SAN LEANDRO RECREATION AND PARKS MASTER PLAN
City-Wide Visioning Workshop: Community Feedback Summary

Date: Saturday, February 10th
Time: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Marina Community Center – 15301 Wicks Boulevard, San Leandro

Format:
- Drop-in, self-guided open house
- Large presentation boards with information about the project and interactive exercises were set up around the auditorium with post-it notes and stickers for recording comments and responses to specific questions. All the boards had content in three languages – Spanish, Chinese Mandarin, and English.
- WRT, the lead consultant for the project, with support from city staff facilitated the discussion with attendees and provided project information and updates.
- Interpreters (proficient in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese) were available to engage attendees in those two languages if that was their preferred language of communication.

Workshop Objectives:
- Introduce the community to the city-wide Recreation and Parks Master Plan project, provide information about project scope, and timeline.
- To engage the community in envisioning the future of San Leandro’s recreation and parks system through interactive boards on various aspects, including thoughts on current and potential amenities, frequented parks, additional park requirements, and possible programming opportunities.

Attendance:
- Approximately 52 San Leandro residents attended the workshop.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK
Board 01: Park Access
- **Question: How do you get to the parks?**
  - By foot: 18 votes = 40.91%
  - By bike: 9 votes = 20.45%
  - By car: 17 votes = 38.64%
Board 02: Park Needs

- **Question: Which parks need improvements?**
  - Most voted parks:
    - Memorial park: 9 votes = 18%
    - Cherry Grove Park: 7 votes = 14%
    - Victoria Park: 6 votes = 12%
    - Chabot Park: 5 votes = 10%

- **Question: What changes would you most like to see in San Leandro’s parks?**
  - Recurring themes:
    - More native planting and biodiversity
    - A botanical garden
    - Fenced play spaces for children
    - Splash pad for all ages and abilities
  - Additional Comments:
    - Empty lots in the City be turned into community gardens
    - More spaces for smaller groups (2, 3 people) to gather.

Board 03: Park Needs

- **Question: How safe do you feel in these parks?**
  - Not safe at all: None
  - A little unsafe: 8 votes = 16%
  - Safe: 21 votes = 42%
  - Very Safe: 2 votes = 4%

- **Question: How well are these parks serving your needs today?**
  - Not well at all: None
  - Not well: 11 votes = 22%
  - Well: 12 votes = 24%
  - Very well: 3 votes = 6%

- **Question: What barriers are keeping you from using the parks today?**
  - Recurring themes:
    - Distance from home
    - Lack of a quiet and safe natural areas
- Lack of water stations to refill water bottles
- Inadequate restrooms

Board 04: Amenities & Programming

- **Question**: What would you like to see more of in San Leandro?
  - Most voted amenities:
    - Community garden: 17 votes = 34%
    - Bike or walking paths: 17 votes = 34%
    - Water play: 12 votes = 24%
    - Dog park: 10 votes = 20%
    - Multi-purpose sports field: 7 votes = 14%
  - Most voted programming:
    - Arts events: 15 votes = 30%
    - Senior programs: 9 votes = 18%
    - Youth + teen programs: 4 votes = 8%
  - Most voted on comfort + access:
    - Public restrooms: 14 votes = 28%
    - Park lighting: 11 votes = 22%
    - Drinking fountain: 9 votes = 18%
    - Doggie station: 9 votes = 18%
  - Most voted on identity and ecological health:
    - Native planting: 21 votes = 42%
    - Wildlife habitat: 20 votes = 40%
    - Trees + shade: 20 votes = 40%
    - Nature play: 13 votes = 26%
  - Recurring themes:
    - Public art
    - Botanical garden
    - Senior friendly quiet garden

Board 05: School Fields and Playscapes

- **Question**: What could be done to improve community use of these spaces?
  - Recurring themes:
    - More lighting
• Improved access
• Access to functioning restrooms
• Don’t allow dogs at Joint-Use sites

• Question: What’s working today?
  o Recurring themes:
    ▪ Roosevelt Elementary is always open and has multiple play areas.
    ▪ Bancroft Middle School fields are very used.

Board 06: Imagine This
If you had $1 million to invest in San Leandro parks would you...

• Use it to freshen up/maintain the existing parks?
  o Recurring themes:
    ▪ Efforts to inspire residents and visitors to keep parks clean
    ▪ Better lighting

• Use it to replace/update/expand existing facilities?
  o Recurring themes:
    ▪ Dog parks
    ▪ Running water fountains
    ▪ Replace old play structures

• Use it to build something new?
  o Recurring themes:
    ▪ Botanical garden
    ▪ More park space in downtown
    ▪ Use vacant lots
    ▪ More community gardens

Board 07: Future Headlines

• Question: What San Leandro headline would you like to read in 10 years?
  ▪ “City of San Leandro partner to build trail along Union Pacific rail line”
  ▪ “San Leandro swims team wins championship”
  ▪ “Another mini green oasis opened in Ashland”
  ▪ “New frog + toad pond opens at Stenzel Park”
  ▪ “Native plant pollinator gardens at parks”
  ▪ “San Leandro parks: spaces for all”
  ▪ “San Leandro opens a butterfly and bird sanctuary”
Board 08: Before you go

- **Question: What else is important for us to consider?**
  - Most voted:
    - Wildlife: 17 votes = 34%
    - Environmental education: 14 votes = 28%
    - Cultural + art features: 13 votes = 26%
    - Safety: 13 votes = 26%

- **Question: Are we missing something? Please let us know!**
  - Recurring themes:
    - Nature walks
    - Spaces designated for teens/young adults
    - Better lighting
    - Music festivals

**MAIN TAKEAWAYS**
The community feedback from the Visioning Workshop highlights several key takeaways. Firstly, the preferred modes of accessing parks are by foot, bike, or car. There was very little to no preference for taking public transit to the parks. Regarding park needs, Memorial Park, Cherry Grove Park, Victoria Park, and Chabot Park were identified as requiring improvements, with desired changes including native planting, a botanical garden, enclosed play spaces for children, and splash pads. The overall safety perception in parks is positive, with most respondents feeling safe. However, concerns about distance from home, the lack of quiet and safe natural zones, water stations, and restrooms emerged as barriers to park usage. The community desired more amenities such as community gardens, bike or walking paths, water play areas, dog parks, and multi-purpose sports fields.

Programming preferences include arts events, senior programs, and youth/teen programs. There is also a call for improved lighting, access, and dog restrictions at joint-use sites in school facilities. In imagining a $1 million investment in parks, respondents leaned towards restoring historical parks, inspiring cleanliness efforts, better lighting, and creating new facilities like dog parks, running water fountains, and play structures. Future headlines and priorities emphasize native planting, making parks a destination for all, the creation of new parks, and hosting events like a Monarch butterfly festival. Additionally, considerations for wildlife, environmental education, cultural and art features, and safety were underscored, with requests for nature walks, spaces designated for teens/young adults, and music festivals.
PHOTOS OF COMMUNITY COMMENTS ON THE BOARDS
EVENT PHOTOS