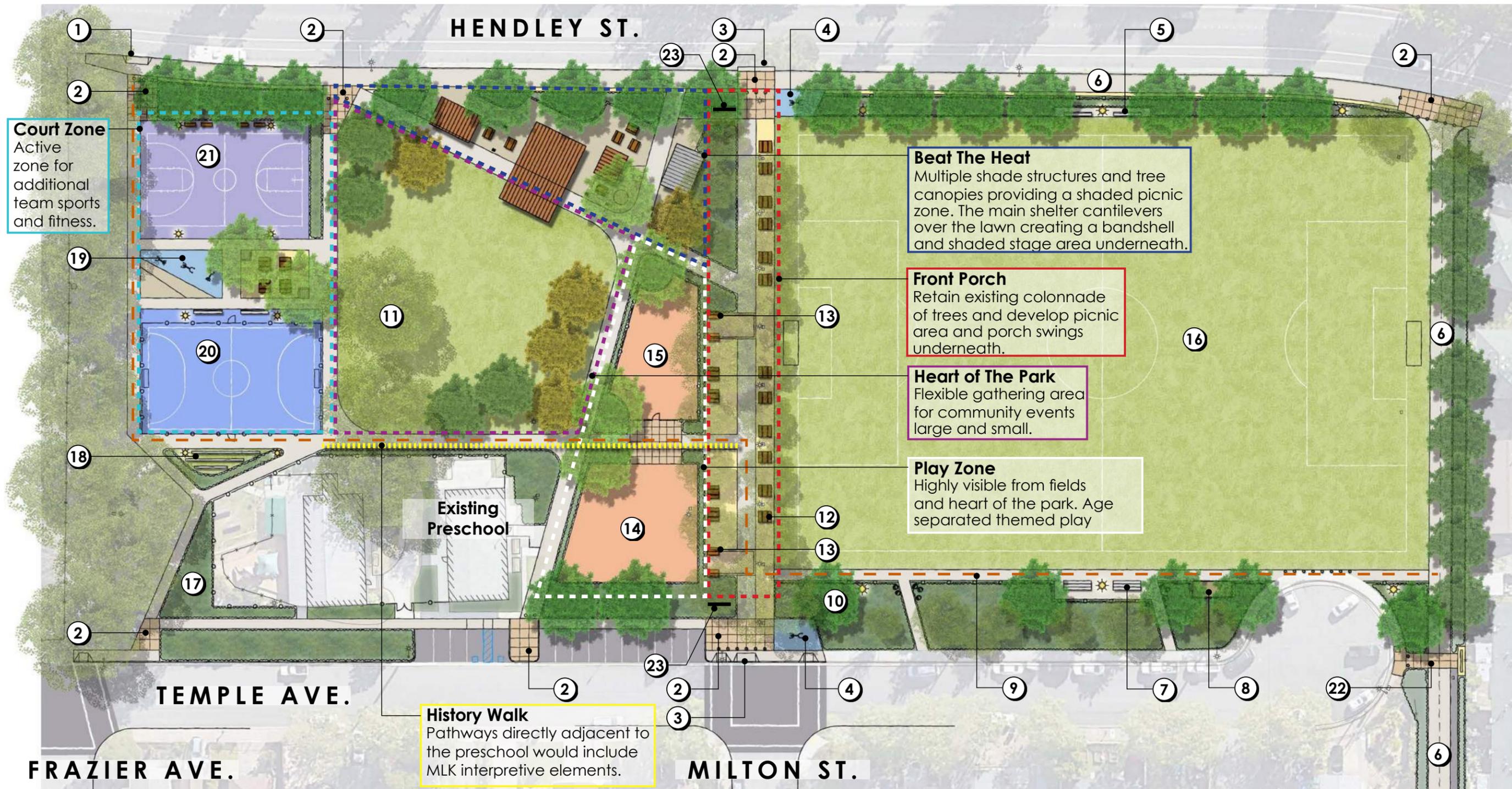
The proposed trail improvements were met with general support, with many praising the inclusion of better lighting, open sightlines, and additional trash receptacles. Some residents suggested adding more benches and pet waste stations to encourage responsible trail use.

When asked to prioritize funding allocations, the community showed a clear preference for enhancing the soccer field, followed closely by the addition of tot and youth play areas, and central shade structures. Futsal and basketball courts also ranked high in importance, while additional parking was viewed as a lower priority.

One of the most debated topics was the future of the soccer field. While 53% of respondents favored rehabilitating the field with natural turf and improved drainage, 36% advocated for synthetic turf, citing its durability and ability to accommodate all-weather play. Several community members expressed the need for a balanced solution that maximized playtime while considering environmental and maintenance concerns.

Another key discussion point centered around the renaming of the Newhall Bike and Pedestrian Trail, which connects the park to Petaluma Hill Road. A majority of residents supported renaming the trail, with suggestions that reflected the cultural and historical significance of the community. Ideas included Chicano Trail, Pomo Trail, South Park Trail, and MLK Community Trail, among others.

The meeting underscored the community's collective vision: a park that prioritizes safety, accessibility, and inclusivity while honoring its historical significance. The feedback gathered will play a crucial role in shaping the final master plan, ensuring that Martin Luther King Jr. Park remains a cherished and functional space for generations to come.



**Court Zone**  
Active zone for additional team sports and fitness.

**Beat The Heat**  
Multiple shade structures and tree canopies providing a shaded picnic zone. The main shelter cantilevers over the lawn creating a bandshell and shaded stage area underneath.

**Front Porch**  
Retain existing colonnade of trees and develop picnic area and porch swings underneath.

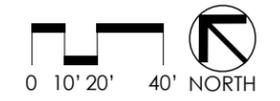
**Heart of The Park**  
Flexible gathering area for community events large and small.

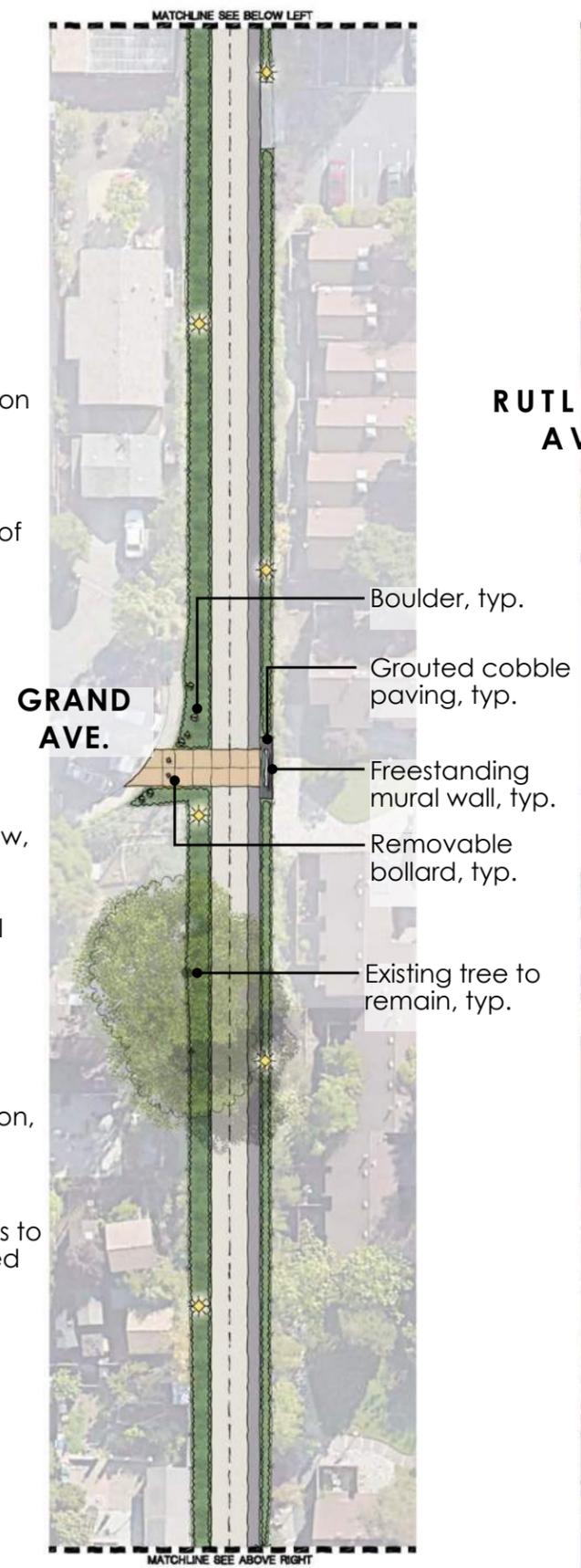
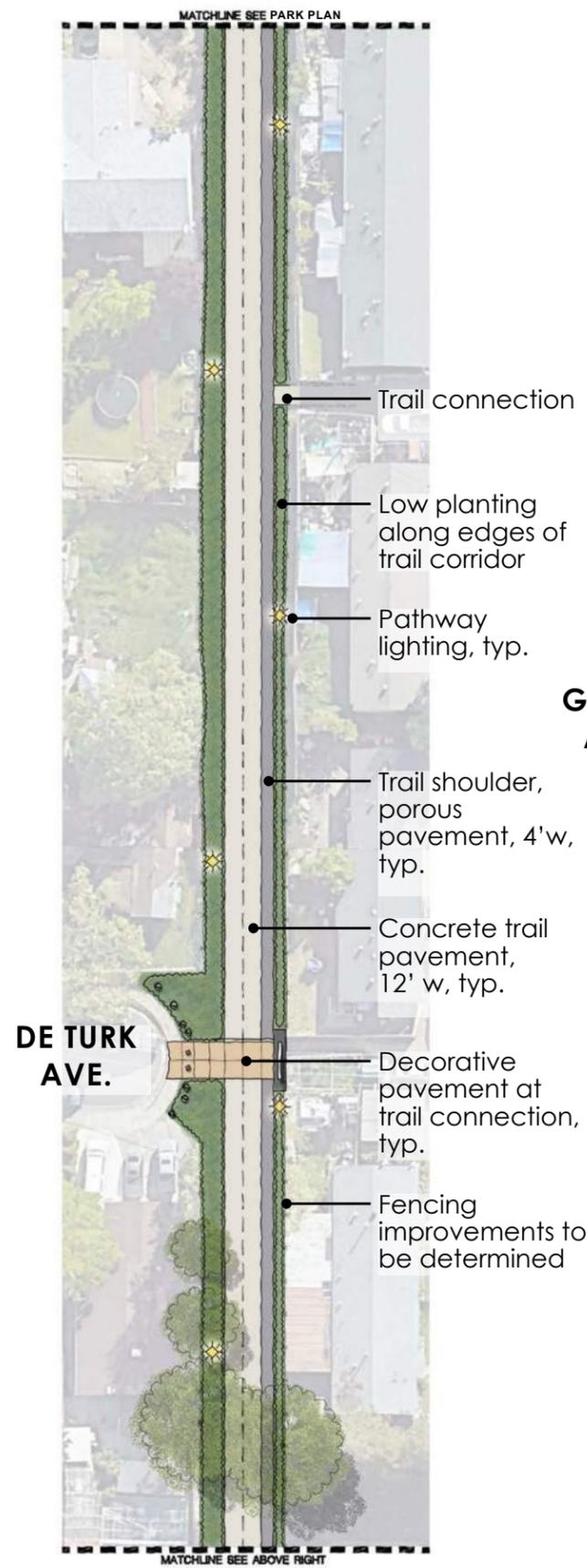
**Play Zone**  
Highly visible from fields and heart of the park. Age separated themed play

**History Walk**  
Pathways directly adjacent to the preschool would include MLK interpretive elements.

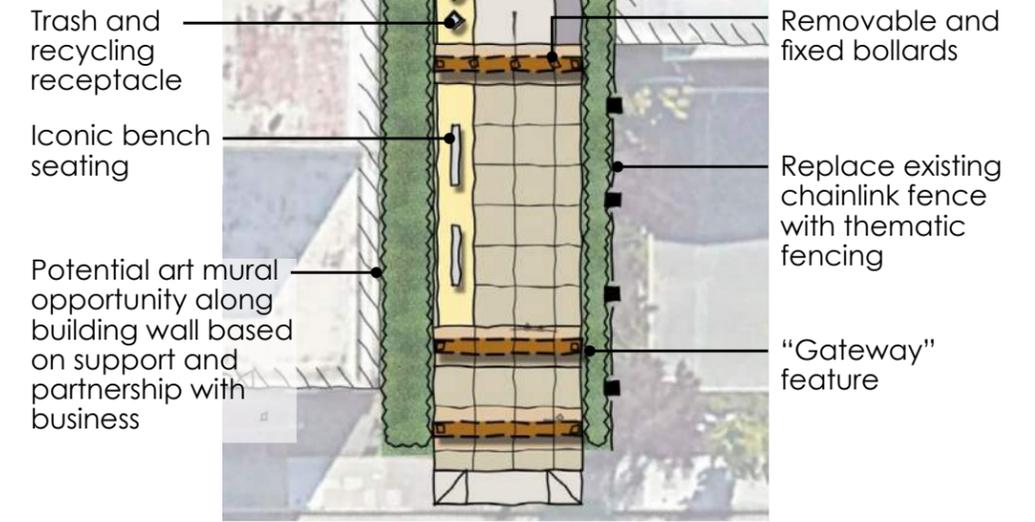
**LEGEND**

- |                                 |                                    |   |                      |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| ① Bicycle access ramp           | ⑦ Spectator seating                | ⑬ Porch swings  | ⑱ Sloped seating     |
| ② Park entry node               | ⑧ Equipment storage zone           | ⑭ Youth play area   | ⑲ Fitness cluster    |
| ③ Maintenance/ emergency access | ⑨ Perimeter walking loop           | ⑮ Tot play area   | ⑳ Futsal court       |
| ④ Fitness station               | ⑩ New tree, typical                | ⑯ Enhanced field 75 yds x 110 yds                             | ㉑ Basketball court   |
| ⑤ Player seating                | ⑪ Existing tree to remain, typical | ⑰ Educational / planting (drought tolerant, pollinator, etc.) | ㉒ Trail access node  |
| ⑥ Class I multi-use path        | ⑫ Standard picnic table, typical   |   | ㉓ Park monument sign |

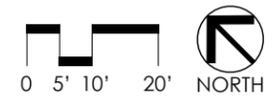




RUTLEDGE AVE.



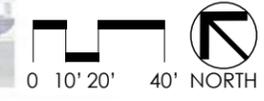
**TRAIL ENTRY ENLARGEMENT**



Iconic Bench Seating



"Gateway" Feature



**DRAFT MASTER PLAN - TRAIL**  
 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARK AND TRAIL MASTER PLAN

## Front Porch / Porche delantero



Porch Swings  
Columpios de porche



Shaded Picnic Area  
Zona de picnic a la sombra



Commissioned Art  
Arte por encargo

## Pathways and Circulation / Vías y circulación



Perimeter Walking Path  
Sendero perimetral



Trail Lighting  
Iluminación de senderos

## Beat the Heat / Vence al Calor



Shade Structure Rooms  
Estructura de sombra Salas



Central Shade Structure /  
Flexible Space  
Estructura central de sombra /  
Espacio flexible



Community Picnic Tables  
Mesas de picnic comunitarias



Native Planting  
Plantación autóctona



Informational Signage  
Señalización informativa

## History Walk / Paseo por la Historia



Pavement Emblems  
Emblemas del pavimento



Pavement Quotes  
Citas sobre el pavimento

## Heart of the Park / Corazón del Parque



Barbeque Grill  
Barbacoa



Restroom Building  
Edificio de aseos



Open Lawn  
Césped abierto



Interpretive Panels  
Paneles interpretativos

# AMENITY IMAGES / IMÁGENES DE AMENIDADES

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARK AND TRAIL MASTER PLAN



December 3, 2024

## Fitness Equipment / Gimnasios



Outdoor Gym  
Gimnasio al aire libre



Fitness Stations  
Estaciones de fitness



Fitness Stations  
Estaciones de fitness



Outdoor Gym  
Gimnasio al aire libre



Fitness Stations  
Estaciones de fitness



Fitness Stations  
Estaciones de fitness

## Sports Field / Campo de deportes



Enhanced Soccer Field  
Campo de fútbol mejorado



Field Lighting  
Iluminación del campo



Spectator Seating  
Asientos para espectadores



Player Seating  
Asientos para jugadores

## Sports Courts / Pistas deportivas



Basketball Court  
Cancha de baloncesto



Futsal Court  
Pista de fútbol sala



Pavement Art  
Arte en el pavimento



Slope Seating  
Asientos en pendiente



Flexible Gathering  
Reunión flexible